

8-7-67 I have a little Baretta & I could hit the Airplane at 30 yards.

FRIGHTENED MAN IN UTAH SHOOTS AT FLYING SAUCER

By LLOYD WATSON

On a dark, moonless night this spring, Michael Campeadore was driving down a deserted highway when he heard a loud, whining hum, like the sound of the wheels of a large truck, bearing down on him.

He slowed down, but in his mirror he could see no lights approaching. As the noise grew louder, he steered to the side

of the road and braked to a halt.

Then, to his left, he saw an amber glow in the sky heading straight toward him. Startled, he jumped out of the car.

Campeadore told his story to this ENQUIRER reporter on June 16: "At first I thought it was a burning jet plane cutting across my path and about to crash. I didn't want to get in its way, so I jammed on my brakes in panic. When I got out of the car, I saw that it wasn't a burning plane.

"I didn't know what it was. But I had heard of flying saucers, and it suddenly occurred to me that this must be one of them. Now, I'm certain it was.

"It came closer and closer, and then it was about 30 yards from me and 30 yards above the ground, it seemed to stop and hover. It was shaped like a round hat.

"The brim was about 50 feet around, concave and with a narrow rim. It had a dome on top that occupied about half the area of the saucer-shaped bottom.

"I could see no windows or ports, no antennas, no exhaust, no engine. There was nothing to show how it was propelled.

"It wasn't transparent, but it gave off a bright metallic amber glow and made a strange 't-young, t-young, t-young' sound.

"My heart was pounding. I was frightened. I thought it was going to attack me. I reached into the car and pulled out a small .25 Beretta automatic pistol. I always carry it with me for protection when I am driving in the desert.

✓ "I emptied the entire eight-bullet clip at the thing. I could hear the bullets bouncing off the side of it — 't'zing, t'zing, t'zing.'

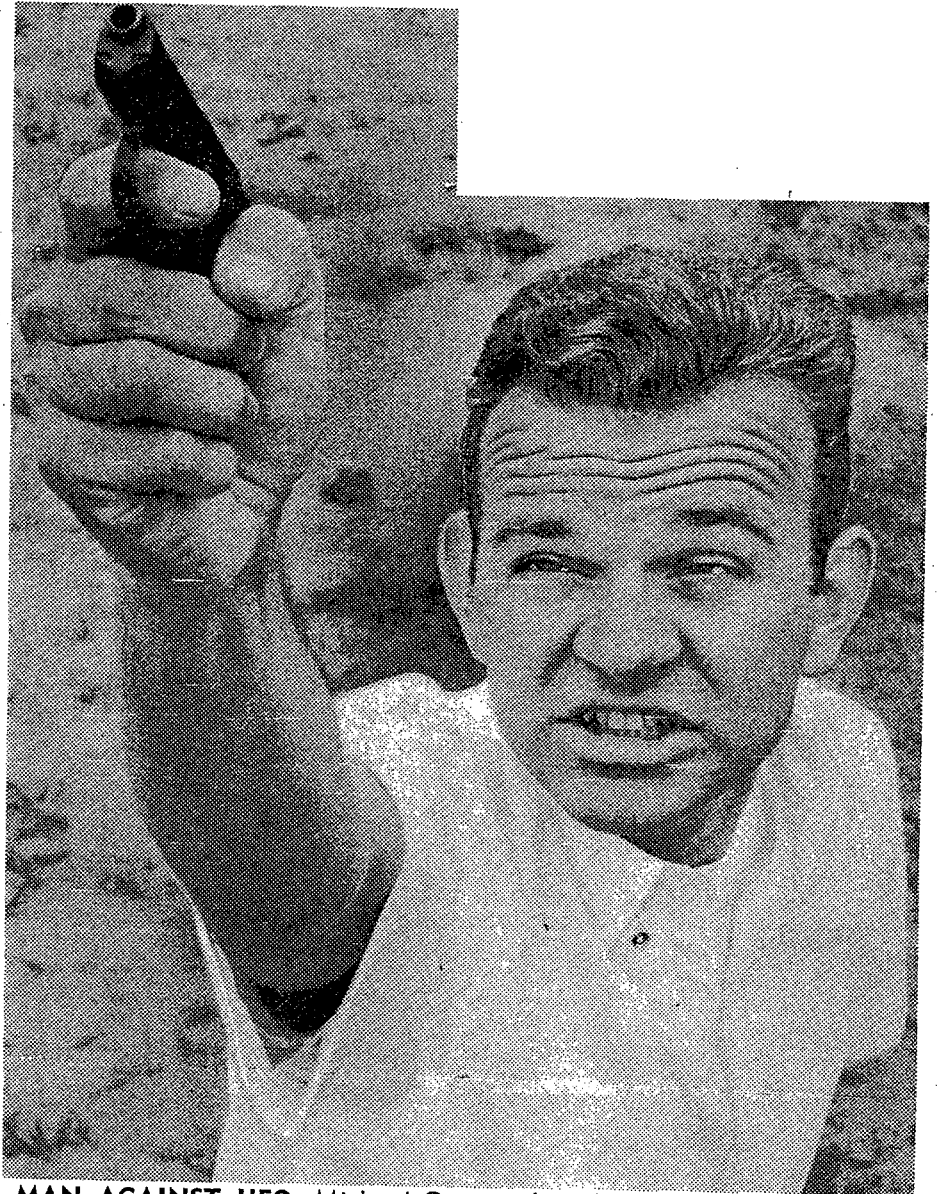
"The bullets seemed to have no affect. When the gun was completely empty, I really panicked.

"I was sure the thing would retaliate. So I decided to run and try to hide.

"However, after hovering a few moments longer, as if to show me how meaningless my efforts to harm it had been, it suddenly shot straight up into the air about 1,000 feet and then zipped off to the west at an incredible speed until it disappeared into the darkness."

As Campeadore described it, the incident took from two to four minutes. After it was gone, he stood staring after it for a brief moment, then jumped into his car and drove on, badly shaken.

He said: "I stopped at the first service station I saw and immediately told the attendant about the incident. I was very excited. To my surprise, he seemed to be-



MAN AGAINST UFO: Michael Campeadore shows how he fired eight bullets at a flying saucer with his .25 caliber Beretta automatic pistol.

even the empty shell casings of the bullets I'd fired. However, it's a desolate area, and it would be difficult to find the exact spot at which I had fired at the object."

Campeadore, 25, was raised in Superior, Wis. — where he was graduated from Central High School — and in Logan, Utah. He spent four and a half years in the Navy and was a sonar-man attached to a destroyer, the USS Joseph Strauss. After his discharge he decided to settle in the San Diego, Calif., area.

Early this year he found a job, which he still holds, as a janitor at the Paradise Valley Hospital in suburban National City, but he has plans to enter the civil service soon.

He was driving to Salt Lake City for

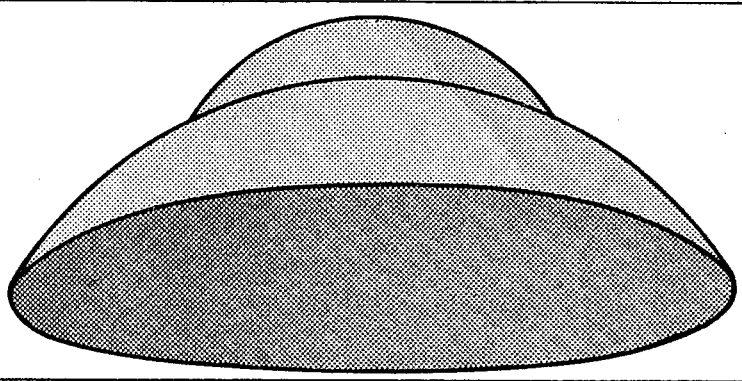
The Bullets Seemed to Have No Affect on It

lieve me.

"He then told me that there had been 20 or more sightings reported in that general area and that I should report it to officials immediately.

"So I drove on to the Highway Patrol office and told police of my experience. They sent an officer out to investigate, though he wasn't able to find anything.

"The next day I drove back to the general scene with a friend, but we couldn't find anything, either, not



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UFO: ENQUIRER artist's sketch based on Campeadore's description of the flying object, which he shot at.

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the funeral of his grandmother when his experience with the UFO occurred early on the morning of May 11.

He was approximately 17 miles west of St. George, Utah, on U.S. Highway 91, about 280 miles short of his destination, when the incident occurred.

"I'm a Mormon. I don't smoke or drink. I definitely was not drunk," Campeadore said.

"I had stopped and slept for about four hours in Las Vegas, and I was not overtired or oversleepy despite the early hour. It was just before 2 a.m. in the morning.

"I was trained in the Navy to observe things and I have no history of making wild claims.

"I'm interested in our space program, in criminology and oceanography.

"But I was never particularly interested in UFOs. I'd heard and read about these things, but no more than the average person, I guess.

"I was more or less a skeptic. I thought it might be possible but I didn't really believe it. In fact, I didn't think about it much.

"Now, of course, I'm a believer."

Campeadore reports that his UFO sighting was not explained away by anything else known to be in the skies at the time of his sighting.

Reportedly the only man to have fired on a UFO, Campeadore does admit that he has some reservations about his impetuous actions in the desert that night.

"The thing might have been friendly, but I was scared," he said. "I had never shot at anything before, but I thought I might be attacked, and I reacted in panic."

"The UFO had given me no real trouble, and I wound up giving it plenty of good reason to retaliate if it had wished. I guess I'm pretty lucky."