

mentioned another piece of local weirdness, the older story of the "Delphos Wolf Girl," which is now admitted by perpetrators to have been a goat dressed up in a red gown and let run loose. Simon says, The Search For Truth take several steps backward. Again. If one wasn't a humanitarian, you'd like to get the idiot-hoaxers of the country in an isolated spot somewhere for a "close encounter of the nose-relocating kind."

Walter left us with three further personal evaluations of interest:

- A. The Billy Meier "Contact from the Pleiades" case is a proven hoax;
- B. The Bermuda Triangle is an illusion based on the same factors that cause large amounts of accidents at busy streetcorners;
- C. The number of correlations between Bigfoot and UFO sightings are very low, and he feels that there is little possibility of a connection.

John Schuessler is a key researcher in MUFON and an employee of McDonnell Douglas Astronautics, working with NASA on Skylab and the Space Shuttle. He reported on the Cash-Landrum close encounter incident in Texas, involving health damage to the percipients. This case hints very strongly of governmental secrecy.

Driving on a quiet country highway, two older women and the young grandson of one of the women were surprised by a diamond-shaped object with two rows of blue lights laboriously blasting fire from its underside and struggling in the air. Flames seem nearly to reach the car from over one hundred feet away. One of the witnesses felt that Christ's final coming was at hand. As the device, "big as the watertower," groaned slowly across the trees, it was joined by at least 23 helicopters of the large twin-rotored military kind. The whole ensemble moved off and the witnesses continued home.

Later, all three experienced a barrage of symptoms classically related to radiation sickness. A MUFON radiology consultant stated, "we have strong evidence that these patients have suffered damage secondary to ionizing radiation. It is also possible that there was an infrared or ultraviolet component as well." As health and behaviors changed, both women lost jobs (one of them even lost ownership of businesses) and their lives altered markedly. Naturally, they would like some compensation if they were innocently damaged by some military activity.

Attempts to track down the cause of the incident have been completely unsuccessful. All military bases in the area deny any knowledge and consequently, any responsibility. Some people in the UFO field see this lack of evidence for military involvement as an indication of the likelihood of extraterrestrial involvement, even hailing this as "the most important UFO case in years." Some have gone so far as to suggest that aliens disguise their craft as helicopters to throw us off. Most of PURSUIT'S readers, it might be ventured, have come up with a lot less complicated alternative for this case: no UFOs, a lot of secret military action.

There are plenty of reasons to guess "U.S. Military Project" on this one:

1. there were loads of "U.S. Military" helicopters in the story, and there are many of that type of device in several bases in the area;
2. on that very night there was a 100 helicopter operation elsewhere in Texas, so such an activity would not be unusual;
3. the "UFO" was blasting flames from its underside — very unusual for a UFO-incident, but rather common for "earth-technology;"

4. the witnesses noted the odor of "lighter fluid" in the perhaps liquid hydrocarbon ("gasoline-like") rocket fuel;
5. the U.S. Military has ample reason to tell us nothing of this case even without extraterrestrials being involved (for one, a possible secret vertical takeoff military device test; for another, little incentive to take responsibility for irradiating citizens with a nafa'd test).

To this reporter, there are two really sad things about this case: One, that Mrs. Cash and Mrs. Landrum have had so many difficulties and there seems little chance for justice and compensation. This is by far the most important outcome of this experience. Two, this incident points out the danger of "wanting it too badly" by some UFO enthusiasts. Since there is such a conceivable alternative hypothesis (U.S. Military test), we certainly shouldn't be hailing this as the most important case in years, nor scrambling for "disguised helicopters" theories to firm up the extraterrestrial hypothesis. To John Schuessler's credit, he has stayed quite objective about this case and is primarily driven by humanitarian concerns for Mrs. Cash and Landrum. Others haven't kept as cool, however, and seem not to recognize the danger of selectively believing the military whenever it fits their theories (i.e. the military is constantly accused of covering everything up, but is believed in this case when it says that the "object" was not its device). This doesn't mean that there's no chance of UFOs in this "sighting," but it should indicate that, as of now, there's no evidence of any concrete kind to support that speculation.

Part Three: Missing disks, time, and mutilators — tales from the Dark Side.

Missing disks: If you're looking for paranoia in the paranormal, you've come to the right place! After the "Cosmic Watergate" part of the conference was presented, most conferees were checking under their seats and staring suspiciously at the people in the next row.

Len Stringfield presented a paper on crashed saucers and hidden humanoids. Well, he did and he didn't. Ray Boeche, the conference organizer, read the paper for him. Mr. Stringfield could not make it. The reason wasn't stated, but he has recently had threats claiming that he was in mortal danger because of his research and feels the threats are genuine. It is about this time that your typical friendly conference goes begins to wonder about many things, none of which are particularly upbeat.

Well, let's pretend that the "Men-in-Black" aren't coming to get us for a moment and ask what Len feels he's found. Mr. Stringfield is an old-time UFO researcher with many contacts within and without the military. He feels that he has 25 independent sources who have been involved with crashed saucers and their occupants including the bio-specialist who did the autopsy-anatomies. The tales have an eerie, forbidden aura about them. They are all allegations as of now, great stories, but still anecdotes until something more concrete arises. They certainly do make you ponder, though.

One bit of biological pondering that disturbed this reporter was the apparent absurdity of some of the biological details stated by the unnamed witnesses. These details were so nonsensical that it almost makes you want to credit the story on the grounds that if someone were making it up they certainly wouldn't have included such "zingers." For example, how the extraterrestrials create new generations without any reproductive anatomy would appear tricky. But it's unlikely that they'd have to worry about it anyway, since they have no gastrointestinal tracts for nutritional intake. It was a bit painful to hear enthusiasts from the audience speculate on direct energy absorption from the environment.

CASH-LANDRUM CASE

SPECULATION ABOUT THE MEDICAL EFFECTS

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1980

ABSTRACT

This paper presents a brief overview of the Cash-Landrums case, describing the UFO encounter and the resulting medical effects exhibited by the victims. Other UFO cases on record mention some effects, but very few cases have resulted in the broad spectrum of effects seen in this case. A number of the effects, such as burns, hair loss, nausea, and diarrhea, are characteristic of injuries resulting from radiation exposure. This paper examines the range of injuries noted in the literature as associated with ionizing and non-ionizing radiation; thereby permitting speculation about the source of the radiation and leading to further inquiry about that source.

INTRODUCTION

Individuals monitoring the progress of the victims in this case share the common opinion that these people have reported the incident and resulting effects to the best of their ability. Because of the continuing nature of their medical problems a number of individuals have accepted the premise that these injuries were caused by exposure to radiation from an unidentified source.

The literature on radiation exposure is extensive and varied. A generic listing of effects expected from a broad range of exposure to a nuclear blast is common throughout the literature. However, it is evident that few of the experts agree on the specific effects; especially when more than one type of radiation is present.

It is also commonly accepted that radiation effects are those seen when one is exposed to x-rays. This is only a small part of the story. Other types of radiation impart damage to the human body in much the same manner (i.e. microwave, infrared, ultraviolet, etc.) and perhaps offer more worthwhile clues to the investigator of UFO/medical cases.

It is important not to deal in generalities when examining the possibilities of radiation exposure. Various types of radiation leave no residual effects at the site other than the physiological damage to the witness. Many cases in the past have been closed without adequate evaluation of the medical effects because something else could have caused the problem and no one asked if that is what really happened. It is important to continue asking questions long after the initial

investigation is past and the sensationalists have gone home. The medical effects may be one of more significant tools available to the UFO researcher.

BACKGROUND

On December 29, 1980, three Texans encountered a UFO accompanied by a number of helicopters and suffered severe medical consequences. Betty Cash (51), Vickie Landrum (57), and Colby Landrum (7), were driving home to Dayton, Texas on the Cleveland-Huffman road just north of Lake Houston. It was around 9 o'clock at night and the road was deserted. The first indication of something unusual was the presence of a very intense light several miles ahead just above the pine trees. Betty remarked about the unusual brightness, but temporarily lost sight of it due to the many trees along the road.

Suddenly, hovering over the road only a short distance ahead was an enormous diamond shaped object. "It was like a diamond of fire," Vickie said. The glow was so intense they could barely stand to look at it. Vickie at first thought it was the fulfillment of Biblical prophesy and expected to see Jesus come out of the fire in the sky.

In addition to lighting the whole area like daytime, the UFO periodically belched flames downward. Fearing they would be burned alive Betty stopped the 1980 Oldsmobile Cutlass without leaving the road. The car rapidly warmed to an uncomfortable temperature, so the trio got out of the car to get a better look at the UFO. Colby was terrified and dove back into the car, begging his grandmother to get back in with him. She entered the car and held Colby, while continuing to watch the glowing object.

Betty stood momentarily by the driver's door and then walked forward to the front of the car. After much pleading by Vickie, Betty finally returned to the car, only to find the door handle too hot to touch with the bare hand. She used her leather coat as a hotpad to open the door. Although the winter night air had chilled to about 40 degrees, the heat from the UFO caused the witnesses to sweat and feel so uncomfortable they turned on the car's air-conditioner.

Each time the object would shoot flames downward it would rise a few feet. When the flames stopped it would drop in altitude. The intense glow, however, never changed. In addition, the threesome heard an irregular beeping sound throughout the sighting.

Finally, the flames stopped, the object rose to the southwest, and was lost from sight over the trees. Vickie and Colby commented that several helicopters could be seen above and beyond the UFO. Vickie said with relief, "we're safe and we're sound, but I'm burning and it's so hot."



Betty was directly exposed to the object for 5 to 10 minutes, Vickie for 3 to 5 minutes, and Colby only a minute or so. As Betty raced homeward she turned to the right on highway FM 2100, the only route out of the area. Five minutes had elapsed since the UFO moved away over the trees, but just ahead was the UFO and a large number of helicopters. "The sky was full of helicopters," said Betty. Some were near the object and others lagged far behind. She feared the helicopters would collide and waited at a clearing along the road for them to move away. The helicopter encounter was as upsetting as the UFO encounter because the large twin rotor helicopters buzzed their car. Vickie said: "the helicopter roar was like a tornado."

They sped onwards toward home, turning on to the Huffman-Eastgate road, then to highway FM 1960. By this time the object had been in sight, climbing into the night sky, for another five minutes. On FM 1960 Betty aimed the car in the opposite direction from the flight path of the object, but they could still see the light off to the rear of the car. The total time of the sighting was more than 20 minutes. (Reference 1).

All three of the witnesses had an immediate reaction to the heat, developed rather severe reactions to the event over the next few days, and sustained some permanent injuries over the long term. This paper will list the injuries sustained by each of the witnesses and then present some possible mechanisms that could be responsible for the injuries.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Unidentified Flying Object (UFO): UFO is used throughout this report to describe the huge diamond-shaped object described by the witnesses. This means they and the investigators described and recorded information about an object that was not identifiable. It does not mean flying saucer and does not involve the "little green men" syndrome. None of the witnesses were UFO buffs. Quite to the contrary, Vickie Landrum doesn't believe that extraterrestrial life fits with her fundamental religious beliefs.

Helicopters: At least two types of helicopters were described by the witnesses. One type was clearly described as having two large rotors on top, with a large hulk at one end, and wheels on the bottom. The descriptions and sketches by the witnesses fit the known characteristics of the Boeing CH-47 Chinook. The other type was a single rotor unit of the Bell Huey type.

Medical Injuries: Each of the witnesses suffered injuries as the result of the incident. This has been documented through interviews with the witnesses, neighbors, friends, and medical people. The injuries are real. Many people have speculated about the cause, but usually from a biased viewpoint aimed at stopping the discussion rather than finding the real cause. This report will provide speculation on possible mechanisms for the injuries by quoting from the literature. References will be cited at the end of the report.



THE MEDICAL INJURIES

Betty dropped Vickie and Colby in Dayton and arrived home at 9:50 p.m. where her friend Wilma was waiting. Vickie said as she left the car, "my head hurts, I'm sick." Betty felt even worse. In addition to a terrible headache and nausea, her neck began to swell and red blotches appeared on her face and head.

For the next 4 days Betty's health degraded. Her eyes swelled closed, the red blotches became blisters of clear fluid, and she was weak with diarrhea and nausea. The headaches never ceased. Vickie and Colby suffered in a similar manner.

Betty entered a hospital and was treated like a burn patient. Vickie treated her own and Colby's injuries at home. She used baby oil to treat the burns and old fashioned remedies for the nausea and diarrhea. All of the witnesses sustained permanent injuries.

A partial listing of the injuries is as follows: (Reference 2).

- Erythema - reddening of the skin
- Blisters
- Scarring
- Open sores
- Photophthalmia - eyes swollen, watery, and painful
- Vision Impairment
- Stomach Pains
- Diarrhea
- Anorexia - loss of appetite
- Weight Loss
- Lethargy
- Fingernail Damage - Keratin damage
- Hair Loss
- Hair Re-growth of a different texture
- Heart Sac Inflammation
- Reduced Immunity to Infections
- Patches of Hair Growth on Body
- Radiation Dermatitis
- Increased Tooth Decay (Colby)
- Cancer
- Thirst

PRE-INCIDENT HEALTH STATE

Each of the witnesses were in reasonably good health before the incident. This has been documented from medical records, family histories, and photographs. (Reference 3).

Colby was a very active youth. At his early age he was very involved in softball, fishing, and never missed an opportunity to be involved in outdoor events. He had his own motor cycle and rode very well. He was not a sickly boy.



Vickie was an active woman, helping her large family and working in the restaurant owned by Mrs. Cash and in the school lunch program. A 16-hour workday was not unusual for Mrs. Landrum. She had undergone an operation twenty years earlier, but with no after effects. Her only problems since that time has been minor colds.

Betty Cash was also a very active woman. She had a heart operation in 1977, but had fully recovered. Her doctor said: "Whatever symptoms she had (After December 29, 1980) had nothing to do with the underlying heart problem. She sees us or our associates every six months and the problem is all gone." When questioned about her medical condition after the incident, he said: "She did not have the symptoms in the past." A complete summary of the doctor's statements, plus those of friends and relatives that know Betty has been provided to her lawyer, and is on file in the MUFON office.

RADIATION INDUCED MEDICAL EFFECTS

This discussion of radiation effects covers more than the commonly accepted description of radiation -- the exposure to the lethal rays of a nuclear explosion. Apparent radiation induced medical effects in UFO incidents have been dismissed rather casually because they do not fit the commonly accepted criteria for individuals having been exposed to x-rays.

In this paper, radiation means electromagnetic radiation. This radiation consists of waves of energy of varying lengths and frequencies spanning the spectrum from radio waves to gamma rays. Moving up the spectrum the wavelength decreases and the frequency increases. The spectrum also divides into ionizing radiation (gamma rays, x-rays, and ultraviolet) and non-ionizing radiation (infrared, microwaves, and radio and television waves).

Unfortunately, the experts do not agree on the effects of the different types of radiation. Their definitions are often driven by their job position or political activities. To make matters worse, the combined effects of several types of radiation are virtually unknown for human exposure. Therefore, any discussion of radiation effects is speculative. Perhaps it is time to start giving the benefit of the doubt to the victim rather than to the loudest speaking proponent/opponent.

Measurement terms need to be defined also. Rad is an acronym meaning radiation absorbed dose. It represents the amount of energy deposited in a gram of tissue by ionizing radiation such as x-rays. It should be noted that any particular exposure to radiation may produce varying numbers of rads in different tissues. When other types of radiation are present, the term Rem from radiation equivalent man is used. This is an amount of radiation that would produce the same biological effects as a rad of x-rays.

It is difficult to establish a firm cause and effect relationship. Radiation produces no unique biological effects. To a physician, the burn an individual receives from high levels of radiation looks no dif-



ferent from the burn produced by an open flame. Leukemia is leukemia, whether it is caused by chemicals, viruses, or radiation.

Radiation, depending on its intensity, will produce one of four effects when it slams into a body cell (Reference 4). They are as follows:

1. The radiation may pass through the cell without causing any damage.
2. Stronger radiation may damage the cell slightly, and the injured cell can repair itself.
3. The cell can become more severely damaged, beyond its ability to repair itself. It can reproduce in a damaged form (i.e. mutation) for long periods of time.
4. Heavy radiation can kill the cell.

Within the human body, all of the above conditions may exist at the same time. Radiation exposure may kill one cell, mutate another, while leaving others undamaged. A radiation dose administered quickly will have a more profound biological effect than the same dose administered over a longer period of time. Some example of the effects of various kinds of radiation are as follows:

IONIZING

Time Magazine (Reference 5) provides an interesting overview of the effects of ionizing radiation. It describes the effects as nausea, vomiting, loss of appetite, thirst, fever, diarrhea, loss of hair, drop in white blood count, damage to the immune system affecting the healing of cuts and sores, and skin problems.

Regrowth of hair having a different color and texture is defined in a number of references; however, some experiments with black mice in the 1950s (Reference 6) clearly showed the effect of radiation on the coloration of hair. Radiation passing through the hair follicle changed the pigmentation of the hair growing from it.

Many specialists claim a minimum threshold level before radiation causes cell death, genetic damage, and cancer. In low level radiation effects, researchers have provided evidence this is not true. This is the linear hypothesis. It means that all doses of radiation, however small, have some cancer-inducing effects. (Reference 7 and 8).

Depending on the dose of radiation, various levels of skin injuries occur. Erythema is like a first degree burn. The victim may feel warmth on the skin during exposure. At higher levels, blisters form and break open. Infections can result. (Reference 9).

Hair loss (epilation) occurs in 17 to 20 days. Orientation of the body with respect to the radiation is significant. Patients that



are hospitalized, such as Betty Cash, tend to lose hair in the areas of the head that are in contact with the pillow. (Reference 10).

Late radiodermatitis is characterized by atrophy, leaving a thin shiny skin hairless and dry because of the destruction of the skin appendages. Betty's doctors noted this condition in her medical records because of the trouble they had in attempting skin grafts after an operation. (Reference 11).

The cells that reproduce themselves rapidly are affected immediately. The cells at the base of the fingernails and those lining the digestive track are affected immediately by exposure to radiation. The death of the fingernail cells causes a line or even holes in the nails as they grow, a good signal that the individual was exposed to radiation. Diarrhea results from the damage to the cells in the lining of the digestive track. (Reference 12).

The NASA Bioastronautics Data Book (Reference 13) provides some generic charts showing the systemized levels of blood neutrophils following different levels of radiation exposure. The curves are heavily dependent upon the dose of radiation; but all show a latent period, then a drop and finally a recovery. Blood tests on the victims were made during the period of latency, and not progressively over a 10 to 180 day period. Without the results of such tests a curve cannot be generated on the witnesses to compare with the textbook data. However, the tests that were conducted showed mild anemia, but not a drastic drop in blood neutrophils.

Damage to the eye caused by exposure to x-ray and gamma radiation can be of several types. These are listed as follows: (Reference 14).

1. Marked edema of the conjunctiva.
2. Clouding of the cornea with a tendency for vesicles.
3. Reduced corneal sensitivity.
4. Opacification of the entire cornea.
5. Cataract following exposure to as little as 600 Rads.
6. Sudden onset of intractable glaucoma.
7. Intraocular bleedings.

Individuals exposed to radiation are more susceptible to infections and disease than non-exposed persons. Exposure aggravates the course of the infectious processes, and includes the depression of antibody formation. There appears to be a profound disturbance of the immunobiological reactions of irradiated individuals. These reactions depend on many factors, including the functional state of the nervous system, endocrine regulation, protein and vitamin content of food-stuffs, metabolic processes, activity of the enzyme systems, and oxygen supply. Seasonal and climatic factors also pay a part. (Reference 15).

ULTRAVIOLET

The skin and the eye are susceptible to damage from ultraviolet light. Reactions to ultraviolet light can be seen in the cornea, con-



conjunctiva, and lens of the eye. The conjunctival and corneal epithelium unlike the skin, contain no protective covering of keratin and is unusually thin. Exposure to ultraviolet radiation causes a keratitis and may show edema of the cornea. (Reference 16).

The skin shows a "sunburn" effect when exposed to ultraviolet. The result is premature aging of the skin and at times, skin cancer. (Reference 17).

RADIOFREQUENCY RADIATION, INCLUDING MICROWAVE

Human injuries due to microwave exposure are not unlike those caused by ionizing radiation. The one main difference appears to be in the area of the blood system. Ionizing radiation has a more damaging effect on the production of red and white blood cells than microwave. However, a pulsed microwave system tends to emit x-rays and produces more harmful biological and physical effects than non-pulsed microwave.

The earlier studies concentrated on the thermal effects of microwave; but it was found that the non-thermal effects are also serious. Subjective effects of microwave exposure include headache, insomnia, irritability, loss of appetite, faulty memory, drowsiness, heaviness in the head, chest pain, easily irritated skin, excessive sweating, fluctuating blood pressure, changes in eye tissue, slow heartbeat and anxiety. (Reference 18 and 19).

Russian and American research show behavioral changes, biochemical effects, EEG effects, immunological effects, and cataracts result from various levels of microwave exposure. (Reference 20).

The strange beeping sound noted by the witnesses can be explained in several ways; but one interesting possibility is that they were microwave induced. Sounds and possibly even words which appear to be originating intracranially can be induced by microwave signal modulation at very low average-power densities. (Reference 21).

A World Health Organization study of the residents of Finland adjacent to the Russian border and near to an early warning radar site revealed an increase in the incidence of cardiovascular disorders and increased incidence of cancer. As controversial as it may appear, three American ambassadors to Russia, victims of the microwave bombardment of the American Embassy, suffered injuries that appeared to be akin to the microwave bombardment of the American Embassy. Ambassador Stoessel became ill with a blood disease, nausea, and bleeding of the eyes. Later he was diagnosed as having lymphoma or leukemia. His two predecessors, Charles Bohlen and Llewellyn Thompson both died of cancer. A suspicious coincidence. (Reference 22).

INFRARED

Biological damage caused by infrared radiation is generally due to radiant heat. The first area to be affected is the cornea of the eye. Even small rises in temperature affect this delicate system.



Retina burn can also occur. If increased evaporation of the tear fluid in the eye occurs, then a "dry eye" situation develops.

Infrared radiation can cause skin burns, dilatation of small arteries, and skin pigmentation. A unique feature of this type of damage is blepharitis, or inflammation of the eyelids. Infrared has been known to impair blood flow through the spleen and the kidneys. The immune system is also affected to the point where the body cannot adequately protect itself. (Reference 23 and 24).

OTHER RADIATIONS

The preceding discussion gives an overview of the effects of ionizing and non-ionizing on the human body. Time permitting, a more detailed look at the problem could be presented. The data is available.

The combined effects of the various types of radiation have not been considered because the data is fragmented and not well organized at this time. Simple studies such as testing pigskin by exposing it to ionizing radiation after it has been heated by microwave was determined to have little effect. (Reference 25).

High energy electron beam exposure is similar to the effects of gamma rays, except the penetration may be different. Erythema of the skin may progress to blistering. The sensation of numbness and later pain may be present. A severe systemic reaction may occur, but again, not differing markedly from gamma radiation exposure. (Reference 26).

The effects of Extremely Low Frequency Fields have been studied by M.A. Persinger. He reports that exposure to a high intensity static electric field produces a decrease in immunologic resistance and a rise in nervous system disorders. Fluctuations in natural ELF cause changes in oxygen consumption, heart failure, blood clotting, time perception, and reaction time. (Reference 27).

CONCLUSION

Betty Cash, Vickie Landrum, and Colby Landrum were apparently harmed by some type of flying device on December 29, 1980. An examination of the literature provides no clear-cut definition of an exact type of radiation that would cause all the effects described earlier in this report. However, ionizing radiation could possibly cause about 90% of the problems. Microwave radiation raises the number to about 99%. Infrared, ultraviolet, and the others could cover a lower percentage of the injuries. Unfortunately, no well defined data base exists to examine the combined effects of two or more types of radiation.

Because no two people react exactly the same to non-lethal doses of radiation, it is difficult to explain the minor differences in the injuries noted by each of the witnesses.

J.M. McCampbell (Reference 28) presents a good case for microwave



radiation as an explanation for some of the effects noted in various UFO cases. Other researchers have suggested that the device causing the injuries in the Cash-Landrum case was some type of nuclear aircraft or errant nuclear reactor in the skies over Texas. A later paper will address these issues, with emphasis on Remotely Piloted Vehicles (RPVs) as the intruding vehicles.

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le cas "cash - landrum"

Symptômes dus à l'irradiation
causée par un ovni

1980

ABSTRACT

● A travers l'histoire contemporaine, les OVNI ont été tenus pour responsables d'un bon nombre de types de blessures infligées aux humains et aux animaux. La plupart de ces cas ont été mal enquêtés à cause d'idées préconçues de médecins, enquêteurs, écrivains et militaires au sujet de l'existence des OVNI. Le cas Cash-Landrum est représentatif d'un certain nombre d'autres cas, à une exception près cependant. Les victimes ont permis à une équipe choisie de se plonger dans les moindres détails de l'incident. Le résultat est un rapport bien documenté des blessures que subirent les témoins; blessures qui ont pu être causées par l'exposition à une source d'irradiation.

INTRODUCTION

24 octobre 1887 : une famille vénézuélienne est exposée à un OVNI brillamment illuminé et est atteinte de brûlures, vomissements, perte de cheveux et d'un enfllement généralisé(1).

20 mai 1967 : un prospecteur canadien, Stephen Michalak, voit un OVNI posé au sol et souffre de brûlures, nausée, vomissements, enfllement (épidermique) et d'une longue maladie (2).

3 octobre 1973 : un camionneur du Missouri, exposé à un OVNI extrêmement brillant, fut aveuglé des jours durant et eut des problèmes oculaires pendant un an (3).

Comme des centaines d'autres incidents similaires, ces cas démontrent que les OVNI affectent sérieusement les gens. Comment peut-on aider ces personnes ? Que pouvons-nous apprendre des OVNI en étudiant leurs effets sur les humains?

Une petite équipe d'ingénieurs, de scientifiques, et de

spécialistes en médecine ont créé le Projet VISIT (Vehicule Internal Systems Investigative Team = équipe d'enquêtes sur les systèmes internes des véhicules) pouvant traiter tous les incidents OVNI avec blessures ou pénétration alléguée (du témoin) dans l'OVNI. Les membres de VISIT collectent et analysent toutes les informations concernant les effets physiques des OVNI sur les gens. Ces informations scientifiques et médicales sont ensuite examinées afin de découvrir les mécanismes probables de l'OVNI(4).

L'INCIDENT LE PLUS RECENT

La plus récente information introduite dans la banque de données de VISIT concerne un fait s'étant produit le 29 décembre 1980, lorsque trois Texans virent un OVNI et eurent à subir des conséquences médicales assez graves. Betty Cash (51 ans), Vickie Landrum (57 ans) et le petit fils de cette dernière, Colby Landrum (7 ans) rentraient en voiture à Dayton, Texas, sur la route reliant Cleveland à Huffman, au nord du Lac Houston. Il était 21h00 et la route était déserte. Le premier événement inhabituel fut la présence d'une lumière très intense, plusieurs kilomètres au loin, au-dessus des pins. Betty fit remarquer l'intensité exceptionnelle de la lumière, mais la perdit de vue derrière les arbres pendant un certain temps. (5 et 6).

Soudain, elle vit un objet énorme en forme de losange planant au-dessus de la route, pas très loin au devant. Vickie affirma "c'était comme un losange de feu." La luminosité était si intense que les témoins pouvaient à peine la regarder. Vickie pensa d'abord qu'il s'agissait de la réalisation d'une prédiction biblique et s'attendait à voir Jésus sortir du feu céleste.

NON-IDENTIFIÉ

O.P., 1.984 = SEP-84

L'OVNI éclairait toute la région, et crachait périodiquement des flammes vers le bas. Craignant d'être brûlés vivants, Betty arrêta son Oldsmobile Cutlass 1980, sans quitter la route. Ils sortirent tous trois du véhicule afin de mieux voir l'OVNI. Colby, terrifié, replongea dans la voiture, implorant sa grand-mère de le rejoindre, ce qu'elle fit, dans l'intention de le reconforter.

Betty se tint quelques instants près de la porte du conducteur, puis se dirigea vers l'avant de la voiture. Après maintes supplications de Vickie, Betty rejoignit le véhicule. La poignée de la portière était si chaude qu'elle dut se servir de sa veste en cuir pour l'actionner. Malgré la température hivernale d'environ 40°F (env. 4°C), la chaleur émise par l'OVNI fut si intense que les témoins transpirèrent. Mal à l'aise, ils allumèrent l'air conditionné du véhicule.

Chaque fois que l'objet crachait des flammes vers le bas, il s'élevait, et lorsque les flammes n'étaient plus émises, il perdait de l'altitude. La luminosité intense ne varia cependant jamais. En outre, les trois témoins entendirent nettement un bip bip irrégulier tout au long de l'observation.

Finalement, les flammes s'arrêtèrent, l'objet se leva vers le sud-ouest et disparu. Vickie et Colby affirmèrent que plusieurs hélicoptères étaient visibles au-dessus et derrière l'OVNI. Vickie dit avec soulagement "nous sommes sains et saufs, mais je brûle et il fait si chaud."

Betty fut directement exposée à l'objet cinq à six minutes, Vickie de trois à cinq minutes, et Colby environ une minute. En retournant chez elle, Betty tourna à droite sur la route FM 2100. Cinq minutes plus tard, ils virent juste devant eux l'OVNI ainsi qu'un grand nombre d'hélicoptères. Betty affirma "le ciel était plein d'hélicoptères." Certains étaient proches de l'objet et d'autres traînaient derrière lui. Elle craignait une collision entre les appareils. Les témoins étaient stupéfaits d'en compter plus d'une vingtaine. Vickie déclara

"le bruit qu'ils firent était semblable à celui d'une tornade!"

Prenant la route d'Huffman-Eastgate, puis la FM 1960, ils se dirigèrent à toute vitesse chez eux. A ce moment, l'objet était encore visible, évoluant dans la nuit durant encore cinq minutes. Sur la FM 1960, les témoins s'éloignèrent de l'OVNI mais purent encore apercevoir un petit point brillant durant deux ou trois minutes.

EFFETS PHYSIOLOGIQUES INHABITUELS

Betty déposa Vickie et Colby à Dayton et arriva chez elle à 21h50 où son amie Wilma l'attendait. Vickie avait dit en quittant la voiture, "ma tête me fait mal, je ne me sens pas bien." Pour Betty, c'était pire. Outre un terrible mal de tête, elle souffrait de nausée, son cou commença à enfler et des taches rouges apparurent sur son visage et sa tête.



Conception artistique de Kathy Schuessler de l'objet en forme de losange évoluant sur la FM 1485, selon la description des témoins.

Le 29 décembre marqua un tournant dans les vies de Betty et Vickie. Betty qui était une femme excessivement énergique avait prévu d'ouvrir un nouveau restaurant, prévision qui fut balayée par la maladie qui suivit. Sa santé s'était dégradée durant les quatre jours qui suivirent. Ses yeux enflèrent à tel point qu'elle ne put plus les ouvrir, les taches rouges devinrent des cloques contenant un liquide clair, elle é-

tait affaiblie et était atteinte de nausées et de diarrhées. Les maux de tête ne s'estompèrent plus. Voyant l'état de Betty, Vickie commença à craindre le pire et prit contact avec son médecin.

Après plusieurs coups de fil, elle trouva un médecin qui lui conseilla de faire admettre Betty aux urgences à l'hôpital où elle fut reçue et traitée en tant que brûlée. Durant les jours qui suivirent, Betty perdit des morceaux de peau et environ 50% de ses cheveux (7, 8).

Après douze jours d'hospitalisation, Betty rentra chez elle malgré un état peu amélioré. Celui-ci se dégrada à nouveau au point où elle dut retourner quinze jours supplémentaires à l'hôpital. Durant les semaines qui suivirent l'incident, Vickie et Colby utilisèrent de l'huile pour bébé afin d'atténuer les brûlures sur leur visage. Leurs douleurs d'estomac et la diarrhée s'estompèrent après quelques semaines, mais leurs yeux sont apparemment atteints de manière irréversible et le traitement se poursuit. Colby eut des cauchemars durant des semaines et avait terriblement peur des lueurs dans la nuit, peur qu'il a toujours envers les hélicoptères.

REVUE DES EFFETS PHYSIOLOGIQUES

Colby :

- * érythème (rougeur de la peau)
- * yeux enflés et larmoyants
- * douleurs d'estomac
- * diarrhée
- * anorexie (perte d'appétit)
- * perte de poids
- * augmentation des cavités dentaires

Vickie :

- * érythème
- * photophtalmie (yeux enflés, larmoyants et douloureux)
- * diminution importante de la vue
- * douleurs d'estomac
- * diarrhée
- * anorexie
- * ulcération des bras due aux escarres et à une dépigmentation
- * ongles détériorés dus à une atteinte de la kératine
- * perte des cheveux
- * repousse de cheveux d'une texture différente

Betty :

- * érythème

- * photophtalmie aggravée (yeux enflés et fermés, douloureux et larmoyants)
- * vision asymétrique
- * douleurs d'estomac
- * vomissements, diarrhée
- * anorexie
- * perte de vitalité, léthargie
- * escarres et dépigmentation
- * importante chute de cheveux
- * repousse de cheveux d'une texture différente

EFFETS CONNUS D'IRRADIATION

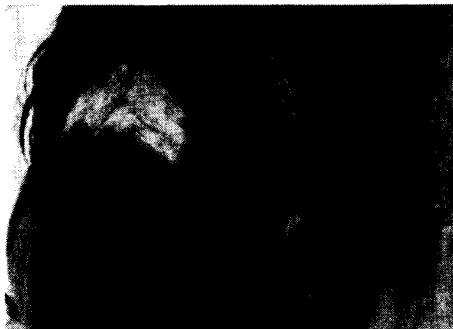
Le spectre électromagnétique est divisé en groupes selon les différentes longueurs d'ondes. Les rayons X et gamma ont de courtes longueurs d'onde; les ultraviolets, la lumière visible et l'infra-rouge ont des longueurs d'ondes qui vont en grandissant. Les différents groupes se chevauchant, il est possible qu'une personne irradiée subisse les effets de plusieurs longueurs d'ondes, par exemple les rayons X et les UV (9).

L'exposition à des radiations UV peut engendrer la photophobie, la photophtalmie (effet d'arc électrique), l'inflammation des paupières et l'érythème. L'exposition aux rayons X et gamma peut provoquer une grande faiblesse générale, l'anorexie, la nausée, des vomissements, l'apathie, d'importants maux de tête, l'insomnie et le vertige, (10, 11).

Les symptômes nous fournissent une indication quant à la nature de l'irradiation subie. Le degré de malaise dépend du type et de la puissance de l'irradiation, de la dose reçue, du temps d'exposition et d'un certain nombre d'autres variables. Cependant, il n'existe aucun type de radiation qui ne soit pas potentiellement dangereux pour l'oeil. Assurément, beaucoup de symptômes décrits peuvent être décelés dans l'incident Cash-Landrum.

LES HELICOPTERES

En ce qui concerne les hélicoptères, tous les témoins furent interrogés séparément. Ils furent tous trois d'accord pour dire qu'il y en eut au moins vingt. Grâce aux reflets de l'objet lumineux, ils purent nettement distinguer les détails des hélicoptères, malgré



Betty Cash : l'arrière de la tête montre environ 50% de perte de cheveux. (Doc. MUFON) □

une nuit très sombre et la lune dans son troisième quartier. Il y avait au moins deux types différents d'hélicoptères mais les témoins firent aussi allusion à un large phénomène de dimensions importantes parmi eux.

Grâce à l'emploi d'un tableau d'identification, un modèle fut identifié sans équivoque comme étant le Boeing CH-47 Chinook. Un autre type d'hélicoptère fut assimilé au modèle Bell Huey mais sans que les témoins puissent l'affirmer avec certitude.

Non seulement chaque témoin identifia la forme et les caractéristiques générales du Chinook mais des détails tels que les roues, l'illumination ou le bruit furent décrits.

Un contact avec le représentant FAA de l'aéroport intercontinental de Houston permit d'obtenir les renseignements suivants (12) :

- * 350 à 400 hélicoptères opèrent pour raison commerciale dans la région de Houston.
- * Ils sont tous de type "rotor unique" (aucun Chinook).
- * Les hélicoptères se plient à la régulation VFR (vol à vue, NdT), par conséquent ils n'ont pas à contacter la tour de contrôle.
- * Au-delà de 15 miles (24 km) de l'aéroport, ils ne doivent pas franchir 1800 pieds (environ 600 mètres, NdT).
- * Le radar de Houston est limité en altitude à 2000-2200 pieds (env. 700 mètres, NdT) autour du Lac de Houston, ceci de par l'emplacement de l'antenne.

L'aide obtenue par le contact avec les installations militaires fut négligeable. Fort Polk, Fort



Vickie Landrum : elle souffrit de photophtalmie (yeux enflés, larmoyants et douloureux). Actuellement, elle doit constamment porter des lunettes. (Doc. MUFON) □

Hood, Dallas Naval Air Station et England AFB affirmèrent ne pas avoir survolé la région d'Houston ce soir là. L'unité opérant depuis Ellington AFB à Houston avait atterri avant l'heure de l'observation. Robert Gray Field avait ce soir là 100 hélicoptères rentrant de vol en même temps "pour impressionner", mais affirma avoir évité la région d'Houston. Ainsi, personne ne revendique la paternité des hélicoptères qui emplirent le ciel de la région d'Huffman en cette nuit hivernale.

SUITES

L'enquête n'est pas terminée. Nous avons gardé le contact avec les témoins, suivant un rythme hebdomadaire depuis plus d'une année. Ceci a permis une accumulation importante d'informations. L'état de santé des victimes constitue le résultat le plus intéressant tandis que l'enquête sur les hélicoptères fut des plus décevante.

Colby eut une augmentation des caries dentaires, une perte d'appétit, de poids, des douleurs stomacales périodiques, une poussée inhabituelle de poils sur diverses parties du corps et une dégradation de l'acuité visuelle. Son état de santé ne s'améliora pas jusqu'aux environs de décembre 1981.

L'année fut particulièrement difficile pour Mme Landrum. Non seulement car elle eut un problème de santé personnel, mais également car elle se fit continuellement du souci pour Colby. Ses problèmes immédiats étaient négligeables, mais des ennuis à long terme, telle la

leucémie, lui travaillaient l'esprit. Un point positif fut la re-pousse quasi totale de ses cheveux. Elle fut par contre victime d'une grande fatigue, d'une perte d'appétit, d'éruptions cycliques de grandes plaques, de problèmes pulmonaires, d'enflure des bras et des jambes, d'une immuno-déficience accrue et d'une importante baisse d'acuité visuelle.

Mme Cash fut dans l'impossibilité totale de travailler à cause de son état de santé. Elle fut hospitalisée sept fois dont trois dans des unités de soins intensifs. Durant cette période, elle eut à supporter des rougeurs de la peau, des maux de tête, des infections pulmonaires et une plus grande fragilité des os.

Autant Mme Cash que Mme Landrum furent coopératives à 100% et nous ont aidé de leur mieux. J'espère que d'autres suivront ce bel exemple.

La partie de l'enquête concernant les hélicoptères fut une toute autre histoire. Les premières tentatives destinées à identifier l'origine des hélicoptères se soldèrent par un échec. Pratiquement la seule réponse que nous pûmes obtenir de Washington D.C. fut celle des sénateurs texans John Tower et Lloyd Bentsen. Ils suggérèrent aux témoins d'engager une procédure contre le gouvernement américain. Cette procédure est en cours à l'heure actuelle (et semble avoir été rejetée par le Department of the Air Force, si l'on en juge d'après un courrier publié dans le MUFON UFO JOURNAL nb 187, sept.83 (p.7). La lettre en question, adressée à Peter A. Gersten, est signée Charles M. Stewart (Director of Civil Law), et précise "La raison de cette décision est que les faits allégués par les demandeurs ne permettent pas d'établir que leurs blessures furent causées de quelque manière que ce soit par le Gouvernement des Etats-Unis ou par l'une de ses agences(...) Notre enquête n'a pu mettre en évidence aucune implication d'un quelconque personnel, équipement ou avion militaire dans l'incident allégué." ndlr). D'autres personnalités officielles s'intéressent à l'affaire après

en avoir entendu parler dans Science digest, Omni, That's incredible, ou Good morning America. Le Capitaine Jenny Lampley du Bureau de liaison de l'armée de l'air à Washington D.C. fit une brève enquête et conclut que l'armée américaine n'était probablement pas impliquée puisqu'elle ne se servait d'aucun hélicoptère CH-47(14).

L'enquêteur le plus actif fut le Lt Colonel George Sarran du Bureau d'Inspection Général de l'armée américaine. Il contacta maints complexes militaires afin de connaître leur implication éventuelle, mais sans succès (15).

Le Major Dennis Haire de la 136ème unité de transport d'Ellington AFB à Houston contribua largement à l'enquête en fournissant des données sur les capacités des hélicoptères CH-47 basés à cet endroit et ceux, plus récents, basés à Fort Hood (13).

Tous ces hélicoptères ont l'autonomie et la vitesse permettant de les impliquer dans un cas comme celui qui nous préoccupe, mais aucun d'entre eux ne revendique cette implication.

A ce stade, il serait aisé de fournir une longue liste des fausses informations transmises par un certain nombre d'autres militaires, mais ces informations furent débusquées, il serait donc inutile d'en dire plus.

CONCLUSION

Cet incident pose clairement plusieurs problèmes. Premièrement, lorsqu'une personne est impliquée dans une rencontre rapprochée avec un OVNI, il lui est pratiquement impossible d'obtenir une aide immédiate. La police, les journaux et même les médecins reçoivent leur appel à l'aide sans réagir. Les médecins, non préparés aux récits étranges comme celui de Betty passent le plus clair de leur temps à chercher ce qui ne va pas, car aucune méthode de traitement standard n'a été définie.

Deuxièmement, les organisations militaires pourraient mieux servir les citoyens des Etats-Unis si elles étaient enclins à révéler l'identité des objets, tel celui vu à Huffman ou ailleurs, où la sécurité

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publique est compromise. Betty et Vickie n'ont jamais affirmé que l'OVNI de Huffman fut une soucoupe volante avec des petits hommes verts. Elles pensent qu'il s'agissait d'une quelconque opération gouvernementale. D'autres qui ont vu ou entendu les hélicoptères ce soir là ont le même sentiment.

Troisièmement, les organisations OVNI ne coopèrent habituellement pas comme elles le devraient afin d'assister les témoins. L'incident de Huffman est une exception. Le Mutual UFO Network de Seguin, Texas, le Center for UFO Studies d'Evans-ton, Illinois et l'Aerial Phenomena Research Organization de Tucson, Arizona collaborèrent pour aider le Projet VISIT d'Houston à mener l'enquête en fournissant des consultants, en formulant des recommandations et en procurant de l'information concernant d'autres cas similaires. Une telle coopération est dans l'intérêt de tous les participants.

SEULEMENT LE DEBUT

L'enquête continue. L'évolution de l'état de santé de Betty, Vickie et Colby reste à déterminer. Cependant, plusieurs spécialistes des radiations ont prêté leur concours bénévolement pour réhabiliter et soigner les témoins. Un traitement global manque à ce jour car il manque toujours les informations sur la source du problème, l'OVNI. □

Les membres du Projet VISIT peuvent être consultés. Adresse: P.O.Box 877, Friendswood, Texas 77546, USA.

John F. SCHUESSLER

Traduction : P. Petrakis

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une croyance peut en cacher une autre

De plus, les rayonnements électromagnétiques ont des particularités qu'on ne saurait sous-estimer. Si nous nous en remettons à l'histoire telle qu'elle nous est rapportée par les enquêteurs, il apparaît que les témoins auraient reçu une dose somme toute assez faible. Dans ce cas, les effets auraient dû être ressentis plusieurs jours après; or il n'en est rien. Les enfants étant plus vulnérables, Colby aurait plus souffert que les adultes, ce qui n'est pas le cas. Enfin, la voiture aurait gardé une trace de cette irradiation mais les enquêteurs ne précisent pas ce dernier point.

Bien sûr, on peut se poser de nombreuses questions : quel fut le résultat des premières prises de sang, y eut-il un taux anormal d'adrénaline, la voiture fut-elle expertisée, etc ? Mais au-delà, il faut bien constater qu'un certain nombre d'inexactitudes par omission ne laisse rien présager de bon.

La mémoire, nous l'avons vu plusieurs fois dans ces colonnes, ne restitue pas la perception aussi fidèlement que l'on pourrait l'espérer, et, l'infinie possibilité de mésinterprétations aidant, on se trompe tous un jour ou l'autre.

Mais entre la mémoire et sa restitution, il existe un autre paramètre que nous n'avons pas le droit de négliger : le cerveau et plus précisément l'inconscient, qui stocke et adapte les informations brutes en fonction d'un certain nombre de référentiels qui seront d'autant plus importants (en nombre) et affinés que le témoin aura de culture générale.

Un vrai dédale donc que l'enquêteur devra suivre en ne négligeant aucun détail. Ce sera à lui qu'incombera alors la responsabilité de l'évaluation précise de la crédibilité d'un cas. Il ne le sait pas toujours. □

Perry PETRAKIS

UFO News-flash est un magazine (promotionné par le Centro Ufologico Nazionale) qui publie en traduction anglaise les principaux articles de presse italiens. Trad. AESV.

● S'il est vrai que notre religion traverse une crise, confondre toutefois quelques pèlerins en procession avec des envahisseurs et prendre leurs bougies pour des OVNI, c'est vraiment trop !

Un tel fait s'est pourtant bien déroulé près de Gênes. La nuit dernière, de nombreuses personnes affirmèrent avoir vu un OVNI dans le ciel de Rivarolo. L'OVNI, après quelques mouvements, atterrit sur la crête du Mont Scarpino.

Tous les habitants des villages de Teglia et Begato quittèrent leur téléviseur pour se précipiter à leurs fenêtres ou sur la route, espérant faire une rencontre rapprochée. Un témoin voulu voir l'OVNI de plus près, mais de l'OVNI, il ne trouva aucune trace.

Que s'est-il passé ? Le prêtre de paroisse de Murta, Don Pietro Parodi, expliqua toute l'histoire. La soucoupe volante, ou les "soucoupes" que quelqu'un prétendit avoir vu, n'étaient que des bougies que quelques fidèles avaient allumées sur le Mont Teiolo pour célébrer le cinquantième anniversaire de la construction de la chapelle dédiée à la Vierge de Lourdes.

Après le service de l'après-midi, quelques fidèles placèrent autour et sur la chapelle quelques bougies qui furent à l'origine de la mésinterprétation.

Quelques journaux affirmèrent que le prêtre paroissial Don Pietro Parodi parla d'OVNI, mais je suis sûr qu'il n'y eut que des fidèles avec des bougies et en aucun cas des OVNI ou des extra-terrestres. □

Source : *La Notte* (Milano), 14 septembre 1983. Paru dans *UFO-News-flash* n° 9, février 1984.
Adresse : Massimo Greco, P.O. Box 29, I - 25121 Brescia.

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L'enquête sur les lieux de l'observation (route Huffman - New Caney FM 1485). □

On voit donc bien que ces états ont leur panoplie d'effets physiques connus par les médecins, et qui ressemblent par certains côtés à la panique et à l'hystérie. Mais c'est l'examen même de la liste d'effets ressentis par les témoins qui nous éclaire le mieux. La photophtalmie, par exemple, semble avoir eu des effets dégressifs chez les témoins, ceci en fonction de la durée du temps d'observation. Le petit Colby est celui qui a le moins souffert, mais aussi celui qui a le moins regardé. Il est dit que Vickie perdit beaucoup de son acuité visuelle. Or, à n'en pas douter, l'observation d'une source lumineuse puissante, outre l'hémorragie oculaire qu'elle peut occasionner, peut, par exemple, précipiter l'évolution d'une cataracte (jusque là latente), provoquant une baisse considérable de l'acuité visuelle (cette maladie étant extrêmement fréquente vers 60 ans). Il est aussi possible que certains effets n'aient aucun rapport avec l'observation et ne doivent leur mention qu'au désir (inconscient) des enquêteurs de vouloir en rajouter pour crédibiliser l'affaire (autre variante de "le témoin nous paraît sincère, sobre et incapable d'inventer une telle affaire"). En effet, comment peut-on s'étonner de l'augmentation de caries dentaires chez un enfant de sept ans ?



Conception artistique due à Kathy Schuessler de l'objet évoluant parmi les hélicoptères. Remarquez la ressemblance entre la description de l'objet faite par les témoins et le panneau de signalisation ! □

De plus, les rayonnements électromagnétiques ont des particularités qu'on ne saurait sous-estimer. Si nous nous en remettons à l'histoire telle qu'elle nous est rapportée par les enquêteurs, il apparaît que les témoins auraient reçu une dose somme toute assez faible. Dans ce cas, les effets auraient dû être ressentis plusieurs jours après; or il n'en est rien. Les enfants étant plus vulnérables, Colby aurait plus souffert que les adultes, ce qui n'est pas le cas. Enfin, la voiture aurait gardé une trace de cette irradiation mais les enquêteurs ne précisent pas ce dernier point.

Bien sûr, on peut se poser de nombreuses questions : quel fut le résultat des premières prises de sang, y eut-il un taux anormal d'adrénaline, la voiture fut-elle expertisée, etc ? Mais au-delà, il faut bien constater qu'un certain nombre d'inexactitudes par omission ne laissent rien présager de bon.

La mémoire, nous l'avons vu plusieurs fois dans ces colonnes, ne restitue pas la perception aussi fidèlement que l'on pourrait l'espérer, et, l'infinie possibilité de mésinterprétations aidant, on se trompe tous un jour ou l'autre.

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cash - landrum : apocalypse now !?

Bien étrange affaire en vérité que celle de Cash-Landrum. Les observations quelque peu élaborées, sur lesquelles un certain nombre d'informations peuvent être collectées, ressemblent à des mots croisés pour lesquels l'on pourrait employer indifféremment plusieurs définitions et qui garderaient malgré tout un aspect général cohérent.

Certes, l'hypothèse d'un engin extra-terrestre est bien tentante. Car tout y est : observation faite par plusieurs témoins, effets physiques, enquête apparemment solide, etc. Je ne vais pas ici remettre en question l'intégrité des enquêteurs ou la qualité de leur travail et n'ai aucunement la prétention de proposer une contre-enquête. Il me paraît cependant utile de faire un certain nombre de remarques sur cette affaire.

Imaginons un instant les trois témoins faisant route vers Dayton, un 29 décembre à 21h, donc en pleine obscurité, sur une route déserte. Soudain, ils aperçoivent une forte lumière et la peur s'installe. Les hélicoptères, en nombre important, approchent tous feux allumés et illuminent entre autre un panneau de signalisation se trouvant un peu plus loin sur la route, et que les témoins n'avaient pas remarqué (voir photos). Ce panneau catadioptrique, dont l'illumination par intermittence est provoquée par le ballonnement typique des hélicoptères, focalise les craintes des témoins, dont l'esprit, conditionné par la peur, ne cherche plus à comprendre. Ils parleront de flammes, de déplacement, d'une forte chaleur, etc. Mais...la chaleur ? Les effets physiques ? Certes, il n'est pas question d'en douter. Mais alors...

Betty (51 ans) et Vickie (57 ans) étaient dans une période que les médecins appellent "l'âge critique", période qui généralement précède et/ou suit la ménopause de quelques mois, voire de quelques années. Ces deux adultes étaient donc fragilisés par un état de santé, normal pour leur âge, mais néanmoins en-dessous de la moyenne, dans un état d'hyper-sensibilité émotionnelle et particulièrement exposés aux bouffées de chaleur notamment.

Si nous admettons que cette observation a provoqué chez les témoins de fortes émotions et un état d'angoisse, on peut dès lors envisager un éventail d'effets physiques inhérents à ces états d'âme. En effet, les émotions et les angoisses sont des états médicalement proches qui appellent une réponse physique à une agression psychique (montée du taux d'adrénaline) en inondant le corps d'une énergie chaotique, donc non contrôlable. Les effets peuvent être nombreux, comme en témoigne cette liste non-exhaustive.:

- * Irrégularité du rythme respiratoire.
- * Accélération ou ralentissement du pouls.
- * Sensation d'étouffement et de resserrement de la cage thoracique.
- * Transpiration, palpitations cardiaques.
- * Alternance de rougeurs et de pâleurs, impression de chaud et de froid.
- * Augmentation ou diminution de la salivation.
- * Nausées ou vomissements.
- * Dilatation des pupilles.
- * Spasmes de l'estomac avec constipation ou diarrhée.
- * Tremblements des membres et de la tête.
- * Larmolement.
- * Claquement des dents et frissons généralisés, etc.

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part de Musschenbroeck, l'objet d'un récit d'une admirable précision. L'agent de transformation qui permet de passer de l'éclair fulgurant plus ou moins sinueux à l'éclair sphérique est la tension superficielle de la matière fulminante, laquelle agit en rétractant la surface extérieure de ce corps endothermique élastique, le refroidissement étant d'autant plus lent, toutes choses égales, que la quantité de matière fulminante est plus grande (cas de la foudre homicide d'Amiens). Avec un éclair fulgurant cylindrique de rayon r , la surface $2/r$ de l'unité de volume est énorme (1) car r est très petit et la différence entre la température superficielle de la matière fulminante et l'air dépasse 2000°C ; le refroidissement est alors instantané, la durée du reste d'éclair étant de l'ordre du centième de seconde. Quand les orages sont d'une grande intensité, il fait très chaud et les nuages sont très bas. Un éclair vertical entre le nuage orageux et la terre est alors très court et de section relativement grande. La matière fulminante se refroidit en raccourcissant sa longueur et en augmentant sa section. Le refroidissement, rapide à l'origine, diminue très vite et devient minimum avec la surface minima sphérique de l'éclair devenue des centaines de fois plus petite. Son refroidissement dure, toutes choses égales, des centaines de fois plus et devient de l'ordre de quelques secondes.

En ce qui concerne les grandeurs extrêmes des foudres globulaires, dont la fréquence est sensiblement nulle, on a, de source française, des récits relatifs à des foudres de la dimension d'un pois ou d'une grosse goutte d'eau. Les foudres les plus énormes, photographiées directement par le professeur J.C. Jensen de Lincoln dans le Nebraska (USA) correspondent à des diamètres DE L'ORDRE DE DOUZE A TREIZE METRES. Les plus grosses sphères observées en Europe ne dépassent pas le diamètre de CINQ A SIX METRES.

Il convient aussi de noter que la date d'observation de notre cas (octobre) et l'heure (23h30) ne sont pas très favorables à l'apparition

d'une telle foudre (la chaleur favorisant ce phénomène). Toutefois, la fréquence d'apparition d'une foudre globulaire est plus forte en fin de journée qu'en début de journée (circonstance favorable).

Reste le problème des "hublots" et "lampes blanches". Ils s'expliquent par des mouvements de convection interne et des déchirures de la couche superficielle (causées par la tension superficielle). On a d'ailleurs pu observer des foudres de toutes couleurs(2): verte avec des zones rouges et jaunes; orangée avec des taches rouges; rouge et blanche; jaune et blanche; bleue et blanche. Pour terminer, l'anneau sombre entourant la foudre pourrait constituer un anneau de matière à température moins élevée, causé par une rotation de ladite foudre sur elle-même. Rappelons d'ailleurs que les foudres globulaires peuvent tourner très rapidement sur elles-mêmes, comme des toupies, autour d'un axe vertical ou sensiblement vertical.

En conclusion, c'était dans notre cas un... éclair extra ! et les martiens brillaient par leur absence!! □

Jean BASTIDE

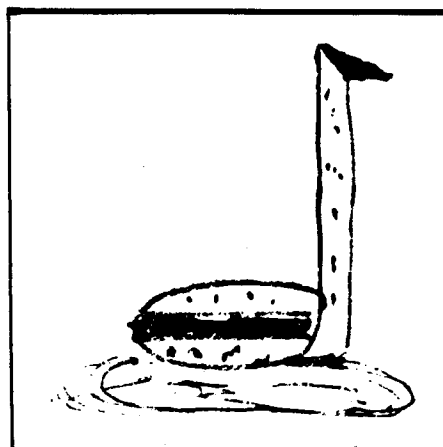
(1) La surface de l'unité de volume s'obtient, dans le cas d'un cylindre, par la formule connue:

$$\frac{\text{surface}}{\text{volume}} = \frac{2\pi rh}{\pi r^2 h} = \frac{2}{r}$$

dans le cas de la sphère, on a :

$$\frac{4\pi r^2}{\frac{4}{3}\pi r^3} = \frac{3}{r}$$

(2) En Auvergne, on connaît l'éclair blanc et l'éclair rouge. En parler bas-auvergnat, on dit qu'"un éclair blanc, c'est signe de chaleur" ("niluchada blan tso kouin chin deu tsarlu"), tandis qu'"un éclair rouge, c'est signe de pluie" ("niluchada roudzo kouin chin dègo").

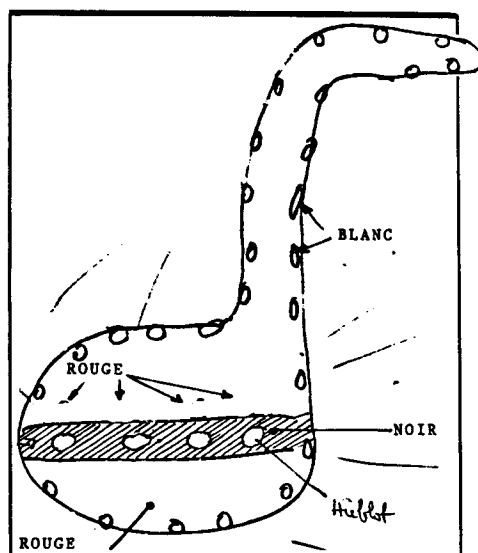


Dessins de Mme X (gauche) et M. X. Illustrations LDLN publiées avec l'aimable autorisation de M. R. Veillith. □

vation, M. X aurait pu voir ladite antenne AU MOINS EN PARTIE. Enfin, la chose se trouvait placée au bord de la route, SOUS UN FIL ELECTRIQUE (poteaux EDF).

On reste confondu devant les réactions des enquêteurs et des responsables de LDLN. Il est en effet manifeste que ce cas n'est autre qu'une remarquable observation de Foudre Globulaire. Les preuves abondent :

- a) le rond blanc s'allonge, prend en descendant une forme cylindrique (antenne) et vire au rouge comme une foudre globulaire;
- b) M. X ne peut voir la queue/antenne CAR ELLE A DISPARU: la tension superficielle a résorbé l'antenne, et la foudre a dû reprendre un aspect globulaire (d'où la lueur toujours présente et l'antenne invisible!);
- c) les lumières en forme de lampes sur la chose sont des ouvertures laissant apercevoir la couleur interne de la foudre (LA COULEUR BLANCHE DENOTANT UNE TEMPERATURE PLUS GRANDE); ces lumières changent de position au gré des phénomènes de tension superficielle et de refroidissement du phénomène (la foudre globulaire diminue de taille avec le temps);
- d) la proximité des poteaux EDF : une décharge a pu se produire lors de l'orage.



Il est intéressant pour un psychologue de remarquer les interprétations hâtives ("ILS", etc). Il est inutile d'insister à ce sujet... Ce serait vraiment des ... martiens au courant! Il convient justement de...décharger ces martiens de tout soupçon. C'est le cas de dire que l'attention (électrique) était à son comble!

Dans le but de convaincre, il est bon pour finir de donner quelques précisions sur la foudre globulaire.

Etant intéressé depuis plus de quinze ans par les phénomènes de foudre globulaire, ayant été en rapport épistolaire avec l'illustre scientifique américain James Dale Barry (auteur du livre "Ball lightning and bead lightning, extreme forms of atmospheric electricity" publié en 1980 par Plenum aux USA), je pense en effet qu'il est bon ici d'insister sur le mécanisme de transformation de l'éclair fulgurant linéaire en éclair sphérique.

La transformation d'un éclair fulgurant descendant en éclair sphérique s'est accomplie devant C. Jolivet en 1871, au pied du Koenigsberg, et plus tard, sous les yeux de Jean Koechlin, en 1924. Quant à la transformation d'une foudre linéaire ascendante en une foudre sphérique, le 7 août 1741, vers 22h20 à Leyde, elle a été, de la

les martiens au courant
FOUDRE GLOBULAIRE EN ARIEGE

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● La revue Lumières dans la nuit (n° 211-212, janvier-février 1982, pp. 34-40) a consacré un très long article et sa première page de couverture à l'observation d'un OVNI à Labatut (Ariège), le jeudi 16 octobre 1980, vers 23h30 (cf. carte Michelin 82, pli 18).

Le ciel est couvert, il tombe une pluie fine et très drue. Un couple de fonctionnaires - les X - (âgés tous deux de 25 ans) rentrent chez eux en voiture (une 4L). Leur chien se sauve lors de leur arrivée et comme il fait mauvais (nuit noire, pluie battante), ils décident de partir en 4L à sa recherche. Ayant parcouru 200 à 300 mètres, M. X voit tout à coup une "lune" descendre sur sa gauche. Arrivés à un tournant, ils voient alors, derrière une vieille ferme sur leur gauche, une lumière rouge orangée très vive. Ils pensent alors que la ferme brûle. Arrivée à la hauteur d'un deuxième tournant, Mme X freine violemment : derrière la ferme se trouve "un énorme engin qui illumine d'une couleur vive autour de lui". Selon elle, "c'était une chose énorme, de 20 mètres ou plus, l'engin avait une grande antenne très haute et il y avait des lumières qui montaient et qui descendaient comme un ascenseur. Au milieu, il y avait une bande noire et il semblait être sur un coussin d'air." Toujours selon Mme X, la chose était d'un rouge de braise (comme lorsqu'elles sont encore très actives), d'un rouge vif. Le couple s'arrête et selon M. X qui descend, "rien, pas un bruit, il était là, énorme, long comme deux autobus, ça avait une longue queue qui montait. Il y avait des hublots qui étaient au milieu dans une partie sombre. Il y avait des sortes de lampes de lumières blanches sur tout le tour de l'engin, qui s'allumaient les

unes après les autres comme certains manèges." Ils rentrent chez eux, mais M. X décide de revenir (par un autre chemin).

La chose est encore là, mais un champ de maïs ne lui laisse distinguer que la lueur. Il fait la navette à plusieurs reprises puis, pris de peur, rentre. (En fait, il n'est jamais retourné réellement sur place). Selon lui, cela devait avoir 15 mètres de long et 20 à 25 mètres de haut. La queue/antenne devait avoir 15 mètres de haut, la partie globulaire 7 mètres de haut et 15 mètres de long. La chose était rouge vif, "avec une bande noire au milieu (de la partie globulaire) où on voyait quatre hublots". En début d'observation, il a donc vu "un rond blanc ("lune") qui descendait vers la terre. C'était blanc comme la lune et de la même grosseur, j'ai pensé que c'était elle, il pleuvait, c'était impossible que ce soit elle." Selon M. X (qui ne conduisait pas), il n'y a eu aucun effet sur les phares et le moteur de la voiture, ni sur la montre d'un des témoins. Le couple est resté à observer durant dix minutes et le mari a observé une seconde fois le phénomène durant 15 à 20 minutes. Il déclare encore : "ce n'était pas un truc normal. Mais je me demande comment ILS font pour VIVRE DEDANS. La lumière qui passait des hublots était comme du feu." Selon lui, c'était habitué : "il faut bien le conduire ce truc, et même être nombreux!".

Enfin, une personne du village de Gaillac Toulza (proche de Labatut) a aussi vu la chose mais a refusé de déposer. Notons encore que M. X ne se souvient pas d'avoir pu observer la queue/antenne de la chose de derrière le champ de maïs. Or depuis ce second point d'obser-

LA CHRONIQUE DES OVI

O.P., 1.984 = SEP. 84

FITCHBURG LOWMASTER
SENTINEL & ENTERPRISE
FITCHBURG, MA
D. 23,693

Austin, TX
American-Statesman
(Cir. M. 136,685)
(Cir. S. 162,238)

Judge will weigh bid to dismiss 'UFO' suit
HOUSTON — Three people who contend the sighting of a UFO caused them medical problems may get their day in court on a \$20 million lawsuit against the government. U.S. District Judge Ross Sterling said Tuesday he would decide whether to accept a government motion for dismissal of the lawsuit that claims the government was negligent for letting what the plaintiffs claim was an experimental aerial device fly over a public road on the night of Dec. 29, 1980. Betty Cash, 57; Vickie Landrum, 62; and Ms. Landrum's 12-year-old grandson, Colby Landrum, reported seeing a diamond-shaped object accompanied by 23 military-type helicopters floating in the sky.

Houston, TX
Chronicle
(Cir. D. 393,730)
(Cir. S. 481,319)

80

U.S. judge looks askance at claims in UFO lawsuit

By NANCY STANCILL
Houston Chronicle

A federal judge indicated he is looking askance at a case brought by two women who say the U.S. government is liable for injuries they allegedly received in an encounter with an unidentified flying object.

U.S. District Judge Ross Sterling declined Tuesday to set a trial date in the 1984 lawsuit filed by Vicki Landrum of Dayton and Betty Cash of Birmingham, Ala.

Sterling said he will first study a motion filed by Assistant U.S. Attorney Frank Conforti asking that the lawsuit against the government be dismissed.

"I strongly suspect at this point that this case is almost over," Sterling said.

Conforti has argued that it cannot be proved that the federal government is responsible for the UFO the two women contend they sighted on Dec. 29, 1980, as they traveled on a country road from New Caney to Dayton.

The women, who were returning from a restaurant with Landrum's grandson, Colby, say they saw a diamond-shaped object in the sky about the size of a city water tank. They say the UFO had flames shooting out of the bottom and hovered briefly before "lifting off" in the

company of 23 military helicopters.

The women filed a \$20 million lawsuit in January 1984, contending that the sighting has caused serious skin, vision and other health problems. Cash, 55, who later moved to Alabama and has had cancer and heart problems, was not present at the brief hearing Tuesday.

Landrum, 61, said she was discouraged at the judge's comments.

"I feel like we're being treated unjustly," she said.

She said she does not intend to drop the matter if the lawsuit is dismissed.

"Regardless of how it goes, it's not over," she said.

Her lawyer, William Shead, said the plaintiffs are contending that the U.S. government is responsible for the UFO or knew about its existence and should have warned the public about it.

Shead said he is prepared to produce six witnesses who saw something out of the ordinary in the New Caney vicinity that night.

Landrum said she still has skin and vision problems that have prevented her from working as a waitress or grocery clerk, as she formerly did.

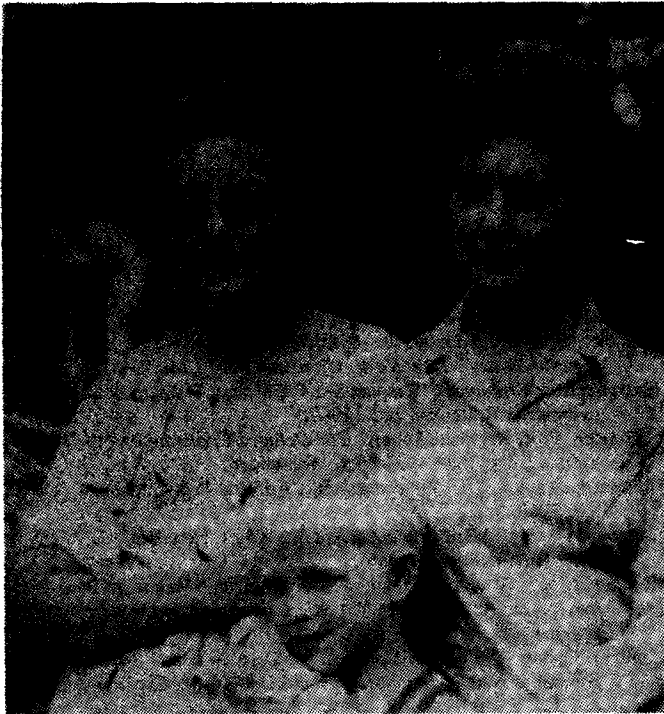
She said Colby, now 11, started back to school Tuesday and is doing "much better." The lawsuit charged that he had nightmares after the incident.

DIAMOND FIRE — A Close Encounter Of The Military Kind

by Harry Lebelson

1980

It was like a scene out of a grade-B science fiction movie. With intermittent bursts of red-orange flame spewing from its bottom, the diamond-shaped, blue-tinged craft struggled to maintain itself over the desolate Texas highway. On a rendezvous to meet it were Betty Cash, Vickie Landrum and her nephew Colby, all of Dayton, Texas. Returning home after an evening out, their 1980 Oldsmobile Cutlass came to a halt about 100 feet away from the water-tower-sized object as it hovered at treetop level. Curiously, Betty Cash, a 51 year-old business woman, and Vickie Landrum, 57, a restaurant employee, along with the young boy, left their car to observe the strange



Vickie and Colby Landrum and Betty Cash

phenomena. Entranced, they stared up in disbelief for several minutes until the metallic-like object, engulfing them in an excruciating heat while emitting a beeping sound, suddenly rose and moved up over the surrounding pine trees and receded in the distance. "I never saw such a bright light like that ever on this earth. Because of my religious background, I thought the world was coming to an end," stated Betty Cash in recalling the experience. The women, shaken, yet rational, resumed their journey along Highway FM 1485, only to once again engage the unknown intruder some five minutes later. This time however, the object was not alone. Surrounding it were what the women described as "a large number of helicopters," later identified as large, double-rotor types and single-rotor variety. As if in pursuit, the helicopters drew relatively close to the automobile, scaring its three occupants, while all parties continued along down the road in a game of hide and seek.

In the aftermath of this experience which occurred on the evening of December 29, 1980, the participants suffered disturbing symptoms. Back in Dayton, Cash and the Landrums grew

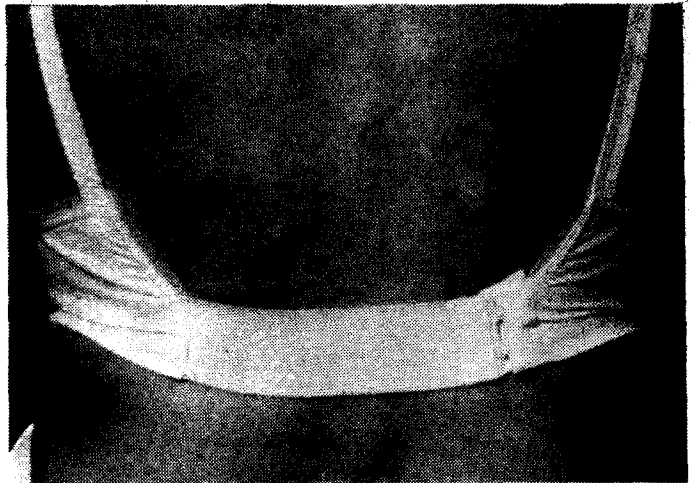
deathly ill. When Betty Cash dropped off her two friends that evening, their irrevocable physical injuries had already begun to manifest. Both Vickie and Colby had been burned, as though suffering from extreme sunburn. Severe headaches and diarrhea compounded the nausea that plagued them for days on end. Vickie Landrum, like Betty Cash who would soon require hospitalization for her injuries, developed massive knot-like boils, the size of fifty cent pieces, around her neck and head. Landrum's vision was permanently impaired, with both women suffering extreme hair loss. Even Colby, whose exposure to the mystery object had been minimal due to the fact that he returned to the car earlier than the others, was similarly affected. For Cash, the first month of the new year would be spent in and out of hospital labs at Parkway Hospital in Houston, Texas, where she had been admitted as a burn victim. According to a Dr. Shenoy of Parkway Hospital, "It was the consensus of doctors at the hospital that the only way to explain the burns was that they resulted from microwave radiation."

After treatment for her injuries, Cash, contending that the diamond-shaped craft was responsible for her troubles and those of her friends, contacted NASA for assistance. She was referred to former McDonnell Douglas space shuttle engineer John Schuessler, whose organization VISIT (Vehicle Internal Systems Investigation Team) undertook the responsibility of looking into the matter. According to an article in *Omni* magazine, February, 1982, "He (Schuessler) began to suspect, after viewing all the evidence, that the fire-spewing craft was an experimental vehicle developed by the United States military." He went on to surmise that it probably had malfunctioned and began to emit huge amounts of radiation, with the helicopters being there to assist it, should it crash.

Working on that premise, Schuessler subsequently contacted high ranking government and military officials seeking to determine if such an experimental or prototype vehicle existed in addition to validating the existence of the military-like helicopters. No easy task by any means, he met stiff resistance all the way, with appeals for information falling on deaf ears. The United States Air Force concluded that their units were not in any way involved in the incident, while the Army denied any knowledge of the unidentified object. However, between February and March of 1982, VISIT investigators were in contact with Lieutenant Colonel George Sarran, Department of the Army, Inspector General's Office in the Pentagon, who initially took the affair seriously enough to "probe" and see if any helicopter units in Texas were present during the encounter. Even going so far as to personally interview Vickie Landrum at her home in Dayton and Betty Cash by phone. Lieutenant Colonel Sarran, along with Air Force Major Dennis Haire, also investigating the matter, concluded that they could find no military group responsible for the helicopters or the unidentified aerial object. All this in spite of the fact that Dayton Police Officer L.L. Walker and his wife testified before Lieutenant Colonel Sarran that four to five hours earlier, in the exact same area where the incident took place, they had observed CH-47 helicopters, which appeared to be searching for something on the ground. As a result of the claims of military involvement, Betty Cash and



Betty Cash - Hair loss 1 week after incident



Betty Cash - Blisters on back



Betty Cash - Hair loss 1 week after incident



Betty Cash - Blisters on hand

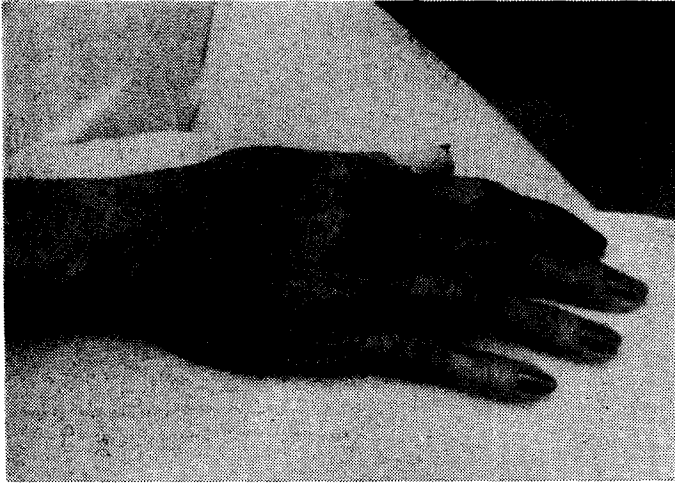
Vickie Landrum were urged by Senators John Tower and Lloyd Bentsen to go to Bergstrom Air Force Base to give testimony as to what occurred and obtain papers to file a claim for damages, which they did.

Thereafter, tapes of the interview of Vickie Landrum by Colonel Saran were later forwarded to New York criminal attorney Peter Gersten, who had an interest in the case and later agreed to represent Cash/Landrum. In January, 1984, the three Texans filed suit in federal court in Houston, asking \$20 million in damages from the United States government. Attorney Gersten told reporters at a press conference "We're assuming the craft is a government device because of the presence of helicopters." Is Gersten's stand justifiable in view of the evidence? A look back at past events surrounding the effort on the part of the United States military to develop such a vehicle seems to indicate so.

Interest in nuclear power on the part of the military as a source of propulsion dated back to the final year of World War 2. It was then that an alert army air corps colonel, Donald J. Keim, sought entry into the Manhattan Project to determine the feasibility of using nuclear power for aircraft propulsion. In 1946, that interest had developed into a passion which gave birth to a full-blown project known as NEPA (Nuclear Energy for the Propulsion of Aircraft). NEPA, later known as Project Kiwi,

had enough faith in the concept to sustain an ample air force commitment to research that possibility. According to the recent book "Nuclear America" by Gerald H. Clarfield and William M. Wiecek, "The military rationale for the nuclear-powered aircraft was that the air forces of the world, including that of the United States, were in danger of becoming too defense-oriented through the development of fuel-guzzling, high speed defense fighters, leaving the long-range strategic bombers, necessary to deliver atomic bombs, at a disadvantage relative to the fighters that would be attacking them." This possibility greatly concerned General Curtis Le May, a proponent of strategic air power at that time. The navy, also interested in nuclear power for propulsion was already designing a propulsion reactor for a destroyer escort, a small navy warship. Behind this momentum was Captain Hyman Rickover through whose dedication the navy launched its first nuclear-powered submarine, the Nautilus, in January, 1954.

The following year, John Jay Hopkins, president of General Dynamics Corporation, builder of the Nautilus, predicted an atomic aircraft would cross the Atlantic in a half hour's time. Earlier that year, General Nathan Twining, Air Force Chief of Staff, revealed that a nuclear-powered craft was being developed by the Air Force. Not only had the design structure been solved, but the hangar and highly complicated machinery necessary to



Vickie landrum - Unhealed wounds months later

remove the reactor by remote control for reloading and service work had also been realized. During the Truman and Eisenhower years the main target of research was the perfection of a nuclear propulsion system for aircraft and the solving of all inherent problems associated with it. After the Soviets launched Sputnik in 1957, Eisenhower, under constant pressure from the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy and interested congressmen, was forced to fuel this research program even more. In "Nuclear America," the authors state, "The message of those who fought hardest for a nuclear powered airplane was always the same and usually effective: if the United States did not develop one, the Russians would."

Like some self-fulfilling prophecy, the following year, *Aviation Week*, the principal magazine of the aerospace industry, announced that a nuclear powered bomber was being flight tested in the Soviet Union. In a story for its December 1, 1958 issue datelined Washington, they stated "It has been observed both in flight and on the ground by a wide variety of foreign observers from both Communist and non-Communist countries." Quickly, President Eisenhower, claiming better sources of intelligence, denied the validity of the story. Even with over ten years of research into our own development of a nuclear-powered craft, problems still persisted. Yet, funding continued, and would continue, at least up until the time of the Kennedy administration and perhaps until today. Could such difficulties such as the danger of dispersing radioactive material in the event of a crash or the weight problem of the reactor and the essential core shielding be overcome so that the project could be realized? Recently unearthed documents and similar sightings of unidentified aerial objects such as Cash/Landrum witnessed, would seem to indicate a successful end to this American military nuclear project and possibly the design and development of an object as bizarre in appearance and behavior as the one the three victims interacted with.

In a *New York Times* article dated September 12, 1945, Ralph Lucas, chief engineer of the United States Industrial Research and Development Company of Elmira, New York announced a new breakthrough in atomic engine research. Under the headline "Atom Energy Test In Engine Planned," the article stated that the inventor had succeeded in releasing atomic energy from mercury in lab tests. Continuing on, it emphasized "With that, he would begin at once the construction of a turbine engine designed to use atomic energy." He had already built small scale models, which according to the article, "had operated suc-

cessfully." The next item, a 1948 *New York Times* page one grabber, was even more startling. An announcement by Professor Eugene P. Wigner, a Princeton University physicist revealed that scientists were then working on harnessing the atom in the propulsion of space ships. Only three years later, six years after the first atomic explosion, *Aviation Week's* May 21st, 1951 issue announced the feasibility of nuclear powered aircraft propulsion, stating that it had been demonstrated at least in theory. That article would be the first of four detailing those accomplishments.

Continuing to lend credence to the possibility that the United States has by now realized an atomic powered craft, was another 1955 *New York Times* item. This three column obscure biographical piece dealt with General Donald J. Keirn, a man noted for his anonymity. According to the article, Keirn, not having been heard from publicly since the end of World War 2, remained active in his dedication toward the military application of nuclear propulsion. It detailed how, as Chief of the Office for Aircraft Nuclear Propulsion, he had testified on the need for nuclear aircraft many times in Capitol Hill. More news items appeared in the years 1964 thru 1975 hinting at substantial progress toward that end. One such press release described how the "first true nuclear reactor" had been put into orbit on April 3, 1965. Designated SNAP 10A (System for Nuclear Assisted Power), it was developed by Atomics International for the American Nuclear Energy Commission.

However, it wasn't until 1977 that the most crucial part of that research would become a reality. On May 10th, 1977, patent 4,023,065 was granted to Paul M. Koloc of College Park, Maryland, a retired Navy research physicist for what he called a compact thermonuclear reactor. The *New York Times* article describing the patent stated "A future energy application predicted for the reactor is as power for propulsion of space ships." Koloc, in order to exploit his invention, according to the news item, "founded a corporation, Prometheus 2, and applied to the Energy Research and Development Administration for funds to support his research in nuclear fusion."

If, since that time, a nuclear craft has been developed and was responsible for Cash/Landrum's injuries, the United States Government would be hard pressed to admit it. Since attorney Peter Gersten first instituted a lawsuit in his clients behalf on December 27, 1982, the opposite seems to be true. In spite of news accounts of others having witnessed similar objects, the military remains adamant in its denial that such an aircraft or prototype exists.



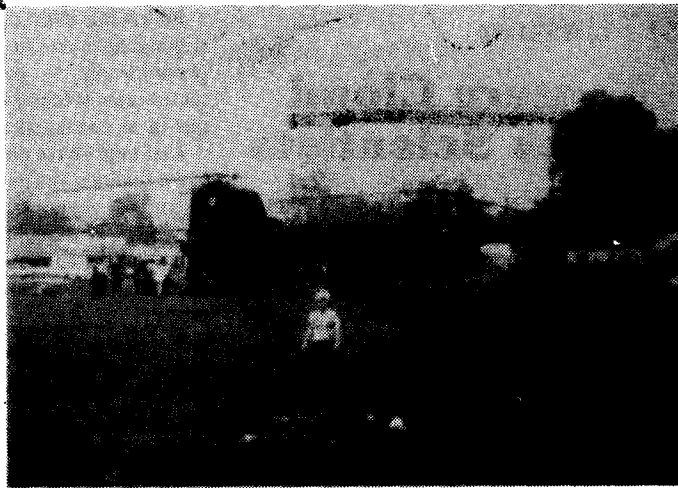
Scene of incident - Highway FM 1485

Yet, a Plum Grove, Texas woman, her husband and three daughters swear they've witnessed just such a craft. "It was triangular-shaped, rounded at the bottom and gave off a vibrating hum," the woman stated. The February, 1984 sighting reported in the Conroe, Texas *Courier*, took place only five or six miles from where the Cash/Landrum incident occurred. In New Windsor, New York, on April 10, 1980, four years previous to the above interaction, another newspaper item told how five children between the ages of seven and fifteen years, witnessed an aerial object fitting the description given in the Cash/Landrum encounter. When interviewed in her home near Newburg, New York, the eldest child, Kimberly Turner stated, "We were all sitting around on the road talking about 9 p.m., when the kid down the street, Billy McDonnell said 'look up in the sky' and we saw this diamond figure." She went on to describe it as swaying slightly from left to right at about treetop level. Kimberly, like her sister Jill, described the house-sized object as dotted with multi-colored lights and surrounded by a red-orange glow. A later conversation with Diane Turner, the mother of the two girls, revealed that sketches made by the youngsters immediately after the incident were almost identical.

Although attorney Gersten's initial complaint for \$20 million in damages against the United States Government was denied on May 23, 1983, reconsideration was sought and again denied on September 2, 1983. On January 18, 1984, the attorney filed his current action. The civil complaint, filed in United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas alleges that the United States owned and operated an "experimental aerial device of a hazardous nature" and that through negligence, it not only allowed the object to fly over a public road and come in contact with the plaintiffs, but that it also failed to warn them of the object.

Shortly after the lawsuit was instituted, Gersten received a motion addressed to the court filed by Assistant United States Attorney Frank Conforti. The document asked for a more definitive statement regarding the events of the night in question. It read: "1. The complaint alleges that the defendant (United States Government) owned and operated particularly, the described helicopters and an experimental aerial device of a hazardous nature. The complaint further alleges that plaintiffs observed a large unconventional aerial object. Initially, nowhere in the complaint do plaintiffs indicate whether the sighted experimental aerial device and unconventional aerial object are one and the same. The plaintiffs are vague and ambiguous on this essential point." Based on that conclusion, the United States Government reasoned that the ambiguousness and vagueness of Cash/Landrum's complaint "precluded the framing of a responsive pleading," going so far as to suggest that possibly what the women saw was either unconventional or seldom seen aircraft.

Gersten responded to the request and the government in turn, answered the complaint. Putting in a "standard defense," the U.S. Attorney said, "that if there is any responsibility for the incident, it's the plaintiffs for being there, they assumed the risk." To add insult to injury, the government claimed they had insufficient information to form an opinion regarding the helicopters or the object. Not satisfied with that, attorney Gersten, on April 24, 1984, secure in the fact that the United States Attorney had not moved for a dismissal, sent off a list of questions. In seeking information of a sensitive nature regarding CH-47 helicopters, the type observed at the scene of the incident, and the identification of coded military projects, perhaps relevant to the case, the attorney would be assured a long wait before a response would be forthcoming.



CH-47 Helicopters - Type involved in incident

It wasn't until September 26th, that the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Texas responded with the following: "The Offices of the Secretary of Defense, Joint Chiefs of Staff, National Military Command Center, National Security Agency, and Defense Intelligence Agency have advised me that they do not have any information, records, or knowledge concerning the incident referenced in the complaint, nor have they conducted any investigations of the incident." Still to come were responses from such agencies as the United States Army, United States Air Force, the Navy and NASA.

Gersten would later receive that information in the form of a motion for dismissal filed on January 17, 1985. The basis for the motion was the sworn affidavits of Robert W. Sommer, Chief of NASA's Aircraft Office at the time of the incident, Colonel William Krebs, United States Air Force Chief of Tactical Aeronautical Systems, Vice Admiral Robert Schoultz, United States Navy, and Richard Ballard, Acting Chief, Aviation Systems Division. The affidavits established that "the object allegedly seen by plaintiffs, and which it is alleged was the proximate cause of their asserted injuries, is not, and was not, owned, operated, or in the aircraft inventories of the United States of America nor was such an object under the control of the United States of America or its employees." On that basis, the United States moved for dismissal. They went on to argue that even if the United States was responsible for the operation of a hazardous object and failed to warn that the vehicle was in a specified area, the government would be exempt from liability under the discretionary function exception. (28 U.S.C. S2680 (a)) Examples that apply under that clause are military supersonic flights and experimental flights. Since Cash/Landrum stated in their complaint that the "aerial device" was "experimental," the exemption stands.

A court date was recently set for September on the United States Attorney's motion for dismissal. When asked to comment on what his chances were of bringing the case to trial, the plaintiff's lawyer answered "zero."

The author wishes to express his appreciation to attorney Peter Gersten for the loan of U.S. Military and U.S. Government court documents in writing this article.

He wishes to acknowledge his thanks to Betty Cash and Vickie Landrum for the use of their photographs.

SITUATION

Mystery Cloud Baffles Scientists

Capt. Charles H. McDade, pilot of Japan Airlines Flight 36 from Tokyo to Anchorage was flying off the northern coast of Japan when he put in a Mayday call to Anchorage:

"We have a ... round ball cloud ... looks like a nuclear explosion, only there was no lightning, but the cloud was there very definitely ... We're at altitude 33,000 feet — the cloud continues to explode like a great big cloud, easy to see ... and it expanded very rapidly ... I turned off course to get away from it as much as possible ... We are on hundred percent oxygen just as a precaution..."

McDade was not alone. At about the same time, four other airline pilots in the area reported seeing the same huge mushroom cloud rise to a height of 60,000 feet in two minutes.

The pilots, fearing they were witnessing a nuclear explosion, reported the sighting and, upon landing, had their planes checked for radioactivity.

None was discovered at this time, October 1983.

The next day the Japanese government sent a reconnaissance plane into the area to search for radioactive dust or debris. None was discovered, according to a statement from the Japanese Defense Agency at the time.

Today the event remains shrouded in mystery, with one scientist claiming the explosion could not have been a known natural event and a former Army lieutenant colonel claiming despite skepticism from many experts, that the clouds was the product of a Soviet test of a new type of long-range beam weapon.

In statements to the Federal Aviation Administration, the pilots — two of them flying Japan Airlines planes, two others in Flying Tiger cargo planes and one piloting a KLM passenger plane — all reported seeing the mushroom cloud at basically the same time.

According to a report from an FAA special agent who interviewed the pilots, Cornelius Vander Berg, captain of KLM's Flight 868, reported that he sighted a bubble rising out of a low-level layer of stratus clouds about 100 miles northwest of his aircraft. That would have put the cloud about 200 miles off the northeastern corner of Japan.

"The bubble increased in size and formed a sphere, which then separated from the stratus layer and increased in size and altitude," the FAA report said, quoting Vander Berg. "At first the cloud was opaque, then as it got large; you could see the stars through it. The development continued until the sphere was massive, then dissipated ... (Vander Berg) and the first officer agreed they had never seen anything like it. They did not see any flash or light nor did they notice any effects on their aircraft from the formation. They did not experience any turbulence, nor were there any effects on their radio, navigational or engine instruments..."

1.983
Following their inquiry, FAA officials attributed the event to any "unexplained natural phenomenon" — perhaps the eruption of an underwater volcano or the release of methane gas in an earthquake.

That might have ended it — except for subsequent findings by Dr. Daniel A. Walker. A professor of geophysics at the University of Hawaii, Walker monitors an array of hydrophones on the ocean bottom that record acoustic signals from seismic and volcanic activity.

In a telephone interview, Walker said he initially believed the cloud resulted from the eruption of a submarine volcano. "That was my bias. I looked forward to analyzing the data and tying it up neatly. It would have been a feather in my cap to identify the source of the cloud," he said.

"But the science proved otherwise," Walker added.

After analyzing the data, Walker concluded that there was no source of volcanic or seismic activity in the area where the cloud was sighted.

Perhaps, he thought, the cloud emanated from an active volcanic site nearly 1000 miles south of the area in which the pilots were flying. "But I checked the wind records for that time and I found that the wind was blowing too softly — and the wrong direction — for it to have transported the cloud to where it was spotted." Nor, given the speed with which the cloud rose into the atmosphere, could it have been a thunderhead — or any other kind of known cloud formation.

Walker, whose paper on the event has been accepted for publication in *Science Magazine* in the next few weeks, concluded that the cloud was an unknown natural phenomenon — or a man-made atmospheric explosion.

Taking pains to distance himself from "wild speculations" about its origins, Walker emphasized that he is not answering the question of what caused the cloud. "All I can say is what it is not," he said.

"Wild speculation" is the kind of language that mainstream scientists use to characterize a theory about the cloud being promoted by two former military officers, Thomas E. Bearden, a retired Army lieutenant colonel, and Dr. Stefan Possony, a former Air Force intelligence officer. They believe the cloud is evidence that the Soviets are testing a new type of beam weapon unknown to US scientists and researchers.

The 54-year-old Bearden, who worked on high-energy lasers and did analyses of surface-to-air missile for the Defense Department, claims the Soviets are exploiting a branch of physics developed by Nikola Tesla, a contemporary of Thomas Edison, whose theories on electromagnetism have been largely dismissed by mainstream physicists.

According to Bearden, who lives in Huntsville, Ala., and currently works on weapons analysis and artificial intelligence systems for a private contractor, two electromagnetic beams can be calibrated in such a way that at their intersection they can create enormous amounts of directed energy.

He contends that "scalar" waves can be manipulated to inject or extract energy from the environment, causing explosions, jamming or facilitating communications, even altering weather patterns by causing high- or low-pressure areas.

The mushroom cloud sighted off Japan was caused, Bearden says, by a Soviet test of a "Tesla-type" weapon.

Bearden claimed in a telephone interview that he has collaborated with a physicist to create a prototype of a Tesla-beam weapon. "We can create a hot or cold spot at a distance of three to four meters away from the lab bench, which proves the mechanism in principle," he said. He added that the physicist declined to be identified because he is awaiting publication of a paper about his work in a scientific journal.

Many leading physicists and arms analysts dismiss Bearden's ideas, but Dr. Stefan T. Possony, a former Defense Dept. intelligence officer, is more sympathetic.

"Bearden is up to good insights. He knows what he's talking about," Possony said in a recent interview from his Los Altos, Calif., home. "Once the (Tesla) physics are validated — and they have been in one way — then their various applications are almost secondary. The event off Japan really is a warning that somebody can do something we don't know about."

Calling on the defense establishment to pursue Tesla's work, Possony wrote in a recent issue of *Defense & Foreign Affairs Magazine*, "Tesla weapons (could) mean a military transformation whose magnitude would exceed that of the nuclear and electronic space revolutions."

But a number of prominent physicists and weapons analysts say Bearden's theories are simply not credible.

"There is absolutely no credence to that Tesla stuff," said Dr. Richard Garwin, a weapons analyst with IBM in New York.

Added Dr. Kosta Tsipis, an MIT arms specialist: "Bearden is off the deep end."

Prof. Michael McElroy, an atmospheric physicist at Harvard, speculated in a telephone interview that the sighting probably involved an unusual pattern of vertical turbulence in the atmosphere that was misinterpreted by the pilots, who may have been nervous because they were flying in the area where the Soviets shot down a Korean Air Lines jet almost a year earlier.

But Capt. Charles McDade, now 60, the pilot of Japan Airlines flight 36, responded, "No way. As a former B52 flier, I'm not skittish." Nor, he added, would anxiety have produced the same reaction in five pilots.

In a telephone interview from his Anchorage home, McDade said that in conversations following the sighting he learned that several Japanese fliers had witnessed a similar separate cloud within a few days of the one he sighted.

Recalling the sighting, McDade explained that "after about a minute and 50 seconds, this thing grew so tremendously it was unbelievable. When I really saw how fast it was growing, that's when I turned south to get away."

SOURCE: *Boston Globe*, MA

1/13/85

CREDIT: Hillyer Senning

CASH-LANDRUM UFO CASE FILE:**THE ISSUE OF GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITY****By John F. Schuessler**

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1980**ABSTRACT**

Throughout the investigation of the Dec. 29, 1980, Cash-Landrum UFO case the primary witnesses have insisted that a large number of military helicopters surrounded and followed the UFO. In addition, the witnesses have repeatedly stated their belief that the UFO was owned and operated by the military. For this reason, they sought help by going to official Government agencies; including the U.S. Congress, military bases, military agencies, and finally a U.S. District Court. The issue of Government responsibility for the injuries to the primary witnesses is chronicled and examined.

Background. On December 29, 1980, a large diamond-shaped object was seen flying over the Piney Woods of East Texas. From a distance it appeared as an elongated mass of light, but as it passed overhead witnesses claimed it was like a diamond of fire. Flying at an extremely slow speed, the huge machine approached the empty two-lane highway slicing through the pine trees near the small town of Huffman. As it neared the ground a huge cone of flames belched downward searing the macadam surface of the road.

About the same time an automobile approached the same location. The driver, Betty Cash, owner of the Country Kitchen Cafe and Cash and Carry Grocery, was chatting casually with one of her employees, Vickie Landrum. Together they planned to open a new restaurant in Dayton, Texas, on January 15. Listening to their banter was Mrs. Landrum's grandson Colby.

The trio noticed the bright light ahead but paid little attention until they were confronted by the cone of fire blocking the highway just ahead. That is when the terror began. They stopped the car to avoid the flames, but the interior of the car became hot forcing them outside where the heat from the object burned their skin. After several minutes helicopters swarmed into the area as if trying to force the strange machine to land. Instead, it lifted slowly and flew away with more than 20 helicopters in pursuit. Many of the helicopters had two large rotors on top distinguishing them as a model flown only by the military at that time.

The occupants of the car were severely burned and disabled by the

John F. Schuessler

John Schuessler, a founding member of the Mutual UFO Network, Inc., is presently the Deputy Director for Administration, a consultant in Astronautics, and a member of the Board of Directors of MUFON. As a staff member he has written numerous articles for SKYLOOK and the MUFON UFO Journal since 1967, and he has been a featured speaker at MUFON Symposia several times in the past 15 years.

John has a Master of Science degree in Future Studies, with a specialty in Technology Forecasting from the University of Houston at Clear Lake. His interest in technology advancement fits naturally with his interest in UFOs, because of the apparent technology manifest in UFO events.



He was a founding member of the UFO Study Group of Greater St. Louis, served as president for several years, and was a member of the host group for the MUFON 1971 UFO Symposium in St. Louis. He participated in the founding of the Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team (VISIT) in Houston, Texas, served as president and is currently serving as secretary/treasurer, and was a member of the host group for the MUFON 1981 UFO Symposium in Clear Lake City.

John is an aerospace engineering manager and has been associated with all major manned U.S. space programs. He is a member of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA), the World Future Society, Houston Consortium for the Future, and consultant for various UFO organizations throughout the world.

John has demonstrated a long-standing interest in advanced propulsion concepts apparently indicated in many UFO reports. He has approached his work in this area through the examination of effects on human systems resulting from UFO close encounters. He is the principal investigator in the Cash-Landrum injury case and has appeared on the nationally televised ABC-TV program "That's Incredible" and the NBC-TV program "Good Morning America" with Betty Cash, Vickie Landrum, and Colby Landrum, the victims of a UFO close encounter near Houston, Texas, on Dec. 29, 1980.

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incident. As they began to recover, they sought help from various Government agencies. Their quest has carried them to Congress, various military agencies, and finally into Federal Court.

The Early Days. Telephone calls to local officials and military installations were futile. They could find no one willing to listen to their complaint or supply worthwhile information. Finally, on May 31, 1981, the Center for UFO Studies in Evanston, Ill., suggested the victims contact Texas Senators John G. Tower and Lloyd Bentsen in Washington, D.C.

On July 28, both Senators sent identical letters describing their conversations with representatives of the Department of Defense. The result was the suggestion for the victims to contact the Judge Advocate Claims Officer at Bergstrom Air Force Base, Austin, Texas, where they could file an official report and submit a claim.

In August 1981 they drove to Bergstrom and met with several Air Force lawyers. Although records released under the Freedom of Information Act show that Cash and Landrum actually had an appointment to see the Judge Advocate Claims Officer, the lawyers seemed to be surprised by the visit. Nevertheless, they were questioned about the details of the incident and the whole proceedings were tape recorded. At the end of the meeting they were given blank forms and told "if they could find a lawyer that would help them" they should submit an official claim against the U.S. Government for the injuries they sustained.

About the same time, New York attorney Peter Gersten called to volunteer his services in the case. Mrs. Cash and Mrs. Landrum welcomed his assistance and provided the information necessary for submission of the claim.

MILITARY INVOLVEMENT

Because of a Congressional inquiry, Captain Jenny Lampley of the U.S. Air Force Congressional Liaison Office in Washington, D.C., began a cursory investigation into the allegation that Air Force helicopters may have been involved in the December 29, 1980, incident. She quickly terminated her investigation after finding that the Air Force does not operate twin-rotor helicopters.

Next, the Department of the Army Inspector General expressed an interest in an investigation. Lt. Colonel George Sarran was assigned to the case and he conducted a fairly extensive investigation. From the beginning, he stressed that the Army had no interest in the object; but they were concerned about the allegation that Army helicopters were involved.

Lt. Colonel Sarran made numerous telephone calls to various agencies as part of his investigation, but without success. His official report describes the process as follows:



"Requests for assistance for any pertinent information were made to FORSCOM, Operation and Reserve Training Division, and program director for new systems; TRADOC, Operations and Training; Aviation Command, project manager for aviation systems; DARCOM-IG; Test and Evaluation Command (TECOM); OTEA; DSCRITA; Fort Hood-IG; TCATA (at Fort Hood), and the Corpus Christi repair facility.....Coordination.....with Major Dennis Haire local commander for eight Chinook Texas National Guard helicopters stationed at Ellington Air Force Base, south of Houston; and CW4 Gustofson, senior AST for seven Army Reserve Huey helicopters stationed at Tomball civilian airfield, north-west of Houston....."

On May 25, 1982, Lt. Col. Sarran visited the Houston area for an on-site investigation. He interviewed the victims, the investigators, and some of the witnesses. One of the witnesses was a Dayton police officer, claiming he and his wife also spotted more than twelve of the Chinook-type helicopters in the Huffman area that night. The police officer was familiar with the helicopters because he had flown in that model while in military service.

The conclusion of Lt. Col. Sarran's report is as follows:

"Ms. Landrum and Ms. Cash were credible. The DAIG investigator felt....[four lines censored]. The policeman and his wife were also credible witnesses. There was no perception that anyone was trying to exaggerate the truth. All interviewees were extremely cooperative and eager to be helpful in any manner. Through the course of inquiry the DAIG investigating officer tried to concentrate on any reason or anyone or organization which might have been flying helicopters that particular evening in that general area. There was no evidence presented that would indicate that Army, National Guard, or Army Reserve helicopters were involved."

Official Claim Submitted. Attorney Peter Gersten submitted claims for injury for Betty Cash, Vickie Landrum, and Colby Landrum to the U.S. Air Force Claims Officer at Bergstrom Air Force Base just before the anniversary date of the incident in 1982. The claims briefly described the incident and covered the extensive personal injuries suffered by the victims. The claims alleged Government involvement because the helicopters described by the witnesses were of a type only used by the military. The amount of the claim was set at \$10 million for Mrs. Cash and \$5 million each for Mrs. Landrum and Colby.

On May 2, 1983, Colonel R.R. Semeta, Chief, Claims and Tort Litigation Staff Office of the USAF Judge Advocate General replied to the claim submitted by Gersten. His reply is as follows:

"Your clients' claims for personal injury allegedly caused by an overflight of an unidentified flying object and unidentified helicopters on 29 Dec 80, have been considered under the provisions of the Military Claims Act, 10 U.S.C.



2733, and are denied.

The reason for this decision is that the attendant facts fail to establish that the unidentified flying object or helicopters were owned or operated by the United States Government or any agency or instrumentality thereof."

Gersten then appealed the decision on July 20, 1983, based on the following:

"(1) The object in question involved an experimental device which through guidance and/or propulsion trouble found itself far off range and crippled. A military rapid deployment team (the helicopters) was mobilized on an emergency basis to escort the troubled vehicle or to secure the area in case the vehicle was forced to land. Any such operation would be of a high national security nature and not be subject to a routine disclosure.

(2) The object in question was a foreign aggressor, either terrestrial or extraterrestrial, similar to the object that was observed at RAF Woodbridge, England, on the nights of 27-29 Dec. 1980.... Once again any such encounter would be of a national security nature and not be subject to ordinary discovery.

Furthermore, it appears that my clients' observations of the existence of an unusual airborne object are corroborated by the enclosed Air Force document and other civilian reports of similar objects seen at about the same time.... Based upon the presence of the UFO and military-type helicopters and our inability to determine their nature and origin due to national security restraints, the burden of proof is now shifted to the Government to prove that it is not responsible for the resulting injuries to my clients.

Please be advised that my clients have authorized me to initiate a lawsuit in the appropriate U.S. district court and pursue any and all discovery procedures if there is no reasonable compromise and settlement which would honor the needs of all parties to this unfortunate situation."

A reply to the appeal was sent on September 2, 1983, by Colonel Charles M. Stewart, Director of Civil Law, Office of the Judge Advocate General. The reply is worded as follows:

"The appeals of your clients' claims for personal injuries allegedly caused by an overflight of an unidentified flying object and unidentified helicopters on 29 December 1980 have been considered under 10 U.S.C. 2733 and are denied.

The reason for this decision is that the facts as alleged by the claimants fail to establish that their injuries were



caused in any way by the United States Government or any of its agencies or instrumentalities. You should not consider the acceptance and subsequent denial of this claim as an admission of the truth of any facts alleged by your clients. Our investigation has revealed no evidence of involvement by any military personnel, equipment or aircraft in this alleged incident. The arguments you presented to establish liability of the government are not supported by any case or statutory law.

This is the final administrative action that can be taken on your clients' claims. This denial also satisfies the administrative filing requirements of the Federal Torts Claims Act. Based on this denial your clients have the right to file suit against the government in an appropriate United States District Court not later than six months from the date of the mailing of this letter of denial."

FEDERAL COURT ACTION

Gersten proceeded to file suit in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas in January 1984, claiming that the injuries to the victims were caused solely by the agencies and employees of the U.S. Government without any negligence on the part of the injured parties. Civil Action File Number H-84-348 charges the following:

"During all times hereinafter mentioned, defendant owned and operated military CH-47 double rotary type helicopters and an experimental aerial device of a hazardous nature.

At all times hereinbefore mentioned defendant did not use proper care and skill in failing to warn or protect plaintiffs from said experimental aerial device which was clearly hazardous in nature.

At all times hereinbefore mentioned, defendant negligently, carelessly, and recklessly allowed said experimental aerial device to fly over a publicly used road and come in contact with plaintiffs.

Solely by reason of defendant's carelessness and negligence as aforesaid, plaintiff... experienced the following symptoms and injuries:...."

On January 17, 1985, Frank A. Conforti, Assistant U.S. Attorney in Houston, Texas, filed a motion for dismissal and/or for summary judgement. And Gersten filed for a continuance of the trial. On January 31, 1985, the continuance was granted and the case was reset for Docket Call on September 3, 1985, to be called for trial in its numerical order.

To offset the expectation that the Government would file for dis-



missal at the docket call, Mr. Gersten submitted a document in opposition to dismissal. That document clarifies points of contention as follows:

"The plaintiffs refer to the "experimental aerial device" as a UFO because the unusual characteristics of the device defy identification. The object is indeed aerial and unconventional and from all appearances experimental. The term 'UFO' is used to avoid the possibility of mischaracterizing the object."

Gersten stated that the U.S. Army and the U.S. Marines have sufficient numbers of double rotary helicopters to accommodate the plaintiffs allegations.

"Only in a trial with the right to confront and cross-examine witnesses, can plaintiffs effectively explore and resolve these issues of fact. How can the defendant deny ownership of this 'UFO' which was observed in the State of Texas not far from the city of Houston? How can the defendant deny ownership of this 'UFO' without being compelled to reveal the true owner of this clearly hazardous device?"

Assuming the "UFO" was owned, operated, and/or controlled by the defendant, the only reasonable assumption in light of the defendant's lack of an alternate solution, is negligence on the part of the defendant.

"It is contended that the defendant was negligent in failing to warn plaintiffs of this hazardous device. The defendant created the danger by allowing this object to come over a public road and in contact with plaintiffs.

In this case not only did the defendants vis-a-vis the helicopters, take no action to avoid the danger to the plaintiffs, the defendant also at no time attempted to warn the plaintiffs. The 'UFO' was obviously a peril, not only threatening, but actually causing a great harm to the plaintiffs.

Docket Call. On Tuesday, September 3, 1985, U.S. District Judge Ross Sterling called the attorneys to present their motions pertaining to setting a trial date. Assistant U.S. Attorney Frank Conforti said the case should be dismissed, while Houston attorney Bill Shead called for a trial date. Mr. Shead said the presence of 23 military-type helicopters indicates that the Government did know about the UFO and had a duty to warn the public.

Judge Sterling said he would rule on the Government's motion to dismiss the \$20 million lawsuit after reading written arguments submitted by both sides. He did say "I strongly suspect, at this point, this case is almost over."

Vickie Landrum's feelings about Judge Sterling's statement were



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quite clear. She said: "I think we're being treated unjustly. He won't even hear the evidence. He's already made up his mind."

The lawyers for both sides have submitted an extensive list of questions for the other to answer. Data gathering continues as both sides prepare for a face-to-face meeting to examine the issues in the U.S. District Court, depending upon Judge Sterling's decision whether or not to hear the case.

SUMMARY

Up to this point the United States Government has denied it has any information it can make available that would shed any light on the circumstances of the incident, nor has it offered in any way to help the victims.

Betty Cash, Vickie Landrum, and Colby Landrum are relentlessly continuing their quest for help. They are stunned by the Government's denials and cannot understand why they have been treated so coldly by the officials of the Government they love and respect. They are ready for their day in court.

CASH-LANDRUM CASE HAMPERED

By John Schuessler

1980

John Schuessler is MUFON's Deputy Director.

BACKGROUND

Betty Cash, Vickie Landrum and Colby Landrum encountered a large diamond-shaped object — a mass of brightness — along Highway FM 1485 near Huffman, Texas on December 29, 1980. For simplicity, the object has been classified an Unidentified Flying Object (UFO), because no one has identified its source of origin, owners, or purpose.

The UFO was seen by several witnesses to the east of the Cash-Landrum encounter location, moving in a generally westerly direction. Mrs. Cash was driving the automobile along the north-south stretch of FM 1485 when the trio spotted the bright light above the pine trees to the east of the highway. After a few minutes the UFO positioned itself directly above the road just ahead of the car, as if trying to hide below the treeline.

A few minutes later some helicopters stayed with the UFO as it flew away to the west side of the road, curving in a southerly direction. When the trio proceeded on down the road, they were forced to make several turns, eventually placing them along the flightpath of the UFO and helicopters once more. They stopped the car again and watched as more helicopters entered the area.

CORROBORATION

Helicopters were spotted just to the north of the encounter location by a man and his son outside their house trying out a Christmas toy. Others were spotted by a hunter near the second location reported by Cash and Landrum. A policeman and his wife also reported helicopters in the same location. Helicopters were also reported to the south of the encounter

location by a woman and her daughter near Crosby. A petrochemical businessman verified the Crosby sightings as well. Figure 1 defines the locations cited above.

With all this aerial activity, why were there no radar reports of the incident?

THE INVESTIGATION

The UFO and the helicopters *may* have been spotted and tracked by radar. The problem comes in proving that assertion. It was approximately two months after the incident before the investigators made the first requests for radar data. An Air Traffic Control spokesman told the investigators that all radar tapes are pulled and destroyed after 30 days. Therefore, the tapes were no longer available for analysis. The spokesman also said he did not recollect anyone mentioning the high level of activity on December 29, 1980.

It is likely, however, that the tapes would have shown nothing, because the radar is blind below 2,200 feet altitude in the area of the Cash-Landrum encounter. The UFO and the helicopters operated well below that altitude throughout the incident. Low altitude helicopter operations are common around Houston. For example, the 136th Transportation Unit operating CH-47 helicopters out of Ellington Field flies across the Houston area on a regular basis for operations at the Addicks Reservoir without going through Houston Air Traffic Control or being spotted by radar.

Requests to official agencies for information were futile. No agency or organization accepted responsibility for the helicopters or the UFO; therefore, they refused to dig deeper for data that could be helpful. Official radar records are not available for general scrutiny in any case.

Therefore, the investigation was

inconclusive in proving whether or not radar records exist, or if they show evidence of the Cash-Landrum encounter.

SPECULATION

Investigation into the activities of airborne drug smugglers along the Gulf coast and United States/Mexico border provides some clues that may be useful in analyzing the Cash-Landrum case.

In the early 1980 timeframe the United States Air Defense Network was focused on the areas to the North of the United States. The only worry to the south was for high altitude devices. Ground radar of the North American Air Defense System (NORAD) cannot detect low-flying vehicles of any kind on the southern approaches; not drug planes, helicopters, or Unidentified Flying Objects.

Texas has no fixed-radar coverage in the 500 miles between Laredo and El Paso, or at key points along the western Gulf Coast. There are extensive gaps in low-altitude radar coverage along the border, ranging from 2,500 feet to 5,000 feet; and for several hundred miles this gap extends upward to 14,500 feet. Pointing to the holes in the radar coverage, Tom Bailey, chief of the U.S. Customs Service's air support branch in San Antonio said: "We frankly don't know how many illegal flights there are across the border. I've heard estimates of 10 flights daily and I've heard 150." Texas Governor Mark White said: "I can't help wonder why our military is so worried about stopping a future invasion of Russian bombers along our northern border when it is doing nothing to stop DC-3s loaded with drugs from entering this country from Mexico."

Jim Adams, director of the Texas Department of Public Safety told

(continued on page 12)

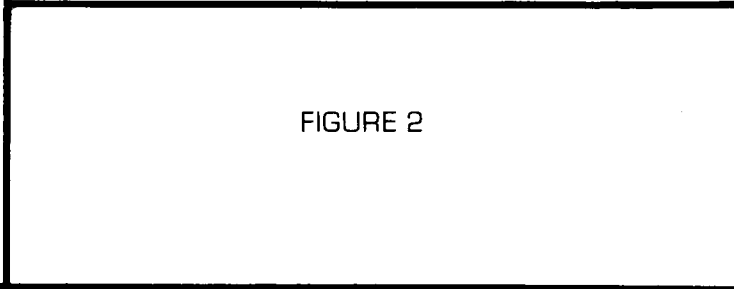
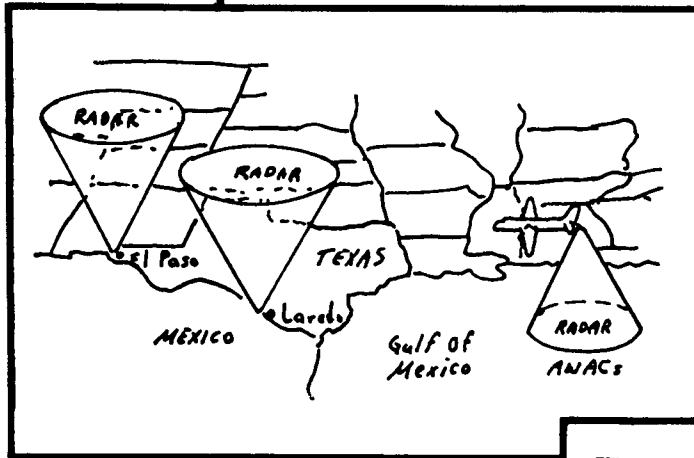
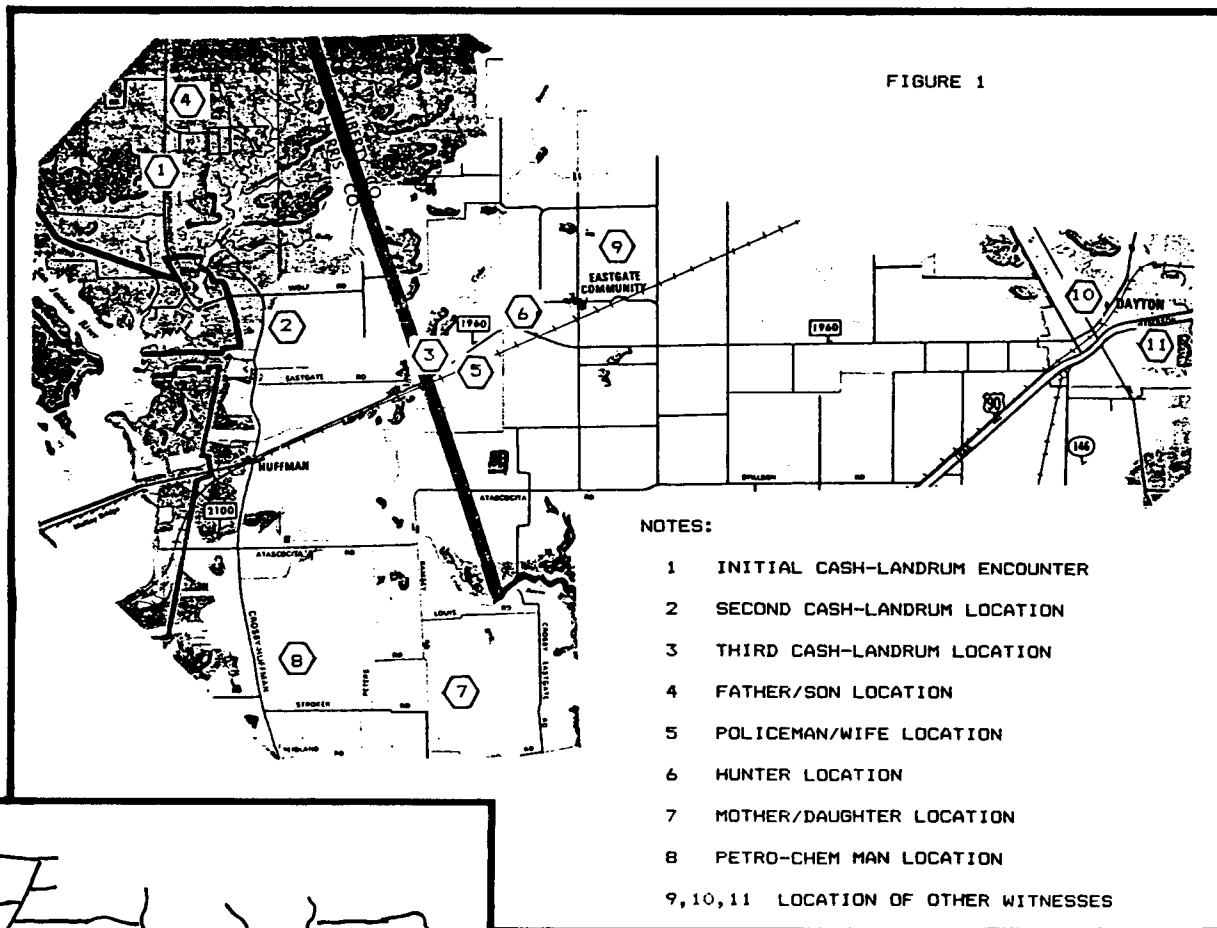
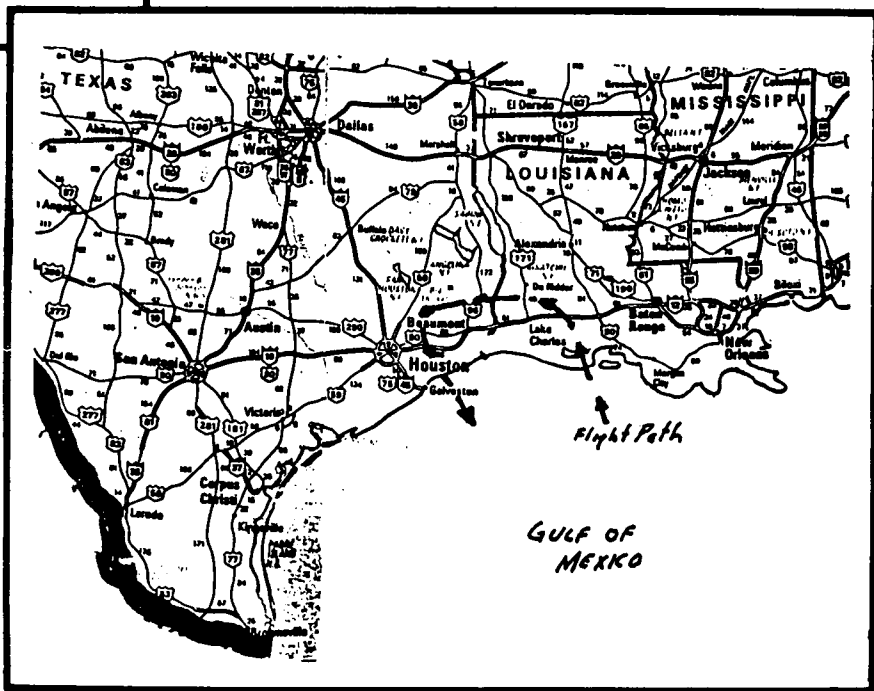


FIGURE 3



Congress: "You'd have to try real hard to get caught." He said they probably catch less than one-tenth of the traffic funneling through the gaps.

Kay Cormier, spokeswoman for NORAD Headquarters in Colorado Springs, Colorado said: "We realize our air defense system is archaic, outmoded and outdated. It was fine 20 years ago when we feared a high-altitude bomber threat more than a cruise missile threat."

Improvements are in the works. Holes in the southern radar fence will be plugged by Over the Horizon-Backscatter radar, a system that bounces a radar signal off the ionosphere back toward Earth. This system will be operational in the 1970s. A PAVE PAWS phase-array radar system will go into operation near San Angelo in 1987. None of these capabilities were available in 1980.

The first line of defense along the Texas Gulf Coast is the 147th Fighter-Interceptor Group of the Texas Air National Guard, stationed at Ellington Field near Houston. They react to instructions from Tyndall Air Force Base in Florida. When Tyndall says there is something in the Gulf, this group investigates and intercepts. Low level flyers won't be noticed.

One possibility for low altitude coverage along the Gulf Coast is the Air Force Airborne Warning and Control (AWACs) aircraft. These planes look

down from above and can spot low flyers. Their success rate for catching drug traffickers is pretty poor. Texas Governor Mark White said that in 1984 the AWACs used for drug surveillance along the Gulf Coast failed to lead to a single arrest after 500 hours of flying time.

Many more examples of the holes in the southern radar net could be cited; but it is not necessary for this investigation. Figure 2 graphically displays the magnitude of the problem.

With reports of UFO sighting near Liberty, Dayton, Huffman, and Crosby, Texas on December 29, 1980, though, one can generate scenarios about the activity that night.

Since the purpose of this Investigator's Note is to define the magnitude of the "lack of radar coverage" problem, scenarios about land-bases or ship-based military operations, or the actual origin of the UFO will be disregarded. They have been described elsewhere.

UFO APPROACH

The lack of low-altitude radar coverage suggests a scenario having the UFO enter the United States by flying over the Gulf of Mexico at low altitude, crossing the coastline between Morgan City and Lake Charles, Louisiana or between Lake Charles and Beaumont, Texas. Once inland it

turned westward and moved slowly the point where it hovered over the road in front of Cash and Landrum. From that point it curved to the southwest and finally to the south to follow the river and fly over the sparse settled areas to eventually cross the coastline again, this time near Baytown, Texas. The flight path for this scenario is shown in Figure 3.

Using the same information about the radar coverage, other scenarios can be formulated as possible explanations for the Cash-Landrum incident. However, the coastline crossing scenario is supported by the data shown in this and the other Investigator's Notes.

SUMMARY

The lack of radar data has hampered the investigation of the Cash-Landrum case. In particular, good radar coverage could have shown beyond a shadow of a doubt where the UFO came from, where it went, and the extent of the helicopter activity.

Knowing that the Texas Gulf Coast is almost totally lacking in radar coverage does explain how the UFO could operate almost without official detection. This situation holds true regardless of the origin of the UFO: from the United States, from foreign powers, or from outer space.

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CHURCHILL, Continued

seeking enlightenment in this area and we plan to continue our efforts.

Timothy Good, perhaps the leading figure in U.K. research, has already individually substantiated some suspicions. It is clear, for example, that the government department which holds UFO reports, Air Staff 2, is nothing more than a public relations department. Careful investigation and examination of the few documents that have been released here over the past few years indicate that the U.K. cover-up is at least as extensive, and perhaps even more secure, than its American counterpart.

UFO researchers in the United States simply do not realize how lucky

they are in contrast to our own position. Your Freedom of Information Act gives civilians access to numerous government files. Here in Britain we have to wait at least 30 years for UFO tidbits like these, which are then parceled out like bread crumbs.

What we want, of course, is the whole loaf, the Air Intelligence study, and other papers that may have been involved in its preparation, documents that may still influence current Ministry of Defence UFO policy. Unfortunately, we may have to wait another 30 years to see them.

ADAMSKI, Continued

early 70's, when the cost of electricity shot up by 500% or more in some areas.

Still, it's likely some of them survived — and survive to this day — as heaters for homemade chick brooders.

As I recall, tremendous heat came from them, both upwards and downwards and I can remember my great-uncle, who was a bookkeeper for a lumber company in Austin, Texas, in the 1930's and 1940's, sitting at his bookkeeper's desk on an ordinary warm spring day, his shirt unbuttoned almost to his waist, his sleeves rolled up, a green celluloid eyeshade on his bald head, and sweat pouring from his face from the heat of his light. Even the ancient electric fan blowing on him gave him no relief.

Yes, I recognized George

(continued on page 13)

CASH-LANDRUM CASE CLOSED?

By John Schuessler

1980

John Schuessler of Houston is MUFON's deputy director and chief investigator of the Cash-Landrum Case.

On December 29, 1980, Betty Cash, Vickie Landrum and Colby Landrum encountered an unusual flying object and a large number of twin-rotor helicopters along a deserted road northeast of Houston, Texas. As the result of that encounter their lives were changed forever. They sustained life threatening injuries and have undergone long periods of suffering.

They were advised by the military legal authorities at Bergstrom Air Force Base in Austin, Texas to file a claim against the United States government for the injuries they sustained. They did file the claim, which was later rejected. The appeal was also rejected. They were then told to sue the United States Government in Federal Court. Again, they followed instructions and filed a civil action in the United States District Court, Southern District of Texas, Houston, Texas.

Their contention was that they had been wronged, physically injured, while driving on a public thoroughfare. The United States Government was at fault because their injuries were sustained while they were in close proximity of the military helicopters and the large glowing object, later called a UFO for lack of a better term.

DATE SET

The United States District Court Docket Call was set for September 3, 1985. Frank Conforti, Assistant United States Attorney, requested dismissal or a summary judgement in favor of the United States. The attorney for Cash and Landrum replied that the United States was not entitled to a dismissal or a summary judgement. Judge Ross Sterling did not make a decision on Mr. Conforti's request. Therefore, the case did not go to trial.

Nearly one year later, on August



CH-47 Helicopter

21, 1986, Judge Ross Sterling dismissed the case on the basis of expert testimony submitted by Mr. Conforti. The experts addressed the issue of whether or not the United States owned and operated a device as described by Cash and Landrum and sidestepped the issue of military helicopters. The claims of the experts are summarized below.

Robert W. Sommer, Chief of the NASA Aircraft Management Office, avowed that "no object as described by the plaintiffs was, at any time, owned or operated, or was in the inventory or under the control of NASA." He added that NASA did have one twin-rotor helicopter, but it was in a hangar in California on the date of the incident.

Colonel William E. Krebs, Chief, Tactical Aeronautical Systems Division, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Systems, Air Force Systems Command, United States Air Force, has been involved in development, testing and evaluation of all United States Air Force craft capable of flight. He said "no such craft was owned, operated, or is in the inventory of the United States Air Force..." Further, he

said "I have never seen nor heard of any such craft..... being associated with the military service." While he did not address all twin-rotor helicopters, he did declare that the CH-47 was not in the inventory of the United States Air Force.

'COPTERS OMITTED

Vice Admiral Robert F. Schoultz, United States Navy, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations, said "no aircraft matching the description given (by Cash and Landrum) was owned or operated by the United States Navy." He did not address the twin-rotor helicopter issue.

Richard L. Ballard, Acting Chief, Aviation Systems Division, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Research, Development, and Acquisition, United States Army, said "I have compared the description of the object.....with my knowledge of the inventory of all Army craft capable of flight. No such craft was owned, operated, or in the inventory of the United States Army..." Further, he said "I have never seen nor heard of any

(continued on page 17)

Gulf Breeze Attorney Pursues Reopened Cash-Landrum Case

1980

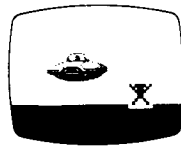
Betty Cash and Vickie Landrum, two women whose case against the government in relation to their UFO encounter in Texas 10 years ago was thrown out of court, have retained a new attorney who is re-opening the complaint based on new evidence.

Attorney Clay V. Ford, Jr. of Gulf Breeze, Florida, is looking over newly-obtained court documents and other material in his preliminary review of the case, and indicates that new facts and testimony will be forthcoming which shore up his clients' contention that the U.S. government is liable for damages in the 1980 UFO encounter, which made headlines is still considered a classic UFO case among some investigators.

On Dec. 29, 1980, Cash, Landrum and Landrum's grandson Colby (also named in the suit) were driving toward their home in Dayton along a road about 30 miles north of Houston, when they allegedly encountered a brightly-glowing craft the size of a water tower. According to the witnesses, the craft was spewing flames and bathed them in high heat for several minutes. The object was escorted by over 20 dark helicopters, which are said to have been double-rotor Chinooks commonly used in military operations.

During the original proceedings, the government apparently offered affidavits from high-ranking officials claiming the government had nothing to do with the UFO. Whether the UFO was government-owned or "alien" is unclear, but may have little bearing on Cash-Landrum's case. "Whether the craft was alien or not, the government is liable," says Ford, a retired colonel who once specialized in war planning for the U.S. Army in Europe. His clients suffered physical illnesses in the wake of the encounter.

The original suit asking \$20 million in damages was filed under the Federal Tort Claims Act, but was dismissed in 1985 on procedural grounds. The witnesses' attorney for that litigation was Peter Gersten of New York.



UFO . . . MediaWatch

1980

UFO Magazine continues to receive positive feedback from the reading public as "the best UFO magazine" around. For a short time during the past few months, that accolade fell a few notches since it appeared we were the *only* UFO magazine around; rumors of New York-based *UFO Universe* quietly going under had escalated to the point of almost certain believability, with even in-the-know Universe editor Tim Beckley confirming that the current issue had been held back from the presses due to some serious financial and distribution problems. To some, the book's demise seemed imminent. Some of our supporters took that as great good news.

To have virtually no competition in the marketplace is good news for any business. But zilch competition in the UFO arena also indicates an obvious bearishness to our market, and so could be interpreted as a slowing off of UFO interest in general. As it is, we have never considered Universe competition in any but the most quantitative sense. Since our focus tends to be more qualitative, and since The Competition's approach to the UFO issue deviates so substantially from ours, relations between us have always been friendly, with a mutual attunement to our real-world differences.

The fact is, Beckley tells us, *UFO Universe* is alive and well, just off deadline a bit because of a transfer of ownership. Previously owned by pulp publisher Al Weiss, *UFO Universe* is now in the hands of GCR Publishing, which has several other mainstream titles on the stands—*Swank*, *New Body*, *Country Style and Swimwear*, *U.S.A.* among them. What will GCR do with *Universe*? Though the cover look will change, the editor promises, the editorial content will not.

Nearly a lifetime of involvement in UFO publishing by "Mr. UFO" has cultivated his somewhat jaded but very practical outlook on things. "People all the time are asking me what I really think about the UFOs," Beckley muses, "and I tell them, 'it doesn't matter what I think. The phenomenon behaves independently of what I think.' " Be that as it may, he is in his own way an insider's insider on the UFO crowd. Guess who was once his assistant editor? None other than Jerome Clark, now high-minded editor of the *International UFO Reporter*. At the time, Beckley's magazine was the *Interplanetary News Service Report*. "Things Jerome pooh-poohs now he was a follower of then," Beckley says with endearing syntax. "Mr. UFO" is such an old hand, in fact, that he shrugs off the niggling fact that a picky ufologist is rattling sabres at Beckley because a certain term appeared in one of the publisher's recent book titles. His absolute top seller, Beckley says, has been *The Unpublished Prophecies of Nostradamus*, which cleared 80,000 copies in sales.

BOOKS: An abortive attempt to collect firsthand abduction testimony for her prospective anthology on alien hybrid offspring is being revived by *Anne Cardoza*, writer and script consultant in San Diego, California. Not everyone appreciates her efforts, however. "I was criticized, and doors were closed," Cardoza says, explaining how researchers thought she was being exploitative and some of the witnesses she wanted on the record often had book plans of their own. "They'd say to me, 'well, if you're interested, read my book,' " she told *UFO*.

TV: NBC's *Unsolved Mysteries* is on the UFO news fast track. In production are segments regarding the revived Cash-Landrum case (see News) and the startling Kecksburg, PA UFO incident, which will also be featured in an upcoming issue of *UFO*.

NEWSLETTERS: Its publishers want everyone to check out *Orbiter*, the New England Aerial Phenomena Report, a bi-monthly bulletin "providing news and information on cases and current events of significant value." For prices and other information, write *Orbiter* at 43 Harrison St., Reading, MA 01867.

1980

Huffman y Cleveland, a pocos kilómetros de
Texas (EE.UU.).

29 de Diciembre de 1980.

A las 9:00 p.m., Betty Cash, Vicky Landrum y el
esta última divisan un objeto que se dirige hacia su
bloqueándose el paso. Ambas mujeres se bajan del
diez minutos, el OVNI desaparece perseguido
helicópteros. Tras regresar a sus domicilios, los testigos
malestar y diversas lesiones graves.

implicadas: Centro Espacial Johnson de la
del Inspector General del Ejército de EE.UU. y
Federal de Texas.

Antonio Huneus.



Una flota de
helicópteros
como éste
escortaron al
OVNI que
vieron Betty
Cash y Vicky
Landrum.

Carretera FM 1485, Huffman, Texas. 29 de
Diciembre de 1980. 9,00 p.m.

VEINTE HELICÓPTEROS TRAS UN OVNI

BETTY CASH, UNA MUJER DE 50 años dueña de un café y un almacén en Dayton, Texas, junto a **Vicky Landrum**, de 57 y su nieto **Colby**, de 7 años, circulan con su *Oldsmobile Cutlass* de 1980 por la carretera FM 1485, cerca de Huffman. Betty va conversando con Vicky sobre la posibilidad de abrir un nuevo restaurante en Dayton cuando, de improviso, observan una luz en el cielo a la que no le dan importancia pensando que se trata de un avión.

Instantes después se enfrentan a un objeto luminoso que sobrevuela la carretera justo encima de los árboles, a unos 40 metros de distancia del automóvil.

Vicky describiría posteriormente el objeto como algo "con forma de diamante y tan alto como una torre de agua. Tenía un color gris metálico opaco y estaba flotando". Las dos estaban atónitas y atemorizadas, sin saber qué hacer.

Según explicó Vicky a los investigadores, el OVNI emitía "un sonido poderoso, como el de un lanzallamas, intercalado con pitos agudos y con la intensidad de los cohetes del transbordador espacial cuando despega". La situación, insoportable debido al calor que despedía el objeto, fue descrita así posteriormente por Betty Cash: "Sentí que me estaba quemando por dentro. La luz me cegaba tanto que no era capaz de ver para mover el auto hacia atrás, y tenía miedo de moverlo adelante, más cerca del objeto".

En un esfuerzo desesperado por escapar del calor, Betty reaccionó de un modo que más tarde lamentaría: se bajó del auto y permaneció fuera de él hasta que el OVNI emprendió vuelo. Por su parte, Vicky explicó que "el brillo (del OVNI) iluminó los contornos y era como si todo el bosque estuviera quemándose". La señora Landrum también se bajó del vehículo durante 2 o 3 minutos, pero volvió dentro para calmar a su nieto, Colby, que estaba traumatizado con el acontecimiento. Este punto es importante, ya que la cercanía de los testigos al OVNI tendría después una relación directa con las quemaduras y el malestar que sufrieron tras el avistamiento. Cuando el OVNI emprendió finalmente vuelo —unos diez minutos después—, las señoras continuaron su camino, parando frente a un cementerio local para observar —una vez más— el objeto, que volaba hacia la costa del Golfo de México. Fue en ese momento cuando recuerdan claramente haber visto muchos helicópteros (alrededor de 20) de dos rotores que perseguían o escoltaban al OVNI.

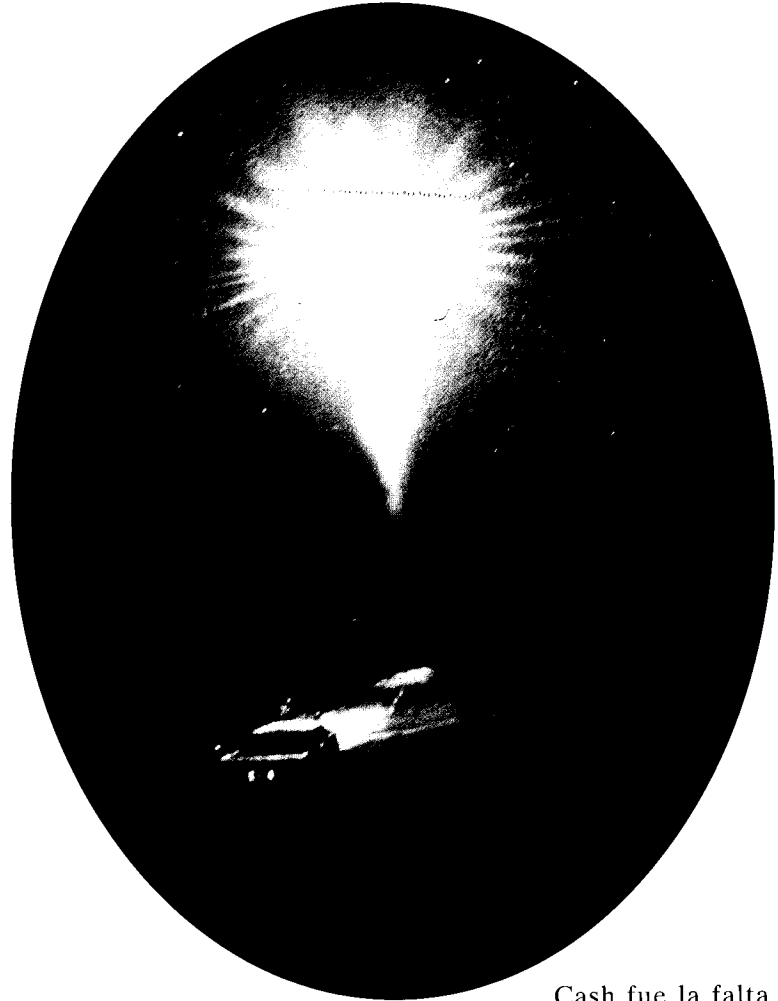
Según el investigador **John Schuessler**, el OVNI iluminaba totalmente a los helicópteros, de tal forma que las señoras y el niño pudieron percatarse de que aquéllos "daban vueltas alrededor del OVNI con movimientos más o menos irregulares". Cuando Schuessler mostró a las mujeres fotos de varios modelos de helicópteros, éstas escogieron el *CH47 Chinook* de la Boeing, utilizado principalmente por el Ejército y los Marines para transportar tropas.

CASH-LANDRUM, Cas

1.980



Sobre estas líneas Vicky Landrum, quien junto a Betty Cash —abajo, siendo hipnotizada por el doctor L. Sprinkle—, protagonizaron un encuentro con un OVNI romboidal.



ODISEA MÉDICA

Los síntomas de malestar físico de las señoras Cash y Landrum comenzaron esa misma noche. En uno de sus informes, Schuessler señala que cuando Betty llegó a su casa ya estaba enferma: *“Tenía fuertes dolores de cabeza y sentía náuseas. Quería sentarse y quedarse quieta en una silla hasta que pasara el malestar, pero grandes ampollas empezaron a salir rápidamente en su cuello y cabeza, y su piel empezó a enrojecer. Con el pasar de las horas, los ojos de Betty se inflamaron, las ampollas se convirtieron en heridas, vomitó de forma esporádica y desarrolló una diarrea severa. En la mañana siguiente la condición de Betty se había deteriorado tanto que sus amigos tenían miedo a que pudiera morir”*. Debido a que seguía empeorando, Betty ingresó en la sala de urgencias del *Hospital Parkway*, en Houston, el 3 de Enero de 1981. Allí permaneció 12 días la primera vez y 15 días más en una segunda ocasión. Uno de los médicos que la trató, el doctor **P. B. Patil**, especialista en Cardiología y Medicina Interna, explicó posteriormente que *“tenía malas quemaduras en su cara y su cabello se estaba cayendo a pedazos en dos o tres áreas de la cabeza”*. Aunque las consultas contaron con varios expertos más, tal como dijo Patil, *“no podíamos asegurar qué había causado las que-*

“No podíamos asegurar qué había causado las quemaduras ni descartar la posibilidad de que hubiese estado expuesta a radiación”, dijo el médico que examinó a Betty Cash tras el

Cash fue la falta de información de los médicos sobre lo que realmente le había ocurrido, ya que ella no estaba en condiciones físicas de hablar y Vicky no quería mencionar nada sobre el OVNI por miedo al ridículo. En consecuencia, los doctores creyeron que las quemaduras tenían algo que ver con el historial médico de Betty, plagado de problemas cardíacos. Según explica Schuessler, ello condujo a los especialistas a realizar una gran cantidad de exámenes, pero ninguno de ellos relacionados con la radiación. *“Los doctores estaban buscando algo para curarla, en vez de curarla por algo que tenía —dijo Schuessler, y esto no es para hablar mal de los doctores, ya que ellos no tenían ni idea de lo que había ocurrido”*. Por su parte, también Vicky Landrum padeció una serie de malestares y tuvo que consultar con un optometrista, mientras que en Colby —que permaneció en el interior del auto durante el incidente— las secuelas físicas fueron menores, aunque tuvo pesadillas y problemas de índole psicológico, entre ellos un gran terror a los helicópteros. Los efectos inmediatos, como quemaduras o caída del cabello, mejoraron con el tiempo, pero las señoras continúan teniendo, en general, mala salud: Cash

EL ESCENARIO



Junto a estas líneas reconstrucción artística del OVNI visto en Huffman (Texas), y fotografía del enclave donde tuvieron lugar los hechos.

pótesis barajadas fue que el supuesto OVNI podría haber sido en realidad un prototipo militar, las mujeres trataron de buscar ayuda en diversas agencias gubernamentales y, además, demandaron al Gobierno Federal por 20 millones de dólares (más de 2.300 millones de pesetas).

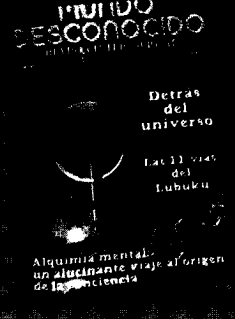
APARECEN NUEVOS TESTIGOS

El 21 de Febrero de 1981 Betty llamó al Centro Espacial Johnson de la NASA, en Houston, para indagar sobre la procedencia de los helicópteros que había visto. La NASA afirmó no poseer información oficial alguna, pero remitió la llamada a John Schuessler, un ingeniero de McDonnell Douglas actualmente a cargo de la Estación Espacial Libertad. Schuessler había estudiado de forma personal y no oficial— el fenómeno OVNI desde 1965 y era el subdirector de la MUFON. El investigador tomó cartas en el asunto y localizó a otros testigos de este suceso. Por ejemplo, el trabajador petrolero **Jerry McDonald**, quien —según sus declaraciones— aquel día pudo observar desde su casa “una especie de forma triangular o de diamante” que tenía “dos antorchas paralelas que despedían llamas azuladas en la parte trasera”. También un oficial de policía de Dayton, **L.L. Walker**, había visto esa misma noche varios “helicópteros que estaban volando en formación de tres, iluminando el suelo con focos como si estuvieran buscando algo. Una segunda formación los seguía unas tres millas atrás”. La presunta participación de los helicópteros militares llevó eventualmente a una serie de pesquisas oficiales y legales. Cash y Landrum tuvieron una entrevista con abogados de la Fuerza Aérea en la Base Bergstrom en Agosto de 1981. La USAF determinó rápidamente que sus bases en la zona no disponían de ese tipo de helicóptero de dos rotores y, posteriormente, rechazó la demanda legal de las señoras. La investi-

te general **George Serran** a Houston para que entrevistara a los testigos principales. Schuessler obtuvo una copia del informe de Serran, que concluía: “Las señoras Landrum y Cash son creíbles... El policía y su esposa son también testigos creíbles. No hubo percepción de que los testigos estuvieran tratando de exagerar la verdad. Todos aquellos entrevistados se mostraron extremadamente cooperativos y dispuestos a ayudar de cualquier manera. En el curso de la pesquisa, el oficial investigador trató de concentrarse en la razón de cualquier entidad u organización que pudiera haber tenido helicópteros volando aquel atardecer en esa área general. No hubo ninguna evidencia presentada que pudiera indicar que helicópteros del Ejército, la Guardia Nacional o la Reserva del Ejército estuvieran involucrados”.

NEGATIVAS OFICIALES

Hasta aquí, la respuesta oficial del Gobierno con respecto al caso. Éste no niega que las señoras hubieran visto un objeto desconocido, pero afirma no tener evidencias de vuelos de helicópteros o de la existencia del objeto. Los testigos implicados creen que se trató de un aparato experimental del propio Gobierno que tuvo algún accidente, teoría que hasta ahora ha sido negada oficialmente y de la cual no se han presentado pruebas concretas. La demanda judicial de Cash y Landrum tampoco prosperó, ni en la Base Bergstrom, ni en la Corte del Distrito Federal de Houston, donde el juez **Ross Sterling** rechazó la petición en 1985. Pero el hecho es que el caso Cash-Landrum tuvo efectos desastrosos para los testigos principales y no ha sido el único de estas características. Fue, sin embargo, el suceso que impulsó a John Schuessler a confeccionar un catálogo de efectos fisiológicos producidos por OVNI, para así disponer de información sistemática que pueda servir a los médicos en el tratamiento de futuras víctimas de este tipo



Alquimia mental... un alucinante viaje al origen de la conciencia

El misterio de las "Incógnitas de Texas: El testigo olvidado", revista Mundo Desconocido, nº 66, Diciembre de 1981.

✓ John Schuessler, trabajos publicados en los Anales del Simposio Anual de la MUFON, en 1982, 1984 y 1986 y UFO-

commenter, cette affaire aussi complexe que dramatique ; je veux seulement évoquer un détail, qui me paraît lourd de signification : l'ovni, tel qu'il a été décrit par Mmes Cash et Landrum, présente une ressemblance assez frappante avec un panneau (réfléchissant) de limitation de vitesse, planté sur le bord de la route, à l'endroit de la rencontre.



Le panneau et une peinture de l'objet, d'après la description fournie par les témoins. L'artiste a malheureusement peint la flamme intermittente sous l'objet en orange, ce qui fait qu'elle apparaît ici en noir. Si l'on tient compte de ce détail, et du fait qu'il faisait nuit, la ressemblance n'est pas négligeable.

Ce détail a été mis en avant, il y a 20 ans, par les *debunkers*, dans le but d'accréditer la thèse d'une erreur de perception par les témoins, qui auraient pris... un panneau de limitation de vitesse pour un terrifiant engin spatial (7) !

Cette thèse me semble déplorable, pour deux raisons : tout d'abord, elle ne tient aucun compte de ce qu'on sait sur le déroulement de la rencontre (8) ; mais surtout, le reste de l'argumentation est fondé sur le fait que les deux témoins principaux, Mmes Betty Cash et Vicky Landrum, étaient âgées respectivement de 51 et 57 ans, et des considérations ahurissantes sur les désagréments de "l'âge critique" chez la femme, envisagés comme causes de leur supposée erreur d'interprétation.

Reste la similitude, effectivement troublante, entre le panneau de signalisation et la description du phénomène. On peut l'interpréter de trois manières différentes :

- 1°) coïncidence fortuite
- 2°) confusion résultant... de l'« âge critique » des deux dames (!)
- 3°) mimétisme ovni

La première possibilité n'est probablement pas à écarter. Je ne souhaite pas discuter en détail la seconde, qui est odieuse et ne tient pas compte des éléments de l'enquête (comme le témoignage de la troisième victime, le petit-fils de Vicky Landrum,

LDLN, SEP-2004

Colby, âgé de 7 ans). Reste la troisième hypothèse... à moins qu'il en existe d'autres.

1980

Mettons nous bien d'accord : je n'affirme pas que l'ovni de Huffman ait "choisi" de prendre une apparence proche de celle du panneau. Ce serait sans doute une manière un peu simpliste d'exprimer l'idée. Je pose seulement cette question : une explication de ce genre est-elle si impensable que cela, compte tenu de ce que nous savons maintenant sur des milliers de rencontres, rapprochées ou non, dont une forte proportion soulèvent effectivement le dilemme confusion-mimétisme ?

Qu'une telle perspective paraisse *a priori* ridicule, j'en conviens. Mais faut-il encore, en 2004, après un demi-siècle d'ufologie, aborder ces questions sans faire taire nos *a-prioris* ?

J'ajouterai que cette terrible affaire de Huffman n'est pas le seul exemple qui ait suggéré une confusion possible entre un panneau de signalisation et un ovni, et qui puisse tout aussi bien être interprétée, à l'inverse, en termes de mimétisme du phénomène : on en trouvera un exemple avec les observations faites dans la région d'Andelot (Haute-Marne) le 15 août 1975 : un simple panneau planté sur le bord de la route (9) pouvait très bien être à l'origine d'une des observations. A l'époque, je n'avais pas envisagé un seul instant l'hypothèse du mimétisme (qui n'est pas nécessairement la bonne dans tous les cas !).

Voilà, en deux mots, quelques aspects – il y en a d'autres – des questions que posent tous ces étranges témoignages. Après un bon demi-siècle d'ufologie, nous n'avons, décidément, que peu de certitudes, et bien peu de repères sûrs pour juger les situations qui se présentent !

J'espère qu'aucun ufologue n'aura jamais l'idée saugrenue de pousser le bouchon plus loin encore, et de soupçonner que les panneaux routiers puissent, à l'occasion, se déguiser en ovnis !

1 : LDLN 350 ; compléments dans les numéros suivants

2 : LDLN 371

3 : MUFON : P.O. Box 369
Morrison, CO 80465-0369
U.S.A.

4 : IUR : CUFOS, 2457 West Peterson Avenue,
Chicago, Illinois 60659
USA

5 : *OVNIS : la levée progressive du secret* ; éditeur : JMG, 8 rue de la mare, 80290 Agnières

6 : *The Cash-Landrum UFO Incident*, de John Schuessler (MUFON)

7 : *Ovni-Présence* n°31, pp. 14 à 16

8 : voir par exemple l'article de John Schuessler, dans *UFO Journal* n°187 (septembre 1983), pp. 3 et 4.

9 : Ce panneau portait sur une de ses faces l'inscription "tularémie" (La tularémie est une maladie qui frappe les lièvres et les lapins). Je l'ai photographié de derrière, la nuit, à la lumière des phares de ma voiture, et obtenu une image correspondant assez bien à celle qui avait été décrite lors d'une phase de cette série d'observations.

On trouve tout cela (y compris la photo du panneau) dans le n° 45 de *Phénomènes Spatiaux*, pp. 29 à 34.

1980

le cas "cash - landrum"

Symptômes dus à l'irradiation
causée par un ovni

ABSTRACT

●A travers l'histoire contemporaine, les OVNI ont été tenus pour responsables d'un bon nombre de types de blessures infligées aux humains et aux animaux. La plupart de ces cas ont été mal enquêtés à cause d'idées préconçues de médecins, enquêteurs, écrivains et militaires au sujet de l'existence des OVNI. Le cas Cash-Landrum est représentatif d'un certain nombre d'autres cas, à une exception près cependant. Les victimes ont permis à une équipe choisie de se plonger dans les moindres détails de l'incident. Le résultat est un rapport bien documenté des blessures que subirent les témoins; blessures qui ont pu être causées par l'exposition à une source d'irradiation.

INTRODUCTION

24 octobre 1887 : une famille vénézuélienne est exposée à un OVNI brillamment illuminé et est atteinte de brûlures, vomissements, perte de cheveux et d'un enfllement généralisé(1).

20 mai 1967 : un prospecteur canadien, Stephen Michalak, voit un OVNI posé au sol et souffre de brûlures, nausée, vomissements, enfllement (épidermique) et d'une longue maladie (2).

3 octobre 1973 : un camionneur du Missouri, exposé à un OVNI extrêmement brillant, fut aveuglé des jours durant et eut des problèmes oculaires pendant un an (3).

Comme des centaines d'autres incidents similaires, ces cas démontrent que les OVNI affectent sérieusement les gens. Comment peut-on aider ces personnes ? Que pouvons-nous apprendre des OVNI en étudiant leurs effets sur les humains?

Une petite équipe d'ingénieurs, de scientifiques, et de

spécialistes en médecine ont créé le Projet VISIT (Vehicule Internal Systems Investigative Team = équipe d'enquêtes sur les systèmes internes des véhicules) pouvant traiter tous les incidents OVNI avec blessures ou pénétration alléguée (du témoin) dans l'OVNI. Les membres de VISIT collectent et analysent toutes les informations concernant les effets physiques des OVNI sur les gens. Ces informations scientifiques et médicales sont ensuite examinées afin de découvrir les mécanismes probables de l'OVNI(4).

L'INCIDENT LE PLUS RECENT

La plus récente information introduite dans la banque de données de VISIT concerne un fait s'étant produit le 29 décembre 1980, lorsque trois texans virent un OVNI et eurent à subir des conséquences médicales assez graves. Betty Cash (51 ans), Vickie Landrum (57 ans) et le petit fils de cette dernière, Colby Landrum (7ans) rentraient en voiture à Dayton, Texas, sur la route reliant Cleveland à Huffman, au nord du Lac Houston. Il était 21h00 et la route était déserte. Le premier événement inhabituel fut la présence d'une lumière très intense, plusieurs kilomètres au loin, au-dessus des pins. Betty fit remarquer l'intensité exceptionnelle de la lumière, mais la perdit de vue derrière les arbres pendant un certain temps. (5 et 6).

Soudain, elle vit un objet énorme en forme de losange planant au-dessus de la route, pas très loin au devant. Vickie affirma "c'était comme un losange de feu." La luminosité était si intense que les témoins pouvaient à peine la regarder. Vickie pensa d'abord qu'il s'agissait de la réalisation d'une prédiction biblique et s'attendait à voir Jésus sortir du feu céleste.

NON-IDENTIFIÉ

"OVNI ABSENCE"

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L'OVNI éclairait toute la région, et crachait périodiquement des flammes vers le bas. Craignant d'être brûlés vivants, Betty arrêta son Oldsmobile Cutlass 1980, sans quitter la route. Ils sortirent tous trois du véhicule afin de mieux voir l'OVNI. Colby, terrifié, replongea dans la voiture, implorant sa grand-mère de le rejoindre, ce qu'elle fit, dans l'intention de le réconforter.

Betty se tint quelques instants près de la porte du conducteur, puis se dirigea vers l'avant de la voiture. Après maintes supplications de Vickie, Betty rejoignit le véhicule. La poignée de la portière était si chaude qu'elle dut se servir de sa veste en cuir pour l'actionner. Malgré la température hivernale d'environ 40°F (env. 4°C), la chaleur émise par l'OVNI fut si intense que les témoins transpirèrent. Mal à l'aise, ils allumèrent l'air conditionné du véhicule.

Chaque fois que l'objet crachait des flammes vers le bas, il s'élevait, et lorsque les flammes n'étaient plus émises, il perdait de l'altitude. La luminosité intense ne varia cependant jamais. En outre, les trois témoins entendirent nettement un bip bip irrégulier tout au long de l'observation.

Finalement, les flammes s'arrêtèrent, l'objet se leva vers le sud-ouest et disparu. Vickie et Colby affirmèrent que plusieurs hélicoptères étaient visibles au-dessus et derrière l'OVNI. Vickie dit avec soulagement "nous sommes sains et saufs, mais je brûle et il fait si chaud."

Betty fut directement exposée à l'objet cinq à six minutes, Vickie de trois à cinq minutes, et Colby environ une minute. En retournant chez elle, Betty tourna à droite sur la route FM 2100. Cinq minutes plus tard, ils virent juste devant eux l'OVNI ainsi qu'un grand nombre d'hélicoptères. Betty affirma "le ciel était plein d'hélicoptères." Certains étaient proches de l'objet et d'autres traînaient derrière lui. Elle craignait une collision entre les appareils. Les témoins étaient stupéfaits d'en compter plus d'une vingtaine. Vickie déclara

ra "le bruit qu'ils firent était semblable à celui d'une tornade!"

Prenant la route d'Huffman-Eastgate, puis la FM 1960, ils se dirigèrent à toute vitesse chez eux. A ce moment, l'objet était encore visible, évoluant dans la nuit durant encore cinq minutes. Sur la FM 1960, les témoins s'éloignèrent de l'OVNI mais purent encore apercevoir un petit point brillant durant deux ou trois minutes.

EFFETS PHYSIOLOGIQUES INHABITUELS

Betty déposa Vickie et Colby à Dayton et arriva chez elle à 21h50 où son amie Wilma l'attendait. Vickie avait dit en quittant la voiture, "ma tête me fait mal, je ne me sens pas bien." Pour Betty, c'était pire. Outre un terrible mal de tête, elle souffrait de nausée, son cou commença à enfler et des taches rouges apparurent sur son visage et sa tête.



Conception artistique de Kathy Schuessler de l'objet en forme de losange évoluant sur la FM 1485, selon la description des témoins.

Le 29 décembre marqua un tournant dans les vies de Betty et Vickie. Betty qui était une femme excessivement énergique avait prévu d'ouvrir un nouveau restaurant, prévision qui fut balayée par la maladie qui suivit. Sa santé s'était dégradée durant les quatre jours qui suivirent. Ses yeux enflèrent à tel point qu'elle ne put plus les ouvrir, les taches rouges devinrent des cloques contenant un liquide clair, elle é-

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tait affaiblie et était atteinte de nausées et de diarrhées. Les maux de tête ne s'estompèrent plus. Voyant l'état de Betty, Vickie commença à craindre le pire et prit contact avec son médecin.

Après plusieurs coups de fil, elle trouva un médecin qui lui conseilla de faire admettre Betty aux urgences à l'hôpital où elle fut reçue et traitée en tant que brûlée. Durant les jours qui suivirent, Betty perdit des morceaux de peau et environ 50% de ses cheveux (7, 8).

Après douze jours d'hospitalisation, Betty rentra chez elle malgré un état peu amélioré. Celui-ci se dégradait de nouveau au point où elle dut retourner quinze jours supplémentaires à l'hôpital. Durant les semaines qui suivirent l'incident, Vickie et Colby utilisèrent de l'huile pour bébé afin d'atténuer les brûlures sur leur visage. Leurs douleurs d'estomac et la diarrhée s'estompèrent après quelques semaines, mais leurs yeux sont apparemment atteints de manière irréversible et le traitement se poursuit. Colby eut des cauchemars durant des semaines et avait terriblement peur des lieux dans la nuit, peur qu'il a toujours envers les hélicoptères.

REVUE DES EFFETS PHYSIOLOGIQUES

Colby :

- * érythème (rougeur de la peau)
- * yeux enflés et larmoyants
- * douleurs d'estomac
- * diarrhée
- * anorexie (perte d'appétit)
- * perte de poids
- * augmentation des cavités dentaires

Vickie :

- * érythème
- * photophtalmie (yeux enflés, larmoyants et douloureux)
- * diminution importante de la vue
- * douleurs d'estomac
- * diarrhée
- * anorexie
- * ulcération des bras due aux escarres et à une dépigmentation
- * ongles détériorés dus à une atteinte de la kératine
- * perte des cheveux
- * repousse de cheveux d'une texture différente

Betty :

- * érythème

- * photophtalmie aggravée (yeux enflés et fermés, douloureux et larmoyants)
- * vision asymétrique
- * douleurs d'estomac
- * vomissements, diarrhée
- * anorexie
- * perte de vitalité, léthargie
- * escarres et dépigmentation
- * importante chute de cheveux
- * repousse de cheveux d'une texture différente

EFFETS CONNUS D'IRRADIATION

Le spectre électromagnétique est divisé en groupes selon les différentes longueurs d'ondes. Les rayons X et gamma ont de courtes longueurs d'onde; les ultraviolets, la lumière visible et l'infra-rouge ont des longueurs d'ondes qui vont en grandissant. Les différents groupes se chevauchent, il est possible qu'une personne irradiée subisse les effets de plusieurs longueurs d'ondes, par exemple les rayons X et les UV (9).

L'exposition à des radiations UV peut engendrer la photophobie, la photophtalmie (effet d'arc électrique), l'inflammation des paupières et l'érythème. L'exposition aux rayons X et gamma peut provoquer une grande faiblesse générale, l'anorexie, la nausée, des vomissements, l'apathie, d'importants maux de tête, l'insomnie et le vertige, (10, 11).

Les symptômes nous fournissent une indication quant à la nature de l'irradiation subie. Le degré de malaise dépend du type et de la puissance de l'irradiation, de la dose reçue, du temps d'exposition et d'un certain nombre d'autres variables. Cependant, il n'existe aucun type de radiation qui ne soit pas potentiellement dangereux pour l'œil. Assurément, beaucoup de symptômes décrits peuvent être décelés dans l'incident Cash-Landrum.

LES HELICOPTERES

En ce qui concerne les hélicoptères, tous les témoins furent interrogés séparément. Ils furent tous trois d'accord pour dire qu'il y en eut au moins vingt. Grâce aux reflets de l'objet lumineux, ils purent nettement distinguer les détails des hélicoptères, malgré

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Betty Cash : l'arrière de la tête montre environ 50% de perte de cheveux. (Doc. MUFON) □



Vickie Landrum : elle souffrit de photophtalmie (yeux enflés, larmoyants et douloureux). Actuellement, elle doit constamment porter des lunettes. (Doc. MUFON) □

une nuit très sombre et la lune dans son troisième quartier. Il y avait au moins deux types différents d'hélicoptères mais les témoins firent aussi allusion à un large phénomène de dimensions importantes parmi eux.

Grâce à l'emploi d'un tableau d'identification, un modèle fut identifié sans équivoque comme étant le Boeing CH-47 Chinook. Un autre type d'hélicoptère fut assimilé au modèle Bell Huey mais sans que les témoins puissent l'affirmer avec certitude.

Non seulement chaque témoin identifia la forme et les caractéristiques générales du Chinook mais des détails tels que les roues, l'illumination ou le bruit furent décrits.

Un contact avec le représentant FAA de l'aéroport intercontinental de Houston permit d'obtenir les renseignements suivants (12) :

- * 350 à 400 hélicoptères opèrent pour raison commerciale dans la région de Houston.
- * Ils sont tous de type "rotor unique" (aucun Chinook).
- * Les hélicoptères se plient à la régulation VFR (vol à vue, NdT), par conséquent ils n'ont pas à contacter la tour de contrôle.
- * Au-delà de 15 miles (24 km) de l'aéroport, ils ne doivent pas franchir 1800 pieds (environ 600 mètres, NdT).
- * Le radar de Houston est limité en altitude à 2000-2200 pieds (env. 700 mètres, NdT) autour du Lac de Houston, ceci de par l'emplacement de l'antenne.

L'aide obtenue par le contact avec les installations militaires fut négligeable. Fort Polk, Fort

Hood, Dallas Naval Air Station et England AFB affirmèrent ne pas avoir survolé la région d'Houston ce soir là. L'unité opérant depuis Ellington AFB à Houston avait atterri avant l'heure de l'observation. Robert Gray Field avait ce soir là 100 hélicoptères rentrant de vol en même temps "pour impressionner", mais affirma avoir évité la région d'Houston. Ainsi, personne ne revendique la paternité des hélicoptères qui emplirent le ciel de la région d'Huffman en cette nuit hivernale.

SUITES

L'enquête n'est pas terminée. Nous avons gardé le contact avec les témoins, suivant un rythme hebdomadaire depuis plus d'une année. Ceci a permis une accumulation importante d'informations. L'état de santé des victimes constitue le résultat le plus intéressant tandis que l'enquête sur les hélicoptères fut des plus décevante.

Colby eut une augmentation des caries dentaires, une perte d'appétit, de poids, des douleurs stomacales périodiques, une poussée inhabituelle de poils sur diverses parties du corps et une dégradation de l'acuité visuelle. Son état de santé ne s'améliora pas jusqu'aux environs de décembre 1981.

L'année fut particulièrement difficile pour Mme Landrum. Non seulement car elle eut un problème de santé personnel, mais également car elle se fit continuellement du souci pour Colby. Ses problèmes immédiats étaient négligeables, mais des ennuis à long terme, telle la

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leucémie, lui travaillaient l'esprit. Un point positif fut la repousse quasi totale de ses cheveux. Elle fut par contre victime d'une grande fatigue, d'une perte d'appétit, d'éruptions cycliques de grandes plaques, de problèmes pulmonaires, d'enfléments des bras et des jambes, d'une immuno-déficience accrue et d'une importante baisse d'acuité visuelle.

Mme Cash fut dans l'impossibilité totale de travailler à cause de son état de santé. Elle fut hospitalisée sept fois dont trois dans des unités de soins intensifs. Durant cette période, elle eut à supporter des rougeurs de la peau, des maux de tête, des infections pulmonaires et une plus grande fragilité des os.

Autant Mme Cash que Mme Landrum furent coopératives à 100% et nous ont aidé de leur mieux. J'espère que d'autres suivront ce bel exemple.

La partie de l'enquête concernant les hélicoptères fut une toute autre histoire. Les premières tentatives destinées à identifier l'origine des hélicoptères se soldèrent par un échec. Pratiquement la seule réponse que nous pûmes obtenir de Washington D.C. fut celle des sénateurs texans John Tower et Lloyd Bentsen. Ils suggérèrent aux témoins d'engager une procédure contre le gouvernement américain. Cette procédure est en cours à l'heure actuelle (et semble avoir été rejetée par le Department of the Air Force, si l'on en juge d'après un courrier publié dans le MUFON UFO JOURNAL nb 187, sept.83 (p.7). La lettre en question, adressée à Peter A. Gersten, est signée Charles M. Stewart (Director of Civil Law), et précise "La raison de cette décision est que les faits allégués par les demandeurs ne permettent pas d'établir que leurs blessures furent causées de quelque manière que ce soit par le Gouvernement des Etats-Unis ou par l'une de ses agences(...) Notre enquête n'a pu mettre en évidence aucune implication d'un quelconque personnel, équipement ou avion militaire dans l'incident allégué." ndlr). D'autres personnalités officielles s'intéressent à l'affaire après

en avoir entendu parler dans Science digest, Omni, That's incredible, ou Good morning America. Le Capitaine Jenny Lampley du Bureau de liaison de l'armée de l'air à Washington D.C. fit une brève enquête et conclut que l'armée américaine n'était probablement pas impliquée puisqu'elle ne se servait d'aucun hélicoptère CH-47(14).

L'enquêteur le plus actif fut le Lt Colonel George Sarran du Bureau d'Inspection Général de l'armée américaine. Il contacta maints complexes militaires afin de connaître leur implication éventuelle, mais sans succès (15).

Le Major Dennis Haire de la 136ème unité de transport d'Ellington AFB à Houston contribua largement à l'enquête en fournissant des données sur les capacités des hélicoptères CH-47 basés à cet endroit et ceux, plus récents, basés à Fort Hood (13).

Tous ces hélicoptères ont l'autonomie et la vitesse permettant de les impliquer dans un cas comme celui qui nous préoccupe, mais aucun d'entre eux ne revendique cette implication.

A ce stade, il serait aisé de fournir une longue liste des fausses informations transmises par un certain nombre d'autres militaires, mais ces informations furent débussquées, il serait donc inutile d'en dire plus.

CONCLUSION

Cet incident pose clairement plusieurs problèmes. Premièrement, lorsqu'une personne est impliquée dans une rencontre rapprochée avec un OVNI, il lui est pratiquement impossible d'obtenir une aide immédiate. La police, les journaux et même les médecins reçoivent leur appel à l'aide sans réagir. Les médecins, non préparés aux récits étranges comme celui de Betty passent le plus clair de leur temps à chercher ce qui ne va pas, car aucune méthode de traitement standard n'a été définie.

Deuxièmement, les organisations militaires pourraient mieux servir les citoyens des Etats-Unis si elles étaient enclins à révéler l'identité des objets, tel celui vu à Huffman ou ailleurs, où la sécurité

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publique est compromise. Betty et Vickie n'ont jamais affirmé que l'OVNI de Huffman fut une soucoupe volante avec des petits hommes verts. Elles pensent qu'il s'agissait d'une quelconque opération gouvernementale. D'autres qui ont vu ou entendu les hélicoptères ce soir là ont le même sentiment.

Troisièmement, les organisations OVNI ne coopèrent habituellement pas comme elles le devraient afin d'assister les témoins. L'incident de Huffman est une exception. Le Mutual UFO Network de Seguin, Texas, le Center for UFO Studies d'Evans-ton, Illinois et l'Aerial Phenomena Research Organization de Tucson, Arizona collaborèrent pour aider le Projet VISIT d'Houston à mener l'enquête en fournissant des consultants, en formulant des recommandations et en procurant de l'information concernant d'autres cas similaires. Une telle coopération est dans l'intérêt de tous les participants.

SEULEMENT LE DEBUT

L'enquête continue. L'évolution de l'état de santé de Betty, Vickie et Colby reste à déterminer. Cependant, plusieurs spécialistes des radiations ont prêté leur concours bénévolement pour réhabiliter et soigner les témoins. Un traitement global manque à ce jour car il manque toujours les informations sur la source du problème, l'OVNI. □

Les membres du Projet VISIT peuvent être consultés. Adresse: P.O.Box 877, Friendswood, Texas 77546, USA.

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Traduction : P. Petrakis

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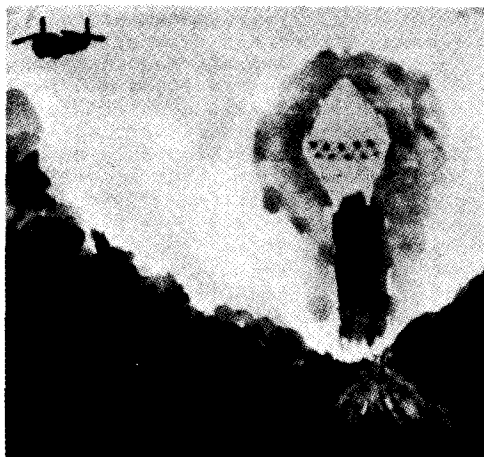
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- 6) "Texans Tell of Strange Encounter", Corpus Christi Caller-Times, september 13, 1981, p. 1A.
- 7) "Cash-Landrum Radiation Case", MUFON UFO Journal, november 1981, p.4.
- 8) Communication privée avec Pauline Collins, mère de Betty Cash, february 22, 1981.
- 9) Eye Injuries, Edward Zagora, M.D., Charles C. Thomas Publisher, Springfield, IL, p. 422.
- 10) American National Standard for the Safe Use of Lasers, ANSI Z136.1- 1973, p.56.
- 11) Foundations of Space Biology and Medicine, Vol. II, Book 2, NASA, Washington D.C., 1975, p. 516-517.
- 12) Communication Privée (C.P.) avec le représentant de FAA à l'aéroport intercontinental de Houston, TX, march 1981.
- 13) C.P. avec la Major Dennis Haire, officier-commandant de la 136ème unité de transport, Ellington, AFB, TX, march 1982.
- 14) C.P. avec la Capitaine Jenny Lampley, Bureau de liaison de l'USAF, Washington DC, march 82.
- 15) C .P. avec le Lt Colonel George Sarran, Bureau de l'inspection générale de l'armée US, Washington DC, march 1982.

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L'enquête sur les lieux de l'observation (route Huffman - New Caney FM 1485). □

On voit donc bien que ces états ont leur panoplie d'effets physiques connus par les médecins, et qui ressemblent par certains côtés à la panique et à l'hystérie. Mais c'est l'examen même de la liste d'effets ressentis par les témoins qui nous éclaire le mieux. La photophtalmie, par exemple, semble avoir eu des effets dégressifs chez les témoins, ceci en fonction de la durée du temps d'observation. Le petit Colby est celui qui a le moins souffert, mais aussi celui qui a le moins regardé. Il est dit que Vickie perdit beaucoup de son acuité visuelle. Or, à n'en pas douter, l'observation d'une source lumineuse puissante, outre l'hémorragie oculaire qu'elle peut occasionner, peut, par exemple, précipiter l'évolution d'une cataracte (jusque là latente), provoquant une baisse considérable de l'acuité visuelle (cette maladie étant extrêmement fréquente vers 60 ans). Il est aussi possible que certains effets n'aient aucun rapport avec l'observation et ne doivent leur mention qu'au désir (inconscient) des enquêteurs de vouloir en rajouter pour crédibiliser l'affaire (autre variante de "le témoin nous paraît sincère, sobre et incapable d'inventer une telle affaire"). En effet, comment peut-on s'étonner de l'augmentation de caries dentaires chez un enfant de sept ans ?



Conception artistique due à Kathy Schuessler de l'objet évoluant parmi les hélicoptères. Remarquez la ressemblance entre la description de l'objet faite par les témoins et le panneau de signalisation ! □

De plus, les rayonnements électromagnétiques ont des particularités qu'on ne saurait sous-estimer. Si nous nous en remettons à l'histoire telle qu'elle nous est rapportée par les enquêteurs, il apparaît que les témoins auraient reçu une dose somme toute assez faible. Dans ce cas, les effets auraient dû être ressentis plusieurs jours après; or il n'en est rien. Les enfants étant plus vulnérables, Colby aurait plus souffert que les adultes, ce qui n'est pas le cas. Enfin, la voiture aurait gardé une trace de cette irradiation mais les enquêteurs ne précisent pas ce dernier point.

Bien sûr, on peut se poser de nombreuses questions : quel fut le résultat des premières prises de sang, y eut-il un taux anormal d'adrénaline, la voiture fut-elle expertisée, etc ? Mais au-delà, il faut bien constater qu'un certain nombre d'inexactitudes par omission ne laissent rien présager de bon.

La mémoire, nous l'avons vu plusieurs fois dans ces colonnes, ne restitue pas la perception aussi fidèlement que l'on pourrait l'espérer, et, l'infinie possibilité de mésinterprétations aidant, on se trompe tous un jour ou l'autre.

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Mais entre la mémoire et sa restitution, il existe un autre paramètre que nous n'avons pas le droit de négliger : le cerveau et plus précisément l'inconscient, qui stocke et adapte les informations brutes en fonction d'un certain nombre de référentiels qui seront d'autant plus importants (en nombre) et affinés que le témoin aura de culture générale.

Un vrai dédale donc que l'enquêteur devra suivre en ne négligeant aucun détail. Ce sera à lui qu'incombera alors la responsabilité de l'évaluation précise de la crédibilité d'un cas. Il ne le sait pas toujours. □

Perry PETRAKIS

UFO News-flash est un magazine (promotionné par le Centro Ufologico Nazionale) qui publie en traduction anglaise les principaux articles de presse italiens. Trad. AESV.

une croyance peut en cacher une autre

● S'il est vrai que notre religion traverse une crise, confondre toutefois quelques pèlerins en procession avec des envahisseurs et prendre leurs bougies pour des OVNI, c'est vraiment trop !

Un tel fait s'est pourtant bien déroulé près de Gênes. La nuit dernière, de nombreuses personnes affirmèrent avoir vu un OVNI dans le ciel de Rivarolo. L'OVNI, après quelques mouvements, atterrit sur la crête du Mont Scarpino.

Tous les habitants des villages de Teglia et Begato quittèrent leur téléviseur pour se précipiter à leurs fenêtres ou sur la route, espérant faire une rencontre rapprochée. Un témoin voulu voir l'OVNI de plus près, mais de l'OVNI, il ne trouva aucune trace.

Que s'est-il passé ? Le prêtre de paroisse de Murta, Don Pietro Parodi, expliqua toute l'histoire. La soucoupe volante, ou les "soucoupes" que quelqu'un prétendit avoir vu, n'étaient que des bougies que quelques fidèles avaient allumées sur le Mont Teiolo pour célébrer le cinquantième anniversaire de la construction de la chapelle dédiée à la Vierge de Lourdes.

Après le service de l'après-midi, quelques fidèles placèrent autour et sur la chapelle quelques bougies qui furent à l'origine de la mésinterprétation.

Quelques journaux affirmèrent que le prêtre paroissial Don Pietro Parodi parla d'OVNI, mais je suis sûr qu'il n'y eut que des fidèles avec des bougies et en aucun cas des OVNI ou des extra-terrestres. □

Source : *La Notte* (Milano), 14 septembre 1983. Paru dans *UFO-News-flash* n° 9, février 1984. Adresse : Massimo Greco, P.O. Box 29, I - 25121 Brescia.

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cash - landrum : apocalypse now !?

Bien étrange affaire en vérité que celle de Cash-Landrum. Les observations quelque peu élaborées, sur lesquelles un certain nombre d'informations peuvent être collectées, ressemblent à des mots croisés pour lesquels l'on pourrait employer indifféremment plusieurs définitions et qui garderaient malgré tout un aspect général cohérent.

Certes, l'hypothèse d'un engin extra-terrestre est bien tentante. Car tout y est : observation faite par plusieurs témoins, effets physiques, enquête apparemment solide, etc. Je ne vais pas ici remettre en question l'intégrité des enquêteurs ou la qualité de leur travail et n'ai aucunement la prétention de proposer une contre-enquête. Il me paraît cependant utile de faire un certain nombre de remarques sur cette affaire.

Imaginons un instant les trois témoins faisant route vers Dayton, un 29 décembre à 21h, donc en pleine obscurité, sur une route déserte. Soudain, ils aperçoivent une forte lumière et la peur s'installe. Les hélicoptères, en nombre important, approchent tous feux allumés et illuminent entre autre un panneau de signalisation se trouvant un peu plus loin sur la route, et que les témoins n'avaient pas remarqué (voir photos). Ce panneau catadioptrique, dont l'illumination par intermittence est provoquée par le ballonnement typique des hélicoptères, focalise les craintes des témoins, dont l'esprit, conditionné par la peur, ne cherche plus à comprendre. Ils parleront de flammes, de déplacement, d'une forte chaleur, etc. Mais...la chaleur ? Les effets physiques ? Certes, il n'est pas question d'en douter. Mais alors...

Betty (51 ans) et Vickie (57 ans) étaient dans une période que les médecins appellent "l'âge critique", période qui généralement précède et/ou suit la ménopause de quelques mois, voire de quelques années. Ces deux adultes étaient donc fragilisés par un état de santé, normal pour leur âge, mais néanmoins en-dessous de la moyenne, dans un état d'hyper-sensibilité émotionnelle et particulièrement exposés aux bouffées de chaleur notamment.

Si nous admettons que cette observation a provoqué chez les témoins de fortes émotions et un état d'angoisse, on peut dès lors envisager un éventail d'effets physiques inhérents à ces états d'âme. En effet, les émotions et les angoisses sont des états médicalement proches qui appellent une réponse physique à une agression psychique (montée du taux d'adrénaline) en inondant le corps d'une énergie chaotique, donc non contrôlable. Les effets peuvent être nombreux, comme en témoigne cette liste non-exhaustive.:

- * Irrégularité du rythme respiratoire.
- * Accélération ou ralentissement du pouls.
- * Sensation d'étouffement et de resserrement de la cage thoracique.
- * Transpiration, palpitations cardiaques.
- * Alternance de rougeurs et de pâleurs, impression de chaud et de froid.
- * Augmentation ou diminution de la salivation.
- * Nausées ou vomissements.
- * Dilatation des pupilles.
- * Spasmes de l'estomac avec constipation ou diarrhée.
- * Tremblements des membres et de la tête.
- * Larmolement.
- * Claquement des dents et frissons généralisés, etc.

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part de Musschenbroeck, l'objet d'un récit d'une admirable précision. L'agent de transformation qui permet de passer de l'éclair fulgurant plus ou moins sinueux à l'éclair sphérique est la tension superficielle de la matière fulminante, laquelle agit en rétractant la surface extérieure de ce corps endothermique élastique, le refroidissement étant d'autant plus lent, toutes choses égales, que la quantité de matière fulminante est plus grande (cas de la foudre homicide d'Amiens). Avec un éclair fulgurant cylindrique de rayon r , la surface $2/r$ de l'unité de volume est énorme (1) car r est très petit et la différence entre la température superficielle de la matière fulminante et l'air dépasse 2000°C ; le refroidissement est alors instantané, la durée du reste d'éclair étant de l'ordre du centième de seconde. Quand les orages sont d'une grande intensité, il fait très chaud et les nuages sont très bas. Un éclair vertical entre le nuage orageux et la terre est alors très court et de section relativement grande. La matière fulminante se refroidit en raccourcissant sa longueur et en augmentant sa section. Le refroidissement, rapide à l'origine, diminue très vite et devient minimum avec la surface minima sphérique de l'éclair devenue des centaines de fois plus petite. Son refroidissement dure, toutes choses égales, des centaines de fois plus et devient de l'ordre de quelques secondes.

En ce qui concerne les grandeurs extrêmes des foudres globulaires, dont la fréquence est sensiblement nulle, on a, de source française, des récits relatifs à des foudres de la dimension d'un pois ou d'une grosse goutte d'eau. Les foudres les plus énormes, photographiées directement par le professeur J.C. Jensen de Lincoln dans le Nebraska (USA) correspondent à des diamètres DE L'ORDRE DE DOUZE A TREIZE METRES. Les plus grosses sphères observées en Europe ne dépassent pas le diamètre de CINQ A SIX METRES.

Il convient aussi de noter que la date d'observation de notre cas (octobre) et l'heure (23h30) ne sont pas très favorables à l'apparition

d'une telle foudre (la chaleur favorisant ce phénomène). Toutefois, la fréquence d'apparition d'une foudre globulaire est plus forte en fin de journée qu'en début de journée (circonstance favorable).

Reste le problème des "hublots" et "lampes blanches". Ils s'expliquent par des mouvements de convection interne et des déchirures de la couche superficielle (causées par la tension superficielle). On a d'ailleurs pu observer des foudres de toutes couleurs(2): verte avec des zones rouges et jaunes; orangée avec des taches rouges; rouge et blanche; jaune et blanche; bleue et blanche. Pour terminer, l'anneau sombre entourant la foudre pourrait constituer un anneau de matière à température moins élevée, causé par une rotation de ladite foudre sur elle-même. Rappelons d'ailleurs que les foudres globulaires peuvent tourner très rapidement sur elles-mêmes, comme des toupies, autour d'un axe vertical ou sensiblement vertical.

En conclusion, c'était dans notre cas un... éclair extra ! et les martiens brillaient par leur absence!! □

Jean BASTIDE

(1) La surface de l'unité de volume s'obtient, dans le cas d'un cylindre, par la formule connue:

$$\frac{\text{surface}}{\text{volume}} = \frac{2\pi rh}{\pi r^2 h} = \frac{2}{r}$$

dans le cas de la sphère, on a :

$$\frac{4\pi r^2}{\frac{4}{3}\pi r^3} = \frac{3}{r}$$

(2) En Auvergne, on connaît l'éclair blanc et l'éclair rouge. En parler bas-auvergnat, on dit qu'un éclair blanc, c'est signe de chaleur ("niluchada blan tso kouin chin deu tsarlu"), tandis qu'un éclair rouge, c'est signe de pluie ("niluchada roudzo kouï chin dègo").

SHOEMAKER (continued from p. 8)

Most ufologists have reached the astonishing consensus that this was a close encounter with a secret, experimental, military aircraft. Not only is there no hard evidence for this view, but the idea violates common sense. Why would the government test such a vehicle, or fly it at all, in the vicinity of Houston, when they have tens-of-thousands of square miles of military test-range in the Nevada desert?

The reported presence of "helicopters" seems to have led to the consensus view, despite the fact that the "helicopters" did not act in accordance with the consensus hypothesis, which imagines that the helicopters were there to close off the area and pick up the pieces should the craft crash. But in his *Fate* article, John F. Schuessler, the case's principal investigator, says: "Several of the helicopters were flying erratically around the object as if trying to hem it in or closely observe it." This would be an insanely dangerous and insanely pointless thing to do in the vicinity of a malfunctioning aircraft, but is not inconsistent with a military response to an intruding UFO, or with an illusion projected or induced by the UFO itself. Another odd detail was the presence of a continuous beeping sound during the first encounter. Although this detail is difficult to believe in the context of a mere malfunctioning aircraft, it is often met with in supposed "abduction" cases.

The anti-government, anti-military paranoia that seems to suffuse the consensus view of this case brings to mind Vallée's control-system theory. If ufologists persist in the consensus view, they should realize that the logically consistent conclusion is that most, perhaps even all, UFO sightings may be attributable to the same cause. If the Cash-Landrum case really was caused by an experimental aircraft, then perhaps the UFO phenomenon really is a myth. ●

STACY (continued from p. 8)

— passing cars and trucks. (Ambient light from the low cloud ceiling and nearby New Braunfels gave good visibility.) Warner said, "I expected to get up in the morning and read in the headlines, 'UFO Mystery Solved!' but there wasn't a word about it." In fact, he wouldn't have mentioned it to me (I'd known him for years already without his having ever done so) if I hadn't finally asked if he'd ever seen anything strange in his flying days. Nor did he ever bring it up again in my presence. It was simply one of those things that had happened to him, and about which he never bothered. A forgotten stanza from an old poem. ●

MACCABEE (continued from p. 9)

New Zealand and Australia I concluded that at least three distinct sections of the film showed lights that, in my opinion, could not be identified with known sources. In the subsequent years since the spring of 1979, I have repeatedly reviewed the data and analysis and have found no compelling evidence that would change my opinion.

The complete story of the New Zealand sightings and the aftermath can be found in books written by the participants (Wm. Startup, *The Kaikoura UFOs* [Auckland: Hodder and Staughton, 1980], and Quentin Fogarty, *Let's Hope They're Friendly* [Sydney: Angus and Robertson, 1982]). Technical papers have been published on one portion of the sighting (the bright light seen, filmed, and possibly detected on airplane radar northeast of Christchurch).^{1,2,3} The skeptical viewpoint has been presented in several publications.^{4,5,6} A response to these is that one skeptic (Philip Klass) has claimed to have explained the film in a way which *violates optical physics*.

This particular section of the film contains images of three lights that were very close together, filmed against a black background. The brightnesses of the images oscillate at a regular rate of about once per second from very bright (overexposed) to dim. In most of the film frames, the images of these lights are blurred. However, in several of the frames of film, the images of the individual lights are distinguishable. They form a small triangular cluster consisting of a pale yellow-orange "dot" image over two red "dot" images. Although these triangular cluster images are interesting in themselves, to simplify the argument I will discuss only the variation in brightness of the upper, pale yellow-orange, image.

At its brightest, the pale yellow-orange light made large round images (the largest overall diameter is about 0.25 mm.) at times when random camera motion did not distort the images (making them non-round). The largest round images have "pure" white, overexposed centers (about 0.1 mm. in diameter) that are surrounded by a highly exposed, pale yellow or pale orange, annular regions (about 0.075 mm. wide). The centers of these images on this color reversal film have a film density only a few hundredths larger than the clear leader density. Outside the edges of the very bright images, the film is black, i.e., unexposed.

Klass⁷ has suggested that these oscillating images were made by light from the red anti-collision beacon at the top of the aircraft.⁸ This suggestion was made because the rotation rate of the beacon was, to within "experimental error," the same as the oscillation frequency of the pulsating light. Of course the cameraman could not photograph the beacon directly from inside the cockpit. Therefore Klass has suggested that light was reflected off a propeller blade and into the camera lens. It seems hardly likely that the cameraman would have, or even could have,⁹ filmed in the direction of a propeller because the cramped space in the cockpit would have made it very difficult. However, assuming that might be possible, the optical physics question is this: can a red light make white, overexposed images without leaving any "trace" of red? **1980**

It is well known that overexposure can change the color of an image. The New Zealand film provides direct evidence of this effect. Several sections of the film show red landing-field lights that are overexposed. The film even shows overexposed images of the anti-collision beacon at the top of the aircraft. The cameraman obtained these images when he filmed the aircraft from a location about a hundred feet away while the aircraft was still on the ground, many hours before any of the sightings. The film proves that an overexposed image of the red beacon consists of a circular, pale yellow, central area (the area of maximum overexposure), which is surrounded by a red "fringe" that extends outward away from the edge of the yellow area. The red fringe "fades" into the surrounding, unexposed film area as the distance from the center of the image increases. Independent tests proved that this is a general effect and verified a general explanation for it.¹⁰

The bright images made by the unknown light are not surrounded by a red fringe; in fact, they are not surrounded by any fringe at all. Thus the brightest images were not made by filming the red anti-collision beacon, or any red light. The source of the periodically flashing light remains unidentified despite numerous attempts by this author and others to find plausible explanations in terms of conventional light sources such as coastal beacons, other aircraft, astronomical phenomena, etc. Lacking any reasonable explanation, the flashing light must be considered to be a TRUFO.

Notes

- 1) B. S. Maccabee, "Photometric properties of an unidentified bright object seen off the coast of New Zealand," *Applied Optics* 18 (1979), p. 2527.
- 2) W. Ireland and M.K. Andrews, "Photometric properties of an unidentified bright object seen off the coast of New Zealand: comments," *Applied Optics* 18 (1980), p. 1745.
- 3) B. S. Maccabee, "Photometric properties of an unidentified bright object seen off the coast of New Zealand: author's reply to comments," *Applied Optics* 19 (1980), p. 1745.
- 4) Philip Klass, *UFOs: the Public Deceived*, (Buffalo, N.Y.: Prometheus Books, 1979).
- 5) Robert Sheaffer, *The UFO Verdict*, (Buffalo, N.Y.: Prometheus Books, 1979).
- 6) W. Ireland, "Unfamiliar Observations of Lights in the Night Sky," Report #659 of the Physics and Engineering Laboratory, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Lower Hutt, New Zealand.
- 7) Klass.
- 8) *Ibid.*, pp. 254 and 255. The author has incorrectly stated that the color of the anti-aircraft beacon is red-orange. Actually the beacon is "pure" red.
- 9) The cameraman was very probably looking forward, as were the others, at an unusual flashing light that had appeared ahead of the aircraft. The shape and size of the cockpit would have made it very difficult, and perhaps impossible, for the cameraman to film one of the propellers without displacing the co-pilot or the pilot from his seat. No such displacement occurred, however.
- 10) A study of this effect, using color reversal (slide) film under controlled conditions, has shown that the outer diameter of the yellowish area is usually as large as, or larger than, the geometric size of the image (i.e., the image size created by simple geometric imaging of the camera). The red fringe extends far beyond the geometric size of the image. The red fringe is created by red light that impinges on the overexposed area and then diffuses sideways within the film. As it diffuses sideways, the light intensity decreases, and, by the time it has diffused beyond the boundary of the central yellowish area, the intensity of the light is low enough to create proper exposure of the film, i.e., a red image. Thus the image of an overexposed red light consists of a pale yellowish center surrounded by a red fringe, the width of which depends upon the intensity of the light. ●

SKEPTICISM AND BLIND FAITH

(Continued from p. 15)

him but censored his attempt to tell readers they were censoring him.

When Rawlins insisted on a team of referees to judge the dispute, the executives did not allow an impartial team to be chosen, but selected their own referees. Nonetheless, the referees agreed that, when the errors were corrected, the original report did in fact confirm Gauquelin instead of refuting him, as Rawlins and Professor Scott had said from the beginning. The committee then refused to print the referees' report.

By 1979, Rawlins felt that he had seen so much dishonesty in this matter that he should speak out, but hesitated because "I didn't want to hurt rationalism." He went on struggling to get his corrections published, and finally realized that "realpolitik cynics were taking advantage of that reluctance" and exploiting his loyalty to the Cause. He tried to speak out at a press conference, and the executive council stopped the press conference before he could speak.

The executive council then met in closed session, with all members but Rawlins, and voted him out of the executive council. They allowed him to continue as Associate Editor of their journal, however, and he went on struggling to get the correction published for another year. In 1980, he resigned from CSICOP in total disillusionment.

To summarize: CSICOP published a scientifically false report. They blocked all attempts by a member of their own Executive Council to inform members that the report was false. When their own selected referees agreed the report was false, they suppressed the referees' report. This went on over a period of four years (1977-1981) and if "bungling" explains the beginning of it, Rawlins's term "cover-up" certainly does not seem too strong for what followed.

Perhaps my wicked, polemical phrase "the New Fundamentalism" is not too strong, after all?

Fate, September and October 1979, "The Crusade against the Paranormal," by Jerome Clark and J. Gordon Melton:

Another founding member of CSICOP resigned, or was ejected—accounts differ—but—

Prof. Marcello Truzzi, sociologist, from Eastern Michigan University, was editor of the CSICOP journal when it was called *Zetetic*. He had a difference of opinion with the Executive Council, about whether dissenting views should be published. He says CSICOP isn't skeptical at all in the true meaning of that word but is "an advocacy body upholding orthodox establishment views." In other words, their alleged skepticism has become, as my paradox suggests, just another dogmatic blind faith.

Prof. Truzzi has started his own journal, now called the *Zetetic Scholar*, in competition with CSICOP's journal, now called *The Skeptical Enquirer*. He follows the normal procedure of what is usually considered adult debate among sane people: he prints articles on both sides of every question and allows open debate, unlike the *Skeptical Enquirer*, which only prints articles on one side, since they already know the truth. Their fury against him is what any student of priestcraft would expect.

Metamagical Themas, by Douglas Hofstadter, pp. 111-113:

Hofstadter, a good friend and admirer of CSICOP's superstar Martin Gardner, gives his version of Prof. Truzzi's exodus. Truzzi wanted to publish articles on both sides of the Velikovsky controversy (which we will shortly examine). Gardner held that this would give Velikovsky "undeserved legitimacy," and insisted on the one-sided attitude which now prevails in CSICOP. (As a libertarian, I must admit that is incomprehensible to me. To attack a man's ideas, and then refuse to let him, or his defenders, answer the attack seems to me idolatrous, if not fascist. To say that *after attacking him*, allowing rebuttal gives him "undeserved legitimacy" is a rationalization that, I think, only the most Faithful can believe, or even discuss with a straight face.) Hofstadter defends Gardner as well as he can, calling Velikovsky "obnoxious," but ends up admitting that he, personally, would prefer open debate. He still supports CSICOP, however.

CSICOP, meanwhile, isn't listening to Hofstadter. They still won't allow open debate in their journal. The heretical Jeffersonian view that even the "obnoxious" have the right to be heard hasn't percolated their craniums yet.

22 February 1981 *New Sunday Times* (Malaysia)—a boy, aged fifteen, has been running "an abnormally high temperature" for ten years, since he was five. Doctors find nothing wrong with him, and he is not ill or distressed. Neighbors call him "fireboy," it says.

What are we to make of a yarn like this? Some, I suppose, will believe it and some will attribute it to TUUR—The Ubiquitous Unscrupulous Reporter—the gent who is responsible for

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A terrifying encounter with a flame-belching UFO on a lonely road near Huffman, Texas, resulted in appalling injuries for the three innocent victims. JOHN SCHUESSLER reports on this most bizarre case

LATE ONE CHILLY EVENING at the end of December 1980 two middle-aged women and a young boy were driving along a lonely road in the Huffman area of east Texas, USA. It was the Christmas season and they were in a festive mood. Suddenly a bright light appeared in the sky a little way ahead. A few minutes later the light had turned into a huge diamond-shaped object, shooting out from its underside intermittent bursts of fire. This alarming apparition seemed to be trying to land on the road ahead, making it impossible for the three people in the car to continue on their way.

For the occupants of the car it was to be a terrifying encounter. The intense heat from the UFO burned their skin and the bright light injured their eyes. When the object eventually left the area, a large number of helicopters filled the sky in close pursuit, making a deafening noise that hurt the witnesses' ears.

'A diamond of fire' was how one of the witnesses described the huge glowing object that hovered over the road, blocking their way. Ringed with lights at the centreline, it emitted bursts of fire from its underside that threatened to set light to the surrounding forest

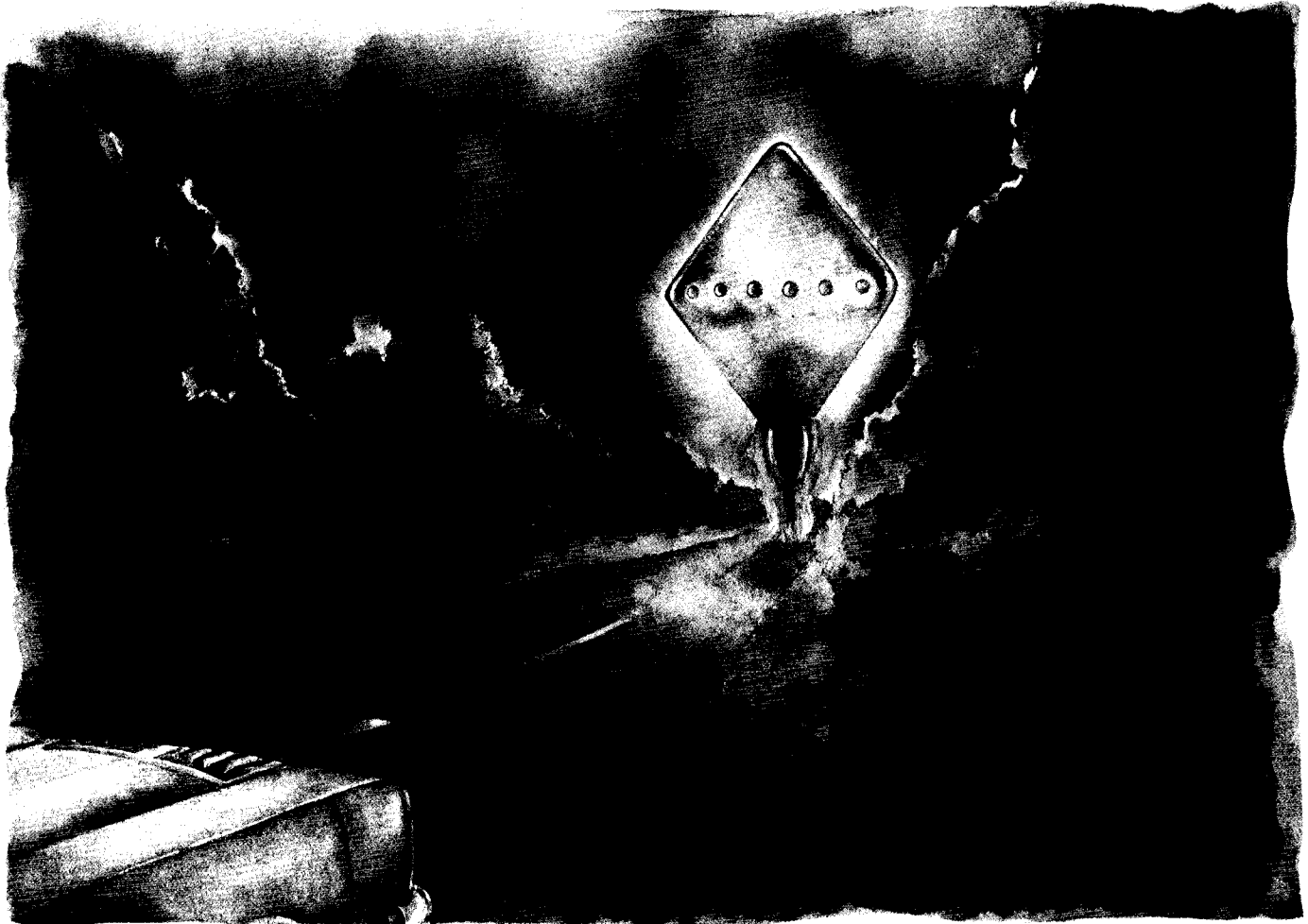
For the three spectators it was like being caught in the middle of some strange battle for the skies.

Earlier that evening, Betty Cash, Vickie Landrum and Colby Landrum had visited several small towns in the Piney Woods area of east Texas in search of a bingo game; but to their disappointment they had discovered that all bingo games had been cancelled while the clubs prepared for the New Year's Eve celebration. Instead the three of them had settled for an evening meal at a roadside restaurant in New Caney. It was soon after this that the terrifying events of the evening began.

Betty Cash, who was driving her new Oldsmobile Cutlass when the trio encountered the UFO, was then a 51-year-old business woman who ran a restaurant and a grocery store. She was planning to open a new restaurant the very next week. A year or so earlier she had undergone a heart bypass operation, and had made a complete recovery. Within the next hour she was to sustain physical injuries more debilitating than any caused by the cardiac surgery.

Vickie Landrum, then 57, is a pleasant,

Blind terror in Texas



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Cash-Landrum case



hard-working woman who worked for Betty in the restaurant and also occasionally as a school meals assistant. She is a committed Christian, and does not believe in UFOs or extra-terrestrial life. When the bright object appeared in the sky, she thought it was the coming of the end of the world. Because she expected to see her Saviour come out of the bright cloud, she gazed intently at the UFO. Her reward was not to meet her Saviour, but to sustain severe eye damage.

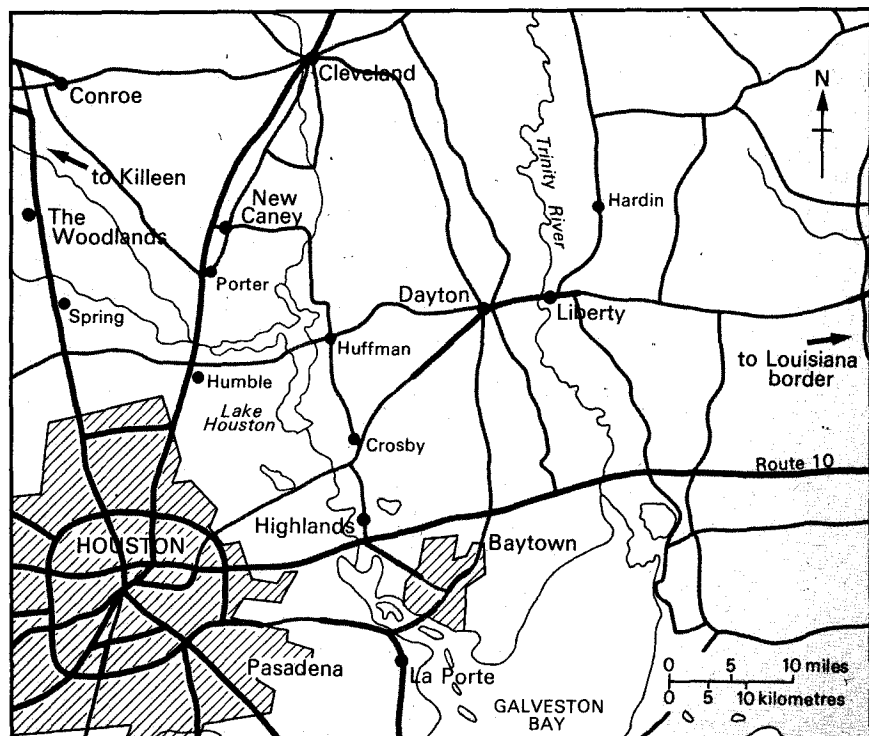
Colby Landrum, Vickie's grandson, was being brought up by her. He was a healthy and active lad, and at seven years old he had already earned several trophies for baseball, bowling and other sports. The encounter left him with severe physical and emotional scars. It is difficult to tell whether he was more frightened by the UFO or by the overpowering noise of the helicopters thundering overhead.

The day of 29 December 1980 had been cold, damp and overcast in Texas. In the Huffman area there had been periods of light rain during the day, but by night-time the rain had stopped and the sky had partially cleared. Light from the third-quarter Moon, supplemented by an airglow from lights in the surrounding area, made the sky bright and the visibility good. Because the temperature was only 40°F (4.5°C) the victims were wearing coats and the car's heater was keeping the winter chill at bay.

After leaving the restaurant some time between 8.20 and 8.30 p.m., the three drove along Highway FM1485, a road normally used only by people who live in the area because it is so isolated. Although only about 30 miles (50 kilometres) from the metropolis of Houston, the area is sparsely populated and is covered by oak and pine trees, and dotted with swamps and lakes.

Above: the lonely tree-lined road where Betty Cash and Vickie and Colby Landrum saw the UFO

Below: a map of the region north-east of Houston showing the Huffman area where the incident occurred. The three victims had dined in New Caney about half an hour earlier and were driving home to Dayton when the UFO appeared on the road ahead



It was about 30 minutes later when the three noticed the bright UFO above the treetops some distance away. Colby, an alert youngster, was the first to see it. He pointed it out excitedly to Betty and Vickie as it glowed brightly above the trees about 3 miles (5 kilometres) ahead. As they approached, it appeared to get larger and larger, rather than diminishing as an aeroplane would appear to do as it flew further away. As they realised the object was approaching the road only a short distance ahead their apprehension increased. Nevertheless they hoped to get by in time and leave it behind. But before they could do so, the object had straddled the road, blocking their way.

Vickie screamed, 'Stop the car or we shall be burned alive.' Her warning was probably correct. The object, many times larger than their car, remained hovering at treetop level and sending down an occasional large cone of fire like a rocket blast. In between these blasts it would settle downwards some 25 feet (7.5 metres) or so, only to rise again on the next cone of fire like some huge science-fiction spaceship in trouble. Vickie's vivid description of it was that it was 'like a diamond of fire'.

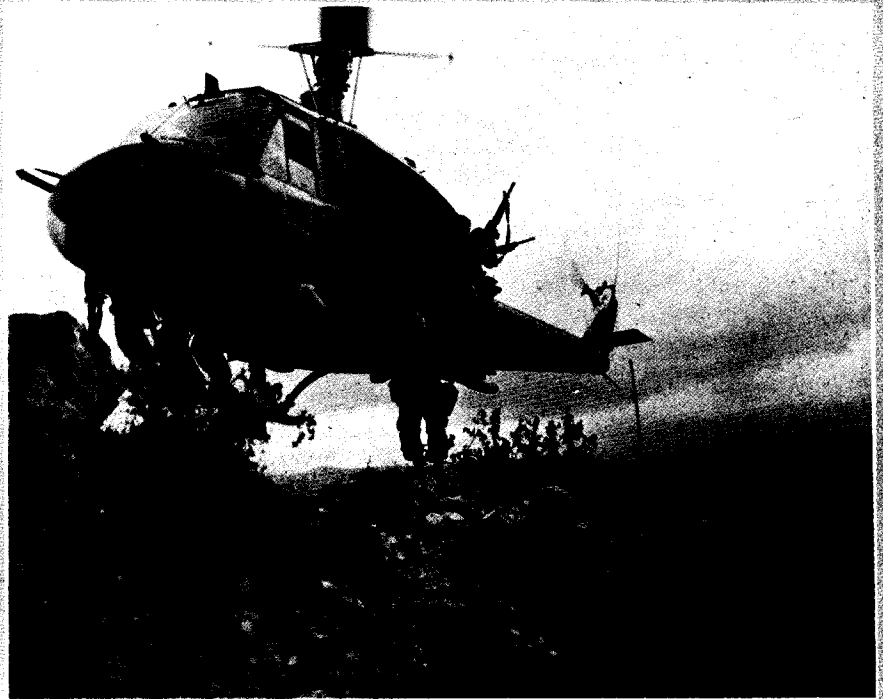
When Betty eventually brought the car to a standstill the object was less than 65 yards (60 metres) away. It looked as if it were made of dull aluminium, and it glowed so brightly that it lit up the surrounding forest like daylight. The four points of the diamond were blunted rather than sharp, and blue spots or lights ringed its centreline. Had the UFO not come to rest over the road, the cone of fire that periodically emanated from its lowest point would have set the forest on fire. In addition to the blast of the fire, the UFO emitted an intermittent beeping sound.

It is not clear whether Betty turned the car engine off, or whether it just died. Whichever it was, the three of them got out of the car to take a closer look at the thing that was blocking their way. Vickie stood by the open door on the right-hand side of the car, with her left hand resting on the car roof. She stared intently at the UFO.

Colby plucked at his grandmother's clothing and begged her to get back inside the car and hold him. Two or three minutes later, in response to his pleading, she did so; but she told him not to be afraid, for 'when that big man comes out of the burning cloud, it will be Jesus' and Jesus would not harm them.

As Vickie held Colby to comfort him she screamed to Betty to get back into the car with them. But Betty was so fascinated by the UFO that she walked round to the front of the car and stood there gazing intently at the bright object. She seemed to be mesmerised by it. Bathed in the bright light, she remained standing there even though the heat was burning her skin. Even the skin on the finger beneath her ring was burned. Eventually, as the object began to move up and away, she responded to Vickie's calls and walked back to the door. When she touched the door it was so painfully hot that she had to use her leather jacket to protect her hand while she got in the car.

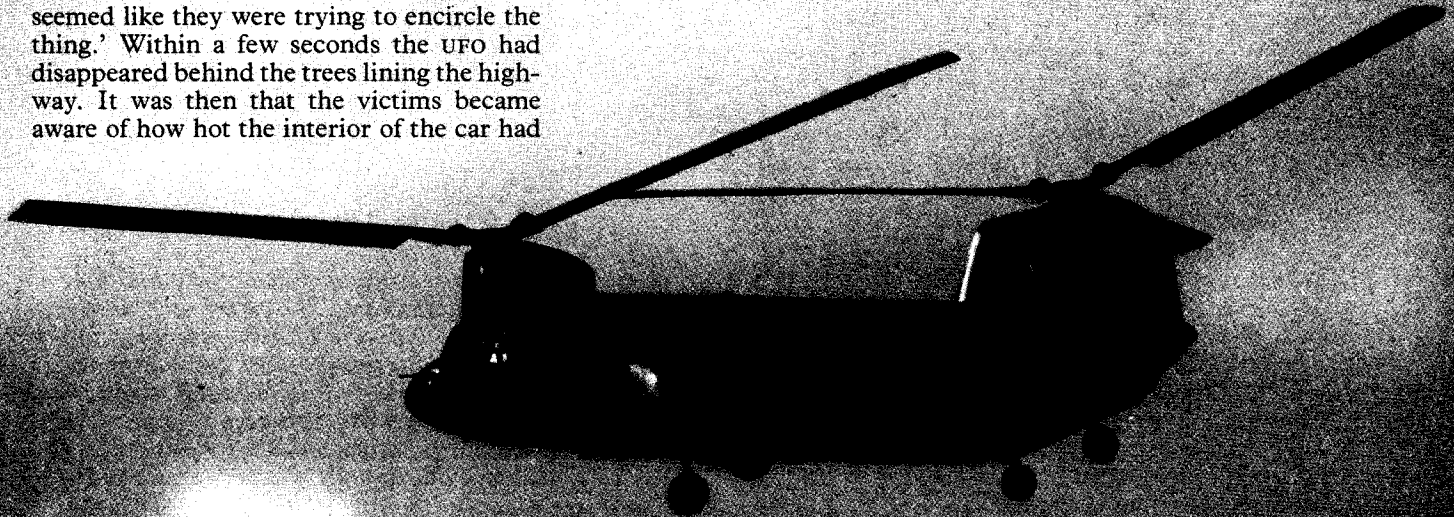
As the three of them watched the departing UFO, a large number of helicopters appeared overhead. As Betty said, 'They seemed to rush in from all directions . . . it seemed like they were trying to encircle the thing.' Within a few seconds the UFO had disappeared behind the trees lining the highway. It was then that the victims became aware of how hot the interior of the car had



A number of small, single rotor helicopters of the Bell Huey variety, similar to the one shown above on a military exercise, were seen with the Huffman UFO

surrounding area and illuminating the helicopters.

By this time the helicopters were spread out over a 5-mile (8-kilometre) area. One main group was still near to the UFO, but moving in an erratic flight path. The others were clearly visible in a steady trail formation. At one point one of the large 'choppers' flew directly over the car engulfing it in the roar of its engine and flap of its rotor



Heavy, double rotor helicopters like the CH-47 shown above were identified by several witnesses as being present in large numbers at Huffman

blades. As they watched from this vantage point the victims counted 23 helicopters. Many of the helicopters were the large double rotor type, with four wheels and a large housing to the rear (these were later identified as CH-47 Chinooks, manufactured by the Vertol division of the Boeing company). Others were smaller, very fast, single rotor helicopters. These were never clearly identified, but they appeared to be of the Bell Huey variety. There was also a suggestion that there may have been a single, even larger helicopter in the middle of the

become. Instead of the heater, they now switched on the air conditioner to make the environment more comfortable. When the effects of the bright light had subsided they started the engine and they sped off on the darkened highway. After a short stretch of twisting road they joined a larger highway and were able to turn in the direction of the departing UFO. This was about 5 miles (8 kilometres) and five minutes later the object was clearly visible some distance ahead. It looked like a bright oblong cylinder. It was still lit from up the

Cash-Landrum case

group. Whatever the exact number of helicopters, a lot of aircrew members must have seen the UFO that night.

As soon as the UFO and the helicopters were a safe distance ahead, Betty drove on cautiously. When she reached an intersection, she turned away from the flight path of the UFO and drove towards Dayton, where the three of them lived. By this time they had been involved with the UFO and the helicopters for at least 20 minutes, perhaps longer.

Betty dropped Vickie and Colby at their home at 9.50 p.m. and went home herself. A friend and her children were waiting there for Betty to return, but by then Betty was feeling too ill to tell them about the incident. Over the next few hours Betty's skin turned red as if it were badly sunburned. Her neck swelled, and blisters erupted and broke on her face, scalp and eyelids. She started to vomit and continued to do so periodically throughout the night. By morning she was almost in a coma.

Some time between midnight and 2 a.m. Vickie and Colby began to experience similar symptoms, although less severe. At first they suffered the sunburn-like condition, then diarrhoea and vomiting. It was a miserable night for all three victims.

Colby tells all

The following morning Betty was moved to Vickie's home, and all three were cared for there. Betty's condition continued to deteriorate, and three days later she was taken to a hospital casualty department. The casualty staff assumed that Betty was a classic burn victim, and treated her accordingly. They were not told about the UFO until several days later when Colby blurted out to a doctor that he knew what had burned them.

The burns and swelling altered Betty's appearance so radically that friends and relatives who came to visit her in hospital did not recognise her. Her hair started to fall out and she was eventually to lose more than half the hair on her head. When her appearance was compared with the photograph of her taken just before Christmas, it was impossible to believe that it was the same woman. Treatment was further complicated by the fact that Betty and the others had intense headaches and painfully swollen eyes; in fact Betty's eyes were so swollen that she was unable to see for nearly a week.

The appearance of helicopters at UFO sightings is becoming a common event, as it is also at the scene of animal mutilations (see page 1119). The large number of helicopters at the Huffman incident is just another link in the chain. One thing is certain - it is virtually impossible to be mistaken about the presence of CH-47 helicopters when you are directly beneath these large noisy craft.

The evidence of all the witnesses to the Huffman event was consistent. All were interrogated separately, not only about the UFO but also about the helicopters. They



Months after seeing the UFO the victims were still suffering the results of their encounter. Above: the burn on the back of Vickie's hand. Right: a year and a half after the event, Vickie's face showed lasting damage, particularly around the eyes



provided consistent descriptions and sketches that indicated they had seen a large number of CH-47s, plus several other helicopters of a common type. They were also given silhouette charts and asked to identify any helicopters that appeared to be the same as the ones they had seen. Again, all the witnesses agreed in their identification of CH-47s.

Locating the source of the helicopters proved to be a much more difficult task. According to an official of the Houston Intercontinental Airport Federation Aviation Administration, about 350 to 400 helicopters operate commercially in the Houston area. All of these are single rotor type units; there are no CH-47s. The official also said that because helicopters fly on Visual Flight Rules (VFR), they do not need to contact the airport control tower. Other information provided by Houston was that outside a 15-mile (24-kilometre) radius from the airport, helicopters must stay below an altitude of

1800 feet (550 metres), and that due to technical limitations the Houston control radar is restricted to a minimum altitude of 2000 feet (600 metres) around Lake Houston (the Huffman area).

At the us Army's Fort Hood near Killeen, Texas, press officer Major Tony Geishauser told the *Corpus Christi Caller* that no Fort Hood aircraft were in the Houston area on 29 December 1980. 'I don't know any other place around here that would have that number of helicopters,' he said. 'I don't know what it could be . . . unless there's a super-secret thing going on and I wouldn't necessarily know about it.'

At the Robert Gray Field near Fort Hood a spokesman said they might have 100 helicopters from the field home in at one time 'for effect', but he claimed they avoided the Houston area. And all other bases in Texas and Louisiana denied they were responsible



for the helicopters seen at the Huffman UFO incident.

Is it possible that the witnesses were all mistaken about seeing and hearing the helicopters? The descriptions and sketches provided by Betty, Vickie and Colby indicate that they all clearly saw helicopters of a particular configuration, which is common only to CH-47s. As far as the noise is concerned, witnesses had been accused of wrongly identifying helicopters at an earlier UFO incident on 22 March 1978, which was reported in the St Paul, Minnesota, *Dispatch*. That newspaper quoted Dan Meyers, supervisor of the Army Reserve Aviation Support Facility at Holman Field, as saying 'Just one of those helicopters at 1500 feet [450 metres] would sound like a humming chain-saw from the ground. With five helicopters up there, you would have tremendous amplification.'

In another (possibly related) incident the day before the Huffman event, helicopter activity had also been noted when UFOs were

Eighteen months after the Huffman sighting Betty Cash (top) and Colby Landrum (above) were still suffering from facial burns and other injuries

being observed. Dozens of residents of Ohio county, Kentucky, had seen strange moving lights. But when a helicopter arrived in the area, the UFOs left. Again, all military installations denied having any helicopters airborne that night.

Betty, Vickie and Colby were not the only witnesses to the strange happenings at Huffman. An off-duty Dayton policeman and his wife were driving home from Cleveland through the Huffman area the same night and also observed a large number of CH-47 helicopters. A man living in Crosby, directly under the flight path, also reported seeing a number of heavy helicopters flying overhead.

Oilfield labourer Jerry McDonald was in his back garden in Dayton when he saw a huge UFO flying directly overhead. At first he thought it was the Goodyear airship, but he quickly realised it was some unidentified object. 'It was kind of diamond-shaped and had two twin torches that were shooting brilliant blue flames out the back,' he said. As it passed about 150 feet (45 metres) above him, he saw that it had two bright lights on it and a red light in the centre.

The same evening bakery clerk Belle Magee was in her home in Eastgate, about 8 miles (13 kilometres) west of Dayton, when she saw a bright light in the sky heading in the direction of New Caney.

Certainly Dr. J. Allen Hynek, founder of the Center for UFO Studies in Evanston, Illinois, was convinced the witnesses were not mistaken. 'We are dealing with a real event,' he said, 'but we're not sure if it's a government exercise or a UFO sighting. There is a lot of top secret stuff going on that most people don't know about.' He added, 'Something sure as hell happened. Those women didn't pull out their hair and blind themselves. The connection with the event is clear-cut.'

On page 2146: the doctors are baffled by the nature of the victims' injuries

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Bright yellow balls identified

Two bright yellowish balls of light seen traveling over southern Oregon Tuesday night have been identified as parts of the rocket body that boosted a Soviet Union satellite into space.

"They definitely have been identified as the re-entry of orbiting space hardware," said Robert Gribble, a staff member at the National UFO Reporting Center, Seattle, Wash.,

The rocket body entered the earth's atmosphere at about 8 p.m. Mountain Standard Time, said a public relations officer for the North American Air Defense Command. The time coincides with several sightings in the Rogue River Valley of 6:58 and 6:59 p.m.

The Air Force officer said the Soviet Union launched a Cosmos 1220 space research satellite Tuesday. He said the orbit ranged from 432 to 454 kilometers above the earth.

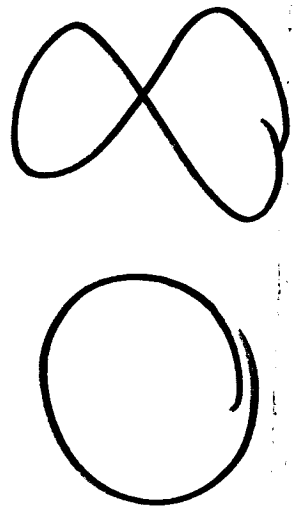
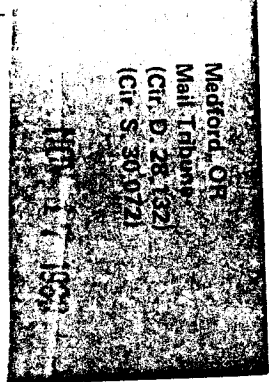
The officer said the rocket apparently broke into seven to 10 fragments. He said NORAD has no indication the fragments survived re-entry, although that's possible.

Along with the Air Force report of a Colorado sighting, Gribble said his center received more than 100 reports from Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming and northern California.

Marvin Rief, Ashland, said that he and Roger Murray, Lincoln, saw the two lights traveling from southwest to northeast as they were heading west on Oregon 66. He said the lights were visible from 1½ to 2 minutes, and there were "vapor" trails. He watched the objects through binoculars.

Gene Holiday, a KBOY disc jockey, said he saw the lights while riding his bicycle home from work. He described the color as greenish orange.

The Federal Aviation Administration control tower at the Medford-Jackson County Airport said two members of its staff saw lights. The Jackson County Sheriff's Department received a number of inquiries.



Others saw 'mystery' flash

By ALLEN HALLMARK
Mail Tribune Staff Writer

Applegate residents weren't the only ones who heard an "explosion" and saw a flash of light between 3:30 and 4 a.m. on Nov. 7.

Lyle Hutson, 3783 Scenic Avenue, Central Point, says he also observed the mysterious phenomenon, which some Applegate residents believe is somehow related to the presence of U.S. Army helicopters in the area a few days later.

Hutson, the owner of Southern Oregon Aggregate Co., says he was lying in bed half awake when he noticed "a tremendous light that lit up the room."

He says his bedroom window faces south toward Ruch and the light seemed to come from that direction. He says the flash did not resemble any lightning he has ever seen.

"It had a different intensity than lightning and it seemed to linger longer — maybe a second and a half," Hutson says.

"But the thing that really bothered me was the sound," he says. "It was like heavy artillery, but it was more of a constant flow or series of shock waves."

Hutson says he has been in the blasting business for 35 years and has detonated thousands of pounds of explosives. He also has military experience and knows what artillery bombardment sounds like. He says the sounds he heard that early morning were like nothing he has ever heard before.

But Harold Wilson, 5395 Old Stage Road — a friend of Hutson's — also was awakened by the noise and light and says he thought it was nothing but thunder and lightning.

Several Applegate Valley residents reported an explosion and flash of light they said was much more intense than lightning and thunder.

Bill Wood, public information officer at Fort Lewis, Wash., says Army units from there didn't arrive in the Medford area until Saturday at the earliest. They came to combine training maneuvers with a demolition job for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The Corps wanted an asphalt road inside the Applegate reservoir area "craterized," Wood says. The mission was carried out.

But one of five Huey helicopters that participated in the maneuver crashed near Anderson Butte southwest of Talbot as the unit was heading back to Fort Lewis. The three crew members died in the crash.

The investigation into the cause of that crash is continuing. An investigation team from the Army Safety Board, Fort Rucker, Ala., has returned to Alabama, Wood says. Wood says the Army units didn't come to this area in conjunction with the explosion, "earthquakes, satellites or

1980