

Oregon Disks Reported by Airline Pilot

BOISE, Idaho, July 4 (AP)—E. J. Smith, United Air Lines pilot, radioed the CAA traffic control tower here tonight that he and his co-pilot, First Officer Stevens, had sighted from "three to five" flying disks at an altitude of 7500 feet 15 miles southwest of Ontario, Ore.

Smith said the disks "were as big as airplanes but definitely were not aircraft."

Smith, a veteran UAL pilot, made his report by radio at approximately 9:15 p. m.

It was intercepted by the CAA's communications station and by United's radio room here.

REPORT TO TOWER

The time of the report would indicate Smith saw the objects either silhouetted against the sky or caught in the sun's afterglow. It gets dark in that vicinity about 9 p. m.

The control tower said Smith called shortly after his takeoff from here at 9:02 p. m. (MST) to say he saw the objects southwest of Ontario, which is about 65 airline miles from here.

He first said he saw five of the objects, that they definitely were not aircraft, were flat on the bottom and were disk-shaped.

Then he transmitted another message saying he could see three in a cluster, with another flying off to one side.

At first, Smith reported, they appeared to be heading toward him, then seemed to be above him, and then crossed his path, angling off to the northwest.

SPEED NOT ESTIMATED

Smith said First Officer Stevens counted five of the objects.

He reported he had no way of estimating their speed.

After Smith made his flight, an eastbound flight with Captain Emory Culbertson in charge, landed at Boise at 9:45 and reported he had not seen any of the objects.

Before Smith made his takeoff, the control tower reported, he had joked with airport personnel and wanted "someone to show me those flying discs."

Within five minutes of his takeoff, the tower said, he had called to report seeing the objects.

Professor's View on Disks —If They Really Exist

Flying disks reported over Western skies must be from "out of this world"—if they really do exist—a University of California professor said yesterday.

He is H. A. Johnson, assistant professor of mechanical engineering.