

1: Trinity Atomic Bomb Site – Socorro, New Mexico - Atlas Obscura

"The Socorro Blast is indeed a blast, and literally opens with one. The narrator, Sasha, is one feisty lady and has a mouth on her to rival the best of the Irish spirit. The narrator, Sasha, is one feisty lady and has a mouth on her to rival the best of the Irish spirit.

Jim Madrid poses for a photo in his home in Lakewood, Colorado, August 9, 1945. But what the children of Hiroshima did not know was that only days before the bomb exploded over their city, Madrid himself had been a victim of what, in essence, was a surprise nuclear attack by the United States on the residents of southern New Mexico. The GIs there used to give odd jobs to kids, and my mother and brother worked in the kitchen. It rose from the heavens, so bright, so extremely bright. It was rolling, getting fatter and bigger and taller. The world is coming to an end. If it was the end of the world, I wanted to see it. I was waiting for God to come out from around the ball of fire. Madrid figures he was about 30 miles from the blast. Though the negative vision eventually corrected itself, Madrid said his eyesight has remained poor ever since. He got headaches from looking at bright light and often would see double images. Madrid also has been covered nearly head to toe with a skin rash which doctors have never been able to explain. His mother and other relatives died of thyroid cancer. Madrid recently joined dozens of other residents from counties near the test site for a July 16 observance of the 65th year anniversary of the Trinity blast organized by the Tularosa Downwinders Consortium. Some 38,000 people lived within a mile radius of Trinity, according to the census, but none received advance warning of the atomic test or the nuclear fallout that followed the blast, consortium leader Tina Cordova said. No one was evacuated. She said cancer rates in the counties near Trinity are four to eight times higher than national rates. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta. Herds of cattle and goats also were likely exposed to the extremely high rates of radiation, the study suggests. Cordova said many of the exposed cattle made their way into local, regional and possibly national beef markets. Over the years since, Congress has enacted various pieces of legislation to provide compensation and health care assistance to residents of Nevada, Guam, the Marshall Islands and others who lived downwind from various above-ground nuclear weapons tests during the 1940s and 1950s. Trinity downwinders, however, have so far been left out of those measures. A similar measure was introduced in the U.S. Editing by Steve Gorman.

2: The Socorro Blast by Pari Noskin Taichert (, Hardcover) | eBay

The Socorro Blast is an entertaining mystery that may be of interest mostly to people who went to school at New Mexico Tech in Socorro, NM (perhaps especially in the days when the campus rang from improvised explosive devices).

TR-3 Measurements under Robert R. Wilson TR-4 Meteorology under J. The scientists also wanted a flat area to minimize secondary effects of the blast, and with little wind to spread radioactive fallout. Eight candidate sites were considered: Stevens and Major Peer de Silva. The patented land had been condemned and grazing rights suspended. On the weekend of the test, there were present. This unit established initial security checkpoints and horse patrols. The distances around the site proved too great for the horses, so they resorted to using jeeps and trucks for transportation. The horses were used for playing polo. Bush strove to improve the food and accommodation, and to provide organized games and nightly movies. They tried to use water out of the ranch wells, but found the water so alkaline they could not drink it. They were forced to use U. Navy saltwater soap and hauled drinking water in from the firehouse in Socorro. Gasoline and diesel were purchased from the Standard Oil plant there. The railroad siding at Pope, New Mexico, was upgraded by adding an unloading platform. Electricity was supplied by portable generators. When the lead plane on a practice night raid accidentally knocked out the generator or otherwise doused the lights illuminating their target, they went in search of the lights, and since they had not been informed of the presence of the Trinity base camp, and it was lit, bombed it instead. The accidental bombing damaged the stables and the carpentry shop, and a small fire resulted. Henderson and Roy W. Hirschfelder, made the initial calculations, followed by a more detailed analysis by Henderson and Carlson. After consulting with the steel companies and the railroads, Carlson produced a scaled-back cylindrical design that would be much easier to manufacture. One idea was to cover it with a cone of sand. Another was to suspend the bomb in a tank of water. As with Jumbo, it was decided not to proceed with these means of containment either. The CM Chemistry and Metallurgy group at Los Alamos also studied how the active material could be chemically recovered after a contained or failed explosion. Because there would be only one chance to carry out the test correctly, Bainbridge decided that a rehearsal should be carried out to allow the plans and procedures to be verified, and the instrumentation to be tested and calibrated. Oppenheimer was initially skeptical, but gave permission, and later agreed that it contributed to the success of the Trinity test. Kistiakowsky assured Bainbridge that the explosives used were not susceptible to shock. This was proven correct when some boxes fell off the elevator lifting them up to the platform. Flexible tubing was threaded through the pile of boxes of explosives. Requests for further postponements had to be refused because they would have impacted the schedule for the main test. The detonation time was set for Anderson practiced using a converted M4 Sherman tank lined with lead to approach the 5-foot 1. An electrical signal of unknown origin caused the explosion to go off 0. Over vehicles were used for the rehearsal test but it was realized more would be required for the main test, and they would need better roads and repair facilities. More radios were required, and more telephone lines, as the telephone system had become overloaded. Lines needed to be buried to prevent damage by vehicles. A teletype was installed to allow better communication with Los Alamos. A town hall was built to allow for large conferences and briefings, and the mess hall had to be upgraded. Later, he became the director of Los Alamos, after the departure of Oppenheimer. The two were very similar, with only minor differences, the most obvious being the absence of fuzing and the external ballistic casing. The bombs were still under development, and small changes continued to be made to the Fat Man design. Christy, who made the solid pit design a reality after it was initially proposed by Edward Teller. This was stabilized at room temperature by alloying it with gallium. Two equal hemispheres of plutonium-gallium alloy were plated with silver, [50] and designated by serial numbers HS-1 and HS The Trinity core consisted of just these two hemispheres. Later cores also included a ring with a triangular cross-section to prevent jets forming in the gap between them. The uranium slug containing the plutonium sphere was inserted late in the assembly process. A trial assembly of the Gadget without the active components or explosive lenses was carried out by the bomb assembly team headed by Norris Bradbury at Los Alamos on July 3. It was driven to Trinity and back. A set of explosive lenses arrived on July 7, followed by a

second set on July Each was examined by Bradbury and Kistiakowsky, and the best ones were selected for use. Bethe worked through the night to assess the results, and reported that they were consistent with a perfect explosion. The polonium-beryllium "Urchin" initiator was assembled, and Louis Slotin placed it inside the two hemispheres of the plutonium core. Cyril Smith then placed the core in the uranium tamper plug, or "slug. The completed capsule was then driven to the base of the tower. As the capsule entered the hole in the uranium tamper, it stuck. Robert Bacher realized that the heat from the plutonium core had caused the capsule to expand, while the explosives assembly with the tamper had cooled during the night in the desert. By leaving the capsule in contact with the tamper, the temperatures equalized and in a few minutes the capsule had slipped completely into the tamper. Finally, the upper Dural polar cap was bolted into place. Assembly was completed at about The height would give a better indication of how the weapon would behave when dropped from a bomber, as detonation in the air would maximize the amount of energy applied directly to the target as the explosion expanded in a spherical shape and would generate less nuclear fallout. The tower stood on four legs that went 20 feet 6. Atop it was an oak platform, and a shack made of corrugated iron that was open on the western side. The Gadget was hauled up with an electric winch. Another men under Major T. Palmer were stationed outside the area with vehicles to evacuate the civilian population in the surrounding region should that prove necessary. Arrangements were made for Alamogordo Army Air Field to provide accommodation. Dempsey , that martial law might have to be declared in the southwestern part of the state. Each had its own shelter chief: Richard Feynman claimed to be the only person to see the explosion without the goggles provided, relying on a truck windshield to screen out harmful ultraviolet wavelengths. Ramsey chose zero a complete dud , Robert Oppenheimer chose 0. Bainbridge was furious with Fermi for scaring the guards who, unlike the physicists, did not have the advantage of their knowledge about the scientific possibilities. His own biggest fear was that nothing would happen, in which case he would have to head back to the tower to investigate. The photography group employed some fifty different cameras, taking motion and still photographs. Special Fastax cameras taking 10, frames per second would record the minute details of the explosion. Spectrograph cameras would record the wavelengths of light emitted by the explosion, and pinhole cameras would record gamma rays. Another, slow recording one would track the fireball. It would take the only known well-exposed color photograph of the detonation explosion. Truman wanted the test to be conducted before the conference began. It was therefore scheduled for July 16, the earliest date at which the bomb components would be available. The detonation was initially planned for It was feared that the danger from radiation and fallout would be increased by rain, and lightning had the scientists concerned about a premature detonation. The shortwave radio frequency for communicating with the Bs was shared with the Voice of America , and the FM radios shared a frequency with a railroad freight yard in San Antonio, Texas. They carried members of Project Alberta , who would carry out airborne measurements during the atomic missions. The overcast sky obscured their view of the test site. The desert sand, largely made of silica , melted and became a mildly radioactive light green glass, which was named trinitite. The observed colors of the illumination changed from purple to green and eventually to white. The roar of the shock wave took 40 seconds to reach the observers.

3: Trinity eyewitness recalls world's first atomic blast | Reuters

The Socorro Blast is Pari Noskin Taichert's third novel to feature Sasha Solomon as narrator and amateur www.enganchecubano.comn pushes her way into the role of detective, this time in hopes of protecting her niece, who is injured in a suspicious explosion.

If you fly into Albuquerque and are coming to Socorro, look for signs to I South Las Cruces as you exit the airport – the freeway is less than a mile away. Information on the Socorro Airport is on the Socorro Airport page. Socorro is just far enough south to be spared many of the storms that often touch northern New Mexico. Its elevation of approximately 4, feet spares us the extreme heat. The altitude also provides four distinct but temperate seasons. Socorro summer high temperature averages are in the mid 90s, with no more than 20 days when the temperature reaches over F. Winter high temperature averages are in the mid 50s, and winter nights seldom drop to 0F. Normally during the day, air temperature decreases with altitude, but after a clear, calm night, the air next to the ground becomes cooler than the air above. Nothing remains of Teypana today, but on the east edge of Socorro County, the ruins of the vast Gran Quivira Pueblo stand as tribute to the great trade culture of the Pueblo Indians. One of three pueblos of the Salinas Missions National Monument, the ruins of Gran Quivira show the excellent masonry of their architecture. From its early days of caravans bringing missionaries and supplies, the road over its year history connected the New Mexico Territory to Mexico and Spain. A bit of the oldest trail in North America can still be traversed along a dirt road section east of Escondida. El Camino Real is beginning to receive the recognition it deserves in history. Spanish families surrounded the mission, farming and ranching on land given them in Spanish land grants. During the Pueblo Revolt of , the Teypanas left with the Spaniards, establishing a new community further south. Socorro was not re-founded as a community again until late On February 21, , Confederate troops under General H. Sibley engaged the Union Army troops under Colonel R. Confederates won the Battle of Valverde , fought upstream from the fort at the Valverde Crossing. Today, the Fort is open from dawn to dusk, seven days a week. Maintained by the Bureau of Land Management, the site has interpretive signs and a campsite. The Battle of Valverde is re-enacted each year, on a weekend near its February anniversary date. The arrival of the railroad in the s brought miners, merchants, and cattlemen to Socorro County. The town of Socorro sported a grain mill, a brewery and smelters to process the ores. California mission style homes and buildings took their place among the adobes in the booming towns. NM Tech has garnered an international reputation in the sciences and is consistently rated as a top college nationally. Trinity Site is now a monument, open to the public once a year.

4: A Different Perspective: The Socorro Barrel and Bruno R.

In Taichert's middling third cosy to feature New Mexican public relations consultant and sometime sleuth Sasha Solomon (after 's The Belen Hitch), Sasha is gearing up for a major presentation on t.

Sandblasting in Socorro, NM Compressed air or water sandblast, stream of sand or other abrasive particles driven by a jet of compressed air or water or by centrifugal force against a surface to clean or abrade it. When centrifugal force is used, the abrasives are whirled in a rapidly rotating device before being directed against the surface. Powdered quartz, emery, chilled iron globules, and other hard granular substances are used as the abrasive material. Frosted designs are worked on glass by placing a stencil or suitable pattern over the surface so that the blast affects only the uncovered parts. Exceptionally hazardous Sandblasting dust can be exceptionally hazardous to the lungs. Either silica or tiny abrasive metals are used while Sandblasting. Many people overlook the safety measures that are associated with Sandblasting. If you do Sandblasting then you need to learn all about sandblaster safety. Best deals and Best Value - Sandblaster Safety with Sandblasting Team in Socorro, NM The stipulated requirements of operators that sandblast need to wear a sealed sir vented helmet. This helmet protects them from and hazardous microscopic dust particles which are produced from the Sandblasting. The air filter needs to be checked regularly to ensure the dust is not entering and circulating into the helmet. The helmet also needs to fit properly. Every time the helmet is work it needs to be cleaned when the job is completed. Sandblaster Safety Manager In any Sandblasting concern our manager or supervisor at Sandblasting Team in Socorro, NM will make sure staffs learn all about sandblaster safety. If proper training is not given, injuries could result when using the sandblaster. In addition the abrasive materials that are used in a sandblaster can create harmful dust when being transported. When sandblaster abrasives are being transported, the people transporting them need to wear a filter respirator. Included in the safety regulations is noise safety. These Sandblasting machines create a high volume noise when being used and can damage the ears of the operator as well as those nearby. It is imperative that the operator wear protective earphones which will help to block the excessive noise. Sandblaster Safety The equipment that will be worn by Sandblasting Team in Socorro, NM and used is safety glasses, helmet, safety respirators and filters and aprons. Sandblasting outdoors is very messy as well as hazardous, and it is important to follow the safety rules provided by the EPA. When Sandblasting indoors, wear protective gear, and the area must be well ventilated. For those that work with sandblasters need to be warned that prolonged inhalation of the dust causes silicosis. Learn all about sandblaster safety and only perform Sandblasting in a controlled environment with all the right safety measures in place.

5: Lonnie Zamora incident - Wikipedia

Socorro (N.M.) New Mexico At once a topically flavored whodunit and a realistic portrayal of the way families join together--or don't--in a crisis, "The Socorro Blast" is a blend of mystery and domestic drama, with the flawed but always engaging Sasha Solomon on center www.enganchecubano.comsity of New Mexico Press Read More.

I now know more about the barrel launching Bruno R name left out of the original post that Dave Thomas put on his website at: Bruno said that he did not remember revealing his involvement to Ashely. Bruno said that he was, in fact, responsible for the Socorro UFO sighting. He, and a colleague he refused to name, said they were using Ammonium Nitrate, an electric blasting cap, dynamite, a large barrel and a gasoline pan. Bruno said that both of them were wearing blue jeans and not white coveralls. Interestingly, he said that he and his partner said nothing about this because they were afraid they would be expelled. He said that after graduation, he had left to work in Central America so that he was unavailable to anyone searching for him. This included soil samples. Holder, according to the Project Blue Book files, took soil samples. He gave these to Dr. This means, of course, that the samples were gathered before the scene was trampled by curiosity seekers. Remember that Dorothy Landoll told me that she and her husband were out there the next day. In the descriptions of the site by those who were there that evening including Zamora, his friend Sergeant Sam Chavez, Holder, FBI agent Arthur Byrnes, several other law enforcement officers and military police, no one said a word about a battered barrel I am assuming here that the barrel would be battered after being blasted upwards and falling back. They talked of other things they saw including burned bits of cardboard, so they were talking about all sorts of debris. The landing traces and there were four, were not what you would expect from the launching of the barrel. These were suggested to be landing gear imprints and not the haphazard craters created by denoting dynamite. To those on the scene the impressions looked as if they had been pressed into the ground rather than caused by an explosion, or for that matter, by a shovel. There are some other problems with this tale. How did Bruno and his partner get away without some kind of vehicle in the area, and the area was searched for tire tracks? As I say, what happened to that barrel? It was not found. But I did think of one thing. Bruno suggested that maybe Zamora had embellished the sighting, embarrassed by all the commotion it had stirred. If Zamora was embellishing the story, then that might be what Quintanilla was thinking. As I wrote that last sentence, I knew that it would be misinterpreted by many. It is just one more complication as we attempt to learn what happened back in

6: 70 years after atomic bomb test, New Mexico residents still affected - CBS News

"Victim or perpetrator? That's what New Mexico's favorite public relations maven, Sasha Solomon, can't figure out about her niece Gabi. The daughter of Sash's overbearing sister Eva, Gabi is a grad student at Socorro's New Mexico Tech, where she's been working on a new kind of explosive device-and conducting a potentially explosive affair.

It is being revised and reposted now as a remembrance on the second anniversary of the death of officer Lonnie Zamora on November 2. Usually those legends are closely held, and only variously revealed -- sometimes the stuff of family conversation at Thanksgiving dinners, and sometimes in solitary and intimate reminiscences, unshared. But for some the personal legends become public, the stuff of celebrity. It may be in accomplishing a great deed, or conversely stem from shameful notoriety. Rarest of all is the public legend unsought, the happenstance of circumstance, the unremarkable person wandering unsuspecting into a moment unbidden and unwanted, subject to the vagaries of fate. And it was in this fashion that Lonnie Zamora -- who died this week at the age of seventy six -- found himself enveloped in a legend all his own. Within hours, the military was involved. Within days, it was a nationwide phenomenon. City Policeman Lonnie Zamora, a highly reliable source, saw a four-legged, egg-shaped object, and two persons in a gully a mile south of the courthouse shortly before 6 p. He saw the object rise straight up and take off, and disappear beyond Six-Mile Canyon to the west. Some of the evidence of the landing and takeoff remained in the gully. There were four shallow holes where the object apparently landed on its legs; there were burned greasewood and seared clumps of green grass; there were two round, very slight depressions. No footprints were found. Zamora said he saw lettering on the side of the UFO, and had sketched the lettering a paper sack after the object had taken off. He did not believe the lettering was in English and observed no numerals as there are on known aircraft. Zamora said he was not at liberty to further describe the lettering. At least one other person -- an unidentified tourist traveling north of U. Grinder replied there were many helicopters in this vicinity. It actually was headed straight for the gully where it landed moments later. The tourist also commented that he had seen a police car heading up the hill. The woman said a minister and 26 other persons in New Guinea had seen a similar object hovering for two hours at an estimated altitude of feet. It was reported the observers had seen a man on the "deck" of the object. The major said he was not at liberty to comment. Use of a Geiger counter at the scene was reported to have brought positive results. After being appraised of the situation, I attempted to determine wheter White Sands Missile Range or Holloman Air Force Base had anything that might produce the conditions described. Neither White Sands Missile Range nor Holloman had an object that would compare to the object described. There was no known firing mission in progress at the time of the occurrence that would produce the conditions reported. First, it may have been a top secret U. Second, it may have been an advanced type of aircraft or space ship of another power. Third, it may have been a space scout ship from another planet. Whatever the object was, it probably was the first reported concrete instance of a UFO in New Mexico. Policeman Zamora shifted from a routine task to a frightening out-of-this-world experience in a few minutes Friday night. He was patrolling Park Street, where he had begun pursuit of a fast-traveling car several blocks ahead of him. Zamora was almost on the old road when he heard what he described as a blast or a roar. His first though [sic] was that an aluminum building used to store explosives had blown up. He forgot about the speeding car and headed up a very rocky, dirt road towards the building. On the third try, driving very slowly, he managed to get up the road which leads to the top of the mesa overlooking the gully where the UFO had landed. The policeman said he first saw the object at an estimated distance of yards, and he thought it was an overturned car. He was looking out of his car window as he drove towards the top of the mesa. Zamora said one of two persons at the UFO, whose back was to him, turned his head and looked straight at him. The two persons standing by the object appeared to be dressed in white coveralls, and at the distance Zamora saw them they appeared to be "child-like," that is, small. He did not notice what sort of headgear, if any, the two persons, presumably men, wore. Zamora continued driving up the hill to get a closer look at the object and the persons. When he stopped his car on the top of the mesa and directly opposite the place in the gully where the UFO had landed, he saw it again, but the persons were not outside the object on which the sun gleamed

brightly. He got out of his car and started towards the UFO. Then he again heard the roar or blast that had brought him to the scene and saw flames. Dust was flying around the object. The policeman believed the object was about to explode. He was about 50 feet from the UFO, and for protection he dropped to the ground and covered his face with an arm. No explosion occurred, and Zamora also realized the object was not heading in his direction. He raised his head slightly. He saw the UFO, which seemed to be heading south on landing, rise straight up for an estimated 20 feet, which brought it about on a level with the police car on the mesa top. The object appeared to maintain this altitude beyond the explosives building and due west in a straight line for about two miles to the perlite mill. On the other side of the mill the UFO gained altitude very rapidly, passed over Six-Mile Canyon, became a speck in the sky, and disappeared. As the object got into the air, the noise quieted. The object did not leave a jet trail. Chavez and Luckie said the burned clumps of green grass and the greasewood were still hot when they arrived. The military later took samples of the burned earth for analysis. An inspection of the scene Saturday morning showed the object landed astride a narrow, rock-strewn dry wash in the gully. Officers earlier had circled with stones the four places where the legs of the object had touched earth. The holes were shallow, about a foot long by six inches wide. They did not appear to have been made by an object striking the earth with great force, but by an object of considerable weight settling to earth at slow speed and not moving after touching the ground. It was about 12 feet from one landing hole to the other on the west side and 15 feet between the two on the east side. The width probably was nine or more feet. The clumps of green grass and two greasewood bushes seemed to have been seared all at once by an extremely hot flame. There were also broken branches on one greasewood. The two round depressions were four and five inches in diameter, respectively. The cause of the landing of the object, like its identity and its source, remain unanswered. Was the landing in the secluded, little-frequented gully for a test or caused by momentary mechanical difficulty? Investigations of the incident will be conducted by designated government agencies. By Sunday afternoon hundreds of curious persons had trampled the scene and there was virtually no evidence left of the landing marks. The story by that time had already gone national, and the Albuquerque, New Mexico Journal had carried a story somewhat at odds with -- and published one day before -- that of the Chieftain. And most of Sunday he spent shaking his head over some of the reports of what he supposedly said about the incident. It never got more than about 20 feet off the ground while he was watching it, Zamora said, contrary to reports the object had zoomed up and away from him at a high rate of speed. Two investigating officers from Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque said reports a man from the Pentagon would come to Socorro also were false. Holder, White Sands Missile Range commander, termed the incident "fantastic" but referred to Zamora as a reliable witness. Zamora said the craft cleared a dynamite shack by only a couple of feet as it departed. He lost sight of it within a matter of minutes, he claimed. He noticed the object after he investigated a cloud of smoke about a mile south of Socorro. He was aware of the dynamite shack in the vicinity and thought at first it exploded, he said. The craft was in a draw not visible from main roads. He first saw it from about yards and thought it was an overturned car. He said he saw what appeared to be a pair of white coveralls, but whether anything was in them he did not know. Within Feet He eventually got within about feet, and it was then Zamora said he noticed it was something out of the ordinary. He said the object was on the ground, supported by four girder-like legs. At the site, four five to six inch depressions were found as well as a couple of round tracks about four inches in diameter which officers theorized might have been made by occupants of the craft. They even went so far as to estimate by the depression that the tracks were made by a being of approximately 0 pounds. On the spot where the object supposedly sat was a once-green bush, most of it burned bare by exhaust heat. Lorenzen, a member of the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization, drove to Socorro from Tucson to take samples of the soil and indicated the story was credible to him. Now there were no little men but merely white coveralls. Now instead of a roar attracting his attention, it was a cloud of smoke. Meanwhile by midweek, as part of the Air Force investigation, Dr. Other reports have followed. The Socorro report and another at La Madera in northern New Mexico were similar in that state and military authorities confirmed a scorched area where the object was supposed to have landed, and wedge-shaped impressions that appeared to have been left by some type of landing gear. Hynek would not offer an opinion on just what Zamora did see. The story of course was told by a man who obviously was frightened badly by

what he did see. He certainly must have seen something. Zamora for 16 years in my work and he is a thoroughly dependable observer. The scientist also discussed the markings that Zamora said he saw on the side of the object, a red, inverted V with bars through it. Hynek would have much more to say in his official reports.

7: Saturday Night Ufoia: Death of a Legend

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Though Zamora says he did not pay much attention to the flame, that the sun was "to west and did not help vision", and he was wearing green sunglasses over prescription glasses. In interviews with Air Force investigators for Project Blue Book he goes to some lengths to describe the long, narrow, funnel-shaped "bluish orange" flame. He thought there might be some dust at the bottom, and attributed it to the windy day. He explains that his car windows were down. Zamora notes no other possible witnesses except possibly the car in front, which he estimates might have heard the noise but not seen the flame because it would be behind the brow of the hill from their viewpoint. Zamora struggled to get his car up the steep hill. Successful on the third attempt, he noted no further noise. For the next 10-15 seconds he proceeded west, It was then that he noticed a shiny object, "to south about to yards", that at first he took to be an "overturned white car Having stopped for a couple of seconds, Zamora approached in his car meaning to help. Zamora only caught a brief sight of the two people in white coveralls beside the "car". He recalls nothing special about them. At same time as roar saw flame. Flame was under the object. Object slowly rose straight up. Flame was light blue and at bottom was sort of orange color. From this angle, saw the side of object not end, as first noted. Difficult to describe flame. Thought, from roar, it might blow up. Cannot describe flame further except blue and orange. No smoke, except dust in immediate area. He now gives a more detailed description of the object. Noted red lettering of some type. Was in middle of object Object still like aluminum-white. Zamora describes how the object took off: Glanced back couple of times. I guess I had run about 25 feet when I glanced back and saw the object level with the car and it appeared about directly over the place where it rose from. I was scared of the roar, and I had planned to continue running down the hill. I turned around toward the object and at same time put my head toward ground, covering my face with my arms. Being that there was no roar, I looked up, and I saw the object going away from me. It did not come any closer to me. Shack about eight feet high. Object was travelling very fast. It seemed to rise up, and take off immediately across country. I answered "It looks like a balloon. I did not tell him at the moment which window to look out of. The object seemed to lift up slowly, and to "get small" in the distance very fast. It disappeared as it went over the mountain. It had no flame whatsoever as it was traveling over the ground, and no smoke or noise. Chavez to get there. Went down to where the object had been and I noted the brush was burning in several places. At that time I heard Sgt. State Police at Socorro calling me on radio for my location, and I returned to my car, told him he was looking at me. Chavez came up, asked me what the trouble was, because I was sweating and he told me I was white, very pale. I asked the Sgt. Chavez and I went to the spot, and Sgt. Chavez pointed out the tracks. The object might have been about three and a half feet from the ground at that time. I just glanced at it. As my mic fell as I got out of car, at scene area, I heard about two or three loud "thumps," like someone possibly hammering or shutting a door or doors hard. These "thumps" were possibly a second or less apart. This was just before the roar. The persons were not seen when I drove to the scene area. Chavez got to scene, I got my pen and drew a picture of the insignia on the object. Stanford wrote about a number of corroborating witnesses in his book, including two tourists named Paul Kies and Larry Kratzer, who were approaching Socorro in their car from the southwest, less than a mile from the landing site. They apparently witnessed either the landing or takeoff and reported seeing the flame and brownish dust being kicked up. Their story was reported in the Dubuque, Iowa Telegraph-Herald a few days later after their return. A family of five tourists from Colorado headed north also saw the oval object as it approached Socorro at a very low altitude, going east to west just south of town. It passed directly over their car only a few feet above it. After the encounter, the tourists stopped for gas in Socorro. Their identity was never discovered, but the story was learned from the service station operator, Opal Grinder, who reported the incident at the time [7] and later signed an affidavit in According to Grinder, the husband told him "Your aircraft sure fly low around here! The man thought it was in trouble since it came down west of the highway instead of the nearby airport to the south. He saw the police car headed up the hill towards it, and he thought to render assistance. Shrode thought this was likely the same object that Zamora

encountered only 20 minutes later and helped corroborate his report. Stanford said he personally spoke to two women who heard the roar just before 6 p. They said that there were two distinct roars, maybe a minute or so apart. In October, Stanford first publicly revealed that Sgt. Chavez, the first policeman to provide backup for Zamora, had privately confided to fellow police officers that he too had seen the object rapidly departing to the west over the mountains as he approached the site. Multiple policemen arrived soon after to help investigate, including Ted Jordan and James Luckie. All noted fresh burning at the site. Luckie and Chavez were quoted in the Socorro newspaper saying that clumps of grass and burned greasewood bushes were "still hot" when they arrived. Smoke appeared to come from the bush and he assumed it was burning, however no coals were visible and the charred portions of the bush were cold to the touch. In addition, Chavez was also quoted in the report saying that the indentations appeared to be new: Hynek also commented on the freshness of the soil impressions in a letter to astronomer Donald Menzel: However, for reasons that remain unclear, the FBI asked that their presence at the scene be kept quiet. Holder shot down this idea, and was later quoted in a Socorro newspaper as saying that there was in military custody "no object that would compare to the object described. There was no known firing mission in progress at the time of the occurrence that would produce the conditions reported. Using flashlights, they cordoned off the site, took measurements and took samples of the sand and the scorched bushes. The claim of "fused sand" being recovered from the landing site was for some time unsubstantiated; even Hynek said he had not heard such rumors during his investigations. As a young Captain, Holder was surprised and nervous to be speaking to such an important, high-ranking officer. Even years later, Holder would wonder [23] about such important U. He met with Zamora and Chavez, and interviewed them about the encounter. Hynek and Air Force Major Hector Quintanilla initially thought the sighting might be explained as a test of a Lunar Excursion Module, though after some investigation, Hynek determined that this could be definitely ruled out as an explanation for what Zamora saw. The Air Force was suggesting that the affair was a hoax, but Zamora was "pretty sore at being regarded as a romancer" and it took over half an hour for Hynek to "thaw him out" and hear the account from the only eyewitness. McDonald located Mary G. Mayes, who asserted that when she was a University of New Mexico doctoral student in radiation biology, she had been asked "to analyze plant material from the Socorro site. Afterwards, she was to turn in all records and samples, and heard no more about it. According to Mayes, she had examined the site the day after the event, and had gathered plant samples for analysis. Mayes thought the glassy areas looked as if a "hot jet hit it. These high values rule out many conventional explanations, such as a helicopter or balloon. A high-performance jet aircraft or rocket propulsion could conceivably produce the acceleration and near-supersonic speed, but neither forms of propulsion are silent. The Air Force report on the incident also said that they analyzed the soil and found no evidence of chemical propellants, as might be expected from a jet or most rocket engines. Further, no contemporary craft was capable of vertical take-off and such high speeds. The oval object described by Zamora also lacked any wings or other external structures that might have provided lift. Winds[edit] Contemporary New Mexico newspapers reported a low-pressure storm system moving through the state with wind gusts kicking up dust. Zamora likewise reported winds were "blowing hard" out of the south-southwest or maybe southwest, judging by the dust created as he drove up the dirt road to the scene. Hynek variously reported winds either out of the south or southwest. A recent review of historical wind data confirmed the large low-pressure system at the time with winds at all surrounding weather stations out of the south to southwest.

8: Trinity (nuclear test) - Wikipedia

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