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# THREE TEXAS RESIDENTS INJURED BY UFO NEAR HOUSTON

by Patricia A. Shaw

## CLOSE ENCOUNTER OF THE SECOND KIND

The following three categories of UFO reports were developed by Dr. J. Allen Hynek, Director of the Center for UFO Studies (CUFOS) in Evanston, Illinois.

- CE I Close Encounter of the First Kind. A UFO witnessed within 500 feet.
- CE II Close Encounter of the Second Kind. A CE I sighting that results in environmental changes such as: physical traces, physiological consequences, and electromagnetic effects.
- CE III Close Encounter of the Third Kind. Encounter with living entities. (Creatures, Humanoids, etc.)

One of the most startling CE II cases in UFO history has happened in our own back yard near Huffman, Texas (approximately 20 miles northeast of Houston). The witnesses two women and a young boy sustained physical injuries assigned to the symptomatology of radiation sickness and physical burns.

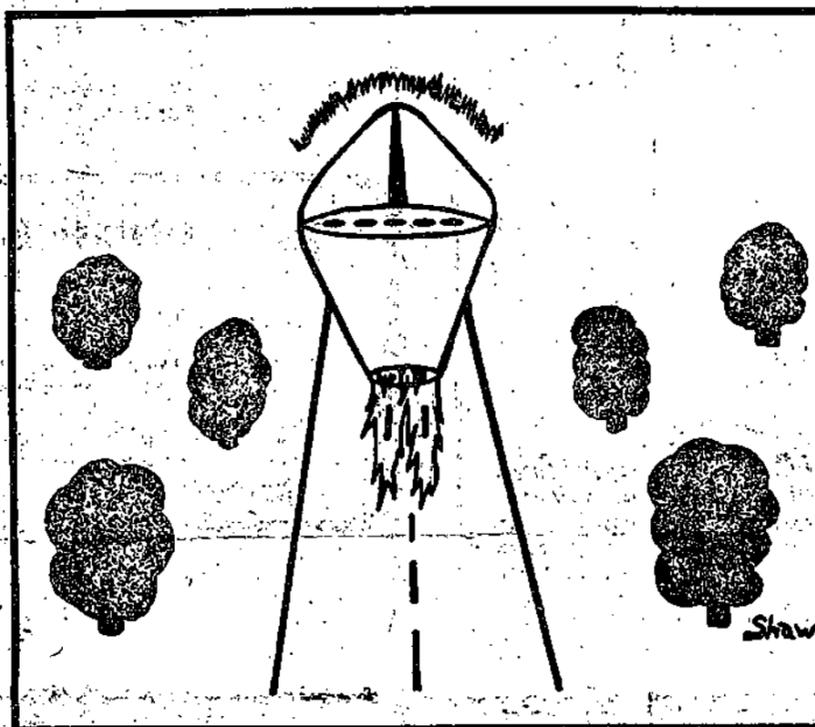
Researchers working on the case believe they were exposed to Ultraviolet and soft X-ray radiation. The physical effects included: nausea, vomiting, headaches, loss of hair, swelling of flesh, blisters, and a loss of appetite.

On December 29, 1980, Betty Cash, Vicky Landrum and her 7-year old grandson Colby were traveling on Highway 1485, going from New Caney to Dayton, Texas. The time was approximately 9:00 p.m.

Unexpectedly an intense light descended to treetop level emitting reddish-orange flames from its base. Accompanying the light was a "whooshing" sound, then intermittent beeping took place and the light lowered itself over the road, hovering close to the ground, making it impossible to pass in safety. It became clear to the occupants riding in the 1980 Cutlass Supreme that it was not a light but an object: glowing, fiery, diamond-shaped. While resting near the road the object discharged flames periodically.

Betty, Vicky, and Colby got out of the car to look at the object. Colby became frightened and entered the car with his grandmother. Betty remained outside of the car for the duration of the sighting. (10 to 15 minutes).

At last the object (approximately 130 feet in front of the car) ascended into the night sky, moving slowly in a southwesterly direction. Betty returned to enter her car and she could not open the door without using a leather jacket on the door handle. The interior of her car was very hot. It was necessary to turn on the air conditioner. The outside temperature was 40° Fahrenheit.



DRAWING OF UFO AS DESCRIBED BY WITNESSES

As the light diminished, a large number of helicopters entered the area and pursued the craft. What are an estimated 20 helicopters doing in this area? Where did they come from? The question must be asked: Is this a UFO incident or a military maneuver?

The nightmare continues. Betty drove away from the scene and dropped Vicky and Colby off at their home, returning to her residence decidedly ill. A half-hour after the event, she developed blisters on her scalp and face. Her eye lids swelled and were cemented shut for a week. Her earlobes and neck were swollen, her face peeled, patches of hair dropped out. Betty was plagued by severe headaches, vomiting and loss of appetite. She entered the hospital and remained there for fifteen days, only to return for additional treatment.

Vicky experienced less illness than Betty. Some hair fell out and she lost the sight in one eye temporarily. This is attributed to the fact that Vicky was inside the car while Betty was standing outside during the sighting.

Vicky, a strongly religious person interpreted the event as the Second Coming and was highly anxious.

Colby suffered minor physical disturbances in comparison to the two women. After the encounter, stomachaches and severe diarrhea ensued. He displayed extreme anxiety at the sight or sound of a helicopter and was subject to terrifying nightmares.

VISIT will continue to work with the Landrum's and Betty Cash. They will monitor their health, keeping tabs on sleeping habits, weight, size, physiological changes of any sort, etc. Also the search for the fleet of helicopters is still going on. Attempts to obtain information from military bases have been non-productive. The presence of helicopters suggest that there is an explanation to be had. Why the secrecy?

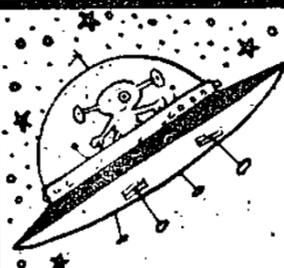
This incident is still under investigation by John Schuessler, Deputy Director of MUFON (Mutual UFO Network) and the members of VISIT (Vehicle Internal Systems Investigation Team) in which Mr. Schuessler is a member. VISIT is composed of a dozen scientists and engineers. It is an independent project organization which studies physical data received from incidents such as CE II and CE III's, and attempts to interpret the data in terms of the technology which would produce certain effects.

Eight months have lapsed since this alarming occurrence. What has happened to the witnesses? How has this frightening ordeal affected their lives? Betty is unable to work, suffering constant fatigue and headaches. She owned a small restaurant and has lost her business forcing her to move to California and live with her son. Vicky still has trouble with her eyes. Colby's nightmares have almost disappeared and through the help of others he has overcome his fear of helicopters.

This CE II case has received national attention. In July, the witnesses were interviewed by members of the popular TV program "THAT'S INCREDIBLE" and the show will be aired at the start of the new viewing season in October.

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### Solidarity Across The Galaxies



S.A.G. is a non-profit educational corporation. It is for those who wish to come and share information about UFO's whether in the dream state or in the physical, extraterrestrial life, higher intelligences and consciousness raising.

Location: 5304-A  
Bellaire, C.U.U.

TIME: THURSDAYS,  
7:30-9:00 p.m.

FOR INFORMATION CALL:  
(after 4:30 p.m.)  
Mike Vaccaro -  
937-9628 OR  
Joanne Gibson -  
981-0576  
(\$3.00 DONATION FOR  
NON-MEMBERS)

WEEKLY MEETINGS are held at which invited speakers cover topics concerning UFO's and metaphysics. After-meeting get-togethers provide an opportunity for visitors to learn more about our members' interests and topics covered in our meetings.

# Texas National Guard may yield Goddess duty to Mississippians

By CLAY ROBISON  
Houston Chronicle Austin Bureau

AUSTIN — The Texas National Guard may not be willing to admit that the Mississippi National Guard has better men, but it has just about decided the Mississippians have better choppers.

Twice Texas National Guardsmen have tried with a helicopter to lift the new Goddess of Liberty statue at the top of the state Capitol dome, and twice the Guardsmen and their helicopter have failed.

Now Col. Herbert Purtle, the Guard officer in charge of the mission, believes a CH-54 Skycrane helicopter belonging to the Mississippi National Guard can do the job — no mean task, since the reluctant lady weighs 3,000 pounds and her perch is 311 feet high.

"I have been working with the Mississippi National Guard on an aircraft," Purtle said Monday, although he said officials didn't have all the details worked out. He and Capitol architect Roy E. Graham were to discuss it today.

"I don't think it's been decided on. It's one of the options that we have," Graham said.

The Skycrane is about the same size as the Texas National Guard's CH-47 Chinook helicopter that failed during numerous attempts on May 31 and June 1 to place the aluminum statue over a steel pole attached to the top of the dome.

The Chinook pilots were hampered by gusty winds. Then, too, Graham and Gov. Mark White agreed, the operation was like threading an invisible needle. The pilots couldn't see the statue or the pole as they attempted to maneuver a 20-inch opening in the statue's base over the top of the shaft.

That's where the Mississippians would come in. The CH-54 helicopter that Purtle would like to borrow is constructed so that one pilot sits facing in the opposite direction from his colleagues and has a view of whatever the aircraft is at-

tempting to pick up or lower. The Texas National Guard doesn't have a CH-54.

Purtle, the Texas Army National Guard's aviation officer, said the Skycrane would have to be operated by a crew of Mississippi Guardsmen. Their work in Texas would be considered a training mission, he said.

Although the Chinook's failure frustrated its crew and four men who stood atop the Capitol dome to try to steady the dangling, spinning statue, the risky operation entertained hundreds of spectators and produced a deluge of suggestions from Austin residents.

Several callers to Camp Mabry, the National Guard's headquarters, suggested a temporary funnel be put around the bottom of the statue to help guide it into place. One woman thought the Goddess would find her way home if she were magnetized.

And there have been a few jokes, including the one that has the governor directing 1 million Aggies in lifting the Capitol and placing it under the statue.

The new statue is a replica of the original zinc Goddess of Liberty that stood atop the Capitol for 97 years and was removed by the Chinook helicopter last November after it had deteriorated to the point that it was considered hazardous.

The statue operation has largely been financed by private contributions, and Graham said there wasn't enough money in his office's budget to pay commercial operators to conduct the airlift.

A date for the next attempt to erect the new Goddess hasn't been set yet, Graham said.

"There are so many things we have to weigh. One of them is the weather," he said.

Officials aren't sure how the first Goddess was put in place in 1888. Some think she was taken up in several pieces and assembled atop the dome, while others believe she was raised whole with 19th-century technology.

Betty Cash originally said most of the helicopters were twin-rotarys (CH-47?), with some little ones flying around, and one big one amidst it all. Could the Mississippi Nat. Guard be the source of the big one? (CH-54)? And what was it carrying?

# Crew has date with a goddess

## To hover above Capitol

By GRACE LIM  
Post Reporter

Chief Warrant Officer Craig Roberts has a date with a special lady Saturday.

Everything is perfect down to the new paint job on the 100-foot-long CH-47 "Chinook" helicopter he and seven other guys will use to pick up his 3,000-pound lady — the new Goddess of Liberty statue.

Roberts is one of the eight-member team from the Texas Army National Guard unit in Houston assigned to put the statue atop the Capitol dome in Austin. He and four other members of the team also took the statue off the dome last November.

"This is a very delicate maneuver," said Lt. Col. Jim Looney, aircraft commander and backup pilot. "It takes a lot of concentration, a lot of expertise and a lot of luck."

After picking the Goddess up from Camp Mabry in west Austin, Looney will fly the statue to the Capitol. There Roberts takes over the controls. Chief Warrant Officer Willy Culberson will serve as a backup pilot.

The 16-foot-tall statue, hollowed in an inverted cone shape, will be

lowered onto a 12-foot cruciform. The base of the statue has a 20-inch diameter that tapers off to 8 inches. The cruciform has a 7-inch diameter.

"We've got to be perfectly vertical or the statue won't go in right," Looney said. "There is only 1 inch difference between the cruciform and the funnel in the statue."

"This is considered a high-risk mission. We will be about 400 feet above the ground," Looney said. "The pilot has no visual reference."

Flight engineers Jimmy Ray and Wayne Reininger act as the pilots' eyes. They will be in the aircraft lying on their stomachs looking through a 3-foot-square hole directly above the statue. There Ray will call out the commands.

"It is like threading a needle 50 feet away blindfolded with someone else telling you where the needle and the thread is," Looney said.

Although there is a 5-inch television monitor installed in the cockpit, the pilots are reluctant to use it exclusively because they've used the monitor only twice.

"It (the monitor) is just an aid.



Post photo by King Chou Wong

Crew members: Ray, left, Reininger, Egan, Looney, Roberts, Culberson, Ponce and Felty.

You'd get messed up if you look at it too long," Looney said. "For 15 to 18 years we've done it this way (with the flight engineers calling out the commands.)"

Ray will be coordinating his commands with Staff Sgt. Jerry Felty, who will be on the scaffold on the dome along with Staff Sgts. Gus Ponce and Bill Egan. Their job is to keep the statue from swinging back and forth.

For six weeks the crew practiced lifting and lowering a metal pipe that has the same weight and dimensions as the statue onto a makeshift cruciform. The simulated runs took place at Ellington Field, the tower at the Houston Fire Training Academy and a tower at Hobby Airport. A final test run will occur over the Capitol dome today.

The crew members are all ex-

perienced fliers. Five are war veterans. Ray served as a crew chief for a search-and-rescue team in the Vietnam War and Roberts flew a HU-1 Huey helicopter used as an air ambulance in Vietnam.

"Sometimes there wasn't any place to land, so you'd had to hoist the injured through the jungle canopy," Roberts said. "I guess this is similar to what we're going to do Saturday."

# Goddess hasn't taken new position

Guard's aviation officer, cited crew stress and wind when officials ended operations about 5 p.m. Saturday. Since 8 a.m., the crew of a CH-47 Chinook helicopter had hovered over the Capitol five times, trying unsuccessfully to lower the new aluminum statue, which dangled from the end of a 35-foot-long

See CREWS on Page 14.

refused to settle down. Perhaps she found the overcast, sometimes-rainy day too dismal, too unsuitable for her to begin her reign as the new Goddess of Liberty. Perhaps she was playing hard to get with a National Guard crew that, weather permitting, will have to try again this afternoon to put her in her place.

Col. Herbert Purtle, the Texas Army National

By CLAY ROBISON  
Houston Chronicle Austin Bureau

AUSTIN — The 3,000-pound lady teased hundreds of spectators for several hours Saturday, twisting and dancing in midair above the state Capitol dome. Aided and abetted by a frisky wind, she

## Crews miss attempts to position Goddess

Continued from Page 1.

nylon harness, onto a vertical steel shaft secured to the top of the dome.

Gov. Mark White and Capitol architect Roy E. Graham had likened the delicate and risky operation to threading the eye of a nearly invisible needle because the pilot of the twin-engine, cargo helicopter couldn't see the statue or the shaft.

He had to rely on a television monitor and radio communications with crew members as he tried to fit a 20-inch opening in the bottom of the statue over a shaft with a diameter of just less than seven inches. At the same time, he had to consider the safety of four men who stood on scaffolding above the dome and tried to help steady the Goddess with attached lines.

"We've got about 15 people who aren't going to get up before 10 o'clock (this morning). They're wiped out," said Patrick Rice of Washington University Technology Associates, a St. Louis firm that is the state's consultant on the statue project.

The crews are planning to try again today starting at 1 p.m.

Asked if officials would reconsider the method of putting the new statue in place, Rice joked, "If ya'll know where we can find a 500-foot crane, we'll make everyone happy."

Experts aren't certain how the first Goddess was put in place 97 years ago. There are no records of her ascent, but it's guessed she was raised with a series of ropes and pulleys.

The removal of the original zinc Goddess of Liberty by helicopter last Nov. 24 was accomplished in a few minutes with little trouble. But Purtle noted the old statue, which was removed because it had deteriorated, was lifted off the dome "at an angle."

"You cannot put the (new) Goddess back on at an angle," he said.

By one count, two pilots who took turns at the controls — Chief Warrant Officer Craig Roberts of League City and Chief Warrant Officer Willie Culbertson of Houston — tried 15 times during five swings over the dome to "thread the needle."

The closest they came was about 3 p.m. when the bottom of the statue struck the top of the pole a few times. The weather was at its best then, but, after about 10 minutes, the Chinook had to be returned to nearby Camp Mabry when a guy line used to steady the statue broke.

A military band entertained several hundred early-risers gathered on streets outside the Capitol grounds before the helicopter, with the statue dangling beneath it, made its first flight to the Capitol from Camp Mabry shortly after 8 a.m.

The first attempt failed when a guy line broke, and subsequent attempts before 9 a.m. fell victim to winds and lowering clouds. The winds weren't noticeable on the ground, but the statue twirled considerably in its harness beneath the Chinook, and rain was threatening.

At that point, officials suspended airlifts until 3 p.m.

The last attempt came about 5 p.m., but the helicopter crew "felt the wind move in just about the time they got here," Purtle said.

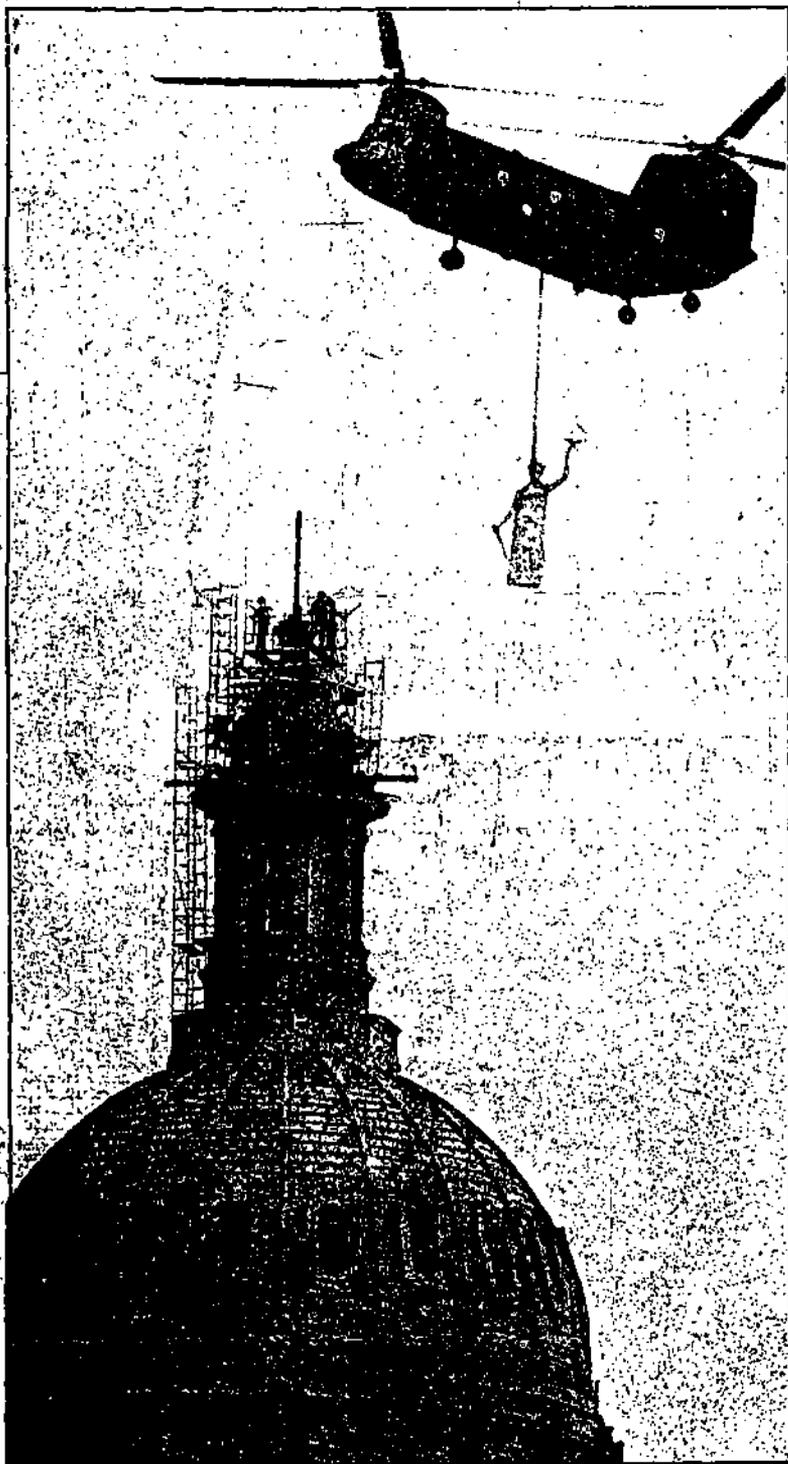
One of the disappointed spectators was Joyce Knight of Killeen, whose great-grandfather, William Wright Beakley, helped build the Capitol and is one of a group of men photographed with the original Goddess of Liberty shortly before it was placed atop the building in 1888.

Knight had driven to Austin with her husband, Curtis, because "if he (Beakley) was here the day they put it (the first one) up, I wanted to be here the day they put the new one up."

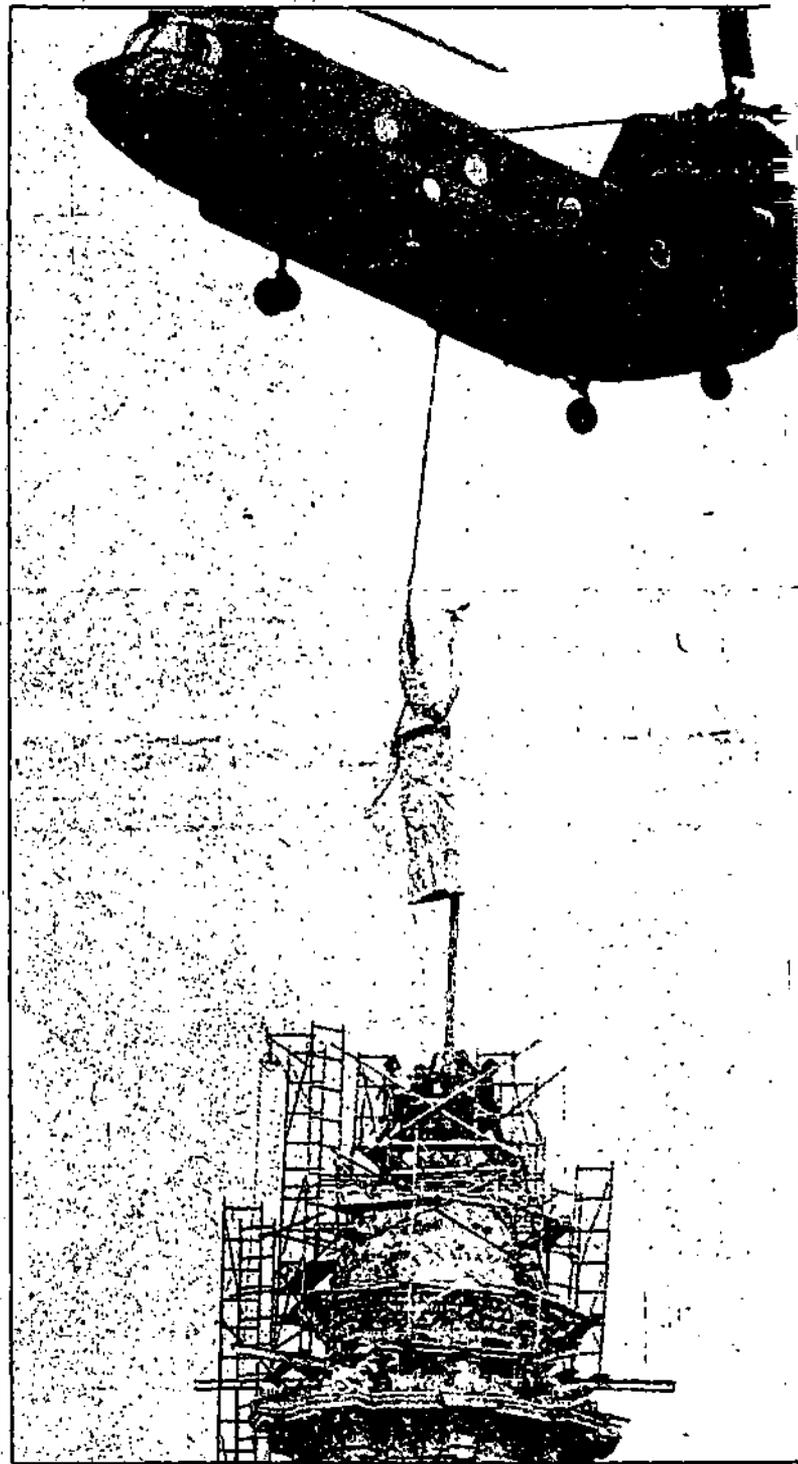
The new statue, which is 15 feet, 7½ inches tall, is painted eggshell white and holds aloft a freshly gilded star. It is a replica of the original statue, which is being restored for display in the Capitol complex.

The interior of the new statue, which was cast by Dellray Bronze Inc., a Houston foundry, was molded in the shape of a hollow cone to allow for placement over the shaft atop the Capitol.

# No bull's-eye this time



A Texas National Guard helicopter tries to put the new Goddess of Liberty on top of the Capitol in Austin. High winds prevented the helicopter from lowering the 3,000-pound statue onto the



dome Saturday. The same helicopter and crew last year removed the original Goddess, which was severely damaged by weather in the 97 years she was on the dome.

Timothy Bullard / Chronicle

8-16-84

*Wait  
I've attached materials  
on the group of P. Broder.  
They are looking for a fix  
ride. J*



Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

AUGUST 6, 1984

WARNING - WARNING - WARNING

INDIVIDUALS HAVE BEEN OPERATING IN TEXAS AND AUSTRALIA, ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT MONEY IN THE SUPPORT OF THE CASH - LANDRUM CASE VICTIMS. THIS IS NOT AN AUTHORIZED ACTIVITY.

VISIT REQUESTS NOTIFICATION IF ANY INDIVIDUAL REQUESTING DONATIONS IN THE NAME OF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

- BETTY CASH
- VICKIE OR COLBY LANDRUM
- JOHN SCHUESSLER
- ALAN HOLT
- VISIT, INC.

ALTHOUGH REQUESTING DONATIONS MAY BE WELL INTENDED, NO ONE HAS GIVEN PERMISSION FOR OR AGREED TO ANY SUCH ACTIVITIES. THERE IS NO GUARANTEE ANY OF THE FUNDS WOULD GET TO THE VICTIMS.

WARNING - WARNING - WARNING

# 5 Super Stallions return to sky from Tustin base; 40 still grounded

By Edward Humes  
The Register

TUSTIN — Five CH-53E Super Stallion helicopters at the Tustin Marine Corps Air Station have resumed flying, but about 40 remain grounded because of a recent series of transmission malfunctions, a base spokesman said Wednesday.

Meanwhile, Super Stallions elsewhere in the nation have returned to service. Navy and Marine Corps officials said.

Most of the military's 93 Super Stallions were grounded June 27-28 after newly replaced transmission parts began malfunctioning, prompting an investigation.

These flight restrictions were lifted earlier this week. Investigators had decided the breakdowns were not serious enough to warrant grounding the \$24-million trans-

ports, officials said.

But Tustin Marine officials are keeping most of their Super Stallions grounded anyway, said base spokesman Maj. Hank Polake. While the malfunctions were not severe enough to cause an accident, local Marine officials decided against taking chances, Polake said.

"We're doing the prudent thing," he said.

The June grounding was the second this year. The fleet was grounded for the first time in February after a transmission component called a bull-gear assembly was found to be defective after causing a near-crash in Irvine.

Transmissions were removed from every Super Stallion and shipped to the manufacturer, Sikorsky Aircraft Co. of Stratford,

Conn. There, bull gears were inspected and replaced where necessary.

As the transmissions were reinstalled, Super Stallions gradually were returned to service. But in June, portions of newly replaced bull gears broke down in three Tustin-based choppers. The new flight restrictions then were imposed.

Polake said the five Tustin helicopters no longer grounded were found to have problem-free bull gears.

A Navy spokesman said an engineering investigation of the malfunctions should be finished by the end of the month.

Nearly half of the Super Stallion fleet is at Tustin, the center for all Super Stallion pilot, crew and mechanic training in the Marine Corps.

## Tustin

### Some Super Stallions Get OK for Flying Again

Aircraft engineers at the Marine Corps Helicopter Air Station in Tustin have approved the first CH-53E Super Stallion helicopters for flight after the fleet was grounded last month because of malfunctioning gears.

Five helicopters were returned to service on Monday, and the rest of the Tustin-based fleet will be allowed to fly after each aircraft is inspected and, if necessary, repaired, Staff Sgt. Jim Hager said. The exact number of helicopters at the base is classified, but Hager said that "about 50%" of the Marine Corps fleet of 66 Super Stallions is stationed there.

The helicopters have had a history of trouble since they were delivered to the Navy and Marines in 1980. Twenty-four Marines have died and 17 more have

been injured in a series of crashes and mishaps.

The helicopters, which can lift 16 tons or carry 55 fully equipped soldiers, were grounded in February because of faulty gearboxes. Some had been returned to service when they were grounded again in June after three more malfunctions occurred in flight. No one was injured in the incidents.

Hager said that the team of military and civilian engineers had determined that the malfunctions would not have compromised flight safety. "This is not something that during flight is going to cause a major catastrophe," Hager said.

Flight restrictions have already been placed on the helicopters, which cost more than \$20 million each and were built by Connecticut-based Sikorsky Aircraft. Rep. Robert Badham (R-Newport Beach) called for the indefinite grounding of the helicopters earlier this year after a congressional investigation revealed that the Navy ignored information about a design problem that caused the helicopters to vibrate.

# EXHIBIT FIVE

## 23 UNMARKED HELICOPTERS

### ~~MANEUVERING~~ AROUND A UFO.

# Three live in pain and terror after attack by blazing UFO

By DICK DONOVAN

One of the most terrifying UFO encounters ever in America has left two women and a child trapped in a living nightmare of pain and fear.

Despite exhaustive hospital tests and treatment, baffled medical experts still can't come up with a cure for their endless physical agony.

The three helpless victims — Betty Cash, Vickie Landrum, and Vickie's 7-year-old son Colby — encountered the thundering, flame-belching UFO as it hovered only a few hundred feet from their car on a remote road near Dayton, Tex.

Within hours of the shrieking horror of that experience, Betty and Vickie's skin turned beet red, their eyes began to burn and tear uncontrollably, and the women felt as though they were seeing through a misty film.

By morning, Betty's body was covered with half-dollar-size lumps, her hair was falling out in handfuls and she was suffering the most agonizing headache she had ever experienced. The woman was so weak from pain she couldn't even get out of bed for help.

Within a few days of the encounter, Vickie's vision became blurred. An eye specialist told the frightened 57-year-old that cataract-like films were now forming. "You'll probably be blind in less than a year," he said.

Little Colby, though not suffering any physical injury, screams every night in his sleep, haunted by terrible nightmares.

"Oh, dear God! I don't know what to do . . . I'm at my wits' end," Betty told **THE NEWS** in an exclusive interview. "I need help, and so does Vickie. I look terrible and I'm too sick to work."

"There must be something that can be done to help us," she added as tears welled in her swollen, heat-reddened eyes. "But we don't know where to turn."

Their incredible ordeal began one night when they were driving home from a bingo game in Cleveland, a small town about 40 miles north of Dayton.

The awful events that followed will be branded on Vickie's memory forever.

"We were driving down the road at about 9 p.m., when all of a sudden something came down from the sky right ahead of us," Vickie said.

"It looked like the whole sky had split and fire was coming down almost to the road."

"I told Betty, 'You'd better stop! You're going to run right into it!'"

"I thought it was the end of the world. It frightened Colby and he started to scream."

"I said, 'Honey, if you see Jesus coming out of the sky, He's coming to carry us to a better place.'"

19 "I always lived my life so  
NEWLY WORLD NEWS  
March 24, 1981

*"Oh, dear God, I need help, and so does Vickie. I look terrible and I'm too sick to work."*

— Mrs. Betty Cash

### NEWS EXCLUSIVE

that I'd be ready when my time came. But I still wanted to keep my baby from dying.

"Then Betty got out of the car and started walking toward the object. It was as big as a water tank and about a half-mile up in the sky. It started getting real hot in the car, so I rolled the window down and stuck my head out to look at it."

As Vickie and Colby sat terrified in the car, Betty remained outside, entranced by the unholy object hovering only a few yards down the road.

"It was the most incredible thing I've ever seen," Betty recalled. "It was diamond-shaped and silvery looking. It made a roar like a tornado, but I could hear beeps coming from it. The light and the heat were so intense!"

"I stood out on the road for about five or seven minutes. Just staring up at it," Betty continued. "Then it suddenly lifted up and started moving away to the west, toward Houston."

Incredibly, Betty and Vickie said they counted 23 unmarked, double-rotor helicopters maneuvering around the UFO as it began its ascent.

"The thing just lit up the sky like it was daytime and I could see the helicopters plain as anything," Betty declared. "They seemed to be trying to close in on the UFO."

Officials at military bases in and around central Texas told **THE NEWS** their flight records show no large movement of double-rotor helicopters on the night of the encounter.

In another eerie twist, the UFO was sighted by three other motorists near Dayton about 30 minutes earlier and 20 miles east of where Betty, Vickie and Colby had their encounter.

"I was in the car with my son John, and his wife, Toni, and we were just coming into Dayton. 52-year-old Nellie Zedick told **THE NEWS**. "We could see the light, so we stopped for a minute to look at it."

"It didn't make any noise, but when it moved off, it really moved fast. It was like nothing I have ever seen before."

The three Dayton residents

### The faces of fear: these women live a nightmare



Fear and suffering have left their mark on the faces of Betty Cash, left, and Vickie Landrum. At right, Betty shows her hair loss since the UFO incident.

didn't leave their car during the sighting and have suffered no ill effects.

"When this sighting first came to my attention, I classified it as a Close Encounter of the Second Kind," declared Bill English, of the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization in Arizona.

"But because of our investigation, I've since elevated it to a Close Encounter of the Fourth Kind — when the sighter is injured or attacked."

"At any rate, it's the most incredible UFO sighting reported in the U.S. in recent years!"



Vickie and Betty with Vickie's 7-year-old son Colby. The boy was not injured during the close encounter with the UFO, but his sleep is constantly disturbed by nightmares.

Cash/Landrum

John Schuessler

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From: Robert Collins <LeMis@sprintmail.com>  
To: Bill Hamilton <skywatcher22@hotmail.com>; George Filer <Majorstar@aol.com>; Jeroen Wierda <jeroen@wierda.com>; John Schuessler <schuessler@mho.net>; Joseph Stefula <JosephS843@aol.com>; Mike Lindemann <CNInews1@aol.com>  
Cc: Bob Wood <DrBobWood@aol.com>; Derrel Sims <derrel@holman.net>; George Ritter <gwcritter@webtv.net>; Mark/Mary Pavilisan <isismmg@aol.com>; Patricia Mason <pmason@ee.net>; Richard Clark <103535.2247@CompuServe.COM>; Stan Friedman <fsphys@brunnet.net>; Hal Puthoff <Puthoff@aol.com>; Jeff Rense <eotl@west.net>; Joe Firmage <jfirmage@usweb.com>  
Subject: Re: 1990 UAV/One of Our Saucers Given to US  
Date: Monday, January 25, 1999 9:09 AM

Yep; I would agree except for Lazar who I think has conclusively been proved a fraud: And yes, I've heard exact same story from my Ret AF LtCol here in Dayton: The Cash Landrum case I understand was exact same situation: Our Avionics and their propulsion system...Hybrid setup.....But, it's just because of that hybrid setup that we have had so many problems keeping the damn things stable.... A black box problem as I was told....I was also told that allot of these prototypes went down in the gulf...Cash Landrum case again..

Rmc

Bill Hamilton wrote:

- >
- > Robert,
- >
- > It is definitely not a UAV, but it sounds like your source
- > would tend to confirm the Lazar story that we have been
- > given craft by "them" and we test fly them. Two of my sources
- > say that our pilots can not use their avionics (it is a
- > a psycho-physical interface) and that our avionics have
- > been installed in these craft allowing our pilots to fly them>
- > What do you think?
- >
- > Bill Hamilton
- >
- >

Houston Chronicle  
Section A, Page 25 \*\*\*  
Wednesday, Jan. 20, 1999

# METROPOLITAN

Local & State



**Thom  
Marshall**

## A close encounter defies explanation

**R**IGHT up to the end, Betty Cash was looking for the answer, trying to find out what she encountered 18 years ago on that dark road near Huffman.

"Even when she was sick she was making phone calls and writing letters," said John Schuessler.

Betty Cash, Vickie Landrum and Vickie's 7-year-old grandson Colby were traveling the narrow road through a wooded area the night of Dec. 29, 1980, when they saw an enormous diamond-shaped object hovering over the road and glowing so brightly it was difficult to look at it.

They were exposed to radiation that caused burns, eye damage, hair loss, diarrhea and vomiting. Betty experienced the most severe injuries, John said.

"Never a year passed that she wasn't hospitalized and treated for complications arising from that initial extensive radiation exposure," John said. "Many times she was placed in a hospital intensive care unit."

John maintained contact with Betty through the years, though she moved from Texas to Alabama to be near her family, and he more recently retired from an aerospace company and moved to Colorado.

### Seeking clues to a mystery

John, who worked in the space program for 36 years, serves as deputy director of administration for Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), an international grass-roots organization with about 3,500 members that is based in Seguin.

He led a MUFON team that investigated the UFO incident near Huffman. He said his fellow investigators included a physicist who worked at NASA, a mechanical engineer who worked at NASA, a spacecraft flight controller who was an expert in guidance and navigation, a private pilot and a commercial artist.

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He said that Colby was having difficulties getting over the frightening experience, so Vickie brought him to visit John at the Space Center, hoping that a look around the facility might somehow help.

John said right after he greeted them, Vickie realized she had parked in the wrong spot and left Colby with John while she went to move her car. While they were standing outside waiting for her to return, John said, a lone Coast Guard helicopter flew over and the lad "completely panicked."

"Little things like that convinced me how real this was and how much trauma it caused," John said.

He has written a self-published book, *The Cash-Landrum UFO Incident*, that he described as a report of his investigative efforts. Schuessler's work was cited last summer in a review of UFO phenomena by a panel of scientists that concluded some sightings have such strong physical evidence they deserve to be taken seriously and warrant detailed study.

John said that Vickie Landrum now lives in Mississippi, and for the past few years has been relatively free of serious health problems stemming from the incident.

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He said Betty Cash, 69, suffered a stroke in November. She died in Birmingham on Dec. 29, the same date of that encounter 18 years earlier.

Others still seek the answer.

Thom Marshall's e-mail address is [thom.marshall@chron.com](mailto:thom.marshall@chron.com)



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January 19, 1999, 07:47 pm

## A close encounter defies explanation

By THOM MARSHALL

Right up to the end, Betty Cash was looking for the answer, trying to find out what she encountered 18 years ago on that dark road near Huffman.

"Even when she was sick she was making phone calls and writing letters," said John Schuessler.

Betty Cash, Vickie Landrum and Vickie's 7-year-old grandson Colby were traveling the narrow road through a wooded area the night of Dec. 29, 1980, when they saw an enormous diamond-shaped object hovering over the road and glowing so brightly it was difficult to look at it.

They were exposed to radiation that caused burns, eye damage, hair loss, diarrhea and vomiting. Betty experienced the most severe injuries, John said.

"Never a year passed that she wasn't hospitalized and treated for complications arising from that initial extensive radiation exposure," John said. "Many times she was placed in a hospital intensive care unit."

John maintained contact with Betty through the years, though she moved from Texas to Alabama to be near her family, and he more recently retired from an aerospace company and moved to Colorado.

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August 5, 1992

Please Address Reply To:

Ms. Pam Nowicka  
London Sunday Mirror  
15 Brewers Building  
Rawstorne Street  
London EC1V 7NE, England

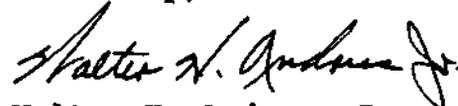
Dear Pam:

After we met at the London UFO Conference in 1987 at the London Business School, you asked and later telephoned me for photographs to illustrate an article on the Cash-Landrum case in Texas that you were doing for the London Sunday Mirror. On September 19, 1987, I sent you via air mail the following photographic prints:

1. Two of Betty Cash
2. Two of Vicki and Colby Landrum
3. One of Vicki Landrum and Allan Holt
4. Two of the CH-47 helicopter
5. One photo of scars and two watercolor paintings of the road scene

Since I do not have the negatives, I cannot make more prints and thus there is a major loss to my file. Five years is more than adequate time to return my prints. I am disappointed in your lack of respect and responsibility as a journalist to return the photos. Please advise when they will be returned.

Sincerely,



Walter H. Andrus, Jr.

WHA:ph

**MUFON UFO JOURNAL**

The Monthly Magazine of the Mutual UFO Network

DEDICATED TO THE SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

Pam Nowicka  
~~London~~ (London Sunday Mirror)  
15 Brewer Bldg.  
Rauwstone Street  
London EC1V 7NB  
England

6 photos of Betty, Vicki & Colby

1. 2 Betty Cook
2. 2 Vicki & Colby
3. Vicki & Allan Holt
4. 2 CH47 Helicopters
5. (1) Oscar (2) Motorcycles

mailed  
9/19/87  
AIR MAIL

Dayton, TX  
Colby Landrum (409)-258-4185  
Vicki Landrum. 304 West Juniper St.  
Dayton, TX 77535-  
Betty Cusher AL 1634

# VISIT

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

## CASH-LANDRUM RADIATION CASE

By John F. Schuessler



Artist's Rendition of the Sighting  
(By Kathy Schuessler)

## PROJECT VISIT

By John F. Schuessler

Project VISIT (Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team) is a nonprofit corporation consisting of professional members including doctors, engineers, and scientists, as well as supporting members such as secretaries, artists, and news personnel.

Within the field of UFO study, our organization has focused its efforts on the scientific and engineering study of the internal systems of Unidentified Space Vehicles and of the physiology of the beings which occupy these vehicles. Scientific and engineering data come from (1) transcripts of conversations between psychologists or case investigators and the UFO abductees, (2) followup conversations with abductees, (3) an analysis of medical injuries sustained by the witnesses during UFO close encounters, (4) data recorded by electronic and photographic means, and (5) physical evidence examined at the location of the incident.

The objectives of this research are to (1) determine if there is a correlation of scientific and engineering data from case to case, (2) identify internal systems which are most prevalent, (3) evaluate the purpose of these systems, (4) determine how these systems operate, and (5) share the information obtained with the public at large.

To date VISIT has cataloged 86 abduction cases. Medical effects were noted in 66 of these cases. Vehicle internal information was gained from 19 of the cases with 45 more of the cases offering potential internal systems data. Electromagnetic effects were noted in 56 cases. A time loss was noted by the witness in 44 of the cases.

VISIT has composed a list of questions which will aid the investigator of abduction cases. The questions deal in detail with the space vehicle engineering systems, medical examination, and instruments used, physiology of the beings, and the physiological after effects on the abductee.

VISIT cannot achieve its goals without the cooperation of the expert investigators in the field. In return for case information, we will provide the investigator with a scientific and engineering critique of the data obtained in the case as well as provide the expanded findings of our research.

Although we hold all particular case information strictly confidential, it is our objective to provide the general results of our research to educational institutions, government agencies, doctors, scientists, other specialized experts, responsible UFO organizations, news media, and the general public. The interchange is accomplished through letters, quarterly public meetings, articles in scientific journals, television and radio publications, articles for the journals of various UFO organizations, and participation in symposiums.

A special project currently underway is the preparation of a catalog of UFO cases where the witnesses exhibited medical injuries. The project is in the data gathering phase. Once the archives have been analyzed for appropriate information a standard data base will be developed, then the material will be assembled for publication.

# Three live in pain and terror after attack by blazing UFO

By DICK DONOVAN

One of the most terrifying UFO encounters ever in America has left two women and a child trapped in a living nightmare of pain and fear.

Despite exhaustive hospital tests and treatment, baffled medical experts still can't come up with a cure for their endless physical agony.

The three helpless victims — Betty Cash, Vickie Landrum, and Vickie's 7-year-old son Colby — encountered the thundering, flame-belching UFO as it hovered only a few hundred feet from their car on a remote road near Dayton, Tex.

Within hours of the shrieking horror of that experience, Betty and Vickie's skin turned beet red, their eyes began to burn and tear uncontrollably, and the women felt as though they were seeing through a misty film.

By morning, Betty's body was covered with half-dollar-size lumps, her hair was falling out in handfuls and she was suffering the most agonizing headache she had ever experienced. The woman was so weak from pain she couldn't even get out of bed to call for help.

Within a few days of the encounter, Vickie's vision became blurred. An eye specialist told the frightened 57-year-old that cataract-like films were now forming. "You'll probably be blind in less than a year," he said.

Little Colby, though not suffering any physical injury, screams every night in his sleep, haunted by terrible nightmares.

"Oh, dear God! I don't know what to do . . . I'm at my wits'

*'Oh, dear God, I need help, and so does Vickie. I look terrible and I'm too sick to work.'*

— Mrs. Betty Cash

## NEWS EXCLUSIVE

that I'd be ready when my time came. But I still wanted to keep my baby from dying.

"Then Betty got out of the car and started walking toward the object. It was as big as a water tank and about a half-mile up in the sky. It started getting real hot in the car, so I rolled the window down and stuck my head out to look at it."

As Vickie and Colby sat terrified in the car, Betty remained outside, entranced by the unholy object hovering only a few yards down the road.

"It was the most incredible thing I've ever seen," Betty recalled. "It was diamond-shaped and silvery looking. It made a roar like a tornado, but I could hear beeps coming from it. The light and the heat were so intense!

"I stood out on the road for seven minutes

*The faces of fear: these women live a nightmare*



Fear and suffering have left their mark on the faces of Betty Cash, left, and Vickie Landrum. At right, Betty shows her hair loss since the UFO incident.



didn't leave their car during the sighting and have suffered no ill effects.

"When this sighting first came to my attention, I classified it as a Close Encounter of the Second Kind," declared Bill English, of the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization in Arizona.

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Little Colby, though not suffering any physical injury, screams every night in his sleep, haunted by terrible nightmares.

"Oh, dear God! I don't know what to do . . . I'm at my wits' end," Betty told The NEWS in an exclusive interview. "I need help, and so does Vickie. I look terrible and I'm too sick to work.

"There must be something that can be done to help us," she added as tears welled in her swollen, heat-reddened eyes. "But we don't know where to turn."

Their incredible ordeal began one night when they were driving home from a bingo game in Cleveland, a small town about 40 miles north of Dayton.

The awful events that followed will be branded on Vickie's memory forever.

"We were driving down the road at about 9 p.m., when all of a sudden something came down from the sky right ahead of us," Vickie said.

"It looked like the whole sky had split and fire was coming down almost to the road.

"I told Betty, 'You'd better stop! You're going to run right into it!'

"I thought it was the end of the world. It frightened Colby and he started to scream.

"I said, 'Honey, if you see Jesus coming out of the sky, He's coming to carry us to a better place.'

"I had always lived my life so

my baby from dying.

"Then Betty got out of the car and started walking toward the object. It was as big as a water tank and about a half-mile up in the sky. It started getting real hot in the car, so I rolled the window down and stuck my head out to look at it."

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"I stood out on the road for about five or seven minutes, just staring up at it," Betty continued. "Then it suddenly lifted up and started moving away to the west, toward Houston."

Incredibly, Betty and Vickie said they counted 23 unmarked, double-rotor helicopters maneuvering around the UFO as it began its ascent.

"The thing just lit up the sky like it was daytime and I could see the helicopters plain as anything," Betty declared. "They seemed to be trying to close in on the UFO."

Officials at military bases in and around central Texas told The NEWS their flight records show no large movement of double-rotor helicopters on the night of the encounter.

In another eerie twist, the UFO was sighted by three other motorists near Dayton about 30 minutes earlier and 20 miles east of where Betty, Vickie and Colby had their encounter.

"I was in the car with my son John, and his wife, Toni, and we were just coming into Dayton," 52-year-old Nellie Zedick told The NEWS. "We could see the light, so we stopped for a minute to look at it.

"It didn't make any noise, but when it moved off, it really moved fast. It was like nothing I have ever seen before."

The three Dayton residents



Fear and suffering have left their mark on the faces of Betty Cash, left, and Vickie Landrum. At right, Betty shows her hair loss since the UFO incident.

didn't leave their car during the sighting and have suffered no ill effects.

"When this sighting first came to my attention, I classified it as a Close Encounter of the Second Kind," declared Bill English, of the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization in Arizona.

"But because of our investigation, I've since elevated it to a Close Encounter of the Fourth Kind — when the sighter is injured or attacked.

"At any rate, it's the most incredible UFO sighting reported in the U.S. in recent years!"



Vickie and Betty with Vickie's 7-year-old son Colby. The boy was not injured during the close encounter with the UFO, but his sleep is constantly disturbed by nightmares.

# STOP PRESS



## Three Survive U.F.O. Attack

Two women and a 7 year old boy have suffered physical harm after an apparent close encounter with a U.F.O. near Dayton, Texas, U.S.A.

Betty Cash, Vickie Landrum and Colby Landrum were travelling home from a bingo game in Cleveland, Texas, which is 40 miles from their home in Dayton.

At approximately 9 p.m. the sky was lit up by a fiery object, Betty Cash was driving at the time and quickly stopped as the object came down in front of them. Betty Cash then got out of the car and walked towards the object. Betty described the object as being diamond-shaped and silvery looking. She could also hear beeps above the tornado-like noise the object was making.

Both women stated that the object gave off intense heat and light.

After seven minutes or so, the object rose in the air and moved away to the west, which is in the direction of Houston. As it did so, Betty and Vickie counted 23 unmarked, double-rotored helicopters trying to close in on the object.

Subsequently, military officials in central Texas stated that the records did not show any large movement of helicopters on that night.

However, the U.F.O. was seen by three other motorists 30 minutes earlier, and 20 miles further east of the main sighting.

Betty Cash has since suffered from lumps on her body and hair loss. Vickie Landrum developed a cataract like film over her eyes within days of the incident, and will probably go blind. Her son Colby, whilst escaping physical harm, wakes up at night from nightmares.

The case is still under investigation by the Aerial Phenomena Research Organisation.

— Condensed from the "Weekly World News"  
March 24th, 1981

# Two women share terror of mysterious encounter

By CATHY GORDON  
Courier Staff

(Part of two parts)

Betty Cash sees very little of her friends and neighbors these days, preferring to keep to herself in her small trailer house in Dayton.

She has abandoned her plans to open a new cafe in the town — plans that meant so much a mere two months ago. Some days it takes all the energy she

can muster just to get out of bed. It wouldn't be so bad, friends say, if the sudden change in Betty was only mental; but it's physical as well.

They first noticed the change the evening of Dec. 29 when Betty began complaining of a severe headache and a burning sensation that pierced her entire body.

By the next morning, she had developed knot-like boils the size of 50-cent pieces about her neck and head which would pop and flow warm, clear

fluid. Near these spots patches of hair fell out, leaving the crown and sides of her head bald and sore to the touch.

She spent most of January in the hospital being treated for this condition, which doctors say is characteristic of radiation poisoning. They will not reveal the final diagnosis of her case.

"It was as though my doctor was afraid. He told me I was going to go home, but he never did tell me what was wrong with me," Cash said, adding it was suggested that she wash her scalp in

iodine every day to keep down the risk of infection.

Since her release from the hospital, Betty has continued to spend her days in solitude, tucked away from the public and questions people might ask about her noticeable physical disorder — a disorder she blames solely on a strange encounter she had with an unidentified flying object the night of Dec. 29 near New Caney.

"It's just too coincidental," Cash said. "I was in excellent health before the

night I saw that thing, whatever it was. I used to have a thick head of hair that my hairdresser used to fuss over all the time. Now, it's all but gone."

Cash, her friend, Vickie Landrum and Vickie's grandson, Colby, 7, were en route from New Caney to Dayton via FM 1485 about 9 p.m. on Dec. 29 when they spotted what they describe as a "large luminous object" hovering about one-half mile up in the sky.

Not knowing what it was, Cash said, she kept driving toward it, following the

## Women

unbelievable. We had to turn the car's air conditioner on — and it was a 40 degree night."

Vickie Landrum joined in the tale of the mysterious object:

"It was as if the whole sky was splitting ahead of us," Landrum said, adding that "torch-like" fire shot from the middle-bottom of the object, appearing to ricochet off the tree's tops. "The part where the fire was coming out of the thing — it looked to be the size of a water tank," she said.

Landrum said neither she nor Cash could define a shape for the object because of the "blinding" light projected from it. However, she said, Colby, who was viewing the object through the car's windshield insisted that it was "diamond-shaped."

"The light from it was just like someone was up in your eye shining a flashlight at 'em," Landrum said. "Maybe he could see better from in the car or something, but we couldn't tell no shape to it. The light from it was glowing, lighting up the whole road like it would set it on fire."

Cash said after 15 minutes or so, the

object began drifting upward to the right of them, in a direction that looked to be somewhere between Humble and Houston.

At that point, she said, they drove on down the road, then stopped to turn onto FM 2100.

It was then, Cash said, that she heard a "terrible roaring sound" and turned to find a flock of 23 helicopters encircling the object. "I counted them — maybe to help me think I wasn't going crazy," she said.

"Someone knows where the helicopters came from," Landrum said, adding that she feels certain they encountered some sort of military experiment.

"I'm not one to believe in flying saucers or nothing like that," she said. "I think it's more likely it's something the military is up to — why else would all them planes be up there if they didn't know what was going on?"

Landrum says she also connects her sudden loss of sight in her right eye to her encounter with this object. She has been under a doctor's care since early January for signs of cataracts that started appearing shortly after Dec. 29.

"It's as though I'm seeing everything with a plastic covering over it," she said of her left eye. "I'm afraid I'm going to lose this one, too."

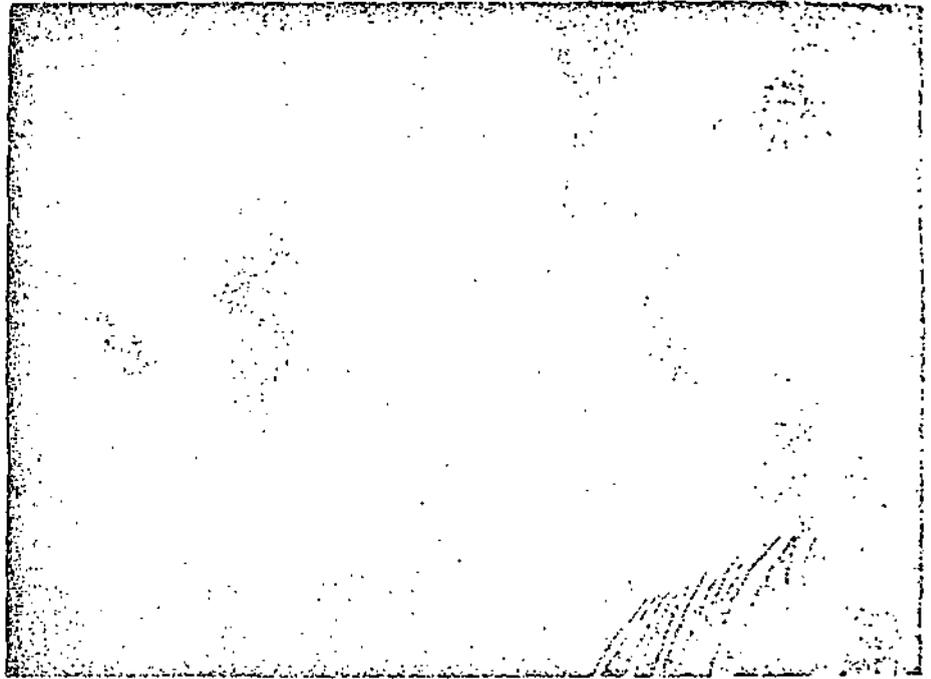
Landrum's physician said her eyes did appear to be burned, but he did not speculate on how they became so.

"All I'm really concerned about is how all this is going to affect Colby," Landrum said. "He doesn't even like to enter a dark room by himself unless I'm with him. At least the nightmares don't happen as much anymore."

Landrum said once home she saturated herself and Colby with baby oil because they both were scrubbed about the face and neck. "I thought maybe we'd just been chapped by the wind or something because we'd been out most of the day," she said. "There wasn't no sun out that day. It was real cloudy. It couldn't have been sunburn from the sun."

"Whatever it was, we need some answers. We know what we saw and we need some answers," she said.

Monday: the investigation



Vickie Landrum (left) talks with Betty Cash about their strange encounter they feel is responsible for their present physical conditions.

# Investigators eye 'close encounter'

## Second of two parts

By CATHY GORDON  
Courier Staff

Betty Cash's thoughts were numb and vague as she accelerated her car on her way home toward Dayton. Trees were swaying in the winter wind, cars were passing — yet everything seemed to be at a standstill.

Of greatest concern to her was a throbbing headache and a sharp, burning sensation that seemed to suddenly penetrate her entire body. Passenger Vickie Landrum's only thoughts were of the unbearable pain in her eyes, and of her hysterical grandson, Cubby, who had buried his face in her lap, refusing to look out at the night skies.

Cash and Landrum shared his fear, but they scanned the sky nevertheless for some sign of the strange-looking object they had previously encountered that night along a lonely stretch of FM 1485 coming from New Caney.

By aerial investigator's terms, what the three had just experienced 20 minutes before was a Close Encounter, a UFO sighting, where objects or very brilliant lights come close to the observer — in general, less than 500 feet away.

By the description the three gave of the incident, the "blinding" object had hovered just above the treetops, not half a block away from them.

"It's an incredible yet unimpeachable case of three common people who find themselves suddenly caught up in events stranger than the wildest of science-fiction," said Bill English, an investigator with the Aerial Phenomenon Research Organization (APRO) in Tucson.

APRO is said to be the oldest UFO agency in the world with a consulting staff of 50 medical doctors and scientists.

English and other case workers from APRO have been investigating the "sightings" near New Caney in conjunction with NASA to find out what this object was that was said to shoot torch-like fire along the treetops that Dec. 29 night.

In the course of his investigation, English says, he has located three people from Liberty who are corroborating witnesses to the fact that there was a

"genuine sighting" on FM 1485 that night.

"I scouted all the newspapers in that general area and it's seemed to have paid off," English said. "Three people from Liberty saw the same thing that night. They've substantiated Betty and Vickie's story."

The only difference between accounts was that they saw the object 30 minutes later and from a greater distance, he said.

"Because of this particular case, I've reopened cases nearly 40 years old," English said. "It's an exceptional case in that Betty and Vickie became so ill so soon after their encounter."

English said the burning sensation and loss of hair that Betty now suffers from is a typical symptom of radiation poisoning, a common result after a "Close Encounter" with a UFO.

Speculating on the object's origin, English said it would be "premature" to label the object "extraterrestrial." "To say something is extraterrestrial is a touchy thing," he said. "However, we do have hints that it could have been. I personally favor that possibility."

English said through connections at the Pentagon, he has checked with airbases near Houston and the surrounding area in an attempt to find who, if anyone, dispatched 23 helicopters up to that area on Dec. 29.

In Cash's account of the incident, she counted 23 helicopters encircling the object when it began its ascent into the sky.

"I've found no one so far who had helicopters up there that night," he said, adding that Ft. Hood Army Base, near Killeen, which has the UH-1 "Huey" type helicopters Cash described, was also checked.

"I've checked with the air traffic controllers at Houston Intercontinental Airport — nothing," he said. "They have no reason to lie to me. I can go in there any day of the week and request their transmission tapes which could show that there were helicopters up there that night. Under FAA regulations, they'd have to give them to me."

English said he thinks the helicopters were actually unmanned mariner probes in some way "attached" to the mysterious object, which were here to "scan" the earth for samples.

"It's more likely that they too were extraterrestrial," he said. "We've had reports of other objects that look like choppers or some type of plane that stay

close to the main object.

"Rarely is the object noted to which the light is attached," English said. Neither Landrum nor Cash could define a shape to the object, they said, because of the "blinding" light projected from it. "In the majority of reports we get, people describe their encounter this same way — just a blinding light, no shape to the thing. Nocturnal lights form a sizeable group of the UFO reports," he said.

English said Cash and Landrum's answers to "secret questions" squared with what others have reported about the same type of UFO sightings. "There's positively, absolutely no question in my mind that they encountered a UFO," he said. "Anyone in this line of work will tell you the same thing."

Allen Menz, also an investigator for APRO, said he feels the government knows more about these flying objects than they are letting on.

"Uncle Sam knows an awful lot more than he lets us know about," Menz said. "Whatever it was that those people saw — it probably wasn't a government secret weapon or anything like that — but the military probably knows something about what it was. It wouldn't make sense that it would be a military weapon. Testing of those type of things are done in highly restrictive test range areas."

Menz said he is also "puzzled" over the 23 helicopters Cash described surrounding the object. "I've heard of such a thing happening, but not in a while," he said. "That's why some of the older cases have been reopened. They are very similar to this one."

"This has all the makings of a very significant case," he said. "It sounds to me like Betty has a classic case of some sort of overexposure to radiation — what kind, we don't know for sure."

John Schuessler, the manager of space flight operations at NASA who is also investigating the UFO reports, said he knows of several such "encounters" similar to this one that have happened all around the world. He believes there is a good chance they are extraterrestrial.

"If it was something the military was doing, why would they call attention to it by surrounding the thing with 23 helicopters? That doesn't make sense," he said.

Schuessler said after meeting with Cash, he is certain she saw the helicopters. "She's so insistent about it, so sincere —

she is telling the truth — totally."

He said her description of the helicopters definitely sounds like the "Huey" type the army uses.

He is skeptical, however, of the air controller's reports showing no helicopters in that area the night of Dec. 29.

"We've had trouble getting correct information from the controllers before," he said. "They can be very tight-lipped when they want to be."

Schuessler recalled an incident that occurred three years ago where a Houston airplane pilot had to make a forced landing because of an encounter with a UFO. "A Metro pilot flying nearby heard the whole thing on the radio and got in touch with me," he said. "I went to air traffic control at Intercontinental and requested transmission tapes so I could see if the UFO had been up there and find out what happened. I never did get those tapes — even under the Freedom of Information Act I didn't get the tapes."

Schuessler said he is "intrigued" by Colby's insistence that the object was "diamond-shaped." "I've been following a lot of diamond-shaped objects that have been reported," he said. "I've had reports from all over the world about diamond-shaped objects."

He said the Houston area is not "productive" in UFO reports because of lack of places to report them. "I've personally handled about 60,000 to 80,000 reports from all over the world, but very few from the Houston area," he said. "There just aren't enough places to report them and the city is so spread out. I hear about a lot of reports in this area from other people — sometimes long after it's happened."

Schuessler said he expects to continue working on this case until some questions are answered. "Right now, all I know basically is what Betty and Vickie have said about the encounter," he said. "I believe fully that they saw a UFO. To not believe them would be foolish, especially after seeing the physical pain they've experienced from it."

"There are just too many UFOs reported from all over the world to disregard their word," he said. "And besides that, Betty's loss of hair is characteristic of such an encounter. It's just a shame it had to happen to them."

# RADIATION INJURIES FROM UFO

By Richard Hall

## Preliminary Report

What promises to be one of the most significant physical evidence cases in modern UFO history occurred December 29, 1980, near Huffman, Texas, northeast of Houston. Two women and a young boy suffered various degrees of injury, largely attributable to radiation poisoning and radiant heat, after watching a luminous object hover low over the road ahead of their car. MUFON Deputy Director, John Schuessler, and members of Project VISIT are investigating. They are seeking to obtain the full set of medical records.

Betty Cash, 52, was driving her 1980 Cutlass Supreme from New Caney to Dayton, Texas, on Highway 1485 about 9:00 p.m. With her were a friend, Vicky Landrum, 60s, and Vicky's grandson Colby, 7. Suddenly a luminous, fiery-looking object descended to treetop level over the road ahead of them and they heard a beeping noise that persisted throughout the sighting. From its underside, flames (red-orange) were emitted toward the road periodically, with an audible "woosh." Betty stopped the car, afraid to drive beneath the object; they opened the car doors to stand beside the car and watch. The glow was brilliant, and they could feel strong heat and hear a loud roaring noise.

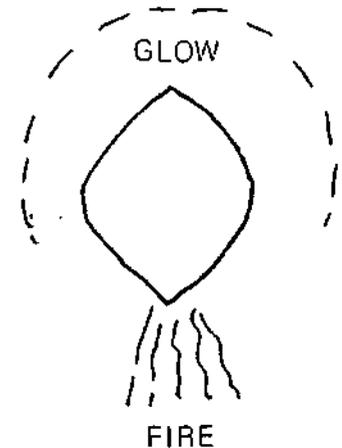
Colby became terrified and he and Vicky got back in the car, but Betty remained outside for a longer period of time. (Probably significantly, Betty's injuries were the most severe.) Finally, the object started to rise and move away to the right in a southwesterly direction with a large number of helicopters (20 or more) seemingly in pursuit. The evening was cool and the car

heater had been turned on, but now the car was so hot that Betty turned on the air conditioner.

Later Betty dropped Vicky and Colby off at their house and drove home, feeling ill. She arrived home at 9:50 p.m. Numerous symptoms appeared almost immediately: swollen neck, head and facial blisters, swollen earlobes, and swollen eyelids. Her eyes closed completely and she could not see for several days. Four days later, unable to eat, and suffering nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea, Betty entered the hospital where she remained for 15 days. She also suffered severe loss of hair. After being discharged, she continued to suffer swellings, headaches, and lack of appetite. A little over a week later, she returned to the hospital for additional treatment. As of February 22, she remained constantly tired, headachy, and unable to work.

When they arrived home that night Vicky and Colby also felt ill; Colby's face was "sunburned" and he had eye problems, a condition that still persists to a mild degree. They spread large quantities of baby oil on their faces for three days. Both had stomach aches and diarrhea for several days. Vicky experienced some loss of hair and a sensation as if her scalp were "asleep." During the sighting, she had placed her left hand on top of the car, and the fingernails on that hand showed odd line-like indentations across their width.

Colby had nightmares for 2-3 weeks, and since has displayed extreme anxiety and fear at the sight of a helicopter. The large number of helicopters itself poses a mystery, since no obvious source of that many helicopters is known in the area, especially on short notice if they were pursuing the UFO, as they



General appearance of Huffman, Texas, UFO

appeared to be. The date also was during the holiday season when military bases typically would be on "stand-down" with reduced personnel.

Although they remain to be fully documented, the medical symptoms suggest both radiation sickness and physical burns; both ultraviolet and infrared radiation may have been involved. Full details will be reported as soon as the investigation is completed, and the future health of the witnesses will be monitored.



# CLOSE ENCOUNTER WITH UFO FLEET SCARS TWO WOMEN

By BOB BORINO

**AN INCREDIBLE UFO sighting has left two women and a seven-year-old boy suffering from the terrible effects of radiation poisoning.**

One of the victims, Betty Cash, 52, has been forced to move from her home after the terrifying encounter with a 24-strong fleet of alien craft.

She has suffered an agonizing headache for more than three months since the incident; strange lumps have appeared on her head and neck, and a lot of her hair has fallen out.

Her companion, Vickie Landrum, 56, has started losing her sight, and even Landrum's grandson, Colby, is suffering eye problems. "He still has nightmares," his shocked grandmother adds.

At first, the two women kept quiet about their amazing experience because they thought "people would laugh at us and say we were crazy."

But now, veteran UFO investigator Bill English says: "It's an incredible, but an unimpeachable, case of three ordinary people who find themselves suddenly caught up in events stranger than the wildest science fiction."

Their nightmare began last Dec. 29 as they drove along a lonely country road about 30 miles from Houston, Texas.

Suddenly, "an extremely bright, luminous object" appeared in the night sky.

"It just kind of exploded from nowhere," Landrum recalls. "It kind of hovered over the road, blocking our path."

"It was so bright that we could not tell what was the source of the light."

Cash stopped the car, then felt an incredible surge of heat strike her from the light. "It hit like a physical blow," she told GLOBE.

"If we hadn't stopped, I'm sure we would have run into the thing and probably burned up."

"The outside temperature was about 40 degrees, but I had to turn the air conditioner on — and we could



**LANDRUM (left) and CASH comfort each other after bizarre UFO nightmare. Arrow on map indicates scenes of terrifying encounters.**

still feel the heat."

Landrum says: "The thing where the fire was coming from looked to be about the size of a water tank. Colby kept telling us it looked like a diamond with one end rounded off."

She told GLOBE: "The first thought that came to mind was that the world was ending."

Both women felt a sudden compulsion to approach the blinding object. "Betty got out and started to walk toward it," Landrum says.

"I started to get out, too, but my grandson was crying and carrying on so that I went back to calm him." Cash went several yards before the heat forced her back.

For another 15 minutes, the mysterious object hovered in front of them before drifting away toward Houston. The three victims drove on but after three miles they

heard "a terrible roaring sound," says Landrum.

"We saw what looked like helicopters circling around the object." Cash counted 23 of them... "I counted them to help me think I wasn't going crazy."

The women watched the craft maneuvering for a time before the mystery light and the "helicopters" vanished.

The three then drove home to Humble, Texas. "When I got home I had a splitting headache," says Cash, "and there was a burning sensation that seemed to pierce my body."

"I haven't been free of that headache for more than a half hour since."

By next morning, she had developed knot-like boils the size of 50-cent pieces on her neck and head. The lumps keep returning, oozing a clear, warm fluid. Then patches of hair began falling out.

Meanwhile, Landrum says, she and Colby "felt as though we had a bad sunburn around the face and neck. I lost some hair, but most of it has grown back."

Landrum's doctor told GLOBE that she suddenly began developing cataracts.

Yet she adds: "Betty got the worst of it because she got out of the car to investigate."

Cash spent most of January in Parkview Hospital, Houston, but her condition baffled doctors because she didn't tell them about the UFO encounter.

"I finally told them the second time I went in," she says. "I was afraid they would laugh at me and tell me I was crazy."

Her doctor, who asked GLOBE not to publish his name, says: "She had all the signs of radiation poisoning when I first examined her, but I thought that ridiculous and dismissed it."

"Then, when she told me what she had seen — and felt — it made sense."

The women's story has "totally convinced" veteran UFO investigators Bill English, of the Aerial Phenomenon Research Organi-

zation in Tucson, Arizona, and John Schuessler, a top NASA engineer in Houston.

Their investigation, backed by GLOBE checks of military installations in the area, reveals no aircraft movements that night to explain the extraordinary incident. English says he believes the helicopters were "unmanned probes," something like our moon landers, that were attached to the main UFO.

GLOBE's research reveals that another diamond-shaped object was sighted at the end of November on a country road at Liberty, about 40 miles from the spot where the light confronted Cash and Landrum.

One witness, Liberty realtor Nellie Zedick, 58, who was traveling with her daughter and son-in-law, says: "We didn't get closer than a mile or so, and it kept moving, but it was definitely diamond-shaped with a slight rounding at one end."

Meanwhile, Betty Cash has been forced to postpone plans to open a restaurant and has moved to Fairfield, Alaska, to recuperate.

She says: "I just hope and pray I get better soon."

GLOBE  
4/28/81

what I was observing was not of this earth. It wasn't a helicopter, it wasn't a jet, and it damn sure wasn't the Goodyear blimp."

The St. Helens incident on St. Patrick's Day received much, largely unwanted, publicity. Yet no one brought to his attention or to that of news reporters any valid suggested cause for the episode. One would certainly think that had the event a prosaic explanation, such as a test of new equipment or even a military exercise, that even fragmentary information about such would have come forth. Nor did any other witnesses to this specific event come forward.

What was it that frightened and awed several seasoned officers and some civilians as well? And was this event related to anomalous phenomena reports from nearby towns earlier that week, or from two towns fifty and sixty miles away during the time frame of this event? Phone calls by myself to witnesses in these nearby towns failed to convince me that this or a very similar object was involved.

The initial rapid motion of the principal light, its prolonged hovering over water, part of the time noiselessly, its orange-red color and, of course, the numerous witnesses to the event give this case a fairly high strangeness-credibility rating. Except in certain aspects, it was not a unique event. Orange-red balls of light that meander through the night have been reported often before, especially in isolated forest regions. And the event might be related to a very credibly witnessed private letter from a physicist at the University of Arizona in 1978:

"At about 8 p.m. against a black November sky we saw what appeared to be a bright meteor burning out, in a nearly vertical trajectory toward us. I pointed this out to my wife and then we both watched it slow down (to our amazement) to nearly a stop, slowly turn through hues of orange into a ruby red color (very beautiful), now slowly drift off to the southwest, again slowly turn back to white, then slowly turn back to ruby red (each color change taking about a full second) with finality, and drift off to the southwest until it disappeared from view behind the Tucson mountains. The whole sighting lasted about twenty minutes. I also observed the ob-

ject through a small telescope, after running home. It only resembled a bright, ruby-red point source.

"Through the years I have tried to find a natural or technological explanation for this sighting but to no avail. Remarkably, only about two years ago I met a Lunar and Planetary Lab scientist who also saw a huge, red ball hovering over his telescope dome (!) in the Catalina Mountains north of Tucson, just about

## Physical Effects, Helicopters and a Fiery UFO

*The following CE-II event was investigated primarily by John Schuessler and Alan Holt, both of NASA. Preliminary results were transmitted to us through their kindness. Allan Hendry was asked by the Fund for UFO Research to make additional investigations. The event was first reported to Mr. Gribble of Phenomena Research (Seattle) by one of the principal witnesses (after an unfortunate delay of several weeks), who in turn notified APRO, who passed it on to MUFON and thence to Mr. Schuessler, Deputy Director of MUFON. At the time of this writing (April 1981), the investigation is still in progress, and may continue for some time, but it has proceeded to the point at which it is obvious that we have here a truly significant event, one which, should it prove to have been a deliberate military exercise, raises some crucial legal and political problems in view of the injuries sustained by the witnesses, resulting in long term illness and the loss of a business venture by one of them.*

**TYPE:** CE-II

**DATE:** December 29, 1980

**TIME:** Approx. 9 p.m. CST

**DURATION:** 10 to 15 minutes

**WITNESSES:** 3 (2 adult women and a 7-year old boy)

**PLACE:** Near Huffman, Texas (about 20 miles northeast of Houston)

What makes this a CE-II is that all three witnesses and their car were physically affected: Serious loss of hair, impaired eyesight, blisters and swelling of flesh, headaches, vomiting, loss of appetite on the part of the adult witnesses and a very rapid heating of metal parts of the car (as though it had been placed in a microwave oven).

The witnesses had all been in ex-

cellent health before the event. At the time of writing, some three months later, the adult witnesses are still under medical care. The car, a 1980 Cutlass Supreme, had been in top condition but after the event was reported to be running roughly.

the same date as my sighting. It also moved slowly. He hadn't told anyone about it because of possible ridicule."

It is indeed a sad commentary on the myopic outlook of the public and scientists alike that a recognized scientist should fear ridicule by reporting a scientific observation, only because it is odd! How many events like this and the St. Helens sighting may have gone unreported because of this rabid intolerance for the new and unusual?

cellent health before the event. At the time of writing, some three months later, the adult witnesses are still under medical care. The car, a 1980 Cutlass Supreme, had been in top condition but after the event was reported to be running roughly.

## The Encounter

What do you do if you are driving along, accompanied by another adult and a young boy, all in good spirits, about 9 o'clock on a calm but overcast night, when you suddenly see a bright light rushing down from the cloudy, dark sky, belching fire and accompanied by a "whooshing" sound, and it then hovers so low over the road that you realize that you can't safely pass under it?

You stop, of course. But do you get out and make a run for it, or do you stay cooped in the car?

In this case, the adults compromise: they open the doors, step out, but hug the car, too afraid to run. Seven-year old Colby, meanwhile, is screaming in terror, begging them to get back in. The diamond-shaped, brilliantly illuminated object hovers, beeping all the while, but whooshing when it belches flames. There it is, at tree-top level (trees lined both sides of the road), "as large as the city water tank" and blocking their way like some fiery dragon for several minutes.

Finally it starts to glide away, rising above a line of trees. But something has happened to the car; the door handles are so hot that a jacket must be used as a "pot-holder," and the interior of the car is so hot that the air conditioner must be turned on. Yet the evening is cool, about forty degrees. And now a new surprise: as the bright glare recedes, a horde of helicopters is revealed, pursuing and flying around the craft.

The whole thing sounds like a bad dream. But the worst is yet to come. At

home, within thirty minutes after the event, the driver develops blisters on her head and face and her eyes begin to swell closed. It is nearly a week before Betty can open her eyes. In the days after, large patches of her hair come out and her face begins to peel. She suffers from headaches, frequent vomiting and an almost total loss of appetite.

Her friend Vicky has been the most frightened of the three. A very religious person, she interprets the event as the Second Coming and is entirely beside herself. She was outside the car for a shorter time than Betty. Probably as a consequence of this her injuries are less, yet she temporarily loses the sight of one eye, which drains constantly. She also loses hair, although not as much as Betty did.

It was Vicky who insisted that Betty go to the hospital. She remained there for fifteen days, only to return for another spell a few days later. Her mother came to Texas from Alabama to care for her. Betty is at this writing living with her mother in Alabama. Unable to work, she lost her small restaurant business, and is constantly tired and subject to headaches. But her hair is finally growing back.

The doctors were unable to diagnose the cause of Betty's difficulties, as standard tests did not reveal any obvious source of her physical troubles. She finally decided to tell the doctors of the UFO experience and reported that

they "felt relieved" to hear the story. Apparently, it aided in their diagnosis!

The effects of the encounter on Colby were more mental than physical, although he suffered stomach aches and very severe diarrhea. Colby was subject to terrifying nightmares and bed wetting for weeks afterward.

### Discussion

There appear to be only two possible explanations of this event: a military exercise or a true UFO. Hoax or simple misidentification have been conclusively ruled out by the experienced investigators.

There is much to favor the military explanation, and the adult witnesses "buy" this interpretation fully. The presence of the fleet of helicopters strongly suggests that it may fit. But where did they come from? Attempts to garner this information from military bases have been fruitless. Yet if the exercise was so very secret, why, with all the vast open spaces of Texas, would the military choose to zoom their device down upon helpless citizens, not only frightening them beyond their wits but inflicting grievous damage?

Could it have been a device designed to seek out and destroy the enemy which somehow got out of control and thus sought out its victims? This would constitute grave irresponsibility on the part of the military and a total disregard for human welfare. If such a case could be established, these

hapless human targets would have unimpeachable grounds for a major lawsuit against the government.

On the other hand, the entire incident is reminiscent of the Socorro New Mexico sighting of 1964, which had it occurred at night rather than during broad daylight, would have appeared much like this. It, too, featured rapid descent from the sky, flames coming from beneath accompanied by a roaring sound, and the attendant heating and scorching of the surroundings. At that time the Air Force Intelligence did its best to solve the case as a man-made device, with no success whatsoever. It remains to this day "unidentified."

If the Huffman case represents a true UFO, then it has all the earmarks of having been "staged," the UFO deliberately seeking an "audience." This has been the earmark of many other cases in the past. The UFO event does not always seem to occur at random. What now of the helicopters, whose presence seems unequivocally established? How were they alerted, where did they come from, and how did they get there so quickly?

This is only a progress report. Investigation is on-going, and other witnesses to this event are being sought. Some have already been found. In any event, man-made or not, this is a case which must not be glossed over. Medical records are being studied and the welfare of the three victims (whether of men or UFO-nauts!) will be monitored. Vicky is keeping a daily log of possibly related events. Mr. Schuessler and Mr. Holt plan to actively follow up on the case. If the government is responsible for this outrageous attack, the facts must be publicly disclosed and appropriate action taken; if it is an extra-terrestrial matter, it is certainly of far less importance!

Allan Hendry, after careful interrogation of six installations at which helicopters conceivably could have come, chalked up a zero score. No one admitted to having helicopters in that area that night and all disavowed any sort of military exercise. The military pointed out quite logically that December 29, the date of the event, was a most unlikely time for an exercise of that sort since a large part of their staffs would have been on Christmas leave. Yet all three witnesses swear they clearly saw a contingent of helicopters!

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# CASH-LANDRUM RADIATION CASE

By John F. Schuessler

*(Note: This follow-up report is based on a presentation to the Sept. 1981 CUFOS UFO Conference. The case was initially reported in the Apr. 1981 issue, No. 158.)*

The problem of radiation sickness caused by UFOs is defined by these brief examples:

October 24, 1887: Venezuelan family exposed to a brightly lit unidentified flying object (UFO) and suffered burns, vomiting, hair loss, and extensive swelling.

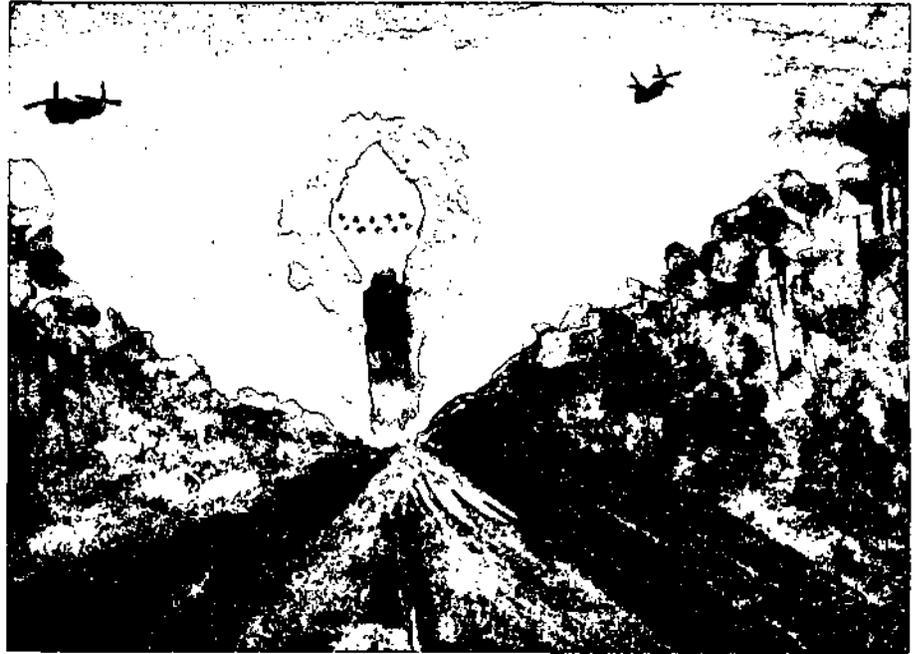
May 20, 1967: Canadian prospector Stephen Michalak encountered a landed UFO and suffered burns, nausea, vomiting, swelling and an extended illness.

October 3, 1973; Missouri truck driver exposed to an extremely bright UFO, blinded for days, and had vision impairment for a year.

These and hundreds of similar incidents indicate that UFOs are seriously affecting people. How can these people be helped? What can we learn about UFOs by studying these human effects?

A small team of engineers, scientists, and medical specialists have formed Project VISIT (Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team), to be a clearinghouse for all UFO incidents involving medical injury or alleged entry into a UFO. VISIT members collect and analyze data on the physical effects of UFOs on people. This scientific and medical data is then examined to discover the probable mechanisms of the UFO.

The latest entry into the VISIT data base occurred on December 29, 1980, when three Texans encountered a UFO and suffered severe medical consequences. Betty Cash (51), Vickie Landrum (57), and Vickie's grandson Colby Landrum (7), were driving home to Dayton, Texas, on the Cleveland-Huffman road just north of Lake Houston. It was 9 o'clock at



Artist's Rendition of the Sighting  
(By Kathy Schuessler)

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 prophecy and expected Jesus to 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. They all got out of the car to get a

better look at the UFO. Colby was terrified and dove back into the car, begging his grandma to get back in, too. Vickie did and comforted Colby.

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. The door handle was so hot she used her leather coat as a hotpad to open the door. Although the winter night air had been about 40°F, the heat from the UFO caused the witnesses to sweat and feel so uncomfortable that they turned on the car's air conditioner.

Each time the object would shoot flames downward it would rise. As 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.

*(continued on next page)*

## Radiation, Continued

Finally, the flames stopped, the object rose to the south-west, and was lost from sight. 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 5 to 10 minutes, Vickie 3 to 5 minutes, and Colby only a minute or so. As Betty raced homeward she turned right on FM 2100. Five minutes had lapsed and just ahead was the UFO and a large number of helicopters. "The sky was full of helicopters," Betty said. Some were near the object and others lagged behind. She feared the helicopters would collide. They were dazzled as they counted more than 20 helicopters. According to Vickie, "The helicopter roar was like a tornado."

They sped onward towards home, turning on to the Huffman-Eastgate road, then to FM 1960. By this time the object had been in sight, climbing into the night sky, for another 5 minutes. On FM 1960 the threesome were going away from the UFO, but could still observe it as a diminishing bright light for 2 or 3 more minutes.

## Unusual Medical Effects

Betty dropped Vickie and Colby in Dayton and arrived home at 9:05 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.

December 29th was a turning point in the lives of Betty and Vickie. Betty, an unusually energetic woman, had plans to open a new restaurant. The sickness that followed ruined those plans. For the next four 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. Because Betty was unable to function, Vickie was afraid she would die and set out to locate her doctor.



Sighting Location; l. Alan Holt; r. Vickie Landrum



Betty Cash Showing Hair Loss

After a number of telephone calls a doctor instructed Vickie to take Betty to the hospital emergency room where the staff received and treated her as a burn patient. Over the next several days Betty lost patches of skin on her face and about 50% of her hair fell out.

After 12 days in the hospital Betty went home, even though she had shown little improvement. Her condition again degraded to the point

where she returned to the hospital for 15 more days. During the weeks that followed the incident, Vickie treated herself and Colby with baby oil to stop the burning of their faces. Their stomach pains and diarrhea stopped after a couple of weeks but their eyes are apparently permanently damaged and treatment continues. Colby had nightmares for weeks and was ex-

*(continued on next page)*

## Radiation, Continued

tremely frightened by bright lights in the night sky or by helicopters anytime.

### SUMMARY OF THE MEDICAL EFFECTS

#### Colby Erythema (reddening of the skin)

Eyes swollen and watery  
Stomach pains  
Diarrhea  
Anorexia (loss of appetite)  
Some weight loss  
Increase in tooth cavities

#### Vickie Erythema

Photophthalmia (eyes swollen, watery, and painful)  
Vision greatly diminished  
Stomach pains  
Diarrhea  
Anorexia  
Ulceration on the arms, resulting in scarring and loss of pigmentation  
Keratin affected resulting in fingernail damage  
Hair loss  
Hair regrowth of a different texture

#### Betty Erythema

Acute photophthalmia (eyes swollen closed, painful, watery)  
Vision impaired  
Stomach pains  
Vomiting, diarrhea  
Anorexia  
Loss of energy, lethargy  
Scarring and loss of skin pigmentation  
Excessive hair loss  
Hair regrowth of a different texture

The electromagnetic spectrum is divided into groups according to wavelengths. X-rays and gamma rays have very short wavelengths; ultraviolet radiation, visible light, and infrared have increasingly longer wavelengths. Since the regions overlap, an exposed person may suffer effects of more than one region — x-ray and ultraviolet for example.

Exposure to ultraviolet radiation can produce photophobia, photophthalmia (arc-eye), edema of the eyelids, and erythema of the skin. Exposure to gamma and x-radiation can provide a strong general weakness, anorexia, nausea, vomiting, apathy, severe headache, sleeplessness, and dizziness.

The symptoms provide a clue to the type of radiation exposure. The degree of illness depends upon the type and energy of the radiation, the



Vickie Landrum: Photophobia Eye Condition



Vickie Landrum: Sores Persist After 8 Months

dose, amount of exposure, and a number of other variables. However, there is no type of radiation that is not potentially dangerous to the eye. Certainly most of the listed symptoms can be found in the Cash/Landrum incident.

### The Helicopters

All the witnesses were interrogated separately for information about the helicopters. They all agreed there

were at least 20. Illumination from the glowing object clearly showed details of the helicopters even though the night was dark and the moon was in the third quarter. At least two different helicopter models were present, but they referred also to the one large thing amidst the helicopters.

Through use of helicopter identification charts one model was clearly identified as the Boeing CH-47

*(continued on next page)*

## Radiation, Continued

Chinook. Another was identified as being similar to the Bell Huey model, but not positively identified as such.

Each of the witnesses not only identified the shape and main characteristics of the Chinook, they also pointed out details such as the wheels, lighting pattern, and sounds.

Contact with the Houston International Airport FAA representative provided the following:

- 350-400 helicopters operate commercially in the Houston area.
- All are single rotor types (no Chinooks).
- Helicopter traffic flies Visual Flight Rules (VFR), consequently they do not contact the tower.
- Beyond 15 miles from the airport they must stay below 1,800 feet.
- The Houston radar is limited to 2,000-2,200 feet around Lake Houston due to the location of antenna.

Contact with military installations was of little help. Fort Polk, Fort Hood, Dallas Naval Air Station, and England AFB stated they did not fly into the Houston area that evening. The unit operating out of Ellington AFB in Houston had landed before the sighting time. Robert Gray Field had 100 helicopters come in from the field at one time "for effect," but claimed to have avoided the Houston area. Hence, no one claims the helicopters that filled the Huffman area sky that winter night.

## Conclusion

This incident clearly points up several serious conditions. First, when a person is involved in a close encounter with a UFO they find it nearly impossible to obtain immediate assistance. The police, newspapers, and even doctors receive their plea for help with tongue in cheek. The doctors, being unprepared for a bizarre account like Betty's, spend a lot of time trying to determine what is wrong, as a standard treatment method has never been defined.

Second, military organizations could better serve the citizens of the



Distinctive Silhouette of CH-47 Helicopter

United States if they were prepared to relate the nature of objects such as the one at Huffman and others where public safety is at stake. Betty and Vickie have never said the Huffman UFO was a flying saucer with little green men. They believe it was a government-sponsored operation of some kind. Others that saw and heard the helicopters that evening have the same feeling.

Third, UFO organizations usually do not cooperate to the fullest to help the witnesses. The Huffman incident is an exception. The Mutual UFO Network of Seguin, Texas, the Center for UFO Studies of Evanston, Illinois, and the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization of Tucson, Arizona, all cooperated in a responsible manner to

assist the Houston-based Project VISIT to conduct the investigation by providing consultants, recommendations, and data pertaining to similar cases. Such cooperation is in the best interest of all parties involved.

The investigation continues. The future health state of Betty, Vickie, and Colby is yet to be determined. However, several radiation specialists have given freely of their time and talents to establish a program of rehabilitation and care. Full treatment is still lacking because the data on the source of the problem, the UFO, is still not available.

Project VISIT members are available on call for consultation. The address of VISIT is Post Office Box 877, Friendswood, Texas 77546.

*(Photographs provided by John Schuessler)*

# Top Scientist Confirms . . . UFO Terrorizes and Burns Three in Car

By DENNIS NEELD and BOB PRATT

"The whole thing's burning up — oh, my God! It's coming closer! We're going to burn up . . . I know we are!"

"Lord help me — I'm burning up!"

A hypnotized Vickie Landrum was reliving her horrifying encounter with a blazing UFO on a deserted Texas road December 29 — a searing hell on earth that left Vickie, her 7-year-old grandson and a friend suffering the symptoms of radiation poisoning.

Incredibly, in the weeks following their terrifying 15-minute encounter with the huge, fire-belching UFO, all three developed severe burns and blisters, diarrhea, headaches, nausea and severe eye problems — and Vickie's friend, who was burned the worst of the three, spent almost four weeks in a hospital.

To get the complete, horrifying details — and verify the absolute authenticity of her story — The ENQUIRER had Vickie hypnotized by a university professor at her home in Dayton, Tex., in the presence of a top engineer at NASA, who emerged convinced that she's telling the truth.

"There's no doubt in my mind," the engineer declared afterward. "This was genuine! She was reliving the truth."

Under hypnosis, Vickie recalled driving after sunset on a desolate stretch of road about 20 miles northwest of Dayton.

Suddenly Vickie, 37, her grandson Colby and her friend Betty Cash, 32, noticed a glowing object in the sky.

"It's lighting up the whole sky, a long way up, and traveling fast," Vickie said, reliving the experience. "Sometimes we can't see it, the trees are in the way."

Several minutes later, the object suddenly appeared in front of them and hovered over the road.

Betty, who was driving at the time, brought the car to a screeching halt.

The massive, blue and diamond-shaped object was at treetop level, about 100 feet away, with huge red flames shooting from its bottom to the road below.

"We can't get through — it's blocking the road!" Vickie gasped under hypnosis. "It's bigger than a water tower. And it's making a sound like beeping. Long



**ORDEAL:** Vickie Landrum holds grandson Colby, who went berserk and tried to run from the fiery UFO.

beeps . . . beep, beep, beep. . . As she recalled the terrifying close encounter, Vickie clutched compulsively at the front of her blouse, screwing the material into her fist. Her features contorted with fear as she brushed sweat away from her face.

"Long red flames are coming out of the bottom, like a rocket!"

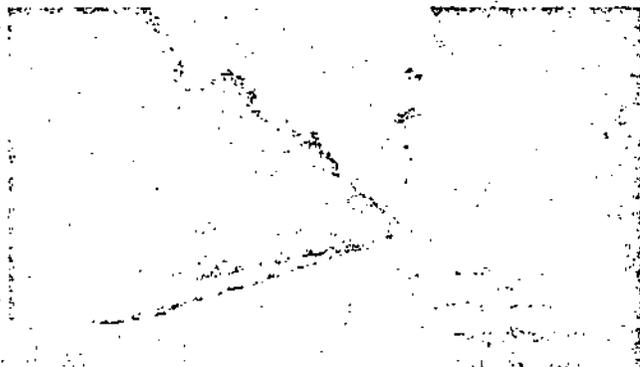
Even though it was just 40 degrees outside, the intense heat from the UFO made the automobile's interior sizzling hot.

Gripped with terror and unable to think clearly, Betty jumped out of the car and into the night air in an attempt to escape the heat, never taking her eyes off the mysterious craft.

"Betty — don't get out! Oh, my God, come back! It's hot, hot!"

"We'll burn up! My eyes — it's hurting my eyes!"

Startled by the UFO, little Colby went berserk. Scream-



**DESOLATE** stretch of Texas road where diamond-shaped, fire-belching UFO hovered over car.

heard a loud rushing sound. Betty's mysterious illness — like air brakes on a truck, as more flames shot toward the road.

Each time the flames shot downward, the object moved up a bit, then settled lower.

"It's going to fall! No — it's lifting, thank God! There's fire at the bottom. It's so hot."

Finally, the object suddenly took off — rising into the air, and then zipping away at an incredible speed.

Then came the long ride home. Vickie was convinced they should not tell a soul about anything that had happened.

"Don't tell nobody about it, Colby — they'll think we're crazy. Oh, Betty, they'll think we're crazy . . ."

Almost immediately after returning to Dayton less than an hour later, the three witnesses started to feel sick.

All suffered painful burns, and Vickie's optometrist, Dr. Steve Chandler, reported her eyes were "burned, swollen and extremely irritated."

In the weeks following the terrifying encounter, both the women lost huge amounts of hair.

The agonizing symptoms soon forced Betty to enter Parkway Hospital in Houston, where she remained for almost four weeks.

Hospital records confirm

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Dr. Leo Sprinkle, Ph.D., who conducted the session, said he's convinced the terrifying details of Vickie's ordeal are for real.

"She had a real experience and I believe the craft was under intelligent control," said Dr. Sprinkle, a professor of counseling services at the University of Wyoming, who has hypnotized scores of UFO eyewitnesses.

Several other witnesses living around Dayton also reported seeing a huge, bright, diamond-shaped flying object that night.

"I consider this a very important case providing physical evidence of the existence of UFOs," declared Schuessler.

"It is one of the most interesting and significant cases that I've ever investi-

It is the weak man who urges compromise — never the strong man.

RADIATION burns on Vickie Landrum's hand.

# Corpus Christi Caller

46th Year — No. 94

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1981

## Times

174 Pages — Price 50 cents

### Health problems add to mystery

## Texans tell of strange encounter

By PAMELA LYON

Staff writer

*"I thought the world was coming to an end . . . I told (my grandson) not to be afraid, to look at the center of the light for the sweet face of Jesus, coming to take us to a better place." — Vickie Landrum, describing her Dec. 29, 1980, encounter.*

DAYTON — Vickie Landrum is a god-fearing woman. So when she saw the thing that cold December night, hovering above a desolate, back-country road near this small Liberty County lumber town, there was only one possible explanation.

She was having a religious experience.

As Mrs. Landrum tells the story, she was traveling back to her Dayton home from Monday night bingo at the VFW hall in New Caney with her 7-year-old grandson, Colby, and a friend, Betty Cash, when it happened.

First they saw a bright, mysterious light through the treetops up ahead. Then, as the car rounded a bend on Farm Road 1425 about 15 miles northwest of Dayton, it was suddenly before them.

Diamond-shaped and "tall as a water tower," it floated over the road just above the treetops, blindingly bright. Mrs. Landrum recalled. Red-orange flames spewed from the bottom and intermittently burst into greater intensity with a rushing sound like a flame-thrower as the object moved higher.

From 133 feet away, the heat was excruciating.

"It felt like we were burning up," said Mrs. Landrum. "You've heard it all your life that the world is going to end by fire. I believe it."

But her first impression didn't last long, not after they got a good look at the thing.

Not after they saw the swarm of helicopters around it — big double-rotary, military-like choppers.

Not after the months-long bouts with the burns and blisters, the crippling nausea and diarrhea, the eye problems and shedding hair — a total package of symptoms that points to radiation sickness, said a space scientist who has closely monitored the case.

Now there are those who scoff at close encounters of any kind, skeptics who pass off sightings

of so-called Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) as distorted perceptions of entirely earthly phenomenon, the shimmering illusions of swamp gas or the ravings of crackpots.

Stories, in short, to be taken seriously only by devotees of the supermarket press — like the Aug. 11 article about Mrs. Landrum's experience in the National Enquirer with the screaming headline "UFO Terrorizes and Burns 3 Texans."

But to the experts who investigate such mysterious goings-on, the Landrum-Cash case is among the most compelling, and disturbing, encounters ever reported.

Dr. J. Allen Hynek, founder of the Center for UFO Studies in Evanston, Ill., and the country's premier UFO investigator, termed the Dayton incident a "really crucial case" because of the "absolutely, unequivocal physical effects."

"Something sure as hell happened: Those women didn't pull out their hair and blind themselves," said Hynek. "The connection with the event is clear-cut. It's one-to-one. We have other cases, but rarely as clear-cut as this."

Although she says that "time sort of stood

See Encounter, page 6A.

still." Mrs. Landrum estimates she and her companions were exposed to the fire-belching object for at least 10 minutes before it drifted off over the trees.

It was a winter night, but they continued their journey home with the car's air conditioner on. Mrs. Landrum said. Their exposed skin seemed intensely sunburned, as after a too-long stay at the beach in early summer.

That night, Mrs. Landrum greased her grandson with baby oil. That night, too, Colby started getting sick. He vomited and had uncontrollable diarrhea, an ominous prelude to what would happen to all of them.

Colby, who had nightmares for months afterward and would wake up screaming, still bears the faint scars of the large, sack-like blisters that formed on his face.

Mrs. Landrum, too, has a network of whitish and raised scars on her arms from the blisters, which have recurred periodically over the past eight months, particularly when she is exposed to sunlight. Both still are sensitive to heat and cannot bear hot water, Mrs. Landrum said.

Her hair, now long enough for a permanent, at one time fell out leaving scattered bald spots. But her eyes bothered her the most.

"My eyes were burned until they looked like they were decayed," said Mrs. Landrum. Since the incident, she has changed her eyeglass prescription twice, each time progressively stronger. She now seems to be losing her peripheral vision and is developing cataracts. Colby also now needs glasses.

But Betty Cash, 52, who bolted from the car when they encountered the object, was the most affected of the trio.

She, too, was stricken with severe nausea, diarrhea and headaches. A once-active woman, she now was incapacitated by a relentless lethargy. Large, knot-like blisters formed on her face, scalp and eyelids. Her eyes were swollen almost shut.

She was hospitalized in January for nearly four weeks. The doctors were stumped.

"There was no diagnosis; they didn't know what they were dealing with," said John Schuessler, a scientist with McDonnell Douglas Astronautics at NASA's Johnson Space Center near Houston.

Schuessler, project manager for space shuttle operations support, has been active in UFO research and organizations since the mid-1960s. He is one of about a dozen scientists and professional technicians in the Clear Lake City area, about half of which work for NASA, who comprise Project VISIT, which is studying UFO technology.

Schuessler met Mrs. Landrum, Colby and Mrs. Cash in February after they had contacted NASA and a UFO reporting network in Seattle, Wash., to try to find out what happened to them.

Right after the incident, the three had agreed to tell no one about their experience, said Mrs. Landrum, who waited four days before she told her husband.

"You don't go around telling people when something like this happens. They'd think you're crazy," she added.

But as the sickness progressed, they decided they had to know more. Said Mrs. Landrum: "If we hadn't met John Schuessler, I think I would have lost my mind."

Schuessler was keenly interested. He took photographs of their blisters, burns, damaged eyes and balding heads. He urged Mrs. Landrum to keep a daily diary of her symptoms. And after talking to the bewildered physicians, he located and contacted a radiation specialist in Madison, Wis.

"You can't guarantee it's radiation sickness, but it looks like it," said Schuessler. "Other things can cause these (symptoms) but not likely the total package."

The radiation specialist, who wished to remain anonymous, agreed. In an April correspondence he noted the burns could be secondary to high intensity infra-red radiation, ultra-violet rays or ionizing radiation.

"We are over a medical-scientific barrel not knowing exactly what the source of radiation was, nor the dose received by these UFO witnesses," he wrote.

But Schuessler and Hynck aren't entirely sure the unexplained object was an otherworldly UFO. The helicopters are the problem.

Despite its awesome power, the object Mrs. Landrum saw appeared to be in distress; it seemed to have trouble maintaining altitude. And it was when the giant, metal object finally gained enough thrust to sail off over the trees that Mrs. Landrum and her companions saw it was not alone.

"After the object drifted to where we kind of got our senses, we noticed the helicopters," said Mrs. Landrum. "They were up over it and following it. It was like they were taking it somewhere or it was in trouble and they were helping it."

The helicopters were like none she'd seen before, large airborne machines with double rotary blades. Colby drew a picture of a craft that resembled a military helicopter, like a CH-46 or CH-47, Schuessler said.

The trio weren't the only people who reported seeing the helicopters, or the object for that matter.

A man near Crosby, a tiny town 15-odd miles southwest of Dayton, told co-workers about the helicopters, Schuessler said. Investigation of the Dec. 29 incident also turned up three more sets of witnesses, totalling seven additional persons, who saw the object.

"We are dealing with a real event, but we're not sure if it's a government exercise or a UFO sighting," said Hynck, who headed Project Bluebook, a U.S. Air Force study of UFOs from about 1948 to 1969. "There's a lot of top secret stuff going on that most people don't know about."

Hynck believes the women should file a lawsuit to compel disclosure.

The government denies any knowledge of or role in the incident. Schuessler said he contacted every military installation in Texas that might have had sufficient aircraft to have been involved. He had no success.

"The helicopters have been completely stonewalled," he said.

At the Army's Ft. Hood near Killeen, the country's largest military facility where a brigade of "100-plus" helicopters is based, a spokesman said no Ft. Hood aircraft were in the Houston area that night.

"I don't know of any other place around here that would have that number of helicopters," said press officer Major Tony Geishouser. "There may be something to this, but 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."

Said Mrs. Landrum: "It ain't anything from outer space with little green men, that's for sure. If the government doesn't know about it, they'd better find out."

# Dayton Lady To Appear On TV

By Rebecca  
Goodballet-Hamilton

DAYTON — A Dayton woman's incredible story of an unidentified flying object (UFO) is going to be shown on the TV show 'That's Incredible' within the next three or four weeks.

Mrs Vickie Landrum 57, 506 W. Clayton said that it was about 9:15 p.m. on Dec. 29, 1980 when she and her grandson Colby 7, and a friend, Mrs. Betty Cash 52, were coming home from New Caney on F.M. 1485 when they noticed a diamond-shaped object flying in the air.

Mrs. Landrum said that Mrs. Cash was driving and they watched the object come closer to the road and hover over the trees about 130 feet in front of them. "I screamed for Betty to stop," she said.

The three of them got out of the car to see what it was and Mrs. Landrum said, "It looked like the whole woods and everything was going to be set on fire."

Mrs. Landrum described the object as dull gray in color and a flame was coming out of the bottom. She said that the sound it made was "horrible," like an intensified flame-thrower.

She said that as the flame came down, the object would rise and it hovered there for about 12 to 15 minutes before moving off over to the right side of the road.

Mrs. Landrum said that Colby had gotten back in the car and was

screaming for her, so she was outside for only about two to four minutes.

However, she said that Mrs. Cash stayed outside for about six to eight minutes, and when she got back in the car she had to use her

jacket to hold the door handle as it was so hot.

Mrs. Landrum added that he fingerprints are still on the dashboard of Mrs. Cash's car.

As the object moved across the sky, she said that they drove for about five or six minutes toward F.M. 2100 and that they all counted between 20 and 23 helicopter following it, some with two sets of blades. They couldn't get an accurate number she said, because of the way the helicopters were moving, they couldn't be sure that they were missing one or counting one twice.

They were still able to see the object and the helicopters as they reached Highway 145 and even as they came on into Dayton up to the new bank, she said.

They had decided not to tell anyone about the incident because of the way they thought people would react to such a story, she said. She did not even tell her husband, Ernest, until three days later when she had to put Mrs. Cash in the hospital in Houston.

She and Colby got sick that night, and Mrs. Landrum said that when she went to check on Mrs. Cash the next day, she found her in bed with lumps on her neck and head and blisters on her body. She said that she wasn't even able to get up to get a drink of water.

She said that she took Mrs. Cash to her house and three days later admitted her to Parkview Hospital in Houston.

Mrs. Cash spent five weeks in the hospital and Mrs. Landrum said that the doctors couldn't find out what was wrong with her. However, she said, that two doctors say they believe it to be a sort of radiation poisoning.

Mrs. Cash began to lose her hair about 10 days after the incident and did lose all of it. Mrs. Landrum said that she is now living in Alabama with her mother because she can't take care of herself.

Mrs. Landrum said that they have received an enormous amount of help from John Schuessler, a project manager for McDonnell-Douglas who volunteers parttime for a non-profit organization, Vehicles Internal System Investigating Team (VISIT)



*Colby and his grandmother,  
Vickie Landrum*

## The Indicator

Page 12B, Liberty, Texas

Wednesday, September 16, 1981

### Within Three, Four Weeks

## • Dayton Lady On 'That's Incredible'

(Continued From Page 1)

Schuessler said that there are countless episodes like this that occur all over the world, and that these three people are all showing the results of radiation poisoning.

Mrs. Landrum's hair also began to fall out in patches within six weeks after the incident and she said she also had blisters on her body.

She said that Colby had some hair loss and some blisters on his face and also had nightmares for three months afterward.

Her eyes swelled until she thought they were going to split and now she said she's losing her side vision.

Also, she said that neither she nor Colby can stand being around any kind of heat, and to this day she takes a bath in cold water.

Their story has appeared in the 'National Enquirer' and will now be televised on 'That's Incredible.' Mrs. Landrum was hypnotized for both interviews. "If you're telling the truth you're not afraid to be hypnotized. If you're telling a lie

then you're afraid the lie will come out," she said.

Mrs. Landrum's reason for talking to the media is that she wants to find out what the object was and who is responsible for it. "I wish if anybody knew about it they'd come forward," she said.

She said they reenacted the experience and filmed it just like it happened. "There is nothing I wouldn't go through or do to find out what it was and why it was there. Somebody's got to be responsible for our doctor bills."

## UFO report

### Women, child say they saw ship, 23 helicopters

By WILLIAM F. BARNETT  
Houston Bureau

DAYTON — Vickie Landrum doesn't expect everybody to buy her story that a UFO flanked by 23 military helicopters docked her and two others with radiation on a deserted East Texas road one night last December.

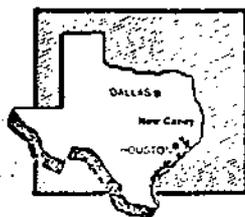
"I never believed in UFOs before, either," she said, suddenly sitting upright in the chair of her home. "I am a religious person."

But the local police chief, Tony Warring, a friend for 20 years, vouches for her credibility. Records at Parkway Hospital in Houston document the fading eczema, skin blisters, recurring headaches and temporary loss of hair she says he has experienced. There are other witnesses. A state agency is investigating. Professional UFO watchers are excited.

"It's one of the most significant cases we have," said Dr. J. Allen Hynick, head of the Center for UFO Studies in Evanston, Ill. "The medical documentation is impressive. This certainly falls in the category of a close encounter."

All this was more than enough for the National Enquirer, the sensational tabloid, to run the story last month under a multi-color, top-of-the-front-page headline. That is how "Scientist at NASA Confirms UFO Terrorizes and Burns 3 Texans" came to greet millions of supermarket shoppers across the nation the week of Aug. 11.

The scientist involved is John F.



Site was near New Caney

Schmiedel, an engineer for McDonnell Douglas Corp. at the NASA Johnson Space Center in Houston, who, at a hearing, has been investigating UFO sightings around Houston for 15 years. Contrary to the suggestion in the Enquirer headline, his sighting activities have no connection at all with NASA.

"There is no doubt at all that something happened," he said. "And there is little doubt that the three persons were exposed to radiation." He said he has other witnesses who saw other helicopters or the UFO — but not both together — and medical experts to support the radiation claim. However, citing their desire for privacy, he refused to release their names, including those of the experts.

Schmiedel said there are only two probable explanations for the incident. "Either the helicopter was carrying the most powerful radiation source ever being used in the world, or the UFO was a nuclear power source." He is preparing a paper on the incident to be presented at a UFO conference in Chicago, Sept. 26.

Lawyers for the three — Mrs. Landrum, 42, her 7-year-old grandson, Colby, who lives with her, and

a friend, Betty Cash, 57, all of Dayton — have filed formal requests with the federal government under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) for any reports involving the incident.

The three want to file a personal injury lawsuit against the government, in effect alleging hit-and-run, to recover what they said was more than \$15,000 in medical bills incurred because of the alleged radiation exposure. But their lawyer, Peter Gersten of New York City, acknowledged it would be difficult suing without any concrete proof that the government was involved, much less that it was responsible for the UFO.

"If the government says we have no reports, I'm afraid that's the end of it unless someone, perhaps a pilot, comes forward," he said.

So far the military hasn't responded formally to the FOIA requests, but spokesmen for the Army, Navy and Air Force, as well as the Defense Department, said last week they know nothing about it.

"I keep getting calls on this," said Maj. Tony Geisbauer, the spokesman for Fort Hood, an Army base 160 miles northwest that just happens to have several hundred helicopters of the sort described by Mrs. Landrum. "We did not have any choppers up that night in East Texas," he said.

The only governmental reaction so far has been from the Texas Department of Health, whose Bureau of Radiation Control is conducting an investigation at the request of a local legislator.

"It's highly doubtful we're going to find anything, but we're looking," said departmental investigator Russ Meyer.

Mrs. Landrum is sure of what she saw and what she felt.

"It was a UFO and we were zapped," she said.

In separate interviews, she and Mrs. Cash gave this account:

Mrs. Landrum and Colby were riding with Mrs. Cash in her car about 9 p.m. on Dec. 20 along a lonely, two-lane stretch of FM 1485 near New Caney, Montgomery County, about 30 miles northeast of Houston. About three miles ahead they could see some sort of light in the air, occasionally obscured by trees. As they drew nearer they could see it was some sort of object with orange and red flames coming from the bottom.

"Suddenly it got real bright," Mrs. Landrum said. "We could see the object maybe 20 feet above the ground. I screamed for Betty to stop. Then I said, 'Betty you might as well face it — this is it.'"

Mrs. Cash said, "I thought this was going to be it."

What they said they now win a metallic, diamond-shaped object with no visible markings, hovering anywhere from 25 to 50 feet above the ground. Mrs. Landrum said the object was 24 feet high and 12 feet across. Although Mrs. Cash said it was much larger, perhaps 50 feet high and 25 feet across.

The women said they got out of the car to look at the object.

"The road was too narrow to turn around and we were blinded by all the light," Mrs. Cash said. "She and I were in a panic. My husband was in the car, but I don't know if he saw anything."

After about two minutes the object rose, fading from their outlook. It turned, and headed in a south-



Vickie Landrum never believed in UFOs before an experience in December

ern direction but not over the road. "It was going away from the road, so we kept going in the same direction, toward Dayton," Mrs. Cash said.

It was then they first noticed the helicopters, buzzing about. "They seemed to be following the object," Mrs. Landrum said, "and trying to stay out of each other's way."

*"I don't believe for a minute that the UFO was from another planet. I just don't believe in it."*

Vickie Landrum

She said the helicopters were relatively large, twin-engine craft, but she could see no markings. Mrs. Cash said she and Colby counted at least 23 of them.

Schmiedel said the three persons described pictures of a Boeing Vertol Chinook helicopter, which are used by both the Army and the Air Force. "There are civilian Chinooks around here and 23 of them in a given area is not

likely," he said. "I got with the news paper photographer from night. My Landrum and the flight was the

when heading southwest toward Houston. The women said the helicopter lasted perhaps 20 minutes.

When they arrived in Dayton, about 15 miles southeast, the women said they agreed not to tell anyone about the incident, not even Mrs. Landrum's husband. "Finally, I thought I was crazy," Mrs. Landrum said.

She said the helicopters were relatively large, twin-engine craft, but she could see no markings. Mrs. Cash said she and Colby counted at least 23 of them.

But within hours, they set all three began to be violently ill with severe, unrelenting nausea.

"She was in pretty bad shape. The doctor thought she was exposed to some kind of radiation," Mrs. Cash said. "Finally, we had to get out of the car and go to the hospital. The doctor said we had been exposed to radiation. He said we had been exposed to radiation. He said we had been exposed to radiation."

They said the severity of all their symptoms and rapid recovery

had to wear glasses before, but now I'm on my third set," Mrs. Cash said. She said Colby, who for a time experienced nightmares from the incident, also had to start wearing glasses.

"I will break out in water blisters, I get awful headaches and I can't take a hot bath," she said. "I'll probably go back into the hospital next week."

On the suggestion of Peter Chief Warring, who last week called Mrs. Landrum "terrified and shocked," the women in Houston called a UFO Police in Dayton. They probably go back into the hospital next week.

While granted the publicity, he said he would neither plead that the National Enquirer, as well as another top national tabloid, chose to print up on the story, which has received a lot of attention in the local press.

"We may have a credibility problem," he said.

He said the women had to wear glasses before, but now I'm on my third set," Mrs. Cash said. She said Colby, who for a time experienced nightmares from the incident, also had to start wearing glasses.

# State, private agencies probing claim of UFO encounter

BY CINDY HORSWELL  
Chronicle Staff

The Texas Department of Health and three private agencies are investigating reports that two Dayton women and a child may have been exposed to an unidentified flying object and suffered radiation exposure as a result.

It was a cold, cloudy evening on Dec. 29 when Vickie Landrum, 57, a waitress, and her former employer, Betty Cash, 52, then owner of a cafe in Dayton, and Mrs. Landrum's 7-year-old grandson, Colby Landrum, were driving from New Caney to Dayton.

Along an uninhabited stretch of FM 1485, about 30 miles northwest of Houston near Huffman and about 15 miles west of Dayton, they spotted something strange. "I saw a long, red thing in the sky about three miles ahead," said Mrs. Landrum. "I was trying to figure out what it was."

She said that within minutes the object was in front of them. Mrs. Landrum said she screamed at Mrs. Cash to stop the car and they all jumped out.

Colby, who lives with Mrs. Landrum, ran back to the car a minute later and hid on the floorboard, said Mrs. Landrum.

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Along an uninhabited stretch of FM 1485, about 30 miles northwest of Houston near Huffman and about 15 miles west of Dayton, they spotted something strange. "I saw a long, red thing in the sky about three miles ahead," said Vickie Landrum. "I was trying to figure out what it was."

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She said she remained outside about four minutes and Mrs. Cash, the driver, got the closest to the object and watched it for about 10 minutes.

"It was diamond-shaped and as tall as a water tower," Mrs. Landrum said. "It was a dull, gray metallic color, and it just floated there."

She said red-orange flames were intermittently spewing from the bottom and that it produced a noise she will never forget. "It made a roaring sound like a flame thrower and then high-pitched beeps. It had a flammable smell, like lighter fluid," she said. The heat, she said, was so intense that it caused sweat to pour off her and her companions.

"It was so bright. The glow lit everything up. It was as if the whole woods was on fire," she said.

As the object began heading to the northwest, said Mrs. Landrum, she saw large, double-rotary helicopters following it. She said she and her grandson counted about 23 helicopters.

"It (the object) was a monstrous thing. It seemed like it was having trouble flying, and so it would let out those flames and then shoot up again while making that shrill beeping sound."

Said Mrs. Cash, a divorcee who is now staying with her elderly mother in Fairfield, Ala.

Mrs. Cash went to Alabama recently to recuperate from burns, blisters, weakness, diarrhea, headaches, eye problems and loss of hair — all problems she attributes to her encounter with the flying object. Mrs. Cash lost about 50 percent of her hair and had to be hospitalized twice after the sighting.

Mrs. Landrum said she had similar symptoms, but to a lesser degree; Colby was nauseated and had "kind of a bad sunburn." They say the degree of illness corresponded to the

length of time each was outside the car and bathed in the bright light.

"I felt so hot inside, as if I was burning from the inside out," Mrs. Cash said. "The light blinded me so much that I couldn't see to back the car up and we were afraid to go under the object."

The two women and boy initially made a pact not to tell anybody about what they had seen because they felt they would not be believed.

"It was just too weird to mention, but we didn't know then that we had been hurt," said Mrs. Landrum.

By 1 a.m. that night, Mrs. Landrum said both she and her grandson had blistered as if badly sunburned and both suffered from nausea and diarrhea.

"We were starving for water. Just couldn't get enough and couldn't stand a warm bath. It had to be cold, for weeks after that. Didn't like being near a stove or hot food," she said.

She said that two days later she visited Mrs. Cash, who lived alone, and found her so weak she could not get a glass of water. Mrs. Landrum said part of Mrs. Cash's body was covered with egg-sized knots and blisters. Mrs. Cash was hospitalized the next day at Parkway Hospital in Houston.

The trio broke their secrecy pact then and told doctors about the incident. Mrs. Landrum also reported it to Dayton Police Chief Tommy Waring.

Waring said he has known Mrs. Landrum for about 30 years and "after talking to her for 35 or 40 minutes, you knew she was reporting what she thought she saw. She appeared highly nervous and upset."

Mrs. Landrum said her hair began to "come out in wads" and her eyesight began failing about three weeks after the incident. She then sought medical attention. Her hair has since regrown, though she says it now has a burnt, frizzled texture.

The three have been interviewed by John F. Schuessler, a mechanical engineer employed as McDonnell-Douglas' project manager for space flight operations in Clear Lake City. He is

investigating her case in his capacity as a volunteer with the Mutual UFO Network.

He and Dr. J. Allen Hynek, founder of the Center for UFO Studies in Evanston, Ill., say the Dayton incident is the most significant sighting that has occurred in the Houston area in 10

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**"It (the object) was a monstrous thing. It seemed like it was having trouble flying, and so it would let out those flames and then shoot up again while making that shrill beeping sound," said Betty Cash, a divorcee who is now staying with her elderly mother in Fairfield, Ala.**

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years. "That's because there is something you can actually examine afterward — the physical injuries," said Schuessler.

Dr. P.B. Patil, a specialist in cardiology and internal medicine, said he and his colleagues hospitalized Mrs. Cash twice at Parkway Hospital in Houston for a total of about 3½ weeks. "She definitely had a bad burn on her face and her hair came out in clumps in two or three areas," he said.

He said consultants were called in, but "we cannot say for sure what caused it," though he would not rule out radiation exposure.

Dr. Steve Chandler, a Liberty optometrist, treated Mrs.

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**Dayton Police Chief Tommy Waring said he has known Mrs. Landrum for about 30 years and "after talking to her for 35 or 40 minutes, you knew she was reporting what she thought she saw. She appeared highly nervous and upset."**

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Landrum for a puffy, red eyes. "There was quite a bit of irritation and swelling, redness due to some type of burn around the eyes, but I don't know the cause of it," he said, acknowledging that her eyesight has worsened. He said an allergy to sunlight, chemicals and other things could have caused the same symptoms as radiation.

Dr. James Easley, a Houston radiologist, examined the women more than six months after the incident but said his results were not conclusive because he saw the women so late.

Schuessler has two theories about the sighting: Either the object came from another planet or it was an experimental, top-secret U.S. government project.

To substantiate the trio's story, Schuessler has gathered reports from several persons in the area who also say they saw something strange.

On that same night, Angie Stanley, 26, a Dayton postal clerk, was coming home from New Caney on FM 1485 about 13 miles west of Dayton. "I saw a really bright light in the sky pretty far away," she said. "It looked like the bright headlights of a car on an oval-shaped thing."

Jerry McDonald, 24, an oil field roughneck, also witnessed something strange that night from his home in Dayton. "I heard a sound like a rumble, and I thought it was the Goodyear blimp," he said. "It was kind of triangular or diamond-shaped and had two twin torches that were shooting brilliant blue flames out the back." He said it also had two bright lights on it and a red light in the center as it passed about 150 feet above him.

Belle Magee, 55, a bakery clerk, was in her home in Eastgate, about eight miles west of Dayton, when she looked out and saw a bright light heading in the direction of New Caney. "It was bright, like the light of a football field, but up in the sky," she said.

Dayton police officer L.L. Walker was off duty and driving home from Cleveland, five miles north of Dayton on FM 321, when he saw several large helicopters flying in formation. He says he is not sure of the exact date, but thinks it may have been Dec. 29.

To jog Mrs. Landrum's memory, she was hypnotized twice by Dr. R. Leo Sprinkle, a psychologist and director of counseling and testing at the University of Wyoming. Sprinkle has studied about 250 persons who have reported UFO sightings during the last 20 years.

Under hypnosis, Mrs. Landrum did not reveal any new details, he said, but she did not alter her story, either.

"She showed very dramatically what her feelings were as she relived it," he said. "She kept pulling on her blouse and cradling her arm like she was holding Colby close. She said she thought it was the end of the world and Jesus was coming out of the light."

Sprinkle said there is no way to know if a person is hypnotized, "but based on my 15 years experience, she was — or else she has been taking acting lessons." Hypnosis recall does not prove an incident happened, he said, but "it's her truth, what the individual thinks is true."

At the request of state Rep. Larry Browder, D-Coldspring, the Texas Department of Health's Bureau of Radiation Control is investigating the Dayton incident.

"We came into this thing fairly late in the game," said Russ Meyer, manager of the state's public health department in Houston.

On Sept. 16, he drove the stretch of road where the sighting is supposed to have occurred. His radiation detection equipment did not find any traces of remnant radiation in the area. He also took soil samples, but testing of them is not complete yet.

"If there had been radioactive contamination in large amounts, some would still be left there," he said. However, he said certain types of radiation — such as ultraviolet light, infrared light and low-energy X-rays — might not leave any residual traces.

Meyer has recommended that the trio's medical records be reviewed by the state health department's medical advisory board. Specialists, he said, could differentiate between radiation and symptoms that could be attributed to such things as chemical toxins.

The helicopters, as described by the women, would appear to be CH-47 Chinooks, used by the military as troop carriers. However, spokesmen for the Army and National Guard, both of which keep helicopters in the Houston area, said there are no records of military helicopters being flown on Dec. 29.

Attorney Peter Gersten of the Bronx, N.Y., representing Citizens Against UFO Secrecy, said he is interested in the Dayton women and "particularly interested in things to do with the military."

Two weeks ago, he sent letters to the National Guard and U.S. Air Force headquarters requesting information on helicopters which may have been involved with the "startling encounter of a UFO" near Dayton and requesting all records they might possess on the subject.

Military authorities said his letter has been forwarded to their legal departments.

# THREE TEXAS RESIDENTS INJURED BY UFO NEAR HOUSTON

by Patricia A. Shaw

## CLOSE ENCOUNTER OF THE SECOND KIND

The following three categories of UFO reports were developed by Dr. J. Allen Hynek, Director of the Center for UFO Studies (CUFOS) in Evanston, Illinois.

- CE I** Close Encounter of the First Kind. A UFO witnessed within 500 feet.
- CE II** Close Encounter of the Second Kind. A CE I sighting that results in environmental changes such as: physical traces, physiological consequences, and electromagnetic effects.
- CE III** Close Encounter of the Third Kind. Encounter with living entities. (Creatures, Humanoids, etc.)

One of the most startling CE II cases in UFO history has happened in our own back yard near Huffman, Texas (approximately 20 miles northeast of Houston). The witnesses two women and a young boy sustained physical injuries assigned to the symptomatology of radiation sickness and physical burns.

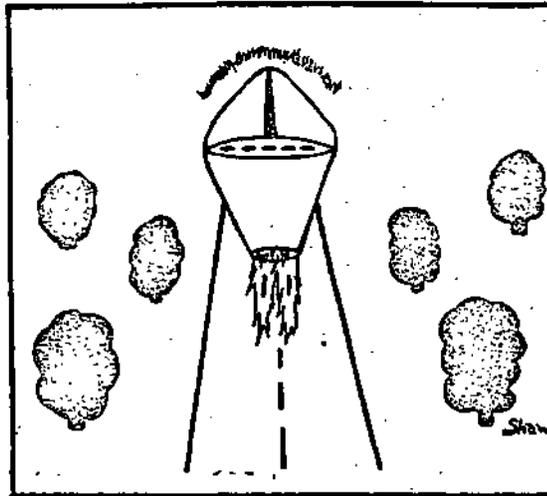
Researchers working on the case believe they were exposed to Ultraviolet and soft X-ray radiation. The physical effects included: nausea, vomiting, headaches, loss of hair, swelling of flesh, blisters, and a loss of appetite.

On October 29, 1980, Betty Cash, Vicky Landrum and her 7-year old grandson Colby were traveling on Highway 1485, going from New Caney to Dayton, Texas. The time was approximately 9:00 p.m.

Unexpectedly an intense light descended to treetop level emitting reddish-orange flames from its base. Accompanying the light was a "whooshing" sound, then intermittent beeping took place and the light lowered itself over the road, hovering close to the ground, making it impossible to pass in safety. It became clear to the occupants riding in the 1980 Cutlass Supreme that it was not a light but an object: glowing, fiery, diamond-shaped. While resting near the road the object discharged flames periodically.

Betty, Vicky, and Colby got out of the car to look at the object. Colby became frightened and entered the car with his grandmother. Betty remained outside of the car for the duration of the sighting. (10 to 15 minutes).

At least the object (approximately 100 feet in front of the car) ascended into the night sky, moving slowly in a southwesterly direction. Betty returned to enter her car and she could not open the door without using a leather jacket on the door handle. The interior of her car was very hot. It was necessary to turn on the air conditioning. The outside temperature was 40° Fahrenheit.



**DRAWING OF UFO AS  
DESCRIBED BY WITNESSES**

As the light diminished, a large number of helicopters entered the area and pursued the craft. What are an estimated 20 helicopters doing in this area? Where did they come from? The question must be asked: Is this a UFO incident or a military maneuver?

The nightmare continues. Betty drove away from the scene and dropped Vicky and Colby off at their home, returning to her residence decidedly ill. A half-hour after the event, she

developed blisters on her scalp and face. Her eye lids swelled and were cemented shut for a week. Her earlobes and neck were swollen, her face peeled, patches of hair dropped out. Betty was plagued by severe headaches, vomiting and loss of appetite. She entered the hospital and remained there for fifteen days, only to return for additional treatment.

Vicky experienced less illness than Betty. Some hair fell out and she lost the sight in one eye temporarily. This is attributed to the fact that Vicky was inside the car while Betty was standing outside during the sighting.

Vicky, a strongly religious person interpreted the event as the Second Coming and was highly anxious.

VISIT will continue to work with the Landrum's and Betty Cash. They will monitor their health, keeping tabs on sleeping habits, weight, size, physiological changes of any sort, etc. Also the search for the fleet of helicopters is still going on. Attempts to obtain information from military bases have been non-productive. The presence of helicopters suggest that there is an explanation to be had. Why the secrecy?

This incident is still under investigation by John Schuessler, Deputy Director of MUFON (Mutual UFO Network) and the members of VISIT (Vehicle Internal Systems Investigation Team) in which Mr. Schuessler is a member. VISIT is composed of a dozen scientists and engineers. It is an independent project organization which studies physical data received from incidents such as CE II and CE III's, and attempts to interpret the data in terms of the technology which would produce certain effects.

Eight months have lapsed since this alarming occurrence. What has happened to the witnesses? How has this frightening ordeal affected their lives? Betty is unable to work, suffering constant fatigue and headaches. She owned a small restaurant and has lost her business forcing her to move to California and live with her son. Vicky still has trouble with her eyes. Colby's nightmares have almost disappeared and through the help of others he has overcome his fear of helicopters.

This CE II case has received national attention. In July, the witnesses were interviewed by members of the popular TV program "THAT'S INCREDIBLE" and the show will be aired at the start of the new viewing season in October.

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**Solidarity  
Across The Galaxies**

S.A.G. is a non-profit educational corporation. It is for those who wish to come and share information about UFO's whether in the dream state or in the physical, extraterrestrial life, higher intelligences and consciousness raising.

Location: 5304-A  
Bellaire, C.U.U.

TIME: THURSDAYS,  
7:30-9:00 p.m.

FOR INFORMATION CALL:  
(after 4:30 p.m.)  
Mike Vaccaro -  
237-9628 DR  
Joanne Gibbon -  
571-0576  
(\$3.00 DONATION FOR  
NON-MEMBERS)

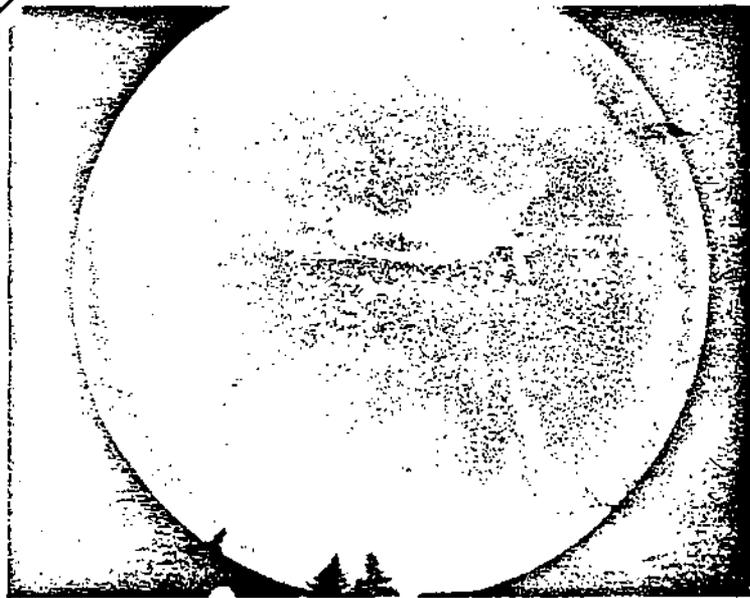
WEEKLY MEETINGS are held at which invited speakers cover topics concerning UFO's and metaphysics. After-meeting get-togethers provide an opportunity for visitors to learn more about our members' interests and topics covered in our meetings.

She was bone-thin, most of her reddish hair was gone, and her face had erupted in large blisters.

# ANTI MATTER

Cool 40-45°

The dense Piney Woods were frigid and still on the evening of December 29, 1980, save for the sound of the car carrying store owner Betty Cash, her assistant Vickie Landrum, and Vickie's grandson, Colby. The three had just finished dinner and were returning to their hometown of Dayton, Texas, when a diamond-shaped object the size of a hot-air balloon dipped between the pines and began spitting bright yellow flames.



sightings. "But I want to see her."

The woman he met was bone-thin. Most of her reddish hair was gone, and large blisters had erupted on her face. She had just been released from the hospital. Schuessler then met Vickie and Colby. After talking to them for a few minutes, he was "convinced that something serious had happened."

Schuessler soon became "a sort of rabbi" for the three friends. He obtained their medical records and, with help of a dozen physicians, learned that the symptoms could have been caused by radiation.

# UFO UPDATE

"We'll be burned to death if we go under that thing!" Vickie screamed. Betty slammed on the brakes. Seven-year-old Colby began to sob, and Vickie clutched him, saying, "Don't be afraid, honey. Jesus'll come out of that burnin' cloud and take care of you. We'll see your dead grandpa, too."

After several minutes the object rose, sweeping bright cones of light over the looming pines. The trio sped off in a panic. They were nearing home when they saw the object again, this time surrounded by 23 roaring helicopters.

Back in Dayton, Cash and the Landrums grew deathly ill, with symptoms ranging from nausea to diarrhea. Colby's diarrhea was so bad he had to put on diapers. Guessing that the diamond-shaped craft was the cause of their trouble, Betty eventually contacted NASA, which referred her to McDonnell Douglas space shuttle engineer John Schuessler. Shaking with agitation during their first phone conversation, she told him her story.

"I thought she was a kook," says Schuessler, a member of the Mutual UFO Network, a group that investigates UFO

He began to suspect that the fire-spewing craft was an experimental vehicle developed by the U.S. military. It had probably malfunctioned, he speculated, and begun to emit huge amounts of radiation. The helicopters may have been there to cart the craft off quickly if it crashed.

If only the military would admit the truth, Schuessler thought, doctors could learn what type of radiation was disfiguring Cash and the Landrums. Then they could administer the correct treatment. Schuessler frantically called every government official and military base in the area. Finally he found a pilot who admitted flying one of the helicopters; however, the pilot refused to identify the brilliant object, calling it classified. "Since then," Schuessler says, "it's been mum's the word from everybody."

As this story goes to press, all three victims continue to deteriorate. Vickie has become blind in one eye, and both she and Colby must enter the hospital for additional tests. — JACK THORNTON AND PAMELA WEINTRAUB

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?  
- eye?

No!

# Schuessler seeks UFO's

By KAY HUNING

**CLEAR LAKE** — Clear Lake Area resident John F. Schuessler investigates unidentified flying object (UFO) sightings.

As a deputy director of the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), Schuessler recently appeared as a guest on the ABC television program Good Morning America. He discussed the sighting account and the results of the investigations of a UFO encounter by three Dayton, Texas residents who also were present and interviewed on the show.

Schuessler is founding member of the Seguin-based 1200 member organization MUFON, an international non-profit organization that investigates UFO sightings throughout the world. He is also a member of MUFON's board of directors and a member of the scientific board of the recently organized Center for UFO Studies in Evanston, Ill.

In the Clear Lake Area, Schuessler heads up a small investigative group called VISIT, the acronym for Vehicle Internal Systems Investigation Team.

One of the objectives of this group of engineers, scientists, and medical specialists is to collect and analyze data on the physical effects of UFOs on the people who sight them.

The 1980 sighting, roughly 20 miles north of the Houston Intercontinental Airport, by Dayton residents Betty Cash, 51; Vicki Landrum, 57; and Landrum's grandson, Colby, 7, has demanded a large portion of Schuessler's spare time.

According to his report in the November 1981 issue of the MUFON UFO Journal, the sighting was made while the threesome were on their way home to Dayton. Betty Cash was driving.

They were on the Cleveland-Huffman road just north of Lake Houston when they noticed a bright light over the pine trees several miles ahead. Suddenly, as they came through the trees, the light was just ahead of their car hovering over the road.

Landrum describes the UFO as an enormous, diamond of fire that lit up the entire area with an intense heat.

The three initially got out of the car but Landrum got back inside the vehicle while Cash remained outside next to the front of the car for five to ten minutes.

The UFO reportedly lit the entire area as if it were daytime and it periodically belched flames downward. Each time it did, the object would rise. When the flames stopped, it would drop in altitude. An irregular beeping

sound was heard by the threesome throughout the sighting.

The temperature was 40 degrees that night, but when Cash returned to the car, the door handle was so hot she had to use her leather coat as a hot pad to open the door.

After the UFO had risen out of sight, the three resumed traveling turning on FM 2100, only again to sight the UFO. But this time it was surrounded by more than 20 helicopters. Through use of helicopter identification charts, it was established that at least two types of helicopters were present. One model clearly identified was the Boeing military C114-Chinook.

Cash, Landrum and her grandson have physically suffered from the UFO encounter. Exposed longest to the UFO, Cash was later hospitalized. She has lost patches of skin on her face and 50 percent of her hair has fallen out. The three have experienced severe vision disturbances, vomiting, diarrhea, stomach pains, loss of energy, skin ulceration - the list goes on.

Schuessler said that he was not brought into the case until a month after the UFO sighting.

Initially, the people involved had chosen not to discuss their encounter for fear of ridicule. In fact, Landrum reportedly threatened her grandson with a "thrashing" if he told anyone. But when their severe sickness did not subside, they sought medical help and also inquired with whom they could report and discuss what they had seen and experienced.

When they did not receive help from the radio, television, the Air Force and other agencies in the Houston area, Cash thought of NASA and called the public information office, who in turn referred her to Schuessler.

In the meantime, a Dayton policeman, whom Landrum had previously contacted, found a UFO Hotline card buried in his desk, and he gave her the phone number listed on the card. This phone number was in the state of Washington. She made the call and she was referred to MUFON in Texas, who also referred her to Schuessler.

Schuessler commented that had the authorities in Dayton had a Houston UFO Hotline phone number, he

would have been brought into the case earlier. He said around 12 UFO sightings were reported last year in the Houston area, including one as recently as Dec. 1, in Hitchcock.

All of this has prompted VISIT to establish a local UFO Hotline card which lists the following phone numbers: (713) 482-6702 and the following addresses: VISIT, P.O. Box 877, Friendswood, TX. 77546. The cards are being distributed this week to authorities within a hundred mile radius of the Clear Lake Area.

Schuessler said a sighting account will be referred to a VISIT member who in turn will immediately contact the person who reported it. He said a VISIT member generally can obtain information of natural phenomena such as meteor showers or military activities in the area in question, and sometimes the UFO sightings are explained this way. However, the Dayton sighting is still a mystery.

Schuessler is employed by McDonnell Douglas Corp. as project manager for space shuttle flight operations support. Responding to the question how he first became interested in investigating UFO accounts, he said that during the mid-sixties the Gemini pilots reported some sightings during their missions.

"I was involved in the life support system for McDonnell Douglas in St. Louis and I listened to the Gemini astronauts reporting their sightings. It appeared to me, working in engineering in the space program, that we should be able to give answers to what's going on in the skies - but I found it wasn't that easy."

Does Schuessler believe UFO's are from outer space? He said there were a lot of questions unanswered at this point in time, but added, "something's going on that's out of the normal, ...without all the pieces of the puzzle together, the answer can't be made yet."



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Final of three parts

# Encounters with fiery diamond

By CHUCK STEVICK  
Texas City Sun Reporter

FRIENDSWOOD—"It looked like a diamond of fire," Vickie Landrum told the investigators.

Vickie, her grandson, and another woman encountered the "diamond of fire" along a deserted Texas highway the night of Dec. 29, 1980.

They have not been the same since.

"This has been a very traumatic event for them," says John Schuessler of VISIT, the Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team.

"All of them are partially blind at this time," says Schuessler. That is on top of other medical problems, including hair loss, diarrhea, excessive amount of tooth decay, and the periodic appearance of sores.

According to Schuessler, the three show symptoms of "extreme radiation exposure." He told this story:

Their problems started a cool, winter evening about two-and-a-half years ago. Vickie, 57, and her seven-year-old grandson Colby Landrum were traveling with Betty Cash, 51 on the Cleveland-Huffman road just north of Lake Houston. They were on their way home in Dayton after finding the hall they'd gone to to play bingo was closed.

Suddenly, just ahead of them on the road, hovering, was the "diamond of fire."

The object was so bright, it was hard to look at. Flames belched from its bottom. With each blast of flames, the object would rise; when the blast stopped, it would drop.

Things began to get hot...

Betty Cash, fearing that if they got any closer they might be burned alive, stopped the car in the middle of the road. The three got out for a closer look.

Terrified, Colby immediately jumped back into the automobile, screaming. His screams finally enticed his grandmother back into the car.

Meanwhile, Betty walked to the front of the car for even a closer look at the bright object. After much pleading from Vickie, she returned to the driver's side of the car.

The car had become so hot, the woman had to use her leather jacket as a hotpad to open the door and climb in.

The temperature outside that night had been reported to be about 40 degrees. Inside the car, its occupants began to sweat, and the air conditioning had to be turned on.

Throughout the sighting, the three people were aware of an irregular beeping noise.

The object rose to the southwest, and disappeared from sight.

Relieved that they were all apparently "safe and sound," the threesome continued their journey home, turning right onto FM 2100.

Ahead of them, in the sky, was the object again. It was surrounded by a large number of helicopters, later identified as CH-47 Chinooks, the double-rotor type used by the military.

The sky was filled with helicopters, flying all around the object. Betty, Vickie, and Colby counted more than 20 of them.

They were noisy. "The helicopter roar was

like a tornado," said Vickie.

This time none of the three got out of the car for a closer look. They sped home, leaving the "diamond of fire" and the helicopters behind.

Almost immediately their medical problems became apparent.

When Betty dropped Vickie and Colby off at their home in Dayton, Vickie commented, "My head hurts. I'm sick."

Betty was even sicker. Along with an excruciating headache, she, she became nauseated, her eyes swelled shut, and red blotches appeared all over her head. The next morning, she didn't get out of bed.

The other two suffered similar problems, says Schuessler. They became red as beets, and developed a severe case of diarrhea that lasted seven weeks. It was so bad for Colby, he had to wear a diaper to school.

Things got worse. Betty had to be hospitalized, where she was treated as if she was a burn patient. Most of her hair, which was quite lush, fell out, as did some of Vickie's.

During this time, Betty lost patches of skin on her face, and for several weeks thereafter Colby had nightmares about the helicopters.

With regards to the helicopters, Schuessler, a former NASA engineer who is regarded an expert in UFO study, checked with Houston International Airport and state military installations, with little results.

Beyond 15 miles from the airport, helicopters are required to remain below 1,800 feet, which is too low for Houston radar to pick up.

None of the military installations would

The Island Sun

# TOPPER

admit to having helicopters on a mission in the Houston area that night.

What the VISIT investigators did find out was this:

About four hours after the original Cash-Landrum sighting, an off-duty police officer and his wife reported 12 CH-47 coptors flying over the area, searchlights scanning the earth.

"There was some kind of helicopter operation that night," says Schuessler.

Also, VISIT determined that there is a secret helicopter unit in the military which operates where it wants to in this country. VISIT also found that the unit was in Texas the night of Dec. 29, 1980.

However, exactly where the unit was and what it was doing is classified information.

Meanwhile, the health of Betty Cash, and Vickie and Colby Landrum continues its downward slide. Their future is yet to be determined.

"They really deserve help," says Schuessler.

He grits his teeth with frustration. "There is no such thing as a UFO, according to the government," he says. "And the helicopters weren't there, according to the government. And yet the people got hurt."

What exactly was the Cash-Landrum sighting, Schuessler wonders.

Was it a UFO?

Was it a UFO intercept?

Or could it have been an agreed meeting between a UFO and the helicopters?

"It's a mystery," he says.

And the investigation continues.

Last of a series

# Close encounter with diamond of fire

By CHUCK STEVICK  
Texas City Sun Reporter

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Their problems started a cool, winter evening about two-and-a-half years ago. Vickie, 57, and her seven-year-old grandson Colby Landrum were traveling with Betty Cash, 51 on the Cleveland-Huffman road just north of Lake Houston. They were on their way home in Dayton after finding the hall

where they'd gone to play bingo was closed.

Suddenly, just ahead of them on the road, hovering, was the "diamond of fire."

The object was so bright, it was hard to look at. Flames belched from its bottom. With each blast of flames, the object would rise; when the blast stopped, it would drop.

Things began to get hot...

Betty Cash, fearing that if they got any closer they might be burned alive, stopped the car in the middle of the road. The three got out for a closer look.

Terrified, Colby immediately jumped back into the automobile, screaming. His screams finally enticed his grandmother back into the car.

Meanwhile, Betty walked to the front of the car for even a closer look at the bright object. After much pleading from Vickie, she returned to the driver's side of the car.

The car had become so hot, the woman had to use her leather jacket as a hotpad to open the door and climb in.

The temperature outside that night had been reported to be about 49 degrees. Inside the car, its occupants began to sweat, and the air conditioning had to be turned on.

Throughout the sighting, the three people were aware of an irregular beeping noise.

The object rose to the southwest, and

disappeared from sight.

Relieved that they were all apparently "safe and sound," the threesome continued their journey home, turning right onto FM 2100.

Ahead of them, in the sky, was the object again. It was surrounded by a large number of helicopters, later identified as CH-47 Chinooks, the double-rotor type used by the military.

The sky was filled with helicopters, flying all around the object. Betty, Vickie, and Colby counted more than 20 of them.

They were noisy. "The helicopter roar was like a tornado," said Vickie.

This time none of the three got out of the car for a closer look. They sped home, leaving the "diamond of fire" and the helicopters behind. Almost immediately their medical problems became apparent.

When Betty dropped Vickie and Colby off at their home in Dayton, Vickie commented, "My head hurts. I'm sick."

Betty was even sicker. Along with an excruciating headache, she became nauseated, her eyes swelled shut, and red blotches appeared all over her head. The next morning, she didn't get out of bed.

The other two suffered similar problems, says Schuessler. They became red as beets,

and developed a severe case of diarrhea that lasted seven weeks. It was so bad for Colby, he had to wear a diaper to school.

Things got worse. Betty had to be hospitalized, where she was treated as if she was a burn patient. Most of her hair, which was quite lush, fell out, as did some of Vickie's.

During this time, Betty lost patches of skin on her face, and for several weeks thereafter Colby had nightmares about the helicopters.

With regards to the helicopters, Schuessler, a former NASA engineer who is regarded an expert in UFO study, checked with Houston International Airport and state military installations, with little results.

Beyond 15 miles from the airport, helicopters are required to remain below 1,800 feet, which is too low for Houston radar to pick up.

None of the military installations would admit to having helicopters on a mission in the Houston area that night.

What the VISIT investigators did find out was this:

About four hours after the original Cash-Landrum sighting, an off-duty police officer and his wife reported 12 CH-47 copters flying over the area, searchlights scanning the earth.

"There was some kind of helicopter operation that night," says Schuessler.

Also, VISIT determined that there is a secret helicopter unit in the military which operates where it wants to in this country. VISIT also found that the unit was in Texas the night of Dec. 29, 1980.

However, exactly where the unit was and what it was doing is classified information.

Meanwhile, the health of Betty Cash, and Vickie and Colby Landrum continues its downward slide. Their future is yet to be determined.

"They really deserve help," says Schuessler.

He grits his teeth with frustration. "There is no such thing as a UFO, according to the government," he says. "And the helicopters weren't there, according to the government. And yet the people get hurt."

What exactly was the Cash-Landrum sighting, Schuessler wonders.

Was it a UFO?

Was it a UFO intercept?

Or could it have been an agreed meeting between a UFO and the helicopters?

"It's a mystery," he says.

And the investigation continues.

Good Afternoon It's

Wednesday

June 16, 1982

Texas  
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Vol. 66 No. 174

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# PENTAGON INVESTIGATES CASH-LANDRUM CASE

By John F. Schuessler

(Ed. Note: Excerpts from investigator's notes in MUFON files submitted by VISIT — Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team.)

During the months that followed the 29 December 1980 incident near Huffman, Tex., where Betty Cash, Vickie Landrum, and Colby Landrum were injured while in close proximity to a large water tank-like object and a large contingent of military type helicopters, our requests for assistance from governmental officials fell on deaf ears. Bureaucratic apathy began to crack after "That's Incredible" aired a television segment on the case. Then *Science Digest* and *Omni* magazines published small articles that aided in getting some attention from Washington, D.C.

On 24 February 1982 I received a call from the U.S. Air Force Liaison Office in Washington, D.C. The caller was Capt. Jenny Lampley. She explained that a Congressional inquiry had resulted in her assignment to determine if USAF helicopters had been involved in the 29 December 1980 case. Approximately two weeks later I learned from Richard Niemtzow at Travis Air Force Base, Calif., that Capt. Lampley had concluded her investigation and the results were negative. Supposedly, the Air Force doesn't utilize twin rotor helicopters. (That answer is questionable. The Houston *Chronicle* newspaper showed a photograph of a twin rotor helicopter in the 17 August 1982 issue. The caption read "Honduran soldiers surround a U.S. Air Force helicopter during joint military exercise....")

On 19 March 1982 I was called by Lt. Col. George Sarran from the Department of the Army Inspector General office in the Pentagon. Col. Sarran explained that his office had received the inquiry from the Air Force Liaison Office because the Air Force had concluded their units were not

involved. He explained that his interest was in the possibility that Army helicopters were involved. He would be investigating that allegation. He stressed that the U.S. Army had no opinion about the unidentified object or UFOs in general.

Col. Sarran said he called because his office had been pulsed to give some answers about the helicopter involvement. At his request I provided a verbal account of the incident from beginning to end. He stated that he had been stationed at Fort Hood before going to Washington and was familiar with their operations. For that reason he felt that Fort Hood was probably not involved, although they have a number of twin rotor helicopters. He said their testing and operations were generally conducted on the Fort Hood reservation. He stated that as far as he knew Fort Hood had the only helicopters of that type (CH-47 Chinook) in the area. I told him I had found CH-47s to be stationed at Ellington AFB in Houston and at the Dallas Naval Air Station and provided telephone numbers so he could check on them. He said then that it would be his initial conclusion that if helicopters were present they surely would have been from Ellington and that would be the place for him to begin his investigation.

He had interpreted the incident to be a helicopter in trouble, landing for repairs; but concluded that didn't fit the situation because none had been reported. He had trouble accepting the Cash/Landrum concept that there was an object, probably a government experiment other than a helicopter in the air that night. He based his opinion on the fact this was the 1980 Christmas week and most military installations go on holiday routine, allowing most of the troops to go home for the holiday period. He then questioned the replies given VISIT investigators by the various military installations we had called. He

concluded they were more or less truthful. He was very courteous and said he would try to contact Ellington. He said he'd be glad to act on any hint of a cover-up that we might find, as the Army feels it very important to have a good rapport with the community.

Later the same day Col. Sarran called me a second time to let me know he had made contact with Ellington. The Commanding Officer of the 136th Transport Unit, a reserve group stationed at Ellington, and flying CH-47s. The commanding officer was Maj. Dennis Haire. Major Haire was to call and discuss the incident with me. Col. Sarran said he had trouble convincing Major Haire he was serious. Haire obviously had never heard of the case. He said now he was even more sure that no helicopter had gone down on 29 December 1980. Also, he assured me that the CH-47s are not flown on Monday nights. I rejected that assertion by quoting the fact that three flew from Ellington on Monday 15 March 1982, just four days before his call. He agreed there were exceptions.

Maj. Haire called me on 22 March 1982. He has been a member of the Air Force detachment since 1966 and in charge since 1978. His detachment has eight CH-47A Chinooks, assigned there in 1980. Prior to that time they were a Medivac Unit. He explained the "A" model Chinook has 2 hours fuel plus 15 minutes contingency. Cruising speed is 110 knots, with a 135 knot maximum. They can fly non-stop to San Antonio or Austin, but must refuel at College Station if they fly to Dallas. If they go on a field exercise they schedule a 5,000 gallon USAF fuel truck to meet them along the way. Each CH-47A takes 450 gallons of fuel for a fill-up.

Maj. Haire said there are no CH-47s in Louisiana. A contingent is stationed at Fort Sill, Okla., and many CH-47s are stationed at Fort Hood, Tex. The Fort Hood CH-47s are the

(continued on next page)

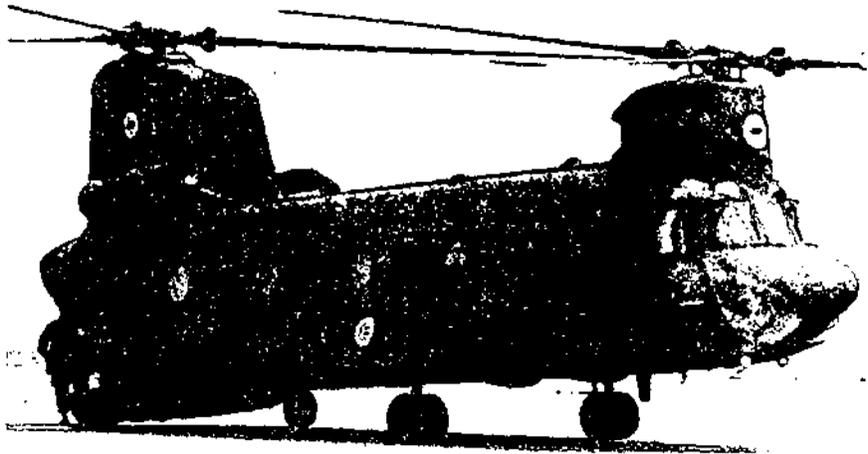
## Pentagon, Continued

"C" model. They can do a round trip to Houston and back without refueling. They have a 3 hour plus 30 minute contingency capacity. Maximum speed is 175 knots and cruising speed is 140 knots. He pointed out that there were no Chinooks flying in 1980 except for military units, so civilian Chinooks could not have been involved in the Cash/Landrum incident.

The Ellington unit flies around the Houston control area all the time. They average 2000 hours/year/man. Fort Hood averages 900 hours/year/man. Maj. Haire is proud of his unit's record. His unit does a lot of airborne troop impacement drilling. They use the Addicks Reservoir north of Houston as a jump zone. In addition to the eight CH-47s they have four Hueys and four 58s. Maj. Haire said he was 99% sure that Ellington CH-47s were not involved in the 29 December 1980 incident. He said he could find out by looking up flight plans, aviators records, and the form 759s that document flight times. Each flight of the CH-47 requires two pilots plus an enlisted (E-6) crew chief. Sometimes a fourth person joins the crew. The Chinook can pick up and carry small equipment, but nothing real large. That would require a "Flying Crane."

Chinooks are not capable of joint operations — more than one helicopter working together to carry a large object. Helicopter pilots are very light sensitive at night and try to avoid bright objects because they ruin the pilot's night vision. For that reason he doubts that helicopters would have flown near the diamond-shaped object sighted by Cash/Landrum. They don't even turn on the inside helicopter lights until after they have landed. Major Haire also runs a commercial helicopter service at Lakeside Airport in Houston.

Maj. Haire called me again on 26 March 1982. He said he had called Col. Sarran to report the results of our earlier telephone conversation. Col. Sarran is evidently digging into the case like a tiger — representing the Inspector General's office. Mark Charbenaugh who works with Maj. Haire, is associated with the Austin reserves and Maj. Haire with the



**Boeing CH-47 Chinook Helicopter**

Ellington National Guard CH-47 unit. Mark noted that the air maps show two microwave towers to the northeast of Houston. He questioned whether or not there could have been a microwave accident. No answer to this one.

Maj. Haire said he had no idea what went on on 29 December 1980. He was definitely not involved. He felt that the government well might have some special devices, some advanced technology, or some test vehicles that could cause the reported symptoms. However, as a civilian or as a National Guard member he doesn't know of anything like that. I asked him if he had ever heard of a NEST unit operating here. He said no and he didn't even know what that acronym meant. I related that it meant Nuclear Emergency Survival Team. He drew a blank on it.

Col. Sarran called again on 8 April 1982. He had talked with Capt. Richard Niemtow at Travis AFB and with Dr. Peter Rank in Wisconsin. He understood their viewpoints, but decided to come to Houston in May to investigate for himself. He said there was nothing secret about his involvement. He said "the Army doesn't say UFOs exist or do not exist. That is up to someone else." If Army helicopters were involved and it was

their fault they would take responsibility. He went on to say that all reserve units are under Force Command in Atlanta. This doesn't apply to National Guard units. Col. Sarran said he was checking to see if any helicopters sprayed fuel or were involved in an agent orange type drill. He received negative replies from The Training Indoctrination Command, Testing agency at Ft. Hood, Corpus Christi NAS, Aberdeen Proving Grounds, and the Pentagon. The computer lists no activity at Huffman, Tex. on 29 Dec 1980.

Col. Sarran called on 23 April 1982 to set a tentative date for his trip to Houston. He is to fact-find the claim of helicopter involvement in the Cash-Landrum case. He planned to meet with me, Vickie Landrum, Willie Culberson, and a Dayton policeman we had found who had witnessed helicopters on 29 Dec 1980. He had contacted all bases and found that none flew near Huffman on the subject date. Fort Hood only flew one helicopter. It flew to Houston, to Galveston, and back to Fort Hood by 8 p.m.

On 25 May 1982 I met with Col. Sarran at the International Airport Holiday Inn in Houston. He asked me to do a taped interview relating what I  
(continued on next page)

## Pentagon, Continued

knew about the case. I did the interview with the agreement I could also tape the whole thing. He cordially agreed. The interview lasted about 45 minutes and covered a full narrative of the incident as I knew it.

At noon on 25 May 1982 Col. Sarran and I visited Vickie Landrum in her home in Dayton. Col. Sarran was happy to have me along during the interview. Bertha Landrum, Vickie's sister, was also present. Col. Sarran told Vickie this was an official investigation and she was free to talk about it to anyone she wished. He gave her form letter type information on the Privacy Act which is to protect her; but told her he couldn't guarantee privacy. I recorded the full interview and retained the tape. A copy of the tape was sent to Peter Gersten in New York. Col. Sarran called Betty Cash in Birmingham from Vickie's house and had an unofficial fact-finding discussion with her.

At approximately 1:30 p.m. Col. Sarran, Vickie Landrum, Bertha Landrum and myself went to see Dayton Police Officer L.L. Walker (his telephone is unlisted, but on file), I taped the full interview with the policeman and his wife Marie. They observed CH-47s in the exact same area near Huffman, but 4 to 5 hours after the original incident. This time the helicopters seemed to be searching for something on the ground. They flew in groups of three with searchlights shining down on the ground. A portion of the transcript of the Walker interview describes the situation as follows:

Lamar Walker says: On December the 19th my wife and I was coming back home from her Mother and Dad's who live in Plum Grove. It's about 3 miles behind Splendor into the wood area. We was travelling New Caney Road, we just came through there the cut off and hit Cedar Bayou and uh came across the river and cut down the school road at the Huffman new high school there and just got back on FM 1960. We were approximately, we was inside the Liberty county city limits and just made a turn out there by the railroad tracks on a curve, headed east.

And I made a remark I said, "Marie," I said. She said, "What's that noise?" I said "well I don't know." But I said "it sounds like

helicopters and it's getting louder." She says "well I don't see any airplane" and I said "it's not an airplane it's a helicopter, Marie," and she said, "whatever it is it sure is low" and I said "yeah it is." So I rolled my car window down and there was very very little traffic and so I slowed way down and I started looking and and I could see some flashing lights in the air approximately anywhere from 400 to 500 feet in the air and I got to picking out more of them and as I was picking them out I picked out 3 in a victor formation and about maybe a thousand and a little bit off to the left of it was another sector of V with 3 choppers in it. And as I looked a little bit better I seen three more. The twin tops, front and aft, the shape and everything.

I said well they must be on maneuvers again, National Guard or something, out at Fort Polk or the Coast Guard doing something and I looked a little bit closer and you could see some lower lights back off in the distance quite a ways back. I'd say about ¼ of a mile — real good visibility that night and uh, I just registered off and we went on home. And it wasn't about oh, maybe three-four weeks uh three-four days maybe a little bit longer when I heard over the news of what happened and I told Marie I said, gee whiz I even told the men around the office there. We setting around talking one day I said, "What in the devil's all the helicopters around for?" I said "They have an airplane crash?" They said, "no, not that I heard."

Col. Sarran said he was convinced that Officer Walker had seen Helicopters, but it still had to be proven.

Next Col. Sarran and I visited the Montgomery County Sheriff Department in Conroe, Tex. We were checking on an allegation that the Sheriff had instigated the flight of helicopters on 29 December 1980. We found that all the people in the Sheriff's Dept. had been replaced on 2 January 1981. None of the original people were around at the time of our visit. We spoke with Chief Deputy B.J. Grounds, Lt. Lowre, and Pete Perkins. All the people interviewed said they would not call the National Guard — it was not part of their procedure. They would probably call Houston police for assistance. Chief Grounds suggested we contact Carl Mangogna who was in charge of the Harris County Patrol Divison, responsible for helicopters at the time. The duty officer on 29 Dec 1980 was Gloria Eshenbeck. Later I contacted Mangogna but was unable to find Eshenbeck. Chief Grounds also

suggested we visit the Army Medivac unit at Hooks Airport to the northwest of Houston. We tried but it was closed — all members were at a special meeting out of town.

On 26 May 1982 I called Carl Mangogna as a followup to the Montgomery County Sheriff Dept. I tracked him down through his father, also a Carl Mangogna. He is now Chief of Security for a Houston corporation. He had no memory of the events on 29 December 1980. He suggested that I call Capt. Defore of the HPD.

On 26 May 1982, Chief Warrant Officer Gustafson of the Army Medivac unit called. He had done some checking at our request with other members of the unit at Hooks and suggested the following possibilities:

(a) There was a Quick React Force operating in Louisiana and Texas during the last year and a half. The last they heard of it was about 6 months earlier, operating near Morgan City, Louisiana. He said they practiced "Iran type" raids, operating from a small carrier in the Gulf of Mexico. Other times they haul in 5,000-gallon fuel bladders for refueling. Their operation is secret and not announced.

(b) The USMC in New Orleans operates CH-46 helicopters. He doesn't know of any operation in the Houston Area but it is always a possibility. (VISIT check on the USMC unit in March 1981. No activity.)

(c) Ken Defore of the Houston Police Department lives in Dayton, Tex. He will visit L.L. Walker and double check him on his claim of seeing CH-47s on 29 Dec 1980.

On 27 May Chief Gustafson called with an update report. His followup with Ken Defore of the Houston Police Department was positive. Capt. Defore said he has no doubt that Dayton police officer L.L. Walker saw CH-47s. He too felt they were probably part of a Quick React Force. He said Walker saw 12 helicopters. Four Groups of three each in "V" formation. The lead aircraft of each "V" was shining a spotlight on the ground as if searching for something. Another element flew 1½ miles behind in a three-abreast formation. Altitude was around 500 feet. They altered course and headed for the Gulf of

*(continued on next page)*

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OCTOBER 1982

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## Pentagon, Continued

Mexico. They could have refueled from 5,000-gallon fuel bladders in the area or from a flattop in the Gulf. Gustafson said "We may have uncovered a bucket of worms."

Col. Sarran called on 1 June 1982. He had no luck in locating a unit responsible for the helicopters on 29 Dec 1980. Only Fort Bragg, N.C., Fort Devens, Mass., Panama, and Europe have Quick React units. They weren't involved. Five CH-47s flew over Dayton on 22 May at 11 a.m. I asked him if it would help to check and see where they were from, thus providing a clue to at least the range for operations on 29 Dec. He said it wouldn't help. Lots of units could overfly the area. Fort Hood participates in the yearly Reforger exercise and flies from Fort Hood to Port Arthur as part of the exercise. That would take them near Dayton. Col. Sarran is due to answer the original inquiry and talk to John Nyter, Deputy Head of Congressional Liaison. He said he would get back to me on the Quick React thing. He expects to report

"negative findings."

Col. Sarran called on 25 June 1982 as a last follow-up. We talked about the *APRO Bulletin* claim of knowing it was a government device and having evidence that would help in the case. I suggested he call Coral Lorenzen, the author of the article, since I had no idea what she was talking about. As a wrapup he told me he had contacted the lawyers at Bergstrom Air Force Base; Vickie and Betty had gone there to give testimony at the suggestion of Senators Bentsen and Towers. Vickie told Col. Sarran he should get a copy of the tape made at Bergstrom. He had gotten that tape. It revealed nothing new. He said, "obviously something happened to the ladies." However, he could find no group responsible for the helicopters. An operation of that magnitude would have been "big time." Fueling would have been a problem. He just cannot believe it wouldn't have been exposed. The Special Operations Branch, Delta Project (Iran raid) and skyjack and terrorist fighting groups were checked and all responded with a "negative." □

## When lifting payloads, $D = B + C$

During a recent U.S. Army flight demonstration, a newly modernized Boeing CH-47D Chinook helicopter showed its impressive lift capacity. Twice it matched the combined payloads of two earlier model Chinooks, a CH-47C and a CH-47B.

For the first phase of the 30-minute demonstration, six fully loaded 500-gallon fuel blivets (total weight of 21,000 pounds) were strapped to the D-model's triple external cargo hooks and lifted, while the C-model moved four and the B-model two blivets on single center cargo hooks. During the second phase, an M198 howitzer was sling-loaded on the D-model's fore and aft cargo hooks and 32 rounds of ammunition in a cargo net also were carried by the aft hook. Inside the aircraft was an eight-man gun crew and a flight crew of four. Total payload was 22,500 pounds. The B and C-models together were able to carry the same load, but not as easily as the D-model, according to Boeing.

The D-model also accomplished:

- A hover to a height of 100 feet with a 21,000-pound payload. Only 72% of the available engine power was needed.
- A wide-angle bank (60° to the ground).
- A maximum-performance takeoff with a 17,000-pound truck attached to the center cargo hook.

The demonstration took place in conjunction with the delivery earlier that day of the first CH-47D to an Army operational unit, the 159th Aviation Battalion of the 101st Air-



Six fuel blivets were carried by the D-model (left), matching the combined payload carried by a CH-47C (center) and a CH-47B (right).

borne Division. The 159th will receive 48 D-models over the next two years. Current Army plans are for Boeing Vertol to modernize 436 Chinooks in ten years.

During the modernization process, each previously built

Chinook is stripped to its airframe and rebuilt using the newest technology, including Avco-Lycoming T55-L-712 engines, advanced flight controls, improved avionics, composite rotor blades, and night-vision goggle compatibility. MD

*FUEL BLIVETS EXTEND  
THE RANGE OF OPERATIONS  
FOR CH-47'S*

THE NEWS WORLD  
NEW YORK CITY

# UFO'S

## AND OTHER COSMIC PHENOMENA



### Their lives depend on end to UFO secrecy

*These three people still suffer symptoms similar to victims of an atomic attack ever since their close encounter with a UFO more than two years ago. Their condition worsens every day. Government authorities have data which they won't release, about the UFO, that may help cure them... See story on page 3.*



# UFO cover-up ruins lives of 3

## Victims deteriorate as U.S. holds back info on object

By Lucille de Saint-Andre  
Special to THE NEWS WORLD

Two Texas women and a little boy, innocent victims of a cover-up, are fighting for their lives in a continuing saga of government UFO intransigence. They have now filed a \$10 million damage claim against the Bergstrom U.S. Air Force Base near Austin, Texas in an incident so incredible that it seems to come right out of a sci-fi film.

In what has been termed as perhaps the most significant encounter of this time by such eminent UFO investigators as Dr. J. Allen Hynek, director of the Center for UFO Studies, and McDonnell Douglas space engineer John Schuessler, the victims suffered considerable radiation poisoning that has doctors groping in the dark about what treatment to use on them. They could be helped if their suit succeeds in obtaining related documents under the Freedom of Information Act so that the nature of their illness can be determined. All three have been in and out of hospitals since it happened.

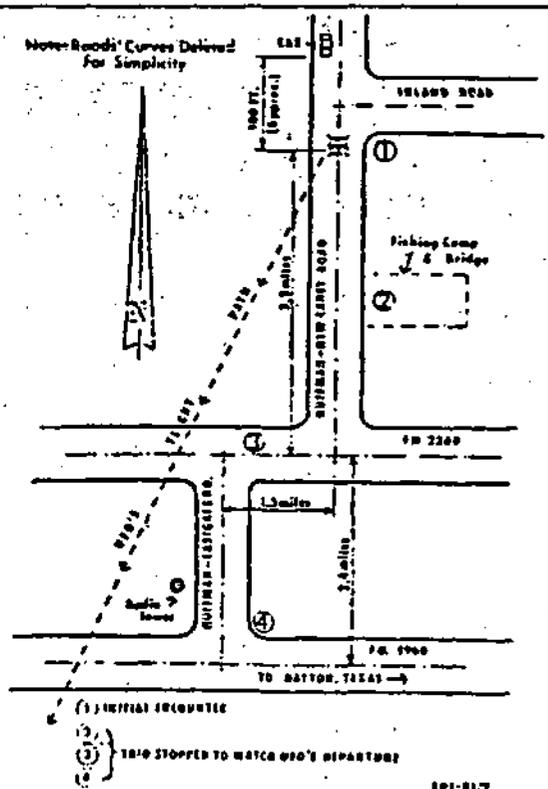
Betty Cash and Vickie Landrum, both in their fifties, and grandson Colby Landrum, 9, continue to suffer from severe physical, emotional and economic damages arising from their close encounter with the UFO they met on a bleak Monday winter evening

December 29, 1980 on a deserted stretch of a Texas road between New Caney and Huffman not far from Houston. They were on their way home to Dayton when their car was blocked by a huge diamond-shaped UFO throwing forth red and orange flames from its bottom.

"The object was extremely bright," they said, "and appeared to be the size of a city water tank. It was approximately 60-80 feet above the road."

What happened next was the beginning of an ongoing nightmare that has altered the lives of all participants. They stopped the car, got out and stared at the UFO. It was now hovering at tree top level approximately 135 feet from them. Betty Cash, who was driving the automobile, felt intense and excruciating heat coming from the UFO. Vickie Landrum stood on the passenger's side and clutched the boy to her. The boy was terrified and screamed for her to get back into the car. They both did and the boy hid on the floor. Betty Cash after five minutes got into the car but noted that the door handle was so hot that she had to use her jacket to close it.

They followed the object which was moving westward. After some three miles they saw approximately 23 military-type heli-



A map of the flight path of the UFO sighted by Betty Cash and Vickie and Colby Landrum, which also shows where the trio first saw the UFO and where they stopped to watch its flight.

CLAIM FOR DAMAGE, INJURY, OR DEATH	
Name of claimant	Betty Cash
Address	205 48th Street, Birmingham, Alabama 35204
Sex	Female
Age	57
Date of accident	December 29, 1980
Time of accident	9:02 PM
Location of accident	On FF road 1482 between New Caney and Huffman, Decatur County, Georgia
Vehicle description	1980 Oldsmobile Delta 88
Occupants	Betty Cash, Vickie Landrum, Colby Landrum
Witnesses	None
Police report number	None
Medical treatment	None
Property damage	None
Other damage	None
Signature of claimant	Betty Cash
Signature of witness	None

A copy of a Department of Justice form filled out by Betty Cash requesting \$10 million in damages from Bergstrom Air Force Base in Austin, Texas, for injuries which appeared hours after viewing a UFO surrounded by 23 military-type helicopters. Lawyer Peter Gersten hopes the claim will result in release of information about the UFO.

icopters, several of which appeared to be double rotary types, near the object. Finally the UFO disappeared, and so did the helicopters.

Betty dropped off Vickie and her grandson at their home then drove to her own home. She said her head felt as "though it would burst." Within hours she developed extreme and prolonged headaches, nausea, a swollen neck, red blotches on her face and head and swollen earlobes and eyelids. Her eyes closed completely and she could not see for several days. The red blotches became blisters of clear fluid.

Betty and Vickie lost much of their hair. When it grew back it was weaker and grayer. Vickie's fingernails got holed. She developed a cataract in her right eye. Her left eye is now much worse, says Schuessler who talks to her every week.

Symptoms get worse and worse

"Every few months it gets worse. When this thing first started she could see very well. She worked, she drove," Schuessler said in a telephone interview from Texas. She

was very active, alert woman, she ran a restaurant and small grocery store. Betty Cash worked with her. Now they've closed both businesses. Since the incident they haven't worked one day.

"They're not what you'd call educated people but they're very nice and have a good reputation. Aside from the blows to their health and their pocketbooks, they've taken some abuse. People have given them a hard time," Schuessler said.

"As far as the helicopters go (which have been identified as U.S. Army Chinook models from Betty's and Vickie's and Colby's description), we haven't been able to prove anything, so far. But we're confident there were helicopters. I'm positive 99 percent something happened. These people are not hoaxers."

Does he think the boy will be all right? "That's questionable. Some of the doctors have informally said that he could develop leukemia-like symptoms during the next ten years. They don't know the background of this, so they won't know how to treat him."

Terrified of helicopters

"The boy is more afraid of heli-

## REPORTS

continued from page 7

that the group was so cold-hearted, when he had gone to such lengths to try and locate his son. Raising the plane from the watery grave could provide some answers, but it may cause some new ones. (SUN, Melbourne, Australia, Jan. 11, 1983).

Some researchers believe cattle mutilations are connected with UFO sightings, while others reject the suggestion. Denver television producer Linda Moulton Howe is one of the believers. She relates the story that Texan Judy Dorothy was abducted by an alien craft just a few miles from NASA's Johnson Space Center. During the event she watched two beings cut into an animal — a classic mutilation. Apparently, the aliens have no emotions and are "just doing their job."

Ray Boeche, an investigator for the Mutual UFO Network, said mutilations have been reported in 37 countries. Curiously, mutilation cases in the United States also contain reports of mystery helicopters in the air near the mutilation site. His report ties in with the mystery helicopters seen during some of the recent UFO incidents as well. (JOURNAL, Lincoln, NE, Nov. 15, 1982).

During December a mutilated beaver was found near Norfolk, Nebraska. The 750 pound animal was missing the ears and the right front leg. Flesh was cleanly cut from the face. Little blood was found and no evidence that the animal was shot could be found. The carcass was untouched by scavengers, an unusual event in itself. (DAILY NEWS, Norfolk, NE, Dec. 15, 1982).

A nine-year-old cow was found mutilated near Cheyenne, WY in December. The rancher-owner said the case was classic, with one eyeball gone, half an udder, rectum, and vagina cleanly removed from the body with expert precision. Very little blood was found. Predators avoided the carcass. (EAGLE, Cheyenne, WY, Dec. 3, 1982).

## COVER-UP

continued from page 3

copiers now than of this big, glowing thing. When it first happened — he was 7 then — we took him aside and we had him make little drawings of the copiers. We talked to him alone without any of his relatives so no one could accuse us of slandering things. He's a rugged, active, intelligent little guy, he gets very good grades in school and the teachers like him. But he's terrified of copiers. Once, shortly after it happened, I had his grandmother bring him down to the space center where I work.

"Then the big red and white coast guard helicopter came from the Gulf direction right over the space center. When he heard it and saw it he ducked and ran for the building. It was quite an automatic reaction. He completely panicked."

Schuessler, who's worked in the space craft field since 1962 and has been on every major space program in this country, feels this case doesn't fit the mold. "We're still looking for clues. It takes a lot of detective work. For instance,

some of the pilots in these helicopters must have gotten hurt the same way these people were. I can't see how they could have been protected unless they wore special suits. Of course they'd be in military hospitals. We asked around the hospitals but got nowhere. If they died their families might talk.

"I really think that whatever it was, it was out of control. If it was from Alpha Centauri or some Air force base, whatever, I haven't seen anything that looks like it. It fits the mold of what people think of as UFOs but UFOs don't put out radiation. The only radiation comes from countermeasures here and they're not generally deep or intensified enough to hurt people. If they were carrying something — weapons or a high energy source platform that could explain it (red and orange flames) but I can't find anything in any of the technical archives that looks this way."

Schuessler, who's deputy director of the Mutual UFO Network, in Seguin, Texas, insists it is a UFO in any classic sense of the word.

## Victims suffer as mystery deepens

In the meantime, the two women and the little boy have not gotten better. They have sores and big welts which comes and go as if something happened to their immune system and Colby has developed knots the size of thumbs in his knee joints. They've run out of money for treatment and they can't work to make money. Betty has moved to Alabama to live with her mother. Vicky feels she looks too terrible to reopen her restaurant or grocery store and moreover, can't see enough to hold a job. Her diagnosis reads, "Radiation damage. Type and dosage unknown. Prognosis: Unknown at this time."

New York lawyer Peter Gersten, an authority on Freedom of Information Act requests regarding UFOs, hopes his administrative claim filed in December 1982 (see box) will open government files and produce the needed information. The Air Force has five months to respond and if he doesn't get any action by then he will file suit in U.S. District Court in Texas.

So far the government has denied any knowledge of the helicopters at the scene and even extensive investigation led by Schuessler could not move any branch of the military to admit to the incident.

Nevertheless there have been other witnesses. Things like this can't just happen and vanish into thin air. With so many people and several witnesses involved and the highly explosive radiation issue in the story, sooner or later someone's got to talk.

Gersten confidently predicts that this year or the next, the government will make some major disclosures regarding UFOs. And that's when the story will break wide open. Let's hope it won't be too late for Betty Cash, Vickie Landrum and little Colby.

## WOMAN

continued from page 4

once and for what purpose?

This is why it is imperative that we overcome the mental block of UFO witnesses and show they are not alone in their encounters. It is of prime concern to ufology to come forward with their experiences no matter how insignificant they may feel

their encounter is. With this thought in mind, those wishing to inform us of their UFO encounter, or to aid UFO research by either subscribing to our bi-monthly literature or enrolling as an active member, may write us at:

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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

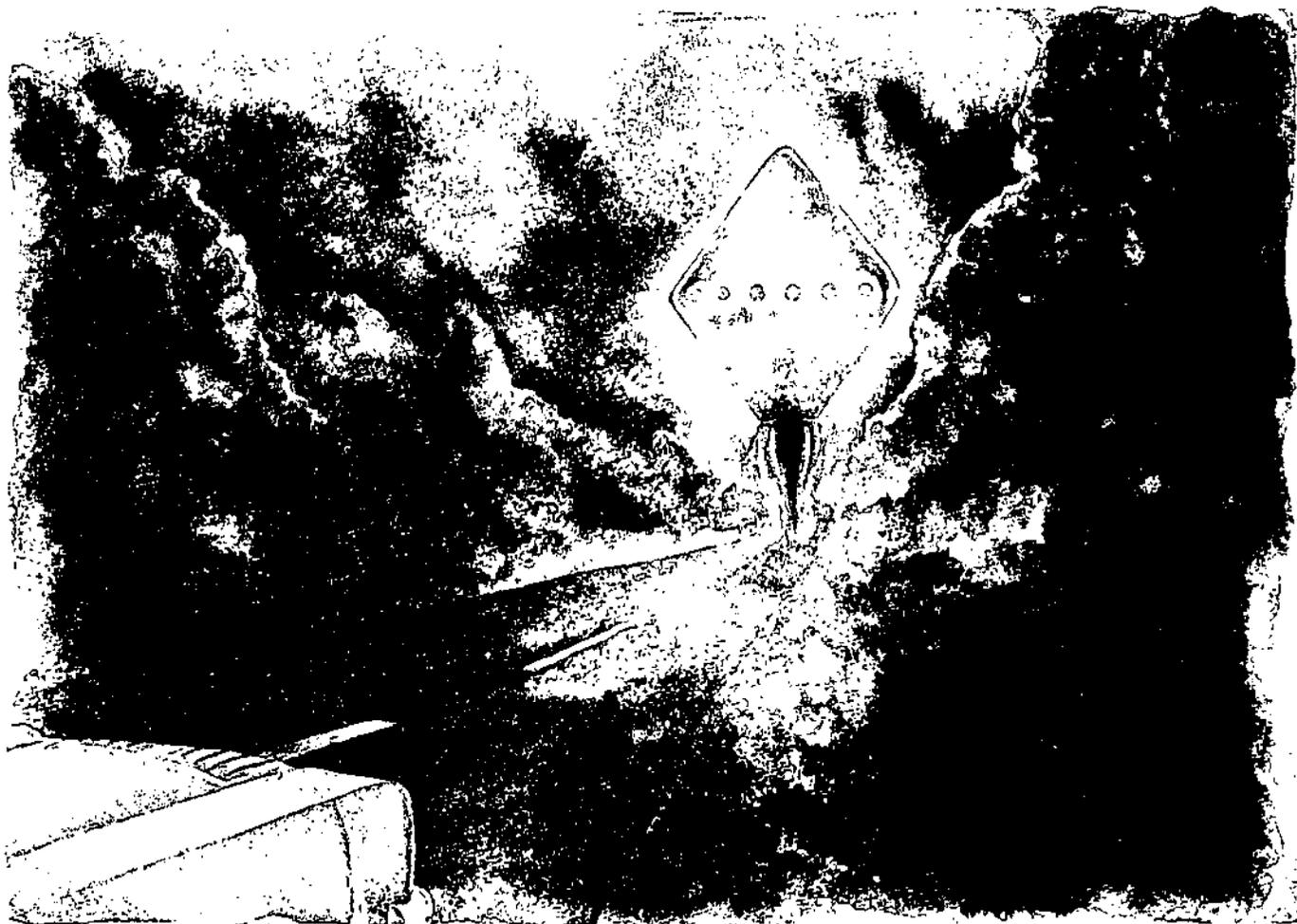
For the three spectators it was like being caught in the middle of some strange battle for the skies.

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



## 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.

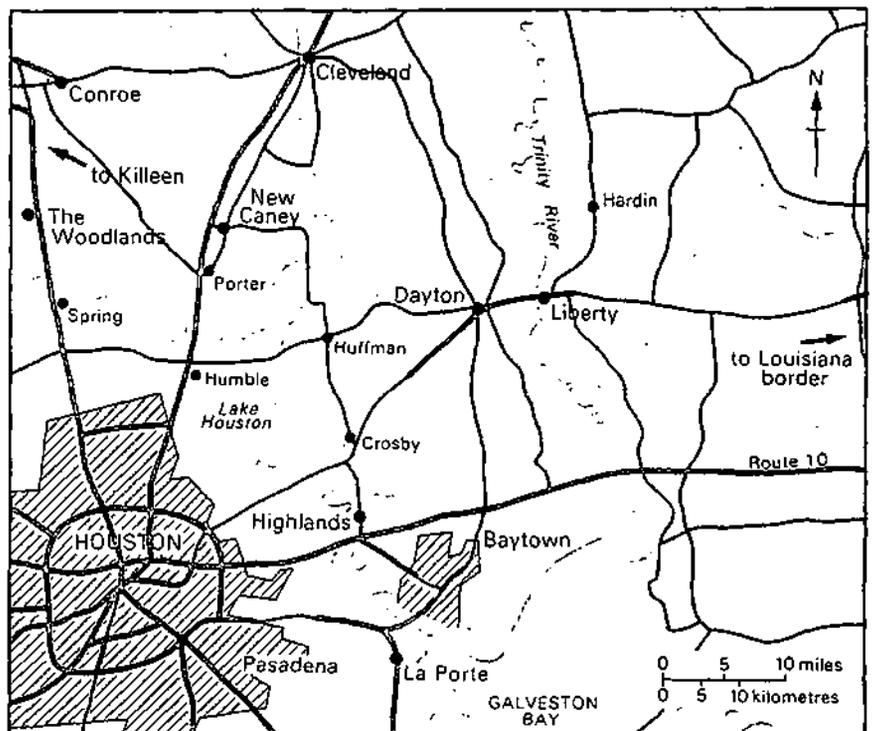
Above: the lonely tree-lined road where Betty Cash and Vickie and Colby Landrum saw the UFO

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.

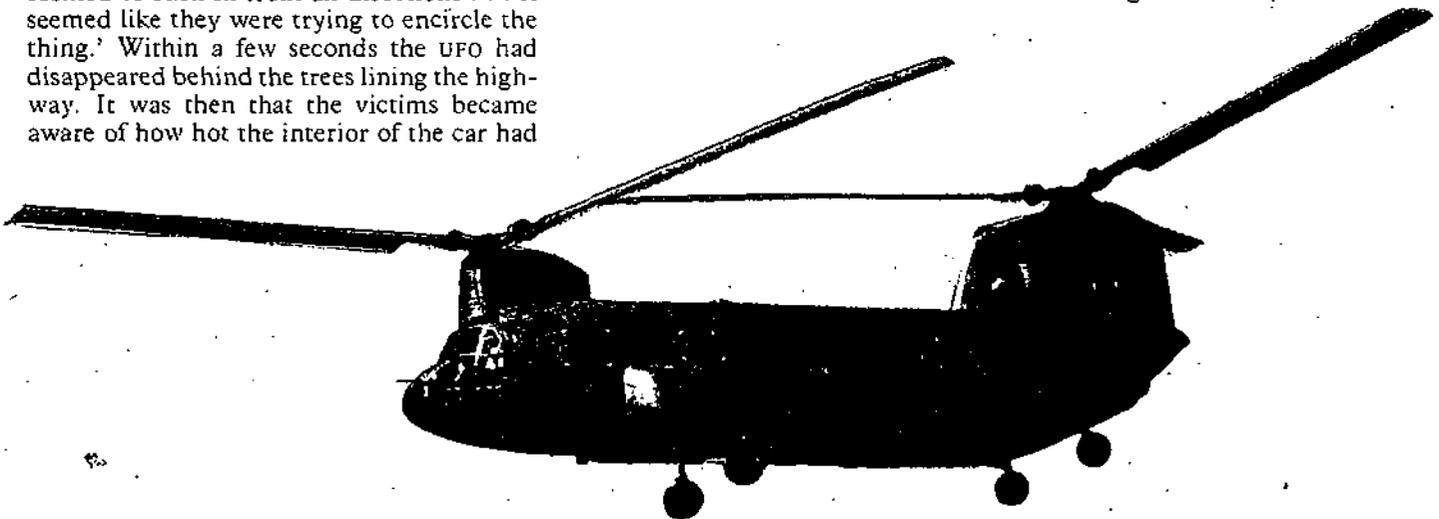
As the three of them watched the departing UFO, a large number of helicopters appeared overhead. As Betty said, 'They seemed to rush in from all directions . . . it seemed like they were trying to encircle the thing.' Within a few seconds the UFO had disappeared behind the trees lining the highway. It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



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 worn off, Betty started the engine and they sped off down the darkened highway. After a mile or so 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, and looked like a bright oblong cylinder of light. It was still lighting up the

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 new 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

## 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



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 Magec 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*

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

baby oil, but it took several days, and several bottles of oil, to bring the pain under control. She and Colby also consumed several bottles of commercial medicine intended to prevent diarrhoea, but without success. The headaches also refused to respond to any treatment. After three weeks the severity of their illness subsided, but the symptoms continued to recur over the following year.

Since their encounter with the UFO Vickie and Colby have been plagued by periodic outbreaks of skin troubles, as if they were more susceptible to infection than before. But the most far-reaching injury has been the damage to their eyes. Their eyelids became infected very rapidly, and have never fully recovered. Since the incident Vickie has had to have three new pairs of spectacles with successively stronger prescriptions to match the deterioration in her eyesight. Her eyesight is continuing to deteriorate and she still suffers from periodic eye infections; she fears she may eventually go blind. Colby too has experienced similar problems with his eyes, although he has needed only one new pair of spectacles since the incident.

Within a few weeks of the encounter Vickie had lost about 30 per cent of her hair, and had large bald patches on her head.

When her hair grew again it was of a different texture. 'It is frizzy,' she says, 'but more manageable.' Colby lost only a small patch of hair on the crown of his head; this, too, grew again in time.

Betty's injuries seemed even more severe than those of Vickie and Colby. 'The blinding headache that developed within an hour or so made me feel like I was going to die,' she said. She experienced a severe sunburn-like condition, and developed large water blisters, some as large as golf balls, over her face, head and neck. One of these covered her right eyelid and extended across her right temple. She also developed a long-term aversion to warm water, sunshine or other heat source.

Betty had been an energetic woman. She ran a restaurant and a grocery store, and she had been planning to open a larger restaurant. Two years later she was still physically drained. In the year following the encounter she spent five periods in hospital, two of them in intensive care. Within four weeks of the encounter she had lost over half the hair on her head. Although it grew again slowly the texture of the new hair was not the same as that of the original hair. Betty has also been plagued with skin eruptions; many

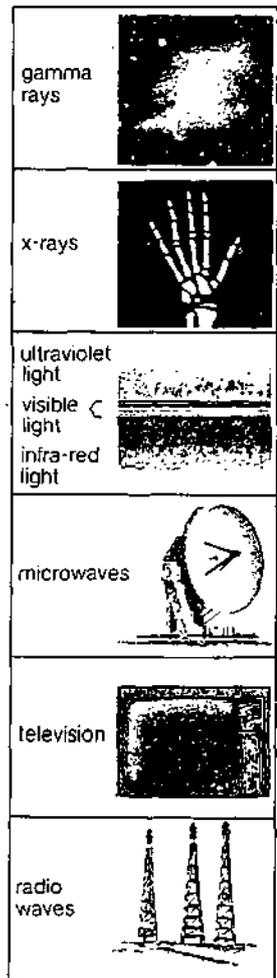
Two months after her encounter with the UFO Betty Cash (left) had lost much of her hair. She was also suffering from skin blisters, nausea and severe headaches. A year and a half after the event Vickie Landrum (far left) still exhibited signs of facial burns and (below left) skin sores

## Sickening waves

Electromagnetic radiation consists of waves of energy of varying lengths and frequencies spanning a spectrum from radio waves to gamma rays (right). Moving up the spectrum the wavelength decreases and the frequency increases. The spectrum also divides into ionising radiation (gamma rays, x-rays and ultraviolet) and non-ionising (infra-red, microwaves, television and radio waves). It is ionising radiation that is potentially most damaging to living tissue. Exposure to ionising radiation can cause skin burns, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, loss of hair, lowered resistance to infection, headaches, fatigue, and other problems.

The sunburn-type injuries inflicted in the Huffman incident could be described as typical of exposure to ultraviolet radiation. They could also have been caused by x-rays or microwaves. The eye injuries could have been caused by any type of radiation, but they are most commonly seen in cases of ultraviolet exposure. Workers exposed to microwaves have also suffered damage to the tissues of the eye.

Microwave exposure produces symptoms similar to those of ionising radiation; it often produces an easily irritated skin such as Betty, Vickie and Colby experienced. If the microwave is pulsed,



ionising radiation

non-ionising radiation



its effects are more harmful. Some devices that pulse microwaves also produce x-rays, and this combination could account for most of the injuries seen in the Huffman case.

Radiation damage is difficult to diagnose. Radiation burns (above) can be mistaken for more commonplace injuries such as sunburn. Even more difficult to predict are the long-term effects. Once exposed, an individual may develop diseases such as leukaemia up to 20 years later. Colby's grandmother Vickie is deeply worried about these potential future problems, and doctors can give her little reassurance.

of these are as big as a large coin and leave the skin permanently scarred.

Doctors are baffled by Betty's symptoms, and are convinced they are not connected with her earlier heart surgery. They have speculated that the symptoms exhibited by all three victims could have been caused by exposure to some type of electromagnetic radiation (see box).

Betty, Vickie and Colby not only suffered physical injuries from their encounter with the UFO; they also exhibit strong emotional disturbances as a result of their experience. Whenever they recount the events of that evening, or return to the place where they saw the object, they become very upset. Colby had terrifying nightmares for several weeks after the encounter, and during a re-enactment of the event set up by investigators he developed a high temperature and fever. 'He was so terrified,' said Vickie, 'I thought he would die of fright.'

Neither woman has fully recovered from the experience, nor been able to return to work. The consequent loss of income has been devastating for them. Even if they were not prevented from working by their poor eyesight and general debilitation, it would be impossible for them to work in the food service industry because of their continuing skin eruptions. Doctors are unable to predict when their condition will improve.

Betty, Vickie and Colby were not the only people to report seeing a UFO in the Huffman area on the evening of 29 December 1980.

Betty Cash, Vickie Landrum and her young grandson Colby Landrum a year and a half after they saw the UFO that changed their lives



Several residents of the small east Texas towns of Eastgate, Dayton and Liberty all lying on an east-west line running from Humble, Texas, to the Louisiana border, reported seeing UFOs within two hours of the Huffman incident (see page 2121). The countryside in this part of Texas is sparsely

Early one morning in December 1967, Maryellen Kelley was outside her home in Mohomet, Illinois, USA, when she saw a large orange UFO. The object was about 40 yards (36 metres) away and flying about 50 to 65 feet (15 to 20 metres) above the ground. As soon as she saw the object, Mrs Kelley felt an electric shock go through her body. She developed a severe headache (which refused to respond to treatment), her face reddened, her hands and legs were burned, her eyes became bloodshot and her vision was affected. She also developed earache in her left ear, nosebleeds, pains in the chest and excessive thirst. Although her exposure was of short duration, her injuries endured for a long time. The incident was described in *Fate* magazine in May 1969.

In Finland in November 1976, 19-year-old Eero Lammi was knocked to the ground by a luminous ray from a UFO and suffered burns to the chest. His injuries were similar to those of a 20-year-old man from Tyler, Texas, who was hit in the chest by a luminous ray from a UFO in January 1979. His chest was marked by a large diamond-shaped burn for many months (right).

## Burnt and bewildered

In August 1972, *Data Nei Report* described how Osvaldo d'Annunzio (19 years old) was paralysed by a low-flying UFO, so that he was unable to run away. His face was severely burned, and he suffered afterwards from violent headaches. He commented: 'The cows in the surrounding meadows changed colour and did not resume their true colour until after the UFO's departure.'



populated and dotted with forest and marshlands.

On the day before the Huffman event a number of residents of Ohio county, Kentucky, reported seeing strange objects in the sky. Two young observers were six-year-old twins Jason and Jesse Williams, who said they saw four silver 'triangle things' flying at low altitude; two of the things flew on together, while the other two flew off in different directions.

Also on 28 December 1980 deputy sheriff Frank Chinn of Echols, Kentucky, told a local newspaper he saw 'an upside-down diamond' with flashing lights around the middle. His description of its shape, brightness and low speed corresponded with the description of the object seen at the Huffman incident. This was one of six UFOs sighted at about 5.30 p.m. that day.

A young Houstonian, Jan Moffett, believed she saw the same object seen by Betty and the others near Huffman. She was en route to North Dakota when she saw a big bright light coming down from the sky north of Houston. Unfortunately she lost sight of the object when it neared the ground, because it was obscured by the trees covering the area. Others also saw the bright light. A man and his 12-year-old son, who were travelling eastwards in the vicinity of New Caney, Texas, said they saw the object only a short distance away, flying about 150 feet (45 metres) above the road. When they accelerated to get closer to it, the object turned

away from the road and headed north. According to these two observers, the UFO was bright, rectangular and flew slowly. It was larger than an aeroplane.

Betty, Vickie and Colby originally agreed not to tell other people about what they had seen, for fear they would be thought crazy. 'It was just too weird to mention,' said Vickie, 'but we didn't know then we had been hurt.' They eventually broke their pact of secrecy to tell the doctors who were treating them what had caused their injuries.

Vickie has been concerned to establish what really happened that fateful evening, primarily to ensure that Colby will receive the correct treatment and be able to grow up healthy. She is not concerned about, or interested in, other UFO sightings at the time. Betty shows rather more interest in the other sightings, but her continuing illness prevents her grasping the full significance of these events.

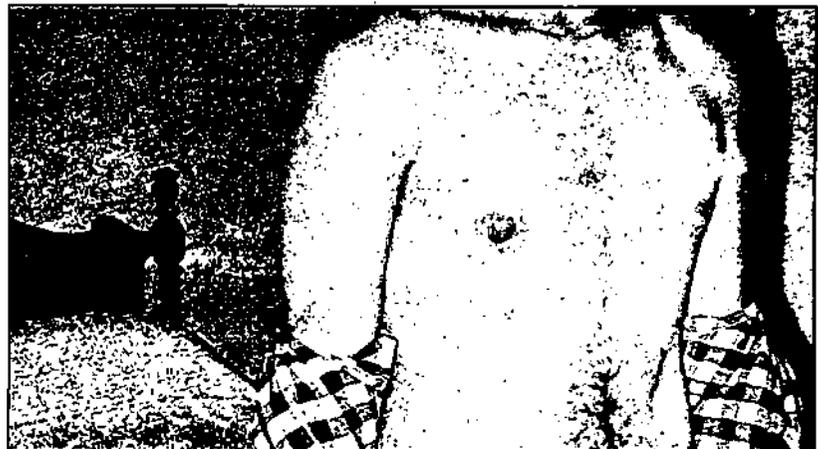
There seems to be no doubt that on the evening of 29 December 1980 the three of them encountered a brightly lit flying object and a large number of helicopters, and that as a result of this encounter all three have sustained lasting physical and emotional damage. In the past they used to make fun of people who claimed to have seen UFOs. They are still sceptical, but they no longer find it a joking matter.

*UFO or US secret weapon? Which was it the victims saw? See page 2198*



Left: in England a Plymouth girl was burned on the hand by the light from a UFO on 10 September 1981. This picture was taken two days later

In Canada, Steve Michalak was out in the countryside one weekend in May 1967 when he encountered a cigar-shaped object emitting a brilliant, purple light, near Falcon Lake about 75 miles (120 kilometres) east of Winnipeg. He received burns on his face and chest (below) and subsequently experienced nausea, vomiting, weight loss, weakness, diarrhoea, dizziness and blackouts. Mr Michalak eventually made a full recovery from the effects of the encounter, as did most of the other victims.



# Five easy pieces

**Hoax, hallucination or secret military operation? To establish exactly what happened at the Huffman UFO sighting in Texas, investigators produced five possible scenarios. JOHN SCHUESSLER concludes his report**

AS A RESULT of their encounter with a bizarre object on 29 December 1980 Betty Cash, Vickie Landrum and her young grandson Colby suffered serious injuries. Despite continuing investigations, a satisfactory explanation for the events of that evening had still not been found by mid 1982. Members of the Houston-based Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team (VISIT) called in to examine the case at first approached it with extreme caution. However preliminary investigations provided basic information of a kind that suggested the case merited serious attention.

Drawing on this initial basic information the VISIT members created a series of 'scenarios' of possible interpretations of the events of that night; these have formed the basis for extensive enquiries.

*Scenario 1* In this scenario Betty, Vickie and Colby had set out to have an enjoyable evening at a bingo game. Disappointed to find all the bingo clubs closed, they were feeling let down as they drove home after a meal at a New Caney restaurant. The dark, lonely road also made them feel jittery, and

When Betty, Vickie and Colby encountered the UFO they counted up to 23 helicopters accompanying it. Some were CH-47s, the large double rotor type that so frightened Colby, others were smaller, faster single rotor craft similar to the ones shown here

they began making jokes about the lights of the distant aeroplanes they could see in the sky. One thing led to another, and soon they were saying that the lights could be UFOs. Confirmed scoffers, they decided to invent a UFO story to match those they had read in the newspapers. To make it seem more 'official', they added the helicopters: they then rushed home to tell their friends.

Scenario 1 was the starting point for the whole investigation. Until VISIT could be certain that this scenario was false there was no reason to proceed. And analysis soon showed that it did not stand up.

In the first place, all three victims had sustained serious physical injuries that had been verified by doctors. Furthermore a number of independent witnesses had also reported seeing the UFO and helicopters that evening. Interviews with friends and colleagues of the three victims failed to produce any indication that the story might be invented, or any suggestion that the three were prone to this kind of hoax.

In fact the three had made no attempt to tell their friends about the incident, fearing they would not be believed; nor had they approached the press. When the story leaked out and newsmen asked for an interview, this was granted free of charge. All three cooperated freely with VISIT even when this proved personally embarrassing.

*Scenario 2* The three were driving home when they met a UFO blocking the road, making it impossible for them to proceed. This was not a chance encounter but a





planned abduction, which may have lasted for as long as 20 minutes. While they were in the UFO the three victims had the idea implanted in their minds that government helicopters would fill the sky after the event, making them think they were involved in some kind of military exercise. In this scenario the UFO and the injuries were real, but not the helicopters.

Parts of this scenario stand up under scrutiny while others do not. Independent UFO sightings in and around the Huffman area, across Texas and in adjoining states during the same period suggest that the UFO was indeed a physical craft. The victims were certainly injured, possibly by the craft.

But no evidence could be found that an abduction had taken place. A few months after the incident Vickie agreed to undergo regressive hypnosis under the guidance of Dr R. Leo Sprinkle of Wyoming University. An authority on abduction cases, Dr Sprinkle said he found no indications that Vickie had been abducted. Betty did not undergo hypnosis because her doctors feared it might put too great a strain upon her heart.

VISIT decided that there had been no abduction. Since other witnesses had also testified to seeing the helicopters, it was concluded that the only part of scenario 2 that was true was the part about the UFO and the injuries.

*Scenario 3* In this scenario the huge UFO was carrying smaller UFOs and dispensing them near the city of Houston. Betty, Vickie and Colby happened along just in time to interrupt the operation and were accidentally injured. Rather than risk having the three observers talk about what they had seen, the UFO operators made them (by holographic means, mind control or hypnosis) see the smaller UFOs as helicopters. The UFO operators were probably unaware that the victims

Vickie undergoing regressive hypnosis under the guidance of Dr R. Leo Sprinkle, in an attempt to discover whether she had been abducted by UFO operators. Since no evidence of abduction was found, VISIT concluded that the idea of the helicopters had not been 'implanted' in the victims' minds

had been injured, and hoped they would accept the sight of helicopters as unremarkable, and say no more about them. (This scenario was suggested by an investigator for the Aerial Phenomena Research Organisation of Tucson, Arizona.)

Since the late 1960s there have been a number of cases in which it was not clear whether UFOs or helicopters were involved. At the Huffman event it appears that a UFO and helicopters were interacting in some way. The victims saw the helicopters at Huffman while the UFO was nearby and also after it had moved several miles away; other witnesses saw the helicopters without the UFO, or the UFO without the helicopters. As a result of all these sightings VISIT concluded that the helicopters were not camouflaged UFOs.

*Scenario 4* Betty, Vickie and Colby encountered a UFO in trouble: it was operating an emergency system (the cone of fire) to overcome the problem and get it on its way again. Two hours earlier the same craft had been seen over Dayton and Liberty flying like a spaceship in trouble: it had been tracked on radar until it dipped too low to be seen, when a military team was sent to investigate. The team had CH-47 heavy lift helicopters to carry troops to cordon off a crash scene, and equipment to neutralise any problem; the smaller helicopters were gunships for protection. When the UFO regained control and made for the coast, the lead helicopters stayed close to it to collect data. Other helicopters held back, in case the UFO should try to land, or should crash.

Research for this scenario produced a number of other UFO sightings involving triangular or diamond-shaped objects, but only a few of these belched flames from the underside for a prolonged period. This seemed to support the idea that the Huffman

One day in April 1981 a CH-47 helicopter flew into Dayton, Colby Landrum's home town. As the little boy watched the aircraft fly overhead, he became very upset and agitated, because it was the same type of helicopter he had seen near Huffman the previous December. To allay his fears his grandmother Vickie decided to take him to the place where the helicopter had landed, in the hope that it would seem less frightening on the ground.

When they reached the landing zone they found a lot of other people already there, and had to wait some time before they were allowed to go inside the helicopter and talk to the pilot. Vickie and another visitor both claim that the pilot

## Adding insult to injury

said he had been in the area before for the purpose of checking on a UFO reported in trouble near Huffman. When Vickie told the pilot how happy she was to meet him, because she was one of the people burned by the UFO, he refused to talk to them any further and hustled them out of the aircraft.

VISIT later located the pilot and questioned him. He admitted to knowing about Vickie's and Betty's encounter with the UFO, but maintained that he had not been in the area in December, and had had nothing to do with any UFO. Unless another pilot decides to speak up, it seems that the source of the helicopters reported at Huffman will remain shrouded in mystery.

UFO was in trouble. Moreover, people close to a UFO seldom suffer the dire injuries experienced in the Huffman incident, and this suggests that the injuries were caused by a system that was not operating properly.

One possible explanation for the helicopters is that a military team was co-operating with the UFO. If that was the case, it seems possible that similar incidents had occurred in the past, and that this was a fairly routine operation. It might also suggest that a NATO-like pact exists between the US government and the UFO operators, under which a craft in trouble might issue an emergency call for help. However, it has to be said that the US government refuses to acknowledge that UFOs exist, nor is there any evidence that such a mutual aid pact exists.

*Scenario 5* In this scenario the whole affair was a government classified operation and was mistaken by the witnesses for a UFO encounter. The helicopters could have been transported to the Houston area from any base in the USA or central America, and could have been taking part in anything from an annual training exercise to some special operations simulation. The 'UFO' might have been a power plant, a weapons system or an electronic countermeasures system, and it might have been slung from a helicopter or flown by remote control. The injuries could have been caused by a powerful pulsed microwave system, or by exposure to some fuel, defoliant or other unidentified liquid.

As far as this scenario is concerned, the US government categorically refuses to acknowledge ownership of the helicopters seen over Huffman on 29 December 1980. Nor were there any commercial operations involving helicopters of the heavy lift type along the Gulf coast at that time. Since six witnesses have positively identified the helicopters, and since no one will accept responsibility for them, it must be assumed that this was a secret operation and that the welfare of the victims was of secondary importance. Vickie Landrum is quite certain that scenario 5 is the correct one. The UFO was not, she says, 'from outer space with little green men, that's for sure. If the government doesn't know about it, they better find out.'

VISIT has taken steps to make things easier for future victims of UFO encounters. When Betty and Vickie first sought help, they could find no one willing to take an interest in their case. VISIT has now produced a UFO Alert Card, which is distributed to the media and police within a 150-mile (240-kilometre) radius of Houston. Even when the women did find medical help, there was no information available to their doctors about injuries sustained in earlier UFO encounters. VISIT is now researching such injuries and hopes to produce a check-list for use by doctors and UFO investigators in future incidents.

In their initial attempts to get help after their alarming and damaging experience, Betty and Vickie could find no one willing to take an interest in their case. To make things easier for future victims, VISIT produced this UFO Alert Card, which is distributed to the media and police within a 150-mile (240-kilometre) radius of Houston

# UFO HOTLINE

24 Hours a day call:  
**(713) 482-6702**

IF NO RESPONSE CALL: (713) 488-2884

Or Write to:

V.I.S.I.T.

P.O. Box 877

Friendswood, Texas 77546

VISIT is a Non-Profit Scientific Research Organization composed of NASA Aerospace Engineers. All information will be regarded as CONFIDENTIAL.

**VISIT**

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

# Space Engineer Links Sickness To UFO Sightings

By Dennis Hannon  
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

If you chance upon a flying saucer — or any other form of airborne dinnerware — don't stand around rubbernecking like someone from a Steven Spielberg movie. Those things can be dangerous.

That's the advice of John F. Schuessler, a space industry engineer who has been studying such encounters for 18 years.

He told a meeting of the UFO Study Group of Greater St. Louis on Sunday that many persons who reported experiences with UFOs had exhibited many of the symptoms of acute radiation poisoning.

Schuessler is writing a book about a UFO experience near Dayton, Texas. In December 1980, Betty Cash, 54; Vickie Landrum, 59, and Mrs. Landrum's 9-year-old grandson, Colby, were driving through the woods, taking a detour home after abandoning their search for a Bingo game.

Colby noticed a flash from an object descending from the sky to about treetop level. Ms. Cash skidded the car to a halt, about 135 feet from the object.

The odd thing was that the flying object — an elongated, diamond shaped thing — was being pursued by about 20 large, double-rotor helicopters similar to those used by the U.S. armed forces.

Although the car became almost unbearably hot, Ms. Cash and the Landrums managed to drive home. Later, all three developed severe nausea, then sunburns. In about two weeks, Schuessler said, Ms. Cash and Mrs. Landrum began to lose their hair, and skin fell from their faces in clumps.

Both women since have suffered various degenerative ailments, and Ms. Cash eventually developed cancer, he said.

Schuessler accompanied his talk with slides that showed Ms. Cash and Mrs. Landrum in their pre-encounter days and in the deteriorated state in which they have more recently appeared.

The missing element in what Schuessler calls the "Cash-Landrum Case" is hard proof: physical evidence, records, multiple witnesses.

Schuessler said he had found three witnesses to helicopter flights in the vicinity of the woods that night and one man who had seen a diamond-shaped flying object. The armed services at first gave an informal confirmation but now deny that a large number of helicopters were operating in east Texas that night, Schuessler said.

Ms. Cash and Mrs. Landrum filed \$10 million damage claims against the U.S. Air Force but lost their case because they could not prove their suffering was a result of anything done by earth-based craft, Schuessler said.

Schuessler calls the possibility of extraterrestrial visits a "working hypothesis," rather than a demonstrable fact. But he scorns the habit of dismissing such reports as mere lunacy.

"That is answering a mystery with a mystery," he said. "I don't subscribe to that. I'd rather say I don't know."

Schuessler says he hopes to see "a responsible solution to the problem" in his lifetime.

"As long as there is a mystery, why not work on it?" he said.

August 19, 1986

John F. Schuessler  
P.O. Box 58485  
Houston, TX 77258-8485

Dear John:

I am preparing my slides for the Cash-Landrum lecture in Sonora, California on October 11 and 12th and find that I will need your help in order to present the story with good continuity. I have attached samples of the prints that I am seeking (numbers 1 thru 5).

A slide of Betty Cash (full auburn hair made at Christmas 1980) is an essential. Do you have any more prints showing unhealed sores or injuries like the one above Vicky #2? I have that one.

Fred Rosen did not return the xerox copies that you gave me of the letters from both John Towers and Lloyd Bensen recommending that the ladies file a claim with the Adjutant Generals Office at Bergstrom AFB in Austin. I would like to obtain copies of each.

Maybe you could ask both Bill Shead and Rhonda S. Ross for photographs that could be made into slides. This would update the lecture to the present court case.

I will return all prints to you if loaned, but would prefer to buy them for our MUFON file. Thanks for your help.

Sincerely,



Walter H. Andrus, Jr.

P.S.: If there are certain stipulations on their use please advise.

WHA:vc

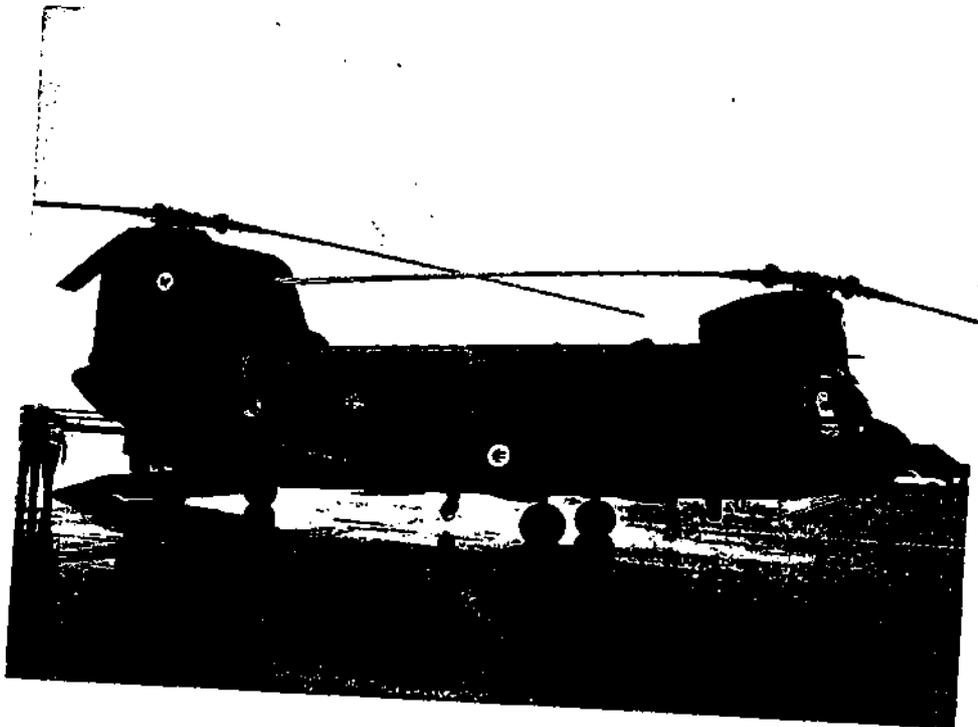
~~713-292-1525~~

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CASH-LANDRUM UFO CASE FILE  
GOVERNMENT HELP?

MAY 1, 1985

JOHN F. SCHUESSLER  
P.O. BOX 58485  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77258



# CASH - LANDRUM UFO CASE FILE

GOVERNMENT HELP?  
by John F. Schuessler, Copyright 1985

## 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 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, Illinois suggested the victims contact 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 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 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 submittal of the claim.

#### MILITARY INVOLVEMENT

Because of a Congressional inquiry, Captain Jenny Lampley of the U.S. Air Force 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; TECOM; OTEA; DSCRTA; 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, northwest 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.

#### THE OFFICIAL CLAIM IS 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 in Austin, Texas, just before the anniversary date of the incident in 1982.

The claims briefly described the 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 herein-after 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 United States 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.

#### CURRENT STATUS - MAY 1985

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 United States District Court.

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.

~~#####~~  
Continued

CURRENT UPDATE ON THE CASH-LANDRUM COURT CASE AS OF JANUARY 10, 1986

September 3, 1985    Houston, Texas

Three people who contend that the sighting of an UFO caused them medical problems may get their day in court if a federal judge decides their \$20 million lawsuit against the government should be set for trial.

U.S. District Judge Ross Sterling (South Texas U.S. Federal Court) met with attorneys for both sides on Tuesday, September 3, 1985 and said he will decide if the case will go to trial or be dismissed. The government filed a motion that the lawsuit be dismissed, said Assistant U.S. Attorney Frank Comforti. Mrs. Betty Cash, Mrs. Vicki Landrum and her grandson Colby were represented by William "Bill" Shead and Peter A. Gersten, both members of the Mutual UFO Network. The suit seeks 10 million dollars for Mrs. Cash, 5 million for Mrs. Landrum, and 5 million for Colby for injuries sustained and future life threatening medical problems.

During the Spring of 1985 Mrs. Cash had a mastectomy due to cancer which might be attributed to her radiation exposure on December 29, 1980. The doctors treating her at the present time are unable to get the skin to heal after her operation. Prescribed chemotherapy treatments have presented serious problems because her doctor does not know how much radiation she was exposed to originally. For this reason it has been difficult to prescribe the proper treatment level.

On December 25, 1985, Betty Cash had a heart attack which doctors attributed to heart deterioration due to radiation.

As of this date, Judge Ross Sterling has not made a ruling on whether the case will go to trial or be dismissed. He has been studying the material submitted to him on September 3, 1985 by attorneys representing both sides. (Since he did not dismiss the case immediately, as the government had sought, we would like to believe that he will make a favorable decision for Mrs. Cash, Mrs. Landrum and Colby.)

Vicki Landrum's recent comment to a newspaper reporter was "the government is waiting until we die before settling this case."

The MUFON UFO JOURNAL is indebted to John F. Schuessler, the prime investigator in the Cash-Landrum Case, for providing this status report.

FIGURE 2

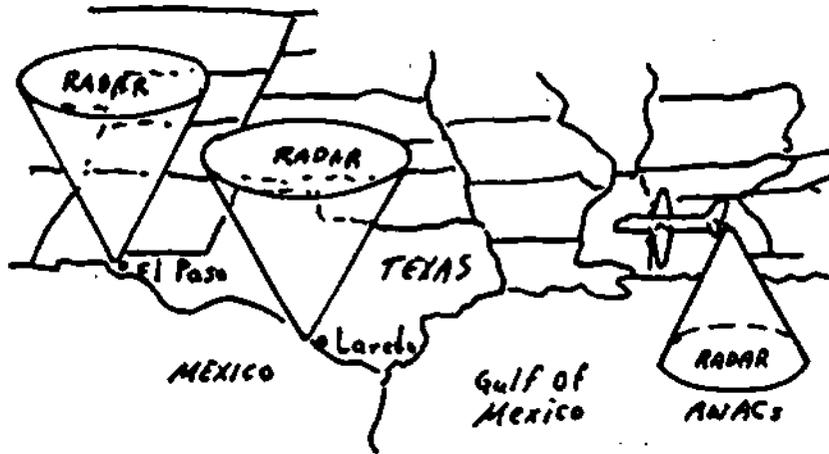
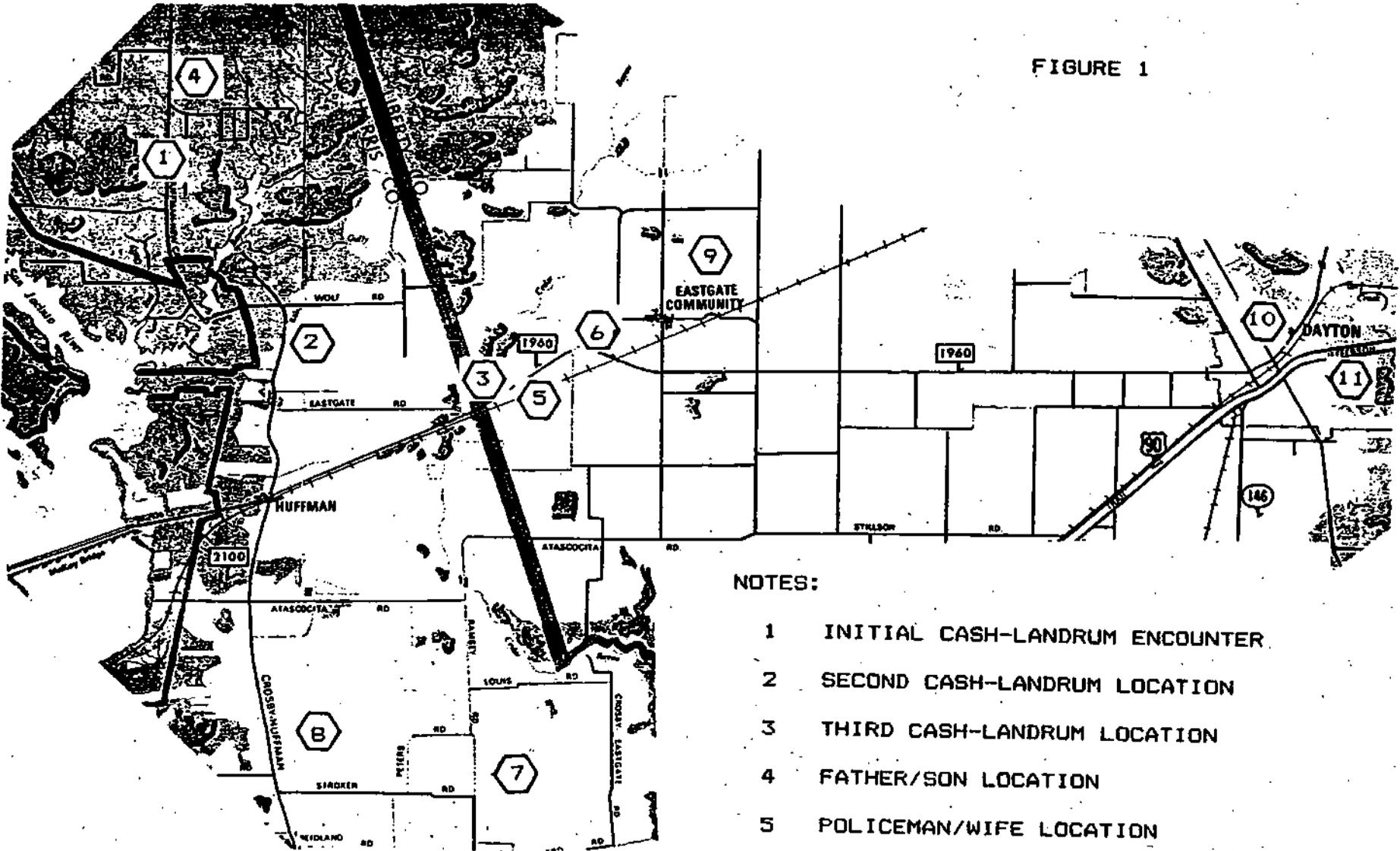


FIGURE 3



FIGURE 1



NOTES:

- 1 INITIAL CASH-LANDRUM ENCOUNTER
- 2 SECOND CASH-LANDRUM LOCATION
- 3 THIRD CASH-LANDRUM LOCATION
- 4 FATHER/SON LOCATION
- 5 POLICEMAN/WIFE LOCATION
- 6 HUNTER LOCATION
- 7 MOTHER/DAUGHTER LOCATION
- 8 PETRO-CHEM MAN LOCATION
- 9,10,11 LOCATION OF OTHER WITNESSES

March 5, 1981

Dear Mr. Schuessler,

MUFON acknowledges receipt of your letter of 28 February 1981 and the two sighting reports (12-29-80 Harris County, TX and 12-74 Polk County, TX). Thank you for the terrific work. Walt is interested in knowing if we should make copies of these reports to forward to APRO, and Robert Gribble.

*yes - please send!*

Have enclosed some additional sighting forms for your future use.

Sincerely,

Virginia Castner  
(Mrs.) Virginia Castner  
MUFON Office Secretary

*I sent copies to APRO & Richard Nemtsov John*

LIBERTY, TEXAS (east of Dayton, TX)

~~Liberty GAZETTE (newspaper)~~  
~~(713) 336-6416~~ 713

*Betty Cash*  
Vicky Landrum 9:00

3 other witnesses 9:30 - 10:00 PM

*Dick Donavan interviewed elderly lady - works in Real Estate office. Dick Donavan - Sheely should have photographs.*

LIBERTY GAZETTE (713) 336-6416

*ran NO story*

MICHAEL MARR

4/3/81

1438 N. GOWER ST

HOLLYWOOD, CA

90025

(213) 462-7146

Allan Landsberg Productions  
"ITS INCREDIBLE"

---

Cash/Landsberg

talked to Sheriff. in  
Tommy Skamy

---

Betty Cash (with mother)

(205) 785-2752

Garfield, Alabama

Done for sheet

Betty Cash

8/5/82

1) Bone marrow test (not overly distributed)

2) Forwarded to John Schussler and Peter Kersten

3) Peter Kersten (H) (914) 739 6955

(B) (212) 992-9600

4) \$1400 Dr. in Birmingham

5) Parkway Hospital (Waukegan)

6) Lloyd Nolan Hospital  
Birmingham, Alabama

7) 13 days before doctors told about problem by Colby

8) Skin still burns with hot water showers. (was room temperature)

9) Dr. Shenon made statement to KPIX

10) KPIX people make promise

## TELEPHONE CALLS

NAME: MARIAN SIMECEK

Date: JAN 9, 1984 Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. 379-9543

Please Call  Will Call

Returned Your Call

Message TEJAS LITERARY

CLUB

THURS. 1:00 PM. 30-60 MIN



**B-W Graphics, Inc.**

Versailles, Missouri 65084

314/378-6363

*Wynick*

*Dayton, TX Case*

*If government desires why test over a road.*

*Starts to do a cooperative ~~an~~ investigation and announcement*

*John Schuesler sent Wynick a copy.*

*Ernst Beager (Alexander Kuehl)*

John Schneider

Cash/Landrum

SHORT ARTICLES  
UP-DATE

Sept. 3, 1985

Judge Rose Steubing  
So. Texas Federal Court

- (1) Betty Cash had a heart attack Christmas Day 1985  
Heart deterioration due to radiation  
masectomy - skin not healing
- (2) Bill Head is still representing

John Sweeney  
Vicky Landrum  
(Betty Cook)

Highway 1485  
object to left of them  
object over highway  
diamond with fire coming out bottom  
Colby exposed 1 min

Aluminum or black  
moved up and down slightly

8-10 minutes observation time

Object lifted off to the right  
Arose for one minute

Helicopters converged on the scene  
Object moved to right  
stopped car again to watch here

Vicky called 21

Betty continued count 23

Helicopters seemed to be there to help me object  
Not a religious experience  
If you see a man it will be Jesus to Colby  
to calm ~~the~~ Colby down. (It calmed him down)

Sundered the  
Rubbed down with baby oil

1:30 am vomiting

2 weeks Colby couldn't control urination  
and bowel movement.

When Vicki went to Betty Clark's house  
she vomited a glass of water

lost hair Vicki of Betty

thought it was something the government  
was transparent

John Schussler got involved in February  
met with both of them (call to NASA)

Hynek is aware of this case (bizzaro)

Helicopters makes it a serious affair  
and to help the people

Helicopter - "stonewalled" (3)

Witnessed object.

Government not cooperating

Betty Cook suffered most

Vicky walked in for

7-10 minutes exposure (Betty Cook)

Large blisters and ex

Vicky has eye problems -

130 ft. to object from car -

Light radiation

Effects - stomach, burn, eyes, eyelids  
(irritation) also Vicky (puffiness)

Speculation

1. Has something there. Other witnesses described  
sorters light. (3) man in Dayton was ill
2. Helicopter west of Dayton
3. Could it be a balloon - all organizations  
advised.
4. In flight path of Houston Continental Corp.

5. Balloon illumination glows when jet (4)  
flame was blasted downward.

(Object was brightly lit for 20 minutes)

6. Technicians at NASA are amazed

7. Documentation is thorough

---

Betty, Vicky & Colby have been cooperative

Vicky regressive hypnosis (c)

John did not make a decision what it was.

Vicky didn't tell her husband for 4 days.

---

Questions: San Antonio MUFON group

FOIA Helicopter story - tried to obtain

Vicky still has scars

Eye sight is still poor (to Doctor on 9/23) (81)

No radiation measured since they were over a month  
later.

Since it was winter the ground was already dry  
and dried Dec. 29, 1960

Why didn't Verky report?  
Threatened her grandson not to report

(5)

DOCTOR INVOLVED

PETER RANK, M.D.  
309 W. WASHINGTON AVE.  
MADISON, WI 53703

MUFON MEMBER

---

The ratio  $\frac{t}{p}$  because therefore  
ind that approximately 5 percent

6028-858 (713) 8709  
of the lower limit and will have

43 BROWN RD.  
DAYTON, TX 77535  
MRS. VICKI LANDRUM  
20 of background is 20

exceeded is 5 percent.  
at could hardly have been  
without use of the mathematical

01-42950 E 55  
GM 750A



Mr. Walter Andrews  
103 Oldtown Rd.  
Seguin, TX 78155

Vickie & I are supposed  
to be on Atton Vale's show  
on Tues. Sept 22 at  
2:05 PM.

H. Wait,

Brian Russell  
Commonwealth Pictures, Inc.  
(801) 654-3011  
P.O. Box 230  
Midway, UT 84049

(713) 258-8709

Armani Stacy

(512) 828-4507

~~506 East Clayton~~  
Mrs. Vicki Landrum ~~Dayton TX 77535~~  
(713) (over) ~~SON → dd~~ ~~(713) 258-9156~~ ~~JONES~~  
~~(713) 258-8709~~

Betty Cash  
Route 1, Box 127B  
(713) 258-5803  
Dayton, TX 77535

Mrs. Betty Cash  
209 - 48<sup>th</sup> St.  
Fairfield, AL 35064

MRS. COLLINGS  
(MOTHER)

→ (205) 785-2752

PHENOMENA RESEARCH  
P. O. BOX 1807  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98111

February 17, 1981

Incident Report

L  
Vickie Mandrum  
506 West Clayton  
Dayton, TX 77535  
713-258-9156

Betty Cash  
Rt 1, Box 127-B  
Dayton, TX 77535  
713-258-5803

The two ladies claim they had a close encounter with a large fiery object on December 29, 1980. Following the encounter both have been suffering from multiple physical problems and both have spent time in the hospital. They claim the doctor said they have radiation sickness. This case needs investigating.

Best Wishes

  
Bob Gribble

© Schuessler 1986

CASH-LANDRUM CASE INVESTIGATOR NOTES

LACK OF RADAR COVERAGE HAMPERS INVESTIGATION

JANUARY 19, 1986

JOHN F. SCHUESSLER  
P.O. BOX 58485  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77258-8485

## LACK OF RADAR COVERAGE HAMPERS INVESTIGATION

### BACKGROUND

Betty Cash, Vickie Landrum and Colby Landrum encountered a large diamond-shaped object - a mass of brightness - along Highway FM1485 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 FM1485 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 came into the immediate area of the encounter. These 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.

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/Mexican 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 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 <sup>the</sup> 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 1990s. 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; 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.

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 to 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 sparsely 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.

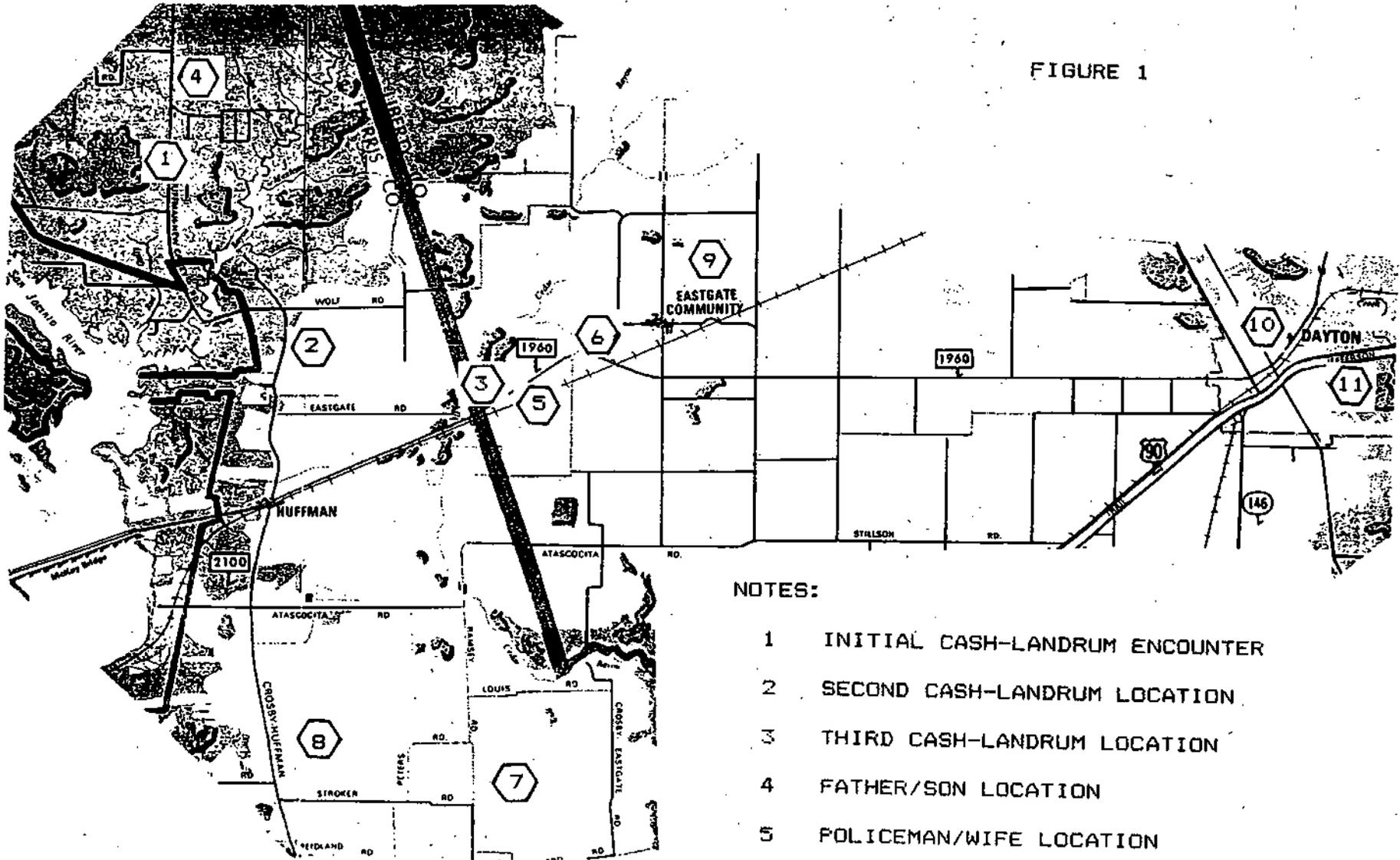
#### SUMMARY

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.

####

FIGURE 1



NOTES:

- 1 INITIAL CASH-LANDRUM ENCOUNTER
- 2 SECOND CASH-LANDRUM LOCATION
- 3 THIRD CASH-LANDRUM LOCATION
- 4 FATHER/SON LOCATION
- 5 POLICEMAN/WIFE LOCATION
- 6 HUNTER LOCATION
- 7 MOTHER/DAUGHTER LOCATION
- 8 PETRO-CHEM MAN LOCATION
- 9,10,11 LOCATION OF OTHER WITNESSES



Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

INVESTIGATOR NOTES

SUMMARY

30 OCTOBER 1983

BASELINE HEALTH STATUS  
FOR  
BETTY CASH  
VICKIE LANDRUM  
COLBY LANDRUM

CASH-LANDRUM CASE  
29 DECEMBER 1980

JOHN F. SCHUESSLER  
P.O. BOX 58485  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77258-8485

Warning: This report is not for publication.  
It has been compiled for use by VISIT to assist  
the victims in their quest for assistance.

INVESTIGATOR NOTES  
BASELINE HEALTH STATUS  
FOR  
BETTY CASH, VICKIE LANDRUM, AND COLBY LANDRUM

BACKGROUND

On December 29, 1980, Betty Cash, Vickie Landrum and Colby Landrum encountered a huge, bright, diamond-shaped object just above the road near Huffman, Texas. During the approximate 20 minutes of the encounter they were exposed to extreme heat and very bright light, and witnessed a large number of helicopters in addition to the bright object. Following the incident they experienced a serious decline in their state of health. The purpose of this paper is to document some of the information about their health before and around the time of the incident.

BETTY CASH

1. Statement by Sharon A. Jones (July 30, 1983)

I, Sharon A. Jones, a niece of Betty Cash am writing this letter concerning her health prior to the military incident on December 29, 1980. I wish to verify that excluding a previous open-heart surgery, my aunt was in good physical health. However, following the incident, I have witnessed a steady decline in Betty's health.

2. Statement by Sandy LeBeau

This letter is regarding the health of my aunt (Betty Cash) before and after her exposure to radiation.

Since my aunt's exposure to radiation I have watched as the poorness of her health has at times gotten the best of her.

To think that she has gone through being burned, had a lost of hair, has had a masytomy, not to mention the emotional upset since the sighting infuriates me to think that our own government is taking no course in helping her.

My aunt and I have always been close. I watched her go through heart surgery, in which she came out smelling like a rose.

She has always had an abundance of energy. She's always had the ability of making people laugh and enjoy themselves just be being near her.

The change has taken it's toll on her and her loved ones. She hasn't half the energy she used to have and when undergoing chemotherapy she's often too sick to get out of bed.

I have to say this incident has really shaken my belief in our government and it's military. (Letter continues with other statements about the government's role, not related to health state.....)

3. Statement by Lois Green

I, Lois Green, am the sister to Betty Cash and have been

very close all of our lives. It really hurts me to see her in the physical health she is in now compared to the health she has always had. She had a heart attack and she was able to bounce back and be herself again, but I have never seen anyone suffer as much as she has since December 29, 1980 when she was exposed to the radiation from the object flying in the sky.

I cannot understand any human being thinking this is not what has caused her health to gradually get worse. I know for I was the one to carried her and bought her a wig and also saw the blisters form all over her and hear the doctors telling us how thin her skin is from the radiation, and staying with her night and day when she has operations and other complications that has never happened before.

I know this is ugly of me, but I pray that if anyone does not believe what this did to her that they will never have to witness someone they love suffering like she has, but that person himself will have to live a life that will be as painful and every way they turn someone will tell them that they are not sick and nothing is really wrong. Betty enjoyed life so much prior to this incident and now she is in pain all time plus being sick at her stomach so much. (Letter continues with non-health related statements....)

4. Statement by Jesse L. Collins

I, Jesse L. Collins, Betty Cash brother visited her in the hospital the day after she was admitted, and here is what I seen: her hair was falling our, she was about one third bald headed, her skin on head was blister and neck and arms had blister like scars and I did not want to get too close to her.

5. Statement by Mrs. Mary F. Bierbaum

I visited Mrs. Betty Cash a few days after she was admitted into Parkway Hospital. Her condition was as follows: eyes set back and dark rings under eyes; hair falling out in masses; and blister like sores covering her body. I did not visit long and did not get close to her due to her condition.

6. Statement by Joyce Ferguson (Beautician) when questioned by Bob Pratt on June 14, 1981.

How long have you been taking care of Betty's hair? I guess about 3 years, off and on.....

What was her hair like before that (the occurrence)? It was perfect, and thick. She always had the thickest hair of anybody I'd ever seen. I could almost do two people before I could do her. And it was just perfect and not a spot on it anywhere.

OK, you said it always took you about twice as lon to do? Yes, un huh. It took me about twice as long to do her as anybody because it was so thick. She had three hairs where everybody else had one (laughs).

Do you recall the last time you worked on Betty's hair before this happened? Uh, it musta been a week or two.....

In the two or three years that you treated Betty, did she have any trouble at all with her hair? No, sir. I have never seen any kind of thin spot or any kind of problem at all. A lot of times I wished some of it would come out (laughs) before I got

through with her. Bless her heart. But she was just fortunate enough to have a good head of hair.

7. Statement by Wilma Emert (Stayed with Betty the night of December 29, 1980)

She was hurting all over. Her face was real red and she complained about her neck and she asked me to feel and see if there were any knots on her neck. I didn't but her son Toby did. She got bad real fast. Her left eye was swollen shut.

She told me about the UFO that night, but I didn't even listen to her. I had already had a few drinks. But my kids heard her (niece Leslie Marie, 10, and son Darrin, 15).

8. Statement by Mickey Joyce Foster (Betty's daughter)

I walked through the door (in the Parkway Hospital) and I turned around and walked out because I thought I was in the wrong room. Her face, the doctor told me was the size of two men's faces put together. Her eyes were swelled closed. She didn't even know I was there until I spoke up and I'd been sitting there about ten minutes just trying to get my head together.

(You mean you were in a state of shock from seeing her or what?) Yeah, I was. You know? You just don't walk into a room and expect to see your mother and it looks like someone else laying there. This was on January 4, 1981.

Dr. Shenoy couldn't explain what was wrong with her.

That's another thing, too, like on her forehead? It looked like she had been under a sun lamp. And when I rubbed her forehead, water just squirted out. It looked like a blister that had been popped. But it was all over her face. And it was all in her hair.

9. Statement by Dr. V.B. Shenoy

Miss Cash.....was admitted to the hospital on January 2, 1981. Her main problem at that time was a severe headache, a swelling of the face, a swelling of the eyelids, and a swelling of the skull on the top of the head. One of the small gland on the back of the neck was swollen.

She satyed in the hospital approximately 12 days. The headache was getting better. The swelling of the face, eyelid and skull was getting better, so she went home on the 14th of January. Few days after going home she felt that the headache is coming back again, the swelling of the skull is coming back again and she noticed, uh, her hair is getting thinner and thinner and four or five days afterwards she noticed she is hosing hair in patches. So she came back to the hospital. And when I saw her I was surprised that the hair was gone on the head in patches, 4 or 5 big patches on the skull, measure at least 3 or 4 inches in diameter.

(Replied as follows when questioned whether or not the condition could be related to her earlier heart problem). Whatever symptoms she had had nothing to do with the underlying heart problem. She had the bypass surgery in Alabama sometime in 1977. She did not have any of the problems like high blood pressure, diabetes, or the tension headache, and she responded well to the pills we gave her for the heart. So she see us or

one of our associates every six months and the problem is all gone. The swelling of the face and the intense headache this will be the first time I came across with Miss Cash. She did not have the symptoms in the past.

10. Statement by Dr. K. B. Fung, M.D. (to establish a baseline with respect to the breast cancer that developed in 1983)

Opinion: There is no remarkable change seen in the xeromammography examination bilaterally.

#### VICKIE LANDRUM AND COLBY LANDRUM

1. Statement by Louise Landrum (daughter-in-law)

My name is Louise Landrum, daughter in law of Vickie Landrum. I have been in the family for 23 years and to the best of my knowledge have known of no kind of illness of Vickie, outside of a minor cold, a few times. She was in the hospital only once that I can recall for the flu.

She was putting in from 16 to ? hours at the Cafe where she worked before the incident happened. All you have to do is to check with some of the customers, and they can vouch for the amount of time she was capable of putting in. As far as I know she was in good health until after the incident.

2. Statement by Jayne Magee

This letter is to verify that my mother is telling the truth. I am stating fact that her health and Colby's was indeed in good condition until "after" the incident. She used to be able to carry on and work like a 20 year old till then and now she has trouble getting out of bed at times. Who ever is responsible should take care of her and Colby and Betty for they have lived through hell and will probably do so till they die because of the incident.

3. Statement by Jean Burnett

I am writing to let you know that my mother would not lie about something like that. She would not burn Colby or herself. Or she would not pull out her hair. All anyone has to do is talk to anyone in Dayton or Liberty County that knows her and find out that she is a very honest person. They can check with the doctor about her health before and after this happened. My mother was in good health. I lived in Abilene at the time this happened and had to move back to take care of her and Colby. Her eyes were so bad she could not do anything. Her eyes are not any better and her health is bad. There are days that she can't get out of bed.

4. Statement by Martha Thompson

Before Vickie Landrum's encounter in December of 80 she worked for me and her health was very good. Her eye sight since then has gotten very poor. We use to go fishing and play Bingo all the time but now she can't see to bait a hook and the sun causes big blisters on her when exposed. She can't see well enough anymore to even hardly read a bingo card. She gets sick

to her stomach a lot and has lost a large amount of hair also.

Colby her grandson has had a lot of dental problems since their encounter and there for a while had trouble with his bowels and sleeping properly.

Knowing both of them as I do I know a great mental and physical effect has been made on them both. Vickie can no longer work because of bad eyesight and feeling bad all the time and Colby still lives his terror in his dreams. I swear all the above is true to my knowledge.

5. Statement by Jim McManus

I have known Mrs. Landrum for over ten years. Prior to December 29, 1980 she was in good health. She has always been able to work and be on the go without any problems. But since the night of Dec. 29, 1980 she has been sick and at times can hardly go at all. Whatever happened that night certainly has caused her health to deteriorate greatly.

6. Statement by Laura Mae Landrum

David and I were not in the Dayton area when his mother, Mrs. Cash and Colby were involved in the disturbing happening of Dec. 1980, but I would like the whole world to know that we believe in them and that their is the unvarnished truth.

We moved back to Dayton in June of 91 and other than one visit it was the first we had seen the family in almost a year. The change in Vickie Landrum was astonishing. Since I first met the family in 1968 she had always worked and tended to their family making sure they had all they needed. She told me once that growing up in the depression made her want to make sure her children never went hungry or wanted for anything. Anyway, I depress, the change I mean to note was that not only was she ot working because of her eyes, the unsightly sores and her loss of hair, but she has become almost a hermit. She very seldom goes anywhere and when she does is met by skepticism and questions. The last few years have been hard on her emotionally, mentally and physically.

I have seen her go to bed at night and the next morning when she got up her left eye would be swollen and running and so inflamed it appeared she had sunburn. For days at a time she has headaches and these blisters just seem to pop out as if they have been in hiding.

David plays softball and Vickie has grandchildren involved in sports. In the very late evening and night she can attend but if she attempts to go to one during the day the sun and heat will make her sick sometimes for a week.

7. Statement by Dayton, TX police chief Tommy Waring

I don't know Betty Cash all that good, but I've been knowing the other one for a number of years and shes never lied to me that I know of and I've had several of her kids in little League ball teams over the years and as far as I know shes a truthful lady. (Would she make up stories like this?) I don't think so.

8. Statement by Vickie Landrum

Anyone could have checked to see my and Colby's health was

good until December 29, 1980, with a Dr. E.R. Richter. Dead now. My and Colby's record has to yet be there. He treated me from 1962 until his death. When I could not get him I used a Reginald Wilson at 258-2624, home phone 258-2433. They doctored me for colds when I had one. I was operated on in 1960. Dr. Richter did that too. When ever I need one they was it. Only when I hurt my leg I used a Dr. John T. Fegues, 1409 N. Travis in Liberty. My health was real good. And I got some reading glasses fro the T.S.O. in Baytown. I'm sure if I need to I could get my records. I'm not trying to hoax anyone. After were was hurn in Dec. 29, 1980 we have had nothing but hurt and misery. It the object has not been there I would yet be fine. i sure did not burn myself or my child, hurt our eyes or pull our hair out.

#### CONCLUSION

The material presented herein is a good crosssection of the data base showing that Betty Cash, Vickie Landrum, and Colby Landrum were in reasonably good health before the incident on December 29, 1980. Following that date, their poor state of health is a matter of public record, backed with medical records and photographs.



BETTY CASH HAIR - December 1980



BETTY CASH HAIR - February 1981

CASH-LANORUM  
3/23/84

Dear Will,

The enclosed copy of a letter to Daddeo is the one I mailed to him. The one I sent you yesterday with Weicker's letter, was not mailed. I decided that perhaps it would be better not to disclose to Weicker (after he picked up the challenge) that I am seeking further help (just a thought).

+ consider asking  
+

March 16, 1984

The Honorable Christopher J. Dodd  
United States Senate  
10 Washington Street  
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Re: Critical medical injuries caused to three (3) persons  
from either an experimental aerial device or UFO

Dear Senator Dodd:

On December 29, 1980 three (3) American citizens, traveling on a Texas road, minding their own business, had their passage blocked by an enigmatic object, which experience caused very identical and cascading medical injury and degradation of your health to each. This case is being investigated by John F. Schuessler and others. Mr. Schuessler is an aerospace engineer whose designs have been incorporated in the United States Landing Craft. I enclose a copy of an article by Mr. Schuessler which appeared in the MUFON UFO Journal of November 1981.

Attorney Peter A. Gersten, was formerly an associate in the prestigious New York City law firm of Henry Bonblatt. I enclose a copy of the denial by the United States Department of Defense of Mr. Gersten's claim on behalf of the injured persons, Betty Cash, Vicki Landrum and Colby Landrum. I further enclose a copy of Mr. Gersten's lawsuit filed on January 16, 1984 in the United States District Court, Houston Division, wherein the plaintiffs are suing the United States of America for \$20,000,000.00.

It is apparent from a reading of these materials that a real event took place which harmed American citizens. There is no doubt in my mind the Federal Government, at the very least, owes a credible explanation for either its role in causing those injuries or its knowledge of what did.

May I please have your considered response.

Very truly yours,

Robert H. Bletzman

RHB/jrs

March 23, 1984

Emilio Daddario, Esq.  
3133 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20008

Re: Critical medical injuries caused to three persons from either an experimental aerial device or UFO

Dear Attorney Daddario:

I practice law in Manchester and this date ran into your ex-partner, Aaron Slitt. I showed him the enclosed materials, which he found highly evocative and interesting. Very recently you were featured in a local news story about your present occupation and science/space interest. I was aware of your science interest, particularly that you were considered singularly the best congressional friend science had and specifically that you attended a symposium in Congress for the Committee for Astronautics and Aeronautics on the subject of UFOs. I hope that these materials will pique your interest and concern that the government owes a minimal debt to these injured persons by way of either (a) admitting it was a government thing which hurt them, or (b) telling the victims what they do know (which must be considerably more than private investigations have been able to find out) because those helicopters clearly must have acquired sophisticated intelligence and information on the subject.

Peter Gersten, the attorney, was formerly an associate with the prestigious New York City law firm of Henry Rothblatt. John Schuessler is an aeronautical engineer whose designs have been incorporated in the Mars Landing Vehicle. Mr. Schuessler's investigations have, since the date of writing of the article provided, discovered multiple witnesses, corroborative of the victims reports, including a pilot of one of the helicopters who admitted he was there, but could say no more.

I am certain that John Schuessler and Peter Gersten will be happy to fully cooperate with any investigation you might wish to undertake.

Very truly yours,

Robert H. Blitchman

RHB/jrs

enc. 3

cc: Walter H. Andrus, Jr., International Director of MUFON

LOWELL P. WEICKER, JR.  
CONNECTICUT  
PHONE 202-224-4041

COMMITTEES:  
SMALL BUSINESS (CHAIRMAN)  
APPROPRIATIONS  
ENERGY  
LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

March 20, 1984

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Attorney Robert Bletchman  
150 North Main Street  
Manchester, Connecticut 06040

Dear Attorney Bletchman:

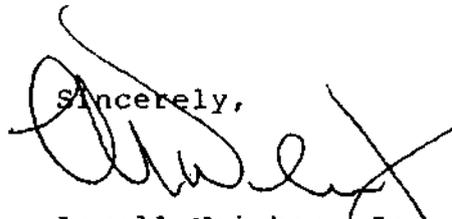
Thank you for your letter of March 16th concerning the cases of Betty Cash, Vicki Landrum and Colby Landrum.

As a follow-up to your telephone conversation with Dick Benson of my Hartford office staff, I have today written to the Department of the Air Force. I have asked that the appropriate officials look into this matter and advise me of their findings.

I expect to receive a prompt response to my inquiry and, upon receipt of same, I shall again be in contact with you.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,



Lowell Weicker, Jr.  
United States Senator

LW/jc

March 22, 1984

Emilio Daddario, Esq.  
3133 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20008

Dear Attorney Daddario:

I practise law in Manchester and this date ran into your ex-partner, Aaron Slitt. I showed him the enclosed materials, which he found highly evocative and interesting. Very recently you were featured in a local news story about your occupation and science and space interest. I was aware of your science interest, particularly that you are considered singularly the best congressional friend science had and that you also attended a symposium United States Congress for the committee for aeronautics and aeronautics on the subject of VFCs. I hope that these materials will pique your interest and concern that the government owes a debt to these injured persons by way of (a) either admitting it was a government thing which hurt them, or (b) telling the victims what they do know (which must be considerably more than prior investigations have been able to find out) because those helicopters clearly must have acquired sophisticated intelligence and information on the subject.

Peter Gersten, the attorney, was formerly an associate with the prestigious New York City law firm of Henry Rothblatt. John Schuessler is an aeronautical engineer whose designs have been incorporated in the Mars Landing Vehicle. Mr. Schuessler's investigations have, since the date of writing of the article provided, discovered multiple corroborations by other witnesses, including a pilot of one of the helicopters who did admit no more than that he was there.

I am certain that John Schuessler and Peter Gersten will be happy to fully cooperate with any assistance you might wish to avail them of.

I have brought this matter to the attention of Connecticut Senators Weicker and Dodd, and have received a positive response from Senator Weicker's office, copy of which I also enclose.

Very truly yours,

Robert H. Bletchman

RHB/jrs

cc: Walter H. Andrus, Jr.

sent 10/12/83  
for typing

INVESTIGATOR NOTES

SUMMARY

31 JULY 1983

INVESTIGATION OF HELICOPTER ACTIVITY

CASH-LANDRUM CASE  
29 DECEMBER 1980

JOHN F. SCHUESSLER  
P.O. BOX 58485  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77258-8485

*Added* CASH- LANDRUM CASE  
DECEMBER 29, 1980  
~~INVESTIGATOR NOTES~~  
INVESTIGATION OF HELICOPTER ACTIVITY

*Added* BACKGROUND

On December 29, 1980, three Texans encountered a UFO and 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.

After a few minutes passed the bright light moved from a horizontal orientation to a vertical position and came down over the road ahead of their car. Vickie said: "it was like a diamond of fire." The glow was so intense they could barely stand to look at it. Vickie first thought it was the fulfillment of biblical prophesy and expected Jesus to 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. Colby was terrified and dove back into the car begging his grandma to get back in, too. Vickie did and comforted him.

Betty stood momentarily by the driver's door and then walked forward to the front of the car. After much pleading by Vickie, Betty returned to the car. The car door and handle was so hot she used her leather coat as a hotpad to open the door. Although the winter night air had been about 40 degrees, the heat from the UFO caused the witnesses to sweat and feel so uncomfortable that they turned on the car's air conditioner.

Each time the object would shoot flames downward it would rise. As 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 several helicopters were in the area. Betty did not see helicopters during the initial phase of the encounter. 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 5 to 10 minutes, Vickie 3 to 5 minutes, and Colby only a minute or so. As Betty raced homeward she turned right on highway FM2100. Five minutes

or more had lapsed and just ahead was the UFO and a large number of helicopters. "The sky was full of helicopters," Betty said. Some were near the object and others lagged far behind. She feared the helicopters would collide. They were dazzled as they counted more than 20 helicopters. According to Vickie, "The helicopter roar was like a tornado."

They started up again and sped onward towards 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, the threesome were going away from the UFO, but could still observe it as a diminishing bright light for 2 to 3 more minutes.

The UFO was in sight for more than 20 minutes total. The helicopters were clearly visible to all the witnesses for at least half of the time and two of the witnesses claim to have seen some helicopters much longer.

It should be noted that UFO in this case means a lighted object that could not be identified by the witnesses. The witnesses believe it was a device owned by some government on Earth. The helicopters were clearly identified as conventional military-type helicopters. The witnesses have no doubt about the observation of the helicopters.

#### *Bald* WITNESS COMMENTS ABOUT THE HELICOPTERS

This report will summarize the information pertaining to the helicopters reported to be involved in the total incident. The UFO will be addressed only as necessary to describe the helicopter activity. It should be noted that all initial investigations were conducted on an individual basis with each of the witnesses. Then Mrs. Landrum and Colby were interviewed together, and several months later all three together.

*Bald* TAPE RECORDING MADE AT PARKWAY HOSPITAL ON 1 FEBRUARY 1981 (APPROX), AND FURNISHED TO BILL ENGLISH AT APRO.

Betty said, after getting back into the car at the initial sighting scene, that the object went up into the sky, and "but there was a quite a few helicopters circling around. I don't know whether they were trying to get around it or up closer to it or what, to see maybe what it was."

Betty said, when they stopped on the Huffman-Crosby road, "but at this time I counted 23 helicopters, around and about the object. They were far away but yet they were low enough and we sat there and watched them 'till they got over the car because I wanted to make sure if it was airplanes or if it was helicopters, which it was helicopters. I counted 23 of them. I don't know what color they were, I can't say. But I do know that they had a double deal on the top, propeller-like thing. And I could hear 'em just as plain as if they were right ready to land...."

Vickie said on the same tape she counted "20 to 25 helicopters there." She also said: "the helicopters had two deals on top in place of one."

*Bald* BETTY CASH CALLED NASA - FEBRUARY 16, 1981

After discharge from Parkway Hospital Betty called a number of places seeking information about the source of the helicopters seen at Huffman on December 29, 1980. She met with frustration after frustration in her attempts. Thinking NASA might have been flying the strange object and the helicopters that night, she called the NASA Public Affairs Office at Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. There, she received a courteous, but negative response. NASA had no such object and does not operate helicopters. However, the NASA representative referred Betty to John Schuessler, as the private interested party in UFO-type events.

*Bold* BETTY CASH CALLED JOHN SCHUESSLER

Betty tried immediately to reach John Schuessler by calling his office. A record of the attempt was made, but he was not available. She repeated the attempt until she finally reached him on 21 February 1981. At that time she related her story and the problem she was having finding anyone to accept responsibility for the helicopters.

*Bold* KATHY GORDON FROM CONROE NEWSPAPER CALLED JOHN SCHUESSLER

Kathy Gordon called John Schuessler on 20 February 1981 and relayed information about the incident, including a fairly detailed discussion about the helicopters. She had obtained her information by interviewing Betty Cash and Vickie Landrum. Kathy heard about the incident through the grapevine of relatives and friends of the victim's families.

*Bold* BETTY CASH DESCRIBES THE HELICOPTER ACTIVITY

John Schuessler met Betty Cash and her mother at her brother's home in Houston on February 22, 1981. At that time Betty described the incident, the UFD and the helicopter activity. She mentioned two different kinds of helicopters; but the one in particular she was traumatized by had two rotors on top and was large and bulky. The other was smaller, but she didn't seem to focus much on that one. She was given no feedback on possible types of helicopters that would fit her descriptions.

Later, through use of the mails, Betty identified the CH-47 Chinook as the type of aircraft she had observed on December 29, 1980. She was not positive about the smaller, single rotor helicopters. They may or may not have been of the Bell Huey variety. Her identification was made by selecting from a variety of US and foreign helicopter types.

*Bold* VICKIE LANDRUM MEETS ALAN HOLT AND JOHN SCHUESSLER

John Schuessler and Alan Holt went to the home of Vickie Landrum in Dayton, Texas for an interview on February 28, 1981. Vickie gave a detailed account of the incident and was questioned

at length by Molt and Schuessler about the helicopter activity. She too, described two types of helicopters, but her emphasis was on the CH-47 Chinook type aircraft. She gave a verbal description and made a sketch.

Later the same day, Colby Landrum was called in and introduced to Molt and Schuessler. He was told to answer any questions we asked. The boy was still quite upset by the incident and expressed fear of the helicopters. He made a crude sketch of a helicopter that was clearly of the CH-47 variety.

After the interview with Colby, Vickie showed us a lightbright toy where Colby had reconstructed the scene of the event, including a double-rotor helicopter. The lightbright is a light table, covered with paper. The table contains many holes for insertion of multicolored plastic pegs. When the peg penetrates the paper sheet light comes through and illuminates the colored peg. A picture constructed in this manner is quite clear and colorful. Colby had used this technique as a sort of therapy, working out his fears and at the same time clearly explaining the frightening scene of the event.

Following the in-home interviews, Vickie took Molt and Schuessler to the scene of the sighting. It was at this time she did the first timed walk-through of the event. Fairly accurate notes on the location of the incident, UFO and helicopters were taken. The route was retraced and statements about the activity were recorded. A step-by-step account of the helicopter encounter was made, noting where they were first seen, where they were reengaged, counted, and last seen.

### *Bold* THE SCENE REVISITED

The scene was revisited a number of times with Vickie, Vickie and Colby, and with all three victims. Other investigators were involved also. Some were with newspapers, others with television productions. John Schuessler participated in most of these excursions. ~~Every~~ <sup>Each</sup> time data was recorded and photographs taken. The descriptions of the helicopters and their activities were consistent. Many hours of audio recordings and transcriptions form part of the data base on the helicopter reports.

### *Bold* BETTY CASH MEDICAL RECORDS

Copies of all of Betty Cash's medical records have been obtained and archived as part of the data base on this case. Betty has seen a great number of doctors in her quest for help. In each case, the doctors recorded a history statement as part of the medical record, starting with the Parkway Hospital records in January 1981 and following through 1983. That historical record also identifies double rotor helicopters as being a substantial part of the incident.

### *Bold* OTHERS OBSERVE CH-47 TYPE HELICOPTERS

Mr. John Plaster, 59 H Meyer Road, Huffman, Texas 77336 (354-3967) and his ten-year old son were outside playing with son's new Christmas toys at night in late December (Christmas week) when they observed 4 or 5 Chinook "Army" helicopters going overhead. He is positive of the identification, but not the exact night. He said he commented at the time "the army has something going on tonight." Refer to John Schuessler Investigator notes dated September 25, 1982

A resident of Indian Shores in Crosby, Tx also witnessed the helicopters - a large group of military-type helicopters for 4 or 5 minutes about December 29th. He has no exact count, but said it was a large group. His name is Bill X (name on file) and is an employee of a large petrochemical company. He was on vacation for the week between Christmas and New Years.

Lamar Walker and his wife Marie witnessed a large group of CH-47 helicopters on December 29th, in the area of the Huffman-Eastgate road. The Lamars were described as credible witnesses by the U.S. Army Inspector General's representative after an on-site investigation on May 25, 1982. A full report of the Inspector General investigation is contained in John Schuessler's investigator notes dated September 5, 1982. These will not be repeated herein.

*Bold* CH-47 LANDS IN DAYTON, TEXAS

A CH-47 from Ellington Air Force Base in Houston landed in Dayton on April 30, 1981, as part of a future farmers day celebration. The craft was piloted by Willy Culberson. When the aircraft flew over Dayton in preparation for landing Colby Landrum was very frightened and ran into the house in sheer fear. Vickie decided he should see the giant helicopter close up so she took him down to where it had landed and showed him it would not hurt him again.

The public was invited to enter and look at the CH-47. Vickie and Colby did this and Vickie photographed the helicopter and crew. During the tour of the interior Vickie and Colby met Culberson and asked him about flying in that area previously. He referred to the December UFO event and said he and others had been called out because of the UFO and were there. When Vickie said she was one of the people hurt in that incident, Culberson beat a hasty retreat. Later, he denied via a telephone call from John Schuessler, having been involved. As a result of John Schuessler's calls to Dennis Haire, Commanding Officer of the 136th Transportation Unit at Ellington, Culberson denied having said anything of the kind. Later, he admitted to Lt. Col. Sarran, of the Army Inspector General's Office, he had made such statements, but still insisted he really wasn't there. Refer to John Schuessler's investigator notes dated September 5, 1982.

*Bold* GENERAL COMMENTS

This section of the report will address details of the helicopter part of the incident.

The incident took place just south of the Inland Road on the Huffman-New Caney road. The roadway is lined with tall pine trees. The object came down between those pine trees during the encounter; the helicopters did not. The location is along a straight stretch of the road. Colby said he saw helicopters during the incident, part of the reason for his fear. Vickie and Betty said they saw helicopters after the UFO rose to leave the area. There is some minor disagreement whether or not one of them saw at least one helicopter earlier.

After leaving the incident site, they drove approximately 3.5 miles, a portion of that distance around the fishing camp and bridge was very curvy, before intersecting FM2100, the Huffman-Crosby road. They turned right at the intersection and because the Huffman-Crosby road is very wide, they could see the UFO and helicopters ahead. Note that the flying things had flown cross country, while the victims had to follow the twists and turns of the road. Betty stopped the car near the cemetery on the right of the road and waited for the UFO and helicopters to move further away. It was at this point they first really counted the helicopters. Vickie was assuring Colby they would be all right and they would not get too close. Colby was very sure of 23 in his count, but the others said 21 to 25 in total number. They all commented how the helicopters flew. Some were up near the object like "they were trying to hem it in", while others flew in a trail formation just following along, many a mile or more away. The victims expressed fear that the close in helicopters would collide. One of the very large helicopters came over the car at a very low altitude and again scared the group badly. Colby said he could see lights inside the helicopter. All the helicopters had lights on the outside. The object was like a vertical elongated light at that time, continuing to climb slowly into the night sky. It's brightness illuminated the area and the helicopters.

As the group of helicopters continued to move away, Betty once again started the car and moved the 1.3 miles to the Huffman-Eastgate Road and turned left. As they drove the 2.4 miles to FM1960 they could see the flying group all the way. Note, they left the pine forest when they entered the Huffman-Crosby road. At FM1960 they sat momentarily and watched the object growing smaller in the distance. However, they reported still seeing some helicopters coming from the direction of Dayton. At FM1960 they turned left and sped home to Dayton and lost sight of the object out the rear window before they reached Dayton.

At the scene of the original incident, all three victims were outside the car for differing periods of time. The sounds they heard there were the constant beeping and the roar of the object that sounded like a flame thrower. The sounds were not those of helicopters. The helicopter sounds were heard only

after the object flew away and at the later observation points. They did report smelling an odor like lighter fluid at the original scene. It was verified they did not have lighters with lighter fluid in their possession.

John Schuessler questioned how they could see helicopters clearly in the night sky. They explained that the ones close to the UFO were clearly lit by it and the others were just visible. To verify their ability to view helicopters at night John Schuessler went out and observed CH-47 helicopters on 26 different occasions. The weather ranged from clear and hot to cold, damp, windy and chilly. Houston, Texas air contains a lot of moisture which acts like little crystals that catch all light from the city, moon and cars and reflect it in a airglow manner that leaves the sky very light much of the time. A deep, dark night in the Houston area is unusual. John Schuessler verified that it is not difficult to see the complete detailed outline of low flying helicopters at night. To duplicate the conditions as closely as possible he observed CH-47 activity at 6:19 pm, 6:41 pm, and 7:19 pm on December 28, 1982. The helicopters were clearly visible, even though the sky was dark, technically. The same thing was repeated on December 30, 1982 at 7:05 pm. John Schuessler was able to photograph a CH-47 under these conditions using ASA 400 film and a Canon camera. It is his opinion the people were able to see the helicopters on December 29, 1980, as they reported.

The weather on December 29, 1980 was chilly. The witnesses reported intermittent misty rain earlier in the day. By evening that had stopped. The clouds were high and broken and the moon was in the third quarter. The air was damp and full of moisture. The airglow of Houston was bright. The conditions were correct for being able to see helicopters flying at night.

*Ball*  
SUMMARY

John Schuessler, Alan Holt, Dave Kissinger, Don Tucker and other members of VISIT have spent two and one half years investigating the Cash-Landrum case. During this time they worked with the representative of the Army Inspector General's office, a large number of newspaper and television reporters and investigators, and several lawyers. The digging into the details of the incident have involved well over 2000 hours of work and the results have been consistent. The investigation has involved the families and friends and business associates of the victims, all with positive results. We have found no tendency towards confabulation and a total openness on the part of the victims in allowing the investigation to proceed. In conclusion, there is no reason to doubt that the victims observed helicopters, as well at the UFO.

Another set of Investigator Notes will cover other helicopter/UFO incidents and the operational characteristics of CH-47 helicopters, in a future issue of the MUFON UFO JOURNAL.  
-#-  
9

February 1, 1983  
P.O. Box 58485  
Houston, TX 77258

Mr. Walter Andrus  
MUFON  
103 Oldtowne Rd.  
Seguin, TX 78155

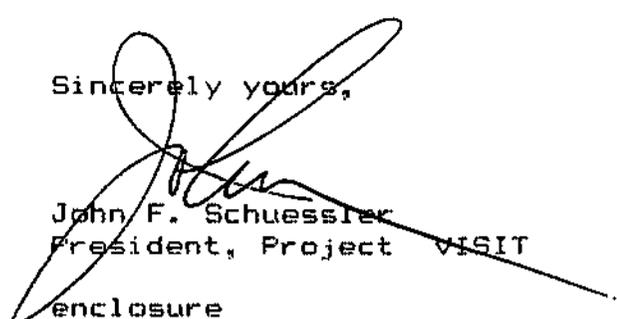
Dear Walt:

A detailed summary of the Betty Cash medical information has been prepared for review and evaluation by certain specialists. The attached copy is being submitted for your review as part of my activity as a MUFON Deputy Director.

Please note that although the names of the doctors have been changed to prevent harrassment and possible legal action, the records clearly describe the condition, tests, results, and considerations of the health state of Betty Cash. As such, these records are considered private and are covered by the Privacy Act of the United States. They are to be protected and not given to unauthorized individuals or groups. They are not part of the public record.

These records are submitted for review for the purpose of helping Betty Cash with her many medical problems, not to cause her additional physical or mental anguish. I hope you will be able to provide some useful guidance and recommendations. If you no longer wish to review this material please return to sender.

Sincerely yours,



John F. Schuessler  
President, Project VISIT

enclosure

cc: P. Gersten  
B. Cash

INVESTIGATOR NOTES

SUMMARY

8 JANUARY 1983

BETTY CASH MEDICAL INVESTIGATION

CASH-LANDRUM CASE  
29 DECEMBER 1980

JOHN F. SCHUESSLER  
P.O. BOX 58485  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77258-8485

Warning: This report is not for publication.  
The contents of this report are provided for  
technical and medical consultation only and  
are not to be used or quoted without written  
approval of Betty Cash or John Schuessler.

INVESTIGATOR NOTES  
BETTY CASH MEDICAL INVESTIGATION

BACKGROUND

On December 29, 1980, three Texans encountered a UFO and 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 prophecy and expected Jesus to 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 in the car begging his grandma to get back in, too. Vickie did and comforted him.

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. The car and the door handle was so hot she used her leather coat as a hotpad to open the door. Although the winter night air had been about 40 degrees, the heat from the UFO caused the witnesses to sweat and feel so uncomfortable that they turned on the car's air conditioner.

Each time the object would shoot flames downward it would rise. As 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 5 to 10 minutes, Vickie 3 to 5 minutes, and Colby only a minute or so. As Betty raced homeward she turned right on highway FM 2100. Five minutes more had lapsed and just ahead was the UFO and a large number of helicopters. "The sky was full of helicopters," Betty said. Some were near the object and others lagged far behind. She

feared the helicopters would collide. They were dazzled as they counted more than 20 helicopters. According to Vickie, "The helicopter roar was like a tornado."

They sped onward towards 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 5 minutes. On FM 1960 the threesome were going away from the UFO, but could still observe it as a diminishing bright light for 2 or 3 more minutes.

During the two years since the event, each of the witnesses have had a variety of physiological problems. A general summary of those problems is given below:

- o Reddening of the skin
- o Skin eruptions
- o Diarrhea
- o Vomiting
- o Stomach pains
- o Eyes swollen and watery
- o Permanent eye damage
- o Loss of appetite
- o Light sensitivity
- o Heat sensitivity
- o Fingernail damage
- o Leg pains
- o Weight loss
- o Hair loss
- o Hair regrowth
- o Scarring of the skin
- o Increased tooth decay (Colby)
- o Extreme thirst
- o Loss of sleep

#### INVESTIGATOR REPORT CONTENTS

This report will be devoted to the medical problems reported by Betty Cash. It will include a summary of the treatment and testing incurred during each major period of hospitalization. Out patient treatment will not be included.

The names of the doctors and hospitals included in this report will be changed for legal reasons; however a copy of all documentation quoted in this report will be maintained on file by Project VISIT and by an attorney selected by Betty Cash.

#### MEDICAL REPORT SUMMARY

Betty entered Homeview Hospital in Houston, Texas on January 2, 1981, was discharged on January 19, 1981, reentered on January 25, 1981 and was discharged on February 9, 1981. The hospital was not cooperative with Betty, her lawyers, or Project VISIT in releasing a total package of medical records. However, a partial

package was obtained and evaluated. Results are as follows:

Betty was admitted to Homeview Hospital by Dr. Victor. Her complaint was swelling of the eyes, scalp, and face and bad headaches. The doctor noted that when she reentered on Jan 25, she had a marked alopecia, greater on the right side than on the left. She also had swelling of the eyelids. Dr. Victor had specifically noted that Betty had little, if any, hair loss when she entered the hospital the first time on January 2.

Drugs administered are as follows: Keflin, IV DSW 50ML, Lanoxin tab, persantine, inderal, dalmene, tylenol, benadryl, solu-medrol, prostaphlin, ampicillin, IV N.S. 0.9%, talwin, betadine soln, domeboro eff tab, fedsol SP, premarin, sinequan, motrin, amoxicillin, zomax, and dalmene.

Dr. Karen saw Betty for an evaluation of headache. Dr. Karen said Betty was admitted "with cellulitis of the face, especially around the eyes and had a severe headache." EEG and CAT scan were done which did not reveal any abnormalities. On January 29, Dr. Karen said "The patient had been doing fairly well until the sudden onset of the cellulitis. No definite etiology of the cellulitis was established during the last admission but she was treated with antibiotics and steroids and did very well. The patient was discharged, recovered well from the cellulitis and with the headaches much better, and says that as soon as she went home she started having diarrhea and soon after that her headaches started getting much worse and after some time her hair started falling off. At this time patient is admitted for evaluation of alopecia, diarrhea and headaches. At the time of being seen, the diarrhea has more or less been controlled. The headaches have gotten increasingly more severe and patient had two injections last night."

Dr. Karen goes on to say "On examination a 51 year old white female who looks much younger than stated age. On general examination, alopecia of the scalp is present with two large areas of complete hair loss on either side of the head in the parietotemporal region. The cellulitis of the face has markedly improved at this time. Lymphadenopathy is present in the retroauricular and posterior cervical lymph nodes. Vital signs are stable."

Dr. Karen gives the following summary of the examination:  
**CARDIOVASCULAR:** A scar is seen in the midline in the chest. Otherwise, heart sounds are well heard and no adventitious sounds are heard. No murmurs are present, no bruits heard over the carotids.

**CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM:** Cranial nerves - patient is alert and oriented. Seems to be very rational and neither very anxious or depressed. Cranial nerves - pupils are equally reactive to light. Eye movements are full with no nystagmus being noted. Visual fields are full in all four quadrants. Funduscopic examination shows sharp disc margins and normal vasculature. The face is symmetrical, tongue is in the midline, palate moves up equally well on both sides, no dysphagia is present.

**NECK:** supple at this time

**MOTOR SYSTEM:** Power is grade 5/5 in all four limbs. Reflexes are bilaterally symmetrical. Plantars are downgoing.

**SENSORY:** Patient says that pinprick and vibration are mildly diminished in the left foot but this seems to be equivocal. In the upper extremities pin and vibration are symmetrical.

**CEREBELLAR:** Patient has no ataxia, can do a good tandem walk, is able to stand on either lower extremity. No nystagmus is seen. Finger to nose test is normal.

An eye examination was conducted by Dr. Joe. The results of his examination are as follows (1/26/81):

**VISUAL ACUITY EXAMINATION:** In the distance, each eye 20/30 plus. Left eye 20/30 plus. The skin of the lids shows a flat erythematous area under the right brow. There is a dry scaly eruption on the forehead and lid skin. Extraocular motility is full. The conjunctiva is normal bilaterally. The corneas are clear bilaterally. Anterior chambers are deep and clear bilaterally. Ocular tension 10 mm. right eye, 11 mm. left eye. The pupils are 4 mm. and react 2+ out of 4 with direct response and the consensual and accommodative reflexes are intact. There is no Marcus-Gunn pupillary phenomenon. There is no iris atrophy. The pupils were dilated with Mydracyl and Neosynephrine for intraocular exam. There is a minus a quarter circle, myopic refractive error in each eye, but the visual acuity in the distance remains 20/30. The lenses are clear bilaterally, except for an occasional punctate white opacity in each lens. The inferior zonular attachments are symmetrically visible OU. There is no posterior subcapsular cataract or equatorial lens opacity. The disc, macula and vessels appear normal in each eye, with a xanthochromic macula with light reflex.

Dr. Sam provided the evaluation for the alopecia on January 28, 1981. His report is as follows:

There is no family history of alopecia, vitiligo, or thyroid problems. The examination revealed round spots of alopecia on the scalp. Within these areas there were areas of black hair regrowth. Mild depression of some areas of the scalp were noted and occasionally scaly areas which would probably correspond to the areas of dermatitis several weeks ago. Occasional hairs in the scalp are noted which are wide distally and markedly narrowed as they approach the scalp. Tender lymph node on the left side is noted. No major scalp pain is present. Touching the scalp did not elicit the tenderness that she experiences in her head, nor her headaches. Clinical diagnosis is Alopecia areata.

Dr. Sam had made the following observations earlier on January 5, 1981: The examination revealed crusted areas of her scalp and marked swelling of her forehead and edema and crusting of her right eyelid, and edema of both eyelids, and cheeks. There was pain palpated in her scalp. The submandibular area was puffy and tender to touch as was the neck area. No weakness of her hand grip, or her tongue push was noted. There was no pain on straightening her legs from a flexed position. A clinical diagnosis cellulitis with secondary edema of the scalp and face is made.

Dr. Victor gave the following results of the January 2, 1981

physical examination: This is a well-built, well-nourished white female in no acute distress.

VITAL SIGNS: Blood pressure 120/80. Respirations 20 per minute. Temperature normal. Heart rate 80 per minute and regular.

HEAD: Normocephalic. The patient has severe swelling of the scalp associated with crusting and erythema all over the scalp. The patient also has swelling and erythema over the eyelids. There is no evidence of anemia or jaundice. Pupils are normal in size and shape, reacts well to light and accommodation. Oral hygiene is good.

NECK: Supple. No cervical lymphadenopathy. Carotid upstroke is good. No bruit heard over the carotid artery or subclavian artery. Trachea in the midline. Trachea not enlarged. Jugular venous pressure flat at forty-five degrees.

CHEST: Symmetrical on both sides. Moves well with respirations. Vesicular breath sounds heard all over the lung fields. No wheezing, crepitations or pleural friction rub heard.

CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM: Point of maximum intensity not felt. First and second heart sounds are normal in character. There is no murmur, gallop, or pericardial friction rub heard.

ABDOMEN: Soft. No hepatosplenomegaly or ascites. No bruit heard over the aortofemoral vessels.

EXTREMITIES: No pedal edema or calf muscle tenderness. Proximal and distal arterial pulsations are well heard.

Dr. Victor provided the following information on January 25, 1981:

LABORATORY DATA: Laboratory data revealed SMA-12 showing mild elevation of alkaline phosphatase, LDH, and serum triglycerides. ANA was negative. Vitamin B-12 serum level was normal. Quantitative analysis of heavy metals from the hair was insufficient. CBC revealed mild normocytic, normochromic anemia. Urinalysis was normal. RPR was nonreactive. Latex RA test and ANA were negative. Fasting two hour postprandial blood sugar was normal. Glycohemoglobin, however, was mildly elevated. T-3, T-4, and T-7 index was normal. Chest x-ray revealed minimal atelectasis in the lingular segment of the upper lobe of the left lung. Xeromammogram was negative. Electroencephalogram was essentially normal. Skull biopsy was consistent with alopecia areata.

Dr. Lee provided the following results of the CT Scan of the head. Films were taken with and without infusion of contrast medium. The visualized ventricles are unremarkable. The pineal body and the choroid plexus are visualized with calcification. There is no definite evidence of localized increased or decreased density seen in the brain. The vein of Galen is visualized on the post-contrast film is unremarkable. The middle cerebral arteries are fairly well visualized and are unremarkable. Opinion: there is no remarkable change seen on CT scan of the head.

Dr. Lee also provided the following analysis:

CERVICAL SPINE: The visualized bony structures are unremarkable. There is no fracture or dislocation seen in the cervical spine. Some prominence of the left transverse process of C7 is

identified.

**CHEST FILM, PA AND LATERAL VIEWS:** There is minimal radio-opacity seen in the left Lung Field and it is not certain of this is indicating some minimal inflammatory changes. Otherwise, the size of the cardiac silhouette is borderline.

**PARANASAL SINUSES:** The paranasal sinuses are well developed and aerated. Otherwise, there is no remarkable change seen in the paranasal sinuses.

**XEROMAMMOGRAPHY BILATERALLY:** There is slight prominence of the ductal area slightly prominent. The left breast is slightly larger than the right side. Otherwise, there is no definite evidence of occupying mass or abnormal calcification seen in both breasts.

Dr. Hardy provided the following information on the skin sample laboratory analysis on January 29, 1981:

**GROSS:** The specimen, unlabeled, designated skin biopsy consists of a core of tan skin 0.4 cm. in diameter and 0.7 cm. in depth. Bisected and submitted entirely.

**MICROSCOPIC:** Slides have sections through the bisected halves of the above segments demonstrating two segments of skin. The epidermis is well differentiated stratified squamous epithelium. In one focus adjacent to a hair follicle opening the dermis shows dissolution of intercellular bridges. One mature hair follicle with relatively unremarkable contained hair shaft is present but there are fairly numerous superficially placed immature hair follicle structures some of which are surrounded by loosely arranged lymphocytic infiltrate. No evidence of malignant neoplasia.

**PATHOLOGIC DIAGNOSIS:** Skin biopsy, histologic features consistent with alopecia areata.

Dr. Terry provided the results of the EEG on January 29, 1981, as follows:

**REPORT:** The background activity consists of 9-10 cycles per second symmetrical and synchronous with medium voltage activity appearing on both hemispheres. No focal or generalized abnormality is seen during this recording.

**HYPERVENTILATION & PHOTIC STIMULATION:** did not produce any abnormal changes.

**CLINICAL INTERPRETATION:** a essentially normal EEG.

Dr. Victor provided the following test results:

**TEST: LEAD, ARSENIC, AND MERCURY (HAIR):** quantity not sufficient to process on 2/9/81

**VITAMIN B-12:** 1036 H (ref values: 200-900)

**HEMOLYSIS:** January 26, 1981

**Albumin:** 3.4 g/dl

**Alk. Phosphatase:** 120 U/L

**BUN:** 9 mg/dl

**Calcium:** 9.0 mg/dl

**Cholesterol:** 257 mg/dl

**Glucose:** 187 mg/dl

**LDH:** 309 U/L

**SGOT:** 17 U/L

Phosphorus: 3.2 mg/dl  
Total Protein: 7.1 g/dl  
A/G: 0.9  
Globulin: 3.7  
Total Bilirubin: 0.3 mg/dl  
Uric acid: 5.8 mg/dl  
Sodium: 135 mEq/L  
Potassium: 4.9 mEq/L  
Chloride: 97 mEq/L  
CO2: 25 mEq/L  
Iron: 57 mg/dl  
CPK: 10 U/L  
Creatinine 0.8 mg/dl  
Triglyceride: 256 mg/dl  
BUN/Creatinine: 11.3  
Balance: 17.9

URINALYSIS voided on January 4, 1981

Specific Gravity: 1.008  
Blood: 2+  
Bilirubin: -  
Ketone: -  
Glucose: -  
Protein: -  
pH: 6.0  
RBC: 4-8/HPF  
WBC: 3-5/HPF  
Mucus: -  
Bacteria: few  
Crystals: -

BLOOD TEST: Taken on January 2, 1981

WBC: 8.1  
RBC: 3.1  
HGB gm: 12.9  
HCT gm: 27  
MCV: 91  
MCH: 31.8  
MCHC %: 35.1  
DIFFERENTIAL:  
Poly: 81  
Stab: 8  
Lymph: 9  
Mono: 2  
PLATELET: Appear adequate

Several consultants were contacted by Project VISIT to assist in the evaluation of the medical results supplied by the doctors and hospital at the request of Betty Cash. The evaluations were essentially consistent. Dr. Roger provided the following analysis of the aforementioned tests and reports after reviewing the reports and consulting with Dr. Victor:

1. All x-rays are for the most part noncontributory. The patients heart is at the upper limit of normal and there are scattered areas of fibrotic change in the lung fields consistent

with the patient's age, not an unusual finding.

2. Electroencephalogram shows no abnormality, and is therefore non-contributory.

3. A heavy metal intoxication as a cause of the patient's hair loss was looked for. The result was inconclusive because insufficient hair was provided to the laboratory.

4. The ophthalmologic examination shows nothing more than the aging of the lens, causing difficulty with near vision. There was no evidence of damage to the interocular structures secondary to radiation.

5. The diagnosis of alopecia areata is doubted. The pathology report describes lymphocytes in the specimen, loosely arranged around superficially placed immature hair follicles. The hallmark of alopecia areata is not lymphocytes, but mononuclear cells. Since the sample was taken four weeks after the event any acute white cells, specifically the polymorphonuclear cells may have already been gone. Her entire skin/scalp affliction began as cellulitis with considerable tenderness and erythema and responded to antibiotics - this is not a feature of alopecia areata. Dr. Victor said the patient's history is very reliable and she relates the onset of her hair difficulties to the development of red inflamed tissue, in turn directly related to the UFO exposure. This is also not a history of alopecia areata. The biopsy specimen describes the dissolution of intracellular bridges. This is not a feature of alopecia areata, but may be a feature of ionizing radiation.

6. If Betty Cash was exposed to radiation, it was more penetrating than the most superficial types, but still did not penetrate sufficiently to cause systemic signs and symptoms. Any radiation damage sustained by Betty Cash was combined to the skin and immediate subcutaneous area.

END OF HOMEVIEW HOSPITAL REPORT.....

FAIRMONT HOSPITAL: May 27, 1981 through June 1, 1981.

Dr. Lloyd provided the following examination results: His examination was basically confined to the skin. He said: "The patient has numerous nevi, telangiectasia, seborrheic keratoses, etc. and over areas of her body she has splotchy, erythematous, macular rash which is confined primarily to the lower trunk, extremities and primarily to the high lower extremities including the anterior and posterior thighs as well as the buttock area. I could see no obvious blister at this time, although the patient pointed out to me a couple of areas where blisters originally occurred and apparently have opened and drained. Although she has some tenderness from the splotchy areas, she does not describe any itching. She has an intense pain when she takes a hot bath and states she has to take cold baths. The patient also states that she has chronic diarrhea and bowel problems ever since the (UFO) encounter.

This patient has a ring-like appearance to the areas of erythema, almost like a tinea or ring worm type lesion over the back, however, the lesions over the lower extremities, and particularly over the thighs are more compatible with irregular macular erythematous scaly areas. She also states that before the exposure or encounter (described in her file), that she had a

fair amount of hair on her legs. Now her legs are quite hairless. She also has numerous telangiectasia over the exposed portions of her hands, arms and what is interesting is that the area on her fourth finger where her rings were seems to be a protected area. The skin is whiter, she has a few fine hairs. On feeling this patients regrowth of hair is quite fine and silky, again similar to that seen following growth after loss from radiation."

Dr. Chris saw Mrs. Cash for a dermatological consultation. A 4x4x3 leg sample was diagnosed as Capillaritis - compatible with Shamberg's. A 4x4x4 trunk sample was diagnosed as mild chronic dermatitis.

FAIRMONT HOSPITAL: September 29, 1981 through October 4, 1981. Betty Cash was admitted with chest pains. The final diagnosis was bronchitis.

Dr. Lloyd provided the following information: Mrs. Cash was bending down when a chrushing pain in her chest behind the sternum which radiated up to the right side of her neck, behind her ear and also across the left shoulder and down her back. The pain was not relieved by Nitroglycerin times 6 and she also experienced some shortness of breath, generalized weakness, and diaphoresis.

PHYSICAL EXAMINATION: Temperature 96.4, pulse 56, respirations 24, blood pressure 128/70. Neck was normocephalic without any abrasions. Pupils equal round and reactive to light. Extra ocular movements in tact. Fundi benign. Throat without erythema. There were no masses or thymomegaly. Neck was supple. Chest revealed bilateral rales. CV-regular rate and rhythm without murmur. There was no JVD. Peripheral pulses were all good. Abdomen was soft, non-tender. There were no masses. There were normal bowel sounds.

LABORATORY: CBC revealed white count of 5,500 with 60 segs, 39 lymphs, 1 eosin. Hemoglobin 13.1, hematocrit 38.1, blood gases on admission were PH 7.519, PCO2 25.5, PO2 112.5. Routine urinalysis was negative. CPK was 49, SGOT 22. Follow CPK was 24 with CPK MB band 0. On admission the SMA/6 revealed a potassium 4.0, sodium 130, CO2 31, Chloride 93, BUN 9, glucose 188. Chest film on admission, with a portable chest film showed no definite pulmonary infiltrate. OCG revealed normal oral cholecystogram. Upper GI series was normal. Follow up chest films revealed the lungs clear except for mild prominence of lung markings in the left retrocardiac area. This did not appear to represent definite infiltrate and is probably not significant. Chest was otherwise unremarkable.

HOSPITAL COURSE: The patient continued to have chest pains especially with exertion for several days. This was thought at that time to be probable angina. The patient continued to complain of mild chest pain. The pain at this time was thought to be secondary to a mild bronchitis. The patient was placed on Keflex 250 mgs q.i.d. The patient was continued on her medications with somewhat improvement in her chest pain. On October 4, the patient stated she had a death in the family and want to go home. At this time the patient still had a cough that was occasionally productive. She continued to be afebrile.

There were a few scattered expiratory rhonchi in her chest. The patient was discharged with the following medications: Lanoxin, Lasix, Inderal, Isordil, Persantine, Keflex, and Nitroglycerine prn.

**NUCLEAR MEDICINE REPORT:** The liver is at the upper limits of normal in size measuring just greater than 25cms at the mid clavicular line. One does note a rather prominent left lobe in the mid epigastrium. There is a fairly uniform distribution of the isotope throughout the organ, and no focal filling defects are identified. The spleen also is at the upper limits of normal in size measuring about 11cms, and again no focal filling defects are seen. There is a normal liver/spleen ratio in the uptake of the isotope.

**FAIRMONT HOSPITAL:** October 17, 1981 through October 27, 1981.

Dr. Lloyd provided the following information:

The patient was a 52 year old white female with recent discharge from hospital, for presumed bronchitis. The patient was discharged at this time but before complete resolution because of illness in the family. The patient now returns without much improvement. The patient has been on antibiotics for two weeks. At this admission the patient states no improvement with her primary complaints being weakness, decreased appetite, diarrhea, head cold and cough productive of yellowish sputum. She denies any fever, hemoptysis or vomiting. The patient had a coronary artery bypass graft five years ago and has also had exposure to high dose of radiation in Dec. of 1980, with subsequent radiation sickness. Medications given at admission are Lanoxin, Lasix, Persantine, Inderal, Isordil, Nitroglycerin and Premarin.

**PHYSICAL EXAMINATION:** On admission revealed a 52 year old white female, that was uncomfortable with a non-productive cough and obvious respiratory congestion. The patient looked dry at this time. Vital signs: BP 120/68, Pulse 64, Respirations 20, temp 97, HEENT exam -pupils equal, round and reactive to light and accomodation. EOM's intact. There were no masses, or adenopathy. The patient did have rhinitis and sinus congestion. There was no JVD noted. Chest exam revealed coarse breath sounds. There was no wheezing or rales present. CV - normal sinus rhythm with an S4 at the apex. There was a well healed midsternal scar. There were no murmurs, rubs, or clicks. Abdomen was soft, nontender with normal bowel sounds. No masses. Extremities - no edema, clubbing or cyanosis. Skin and mucous membranes were dry.

**LABORATORY DATA:** during the hospital stay was essentially unremarkable. SMA 18 revealed a Trig. of 258 with the remainder within normal limits. The CBC revealed a white count of 8,800 with 66% Segs. 26% Lymph. 5% Monos and EOS 2%, 1% BASO with HGB of 12.2 and HCT of 35.3. Routine urinalysis was negative. RPR was negative. AFB of the sputum was negative.

**DISCHARGE DIAGNOSIS:** Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease  
Chronic Bronchitis  
Coronary artery disease

**FAIRMONT HOSPITAL:** November 26, 1981 through December 7, 1981.

Dr. Lloyd provided the following information:

**DISCHARGE DIAGNOSIS:** Atypical chest pain. This patient is a 52 year old white female who had onset of a left arm and chest pain on the day of admission, lasting two hours with accompanying diaphoresis. No relief from Nitroglycerine. The patient recently has been feeling fine, no cough, no sputum production, SOB or congestive symptoms. The patient also had palpitations and soreness of the left costal area.

**PHYSICAL EXAM:** showed alert, cooperative white female with BP 120/70. Pulse 60. Respirations 16, afebrile. Chest-few rales on both bases. CV-no gallops or rubs. Grade 2 systolic murmur, in the left lower sternal border, radiating to the apex. Aortic and pulmonic area-no JVD at 30 degrees. Extremities-no edema. EKG shows sinus rhythm, old anteroseptal MI. Chest xray normal.

**LABORATORY DATA:** Cardiac enzymes negative. The patient was admitted to CCU and treated with MI protocol. EKG showed no change from previous one, but showed an old anteroseptal MI. After 2-3 days in CCU she had a negative EKG. She had a workup for GI disease. OCG, upper GI were negative. Cervical spine films normal. CBC was remarkable for HGB of 11.1. SMA 6/12 essentially unremarkable. Also had a CV Doppler carotid artery study that was unremarkable. Derm. consult-patient had radiation exposure as well as actenic exposure. Impression was radiation dermatitis. She had biopsy of skin and report was pending at time of discharge. The patient did well, but did have some intermittent chest pain, non-cardiac in origin. She had some numbness in the left arm. She developed a small pedal edema.

**DIAGNOSTIC CONSULTATION:** Negative oral cholecystogram and ultrasonic exam. Normal upper G.I. Series. Normal cervical spine.

Dr. Bob provided the following biopsy report:  
Specimen No. 1, 0.7 x 0.5 cms. diagnosed as Seborrheic keratosis.  
Specimen No. 2, 1.5 x 1 cm, diagnosed as Seborrheic keratosis.  
Specimen No. 3, 0.3 cm dia., diagnosed as Hyperkeratotic epithelial hyperplasia. rhd. The samples were taken from the lt. dorsum hand, lt. mid back, and rt. palm, respectively.

**FAIRMONT HOSPITAL:** Emergency treatment on February 13, 1982 and on February 14, 1982, due to fall in bathtub. Elbow was injured and placed in a splint. Follow up examination on February 25, 1982.

**FAIRMONT HOSPITAL:** Clinical services on March 30, 1982. Dermatology consult results same as before.

**FAIRMONT HOSPITAL:** Stress test, because of arm and chest pains over the past month, lasting from minutes to half-hour or longer. Not necessarily related to exertion. May occur during rest. Usually feel tired and weak after pain. Some palpitations, no syncope. Stress test terminated at 12:30" because of fatigue. Achieved heart rate of 134/min (max predicted 171/min). Chest pain at 7 mins into test. Interpretation: 1) Positive submax stress test, 2) Poor exercise tolerance. Stress test conducted on April 2, 1982.

**SOUTHERN HOSPITAL:** Information not available at this time.

FAIRMONT HOSPITAL: Results of Bone Marrow Test on July 14, 1982.  
Peripheral Blood: Erythrocytes show mild degree of anisocytosis. There is a tendency toward microcytosis. Few target cells are seen. Leukocytes and platelets are normal in number and morphology. Approximately 10% of the neutrophils are polysegmented showing more than 4 lobules.  
Bone marrow aspiration: Marrow particles are present. Megakaryocytes are present in normal numbers. Myeloid to erythroid ratio is 3:1. Both myeloid and erythroid series shows normal process of maturation. I do not see any infiltration by abnormal cells.  
Bone marrow iron staining: There is marked decrease of stainable iron in the bone marrow.  
Bone marrow biopsy: Cellularity is variable arranging from areas of few to 60%. Areas of bone marrow necrosis are identified. Megakaryocytes are seen in normal number. Bone marrow architecture is preserved. I do not see any evidence of fibrosis, granuloma formation or malignant infiltration.  
Dr. Lou provides the following final diagnosis: Abnormal non-diagnostic bone marrow. a. Bone marrow necrosis. b. Decreased iron storage.

End of report.....

MUFON



Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

INVESTIGATOR NOTES  
SUMMARY

25 SEPTEMBER 1982

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN PLASTER  
HUFFMAN HELICOPTER WITNESS

CASH-LANDRUM CASE

John F. Schuessler  
P.O. Box 58485  
Houston, TX. 77258

CASH-LANDRUM CASE  
INTERVIEW WITH JOHN PLASTER  
HUFFMAN HELICOPTER WITNESS

On 16 June 1982, a film crew from San Francisco was attempting to recreate the Cash-Landrums case for use in a UFO documentary for KPIX 5, Group W television. Dennis Haire had just landed his helicopter in a rugged area adjoining highway FM 1485, near Huffman, Texas. The aggregate of automobiles, helicopter, and people attracted some of the passing motorists. One of the motorists that did stop was John Plaster - he thought someone had been in an accident and wanted to help.

Mr. Plaster lives 3 to 4 miles from the Cash-Landrums sighting scene. His address is 59 H Meyer Rd., Huffman, TX 77336. His telephone is (713) 354-3967.

According to Mr. Plaster he had never heard of the case until he stopped at the site of the filming and heard the story. He did, however, claim to be a witness to helicopters about the time of the incident. He is not sure of the exact date, but knows it was after Christmas and before New Years; because he and his 10 year old son were outside playing with one of the boys Christmas toys. They witnessed several twin-rotor helicopters overfly the area. Excerpts from the interview follow.

JP = John Plaster

JS = John Schuessler

JS. Would you like to say what you saw just after Christmas, 1980?

JP. Me and my son were out in the yard playing with something. It was late in the evening. We heard some noise up in the sky and he asked me what it was and I just looked up and said well it's helicopters, looks like the army's on patrol. And then we went back to playing with whatever we was tearing the house down with.

JS. About how many helicopters were there?

JP. I seen 4 to 5 of 'em. I really don't recall because I didn't, y'know stop to count 'em.

JS. You knew they were army because why?

JP. Yeah, they were twin prop.

JS. So, that made them what kind of helicopters?

JP. Chinook

JS. Chinook?

JP. I remember that 'cause I was in the army.

JP. You know we went back to doing what we were doing. I never paid no more attention to it up until this point I never heard anything about radiation or anything else out here.

JS. You hadn't even heard about the case on TV or anything, so you weren't aware of this at all?

JP. I had never heard of it, no! .....

JS. Which directions were these helicopters going?

JP. They were going southeast. And, uh.

JS. Were they at low altitude? high altitude? what would you guess?

JP. I'd say - I don't know anything about flying - I guess 800-1000 foot, something like that, y'know.

JS. Did they have any lights on them?

JP. I don't know to tell you the truth!

JS. No searchlight that hit you? or anything like that?

JP. No! no!

JS. Nothing unusual?

JP. No, just looked like the Army going to maybe to Fort Hood, Fort Polk in Louisiana, something like that.

JS. Ok.

JP. You know because uh, I know the army used to do that all the time.

JS. They just moved across the area and they didn't stop, they didn't alter course...

JP. No they went straight across and you could hear a bunch of of them; but I didn't pay no attention to it because - far as we knew it was Army - and uh, like I say I didn't hear anything about this until - I thought Life Flight (Local medical helicopter) landed here is the only reason I even stopped.

JS. And your 10 year old son also witnessed it?

JP. Well he's 12 now, he'd been 10 back then.

JS. And what is his name?

JP. Brian Plaster.

JS. Brian Plaster. OK. And none of the rest of your family saw this?

JP. No! Whether any of my neighbors did, or anything like that, I don't know.

JS. No one else has been around to ask you if you saw such a thing?

JP. Uh-uh.

JS. This is the first report of that that you've made to anyone, then.

JP. Yeah. ....

Summary: This report is circumstantial at best. There is no way to prove that the helicopters seen by Mr. Plaster and his son are the same helicopters witnessed by Cash and Landrum. However, the fact that Army Chinook helicopters were seen during the Christmas week in 1980 is significant in the light of the replies received from official agencies (i.e. no Army helicopters were in the Houston/Huffman area at that time).

We appreciate the cooperation of Mr. Plaster in participating in this interview.

end.....

~~Work~~  
UFO

This is a copy of what I  
sent to thank for his report  
event



MEDICAL INJURIES RESULTING FROM  
A UFO ENCOUNTER  
(CASH / LANDRUM CASE)

ABSTRACT

On 29 December 1980, Betty Cash, Vickie Landrum and Vickie's grandson Colby Landrum were enroute to Dayton, Texas from New Caney, Texas when they encountered an extremely bright UFO hovering over the highway at tree top level. It was 9 pm on this cool (40°) evening with high broken clouds in the sky. The object was moving up and down, periodically belching flames groundward, causing the threesome to stop their car in fear of being burned by the flames. Betty, the driver, stood in her doorway for a time and then walked to the front of the car giving her a 7-10 minute exposure to the object. Vickie stood in the doorway 3-5 minutes and then re-entered the car to calm the very frightened boy. As the object rose to the southwest, helicopters rushed in and flew around and behind the object. A total of 23 helicopters were counted, many of them later identified as CH-47 Chinooks manufactured by the Boeing Co.

All three witnesses suffered physical injuries: vision problems, headaches, stomach pains, diarrhea, and reddening of the skin. Betty and Vickie lost a significant amount of hair and sustained blisters on various parts of their bodies. Betty's injuries appeared worse than the others, corresponding to her longer exposure time.

Two significant points emerge from this case:

- 1) Recipients of medical injuries resulting from UFO exposure/contact are not quickly and properly treated:
  - doctors don't know what to look for and how to treat the resulting injuries
  - recipients are usually frightened by the incident and afraid of ridicule from the doctors and others if they truthfully relate their experience.



CASH/ LANDRUM CASE

Page 2

2) Military activities such as the helicopter operations add a confusion factor, when in fact knowledge of the operations could be most beneficial in identifying a mode of treatment for the victims. In addition, well meaning investigators and media people rush in to get a story and try and fit the incident into some predetermined military strategy.

This paper will summarize the facts of the case, clearly show the extent of the medical injuries, enumerate the problems associated with tracking down military helicopters and airplanes, and recommend a plan of action for the future.

7/26/87

Hi Walt,

Sorry for missing the symposium. I expect it was the best one held so far. It sure had the correct line-up of participants and attendees.

Vickie Landrum called & said she & Betty wanted me to support them during a "That's Incredible" filming that was to be done Sat, July 25. So, I agreed, met with them & the producer and it all appeared to be on the level. So, I cancelled my airline's flight & hotel reservation.

Friday the producer called & said they had to postpone the filming because Betty's mother was hospitalized in Birmingham. The rest is history - my weekend was shot.

Did Hynek mention anything more about his symposium. I sent him an abstract but have had no reply. I guess I will go ahead & send the registration fee later this week.

We did an excellent hypnosis session with Leo Sprinkle and Vicki. It was enlightening. She's really scared of the event.

It would help if the Government would come forward & describe the level of the radiation source. I'm sure they know. They're playing games with the lives of citizens. It isn't right.

Bob Proff <sup>& I</sup> ~~plans~~ to do a book on the Cash/Landrum case. That is, if both our schedules permit. Time will tell.

## CASH-LANDRUM CASE

### SOME UNANSWERED QUESTIONS

1. Official Contact: Senators Bentson and Tower sent nearly identical letters to Cash and Landrum instructing them to go to Bergstrom Air Force Base in Austin, Texas to file a claim against the U. S. Government. These two senators are viewed as arch rivals, yet they sent the same instructions to the victims.

2. When Cash and Landrum went to Bergstrom AFB they were told they were not expected although they had called and made an appointment to see the Judge Advocate. Later a FOIA request by newspaperman Billy Cox (Today -Florida) contained a note of their call to Bergstrom and the fact they had an appointment.

3. According to Cash and Landrum, the Bergstrom lawyers taped their interview, but did nothing to help them in their claim, except to give them claim papers and tell them to get a lawyer. The lawyers claimed to know nothing about the case, but had it all laid out on a map in the interrogation room. Why did they play a game like this? What happened to the tape recording?

4. Why did the Judge Advocate make an appointment with Cash and Landrum to come to Bergstrom and then not keep the appointment, rather leaving it to some staff "lawyers"?

5. Allan Hendry: Why did Hendry get involved to the point of trying to prove that the helicopters did not exist? Why did the Fund for UFO Research fund Hendry's telephone efforts to debunk the helicopters? Why did Hendry do a superficial telephone survey of military installations and conclude that nothing was going on? Why did he never provide a copy of his report as he promised he would? It is interesting to note Hendry was no longer involved with CUFDS at the time of this inquiry....

6. Allen Hynek: Why is Hynek convinced the effects are due to microwave exposure and not other types of radiation or chemical exposure? Hynek told me at one point that a "friend" on the Joint Chiefs of Staff told him the helicopters were part of a force that operates without records for official scrutiny. Who is in charge of this force? Were they involved in the Cash-Landrum event on 29 December 1980? It is the government's role to protect citizens, not harm them in mis-guided exercises.

7. VISIT investigator notes "INVESTIGATION OF HELICOPTER ACTIVITY" dated 31 July 1983, summarizes the helicopter investigation. It seems fairly clear that a large number of helicopters were operating near Huffman, Dayton, Cleveland, Crosby, etc. Texas on 29 Dec 1980. Why has all government agencies denied all helicopter activity? Why have they made contradictory statements on their normal activities? They

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13. Considering that the UFO was a military device, or a

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What was the code name of the operation, regardless of what the object was?  
Was a large battlefield illumination platform used? Did it have a microwave link? Was it supported by a helicopter? What is the intensity, source, and effect of the illumination system?  
Was it manned or unmanned?  
Was the radiation expected or a malfunction?  
Was it a terrorist weapon?  
Did the helicopter intervention unit operate from one source (i.e. from a small carrier in the Gulf of Mexico, Ft. Hood, Field unit temporary headquarters, etc)  
Where did the device originate? Where was it before it came to the Dayton/Huffman area? How long was it in the area?  
Where did it go from Huffman when it went in the direction of Crosby? Did it proceed on to the Gulf of Mexico? If so, to the carrier? or was it dumped in the Gulf?  
Who was involved in the salvage operation? Was it done under the cover of an offshore oil industry operation? How much was retrieved? Was it radioactive?  
Was the object part of the flight of four objects seen in Arkansas on 28 December (one day earlier)? What happened to the other three objects?  
Since the helicopters came back to the area about 3-4 hours after the original incident, does this mean the object went down, at least temporarily in the Huffman area? Did something fall from the object and was being sought by the copters? Or were they just making sure that no trace existed by flying the exact flight path once again.  
The object was extremely bright all the time. What was the source of the brightness?  
Flames were seen periodically during the period the object was over highway FM 1485. What caused the flames? What system could be associated with the flames?  
What was the beeping heard by Cash and Landrum during the whole of the sighting? Was this microwave induced?  
Did the crew survive?  
Were any of the helicopter crews harmed, even temporarily by exposure to the object. Can military hospital records for the whole United States be revealed to determine if any pattern of injury or illness could be drawn during the period 29 December 1980 to 1 July 1981? If crews, enlisted and officers, were injured they may have been dispersed to various hospitals to lessen the obvious impact of the event if any of the crewman ever talked about the incident. Also, it is difficult to tell just what the extent of the injuries may be. The crews were inside the helicopters and may have been wearing some type of flight or protective gear. The injuries may have been somewhat different than those experienced by the victims in the open on the ground.

14. Where is the data taken by the helicopter units stored and maintained? There should be photographs and instrumented data available somewhere, unless this was just a game.

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10 December 1983

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

## CASH-LANDRUM CASE

### SOME UNANSWERED QUESTIONS

1. Official Contact: Senators Bentson and Tower sent nearly identical letters to Cash and Landrum instructing them to go to Bergstrom Air Force Base in Austin, Texas to file a claim against the U. S. Government. These two senators are viewed as arch rivals, yet they sent the same instructions to the victims.
2. When Cash and Landrum went to Bergstrom AFB they were told they were not expected although they had called and made an appointment to see the Judge Advocate. Later a FOIA request by newspaperman Billy Cox (Today -Florida) contained a note of their call to Bergstrom and the fact they had an appointment.
3. According to Cash and Landrum, the Bergstrom lawyers taped their interview, but did nothing to help them in their claim, except to give them claim papers and tell them to get a lawyer. The lawyers claimed to know nothing about the case, but had it all laid out on a map in the interrogation room. Why did they play a game like this? What happened to the tape recording?
4. Why did the Judge Advocate make an appointment with Cash and Landrum to come to Bergstrom and then not keep the appointment, rather leaving it to some staff "lawyers"?
5. Allan Hendry: Why did Hendry get involved to the point of trying to prove that the helicopters did not exist? Why did the Fund for UFO Research fund Hendry's telephone efforts to debunk the helicopters? Why did Hendry do a superficial telephone survey of military installations and conclude that nothing was going on? Why did he never provide a copy of his report as he promised he would? It is interesting to note Hendry was no longer involved with CUFOS at the time of this inquiry....
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*The Scientific Investigation  
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RADIATION SICKNESS  
CAUSED BY UFOs

John F. Schuessler

Injuries that mimic radiation poisoning are reported as a result of UFO close encounters. The evidence shows this to be a current problem.

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## RADIATION SICKNESS CAUSED BY UFOs

By

John F. Schuessler

### THE PROBLEM

October 24, 1887: Venezuelan family exposed to a brightly lit unidentified flying object (UFO) and suffered burns, vomiting, hair loss, and extensive swelling.<sup>1</sup>

May 20, 1967: Canadian prospector Stephen Michalak encountered a landed UFO and suffered burns, nausea, vomiting, swelling and an extended illness.<sup>2</sup>

October 3, 1973: Missouri truck driver exposed to an extremely bright UFO, blinded for days, and had vision impairment for a year.<sup>3</sup>

These and hundreds of similar incidents indicate that UFOs are seriously affecting people. How can these people be helped? What can we learn about UFOs by studying these human effects?

A small team of engineers, scientists, and medical specialists have formed Project VISIT (Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team), to be a clearinghouse for all UFO incidents involving medical injury or alleged entry into a UFO. VISIT members collect and analyze data on the physical effects of UFOs on people. This scientific and medical data is then examined to discover the probable mechanisms of the UFO.<sup>4</sup>

## THE LATEST INCIDENT

The latest entry into the VISIT data base occurred on December 29, 1980, when three Texans encountered a UFO and suffered severe medical consequences. Betty Cash (51), Vickie Landrum (57), and Vickie's grandson Colby Landrum (?), were driving home to Dayton, Texas, on the Cleveland-Huffman road just north of Lake Houston. It was nine 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. 5,6

Suddenly, hovering over the road only a short distance ahead was an enormous diamond shaped object. Vickie said "it was like a diamond of fire." 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 Jesus to 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. They all got out of the car to get a better look at the UFO. Colby was terrified and dove back into the car, begging his grandma to get back in, too. Vickie did and comforted Colby.

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. The door handle was so hot she used her leather coat as a hotpad to open the door. Although

the winter night air had been about 40°F the heat from the UFO caused the witnesses to sweat and feel so uncomfortable that they turned on the car's air conditioner.

Each time the object would shoot flames downward it would rise. As 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. 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 5 to 10 minutes, Vickie 3 to 5 minutes, and Colby only a minute or so. As Betty raced homeward she turned right on FM 2100. Five minutes had lapsed and just ahead was the UFO and a large number of helicopters. Betty said "the sky was full of helicopters." Some were near the object and others lagged behind. She feared the helicopters would collide. They were dazzled as they counted more than 20 helicopters. Vickie said "the helicopter roar was like a tornado."

They sped onward towards home, turning on to the Huffman-Eastgate road, then to FM 1960. By this time the object had been in sight, climbing into the night sky, for another five minutes. On FM 1960 the threesome were going away from the UFO, but could still observe it as a diminishing bright light for two or three more minutes.

## UNUSUAL MEDICAL EFFECTS

Betty dropped Vickie and Colby in Dayton and arrived home at 9:50 PM, 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.

December 29th was a turning point in the lives of Betty and Vickie. Betty, an unusually energetic woman, had plans to open a new restaurant. The sickness that followed ruined those plans. For the next four 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. Because Betty was unable to function Vickie was afraid she would die and set out to locate her doctor.

After a number of telephone calls a doctor instructed Vickie to take Betty to the hospital emergency room where the staff received and treated her as a burn patient. Over the next several days Betty lost patches of skin on her face and about fifty percent of her hair fell out.<sup>7,8</sup>

After 12 days in the hospital Betty went home, even though she had shown little improvement. Her condition again degraded to the point where she returned to the hospital for 15 more days. During the weeks that followed the incident Vickie treated herself and Colby with baby oil to stop the burning of their faces. Their stomach pains and diarrhea stopped after a couple of weeks but their eyes are apparently permanently damaged and treatment continues. Colby had nightmares for weeks and was extremely frightened by bright lights in the night sky or by helicopters anytime.

## SUMMARY OF THE MEDICAL EFFECTS

Colby     Erythema (reddening of the skin)  
          Eyes swollen and watery  
          Stomach pains  
          Diarrhea  
          Anorexia (loss of appetite)  
          Some weight loss  
          Increase in tooth cavities

Vickie    Erythema  
          Photophthalmia (eyes swollen, watery, and painful)  
          Vision greatly diminished  
          Stomach pains  
          Diarrhea  
          Anorexia  
          Ulceration on the arms, resulting in scarring and loss of  
          pigmentation  
          Keratin affected resulting in fingernail damage  
          Hair loss  
          Hair regrowth of a different texture

Betty     Erythema  
          Acute photophthalmia (eyes swollen closed, painful, watery)  
          Vision impaired  
          Stomach pains  
          Vomiting, diarrhea  
          Anorexia  
          Loss of energy, lethargy  
          Scarring and loss of skin pigmentation  
          Excessive hair loss  
          Hair regrowth of a different texture

## KNOWN RADIATION EFFECTS

The electromagnetic spectrum is divided into groups according to wavelengths. X-rays and gamma rays have very short wavelengths; ultraviolet radiation, visible light and infrared have increasingly

longer wavelengths. Since the regions overlap, an exposed person may suffer effects of more than one region-- x-ray and ultraviolet for example. <sup>9</sup>

Exposure to ultraviolet radiation can produce photophobia, photophthalmia (arc-eye), edema of the eyelids and erythema of the skin. Exposure to gamma and x-radiation can provide a strong general weakness, anorexia, nausea, vomiting, apathy, severe headache, sleeplessness, and dizziness. 10,11

The symptoms provide a clue to the type of radiation exposure. The degree of illness depends upon the type and energy of the radiation, the dose, amount of exposure, and a number of other variables. However, there is no type of radiation that is not potentially dangerous to the eye. Certainly most of the listed symptoms can be found in the Cash/Landrum incident.

#### THE HELICOPTORS

All the witnesses were interrogated separately for information about the helicopters. They all agreed there were at least 20. Illumination from the glowing object clearly showed details of the helicopters even though the night was dark and the moon was in the third quarter. At least two different helicopter models were present, but they referred also to the one large thing amidst the helicopters.

Through use of helicopter identification charts one model was clearly identified as the Boeing CH-47 Chinook. Another was identified as being similar to the Bell Huey model, but not positively identified as such.

Each of the witnesses not only identified the shape and

main characteristics of the Chinook, they also pointed out details such as the wheels, lighting pattern and sounds.

Contact with the Houston Intercontinental Airport FAA representative provided the following: 12

- 350-400 helicopters operate commercially in the Houston area.
- All are single rotor types. (No Chinooks)
- Helicopter traffic flies Visual Flight Rules (VFR), consequently they do not contact the tower.
- Beyond 15 miles from the airport they must stay below 1800 feet.
- The Houston radar is limited to 2000-2200 feet around Lake Houston due to the location of antenna.

Contact with military installations was of little help. Fort Polk, Fort Hood, Dallas Naval Air Station, and England AFB stated they did not fly into the Houston area that evening. The unit operating out of Ellington AFB in Houston had landed before the sighting time. Robert Gray Field had 100 helicopters come in from the field at one time "for effect", but claimed to have avoided the Houston area. Hence, no one claims the helicopters that filled the Huffman area sky that winter night.

#### CONCLUSION

This incident clearly points up several serious conditions. First, when a person is involved in a close encounter with a UFO they find it nearly impossible to obtain immediate assistance. The police, newspapers, and even doctors receive their plea for help with tongue in cheek. The doctors, being unprepared for a bizarre account like Betty's spend a lot of time trying to determine what is wrong, as a standard treatment method has never been defined.

Second, military organizations could better serve the citizens

of the United States if they were prepared to relate the nature of objects such as the one a Huffman and others where public safety is at stake. Betty and Vickie have never said the Huffman UFO was a flying saucer with little green men. They believe it was a government sponsored operation of some kind. Others that saw and heard the helicopters that evening have the same feeling.

Third, UFO organizations usually do not cooperate to the fullest to help the witnesses. The Huffman incident is an exception. The Mutual UFO Network of Seguin, Texas, the Center for UFO Studies of Evanston, Illinois, and the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization of Tucson, Arizona, all cooperated in a responsible manner to assist the Houston based Project VISIT to conduct the investigation by providing consultants, recommendations, and data pertaining to similar cases. Such cooperation is in the best interest of all parties involved.

#### ONLY THE BEGINNING

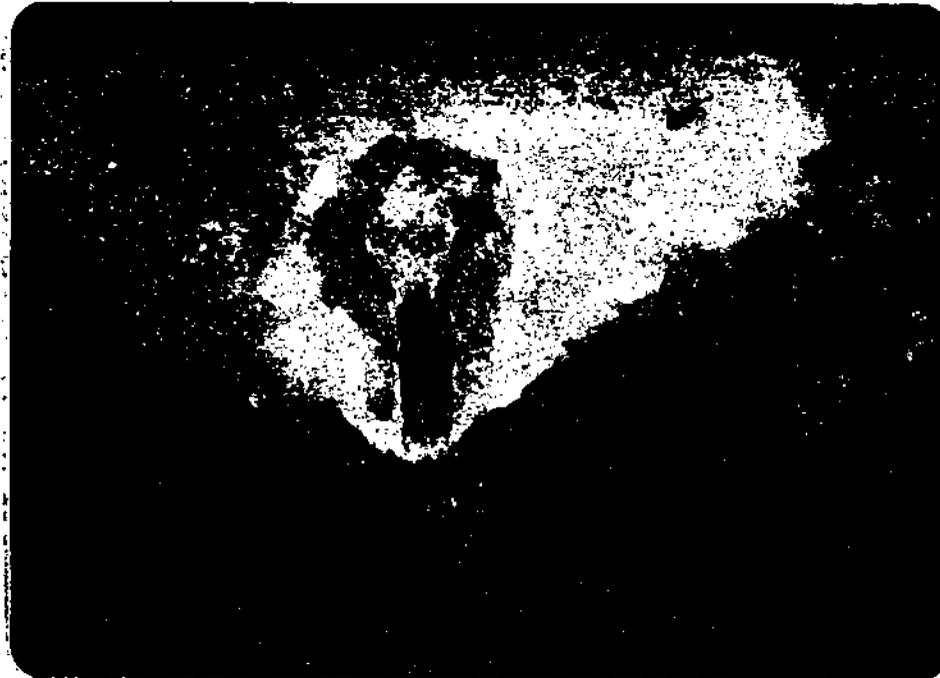
The investigation continues. The future health state of Betty, Vickie, and Colby is yet to be determined. However, several radiation specialists have given freely of their time and talents to establish a program of rehabilitation and care. Full treatment is still lacking because the data on the source of the problem, the UFO, is still not available.

Project VISIT members are available on call for consultation. The address of VISIT is Post Office Box 877, Friendswood, Texas 77546.

REFERENCES- NOT TO BE PUBLISHED

1. Flying Saucer Review Case Histories, December 1970, page 15  
(Quotation from the Scientific American, December 18, 1886, p. 389).
2. Canadian UFO Report, July-August 1969, P. 24.
3. Industrial Commission of Missouri, Jefferson City, Missouri,  
Injury No. AM-92441. (Not for publication)
4. "Project VISIT- An Approach to Determine 'What Are They?'" , MUFON Journal, July 1980, P. 7.
5. Betty Cash, 209 48th Street, Fairfield, AL, 35064. (205) 785-2752.
6. Vickie and Colby Landrum, 506 West Clayton, Dayton, TX 77535.  
(713) 258-2100.
7. Dr. V. B. Shenoy, 150 West Parker Road, Houston, TX 77076.  
(713) 691-3649.
8. Parkway Hospital, 233 West Parker Road, Houston, TX 77076. (713)697-2831
9. Eye Injuries, Edward Zagora, M.D., Charles C. Thomas (Publisher),  
Springfield, IL, . 422.
10. American National Standard for the Safe Use of Lasers, ANSI  
Z 136.1-1973, p. 56.
11. Foundations of Space Biology and Medicine, Vol. II, Book 2, NASA,  
Washington D.C., 1975, p. 516-517.
12. Houston Intercontinental Airport, FAA Representative, (713) 443-4297.

Scene of the Cash-Landrum Event by Kathy Schuessler





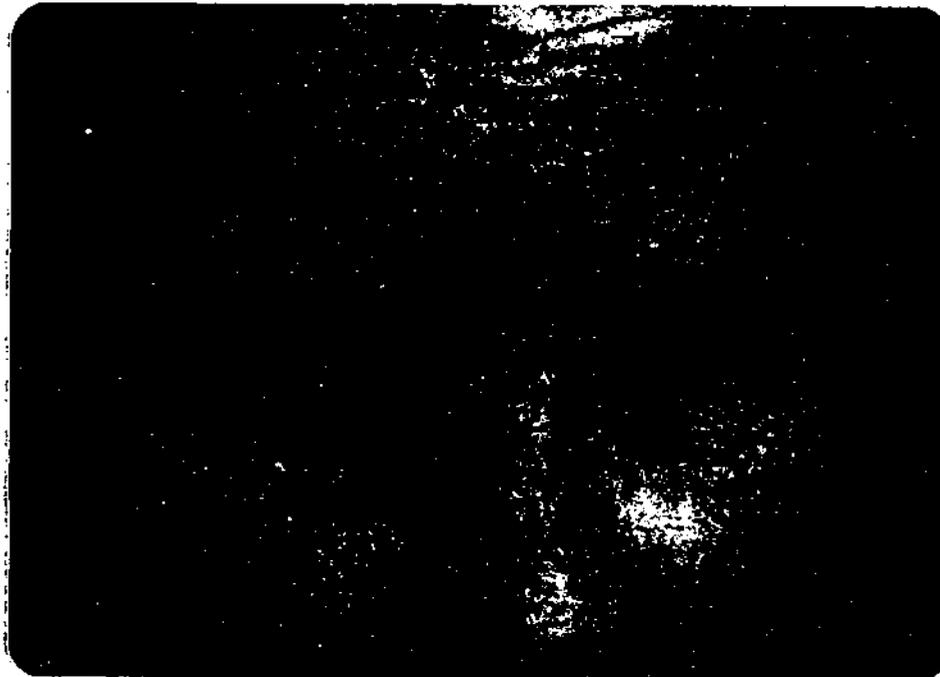
Visiting the UFO Sighting Location  
Astrophysicist Alan Holt with Vickie Landrum

Radiation Sickness Caused by UFOs

John F. Schuesler

Vickie and Colby Landrum





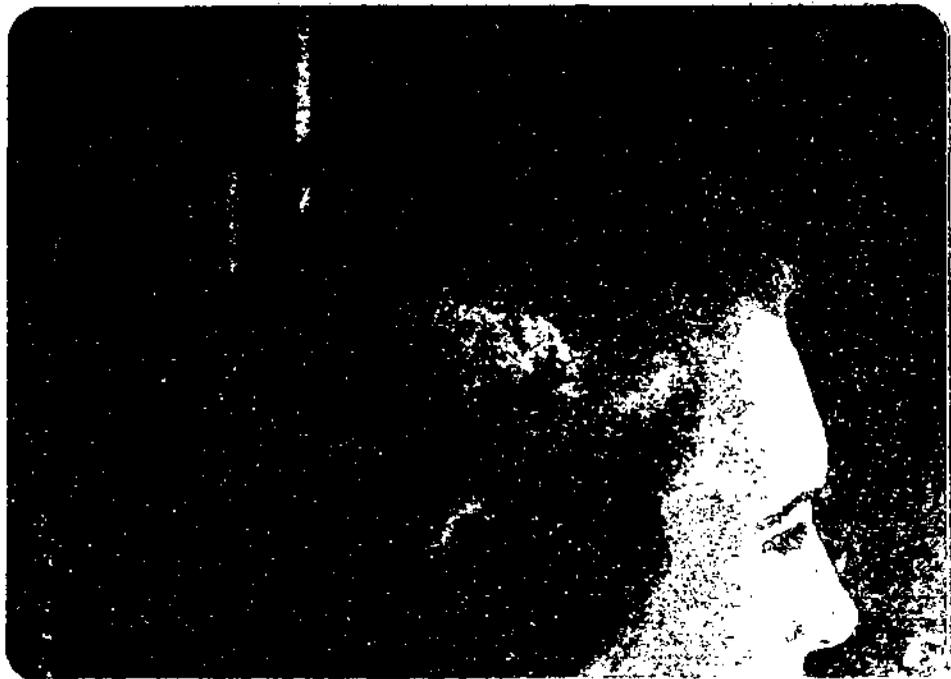
Crop and enlarge  
to show closeup  
view of one eye  
only.

Eye Condition - Photophobia  
Nine Weeks After Incident

Vickie Landrum - Sores Persist  
8 Months after

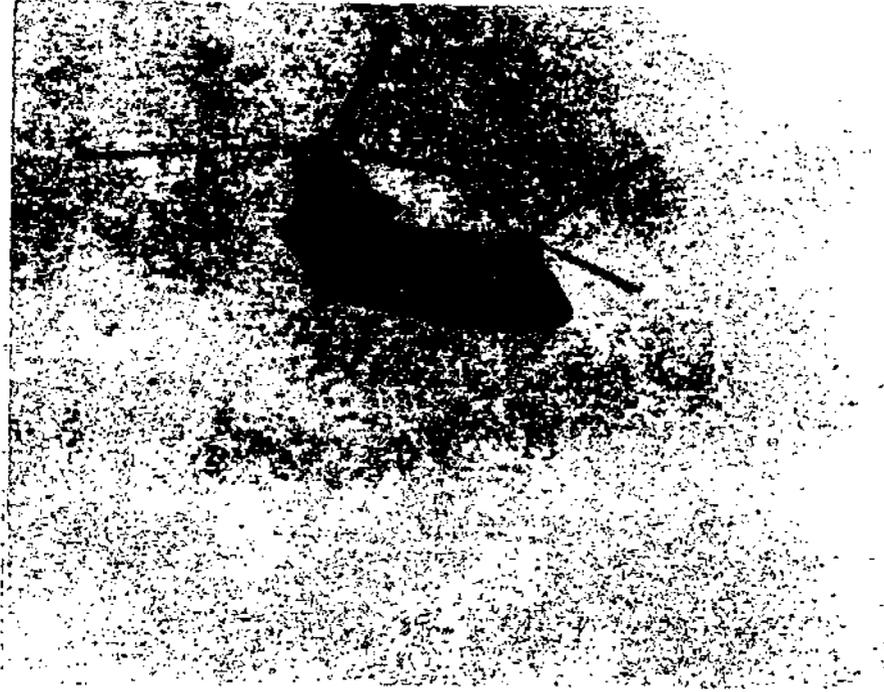


Betty Cash





View of Arm  
Showing Scaring and Continued Infection  
Twelve Weeks After Incident



Distinctive Silhouette of CH-47 Helicopter



Boeing CH-47 Chinook Helicopter

## THE CASH-LANDRUM UFO INCIDENT

Bryan A. McClelland, M.D., CCFP, AAFP

615 First Street North  
P.O. Box 628  
Alabaster, Alabama 35007  
(205) 663-5990  
Fax (205) 663-3440

David B. Aizenman, M.D.

615 First Street North  
P.O. Box 628  
Alabaster, Alabama 35007  
(205) 663-5990  
Fax (205) 663-3440

January 25, 1996

RE: Betty Cash  
SS: 423-28-0522  
DOB: 2/10/29

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

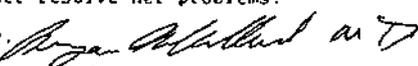
I have known Ms. Cash for many years. She had clear evidence of post radiation dermatitis with chronic changes in her right hand and right neck. She had bilateral mastectomy in 1983 for proven breast cancer. She has had no other cancers appear since that time.

Over the years we have had multiple request for old records relating to her admission to Parkway Hospital in Houston, and have been unable to obtain CBC counts. She has a clear history of radiation exposure with post radiation hair loss, skin damage and GI symptoms. We have never been able to any clinical information except one skin biopsy read by Dr. Pineda which confirmed that she had radiation dermatitis in her right hand.

Ms. Cash's radiation exposure could not possibly have been casual. There are no sources of radiation available to the public of the intensity required to cause her injuries. There has been some suggestion that an experimental program with a military aircraft called a WASP-II could have gone amiss and irradiated Ms. Cash but this is unproven. She has suffered severe financial distresses and medical problems as a consequence of her radiation exposure.

Please assist Ms. Cash in any way that you possibly can in both identifying the source and intensity of her radiation exposure and assisting her resolve her problems.

Yours truly,

  
Bryan A. McClelland, M.D.

BAH/md

**BETTY CASH BELIEVES THAT THE  
OUTSTANDING CARE GIVEN BY  
DR. BRYAN A. MCCLELLAND IS  
RESPONSIBLE FOR KEEPING HER  
ALIVE FOR THE PAST DECADE**

THE CASH-LA

**THE TOTAL AM  
COLLECTED DUF  
OF THE CASH-L  
IS APPROACHIN  
SELECTED SAM  
BASE ARE SHO**

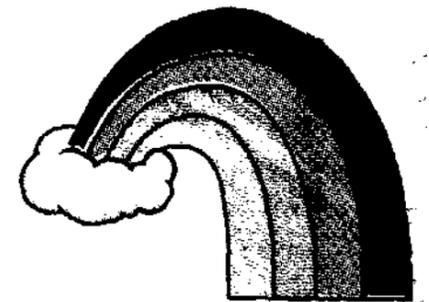
MONDAY

May 15, 1989  
San Antonio, Texas

FINAL

25¢

# Express-News



San Antonio's quality newspaper--largest circulation in South Texas

## Violent winds rip Fort Hood copters

By PAT WILLIAMS  
and PHILIP BARR  
Express-News Staff Writers

FORT HOOD — Army investigators Sunday were tallying up the cost — which may be tens of millions of dollars — of weekend thunderstorms that lashed Fort Hood with 95 mph winds, damaging an estimated 50 helicopters.

At least three people were injured, but did not require hospitalization, officials said.

"We're kind of picking up the pieces," Maj. Tim Vane, a Fort Hood spokesman, said Sunday evening in a telephone interview after an Express-News photographer was allowed on the post earlier in the day. Meanwhile, a continued threat of storms remained in the forecast for

### Damage to about 50 aircraft estimated in tens of millions

the San Antonio area through the next week, the National Weather Service said.

Monday and Tuesday's forecasts were for cloudy nights and mornings, partly cloudy afternoons and a 40 percent chance of late afternoon or evening storms.

No official dollar estimate of the damage at Fort Hood will be available for several days, Vane said, but sources said the damage will run into the tens of millions of dollars.

There was extensive damage to property, facilities, power lines and aircraft. There were three minor injuries," Vane said.

A spokesman said aircraft were damaged at Fort Hood Army Airfield and Robert Gray Army Airfield, also at Fort Hood, the sprawling Central Texas Army facility.

Reporters allowed on Fort Hood Army Airfield saw at least 30 AH-64 Apache attack helicopters with what appeared to be damaged rotors, or transmissions.

Three OH-58 observation helicopters were destroyed and two CH-47 Chinooks were lying on their sides. With several other Chinooks — large transport helicopters — showing damage,

some of the Apaches apparently

had been blown over and rolled, a reporter said.

A heavy equipment maintenance building had its roof and part of one wall destroyed by the winds and a multi-story housing unit had part of its roof blown off, an observer said.

In Walker Village, a post housing complex, hundreds of trees were blown over, some onto buildings and cars.

Capt. Ron Gahagan, a post spokesman, said some families had to be relocated to temporary housing, though he did not know how many. About 38,000 people are stationed at Fort Hood, he said.

No details were available on the three injured people, but Gahagan said their injuries were slight and they were not hospitalized.

Electricity had been restored to most of the post by Sunday night.

See OFFICIALS, Page 11-A

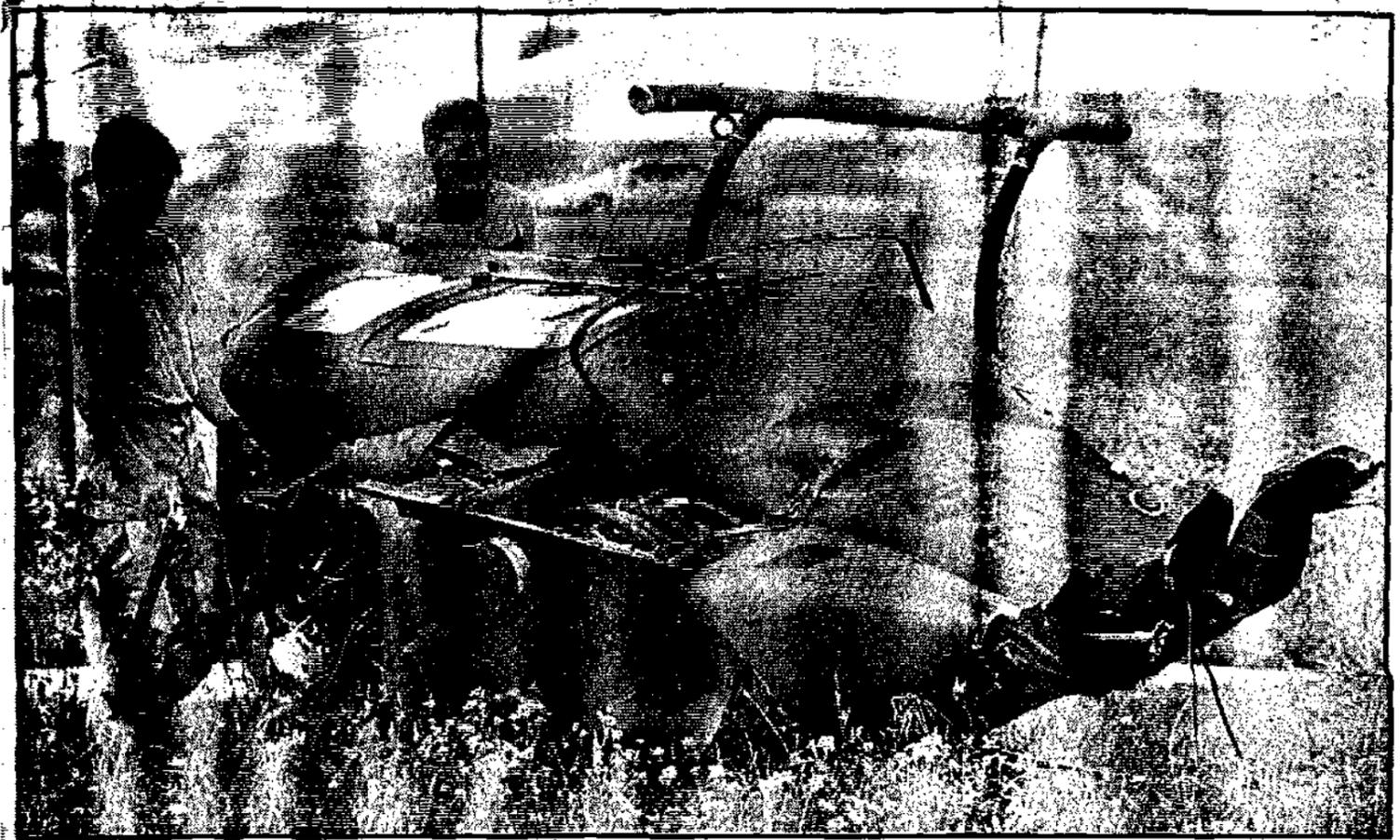


PHOTO BY PHILIP BARR

Soldiers at Fort Hood on Sunday examine an OH-58 Kiowa helicopter destroyed late Saturday by a violent storm with winds up to 95 mph.

# Officials tallying damage on post

Continued from 1-A

though work crews were still out, he said.

Vane said a tornado did not hit the Army post near Killeen, about 130 miles north of San Antonio.

"The National Weather Service told us it was a lot of thunderstorms that came together at one time," he said.

"They packed a pretty powerful wallop," Vane said of the winds.

Gahagan said the helicopters usually are tied down, though he could not say for certain whether all those damaged in the storm were secured.

The storm lasted for about 30 minutes, Vane said.

The storm also caused an undetermined amount of damage in Killeen, a police spokeswoman said. Two roofs were torn off homes, vacant trailers were flipped over and signs were turned over.

"Damage was pretty extensive," she said.

The storms that struck South Texas, however, apparently caused little damage in other areas, according to spokesmen in area counties.

A storm with golf-ball-sized hail hit Eagle Pass in Maverick County at 7:40 p.m. Sunday, a sheriff's deputy said.

"It's really hitting pretty hard," he said. "There's cars just diving under cover."



A row of AH-64 Apache attack helicopters, which reportedly rolled over in the weekend storm, show rotor damage after being set upright.

Two thunderstorms struck Val Verde County on Sunday afternoon, dropping pea-sized to marble-sized hail, but causing no apparent damage, a sheriff's dispatcher said.

Bexar County was under a tornado watch until 10 p.m. Sunday, while areas in the immediate vicinity were under a watch until early Monday.

On Saturday, the weather service reported 2.05 inches of rain and large hail in Gonzales County, but a

spokeswoman for the Gonzales Police Department said the hail was confined to rural areas and no damage was reported.

Karnes County officials reported power lines down but no other damages.

Wilson County received up to an inch of rain in some areas, but it caused no problems, a deputy sheriff said.

The forecasts for Monday and Tuesday called for highs to reach the

upper 80s and the low Monday night the upper 60s. Wind was forecast to be out of the southeast at 10-15 mph.

The extended forecast was for a continued chance of thunderstorms Wednesday through Friday, with highs near 90 and lows near 70. Early morning and late night skies were expected to be cloudy and afternoons partly cloudy, the weather service said.

Staff Writer Jim Price contributed to this story.



Soldiers Sunday pick up the pieces of a roof blown off a maintenance building when storm winds of 95 mph tore across Fort Hood, damaging buildings and aircraft.

PHOTOS BY PHILIP BARR

# RADIATION INJURIES FROM UFO

By Richard Hall

CASH/LANDRUM

## Preliminary Report

What promises to be one of the most significant physical evidence cases in modern UFO history occurred December 29, 1980, near Huffman, Texas, northeast of Houston. Two women and a young boy suffered various degrees of injury, largely attributable to radiation poisoning and radiant heat, after watching a luminous object hover low over the road ahead of their car. MUFON Deputy Director, John Schuessler, and members of Project VISIT are investigating. They are seeking to obtain the full set of medical records.

Betty Cash, 52, was driving her 1980 Cutlass Supreme from New Caney to Dayton, Texas, on Highway 1485 about 9:00 p.m. With her were a friend, Vicky Landrum, 60s, and Vicky's grandson Colby, 7. Suddenly a luminous, fiery-looking object descended to treetop level over the road ahead of them and they heard a beeping noise that persisted throughout the sighting. From its underside, flames (red-orange) were emitted toward the road periodically, with an audible "woosh." Betty stopped the car, afraid to drive beneath the object; they opened the car doors to stand beside the car and watch. The glow was brilliant, and they could feel strong heat and hear a loud roaring noise.

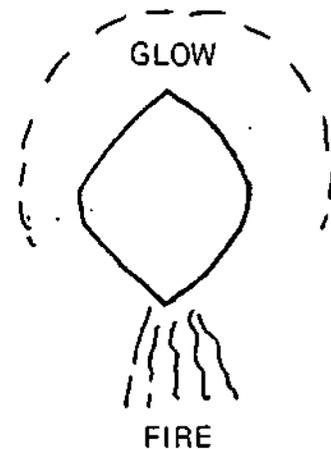
Colby became terrified and he and Vicky got back in the car, but Betty remained outside for a longer period of time. (Probably significantly, Betty's injuries were the most severe.) Finally, the object started to rise and move away to the right in a southwesterly direction with a large number of helicopters (20 or more) seemingly in pursuit. The evening was cool and the car

heater had been turned on, but now the car was so hot that Betty turned on the air conditioner.

Later Betty dropped Vicky and Colby off at their house and drove home, feeling ill. She arrived home at 9:50 p.m. Numerous symptoms appeared almost immediately: swollen neck, head and facial blisters, swollen earlobes, and swollen eyelids. Her eyes closed completely and she could not see for several days. Four days later, unable to eat, and suffering nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea, Betty entered the hospital where she remained for 15 days. She also suffered severe loss of hair. After being discharged, she continued to suffer swellings, headaches, and lack of appetite. A little over a week later, she returned to the hospital for additional treatment. As of February 22, she remained constantly tired, headachy, and unable to work.

When they arrived home that night Vicky and Colby also felt ill; Colby's face was "sunburned" and he had eye problems, a condition that still persists to a mild degree. They spread large quantities of baby oil on their faces for three days. Both had stomach aches and diarrhea for several days. Vicky experienced some loss of hair and a sensation as if her scalp were "asleep." During the sighting, she had placed her left hand on top of the car, and the fingernails on that hand showed odd line-like indentations across their width.

Colby had nightmares for 2-3 weeks, and since has displayed extreme anxiety and fear at the sight of a helicopter. The large number of helicopters itself poses a mystery, since no obvious source of that many helicopters is known in the area, especially on short notice if they were pursuing the UFO, as they



General appearance of Huffman, Texas, UFO

appeared to be. The date also was during the holiday season--when military bases typically would be on "stand-down" with reduced personnel.

Although they remain to be fully documented, the medical symptoms suggest both radiation sickness and physical burns; both ultraviolet and infrared radiation may have been involved. Full details will be reported as soon as the investigation is completed, and the future health of the witnesses will be monitored.



# CASH-LANDRUM RADIATION CASE

By John F. Schuessler

(Note: This follow-up report is based on a presentation to the Sept. 1981 CLIFOS UFO Conference. The case was initially reported in the Apr. 1981 issue, No. 158.)

The problem of radiation sickness caused by UFOs is defined by these brief examples:

October 24, 1887: Venezuelan family exposed to a brightly lit unidentified flying object (UFO) and suffered burns, vomiting, hair loss, and extensive swelling.

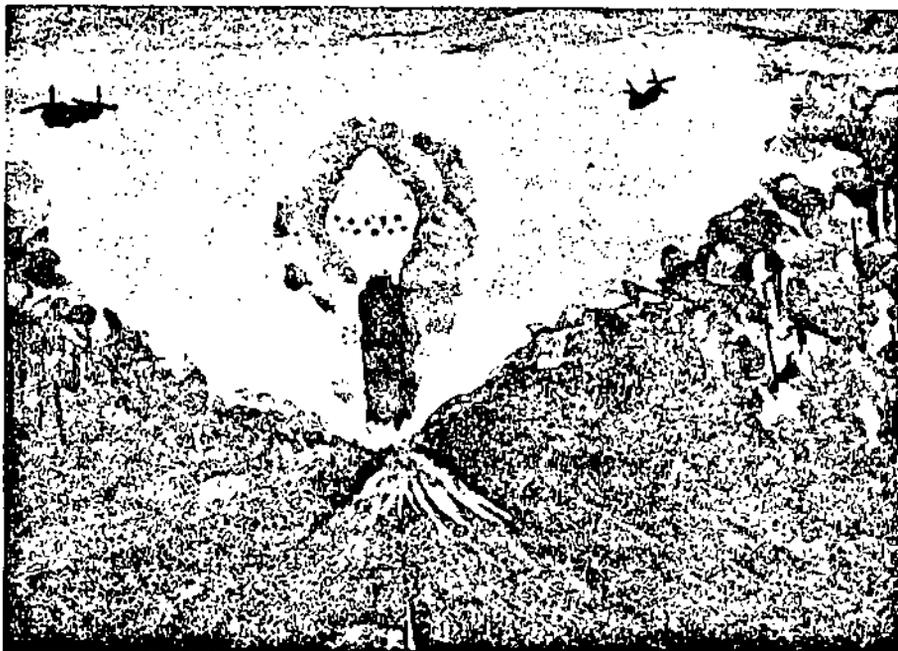
May 20, 1967: Canadian prospector Stephen Michalak encountered a landed UFO and suffered burns, nausea, vomiting, swelling and an extended illness.

October 3, 1973; Missouri truck driver exposed to an extremely bright UFO, blinded for days, and had vision impairment for a year.

These and hundreds of similar incidents indicate that UFOs are seriously affecting people. How can these people be helped? What can we learn about UFOs by studying these human effects?

A small team of engineers, scientists, and medical specialists have formed Project VISIT (Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team), to be a clearinghouse for all UFO incidents involving medical injury or alleged entry into a UFO. VISIT members collect and analyze data on the physical effects of UFOs on people. This scientific and medical data is then examined to discover the probable mechanisms of the UFO.

The latest entry into the VISIT data base occurred on December 29, 1980, when three Texans encountered a UFO and suffered severe medical consequences. Betty Cash (51), Vickie Landrum (57), and Vickie's grandson Colby Landrum (7), were driving home to Dayton, Texas, on the Cleveland-Huffman road just north of Lake Houston. It was 9 o'clock at



Artist's Rendition of the Sighting  
(By Kathy Schuessler)

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 prophecy and expected Jesus to 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. They all got out of the car to get a

better look at the UFO. Colby was terrified and dove back into the car, begging his grandma to get back in, too. Vickie did and comforted Colby.

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. The door handle was so hot she used her leather coat as a hotpad to open the door. Although the winter night air had been about 40°F, the heat from the UFO caused the witnesses to sweat and feel so uncomfortable that they turned on the car's air conditioner.

Each time the object would shoot flames downward it would rise. As 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.

(continued on next page)

## Radiation, Continued

Finally, the flames stopped, the object rose to the south-west, and was lost from sight. 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."

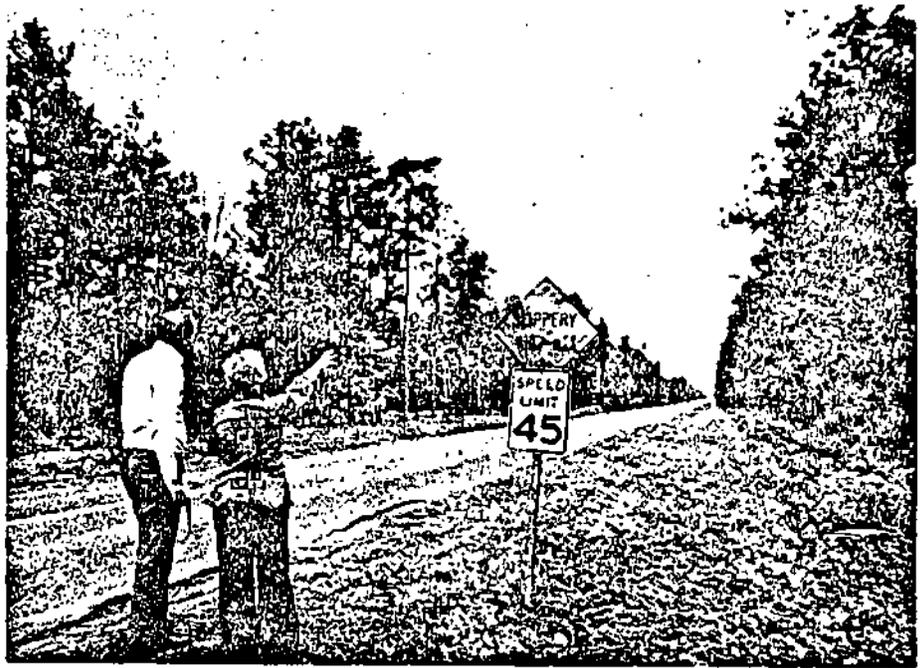
Betty was directly exposed to the object 5 to 10 minutes, Vickie 3 to 5 minutes, and Colby only a minute or so. As Betty raced homeward she turned right on FM 2100. Five minutes had lapsed and just ahead was the UFO and a large number of helicopters. "The sky was full of helicopters," Betty said. Some were near the object and others lagged behind. She feared the helicopters would collide. They were dazzled as they counted more than 20 helicopters. According to Vickie, "The helicopter roar was like a tornado."

They sped onward towards home, turning on to the Huffman-Eastgate road, then to FM 1960. By this time the object had been in sight, climbing into the night sky, for another 5 minutes. On FM 1960 the threesome were going away from the UFO, but could still observe it as a diminishing bright light for 2 or 3 more minutes.

## Unusual Medical Effects

Betty dropped Vickie and Colby in Dayton and arrived home at 9:05 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.

December 29th was a turning point in the lives of Betty and Vickie. Betty, an unusually energetic woman, had plans to open a new restaurant. The sickness that followed ruined those plans. For the next four 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. Because Betty was unable to function, Vickie was afraid she would die and set out to locate her doctor.



Sighting Location; l. Alan Holt; r. Vickie Landrum



Betty Cash Showing Hair Loss

After a number of telephone calls a doctor instructed Vickie to take Betty to the hospital emergency room where the staff received and treated her as a burn patient. Over the next several days Betty lost patches of skin on her face and about 50% of her hair fell out.

After 12 days in the hospital Betty went home, even though she had shown little improvement. Her condition again degraded to the point

where she returned to the hospital for 15 more days. During the weeks that followed the incident, Vickie treated herself and Colby with baby oil to stop the burning of their faces. Their stomach pains and diarrhea stopped after a couple of weeks but their eyes are apparently permanently damaged and treatment continues. Colby had nightmares for weeks and was ex-

(continued on next page)

# PENTAGON INVESTIGATES CASH-LANDRUM CASE

By John F. Schuessler

(Ed. Note: Excerpts from investigator's notes in MUFON files submitted by VISIT — Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team.)

During the months that followed the 29 December 1980 incident near Huffman, Tex., where Betty Cash, Vickie Landrum, and Colby Landrum were injured while in close proximity to a large water tank-like object and a large contingent of military type helicopters, our requests for assistance from governmental officials fell on deaf ears. Bureaucratic apathy began to crack after "That's Incredible" aired a television segment on the case. Then *Science Digest* and *Omni* magazines published small articles that aided in getting some attention from Washington, D.C.

On 24 February 1982 I received a call from the U.S. Air Force Liaison Office in Washington, D.C. The caller was Capt. Jenny Lampley. She explained that a Congressional inquiry had resulted in her assignment to determine if USAF helicopters had been involved in the 29 December 1980 case. Approximately two weeks later I learned from Richard Niemtzow at Travis Air Force Base, Calif., that Capt. Lampley had concluded her investigation and the results were negative. Supposedly, the Air Force doesn't utilize twin rotor helicopters. (That answer is questionable. The *Houston Chronicle* newspaper showed a photograph of a twin rotor helicopter in the 17 August 1982 issue. The caption read "Honduran soldiers surround a U.S. Air Force helicopter during joint military exercise....")

On 19 March 1982 I was called by Lt. Col. George Sarran from the Department of the Army Inspector General office in the Pentagon. Col. Sarran explained that his office had received the inquiry from the Air Force Liaison Office because the Air Force had concluded their units were not

involved. He explained that his interest was in the possibility that Army helicopters were involved. He would be investigating that allegation. He stressed that the U.S. Army had no opinion about the unidentified object or UFOs in general.

Col. Sarran said he called because his office had been pulsed to give some answers about the helicopter involvement. At his request I provided a verbal account of the incident from beginning to end. He stated that he had been stationed at Fort Hood before going to Washington and was familiar with their operations. For that reason he felt that Fort Hood was probably not involved, although they have a number of twin rotor helicopters. He said their testing and operations were generally conducted on the Fort Hood reservation. He stated that as far as he knew Fort Hood had the only helicopters of that type (CH-47 Chinook) in the area. I told him I had found CH-47s to be stationed at Ellington AFB in Houston and at the Dallas Naval Air Station and provided telephone numbers so he could check on them. He said then that it would be his initial conclusion that if helicopters were present they surely would have been from Ellington and that would be the place for him to begin his investigation.

He had interpreted the incident to be a helicopter in trouble, landing for repairs; but concluded that didn't fit the situation because none had been reported. He had trouble accepting the Cash/Landrum concept that there was an object, probably a government experiment other than a helicopter in the air that night. He based his opinion on the fact this was the 1980 Christmas week and most military installations go on holiday routine, allowing most of the troops to go home for the holiday period. He then questioned the replies given VISIT investigators by the various military installations we had called. He

concluded they were more or less truthful. He was very courteous and said he would try to contact Ellington. He said he'd be glad to act on any hint of a cover-up that we might find, as the Army feels it very important to have a good rapport with the community.

Later the same day Col. Sarran called me a second time to let me know he had made contact with Ellington. The Commanding Officer of the 136th Transport Unit, a reserve group stationed at Ellington, and flying CH-47s. The commanding officer was Maj. Dennis Haire. Major Haire was to call and discuss the incident with me. Col. Sarran said he had trouble convincing Major Haire he was serious. Haire obviously had never heard of the case. He said now he was even more sure that no helicopter had gone down on 29 December 1980. Also, he assured me that the CH-47s are not flown on Monday nights. I rejected that assertion by quoting the fact that three flew from Ellington on Monday 15 March 1982, just four days before his call. He agreed there were exceptions.

Maj. Haire called me on 22 March 1982. He has been a member of the Air Force detachment since 1966 and in charge since 1978. His detachment has eight CH-47A Chinooks, assigned there in 1980. Prior to that time they were a Medivac Unit. He explained the "A" model Chinook has 2 hours fuel plus 15 minutes contingency. Cruising speed is 110 knots, with a 135 knot maximum. They can fly non-stop to San Antonio or Austin, but must refuel at College Station if they fly to Dallas. If they go on a field exercise they schedule a 5,000 gallon USAF fuel truck to meet them along the way. Each CH-47A takes 450 gallons of fuel for a fill-up.

Maj. Haire said there are no CH-47s in Louisiana. A contingent is stationed at Fort Sill, Okla., and many CH-47s are stationed at Fort Hood, Tex. The Fort Hood CH-47s are the  
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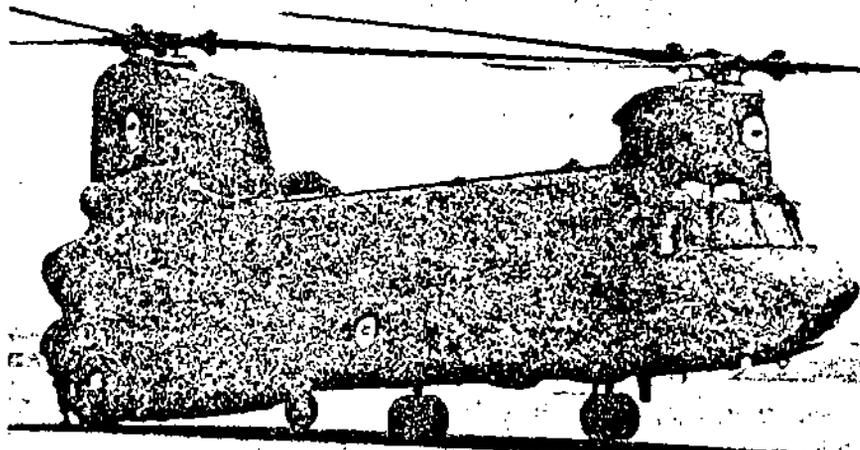
## Pentagon, Continued

"C" model. They can do a round trip to Houston and back without refueling. They have a 3 hour plus 30 minute contingency capacity. Maximum speed is 175 knots and cruising speed is 140 knots. He pointed out that there were no Chinooks flying in 1980 except for military units, so civilian Chinooks could not have been involved in the Cash/Landrum incident.

The Ellington unit flies around the Houston control area all the time. They average 2000 hours/year/man. Fort Hood averages 900 hours/year/man. Maj. Haire is proud of his unit's record. His unit does a lot of airborne troop impacement drilling. They use the Addicks Reservoir north of Houston as a jump zone. In addition to the eight CH-47s they have four Hueys and four 58s. Maj. Haire said he was 99% sure that Ellington CH-47s were not involved in the 29 December 1980 incident. He said he could find out by looking up flight plans, aviators records, and the form 759s that document flight times. Each flight of the CH-47 requires two pilots plus an enlisted (E-6) crew chief. Sometimes a fourth person joins the crew. The Chinook can pick up and carry small equipment, but nothing real large. That would require a "Flying Crane."

Chinooks are not capable of joint operations — more than one helicopter working together to carry a large object. Helicopter pilots are very light sensitive at night and try to avoid bright objects because they ruin the pilot's night vision. For that reason he doubts that helicopters would have flown near the diamond-shaped object sighted by Cash/Landrum. They don't even turn on the inside helicopter lights until after they have landed. Major Haire also runs a commercial helicopter service at Lakeside Airport in Houston.

Maj. Haire called me again on 26 March 1982. He said he had called Col. Sarran to report the results of our earlier telephone conversation. Col. Sarran is evidently digging into the case like a tiger — representing the Inspector General's office. Mark Charbenaugh who works with Maj. Haire, is associated with the Austin reserves and Maj. Haire with the



**Boeing CH-47 Chinook Helicopter**

Ellington National Guard CH-47 unit. Mark noted that the air maps show two microwave towers to the northeast of Houston. He questioned whether or not there could have been a microwave accident. No answer to this one.

Maj. Haire said he had no idea what went on on 29 December 1980. He was definitely not involved. He felt that the government well might have some special devices, some advanced technology, or some test vehicles that could cause the reported symptoms. However, as a civilian or as a National Guard member he doesn't know of anything like that. I asked him if he had ever heard of a NEST unit operating here. He said no and he didn't even know what that acronym meant. I related that it meant Nuclear Emergency Survival Team. He drew a blank on it.

Col. Sarran called again on 8 April 1982. He had talked with Capt. Richard Niemtzow at Travis AFB and with Dr. Peter Rank in Wisconsin. He understood their viewpoints, but decided to come to Houston in May to investigate for himself. He said there was nothing secret about his involvement. He said "the Army doesn't say UFOs exist or do not exist. That is up to someone else." If Army helicopters were involved and it was

their fault they would take responsibility. He went on to say that all reserve units are under Force Command in Atlanta. This doesn't apply to National Guard units. Col. Sarran said he was checking to see if any helicopters sprayed fuel or were involved in an agent orange type drill. He received negative replies from The Training Indoctrination Command, Testing agency at Ft. Hood, Corpus Christi NAS, Aberdeen Proving Grounds, and the Pentagon. The computer lists no activity at Huffman, Tex. on 29 Dec 1980.

Col. Sarran called on 23 April 1982 to set a tentative date for his trip to Houston. He is to fact-find the claim of helicopter involvement in the Cash-Landrum case. He planned to meet with me, Vickie Landrum, Willie Culberson, and a Dayton policeman we had found who had witnessed helicopters on 29 Dec 1980. He had contacted all bases and found that none flew near Huffman on the subject date. Fort Hood only flew one helicopter. It flew to Houston, to Galveston, and back to Fort Hood by 8 p.m.

On 25 May 1982 I met with Col. Sarran at the International Airport Holiday Inn in Houston. He asked me to do a taped interview relating what I  
*(continued on next page)*

## Pentagon, Continued

knew about the case. I did the interview with the agreement I could also tape the whole thing. He cordially agreed. The interview lasted about 45 minutes and covered a full narrative of the incident as I knew it.

At noon on 25 May 1982 Col. Sarran and I visited Vickie Landrum in her home in Dayton. Col. Sarran was happy to have me along during the interview. Bertha Landrum, Vickie's sister, was also present. Col. Sarran told Vickie this was an official investigation and she was free to talk about it to anyone she wished. He gave her form letter type information on the Privacy Act which is to protect her; but told her he couldn't guarantee privacy. I recorded the full interview and retained the tape. A copy of the tape was sent to Peter Gersten in New York. Col. Sarran called Betty Cash in Birmingham from Vickie's house and had an unofficial fact-finding discussion with her.

At approximately 1:30 p.m. Col. Sarran, Vickie Landrum, Bertha Landrum and myself went to see Dayton Police Officer L.L. Walker (his telephone is unlisted, but on file). I taped the full interview with the policeman and his wife Marie. They observed CH-47s in the exact same area near Huffman, but 4 to 5 hours after the original incident. This time the helicopters seemed to be searching for something on the ground. They flew in groups of three with searchlights shining down on the ground. A portion of the transcript of the Walker interview describes the situation as follows:

Lamar Walker says: On December the 19th my wife and I was coming back home from her Mother and Dad's who live in Plum Grove. It's about 3 miles behind Splendora into the wood area. We was travelling New Caney Road, we just came through there the cut off and hit Cedar Bayou and uh came across the river and cut down the school road at the Huffman new high school there and just got back on FM 1960. We were approximately, we was inside the Liberty county city limits and just made a turn out there by the railroad tracks on a curve, headed east.

And I made a remark I said, "Marie," I said. She said, "What's that noise?" I said "well I don't know." But I said "it sounds like

helicopters and it's getting louder." She says "well I don't see any airplane" and I said "it's not an airplane it's a helicopter, Marie," and she said, "whatever it is it sure is low" and I said "yeah it is." So I rolled my car window down and there was very very little traffic and so I slowed way down and I started looking and and I could see some flashing lights in the air approximately anywhere from 400 to 500 feet in the air and I got to picking out more of them and as I was picking them out I picked out 3 in a victor formation and about maybe a thousand and a little bit off to the left of it was another sector of V with 3 choppers in it. And as I looked a little bit better I seen three more. The twin tops, front and aft, the shape and everything.

I said well they must be on maneuvers again, National Guard or something, out at Fort Polk or the Coast Guard doing something and I looked a little bit closer and you could see some lower lights back off in the distance quite a ways back. I'd say about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile — real good visibility that night and uh, I just registered off and we went on home. And it wasn't about oh, maybe three-four weeks uh three-four days maybe a little bit longer when I heard over the news of what happened and I told Marie I said, gee whiz I even told the men around the office there. We setting around talking one day I said, "What in the devil's all the helicopters around for?" I said "They have an airplane crash?" They said, "no, not that I heard."

Col. Sarran said he was convinced that Officer Walker had seen Helicopters, but it still had to be proven.

Next Col. Sarran and I visited the Montgomery County Sheriff Department in Conroe, Tex. We were checking on an allegation that the Sheriff had instigated the flight of helicopters on 29 December 1980. We found that all the people in the Sheriff's Dept. had been replaced on 2 January 1981. None of the original people were around at the time of our visit. We spoke with Chief Deputy B.J. Grounds, Lt. Lowre, and Pete Perkins. All the people interviewed said they would not call the National Guard — it was not part of their procedure. They would probably call Houston police for assistance. Chief Grounds suggested we contact Carl Mangogna who was in charge of the Harris County Patrol Division, responsible for helicopters at the time. The duty officer on 29 Dec 1980 was Gloria Eshenbeck. Later I contacted Mangogna but was unable to find Eshenbeck. Chief Grounds also

suggested we visit the Army Medivac unit at Hooks Airport to the northwest of Houston. We tried but it was closed — all members were at a special meeting out of town.

On 26 May 1982 I called Carl Mangogna as a followup to the Montgomery County Sheriff Dept. I tracked him down through his father, also a Carl Mangogna. He is now Chief of Security for a Houston corporation. He had no memory of the events on 29 December 1980. He suggested that I call Capt. Defore of the HPD.

On 26 May 1982, Chief Warrant Officer Gustafson of the Army Medivac unit called. He had done some checking at our request with other members of the unit at Hooks and suggested the following possibilities:

(a) There was a Quick React Force operating in Louisiana and Texas during the last year and a half. The last they heard of it was about 6 months earlier, operating near Morgan City, Louisiana. He said they practiced "Iran type" raids, operating from a small carrier in the Gulf of Mexico. Other times they haul in 5,000-gallon fuel bladders for refueling. Their operation is secret and not announced.

(b) The USMC in New Orleans operates CH-46 helicopters. He doesn't know of any operation in the Houston Area but it is always a possibility. (VISIT check on the USMC unit in March 1981. No activity.)

(c) Ken Defore of the Houston Police Department lives in Dayton, Tex. He will visit L.L. Walker and double check him on his claim of seeing CH-47s on 29 Dec 1980.

On 27 May Chief Gustafson called with an update report. His followup with Ken Defore of the Houston Police Department was positive. Capt. Defore said he has no doubt that Dayton police officer L.L. Walker saw CH-47s. He too felt they were probably part of a Quick React Force. He said Walker saw 12 helicopters. Four Groups of three each in "V" formation. The lead aircraft of each "V" was shining a spotlight on the ground as if searching for something. Another element flew  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles behind in a three-abreast formation. Altitude was around 500 feet. They altered course and headed for the Gulf of

(continued on next page)

# MUFON UFO JOURNAL

## OCTOBER 1982

### Pentagon, Continued

Mexico. They could have refueled from 5,000-gallon fuel bladders in the area or from a flattop in the Gulf. Gustafson said "We may have uncovered a bucket of worms."

Col. Sarran called on 1 June 1982. He had no luck in locating a unit responsible for the helicopters on 29 Dec 1980. Only Fort Bragg, N.C., Fort Devens, Mass., Panama, and Europe have Quick React units. They weren't involved. Five CH-47s flew over Dayton on 22 May at 11 a.m. I asked him if it would help to check and see where they were from, thus providing a clue to at least the range for operations on 29 Dec. He said it wouldn't help. Lots of units could overfly the area. Fort Hood participates in the yearly Reforger exercise and flies from Fort Hood to Port Arthur as part of the exercise. That would take them near Dayton. Col. Sarran is due to answer the original inquiry and talk to John Nyter, Deputy Head of Congressional Liaison. He said he would get back to me on the Quick React thing. He expects to report

"negative findings."

Col. Sarran called on 25 June 1982 as a last follow-up. We talked about the *APRO Bulletin* claim of knowing it was a government device and having evidence that would help in the case. I suggested he call Coral Lorenzen, the author of the article, since I had no idea what she was talking about. As a wrapup he told me he had contacted the lawyers at Bergstrom Air Force Base; Vickie and Betty had gone there to give testimony at the suggestion of Senators Bentsen and Towers. Vickie told Col. Sarran he should get a copy of the tape made at Bergstrom. He had gotten that tape. It revealed nothing new. He said, "obviously something happened to the ladies." However, he could find no group responsible for the helicopters. An operation of that magnitude would have been "big time." Fueling would have been a problem. He just cannot believe it wouldn't have been exposed. The Special Operations Branch, Delta Project (Iran raid) and skyjack and terrorist fighting groups were checked and all responded with a "negative." □



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# THE CASH-LANDRUM CASE ANALYSIS

By Coral E. Lorenzen

As a result of my article (Volume 30, Issue #6, Page 2 and 3), in the APRO Bulletin, APRO received a telephone call from a Lt. Col. Sarran, of the Army Inspector General's office on June 25, at 1:30 p.m., and, second, a letter from John Schuessler on July 2, dated June 25.

The general thrust of Col. Sarran's call was an attempt to gain information which he thought we might have which would "assist" him in his investigation. He verified APRO's information that the only Chinook helicopters in service are operated by the Army and the Marines, and the only Chinooks within operating range of Houston where the Cash-Landrum incident took place, are 24 in number and stationed at Ft. Hood.

Sarran further informed us that he had been informed of my article by John Schuessler, Deputy Director of MUFON. He suggested the possibility that the flight of the 22 choppers reported by Cash, Landrum and Landrum might have been an "Iran-type rescue exercise" (The failed Iran "rescue" took place in April, 1980, fully 8 months before the Cash-Landrum incident), or they might have been related to Gulf of Mexico oil rig operations, where Chinooks are apparently used to service the off-shore oil installations.

Let's examine what we know about the "Chinooks", which Mrs. Cash and Mrs. Landrum allegedly identified from photos they were shown, as the aircraft they observed flying in the area of the bright craft ("UFO").

The "Chinook" (Boeing CH-47) has a load capacity of 33-34 fully armed (with pack) men with pilot and co-pilot or 24 litter casualty-cases in addition to pilot and co-pilot. Its range is about 220 miles, although it has been "beefed up" somewhat, can be refueled in mid-air, can lift and transport two tons internally or 8 tons externally and has a Pershing missile system capability. It is a "work-horse".

The Chinook is a gas-gulper, not particularly speedy, not highly maneuverable, designed to carry large loads for short distances, and definitely not the sort of vehicle which would be deployed for pursuit or reconnaissance of an alien craft.

The Chinooks at Ft. Hood are a part of the Rapid Deployment Force there. It seems realistic, therefore,

COMMENTS ON  
THE APRO MATERIAL  
By  
J. F. Schuessler  
P.O. Box 58485  
Houston, TX 77258

My report of the I.G. investigation was sent to CUPOS, MUFON, APRO, SBI, FUND FOR UFO STUDIES & OTHERS. NONE ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT EXCEPT FOR MUFON & CUPOS.

NOT SO! SOME ARE IN DALLAS (16) AND HOUSTON (8)

CORRECT!

POSSIBLY! WHO KNOWS WHAT THEY'RE TRAINING FOR.

NOT SO, ACCORDING TO GULF COAST OIL COMPANIES AND THE FAA.

OK FOR "A" MODEL FROM HOUSTON, "C" MODEL FROM FT. HOOD IS MUCH GREATER

IS USED YEARLY TO FLY HEAVY LOADS FROM FT. HOOD TO BEAUMONT-PORT ARTHUR, TEXAS AS PART OF "REFURGER" EXERCISE

HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO VERIFY THIS

that they were rapidly deployed for an Army "exercise" on December 29, 1980, which went awry.

I have had knowledge of a classified Army Regulation which deals with the investigation of UFOs since 1956. How long it had been in existence before that date, we don't know. However, in view of that information, in addition to other facts, it is my opinion that it is not at all unexpected that, after investigating UFOs for 35 years (since 1947 and probably longer) the U.S. Army has under development and test an aircraft (however crude) which simulates the "UFO".

What, after all, is going on at the Los Alamos Laboratories in New Mexico, among others? That installation is Army, and is the location of studies and experimentation relating to nuclear fission. Do we actually think they are just improving on our nuclear strike capability?

One after another, writers on the subject of UFOs have made the pronouncement that the government which discovers the secret of the propulsion of the UFOs would "rule the world".

Well, they haven't discovered the secret of the UFO (propulsion, that is) but they're all trying, and the U.S. has apparently come up with the next best thing — a brightly lit aircraft utilizing a new propulsion concept, a side-effect of which is highly damaging radiation.

Now, to Schuessler's letter: He chided me for having information which, if known to him, would help Mrs. Cash and Mrs. Landrum and Colby. He devoted a whole paragraph to a description of his position at NASA. He accused me of trying to "goad" him into releasing more information on the case. Actually, he had, in writing, promised APRO added information, including medical reports, as early as April, 1981.

After an attention-hungry (Tucson) APRO member (who had been "hanging around the office" in Office Manager Chris Panter's words) had intercepted Mrs. Landrum's initial call on February 2, 1981, and her taped report on February 6 and sold it to Weekly World News, Mr. Lorenzen learned of the report via the APRO office phone log and had the information forwarded to John Schuessler for investigation. At the time, Mr. Lorenzen was under the impression that Schuessler would do an impartial and objective job.

At about that time there was an incursion of certain elements bent on a "take-over" of APRO at Headquarters level, and this was discussed with Mr. Schuessler via telephone. Thereafter, all information on the Cash-Landrum case stopped. Mr. Lorenzen's most recent request — specifically for back-up witnesses and medical reports, elicited only some clippings which had nothing to do with the case. There was no turn-down on the medical reports — not even a mention until Schuessler's June 25 letter in which he characterized the medical reports as highly "personal" information.

This is an important point, for although Schuessler and MUFON have been loudly pronouncing the physical trauma suffered by the principals in the Cash-Landrum

THIS MAY BE A REALISTIC ASSUMPTION, BUT WE CANNOT GET EVIDENCE THAT IT HAPPENED

PERHAPS PETER GERSTEN COULD GET THIS RELEASED.

IT IS NOT AN AEROSPACE FLIGHT TEST LABORATORY

HOW DOES APRO KNOW THIS? MAYBE IT HAS BEEN DISCOVERED.

DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE SUCH A DANGEROUS DEVICE IS BEING FLOWN OVER HIGHLY POPULATED AREAS.

TRUE. THIS WAS BEFORE APRO STARTED INSULTING CASH AND LANDRUM AND PUBLISHING HEARSAY AND HOGWASH. APRO IS CAPABLE OF BETTER WORK THAN THEY HAVE DONE ON THIS CASE.

THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT APRO WAS SUCCESSFUL IN THWARTING THE TAKE-OVER.

AND A LOT OF OTHER REPORTS AND NOTES THAT WERE NEVER ACKNOWLEDGED.

IS THERE ANY DOUBT OF THIS?

affair as "radiation sickness", they have not offered any evidence to support this assertion. I contend that it cannot be supported without the supporting data of definitive blood tests.

Does the reader realize that no radiation tests at the site were conducted? At least, not to our knowledge. Despite the fact that Schuessler claims he was consulted regularly by the Doctor on the case (because of his reputation as a local UFO aficionado) even before APRO notified him of the case, there is no public record of the medical tests undertaken. Apparently no soil samples at the site were taken, either.

We must ask, then, how "radiation sickness" can be the considered diagnosis when there is not sufficient foundation laid? Incidentally, the road on which the C-L incident took place has since been re-paved!

Now -- back to the basic incident: The tape which Mrs. C. and Mrs. L. made and sent to APRO (and was sent on to Weekly World News by Bill English without authorization) clearly indicates that neither of the women is technically or scientifically oriented. (The twin-rotor helicopters are characterized by Mrs. Cash as having two "dealies" on top).

We will be dealing with this incident in more depth in up-coming issues of the Bulletin. However, (for now, Schuessler and his crowd would have us believe:

1. The two women and the boy saw a UFO.
2. That the UFO was accompanied by 20+ helicopters which have limited range, are unwieldy and not very speedy.
3. (This is the new information). Some of the same type of helicopters revisited the scene hours later. (Looking for casualties and/or hardware?)

Now -- what do we know about UFOs?

1. They can hover dead still in the air.
2. They can speed up from a dead stop to thousands of miles per hour in seconds.
3. They do not frequent heavily populated areas, especially in low-level, prolonged flight.
4. The only relatively verifiable incidents involving UFOs and radiation are (a) A Canadian case which took place in an isolated area. The man involved came upon the UFO and made a close approach quite by accident (his presence was not immediately noticeable). (b) A Colombian case in which a man approached a UFO and fired a gun at it. A Beam erupted from the object, striking him in the chest. He died shortly thereafter of symptoms indicating radiation poisoning. However, no autopsy was performed.
5. The UFOs are highly evolved technologically exotic machines: they are nearly infallible.
6. Past performance indicates that surveillance and pursuit of UFOs by military vehicles has been accomplished with high speed aircraft.

THIS HAS BEEN AN OPINION BASED ON THE PHYSIOLOGICAL EFFECTS OBSERVED BY THE INVESTIGATORS.

TESTS WERE CONDUCTED.

How much of the road? Why?

EVEN IF HER SPEECH IS NOT ELOQUENT, SHE IS AN INTELLIGENT, HIGHLY AWARE WOMAN.

GOOD!

UFO = Unidentified Flying Object, not flying saucer.

SUFFICIENT FOR THIS INCIDENT REPORTED BY TWO WITNESSES

APRO SAYS "SYMPTOMS INDICATING RADIATION POISONING" WITHOUT EVIDENCE, BUT ARGUE AGAINST IT IN THE CASH/LANDOVN CASE,

SOUR GRAPES? SCIENTIFIC?

## MORE ON CASH-LANDRUM

By Coral E. Lorenzen

The only feedback we have received so far on our comments on the Cash-Landrums case in the Bulletin (Volume 30, #6) which disagrees with our analysis, originated with a subscriber who is employed at a large military installation. Inasmuch as we have not asked for his permission to use his letter, and don't have time to wait for a mail response, we will paraphrase and comment:

*He writes:* "I realize that you think that all of us who work for the government are privy to some great secret and I realize that I cannot convince you different but most of us believe that: a) you cannot keep much of a secret in the United States for very long. b) Anything of technical importance will end up in Aviation Week sooner or later. c) New technologies are not tested secretly initially over civilian areas for fear of accidents, bad publicity and law suits.

**COMMENT:** Personnel employed by the U.S. government or military have to have three things to be privy to any classified information: 1. *Identification* 2. *Clearance* (this is the degree of classification you are entitled to, such as confidential, secret, top secret, Q, etc.) and 3. (most important) *Need to Know*. There are hundreds of people employed on the various highly classified installations around this country who have identification but no clearance, therefore don't work in areas where they will encounter classified material. There are added thousands who work at classified installations and have identification and classification, but *not the need to know*. They would have access to only that classified material which would be necessary for them to carry out their particular assignment.

Secrets certainly can still be kept. With careful investigation, some secrets can be unravelled, but *proving them is quite another thing*.

One well kept secret was the actual explosion of the first atomic bomb in New Mexico in 1945. Those who saw the cloud and felt the earth tremble and asked about it were told that a munitions dump had exploded and they believed it. I do not think that people would be quite so easy to fool these days, but it can be done.

I agree that new technologies are not tested secretly initially over civilian areas. I have never claimed that. The Cash-Landrums object was not being tested — it was part of a military exercise, but the craft malfunctioned. What its route should have been, I don't know, but it is obvious that those big Chinooks were in the area so that if the craft had to come to ground, they could land, disgorge their troops and surround and protect the craft

— ANOTHER MYSTERY PERSON,

NOT A GOOD EXCUSE!

— DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE!

— PROBABLY!

— TRUE!

— WE'VE BEEN GETTING EXCUSES LIKE THIS FOR UFO INCIDENTS FOR YEARS.

— EXOTIC VEHICLES ARE SELDOM "EXERCISED" OVER MAJOR CITIES.

from prying eyes and cameras. In the Cash-Landrum incident, I am not surprised that whoever is responsible (most likely the U.S. Army) for the craft is going to get the UFO buffs to do their covering up for them, and that is precisely what is going on.

I would like to cite an instance which took place (and is a matter of record in the Alamogordo Daily News at the time) in the early 1950s at Holloman Air Force Base. It was probably 1953 or early 1954 before I took a position in the Range Scheduling office. But I do remember the incident and ensuing events as though they took place only yesterday, because of their possible portent at the time.

"PROBABLY" IS NOT FACTUAL!

A Q-19 drone (a small remote-controlled craft used as a target) went out of control and crash-landed on the grounds of the "Deaf and Blind" school in broad daylight. A few yards one way or another or a few minutes one way or another and the craft could have crashed into groups of helpless children strolling the grounds during their between-class break.

During my tenure with Range Scheduling, I sat in on a discussion of the feasibility of doing away with the "chase" plane (a manned fighter plane with loaded guns) during the flights of another drone, this one propelled by a jet engine. Although it was not my place to do so, I expressed my objection that in view of what had nearly happened just a year or two previously, they should not take the chance of keeping the hot gun chase plane on the ground during the flight. The projected plan was to get the chase plane airborne if the drone should experience difficulty and go out of control. Fortunately those in a position to make the decision opted for a chase plane in the air.

As each year passes, the United States becomes more and more crowded with people. I do not think the test facilities are quite as isolated as they were a few years ago.

On to our writer's further comments: "Unless you are very specific in your knowledge, I claim that the USAF would not run 12-15 large two-bladed helicopters close together at night. There would inevitably be an accident, witness Iran.....These machines are very large (50 to 100 feet in size) they are very, very noisy and the down draft (propwash) is very strong and noticeable especially in the winter time. It seems absolutely incredible that the USAF would run a dozen or more of these things without running lights at night in close formation."

COMMENT: First, let us dispel with the notion that the helicopters and the strange craft involved in the Cash-Landrum sighting were in any way connected with the Air Force. Unfortunately, UFO researchers have too long been indoctrinated (purposely?) with the idea that if there is any action taken against UFOs, it would be

THE APPO BRAND OF  
UFO BUFFS WOULD LIKE  
THE READER TO BELIEVE  
THEY ARE "ALL-KNOWING."

"PRECISELY" WHAT IS  
GOING ON? ARTICLES  
HINTING INSIDE  
KNOWLEDGE AS GOOD FOR  
THE "WATCH FOR OUR  
NEXT ISSUE" CROWD, BUT  
LACK IN FACTS.

WHAT HAS THIS STORY  
TO DO WITH THE SUBJECT  
OF THE ARTICLE.

Maybe so, but Houston  
is not a test area -  
lacks restricted zones.

NOTED BY CASH & LANDRUM.

THEY HAD RUNNING LIGHTS  
AND THEY WERE SPREAD  
OUT OVER SEVERAL MILES.

AGREED! RESEARCHERS  
SHOULD NOT "ASSUME" THE  
AIR FORCE IS ALWAYS  
RESPONSIBLE

(5)

taken by the Air Force. Not so. The Army and Navy are more likely candidates, if just from the standpoint that they are more efficient and thorough. We must take into consideration, however, that the Chinooks are operated only by the Marines and Army; there is an Army base nearby with Chinooks in residence, and Colonel Sarran of the Attorney General's office verified this, although he is satisfied that the Army personnel at Fort Hood were telling the truth when they said they weren't involved. I am not.

The helicopters did make noise; this is an established fact. As for the prop-wash, again, we do not know how close the women were to the aircraft. Schuessler says 100 feet but they could have been hundreds of feet away, and the prop-wash would not be especially evident.

The last remark in the letter from our informant says: "I claim that the big secret is that there is another air force (UFO) that has the complete run of this planet, any time, any place, and their technology is so superior that nothing can be done about it by any earthling".

COMMENT: I am tempted to suspect collusion between Schuessler and the writer of this letter, for a news clip received at APRO Headquarters quotes Schuessler as expressing his opinion that there is a crack helicopter group in this country which can go any place at any time. This may be so (see the article on Mutilations) but I do not think that helicopter group is necessarily connected with the Cash-Landrum case in any way. They are two entirely separate problems.

The writer of this letter also mentions mutilations, which we have dealt with elsewhere. I suspect that we are not through with the debate on this subject, and will certainly keep the readers informed as more material is available.

MAKES GOOD COPY!

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES ARE NOT KNOWN FOR THEIR FACTUAL NATURE, BUT THEY ARE A GOOD INDICATION THAT SOMETHING IS GOING ON.

SENATORS TOWER AND BREWSTER SENT CASH AND LANDRUM TO BERGSTROM AIR FORCE BASE TO MAKE A DEPOSITION.

NOT SO! APRO NEEDS TO DO SOME MORE HOMEWORK.

THEN PROVE IT. IT WOULD BE A TREMENDOUS HELP TO CASH AND LANDRUM.

135 FEET TO AREA OF UFO, DIRECTLY UNDER ONE CH-47 AT LOW ALTITUDE ON FM 2100 (WHILE STOPPED) SEVERAL MINUTES AFTER INITIAL INCIDENT.

THIS CONCEPT HAS SURFACED BEFORE. UNFORTUNATELY, NO FACTS ARE AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT THE CONTENTION.

THINK? DOES NOT EQUAL FACTS.

HOW ABOUT PUTTING THIS PERSON IN TOUCH WITH SCHUESSLER INSTEAD OF SPREADING RUMOR AND INUENDO.

# the apro bulletin

VOL. 29

TUCSON, ARIZONA

NO. 8

## BURNS FOLLOW UFO INCIDENT



*Shown above is the right profile of Betty Cash, displaying area of hair loss. See story at right.*

### UNIDENTIFIED LIGHT IN ARIZONA CANYON

On June 27, 1981, a party of 14 people observed an unidentified light which moved about the Cow Canyon area of Lake Powell in northern Arizona for about 1½ hours.

Mr. K. B. and 13 other persons were on an outing in Mr. B.'s houseboat on Lake Powell when they sighted a bright light resembling a strobe light which flashed at a rate of 2 flashes per second as it came down the south side of the canyon. The light was clearly seen against the canyon wall.

APRO was notified by a local ranger at Page, Arizona, on July 24, after which Mr. B. was interviewed. At the point where the light appeared the Lake is between 20 and 40 feet deep, and the canyon is about 150 feet wide and 175 feet from the water to the top of the canyon.

The object circled the camping party, then proceeded to the north side of the canyon where it was

(See Canyon — Page Five)

(Editor's note: Although our first information on this case came to hand on February 2nd, 1981, via a call from Robert Gribble of Seattle, Washington, we have not presented it via the Bulletin because of the involvement of so many individuals, their interpretations, opinions, etc. At long last, the salient information has sifted through to such an extent that we feel a full report (at least to this date) is in order. We would like to thank APRO member John Schuessler and VISIT (Vehicle Internal Systems Investigation Team) of which John is also a member, for their excellent work in this investigation and their cooperation.)

The facts as we have been able to determine them:

On December 29, 1980 Betty Cash, 52, her friend Vicky Landrum, 56, and Vicky's 7-year-old grandson Colby had been driving around an area north of Houston, Texas, trying to find a Bingo game to attend. They stopped at a truck stop restaurant in New Caney, then proceeded back toward Dayton, Texas, where Ms. Cash lives. At about 9 p.m. they encountered the "object" on the Huffman-New Caney Road near Inland Road. It was high in the sky when first observed, appearing fire-like. As they watched, it rapidly descended to the treetop level above the road in front of them (south), approximately 100 feet away. (At a later on-the-spot re-enactment, Mr. Schuessler paced off the distance between where the car had been stopped and where the witnesses said the object hovered, and found it to be 133 feet. Ms. Cash and Mrs. Landrum indicated that, at that distance, it appeared to be the size of a city water tank.)

Because the object was shooting flames downward, they were afraid to drive under it, so they stopped the car, Mrs. Cash turned off the ignition and they got out, but stood behind the opened doors to observe it. Mrs. Cash, who was driving, watched from her side and Vicky Colby from the passengers' side.

In his report on the on-site investigation, Mr. Schuessler describes the area as near a lake, with businesses, trailers, cabins, etc., throughout the general area. Near the area of the incident itself is an occupied house trailer, but inquiries by Mr. Schuessler and fellow investigator Alan Holt, revealed that the people living there had gone to bed by 8 p.m., about an hour before the Cash-Landrum incident, and saw nothing.

Ms. Cash stood in the doorway of her car (a 1980 Dodge Cutlass Supreme) until the object started to

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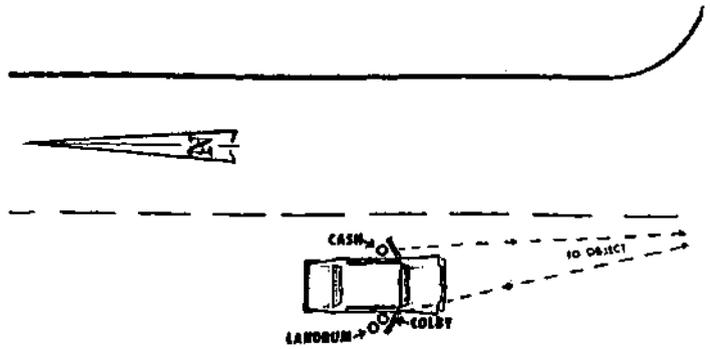
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rise and pull away to the right (west). Vicky stood with her right hand side toward the object and four fingers of her left hand resting on the car top, holding Colby close to her as she watched. The boy was terrified and screamed for her to get back into the car, which she did, and the boy hid on the floor. Mrs. Landrum estimates she was outside the car for two to three minutes, but that Mrs. Cash stayed outside at least twice that length of time.

All three were very frightened and Mrs. Landrum, who is quite religious, thought that it was "the end of the world," and was saying so as she watched the object. After she got back into the car, she prayed as she watched, and Colby continued to scream.

The descriptions given by the two women are very similar: tree-lined, black-top road, object ahead (south of them), surrounded by a glow and shooting red and orange-colored fire toward the ground. Betty described the object as just an extremely bright light with no distinct shape, Vicky said it was oblong with a rounded top and a point on the bottom, while Colby said it was totally diamond-shaped.

The evening had been cool (about 40°), Ms. Cash was wearing a leather jacket and the car heater had been in use on low setting. Ms. Cash stopped the car



initially because it was so low over the road she was afraid to go under it, but it was also shooting flames downward and each time it did so, a swoosh-swoosh "like a flame thrower" sound could be heard. They had heard a beep-beep sound before they stopped and it continued until the object left. Over the "swoosh-swoosh" and "beep-beep", another sound was heard—a great "roar" which continued even as the object flew away.

After the object left, the car was so hot that Ms. Cash had to use her jacket as a "hot pad" to close the door, and turned on the airconditioner to cool off the interior. Nevertheless, she followed the course of the object to Road FM2100. It was high and still very bright. At about this time helicopters were very much in evidence. They were lit up by the light of the object and were identified as such by their rotors and blinking lights; the women could not see any insignia but did count between 20 and 25 of the craft. However, they do admit that they could have counted some twice as they (the 'copters) were moving about the area, but they think there were at least 12.

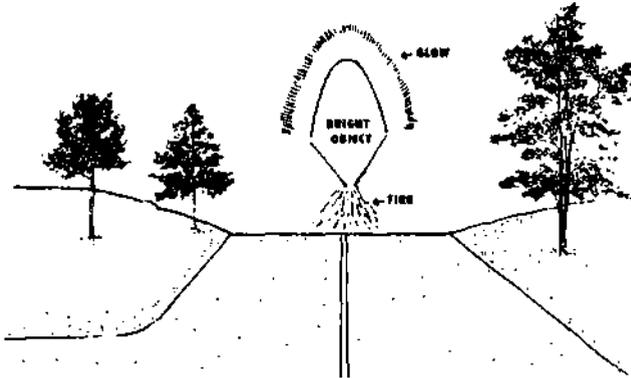
After stopping to watch three times, the trio continued their journey. Ms. Cash left Vicki and Colby off at home, then went to her own home where a friend who was staying with her was waiting. It was 9:50 p.m. When she entered her home she sat down in a chair. Her neck was hurting and she said her head felt as though it would burst. Soon after, she developed nodules on her head and scalp which burst and flowed clear fluid. The next day she was too ill to get out of bed and 4 days later she was admitted to Parkway General Hospital in Houston as a burn victim.

Between the time of the incident and her admittance to the hospital, Betty Cash's eyes had swelled shut, she was nearly blind, and she was suffering from nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. At the hospital, a nurse applied salve to her eyes and they improved, but it was nearly a week before her eyes were open to the extent that she could recognize people. Hospital personnel also applied burn cream to her face to prevent scarring and she said that large patches of tissue peeled from her face during the ordeal. All medical personnel who attended her said that she was a very good patient, and not a complainer. This same

opinion was voiced by her cardiologist, Dr. V.B. Shenoy who said that she only came in to see him when it was mandatory. She had undergone an artery by-pass surgical procedure just two and a half years before the December 1980 encounter.

Dr. Shenoy had called in specialists of various expertise and conducted a battery of tests to determine the cause of Ms. Cash's injuries, but no answers were forthcoming. A little over a week after she left the hospital, she returned, still suffering from nausea, swelling and headaches. The vomiting she had initially experienced was gone, but her appetite had not returned and she had patches of baldness where her hair had fallen out.

These are the important points concerning the initial encounter and Ms. Cash's physical problems, but this report is far from being complete. The following is a brief description of Vicky Landrum's and her grandson's unusual symptoms following their experience:



Colby's face was "sunburned" and he had problems with his eyes which still persist, but not to extreme. Both he and his grandmother "felt strange" when they arrived home that night and during the next several days (at least 3) and they both had stomach aches. Vicky said she used three bottles of baby oil on their skin during that time.

In addition to the symptoms described above, the hair on the right side of Vicky's head fell out, but is now growing back. She said her scalp had felt as though it was "asleep". The fingernails on her left hand were affected and developed a line-like indentation across each from side to side. As of February 28, 1981, they had partially grown out. Note that her left hand was the one which she rested on top of the car as she watched.

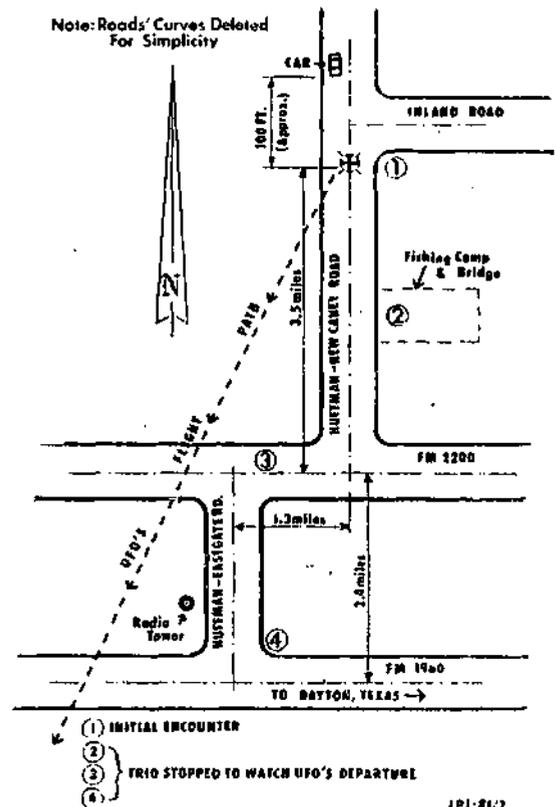
Colby had nightmares for two or three weeks after the incident and he wet the bed because he was afraid to get up out of bed at night. He began sleeping in his own bed again at about the second week in February. As of Mr. Schuessler's February up-date, Vicky's eyes were still very inflamed and the right one drained constantly. Prior to the incident, Vicky wore reading glasses only, but now has glasses which she must wear all of the time.

Where the helicopters are concerned, we have two different recountings: Ms. Cash did not notice the helicopters until after the object began to rise and leave the area. However, Colby says he saw the helicopters all during the sighting from the time Mrs. Cash stopped the car and they got out to watch, and during its departure and their subsequent stops to watch as the helicopters appeared to chase or escort the object.

Ms. Landrum now feels the whole incident was not "unnatural", and that the U.S. government was either escorting or transporting something dangerous through the area. Colby said he thought the helicopters were trying to identify the object. Mrs. Landrum's son mentioned a similar incident near the lake six months prior to the December 29 incident, when a fiery object landed and burned "a large area of grass."

Due to her injuries, Betty Cash has been unable to work since the incident. She had, until that time, operated a truck stop, but because of the effect on her appearance (blistering, peeling, loss of hair) has not been able to meet the public. By the end of February her medical expenses had cost her in excess of \$10,000. Since then, she has been staying with her mother in Alabama and making frequent trips back to Houston.

In a telephone conversation with Dr. Richard Niemtzw, a member of VISIT and APRO Consultant in Medicine, Mr. Schuessler learned that the lines in Mrs. Landrum's fingernails are common in chemotherapy patients, indicating that the therapy is effective. The fingernail line is an area of nonviable



(non-living) tissue where something stopped the growth. The nail line corresponds to the loss of hair and diarrhea as a symptom and could mean that the whole body was exposed to something.

This report does not write finis to the Cash-Landrum case by any means. We have examined the pertinent information and except for naming Doctors, types of tests and information of that nature, we have given it the thorough perusal it deserves. All tests conducted by medical experts failed to yield a clue to the means behind the injuries suffered by the two women and the boy.

Any further information forthcoming which adds to the case will be published in a forthcoming issue of the *Bulletin*.

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## CONTACTEE CONFERENCE HELD

About 75 persons from the United States and several other countries participated in a conference of UFO contactees and investigators in Laramie, Wyoming, the weekend of May 23rd and 24th. The conference, held at the University of Wyoming campus, was sponsored by the Laramie-based Paranormal Research Organization for UFO Studies (PRO UFOs) and coordinated by Dr. Leo Sprinkle, Director of Counseling and Testing at the university. (Dr. Sprinkle is APRO's Consultant in Psychology.)

Sprinkle has done extensive research through regressive hypnosis of alleged UFO contactees. One such contactee attending the conference, rancher Pat McGuire, related numerous contacts with aliens who instructed him to build a well on his semi-arid ranch. Following these instructions, McGuire said he located an "Underground river" which produces a constant flow of fresh water.

Others attending the conference included investigators Paul Norman, from Australia, and Dr. Max Edwards, from Canada, as well as numerous contactees and investigators from Wyoming, Colorado, Hawaii, Washington, Arizona, South Dakota, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, California, Nevada, Utah, Montana, Virginia, Ohio and Florida.

Sprinkle said there were two significant factors about the gathering. "First, and common to other such meetings, is a curiosity and desire to learn. Second, and more unusual, is the fact that many of the contactees here have had more than one UFO sighting." He added, "Our purpose is not only to record these experiences, but also to provide an opportunity to share our experiences. We want to learn from these contacts, and I am pleased that this many people are willing to talk about their personal

experiences."

The conference activities included videotape presentations on UFO research, contactee and abductee experiences, and presentations by UFO investigators. A telepathic experiment was also scheduled which consisted of a group of contactees, investigators and other interested parties concentrating on thoughts which might be communicated to alien beings in hope of making some sort of physical contact.

Simultaneously, Kveta Koutna, a psychic in Czechoslovakia, would attempt to gain mental energy from the Laramie group to help project her thoughts into space. Sprinkle said Koutna has had success in the past with transmitting thoughts to persons around the world, and the effect often seems to linger, as if the other persons might be able to communicate with her.

The conference concluded with group discussions, evaluation of the conference, and plans for future proceedings.

\*\*\*\*\*

## ENCOUNTER REPORT

Yakima Indian Reservation  
Washington, State, U.S.A.

At approximately 0046, June 10, 1981, I was contacted by the Yakima Tribal Police in reference to a UFO encounter which had just been reported to them. I immediately contacted the reporting parties by telephone and the following are details of what occurred:

At about 0015, June 10, 1981, Wapt Bassett and his wife Rose, both Yakima Indians, were proceeding west on West Wapato Road enroute to their residence. They were between crossroads of Lateral A and Lateral B. Suddenly the immediate area around their vehicle lit up and continued so as they drove west. They, of course, looked out of the vehicle to see what was causing this cone of light they were driving in. Overhead at approximately the height of a three-story building was this fairly large object which was keeping pace with them and from which the light was coming.

Both persons described the object as shaped like a "badge." Due to the light coming from the object and it being night, they could not determine a color of the object. The object made no discernible noise or sound. The periphery of the object was marked by small, multi-colored lights which kept flashing. Unknown whether in sequence. There were also two, bright, pale-yellow lights, one on each side of the object and a third directly in the middle. The two outside lights appeared to be shining in towards the beam of the middle light. The middle light was the one which was aimed down at the Bassett's auto and from which the

7-17-82

*Aerial Phenomena Research Organization, Inc.*

(APRO)  
3910 EAST KLEINDALE ROAD  
TUCSON, ARIZONA - 85712  
U.S.A.

July 6, 1982

(602) 323-1825

John F. Schuessler  
P.O. Box 57485  
Houston, Texas 77058

Dear John:

In response to the Xeroxed copy of your letter to Jim dated June 29, which was received here on July 2, let's get important material out of the way first, shall we?

At no time did I receive a request, verbal or otherwise, from Mrs. Landrum for the tape recording which you mention. In her only letter (undated) received here on October 31, 1981, she wrote: "this A.P.R.O. has a tape of our case that I sent when it first happened I sent a tape of me on one side and Betty on the other." Unquote (Copy enclosed).

Jim and I learned of the tape in early March, 1981 but our attempts to discern its exact location met with frustration until the fall of 1981, when we finally tracked it down. The tape did not come through normal APRO channels (the above address) and apparently was mailed to the office address. We eventually learned that "APRO's representative" (as you put it) had mailed the tape to Dick Donovan of the Weekly World News, and received payment for it and the news lead provided. All of this was without our knowledge, also. We finally learned its location, contacted Mr. Donovan and asked for the tape, and he sent it on, via registered mail. It arrived here on November 9, 1981.

We did not know that "our representative" had told Vickie that her friend would die until I talked with Vickie the last time, and when she told me, I was horrified, and said so. I asked Vickie to write that information for me, as I was not set up to tape record it (we do not record telephone conversations without the knowledge of the other party) and wanted a record of it for our file on the case.

John, if you have been as close to this case as you claim you have, you must have known about the above events all the time! Is your cooperation only one way? Why didn't you apprise APRO of the facts regarding this tape before?

I, in good faith, notified you by telephone that it was a member of VISIT who was promulgating rumors that Betty Cash had died, and, according to our ex-office manager, Christine Fanter, she (your VISIT member) even quoted you and Allan Holt as sources.

The article in the Bulletin to which you refer in no way reflects on the honesty or integrity of Betty Cash or Vickie Landrum.

In fact, it was the letter from Mrs. Landrum and the conversation I had with her that convinced me that they were telling the truth about their experience. I would not have even entered the case except that during a conversation with Leo Sprinkle, I expressed my sympathy for the women and said I was half inclined to call them. He urged me to do so, I called, and asked Vickie a couple of questions about a matter which had not been covered in your report. She kindly answered them for me. At that time, I was still laboring under the illusion that you had forwarded all the information you had, as you had said you would.

I tried to call Betty Cash a couple of times but couldn't reach her (no answer) and finally gave up, because I felt she had been through enough, and all I had wanted to do was to express sympathy.

Now, as for APRO's "representative": A Mr. Bill English, a Tucson member of APRO (at that time) had begun "hanging around the office" (Mrs. Panter's words) in late January, 1981. He was in the office on February 2 when Bob Gribble called in the lead on the Cash-Landrum case. Jim learned of the case in the Telephone Log on an after work (he works for a living, too) visit to the office. He left instructions for Mrs. Panter to notify Dr. Niemtow. She attempted to locate him, found he had moved to California and informed Jim of that fact. It was then that Jim instructed her to notify you of the particulars of the case. (Copy of Mrs. Panter's letter to you enclosed).

The first five paragraphs of Mrs. Panter's letter of 20 February 1981 are accurate.

Paragraphs six, seven and eight are in doubt. We don't know if Bill English had Ms. Cash and Ms. Landrum's permission to call in Dick Donovan or not. He certainly didn't have Jim's or my permission. The information in those three paragraphs indicate some coaching (of Mrs. Panter) by English.

I want to point out here that I had tripped over one of our dogs on September 30, 1980, and broken my neck, and was incapacitated by a heavy neck brace and severe headaches at the time of the foregoing events. Had it not been for that, none of that would have happened, as I would have been in full charge of the office.

Bill English was relieved of his membership on March 10, 1981. He contested the action, but the general membership reiterated the action at the general membership meeting at Cleveland, Ohio in June, 1981. So much for the person you characterize as "APRO's Representative". I suppose we here at APRO may never know all that transpired. There were many unauthorized telephone calls made from APRO's office. We don't know how many were made using APRO's name from other telephones.

I am trying to take you at your word about your time sequence log relative to the initiation of your investigation. I took you at your

word (in writing) when I read your report dated February 28, 1981, Page 12, at the bottom of which you wrote: "Case leads supplied by Bob Gribble, APRO and MUFON." (Copy enclosed). That's why I thought we had been attaining cooperation in notifying you of the Cash-Landrum case. I thought that note was an accurate record of the facts.

Sorry about the misspelling of your name. I should know better than that - Jim and I have been called all sorts of things besides Lorenzen in our lives together. We've given up explaining and correcting.

Now- concerning the Houston "abduction" case (page 4, paragraph 2, your letter). I'll refer to the lady as "J" for convenience' sake. I was approached by Linda Howe, of Denver, Colorado (a television producer) by telephone and asked if I could furnish her with leads concerning mutilations and/or abduction cases. I gave her the names of the usual "experts" on "mutes" and she asked if there was any connection between the two and I said we had one case which seemed to indicate there may have been, but that I felt it was a long way from completion. She asked me to give the subject ("J") her name, address and telephone number, and I did. I informed the Field Investigator in the case (a lady) of Mrs. Howe's interest and wishes, and we (the FI and I) agreed that public exposure was premature at that time, but that "J" would have to make her own decision. "J" had undergone hypnosis by APRO's local hypnotist (an MD) but "J" had expressed interest in meeting and working with Dr. Sprinkle. APRO could not underwrite the additional cost. When we gave Mrs. Howe's name, address and telephone number to "J", after warning her of the possible pitfalls, the case was out of our hands.

I think you probably know more about any "alleged embarrassment" caused by "another APRO representative" than we do. After all, the video tape of Mrs. Howe's production was played at MUFON's Houston Jamboree. We did not even see it until several months ago at one of our monthly APRO meetings. In order to elucidate things, I'll forward a copy of your letter to Jim as well as a copy of this letter to Dr. Sprinkle. Perhaps he can illuminate things a bit regarding this case.

Now- to the nitty-gritty. On June 25th we received a call from Lt. Col. Sharran (sp?) of the office of the Inspector General of the Army. He said he was calling on the advice of John Schuessler - we assume he meant you. If you want a transcript of Jim's notes, just say so and I'll furnish them. But I have a notion he has reported back to you already. I am having to write this letter bit by bit, checking telephone and file records, etc., and I do have time restrictions, so I haven't volunteered the information. You are dealing with one case currently (that I know of) - we have dozens which demand our time, as well as the day-to-day tasks of APRO business, so we are a bit stingy with our time.

Concerning the Bulletin article - it was a result of the nagging doubts of several local APRO people, including members of the Board of Directors, and members at large via telephone calls and letters, resulting from the airing of the "That's Incredible" segment which featured the Cash-Landrum case. All, like Jim and I, thought the possibility that the Cash-Landrum object was an experimental Aircraft whose propulsion system had malfunctioned, SHOULD HAVE AT LEAST BEEN MENTIONED. It wasn't. Most of us saw the show twice

I could write another several pages, giving you the names of possible scientific tests, apparent oversights, etc., which would furnish valuable clues (maybe), but if I don't know what's been done, how do I know what to write?

I direct your attention to the handwritten note dated 3-7-81 which accompanied your 22 February 81 report. The pertinent passages are: "We're sure the three people had a real experience but we're not sure if it was a UFO or government caused."

Also: "We're digging into the medical and helicopter aspects of the case. I will send information to you as it is available."

And - "Can you send me any leads on the \_\_\_\_\_ ("J") case? I'll be glad to pursue it from this end." Unquote.

John, I sent you the leads on the "J" case, as you requested, even after I read the ridiculous "Director's Message" on APRO's "isolationism" in the MUFON Journal. I don't recall which issue, but it's a matter of record.

Now, please, re-read your file. Item: "To Chris Panter (no date) Line 5: "We appreciate (sic) your informing us of the names and addresses. We did not have the 2nd lady's name." This was signed by Dave Kissinger. Unfortunately Mrs. Panter did not indicate date of receipt, but I think it speaks for itself.

John, after seeing "That's Incredible" and reviewing your reports in our Cash-Landrum file, Jim decided to write you requesting the medical reports and corroborating witness reports. When you responded with the xeroxed copies of clippings having no bearing whatsoever on the case, and not even an accompanying note or explanation, his doubts (and mine) became "nagging" ones.

I would very much like to help Mrs. Cash and Mrs. Landrum. Neither Jim nor I, however, are responsible for the actions of Mr. English. If I could give you information regarding the nature of the Huffman UFO without involving others, I would, but I can't. If you called the Inspector General just because of the contents of the Bulletin article, what would you do if I confided confidential sources? However, if you take an objective look at what you have, that you've shared with us, you'll share our original doubts.

Let's get one thing perfectly clear - I'm sure that what Mrs. Cash and Mrs. Landrum saw was accurately represented on the "That's Incredible" show - I have no reason to doubt them. But - the possible, or, I should say, probable alternative explanation (to UFO) of what they saw was carefully avoided.

Last, but not least: Jim and I are both puzzled as to why you addressed your letter of June 29 to him, when I wrote the Bulletin article (it even has ~~my~~ by-line) and I am editor of the Bulletin as well?

I'm sure you have a responsible position, and are proud of it, as

well you should be.

Just so there'll be no mistaking intention again, I draw your attention to the last page of Walt Andrus' mail-out promotion about the "Summit" (!!!) Conference in Toronto. I'm sure you've heard the old adage "birds of a feather", etc. Another one is: "Lie down with a dog, get up with fleas."

Page 3 of Walt's promo is titled: "People who have indicated an interest in participating in the 1982 UFO Summit Conference on July 5, 1982 at the Westbury Hotel, etc...."

On the last page, Jim and I are listed as one of the foregoing. That is a deliberate lie. We can excuse Walt's childishness, but not when he uses our names without permission. If you're interested to know the truth about that, ask Joan Jeffers of Bradford, Pa. what I said in my letter of May 30 in regard to the Toronto thing. Part of what I wrote was: "Jim characterizes these "conferences" as mutual admiration and back-slapping exercises.....Suffice it to say, that all of us here are disappointed in the way UFO Research has turned out. It's mostly a cult of personalities.....We're very busy now on new investigative techniques and several investigations which hold great promise. I think that's where our time and talent should be spent."

A couple of additional funnies: (1) When Paul Norman paid us a welcome visit before he went to Canada, he laughingly mentioned that he'd been notified that he was a speaker at Toronto. (He hadn't been asked). (2) In a letter from Joan Jeffers of Bradford, Pa., dated June 29, she wrote she'd received quite a "shock" when she read her mail the previous Saturday (June 26) and found she was slated to give a 15-minute paper at the "Summit". The title was even supplied. She didn't know about her participation either!

Oh, well, I guess she doesn't know Walt very well. Maybe he felt he had to have a "token" woman on the program.

Jim has asked me to tell you that you are wrong about him and any government-connected UFO job. He says he would feel it would be controlled as they all have been in the past.

If Mrs. Landrum will make use of the postage-paid envelope I provided for her to use to relay the information about English, and send a request for the tape, I will forward it by return mail. Perhaps you will want to help her with it.

I pondered long before including the following: On page 3 of your letter, the date (Feb. 28) that David Kissinger allegedly provided a copy of Chris Panter's letter to you has obviously been changed.

Your time sequence log (Page 3, your letter) says that Dave Kissinger received Chris Panter's letter stating that "we did not have the 2nd lady's name" had to have been written after February 25, according to your own log.

Because of that change of date, I got out my trusty, large magnifying glass and lo, and behold, I found a couple of other inconsistencies, to wit:

I call your attention to all of the "2s" in your letter with the exception of those typed on Page 3, after Feb. 17, on the left-hand column. All of the "2s" from February 20 through Feb. 28 appear disfigured - not at all like the 2 in February 2 (left column) and February 25 (right column).

Now, look at the "3" in January 30 (left column, Page 3) and compare it with the 3 in Feb. 23, same column, same page. The "3" is disfigured in Feb. 23.

Then - look at the "8s" in the date and the zip code on Page 1 of your letter and again in the date in the paragraph at the end of Page 3.

Now - look at the "8" in Feb. 28, left column, Page 3. It, and it only, is disfigured. Can you give me an explanation of these inconsistencies which appear only in the last half of the left-hand column of Page 3?

I think I now know why you did not send the original of your letter to Jim and me.

Sincerely,

*Coral E. Lorenzen*

Coral E. Lorenzen  
Secretary

ENCs:

Cy of Vickie Landrum letter (page 1)  
Cy of letter from Chris Panter to J. Schuessler  
Cy of Rpt sheet dated February 28, 1981

DISTRIBUTION:

The same as that of your letter of June 29, plus Dr. R. Leo Sprinkle, as well as others whom I feel may be interested in this case (to make up somewhat for the MUFON "Summit" distribution).

1-255-785-2752

10-31-81

Confidential

1-255-8701

Don't not paying anything.

Dear Sam.

On regards to your letter I will try and answer your ?'s I know it has been a long drawn out thing. and we are yet not well. Betty cook is in the hospital has been for about 5 weeks now. Dr Leo Sprinkle is a great guy in my book. But no one can top John Schuster. Betty & me was lucky to have found a friend like them. this P.P.O. has a tape of our call that I sent when it first happened I sent a tape of me on ~~one~~ one side and Betty on the other. yes while I was on the out side of the car. then we told of heat it was very hot. my left hand at that was on top of the car was burned so bad I thought I was going to lose it yes I pulled the door closed for I was standing between the car and the door. it was hot very hot inside the car so I would say the door was hot. Betty had to open the door with the button of her jacket. my friend went to get inside the car on the dash. that's how hot it was don't ask Bill Enchel in yet

20 February 1981

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team  
P. O. Box 877 (VISIT)  
Friendswood, TX -77546-

Gentlemen:

At the request of Mr. Lorenzen, I'm writing to ask if someone from your group could look into a case (in your part of Texas) for us. This letter will serve as a brief overview.

Our initial report came from Bob Cribble, an investigator in the Northwest.

Two ladies (ages in the 50's bracket) and a 7 yr. old boy, the grandson of one, were on their way to a Bingo game, December 29th, 1980. As they both describe the incident, a huge (about the size of a "water tower") diamond shaped object burst from the sky. It was firey bright, and surrounded by approx. 23 helicopters; double bladed (very unusual). The ladies pulled to a stop and got out to observe. The little boy got hysterical, so one of the ladies got back in the car with the child. The other remained outside looking at the object. They thought "the world was coming to an end."

The lady we have been in touch with is Vickie Landrum (713) 258-9156. Her address is 506 West Clayton, Dayton, Texas -77535-. The other lady's name is Betty Cash; she is the one who stood out observing the object. Now Betty Cash has been in the hospital with apparent radiation burns, hair falling out, pustules on her skin, etc. Both ladies are suffering from severe conjunctivitis. A Dr. Shoney (713-691-3649) can confirm the details. Oh yes, I forgot to mention that the car also became extremely hot.

Mr. Lorenzen first suggested that I contact Dr. Niemtzow. We didn't learn until a few days later that he is now in California. Our local Field Investigator, Bill English, called Vickie and got as much information as he could, but of course, the case is in Texas and he is in Arizona, with no funds to send him to Texas.

So, with the permission of the two ladies, Bill called in Dick Donovan (an investigative journalist) with the DAILY WORLD NEWS (owned by THE NAT'L. ENQUIRER). Donovan had the funds to investigate this thing. Now a local reporter by the name of Cathy (or Cathy) Gordon who claims to be a friend of the witnesses, is complaining of exploitation. This was never intended of course. Mr. English had hoped some funds might be forthcoming to the ladies, as they seem to be in a very low income bracket. I might add that Donovan has turned up several more witnesses to the UFO.

So, the bottom line is, Mr. Lorenzen and Mr. English are asking that VISIT look into this professionally and try to see that the ladies are not exploited.

Sincerely,  
Chris. Panter  
Ofs. Mgr.



INVESTIGATOR DATA

FIELD INVESTIGATOR'S NAME:

TELEPHONE: AC 713 / 4882884

John F. Schuessler  
P.O. Box 58485  
Houston, TX 77058

FIELD INVESTIGATOR'S ADDRESS:

TOWN OR CITY

STATE/PROVINCE/ZIP CODE

Harris  
COUNTY

Tx  
COUNTRY

DATE OF FIELD INVESTIGATOR'S REPORT:

1981 Feb 26  
YEAR MONTH DAY

AFFILIATION (IF NOT MUFON)

SIGHTING DATA

DATE OF UFO SIGHTING:

1980 Dec 29  
YEAR MONTH DAY

IF MONTH/DAY NOT KNOWN, CHECK BELOW:

JAN - MAR ( ) APR-JUN ( ) JUL-SEP ( ) OCT-DEC ( ) (BEST GUESS)

1ST WEEK ( ) 2ND WEEK ( ) 3RD WEEK ( ) 4TH WEEK ( ) (BEST GUESS)

TIME OF UFO SIGHTING:

24-HOUR CLOCK TIME 2100 (IF UNKNOWN, CHECK BELOW) DURATION: 10-15 MIN

DAY ( ) NIGHT (x) MORNING ( ) AFTERNOON ( ) EVENING ( ) DAWN ( )

NOON ( ) ABOUT MIDNIGHT ( ) BETWEEN MIDNIGHT AND DAWN ( )

PLACE OF UFO SIGHTING:

near New Caney  
STREET ADDRESS OR OTHER IDENTIFICATION

Harris  
COUNTY

USA  
COUNTRY

OTHER INFORMATION:

NUMBER OF WITNESSES 3

COORDINATES (IF KNOWN)

30° N  
HOURS MINUTES TENTHS  
LATITUDE

~95° W  
HOURS MINUTES TENTHS  
LONGITUDE

COMMENTS:

Medical Injury Case

PRIMARY WITNESS DATA

PRIMARY WITNESS' NAME:

Betty Cash

TELEPHONE: AC 713 / 258-5803

PRIMARY WITNESS' ADDRESS:

Rt 1, Box 127B  
STREET AND NUMBER

Dayton  
TOWN OR CITY

Tx 77535  
STATE/PROVINCE/ZIP

Montgomery  
COUNTY

USA  
COUNTRY

USE OF WITNESS' NAME:

MAY (x) MAY NOT ( ) BE USED IN CONNECTION WITH THIS REPORT (Note exceptions below).

MAJOR FEATURES

GENERAL CASE ( ) ELECTRICAL/MAGNETIC ( ) ANIMAL EFFECTS ( ) PSYCHOLOGICAL/PHYSIOLOGICAL EFFECTS (x)

LANDING ( ) PHYSICAL TRACES ( ) ARTIFACT ( ) ENTITY CASE ( ) PHOTOGRAPHIC ( ) RADAR ( ) OTHER

COMMENTS:

Case lead supplied by Rbt. Gribble, APRRO & MUFON

Rush estimated the speed of the object at 70 miles per hour, the altitude at 250-260 feet, diameter of the ring 50 feet, and the distance from his location at three miles.

\*\*\*\*\*

## THE CASH-LANDRUM CASE ANALYSIS

*By Coral E. Lorenzen*

As a result of my article (Volume 30, Issue #6, Page 2 and 3), in the APRO Bulletin, APRO received a telephone call from a Lt. Col. Sarran, of the Army Inspector General's office on June 25, at 1:30 p.m., and, second, a letter from John Schuessler on July 2, dated June 25.

The general thrust of Col. Sarran's call was an attempt to gain information which he thought we might have which would "assist" him in his investigation. He verified APRO's information that the only Chinook helicopters in service are operated by the Army and the Marines, and the only Chinooks within operating range of Houston where the Cash-Landrum incident took place, are 24 in number and stationed at Ft. Hood.

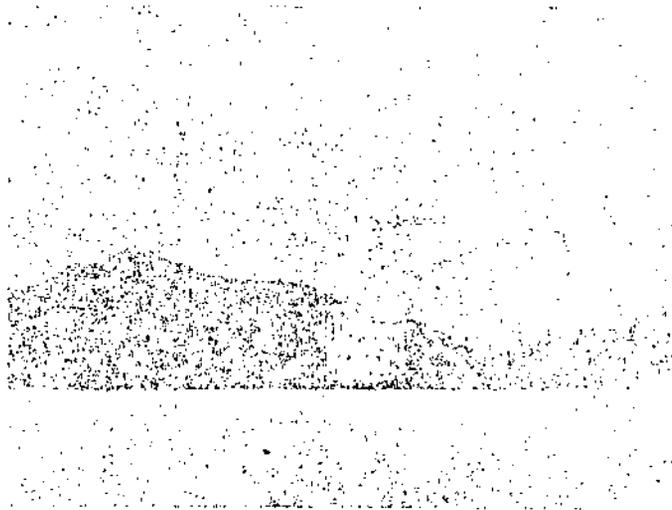
Sarran further informed us that he had been informed of my article by John Schuessler, Deputy Director of MUFON. He suggested the possibility that the flight of the 22 choppers reported by Cash, Landrum and Landrum might have been an "Iran-type rescue exercise" (The failed Iran "rescue" took place in April, 1980, fully 8 months before the Cash-Landrum incident), or they might have been related to Gulf of Mexico oil rig operations, where Chinooks are apparently used to service the off-shore oil installations.

Let's examine what we know about the "Chinooks", which Mrs. Cash and Mrs. Landrum allegedly identified from photos they were shown, as the aircraft they observed flying in the area of the bright craft ("UFO").

The "Chinook" (Boeing CH-47) has a load capacity of 33-34 fully armed (with pack) men with pilot and co-pilot or 24 litter casualty cases in addition to pilot and co-pilot. Its range is about 220 miles, although it has been "beefed up" somewhat, can be refueled in mid-air, can lift and transport two tons internally or 8 tons externally and has a Pershing missile system capability. It is a "work-horse".

The Chinook is a gas-gulper, not particularly speedy, not highly maneuverable, designed to carry large loads for short distances, and definitely not the sort of vehicle which would be deployed for pursuit or reconnaissance of an alien craft.

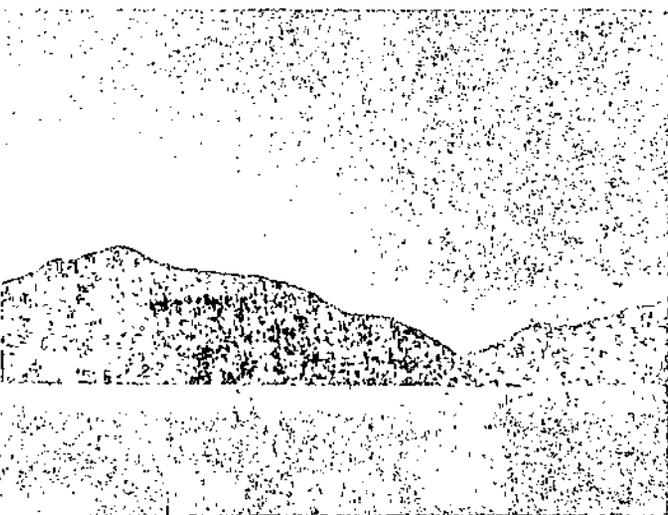
The Chinooks at Ft. Hood are a part of the Rapid Deployment Force there. It seems realistic, therefore,



Object in Flight

round shape, while the outer edge of the ring of light was illuminated—i.e., a bright, white light. I didn't hear any explosion or crash after it disappeared behind the mountain. I just saw a flash. It was a brilliant flash that lit up the back side of the mountains. I could see the whole horizon (sky line) of the mountain range. I thought at first it could be lightning, but there were no clouds, and the sky was clear. It flashed a split second after it disappeared. At the time I thought it had crashed."

Mr. Rush cooperated fully with Field Investigator Cliff Booth, who is an excellent artist, in recreating the sighting on paper (see accompanying drawings). He (Rush) also rode his dirt bike all over the hills and mountains in the area trying to locate corroborating witnesses. The only corroboration came from two young Navajo goat herders who were inside their shelter at the time of the sighting when they heard a sound like "two rocks crashing together".



Flash Behind Mountain

that they were rapidly deployed for an Army "exercise" on December 29, 1980, which went awry.

I have had knowledge of a classified Army Regulation which deals with the investigation of UFOs since 1956. How long it had been in existence before that date, we don't know. However, in view of that information, in addition to other facts, it is my opinion that it is not at all unexpected that, after investigating UFOs for 35 years (since 1947 and probably longer) the U.S. Army has under development and test an aircraft (however crude) which simulates the "UFO".

What, after all, is going on at the Los Alamos Laboratories in New Mexico, among others? That installation is Army, and is the location of studies and experimentation relating to nuclear fission. Do we actually think they are just improving on our nuclear strike capability?

One after another, writers on the subject of UFOs have made the pronouncement that the government which discovers the secret of the propulsion of the UFOs would "rule the world".

Well, they haven't discovered the secret of the UFO (propulsion, that is) but they're all trying, and the U.S. has apparently come up with the next best thing -- a brightly lit aircraft utilizing a new propulsion concept, a side-effect of which is highly damaging radiation.

Now, to Schuessler's letter: He chided me for having information which, if known to him, would help Mrs. Cash and Mrs. Landrum and Colby. He devoted a whole paragraph to a description of his position at NASA. He accused me of trying to "goad" him into releasing more information on the case. Actually, he had, in writing, promised APRO added information, including medical reports, as early as April, 1981.

After an attention-hungry (Tucson) APRO member (who had been "hanging around the office" in Office Manager Chris Panter's words) had intercepted Mrs. Landrum's initial call on February 2, 1981, and her taped report on February 6 and sold it to Weekly World News, Mr. Lorenzen learned of the report via the APRO office Phone log and had the information forwarded to John Schuessler for investigation. At the time, Mr. Lorenzen was under the impression that Schuessler would do an impartial and objective job.

At about that time there was an incursion of certain elements bent on a "take-over" of APRO at Headquarters level, and this was discussed with Mr. Schuessler via telephone. Thereafter, all information on the Cash-Landrum case stopped. Mr. Lorenzen's most recent request -- specifically for back-up witnesses and medical reports, elicited only some clippings which had nothing to do with the case. There was no turn-down on the medical reports -- not even a mention until Schuessler's June 25 letter in which he characterized the medical reports as highly "personal" information.

This is an important point, for although Schuessler and MUFON have been loudly pronouncing the physical trauma suffered by the principals in the Cash-Landrum

affair as "radiation sickness", they have not offered any evidence to support this assertion. I contend that it cannot be supported without the supporting data of definitive blood tests.

Does the reader realize that no radiation tests at the site were conducted? At least, not to our knowledge. Despite the fact that Schuessler claims he was consulted regularly by the Doctor on the case (because of his reputation as a local UFO aficionado) even before APRO notified him of the case, there is no public record of the medical tests undertaken. Apparently no soil samples at the site were taken, either.

We must ask, then, how "radiation sickness" can be the considered diagnosis when there is not sufficient foundation laid? Incidentally, the road on which the C-L incident took place has since been re-paved!

Now -- back to the basic incident. The tape which Mrs. C. and Mrs. L. made and sent to APRO (and was sent on to Weekly World News by Bill English without authorization) clearly indicates that neither of the women is technically or scientifically oriented. (The twin-rotor helicopters are characterized by Mrs. Cash as having two "dealies" on top).

We will be dealing with this incident in more depth in up-coming issues of the Bulletin. However, for now, Schuessler and his crowd would have us believe:

1. The two women and the boy saw a UFO.
2. That the UFO was accompanied by 20+ helicopters which have limited range, are unwieldy and not very speedy.
3. (This is the new information). Some of the same type of helicopters revisited the scene hours later. (Looking for casualties and/or hardware?)

Now -- what do we know about UFOs?

1. They can hover dead still in the air.
2. They can speed up from a dead stop to thousands of miles per hour in seconds.
3. They do not frequent heavily populated areas, especially in low-level, prolonged flight.
4. The only relatively verifiable incidents involving UFOs and radiation are (a) A Canadian case which took place in an isolated area. The man involved came upon the UFO and made a close approach quite by accident (his presence was not immediately noticeable). (b) A Colombian case in which a man approached a UFO and fired a gun at it. A Beam erupted from the object, striking him in the chest. He died shortly thereafter of symptoms indicating radiation poisoning. However, no autopsy was performed.
5. The UFOs are highly evolved technologically exotic machines: they are nearly infallible.
6. Past performance indicates that surveillance and pursuit of UFOs by military vehicles has been accomplished with high speed aircraft.

(To be Continued)

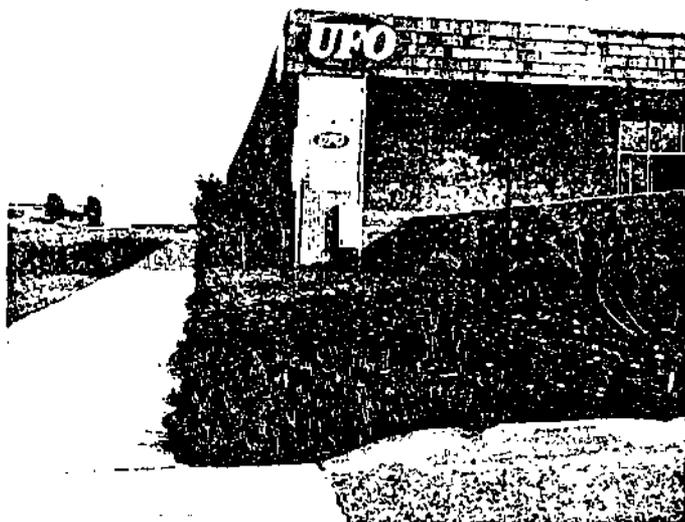


Photo of San Diego "UFO."

that morning (by the time they decided on the trip, it was early in the morning of July 3). A fourth party decided to save time and flew down the next morning.

Upon arriving in San Diego and driving to the location provided by the Los Angeles source, they found a huge warehouse, with the legend UFO in huge letters. The warehouse turned out to be an Upholstery Factory Outlet store, and some enterprising individual had apparently decided to cash in on the initials for his warehouse business.

The whole scenario, to the average individual, reads like a practical joke. It is funny, but it is also sad. Three people spent a lot of time and gasoline to make a long round-trip to California to check out something which could have been done by someone at the scene.

The saddest part of the whole situation is that Mr. Big was not convinced that he had been made the butt of a joke: he thought there was still the possibility that the warehouse was a "double cover" - that there indeed was a real UFO and alien bodies and the Upholstery Factory Outlet was a cover-up!!!

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## MORE ON CASH-LANDRUM

By Coral E. Lorenzen

The only feedback we have received so far on our comments on the Cash-Landrums case in the Bulletin (Volume 30, #6) which disagrees with our analysis, originated with a subscriber who is employed at a large military installation. Inasmuch as we have not asked for his permission to use his letter, and don't have time to wait for a mail response, we will paraphrase and comment:

*He writes:* "I realize that you think that all of us who work for the government are privy to some great secret and I realize that I cannot convince you different but most of us believe that a) you cannot keep much of a secret in the United States for very long. b) Anything of technical importance will end up in Aviation Week sooner or later. c) New technologies are *not* tested secretly initially over civilian areas for fear of accidents, bad publicity and law suits.

*COMMENT:* Personnel employed by the U.S. government or military have to have three things to be privy to any classified information: 1. *Identification* 2. *Clearance* (this is the degree of classification you are entitled to, such as confidential, secret, top secret, Q, etc.) and 3. (most important) *Need to Know*. There are hundreds of people employed on the various highly classified installations around this country who have identification but no clearance, therefore don't work in areas where they will encounter classified material. There are added thousands who work at classified installations and have identification and classification, but *not the need to know*. They would have access to only that classified material which would be necessary for them to carry out their particular assignment.

Secrets certainly *can* still be kept. With careful investigation, some secrets can be unravelled, but *proving them is quite another thing*.

One well kept secret was the actual explosion of the first atomic bomb in New Mexico in 1945. Those who saw the cloud and felt the earth tremble and asked about it were told that a munitions dump had exploded and they believed it. I do not think that people would be quite so easy to fool these days, but it can be done.

I agree that new technologies are not tested secretly initially over civilian areas. I have never claimed that. The Cash-Landrums object was not being tested -- it was part of a military exercise, but the craft malfunctioned. What its route should have been, I don't know, but it is obvious that those big Chinooks were in the area so that if the craft had to come to ground, they could land, disgorge their troops and surround and protect the craft from prying eyes and cameras. In the Cash-Landrums incident, I am not surprised that whoever is responsible (most likely the U.S. Army) for the craft is going to get the UFO buffs to do their covering up for them, and that is precisely what is going on.

I would like to cite an instance which took place (and is a matter of record in the Alamogordo Daily News at the time) in the early 1950s at Holloman Air Force Base. It was probably 1953 or early 1954 before I took a position in the Range Scheduling office. But I do remember the incident and ensuing events as though they took place only yesterday, because of their possible portent at the time.

A Q-19 drone (a small remote-controlled craft used as a target) went out of control and crash-landed on the grounds of the "Deaf and Blind" school in broad daylight. A few yards one way or another or a few

minutes one way or another and the craft could have crashed into groups of helpless children strolling the grounds during their between-class break.

During my tenure with Range Scheduling, I sat in on a discussion of the feasibility of doing away with the "chase" plane (a manned fighter plane with loaded guns) during the flights of another drone, this one propelled by a jet engine. Although it was not my place to do so, I expressed my objection that in view of what had nearly happened just a year or two previously, they should not take the chance of keeping the hot gun chase plane on the ground during the flight. The projected plan was to get the chase plane airborne if the drone should experience difficulty and go out of control. Fortunately those in a position to make the decision opted for a chase plane in the air.

As each year passes, the United States becomes more and more crowded with people. I do not think the test facilities are quite as isolated as they were a few years ago.

On to our writer's further comments: "Unless you are very specific in your knowledge, I claim that the USAF would not run 12-15 large two-bladed helicopters close together at night. There would inevitably be an accident, witness Iran.....These machines are very large (50 to 100 feet in size) they are very, very noisy and the down draft (propwash) is very strong and noticeable especially in the winter time. It seems absolutely incredible that the USAF would run a dozen or more of these things without running lights at night in close formation."

COMMENT: First, let us dispel with the notion that the helicopters and the strange craft involved in the Cash-Landrum sighting were in any way connected with the Air Force. Unfortunately, UFO researchers have too long been indoctrinated (purposely?) with the idea that if there is any action taken against UFOs, it would be taken by the Air Force. Not so. The Army and Navy are more likely candidates, if just from the standpoint that they are more efficient and thorough. We must take into consideration, however, that the Chinooks are operated only by the Marines and Army, there is an Army base nearby with Chinooks in residence, and Colonel Sarran of the Attorney General's office verified this, although he is satisfied that the Army personnel at Fort Hood were telling the truth when they said they weren't involved. I am not.

The helicopters *did* make noise; this is an established fact. As for the prop-wash, again, we do not know how close the women were to the aircraft. Schuessler says 100 feet, but they could have been hundreds of feet away, and the prop-wash would not be especially evident.

The last remark in the letter from our informant says: "I claim that the big secret is that there is another air force (UFO) that has the complete run of this planet, any time, any place, and their technology is so superior that nothing can be done about it by any earthling".

COMMENT: I am tempted to suspect collusion

between Schuessler and the writer of this letter, for a news clip received at APRO Headquarters quotes Schuessler as expressing his opinion that there is a crack helicopter group in this country which can go any place at any time. This may be so (see the article on Mutilations) but I do not think that helicopter group is necessarily connected with the Cash-Landrum case in any way. They are two entirely separate problems

The writer of this letter also mentions mutilations, which we have dealt with elsewhere. I suspect that we are not through with the debate on this subject, and will certainly keep the readers informed as more material is available.

\*\*\*\*\*

## NIGHT LIGHTS - STRANGE EFFECT

*August 12, 1981, Anderson, INDIANA* - Rupert and Reba Pring sat in their car in a field hoping to get some pictures of a meteor shower. Instead, their camera recorded pictures of strange lights darting through the sky.

Mr. Pring recalled that he first noticed unusual lights in the sky during the exposure of the 7th frame at about 2:15 a.m. When he got out of the car to advance the film, the two lights moved to the north side of the car and appeared to be hovering above, as if watching them. The lights then moved to the other side of the car.

More unusual than the lights was the feeling Pring experienced outside the car. "Something hit me on the head and on the shoulders like a hot, wet blanket. It was like a magnetic force. It's a very, very uncomfortable feeling. I was frozen there. Then they took off. Zoom, they just disappeared at terrific speed," he said.

The color pictures illustrated the unusual tracing of lights in the dark blue sky. The lights appear white, although Pring saw them outlined in blue. The tracings of the stars are also pictured but Pring did not photograph any meteors.

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## ANCIENT CHINESE UFOS

*February 2, 1982 - Beijing (AP)* - A Chinese scholar says things resembling today's UFOs were mentioned in Chinese books as long as 364 years ago. Ke Yang, of Lanzhou University, quoted 6 passages from books of the Ming (1368-1644) and Ching (1644-1911)

*Aerial Phenomena Research Organization, Inc.*

(APRO)

3910 EAST KLEINDALE ROAD  
TUCSON, ARIZONA - 85712  
U.S.A.

24 August 1982

(602) 323-1825

John F. Schuessler  
P. O. Box-59485  
Houston, Texas 77258RECEIVED BY MUFON IN SEGUIN,  
TX ON NOV. 20, 1982

Dear John:

In answer to your letter of August 15, I must point out that you have not addressed hardly any of the questions raised in my letter of July 6.

In regard to paragraph 1 (your letter): The state of my health in February 1982 had some bearing on the actions of some people at the APRO office, but nothing to do with communications. You persist in the myth that you knew nothing of what was going on here at that time. I quote from your note to Jim dated April 20, 1981: "Congratulations on overcoming the problem person at your annual meeting. That needed to be done." Jim's reference to that "problem person" was made during a telephone conversation with you, so you had knowledge that one Bill English had been misrepresenting APRO and its policies long before you wrote your 5page letter of June 29, 1982, in which you attempted to saddle APRO with the responsibility for English's stupid remark to Mrs. Landrum about her friend's impending death.

Now, to Paragraph 2: The "story" related to us by Bill Moore was accepted for what it was - a "story". It had no influence on our judgment of the Cash-Landrum case. I will expand on our analysis in a future issue of the Bulletin. The analysis will be based on what we have been able to glean from your reports, common sense, Jim's conversation with Lt. Col. Sarran, our own experience with the military and a smattering of information, the source of which I am not free to divulge.

We have talked with Bill Moore since his return from Toronto and have written report from one other attendee. I understand that you were complaining that although you receive the APRO Bulletin (on our gratis list) regularly, you didn't receive the issue which carried the article critical of your/CUFO's/MUFON's conclusion on the Cash-Landrum case. I have checked your computer card - it is in good order. It's unfortunate that it happened in this instance, but considering that we mail 1200 plus Bulletins via bulk mail, I suppose it's not impossible that yours could have gone astray that one time. Would you like a copy for your file?

Your letter made no mention of those strange discrepancies in your mail log. I, in the meantime, have turned up something additionally interesting. Bill Moore sent us Xeroxed copies of his records of telephone calls he made and received on February 2, 1981, when APRO received its first word from Robert Gribble on the Cash-Landrum case. Mr. Moore received a call from Bill English informing him of the case at 7:40 p.m. on February 2. Moore called Howard Sussman, who I am sure you know (he

subscribes to the Bulletin and I've talkdd with him on at least one occasion) as he is a medical doctor in Houston and also a MUF OI member, at 9:20 p. m. on February 2 and asked if he (Sussman) could look into the case.

This latter information makes the " who tipped who" all the more interesting, doesn't it?

I fully intend to continye to spend my energy in a positive manner in the future as I have in the past. I don't think I really need to point that out, considering APRO's pioneering record.

It would be helpful to all concerned, however, to know if and when and what type of blood studies were carried out in the Cash-Landrum case, and what they revealed. A positive judgement concerning whether or not "radiation" is the cause of the medical problems sustained by Mrs. Cash, Mrs. Landrum and Colby, cannot be made without that sort of data. This information would not be in the nature of "personal" information, but could well have an important bearing on the case.

Sincerely,

*Coral E. Lorenzen*  
Coral E. Lorenzen

Distribution:

Same as my July 6 letter.

JOHN F. SCHUESSLER

UFO

Reid  
8-19-82

P.O. BOX 58485 • HOUSTON, TEXAS 77258  
15 August 1982

Coral E. Lorenzen  
APRO  
3910 East Kleindale Road  
Tucson, Ariz. 85712

Dear Coral,

In reply to your letter dated 6 July, I am sorry to hear about your health problem and the resultant problem with workers at your office. That seems to explain some of the actions that were taken and the lack communications at times. I hope everything is under control now.

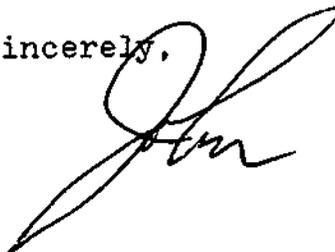
Admittedly, I was quite upset when the APRO Bulletin carried an article stating APRO knew what the device was at Huffman, Tx on Dec. 29, 1980. Watching Betty, Vickie and Colby suffer for months while all government agencies played dumb has made this a sensitive issue. Fortunately, Bill Moore convinced me during our discussions at Toronto that the story he had given you about the experimental aircraft was interesting, but only a story. I have tried to find a correlation between the story and the event, but without success. It is like a lot of the stories we have encountered relating to helicopter activities (i.e. operations from aircraft carriers in the Gulf, special forces units dispatched to intercept and clean up damaged UFOs, operations from a forward area refueling point, etc.) - all possible, but not verifiable.

You bet I called LT. Col. Sarran of the Army Inspector Gen. Office. There was nothing confidential about something you published in the APRO Bulletin and mailed to the world. He had spent a lot of hours investigating me, VISIT, Betty, Vickie, the local police, the Ellington Nat. Guard unit and who knows who else. So, I thought it was only right that he contact you for the information you publically stated you had in hand. With that information he could have gotten on with admitting government involvement and accepting responsibility for the injuries to the victims. I have been unable to find out what the IG results were; but I can assume they were negative, as usual. Eventually, we may see the documentation if the FOIA is still honored.

I sympathize with you about the people problems that seem to permeate organizations, but I don't think those will ever stop. I feel that we must continue to attack the UFO problem in spite of the other things. Some day the truth must come out. If we spend our energy in a positive manner, that day will be sooner rather than later.

Sincerely,

Dist: Sameas 29 June letter.



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Published June, 1982

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Indiana

(Continued from Page One)

her purse in the car and the car door open.  
 Probably as interesting as the sighting itself, is the reaction of those to whom Mrs. Brownlee attempted to report the case. She called the local Television channel 15, and was told that they "could not do anything until the government gave permission." The newspapers told her they would not be interested in any story until they had been interviewed by an investigator. Mrs. Brownlee then called the police, who referred her to Baer Field, who in turn referred her to Robert Gribble's Phenomena Research Center in Seattle, Washington.

The accompanying drawings are copies of those made by Wanda Brownlee and Roger Curry.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PLEASE!**  
**Read your Bulletin Cover!**

the red lights on the back of the first object separated from it and drifted slowly back to about half the distance between the two objects, and then, by the time the display disappeared behind a building<sup>3</sup>, the light had gone back to its proper place. By the time I found it again on the other side of the building, the trailing red light (from NAF) was no longer to be seen, nor did I hear the faint jet-aircraft sound any more.

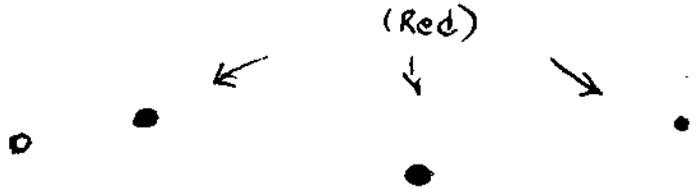


Figure 2

I watched it with the binoculars for a minute or two more, and then decided I'd better get to work. The whole thing lasted about 5-10 minutes I would guess.

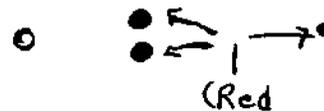


Figure 3

I looked in both the civilian and military newspapers afterwards, but no one mentioned anything unusual having been seen that night.

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**RUMORS PERMEATE  
 CASH-LANDRUM CASE**

By Coral Lorenzen

Too frequently, the UFO investigator is hampered during the course of an inquiry by the abundance of hearsay and rumors surrounding a case. This is understandable, given the anxiousness of witnesses to "co-operate" (even to the extent of embroidery of details) and the competition and over-zealousness of the press.

However, sometimes the "pot" is stirred too much—by everybody.

In February of this year, there was a rumor going the rounds to the effect that the U.S. government was paying all of the medical expenses of Betty Cash and

Vicki Landrum, two of the three principals in the "Cash-Landrum" case of December 29, 1980. These two ladies and Mrs. Landrum's grandson, Colby, were driving in the vicinity of Dayton, Texas, when they came upon a brilliant object which they stopped and watched for several minutes. Ultimately, all three suffered physical effects including burns, eye damage and severe nausea, which is generally attributed to radiation "poisoning". For a more complete description of the case, see the APRO Bulletin, Volume 29, Issue 8.

After hearing the rumor, APRO checked with Mrs. Landrum by telephone and she confirmed our initial suspicion that the information was an unfounded rumor. During that telephone conversation, Mrs. Landrum reiterated her opinion that the object she and her grandson and Mrs. Cash had seen was a U.S. government aircraft.

Cash and Landrum picked out the "Chinook" helicopter from a sheet of helicopter photographs as the type they had seen. Allegedly, according to John Scheussler, there are no "Chinooks" based in the Houston area.

From the beginning, we have been struck by one singular fact: There were at least 12 and possibly more than 20 helicopters observed by the three witnesses.

We could go into a lot more detail, but suffice it to say that the American television viewing public was grossly misled by the presentation of the case on the show "That's Incredible". It was strongly insinuated that the object was a UFO, in the strictest interpretation of the term. In other words, a flying object which could not be identified.

And no less a personage than J. Allen Hynek was heard on radio describing the Cash-Landrum case as "one of the best cases" he had encountered.

We can't give the reader a proper name or a code name or number, but the object seen by Cash, Landrum and Landrum, was a U.S. experimental aircraft which had gotten out of control and was being escorted or "herded" by the helicopters. Their main function, however, would have been to cordon off the area if the craft was forced to make an emergency landing.

By way of clarification: We were tipped off to the case by Robert Gribble of Phenomena Research in Seattle, Washington. A local APRO (at the time) member was in the APRO office when the call came in, "took over", tipped off the Weekly World News (a weekly tabloid) and thereafter, the responsible individuals at APRO lost control of the case. When Mr. Lorenzen learned of the case, the damage had been done. However, Mr. Lorenzen turned over the basic details to John Scheussler in Houston. Mr. Scheussler provided APRO with the initial findings of the investigation, upon which I based APRO's report mentioned above.

Recently, because of our nagging doubts about the case, Mr. Lorenzen wrote to Mr. Scheussler and asked for copies of supporting witnesses' and medical reports, which Scheussler claims he has in his possession. To

date, APRO has received xeroxed copies of brief press reports of sightings in the Houston area around the time of the Cash-Landrum case. No investigated corroborative reports, no medical reports.

About one year ago (Spring of 1981) in his "Director's Message", in the MUFON Journal, Walt Andrus accused APRO of "isolationism"—after we had turned the Cash-Landrum case over to Scheussler. We have since sent Mr. Scheussler the names and addresses of supporting witnesses in an abduction case we have investigated, but whose supporting witnesses live in Texas.

Now for some interesting facts: Mr. Scheussler is Deputy Director of MUFON. He is also a long-time employee of a company closely associated with NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) which is headquartered in Houston.

Walt Andrus is Director of MUFON—and he is also a long-time employee of Motorola Corporation, which is under heavy contractual obligation to the U.S. Military.

MUFON is closely linked with CUFOS (Center for UFO Studies), which is headed by J. Allen Hynek. Dr. Hynek was employed by the U.S. Air Force for 20 years as scientific advisor to Project Bluebook, the Air Force's UFO investigation project (actually a public-relations front).

Do these facts link up? We don't know for certain—you be the judge.

However—in our last telephone conversation, Mr. Scheussler told APRO that Betty Cash, with the help of CAUS (Citizens Against UFO Secrecy) had filed suit against the U.S. Government. Scheussler didn't elucidate, and I didn't ask, but I can't help being concerned whether or not the suit mentions a government craft or a UFO (which would involve UFO secrecy either way) as the culprit.

At any rate, I am concerned that Betty Cash and Vicki and Colby Landrum may be merely pawns in some kind of game. They have suffered (and continue to suffer) greatly as a result of a chance encounter with a U.S. government experimental aircraft.

The most likely base of origin for the "mystery" aircraft would be White Sands Proving Grounds (just a hop, skip and jump by air) in New Mexico.

How often will this happen in the future and will American UFOLOGY sheepishly cover up for official boo-boos?

\*\*\*\*\*

## MEXICO'S 'TRIANGLE'

An isolated stretch of desert in northern Mexico is becoming known as La Zona del Silencio, the Zone of Silence. The Zone derives its name from the discovery of several strips, or bands, in the region where radio waves within the AM RADIO frequencies can be neither sent nor received. First discovered in the mid-1960s by

UFO

JOHN F. SCHUESSLER

P.O. BOX 58485 • HOUSTON, TEXAS 77258  
15 August 1982Coral E. Lorenzen  
APRO  
3910 East Kleindale Road  
Tucson, Ariz. 85712

Dear Coral,

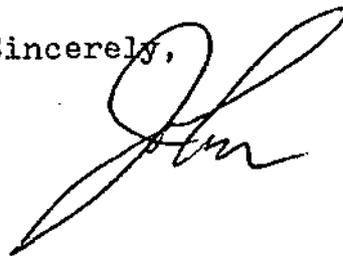
In reply to your letter dated 6 July, I am sorry to hear about your health problem and the resultant problem with workers at your office. That seems to explain some of the actions that were taken and the lack communications at times. I hope everything is under control now.

Admittedly, I was quite upset when the APRO Bulletin carried an article stating APRO knew what the device was at Huffman, Tx on Dec. 29, 1980. Watching Betty, Vickie and Colby suffer for months while all government agencies played dumb has made this a sensitive issue. Fortunately, Bill Moore convinced me during our discussions at Toronto that the story he had given you about the experimental aircraft was interesting, but only a story. I have tried to find a correlation between the story and the event, but without success. It is like a lot of the stories we have encountered relating to helicopter activities (i.e. operations from aircraft carriers in the Gulf, special forces units dispatched to intercept and clean up damaged UFOs, operations from a forward area refueling point, etc.) - all possible, but not verifiable.

You bet I called LT. Col. Sarran of the Army Inspector Gen. Office. There was nothing confidential about something you published in the APRO Bulletin and mailed to the world. He had spent a lot of hours investigating me, VISIT, Betty, Vickie, the local police, the Ellington Nat. Guard unit and who knows who else. So, I thought it was only right that he contact you for the information you publically stated you had in hand. With that information he could have gotten on with admitting government involvement and accepting responsibility for the injuries to the victims. I have been unable to find out what the IG results were; but I can assume they were negative, as usual. Eventually, we may see the documentation if the FOIA is still honored.

I sympathize with you about the people problems that seem to permeate organizations, but I don't think those will ever stop. I feel that we must continue to attack the UFO problem in spite of the other things. Some day the truth must come out. If we spend our energy in a positive manner, that day will be sooner rather than later.

Sincerely,



Dist: Sameas 29 June letter.

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MYSTERIES OF MIND SPACE & TIME

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## In next week's issue

In Fairies, demons and aliens we investigate the nature of the strange creatures who have always been with us – in one shape or another. George V, when young, was just one of a long line of witnesses to the terrifying phantom of the Flying Dutchman, the tormented sailor who, it is said, sold his soul to the Devil. We look at the legend. Who was Robin Hood? And why was he an outlaw? We search the records and make some fascinating discoveries. In the Trulli of Alberobello the symbols on the towers reveal the evidence of dark forces at work. And in Origins of the zodiac a wealth of little-known symbolism is discovered in the signs of Cancer, Leo and Virgo.

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# Anguish of the UFO victims

In one of a flurry of UFO sightings at the end of 1980, three people in Texas received injuries that resembled severe radiation poisoning. JOHN SCHUESSLER continues his report on the gruesome events at Huffman



A CLOSE ENCOUNTER with an unidentified object can be a dangerous rather than an exciting experience, as three people discovered on a lonely road in Texas, USA, on 29 December 1980. On that evening when Betty Cash, Vickie Landrum and young Colby Landrum met up with a large diamond-shaped UFO on their way home, they had no idea that the event would change their lives. All three were injured by the encounter, and since that evening their health has continued to deteriorate.

When they stopped the car and got out to look at the UFO, the object was less than 55 yards (50 metres) away. It gave out so much heat that they were bathed in perspiration and their skin burned. The light that came from it was so bright that it hurt their eyes, and they were alarmed by its shrill beeping and by the bursts of flame it emitted. And this was only the beginning . . .

When the UFO departed, Betty drove Vickie and Colby to their home in Dayton. As she got out of the car Vickie said, 'My head hurts and I'm sick.' By midnight she felt worse. By that time both she and Colby had developed a condition similar to severe sunburn; they felt feverish and started to vomit. Later diarrhoea started and was uncontrollable for many days. They also experienced severe headaches.

Vickie attempted to treat their burns with



baby oil, but it took several days, and several bottles of oil, to bring the pain under control. She and Colby also consumed several bottles of commercial medicine intended to prevent diarrhoea, but without success. The headaches also refused to respond to any treatment. After three weeks the severity of their illness subsided, but the symptoms continued to recur over the following year.

Since their encounter with the UFO Vickie and Colby have been plagued by periodic outbreaks of skin troubles, as if they were more susceptible to infection than before. But the most far-reaching injury has been the damage to their eyes. Their eyelids became infected very rapidly, and have never fully recovered. Since the incident Vickie has had to have three new pairs of spectacles with successively stronger prescriptions to match the deterioration in her eyesight. Her eyesight is continuing to deteriorate and she still suffers from periodic eye infections; she fears she may eventually go blind. Colby too has experienced similar problems with his eyes, although he has needed only one new pair of spectacles since the incident.

Within a few weeks of the encounter Vickie had lost about 30 per cent of her hair, and had large bald patches on her head.

When her hair grew again it was of a different texture. 'It is frizzy,' she says, 'but more manageable.' Colby lost only a small patch of hair on the crown of his head; this, too, grew again in time.

Betty's injuries seemed even more severe than those of Vickie and Colby. 'The blinding headache that developed within an hour or so made me feel like I was going to die,' she said. She experienced a severe sunburn-like condition, and developed large water blisters, some as large as golf balls, over her face, head and neck. One of these covered her right eyelid and extended across her right temple. She also developed a long-term aversion to warm water, sunshine or other heat source.

Betty had been an energetic woman. She ran a restaurant and a grocery store, and she had been planning to open a larger restaurant. Two years later she was still physically drained. In the year following the encounter she spent five periods in hospital, two of them in intensive care. Within four weeks of the encounter she had lost over half the hair on her head. Although it grew again slowly the texture of the new hair was not the same as that of the original hair. Betty has also been plagued with skin eruptions; many

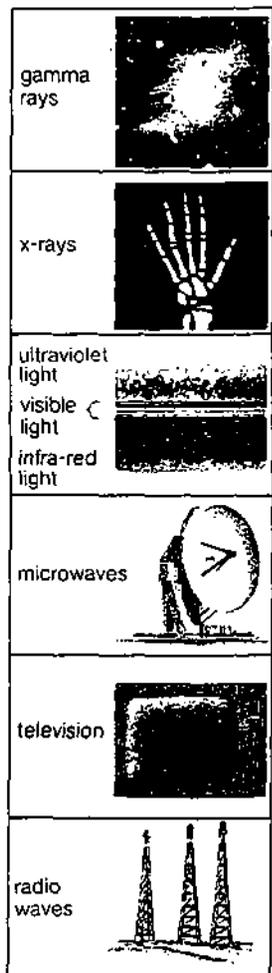
Two months after her encounter with the UFO Betty Cash (left) had lost much of her hair. She was also suffering from skin blisters, nausea and severe headaches. A year and a half after the event Vickie Landrum (far left) still exhibited signs of facial burns and (below left) skin sores

## Sickening waves

Electromagnetic radiation consists of waves of energy of varying lengths and frequencies spanning a spectrum from radio waves to gamma rays (right). Moving up the spectrum the wavelength decreases and the frequency increases. The spectrum also divides into ionising radiation (gamma rays, x-rays and ultraviolet) and non-ionising (infra-red, microwaves, television and radio waves). It is ionising radiation that is potentially most damaging to living tissue. Exposure to ionising radiation can cause skin burns, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, loss of hair, lowered resistance to infection, headaches, fatigue, and other problems.

The sunburn-type injuries inflicted in the Huffman incident could be described as typical of exposure to ultraviolet radiation. They could also have been caused by x-rays or microwaves. The eye injuries could have been caused by any type of radiation, but they are most commonly seen in cases of ultraviolet exposure. Workers exposed to microwaves have also suffered damage to the tissues of the eye.

Microwave exposure produces symptoms similar to those of ionising radiation; it often produces an easily irritated skin such as Betty, Vickie and Colby experienced. If the microwave is pulsed,



ionising radiation

non-ionising radiation



its effects are more harmful. Some devices that pulse microwaves also produce x-rays, and this combination could account for most of the injuries seen in the Huffman case.

Radiation damage is difficult to diagnose. Radiation burns (above) can be mistaken for more commonplace injuries such as sunburn. Even more difficult to predict are the long-term effects. Once exposed, an individual may develop diseases such as leukaemia up to 20 years later. Colby's grandmother Vickie is deeply worried about these potential future problems, and doctors can give her little reassurance.

of these are as big as a large coin and leave the skin permanently scarred.

Doctors are baffled by Betty's symptoms, and are convinced they are not connected with her earlier heart surgery. They have speculated that the symptoms exhibited by all three victims could have been caused by exposure to some type of electromagnetic radiation (see box).

Betty, Vickie and Colby not only suffered physical injuries from their encounter with the UFO; they also exhibit strong emotional disturbances as a result of their experience. Whenever they recount the events of that evening, or return to the place where they saw the object, they become very upset. Colby had terrifying nightmares for several weeks after the encounter, and during a re-enactment of the event set up by investigators he developed a high temperature and fever. 'He was so terrified,' said Vickie, 'I thought he would die of fright.'

Neither woman has fully recovered from the experience, nor been able to return to work. The consequent loss of income has been devastating for them. Even if they were not prevented from working by their poor eyesight and general debilitation, it would be impossible for them to work in the food service industry because of their continuing skin eruptions. Doctors are unable to predict when their condition will improve.

Betty, Vickie and Colby were not the only people to report seeing a UFO in the Huffman area on the evening of 29 December 1980.

Betty Cash, Vickie Landrum and her young grandson Colby Landrum a year and a half after they saw the UFO that changed their lives



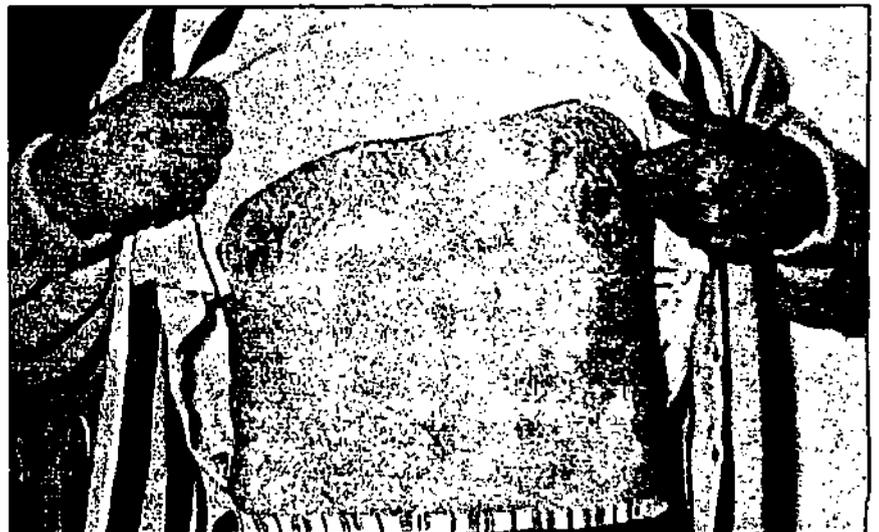
Several residents of the small east Texas towns of Eastgate, Dayton and Liberty (all lying on an east-west line running from Humble, Texas, to the Louisiana border) reported seeing UFOs within two hours of the Huffman incident (see page 2121). The countryside in this part of Texas is sparsely

Early one morning in December 1967, Maryellen Kelley was outside her home in Mohomet, Illinois, USA, when she saw a large orange UFO. The object was about 40 yards (36 metres) away and flying about 50 to 65 feet (15 to 20 metres) above the ground. As soon as she saw the object, Mrs Kelley felt an electric shock go through her body. She developed a severe headache (which refused to respond to treatment), her face reddened, her hands and legs were burned, her eyes became bloodshot and her vision was affected. She also developed earache in her left ear, nosebleeds, pains in the chest and excessive thirst. Although her exposure was of short duration, her injuries endured for a long time. The incident was described in *Fate* magazine in May 1969.

In Finland in November 1976, 19-year-old Eero Lammi was knocked to the ground by a luminous ray from a UFO and suffered burns to the chest. His injuries were similar to those of a 20-year-old man from Tyler, Texas, who was hit in the chest by a luminous ray from a UFO in January 1979. His chest was marked by a large diamond-shaped burn for many months (right).

## Burnt and bewildered

In August 1972, *Data Net Report* described how Osvaldo d'Annunzio (19 years old) was paralysed by a low-flying UFO, so that he was unable to run away. His face was severely burned, and he suffered afterwards from violent headaches. He commented: 'The cows in the surrounding meadows changed colour and did not resume their true colour until after the UFO's departure.'



populated and dotted with forest and marshlands.

On the day before the Huffman event a number of residents of Ohio county, Kentucky, reported seeing strange objects in the sky. Two young observers were six-year-old twins Jason and Jesse Williams, who said they saw four silver 'triangle things' flying at low altitude; two of the things flew on together, while the other two flew off in different directions.

Also on 28 December 1980 deputy sheriff Frank Chinn of Echols, Kentucky, told a local newspaper he saw 'an upside-down diamond' with flashing lights around the middle. His description of its shape, brightness and low speed corresponded with the description of the object seen at the Huffman incident. This was one of six UFOs sighted at about 5.30 p.m. that day.

A young Houstonian, Jan Moffett, believed she saw the same object seen by Betty and the others near Huffman. She was en route to North Dakota when she saw a big bright light coming down from the sky north of Houston. Unfortunately she lost sight of the object when it neared the ground, because it was obscured by the trees covering the area. Others also saw the bright light. A man and his 12-year-old son, who were travelling eastwards in the vicinity of New Caney, Texas, said they saw the object only a short distance away, flying about 150 feet (45 metres) above the road. When they accelerated to get closer to it, the object turned

away from the road and headed north. According to these two observers, the UFO was bright, rectangular and flew slowly. It was larger than an aeroplane.

Betty, Vickie and Colby originally agreed not to tell other people about what they had seen, for fear they would be thought crazy. 'It was just too weird to mention,' said Vickie, 'but we didn't know then we had been hurt.' They eventually broke their pact of secrecy to tell the doctors who were treating them what had caused their injuries.

Vickie has been concerned to establish what really happened that fateful evening, primarily to ensure that Colby will receive the correct treatment and be able to grow up healthy. She is not concerned about, or interested in, other UFO sightings at the time. Betty shows rather more interest in the other sightings, but her continuing illness prevents her grasping the full significance of these events.

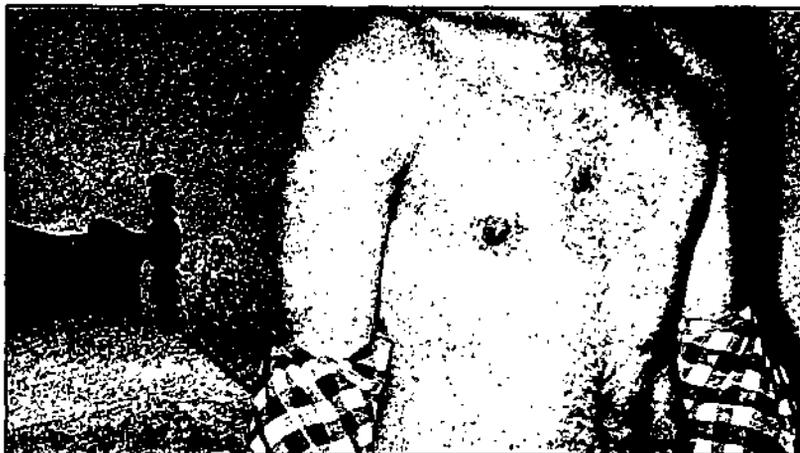
There seems to be no doubt that on the evening of 29 December 1980 the three of them encountered a brightly lit flying object and a large number of helicopters, and that as a result of this encounter all three have sustained lasting physical and emotional damage. In the past they used to make fun of people who claimed to have seen UFOs. They are still sceptical, but they no longer find it a joking matter.

*UFO or US secret weapon? Which was it the victims saw? See page 2198*



Left: in England a Plymouth girl was burned on the hand by the light from a UFO on 10 September 1981. This picture was taken two days later

In Canada, Steve Michalak was out in the countryside one weekend in May 1967 when he encountered a cigar-shaped object emitting a brilliant, purple light, near Falcon Lake about 75 miles (120 kilometres) east of Winnipeg. He received burns on his face and chest (below) and subsequently experienced nausea, vomiting, weight loss, weakness, diarrhoea, dizziness and blackouts. Mr Michalak eventually made a full recovery from the effects of the encounter, as did most of the other victims.



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## In next week's issue

Ruth 'saw' her father who wasn't there, mystics see everything as one – and animals such as dolphins 'see' by sonar. In **Ruth and reality** we look at the sheer variety of 'realities'. **Geraldine Cummins** was a playwright, but it was her talent for automatic writing that made her famous; we assess the work of this intelligent medium. In **Fairies, demons and aliens** we investigate some controversial experiments in which the role of the imagination seems suspiciously important in alleged UFO abduction cases. The occult meanings of the signs of **Libra, Scorpio and Sagittarius** are revealed in **Origins of the zodiac**; and our new series, **Rituals of magic**, examines the universality of ritual – and its horrifying effect when intentionally used against one's enemies!

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# Five easy pieces

**Hoax, hallucination or secret military operation? To establish exactly what happened at the Huffman UFO sighting in Texas, investigators produced five possible scenarios. JOHN SCHUESSLER concludes his report**

AS A RESULT of their encounter with a bizarre object on 29 December 1980 Betty Cash, Vickie Landrum and her young grandson Colby suffered serious injuries. Despite continuing investigations, a satisfactory explanation for the events of that evening had still not been found by mid 1982. Members of the Houston-based Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team (VISIT) called in to examine the case at first approached it with extreme caution. However preliminary investigations provided basic information of a kind that suggested the case merited serious attention.

Drawing on this initial basic information the VISIT members created a series of 'scenarios' of possible interpretations of the events of that night; these have formed the basis for extensive enquiries.

*Scenario 1* In this scenario Betty, Vickie and Colby had set out to have an enjoyable evening at a bingo game. Disappointed to find all the bingo clubs closed, they were feeling let down as they drove home after a meal at a New Caney restaurant. The dark, lonely road also made them feel jittery, and

When Betty, Vickie and Colby encountered the UFO they counted up to 23 helicopters accompanying it. Some were CH-47s, the large double rotor type that so frightened Colby, others were smaller, faster single rotor craft similar to the ones shown here

they began making jokes about the lights of the distant aeroplanes they could see in the sky. One thing led to another, and soon they were saying that the lights could be UFOs. Confirmed scoffers, they decided to invent a UFO story to match those they had read in the newspapers. To make it seem more 'official', they added the helicopters: they then rushed home to tell their friends.

Scenario 1 was the starting point for the whole investigation. Until VISIT could be certain that this scenario was false there was no reason to proceed. And analysis soon showed that it did not stand up.

In the first place, all three victims had sustained serious physical injuries that had been verified by doctors. Furthermore a number of independent witnesses had also reported seeing the UFO and helicopters that evening. Interviews with friends and colleagues of the three victims failed to produce any indication that the story might be invented, or any suggestion that the three were prone to this kind of hoax.

In fact the three had made no attempt to tell their friends about the incident, fearing they would not be believed; nor had they approached the press. When the story leaked out and newsmen asked for an interview, this was granted free of charge. All three cooperated freely with VISIT even when this proved personally embarrassing.

*Scenario 2* The three were driving home when they met a UFO blocking the road, making it impossible for them to proceed. This was not a chance encounter but a





planned abduction, which may have lasted for as long as 20 minutes. While they were in the UFO the three victims had the idea implanted in their minds that government helicopters would fill the sky after the event, making them think they were involved in some kind of military exercise. In this scenario the UFO and the injuries were real, but not the helicopters.

Parts of this scenario stand up under scrutiny while others do not. Independent UFO sightings in and around the Huffman area, across Texas and in adjoining states during the same period suggest that the UFO was indeed a physical craft. The victims were certainly injured, possibly by the craft.

But no evidence could be found that an abduction had taken place. A few months after the incident Vickie agreed to undergo regressive hypnosis under the guidance of Dr R. Leo Sprinkle of Wyoming University. An authority on abduction cases, Dr Sprinkle said he found no indications that Vickie had been abducted. Betty did not undergo hypnosis because her doctors feared it might put too great a strain upon her heart.

VISIT decided that there had been no abduction. Since other witnesses had also testified to seeing the helicopters, it was concluded that the only part of scenario 2 that was true was the part about the UFO and the injuries.

*Scenario 3* In this scenario the huge UFO was carrying smaller UFOs and dispensing them near the city of Houston. Betty, Vickie and Colby happened along just in time to interrupt the operation and were accidentally injured. Rather than risk having the three observers talk about what they had seen, the UFO operators made them (by holographic means, mind control or hypnosis) see the smaller UFOs as helicopters. The UFO operators were probably unaware that the victims

Vickie undergoing regressive hypnosis under the guidance of Dr R. Leo Sprinkle, in an attempt to discover whether she had been abducted by UFO operators. Since no evidence of abduction was found, VISIT concluded that the idea of the helicopters had not been 'implanted' in the victims' minds

had been injured, and hoped they would accept the sight of helicopters as unremarkable, and say no more about them. (This scenario was suggested by an investigator for the Aerial Phenomena Research Organisation of Tucson, Arizona.)

Since the late 1960s there have been a number of cases in which it was not clear whether UFOs or helicopters were involved. At the Huffman event it appears that a UFO and helicopters were interacting in some way. The victims saw the helicopters at Huffman while the UFO was nearby and also after it had moved several miles away; other witnesses saw the helicopters without the UFO, or the UFO without the helicopters. As a result of all these sightings VISIT concluded that the helicopters were not camouflaged UFOs.

*Scenario 4* Betty, Vickie and Colby encountered a UFO in trouble; it was operating an emergency system (the cone of fire) to overcome the problem and get it on its way again. Two hours earlier the same craft had been seen over Dayton and Liberty flying like a spaceship in trouble; it had been tracked on radar until it dipped too low to be seen, when a military team was sent to investigate. The team had CH-47 heavy lift helicopters to carry troops to cordon off a crash scene, and equipment to neutralise any problem; the smaller helicopters were gunships for protection. When the UFO regained control and made for the coast, the lead helicopters stayed close to it to collect data. Other helicopters held back, in case the UFO should try to land, or should crash.

Research for this scenario produced a number of other UFO sightings involving triangular or diamond-shaped objects, but only a few of these belched flames from the underside for a prolonged period. This seemed to support the idea that the Huffman

One day in April 1981 a CH-47 helicopter flew into Dayton, Colby Landrum's home town. As the little boy watched the aircraft fly overhead, he became very upset and agitated, because it was the same type of helicopter he had seen near Huffman the previous December. To allay his fears his grandmother Vickie decided to take him to the place where the helicopter had landed, in the hope that it would seem less frightening on the ground.

When they reached the landing zone they found a lot of other people already there, and had to wait some time before they were allowed to go inside the helicopter and talk to the pilot. Vickie and another visitor both claim that the pilot

## Adding insult to injury

said he had been in the area before for the purpose of checking on a UFO reported in trouble near Huffman. When Vickie told the pilot how happy she was to meet him, because she was one of the people burned by the UFO, he refused to talk to them any further and hustled them out of the aircraft.

VISIT later located the pilot and questioned him. He admitted to knowing about Vickie's and Betty's encounter with the UFO, but maintained that he had not been in the area in December, and had had nothing to do with any UFO. Unless another pilot decides to speak up, it seems that the source of the helicopters reported at Huffman will remain shrouded in mystery.

UFO was in trouble. Moreover, people close to a UFO seldom suffer the dire injuries experienced in the Huffman incident, and this suggests that the injuries were caused by a system that was not operating properly.

One possible explanation for the helicopters is that a military team was co-operating with the UFO. If that was the case, it seems possible that similar incidents had occurred in the past, and that this was a fairly routine operation. It might also suggest that a NATO-like pact exists between the US government and the UFO operators, under which a craft in trouble might issue an emergency call for help. However, it has to be said that the US government refuses to acknowledge that UFOs exist, nor is there any evidence that such a mutual aid pact exists.

*Scenario 5* In this scenario the whole affair was a government classified operation and was mistaken by the witnesses for a UFO encounter. The helicopters could have been transported to the Houston area from any base in the USA or central America, and could have been taking part in anything from an annual training exercise to some special operations simulation. The 'UFO' might have been a power plant, a weapons system or an electronic countermeasures system, and it might have been slung from a helicopter or flown by remote control. The injuries could have been caused by a powerful pulsed microwave system, or by exposure to some fuel, defoliant or other unidentified liquid.

As far as this scenario is concerned, the US government categorically refuses to acknowledge ownership of the helicopters seen over Huffman on 29 December 1980. Nor were there any commercial operations involving helicopters of the heavy lift type along the Gulf coast at that time. Since six witnesses have positively identified the helicopters, and since no one will accept responsibility for them, it must be assumed that this was a secret operation and that the welfare of the victims was of secondary importance. Vickie Landrum is quite certain that scenario 5 is the correct one. The UFO was not, she says, 'from outer space with little green men, that's for sure. If the government doesn't know about it, they better find out.'

VISIT has taken steps to make things easier for future victims of UFO encounters. When Betty and Vickie first sought help, they could find no one willing to take an interest in their case. VISIT has now produced a UFO Alert Card, which is distributed to the media and police within a 150-mile (240-kilometre) radius of Houston. Even when the women did find medical help, there was no information available to their doctors about injuries sustained in earlier UFO encounters. VISIT is now researching such injuries and hopes to produce a check-list for use by doctors and UFO investigators in future incidents.

In their initial attempts to get help after their alarming and damaging experience, Betty and Vickie could find no one willing to take an interest in their case. To make things easier for future victims, VISIT produced this UFO Alert Card, which is distributed to the media and police within a 150-mile (240-kilometre) radius of Houston

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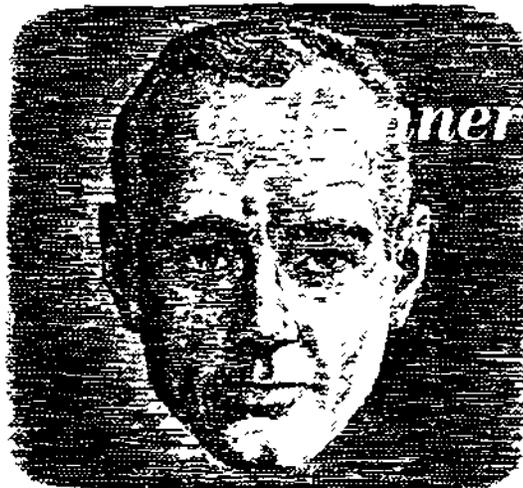
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# VICTIMS OF A CLOSE ENCOUNTER

Three Texans in the wrong place at the wrong time suffer grave injuries from a UFO.

By John F. Schuessler

ON THE EVENING of Monday, December 29, 1980, three persons—two women and a young boy—were riding in a 1980 Oldsmobile Cutlass near Huffman, a town in eastern Texas not far from Houston.

The driver was Betty Cash, a 51-year-old businesswoman who operated a roadside restaurant and an adjoining food market near Dayton. A person with unbounded energy and a drive to succeed, she was to open a new and larger restaurant the very next week—a plan that would be interrupted by the bizarre incident that was about to occur.

Vickie Landrum was in the right-hand seat. Mrs. Landrum, an employee in the restaurant owned by Mrs. Cash, was a 57-year-old grandmother, in good health, with a quick wit and pleasant personality. Her life revolved around her grandson Colby, of whom she had legal custody. Her days were filled with working in the restaurant, going to



More than three years after their UFO sighting, witnesses Betty Cash (right), Vickie and Colby Landrum continue to have serious medical problems.

church, taking care of her family duties and raising Colby. About her only source of entertainment was an occasional game of bingo.

The third occupant was Colby Landrum, an active and healthy seven-year-old. A lover of sports, he was active in baseball, bowling, dirt-bike riding and fishing and he was good at all of them. He was also a good student.

The three had set out to find a bingo game. Mrs. Landrum, excited about having a short break in her busy routine,

UFO was accompanied by helicopters resembling this CH-47 Chinook used by army and air force. Yet officials deny any knowledge of incident.



persuaded Mrs. Cash to try bingo also. First, however, Mrs. Cash had to go to a nearby town to pay rent on some property. Then they drove to a number of small towns in the area expecting to find a bingo game. Instead they found everyone busily preparing for the upcoming New Year's Eve celebration. They stopped at a roadside restaurant both to eat and to enable Mrs. Cash to size up the competition. Later they drove along the darkened highway reminiscing about events of the past. It had been a good day.

At about 9:00 P.M. they were driving along Highway FM1485. The sky had partially cleared and the moon was visible in the night sky. Ahead they could see a very bright light above the tall pine trees. As they got closer, the light moved over the road as if it were going to land. Then flames belched from the bottom of the craft. Mrs. Landrum described it as a cone of fire like a rocket blast.

Mrs. Cash abruptly stopped the car on the highway and she and the others stared intently at the object. They would later describe it as a "diamond of fire." It was huge, the size of the water tower in nearby Dayton, Tex., where they lived, and it was brilliantly lit.

Although the night was a chilly 40

degrees, their car warmed rapidly and they got out and stood staring at the object. Mrs. Landrum, on the right-hand side of the car, stood with her hand on the car top and never took her eyes off the strange craft. All the while Colby, terrified, pleaded with her to return to the car and hold him, and soon she did. Mrs. Cash walked to the front of the car, shielding her eyes with her arm as she continued to observe the object.

The object hovered over the highway for several minutes, intermittently blasting flame downward and emitting a beeping sound all the while. The witnesses never called this thing a flying saucer or UFO. The investigators who subsequently researched the case have used the term UFO because the phenomenon the three witnesses saw was, literally, an unidentified flying object. Some investigators believe it was a terrestrial craft owned by an earthly government, presumably ours; others think it could be from somewhere else than earth because of the way it flew and the effects it caused. Interestingly, Mrs. Landrum's strong religious convictions have led her to reject the concept of life elsewhere; she says, "It wasn't little green men. It was one of ours."

After a period of seven to 10 minutes

Mrs. Cash moved back to enter the car. But she discovered the door handle was too hot to touch and so she used her leather coat as a hot pad to open the door.

The bright object stopped belching flames, then slowly rose and moved away over the trees. As it flew away, helicopters appeared over the area as if in pursuit.

But that wasn't the end of the incident. Mrs. Cash started the car and sped away through the dark, intent on returning to the safety of the city. The road twisted and turned and eventually they arrived at a larger, more open highway. It had been about five minutes since the UFO moved out of sight. But now, just ahead of them, they again saw the object, this time in the company of a large number of helicopters. At this point Mrs. Cash, not wanting to get any closer to the thing, pulled off the road and waited.

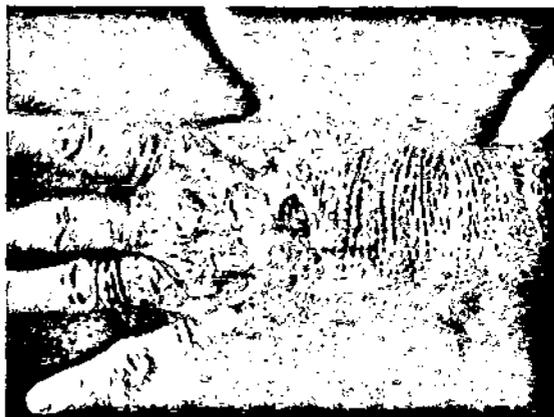
Several of the helicopters were flying erratically around the object as if trying to hem it in or closely observe it. Others

held back and flew along in groups. One of the helicopters—there were 23 in all—came close to their car, again scaring Colby and the two women.

The stop-and-start game continued along the road until the object was far away from the connecting roads. Finally the trio escaped from the area and fled home to Dayton.

**I**N THE COURSE of their sighting the three witnesses had felt the heat from the object and were sensitive to the bright light. As they drove home, they developed headaches and grew increasingly disturbed by the events of the evening.

During the night their symptoms grew worse. Colby vomited and Mrs. Landrum found he was very red, as if suffering from severe sunburn. But that was impossible—the day had been overcast and cool, with intermittent drizzle. Mrs. Landrum was alarmed to find that she too was burned; in fact her burn was worse than Colby's. Large water blisters formed on her face and



Among injuries witnesses suffered was this burn on back of Mrs. Landrum's hand. As UFO hovered overhead, the observers were enveloped in heat, even though night was cool and crisp; they developed symptoms resembling those caused by severe sunburn.



After the encounter, Betty Cash lost patches of hair. She and her companions, who believe a secret experimental aircraft caused their problems, instituted a \$20 million suit against the United States government in January 1984.

head and her eyes swelled closed.

New Year's Eve and the following day were lost as far as the victims were concerned. They could not eat. Even water made them sick. They got diarrhea and their health continued to decline.

Finally Mrs. Landrum asked a relative to take Mrs. Cash to Parkway Hospital in Houston, where she was treated as a burn patient. It was the first of many hospital sessions for Mrs. Cash, sessions that were necessary just to keep her alive. A summary of the witnesses' medical problems follows:

**Betty Cash:** Eyes swollen shut, painful and watery; eyesight permanently damaged; stomach pains; vomiting, diarrhea; sores, scarring and loss of skin pigmentation; excessive hair loss, with regrowth of a different texture; loss of appetite, loss of energy, loss of weight; increased brittleness of bones; and development of cancer after two years.

**Vickie Landrum:** Skin burned,

scarred; eyes swollen, watery, vision permanently impaired; hair loss, with regrowth of a different texture; stomach pains, vomiting, diarrhea; fingernails damaged; loss of appetite, loss of energy; impaired immunological system; and sores and infections.

**Colby Landrum:** Burned skin; slight hair loss, with regrowth; stomach pains, vomiting, diarrhea; weight loss and energy loss for over a year; increase in tooth cavities; vision impaired; increase in infections, fevers and colds.

**T**HE WITNESSES described two different kinds of helicopters. Some were of the small, single-rotor variety; most, however, were large, double-rotor helicopters with four wheels on the bottom. Because of the light cast by the UFO, the moon and the helicopters' running lights, the craft were clearly visible.

To investigators the presence of helicopters was a sign that someone in

an official position knew about the incident and perhaps had information that could aid in the treatment of the victims. But that help never materialized.

A check with aviation authorities showed that the only twin-rotor helicopters in service at the time of the event were assigned to military agencies. Of the 450 or so civilian helicopters along the Gulf coast, all were single-rotor.

The twin-rotor helicopters were probably CH-47 Chinooks, manufactured by the Vertol Division of Boeing Aircraft. They are assigned to Fort Hood, Ellington Air Force Base and NAS Dallas, all in Texas, as well as to other installations in other parts of the country. None of the installations in the area admitted to knowing anything about helicopters flying near Huffman, Tex., on that fateful night.

The U.S. Army Inspector General's Office sent an investigator, Lt. Col. George Sarran, to Houston to look into the allegation that military helicopters were indeed involved in the incident. Investigator Sarran concluded that something did happen to the victims but he could not verify that military helicopter activity had taken place on the date of the incident.

Other individuals also reported seeing the helicopter activity. A policeman and his wife said they saw at least 12 CH-47 helicopters in that exact area. A man in Crosby, Tex., along the reported flight path, witnessed the passage of a large group of military helicopters at the time and date in question.

Because of the claims of military involvement, Senators John Tower and Lloyd Bentsen urged the victims to go to a Texas air force base and file a claim for damages. Acting on the suggestion,

the women made an appointment and went to Bergstrom Air Force Base where they gave a statement and obtained claim papers. Later attorney Peter Gersten filed the claims but they were rejected because the victims did not "prove" the UFO or the helicopters belonged to the U.S. government. There the matter rests.

In the absence of firm answers, what can we conclude?

Betty Cash, Vickie Landrum and Colby Landrum were innocent victims who have suffered terribly because they were in the wrong place at the wrong time. The object they saw was flying at a low altitude in a major metropolitan area. Many thousands of others could have suffered in a similar manner in the nearby cities. Maybe others *did* suffer without knowing the cause.

Something happened to three solid, decent persons near Huffman, Tex., on December 29, 1980—something that harmed them and changed their lives forever. Their experience is important to all of us because it could happen again—and it could happen to any of us.

*In January 1984 the three witnesses filed suit in federal court in Houston, asking \$20 million in damages from the United States government. Their attorney Peter Gersten told reporters, "We're assuming [the UFO] is a government device because of the presence of helicopters." The suit seeks to force the government, which denies knowing anything about the incident, to reveal what the object was so that doctors will know what kinds of injuries they are dealing with. The plaintiffs also want the government to pay their medical costs.*