PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE
15 December 1957

2. LOCATION
Elmendorf AFB, Alaska

3. DATE-TIME GROUP
Local _____
GMT 16/0040Z

4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION
☐ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar
XX Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar

5. PHOTOS
☐ Yes
XX No

6. SOURCE
Military

7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION
8 secnds

8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS
one

9. COURSE
down

10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING
Round, brilliant blue-white object, size of silver dollar. Similar in appearance to falling star or burning magnesium flare. Approx 2 ft in length, was falling straght down and appeared fuzzy at the edges. Trailed black smoke then burst into yellow flame & appeared to disintegrate.

11. COMMENTS
Undoubtedly a meteor from the Geminids.shower.

12. CONCLUSIONS
☐ Was Balloon
☐ Probably Balloon
☐ Possibly Balloon
☐ Was Aircraft
☐ Probably Aircraft
☐ Possibly Aircraft
XX Was Astronomical
☐ Probably Astronomical
☐ Possibly Astronomical
☐ Other_____
☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation
☐ Unknown

ATIC FORM 329 (REV 26 SEP 52)

15 16/0040Z

1 Witness Elmendorf AFB Alaska

15 Dec 57

45

ASTRO

19 DEC 57 10 17

SQE051LYA009 YDD008 XYD009 QXC009 QDA001 KQB003AGA087

RR RJEPHQ RJEDDN RJEDSQ

DE RJKDAG 165

RN172000Z ZEX

FM COMDR 317TH FINCEPTRON ELMENDORF AFB ALASKA

TO RJEDHQ/HQ USAF

RJEDDN/COMDR ADC

RJEDSQ/COMDR ATIC

INFO ZEN/COMDR 10TH AD (DEF)

BT

1) 4E4
2-3
3-4X2a

UNCL FROM 317FIS 0054 ATTN: ACS/I ATTN: ACS8 ATTN: ACS/IAJTN:

D/I SUBJECT: UFOB

(1) A. ROUND

B. SILVER DOLLAR

C. BRILLIANT BLUE-WHITE

D. ONE

E. N/A

F. OBJECT WAS SIMILAR IN APPEARANCE TO FALLING STAR OR BURNING MAGNESIUM FLARE. PD OBJECT WAS APPROX TWO FEET IN LENGTH COMMA WAS FALLING STRAIGHT DOWN AND APPEARED

FUZZY AT THE EDGES PD

G. OBJECT TRAILED BLACK SMOKE UNTIL SOME DISTANCE BELOW THE OBSERVER WHEN IT BURST INTO YELLOW FLAME AND APPEARED TO DISINTEGRATE PD

H. NONE

I. N/A

2. A. VISUALLY OBSERVED BY PILOT WHILE HE WAS AIRBORNE.

B. NEGATIVE ← AZIMUTH, elevation

C. NEGATIVE

D. FALLING STRAIGHT DOWN.

E. FLARED INTO YELLOW FLAME AND APPEARED TO DISINTEGRATE.

F. APPROXIMATELY EIGHT SECONDS.

3. A. AIR-VISUAL

B. N/A

C. F-102A, 38,000 FEET, NORTHEAST, ~~ELMENDORF AFB, ALASKA~~

4. A. 16 0048Z DEC 57 0040 − 10 = 1440

B. DUSK

5. AIRBORNE, 38,000 FET, APPROXIMATELY 75 MILES S. W. OF ANCHORAGE, ALASKA.

6. A. N/A

I. RAYMOND M. VISCARRA, 1/LT, 317TH FIGHTER INTERCEPTOR SQUADRON, PILOT, RELIABLE.

7. A. NEGATIVE

B. NOT KNOWN

D. CAVU AT 38,000 FEET

E. NONE

F. NONE

(8) NONE

(9) N/A

(10) NONE

(11) CYRUS L. BROOKS, 1/LT, USAF, INTELLIGENCE OFFICER. LIEUTENANT VISCARRA IS A VERY RELIABLE OFFICER AND FROM HIS DESCRIPTION AND MY LIMITED KNOWLEDGE ON THE SUBJECT, I WOULD JUDGE THIS SIGHTING TO BE A METEOR.

(12) NONE

Check shows not sputnick

undoubtedly the "meteor" Geminidas.

~~Case~~ Also see UFO case file - Chase Field Texas.

ET

18/2339Z DEC RJKDAG

ASTRONOMY

Venus Is Christmas Star

A crescent moon and the planet Venus will be close together on December 24, making a brilliant pair that lights the Christmas sky.

By JAMES STOKLEY

➤ This year we will have a real Christmas star. The planet Venus, which has been increasing in prominence during the autumn, will be at its greatest brilliance on Dec. 23.

After the sky gets dark, around this date, Venus will be blazing in the southwest, until it follows the sun below the horizon, more than three hours later. But even this will not be the full extent of the display. On the 24th, the moon, in a crescent phase, three days after the new moon, will pass just to the north of Venus. While the closest approach comes, for Americans, during daylight hours, they will still be close together that evening, Christmas eve, and will form a striking backdrop for the carolers singing their Yuletide greetings.

Venus is the only planet that can be seen well on December evenings. On the seventh, Mercury is farthest east of the sun, and will remain briefly in the southwestern sky after the sun has set. Possibly, if you have a very clear view in that direction, and look closely, you can get a glimpse of this innermost of all the planets, but this is not really a favorable time to see Mercury.

No planets appear on the accompanying maps of the December evening skies, for these show their appearance later in the evening, after Venus has set. They are drawn for about 10:00 p.m., your own kind kind of standard time, on Dec. 1, and an hour earlier at the middle of the month.

In the southeast there is now visible the brilliant array of stars which make the skies of the winter evening so beautiful.

Dog-Star Is Brightest

Brightest of these stars is Sirius, the dog-star, part of Canis Major, the great dog, shown near the horizon. However, its low altitude causes a partial diminution of its light. Later in the night it climbs higher in the southern sky and is then even more conspicuous.

On the astronomer's scale of star brightnesses, Sirius is of magnitude minus 1.4, which means that it exceeds any other star that we can see in the nighttime sky. Compared to Venus, however, it is relatively faint, for the magnitude of that planet is minus 4.4. Venus now is nearly 16 times as bright as Sirius.

Above Sirius, Orion, the warrior, may be seen. In this group are two bright stars of the "first magnitude": Betelgeuse, to the left, and Rigel, a little lower and to the right. Between them is a row of three fainter stars that form Orion's belt.

Directly above Orion is Taurus, the bull, with Aldebaran as the brightest star; distinctly red in hue, it is easy to identify.

To the left of Taurus is Auriga, the charioteer, with the star Capella, another of the first magnitude.

Descending from Capella, we come to Gemini, the twins, with the stars called Castor and Pollux, of which the latter is the brighter. And between Gemini and Canis Major stands Canis Minor, the lesser dog, with Procyon as the brightest star.

Over toward the southwest are found the remnants of the constellations of the autumn evenings. Near the horizon, as shown on the maps, or higher if it is earlier in the evening, is Vega, about all that is seen of Lyra, the lyre. Above and to the left is Cygnus, the swan, with Deneb. While Vega and Deneb both are first magnitude stars, their low altitude makes them look fainter.

About 3:30 a. m., at the beginning of December, and 1:30 a. m., at the end, another planet, Jupiter, appears in the southeast, in Virgo, the virgin. Its brightness now is just about the same as that of Sirius. Mars, of the second magnitude, rises later, about two hours before the sun, in Libra, the scales.

If, on Christmas eve, when the crescent moon is standing nearby, you look at Venus through a telescope, you will find that it also is in a crescent phase.

Crescent Venus

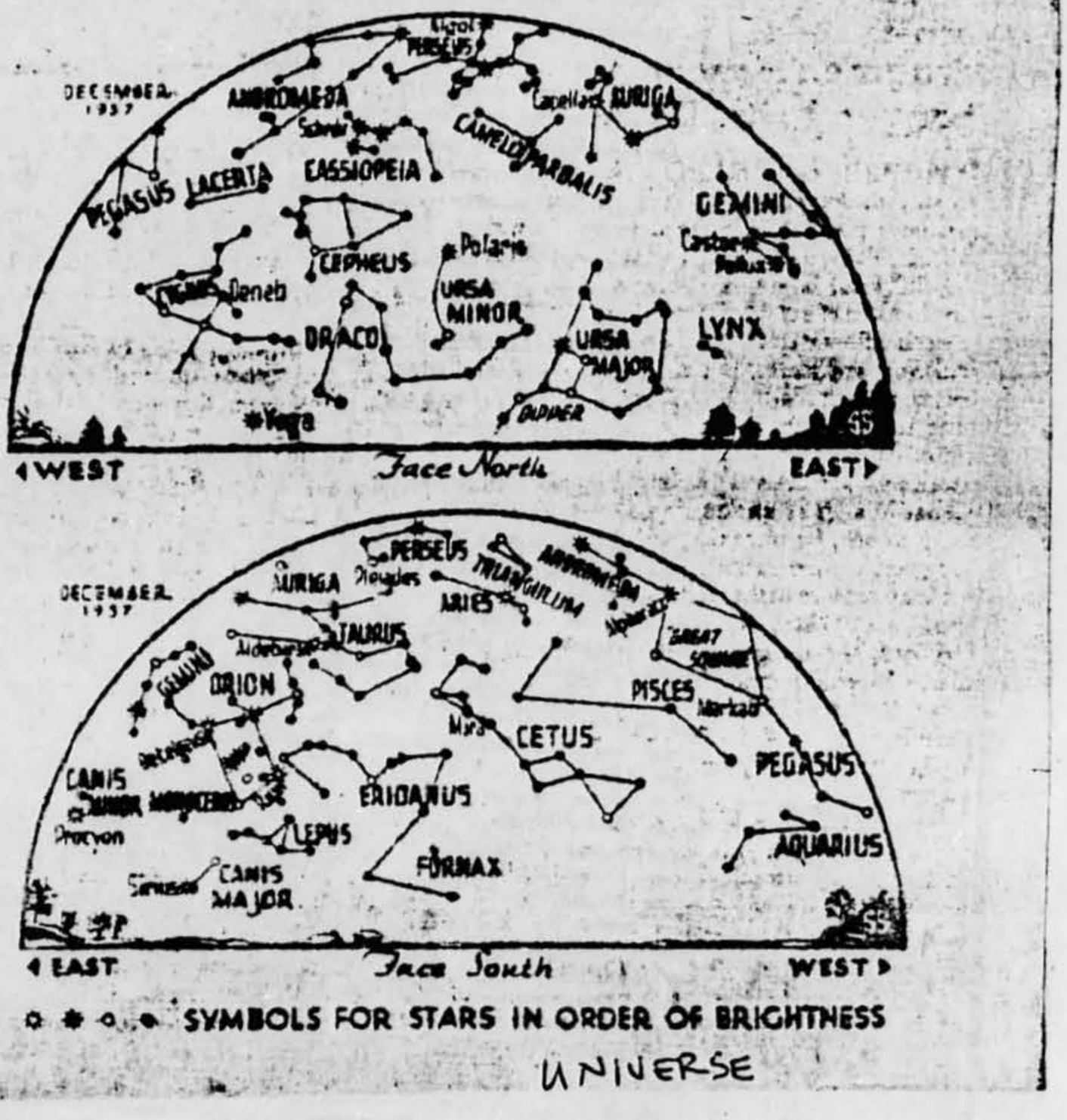
It will not be quite as thin a crescent as that of the moon, but more like the moon some two days later, or about five days after it is new.

The reason for the lunar phases is found in the fact that, as the moon revolves around the earth, it presents to our view varying amounts of its illuminated hemisphere.

At new, it is practically between the sun and us; the sunlit half is entirely turned away and we see nothing. But a few days later, as the moon swings eastward from the direction of the sun, it remains in the western sky for a while after the sun has set. A narrow sliver of the bright half then appears to us, as a crescent. Then, as it swings still farther away from the sun, half, three-quarters, and finally all, of the sunlit side is presented to us, bringing the full moon.

This takes about two weeks. During the next two weeks the changes occur in reverse order, and the moon is new once again.

Something similar happens to Venus.



UNIVERSE

Like the moon, it has no light of its own but is illuminated by the sun, so that one half is bright and the opposite half dark.

Last April 14 it was out beyond the sun, with the entire bright hemisphere turned earthwards. Since then it has been moving and is now coming between the earth and sun. Thus, most of its sunlit hemisphere is turned away, and we have a crescent phase.

On Jan. 28 it will be, nearly, directly between us and the sun, and this will correspond to new moon. After that it will become a crescent again, visible in the morning sky before sunrise.

Unlike the moon, Venus is always so far away that only through a telescope are its phases visible.

The phases of Venus differ from those of the moon in another respect.

As the moon travels around the earth, its distance does not change very greatly, only from about 221,000 miles to 253,000 miles.

Thus there is no great change in its apparent size, and the diameter of the full moon is about the same as when it is in a narrow crescent phase. But when Venus is full it is out far beyond the sun, about 160,000,000 miles away. Just before Christmas it will be less than 40,000,000 miles away, and on Jan. 28 its distance will be about 26,000,000 miles. Thus, as it gets near the "new" phase, it is much larger, seemingly, in the sky.

That is why it is brightest when a crescent. Although less than half of the bright side is visible to us, its proximity more than makes up for this, and the part we can see fills the largest area of the sky. Then it is at the greatest brilliance.

Winter Arrives

On Dec. 21 the sun, which has apparently been traveling southward in the sky since last June, reaches its southernmost point. This is the winter solstice—the beginning of winter in the Northern Hemisphere—and it occurs at 9:49 p. m., EST.

At that moment the sun will be directly over a point near the eastern edge of the Arunta Desert, which is in Australia, on the border between Queensland and the Northern Territory. In Australia, and other southern countries, the sun will be high in the sky, marking summer's beginning.

Celestial Time Table for December

Dec.	EST	
3	6:10 p.m.	Algol (variable star in Perseus) at minimum brightness.
7	1:16 a.m.	Full moon.
8	10:00 p.m.	Saturn on far side of sun, distance 1,030,000,000 miles.
13	early a.m.	Geminid meteor shower, meteors apparently radiating from constellation of Gemini.
	midnight	Moon nearest, distance 230,100 miles.
14	12:45 a.m.	Moon in last quarter.
16	12:57 p.m.	Moon passes Jupiter.
18	2:15 a.m.	Algol at minimum.
	3:56 p.m.	Moon passes Mars.
20	11:04 p.m.	Algol at minimum.
22	1:12 a.m.	New Moon.
	9:49 p.m.	Winter commences in Northern Hemisphere.
23	7:53 p.m.	Algol at minimum.
	11:00 p.m.	Venus at greatest brilliancy.
24	3:27 p.m.	Moon passes Venus.
27	11:00 p.m.	Moon farthest, distance 251,300 miles.
28	11:52 p.m.	Moon in first quarter.

Subtract one hour for CST, two hours for MST, and three for PST.

Science News Letter, November 23, 1957

NO CASE (INFORMATION ONLY)

12Dec 57
Chatham, Canada

SOURCE: FLYING SAUCERS: MAY 58

MYSTERY SKY OBJECT

The OPP is investigating an unidentified "illuminated object" which darted over Eatonville 30 miles east of Chatham, Ontario, Canada, Dec. 12, 1957. It was headed in the direction of Windsor.

Witnesses could give no explanation of the strange sight, but said the phenomena was "much brighter and lower than any star."

It was first spotted about 7 p.m., by Mrs. Robert Moore of RR 2, near Blenheim. She said it drew an arc over Eatonville and continued in a westward direction.

"At first I thought it was a star but it was a hundred times brighter.

"It was the size of a football and appeared quite low in the sky."

District radar units reported height at from 35,000 to 40,000 feet.

Const. Ted Wickens of Chatham, and John McPherson of Ridgetown OPP were sent to the scene and both saw the object.

Wickens said he saw the object in flight for over 20 minutes.

"It was far too bright for a meteor or star."

Telephone lines into OPP headquarters in Chatham were jammed with calls from persons who sighted the object and civil defense units from as far away as Peterboro.

NO CASE (INFORMATION ONLY)
SOURCE : FLYING SAUCER MAGAZINE

13 December 1957
~~Collinsville~~, Illinois
COLLINSVILLE

Friday morning, December 13, 1957 (yesterday) at around 5:00

(Concluded from Page 75)

A.M., a strange light was seen over Belleville, Illinois. About 6 miles southeast is located what is known as Scott Air Base (Army Training Base). The time that I had the pleasure of seeing "object" in question was about 8:05 A.M., hovering very stationary over Collinville, Illinois which city is located about 6 miles North of Belleville.

At this time, the sun shown so clearly upon the "object" (sunrise) that it appeared as an intense SILVER light. It appeared as you would hold a silver dollar at arm's length edge toward you and tilt it slightly showing its bottom side. Our Government reported this as a weather balloon.

Harold Parvin
637 N. 9th St.
E. St. Louis, Ill.

16 - 31 DECEMBER 1957 SIGHTINGS

DATE	LOCATION	OBSERVER	EVALUATION
17	Westchester, New York	[redacted]	Insufficient Data
17	Atlantic Ocean (E of Bermuda)	Military Air	Astro (METEOR)
17	Colorado Springs, Colorado	[redacted]	Astro (METEOR)
17	Fruita, Colorado	[redacted]	UNIDENTIFIED
17	Seffner, Florida	[redacted]	Insufficient Data
18	Atlantic Ocean (W of Gibralter)	Military Air	Astro (METEOR)
18	Oklahoma City, Oklahoma	[redacted]	Aircraft
18	Yakima, Washington	[redacted]	Astro (METEOR)
19	Pepperell AFB, Newfoundland	Military Vis & RADAR	Balloon
19	Canal Zone, Panama	[redacted]	Astro (METEOR)
20-21	Taichung, Formosa	Multi (8 sightings)	Insufficient Data
21	Waverly, Iowa	[redacted]	Aircraft
21	LaGrange, Georgia	[redacted]	Insufficient Data
21	Dayton, Ohio	[redacted]	Astro (METEOR)
21	Kansas City, Missouri	[redacted]	Insufficient Data
22	Herfordshire, England	[redacted]	Astro (METEOR)
22	Dayton, Ohio	[redacted]	Astro (VENUS)
22	Atlanta, Georgia	[redacted]	Astro (VENUS)
22	Bill, Wyoming	[redacted]	Astro (METEOR)
23	Sea of Japan (E of Vladivostok)	Military Air & RADAR	Insufficient Data
24	Marietta, Georgia	[redacted]	Astro (METEOR)
25	South Pass, Louisiana	[redacted]	Insufficient Data
27	Littleton, New Hampshire	[redacted]	Astro (VENUS)
27	Balinger, Texas	[redacted]	Aircraft
27	Clarksville, Iowa	[redacted]	Aircraft
28	Livermore Falls, Maine	[redacted]	Aircraft
28	Elizabeth City, North Carolina	Multi	Aircraft
29	El Paso, Texas	[redacted]	Insufficient Data
30	New Orleans, Louisiana (CASE MISSING)	Military	Insufficient Data
31	Parkview, California	[redacted]	Balloon
31	Duluth, Minnesota	Civilian	Insufficient Data

ADDITIONAL REPORTED SIGHTINGS (NOT CASES)

DATE	LOCATION	SOURCE	EVALUATION
Dec	Universe	Science News Ltr	
16	San Marcos, Brazil	Newsclipping	
16	Old Saybrook, Connecticut	Newsclipping	
21	Ponta Poran, Brazil	Newsclipping	
30	Drakestown, New Jersey	Newsclipping	
31	Stockholm, Sweden	Space Craft Digest	