

Curious Craft Encountered Over Montana

Flier Describes It
As Clam-Shaped
With Plastic Dome

BOZEMAN, Mont., July 7.—(UP)—A pilot reported today that his plane knocked down a "flying saucer," which he described as a "pearl gray, clam-shaped airplane with a plexiglass dome on top."

The pilot said the object, which he called a "flying yo-yo," crashed into the Tobacco Root mountains in western Montana yesterday after being torn to pieces by the propwash of his plane.

Vernon Baird, Los Angeles, pilot for the Fairchild Photogrammetric Engineers co., said he tangled with the "yo-yo" while flying a P-38 for the firm. The company is mapping the area between Helena and Yellowstone park for the reclamation bureau.

Baird said he and his photographer, George Suttin, Los Angeles, were flying 360 MPH at 32,400 feet when he turned to check an oil distributing mechanism.

"There about 100 yards behind me was the yo-yo," Baird said. "It was a pearl-gray clam-shaped airplane, with a plexiglass dome on top. It was about 15 feet in diameter and about four feet thick."

The curious craft overhauled the P-38 and Baird said he took evasive action.

"The yo-yo got caught in my propwash and the thing came apart like a clamshell. The two pieces spiraled down some place in the Madison range."

Baird said that after the yo-yo fell apart he looked around and saw several of them darting around "like a batch of molecules doing the rhumba."

Baird said he was too busy handling his plane to notice if there was a man inside the gadget.

His photographer didn't think about his camera until too late to get a picture, Baird said.

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