

AP Wires Burn With 'Captured Disk' Story

It all started a little before 4:20 p. m. yesterday when an Associated Press bulletin came over the wire.

The bulletin said, "Roswell, N. M.—The army air forces here today announced a flying-disk had been found on a ranch near Roswell and is in army possession."

Then things began moving fast. Four minutes later, the first add came on the bulletin. It said that Lt. Warren Haught, public information officer of Roswell field, announced the object had been found "some time last week." And the story also said the object had been sent on "to higher headquarters."

Second Add Arrives

At 4:55, the second add came telling where the "disk" had been found. (The 4:55 story was "95," an AP designation of priority of messages, showing it is next in importance to a bulletin or bulletin matter.) Then the second add was repeated for all papers needing it. The repeated story was timed at 5:08.

This report was followed immediately with another which explained that the story had been broken by a radio reporter. This came at 5:09.

Another "95" was sent at 5:10 addressed to editors. This announced, for the information of newspaper editors, that the Associated Press had begun to go to work on the story.

Then the movement really rolled into high gear.

Washington Says Nothing

One minute later, at 5:11, the third add to the bulletin announced, "The war department in Washington had nothing to say immediately about the reported find." That meant the AP was on the job of investigating.

Following that, there was a breather. AP sent other news, but there was no doubt that reporters both in New Mexico and in Washington, were at work.

At 5:53, the AP story began to be moved. Another bulletin was sent with a Washington dateline. It was a story about a statement by Brig. Gen. Roger Ramey, saying the "disk" had been sent to Wright field, Ohio.

Typographical Error

At 5:53 and 5:59, adds to the bulletin were sent. And at 6, there was a correction to a typographical error, followed with a continuation of the 5:53 add.

Finally, at two minutes after 6, AP had put together a complete story and started transmission of the "First Lead Disk."

It started like this: "Albuquerque, N. M.—The army air forces has gained possession of a flying disk, Lt. Warren Haught, public information officer at Roswell army airfield, announced today. That lead was to be integrated with the 5:53 and 5:59 stories and to be used with subsequent stories to be sent.

After another add at 6:04, a story from Delwein, Iowa, was sent through of an Iowa farmer who claimed he had found a disk.

But that story, at 6:31, was pre-

Crippled Girl Takes Plane Communion

PARIS — (AP) — Crippled, 12-year-old Sally Ann O'Leary of Pittsburgh arrived in Paris last night on her pilgrimage to the shrine at Lourdes after participating in what is believed to have been the first communion service ever offered in a plane.

The Rev. James R. Cox, Pittsburgh, who heads the pilgrimage of singing and communion offered in the Trans World airline plane on its flight to Paris from Gander airport, Newfoundland, said it was the first religious service of its kind ever to take place in the air.

He said Sally Ann, unable to walk since birth, is hoping for a curative miracle at Our Lady of Lourdes shrine at Angers, France.

by well ignored. There evidently was no official backing.

At 6:59, there was more from New Mexico, and at 7:03, another First Lead story, dated Washington.

The Washington story gave the first real hint that all wasn't solved. There were possibilities, it stated, that the object was only a meteorological device.

General To Speak

A new bulletin came through at 7:15, saying that General Ramey would speak over the National Broadcasting company network.

Another "95" listed "Precede Washington. Lead all disk," came over the wire at 7:29. This meant start of a story to contain all material sent to that time.

The "95" was broken at 7:29 for another bulletin.

It said, "Fort Worth—Roswell's celebrated 'flying disk' was widely stripped of its glamor by a Fort Worth army airfield weather officer who late today identified the object as a weather balloon." The bulletin was sent at 7:30, just three hours and four minutes after the story had first broken and two hours and 20 minutes after the Associated Press reporters had begun investigations.

That was the word that many editors had been hoping for. The people who had been debunking the flying disk story weren't quite certain whether they wanted a solution to be found. Of course, a big story on flying disks would be fine, most of them thought, but it's a good story as it is. A solution might be more than embarrassing. It might be calamitous. What if there really were "men from Mars?"

After the bulletin, the rest of the "95," which was already on the tape, limped through. But the story already was killed. And AP reporters could relax for a while until someone else "found" a flying saucer.

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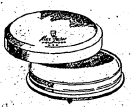
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Today's Scripture
For all that is in the world the lust of the flesh and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof; but he that doth the will of God abideth forever.

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