

TX  
US 1229-1980-0005

Letters to the Editor

With special thanks to all of the MUFON Group:

February 26, 1986

Just a note to thank all of you for your very hard and time consuming work that you have done for Vickie, Colby (Landrum) and myself. Without each of you, I really don't know what we would have done.

Please accept my apologies for such people that you have to listen to such as Steuart Campbell. People like that are to be pitied. He said he even doubted our credibility -- well I doubt his mentality. All I can say is that it is such a shame it was us. It should have been him and then we would see if he would have said it was a star. Just one day of what we have suffered would have been too much for him -- not even speaking of the years.

May God bless each and everyone of you for your great work.

(signed) Betty Cash



Mr Walter H. Andrus  
5 All of Myson Group  
103 Oldtowne Road  
Sequin, Texas 78155

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Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> 1986

To All of the MUFON group.

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Great Work.

Betty Cash

# TECHNICAL REVIEW OF RADIATION EVIDENCE IN CASH-LANDRUM CASE

By Paul Stowe  
(MUFON Research Specialist in  
Nuclear Technology)

The physical injuries sustained in the UFO encounter known as the Cash-Landrum Event (No. 158, April 1981) appears highly symptomatic of acute radiation sickness. Dependent upon the level of the exposure, any or all of the following symptoms would occur:

1. Blood changes (reduced white blood count and anemia); Nausea and vomiting; 3. Diarrhea; 4. General fatigue; 5. Loss of body hair; 6. Bloody diarrhea and/or vomiting; 7. Convulsions and death.

Secondary effects are 1. Chills; 2. Local hemorrhaging; 3. Secondary infections; 4. Increased risk of all forms of cancer.

The level at which each of the above symptoms will occur in any given individual will vary based on personal resistance and health at the time of exposure. The general range list in Table 1 is based on observed data gathered by the Department of Defense (DOD).

## Vehicle E-M, Continued

California, 1976) p. 56 & pp. 57-58.

9. *UFO Interference With Automobile Electrical Systems, Part 1, Headlights*, J. McCampbell (CUFOS, Chicago, 1976) p. 164.

10. *Further Evidence of UFO Radiation*, J. McCampbell (MUFON UFO Symposium Proceeding, Seguin, Texas 1977) pp. 25-32.

11. *The UFO Enigma*, D.H. Menzel & E.H. Taves (Doubleday, New York, 1977) pp. 103 & 107.

12. *Vehicle Interference Report*, Compiled by G. Falla (BUFORA, London, 1979).

13. *UFOs-A British Viewpoint*, J. Randles & P. Warrington, (Robert Hale, London, 1979) p. 118-119 & p. 127.

14. *The Encyclopedia of UFOs*, R.D. Story, Ed. (New English Library, London, 1980), p. 111.

15. *UFO Reports Involving Vehicle Interference*, M. Rodeghier, (CUFOS, Chicago, 1981) p. ix, & pp. 132-133.

16. *Size, Distance, and Duration Parameters of the Ignition Interference Effect*, D.A. Johnson (Abstracts of papers to be presented to CUFOS Conference, 1981).

17. *Searching for Patterns in EM UFO sightings*, P. McMahon (unpublished, 1982).

Table 1. Range of radiation exposure vs. symptoms (DOD data).

0-50 rem:	No observable effect
50-100 rem:	Blood changes and at the upper limit, possible radiation sickness (i.e., nausea, diarrhea, and vomiting), mild
100-200 rem:	Onset of radiation sickness with increasing severity, upper ranges, possible loss of body hair
200-300 rem:	Radiation sickness with accompanying first instances of death occurring within 30 days
300-450 rem:	Range considered as LD-50/30 indicating expected 50% of the exposed population will die of physiological damage and complication within 30 days
600-900 rem:	Range considered as LD-100/30, 100% of the exposed population will die within 30 days
5000 rem:	Neurological damage causing immediate incapacitation, convulsions, and death

In the Cash-Landrum case, the observers exhibited radiation sickness of varying severity as well as a local skin burn. The skin burn gives a further clue to the energy of the emitted radiation. For a surface burn to be observed on a person at the distance of 175 feet, the radiation might have been in the spectra of ultraviolet to the soft x-ray region. In this region, the principal radiation interaction is the photoelectric effect which produced the observed burn as well as the sensation of heat.

From the physiological injuries and observed skin burn, it is apparent that a delivered exposure of between 200-300 rem occurred in the observation period of not greater than ten minutes. From this data, the power of the emission can be calculated. For the calculation, it was assumed that the distance from the object was 175 feet and the exposure rate was 1200 rem/hr for a ten-minute period. To further simplify the calculation, it is further assumed that a monoenergetic gamma/X-ray of 50 keV was emitted from an isotropic point source. Working backward to the

source of the total gamma/X-ray emission, total power could be obtained. The total gamma/X-ray power appears to be around 50 kw.

The amount of power emitted in this fashion can give insight to the possible source of power employed. Several man-made devices will emit radiation in this range and power. These are 1. an unshielded atomic pile; 2. particle accelerators; 3. X-ray devices.

It is possible that the device observed was a military test platform. If this was the case, several types of devices could cause the observed effects such as a nuclear reactor or a large scale magnetohydrodynamic propulsion device. In either case, these devices would require massive shielding (i.e., weight) to make it a manned platform and would therefore most likely dictate that such a test vehicle be remotely piloted for early development. This would require that the pilot be in visual contact with the device, yet maintain sufficient distance to avoid excessive radiation exposure.

(continued on next page)

## Vehicle E-M, Continued

parapsychological effects and suggest that perhaps the witnesses create the effects themselves. Quite a different approach to the early days of metallic discs beaming vehicles to a halt.

In an entry in the 1980 *Encyclopedia of UFOs*,<sup>14</sup> Stanton T. Friedman, under the heading "Electromagnetic Effects of UFOs," in summing up why all UFOs do not manifest EM effects suggests several possible factors:

- \*Effects may depend on distance.
- \*Occupants of UFOs might be testing devices capable of affecting vehicles.
- \*One might need a certain type of object in a certain proximity to a certain type of UFO.

He also stated a need for greater data collection and attempts at duplication of effects in laboratories.

1981 saw the publication of a joint catalogue and analysis by Mark Rodeghier which to date has been the best overall contribution to the subject under study. In his introductory remarks he stated, as have so many before him:

However, I soon discovered that the data that has (sic) been collected about the vehicles involved has (sic) been, to put it charitably, somewhat skimpy for all but a few well documented cases.<sup>15</sup>

Rodeghier presented a catalogue of 441 events which involved land vehicles, together with sources, before proceeding to look at the data. Thorough analyses of a variety of parameters; date, time, duration, size, witnesses, etc., are given. Finally he looked at patterns analysis. Thirty five separate statistically significant correlations were found, with clusters of interesting factors (e.g. the presence of a light beam, control of a vehicle, a physiological effect, or the chasing of a vehicle).

In summarizing his thoughts about the clusters, he commented:

(1) It is unlikely that a natural phenomena (sic) would suddenly begin occurring with some frequency after 1953, when many vehicles had been on the road for dozens of

years before that date.

(2) A natural phenomena would probably not occur preferentially in unpopulated areas.

(3) There is no ready explanation for the avoidance of the daylight hours by EM events...

(4) No relationship was demonstrated between severity of EM effects and distance to the UFO, unexpected for a natural phenomena.

(5) The presence of humanoids in several events is an obvious difficulty.

(6) While a spinning plasma might appear metallic to an individual under certain lighting conditions, it is unlikely that so many witnesses have been unable to determine the true appearance of the phenomenon....These considerations, in conjunction with the existence of two strongly correlated groups of characteristics, argue powerfully against the hypothesis that all EM events are due to unknown natural phenomena.<sup>15</sup>

1981 seemed the year for the commencement of more rigorous examination of the available data. Donald A. Johnson presented a paper to the second CUFOS conference held in Chicago in September of that year. He chose 78 cases which provided details of size, distance, and duration information and analyzed them. Seven clusters of information were found. "The incomplete ignition interference cases were found predominantly in two clusters, both representing encounters with small objects of brief duration. One cluster in which all encounters resulted in stalled vehicles identified cases of high strangeness (occupant and contact reports)."<sup>16</sup>

The most recent study to come to my attention is a currently unpublished one (1982) conducted by Patricia McMahon<sup>17</sup> of the USA who looked for patterns in VIE events. She reiterates a call for better data gathering.

From our review we can see that there have been a multitude of explanations put forward to explain VIE events. A partial listing might read as follows:

- Hoax
- Witness panics
- Psychological
- Intenal stimuli not yet understood (parapsychological)
- External stimuli — natural
- External stimuli — the UFO phenomena

However, and most importantly in my opinion, as pointed out by the Vallee's (1966), BUFORA (1979), Friedman (1980), Rodeghier (1981), and McMahon (1982), the vital thing we still lack is hard data, available to us all. Only a relatively few cases detail exactly what the witnesses did to the vehicle (e.g., did they brake, declutch etc.), what the exact effects were (e.g., did the oil and ignition lights come on when it stalled), and exactly how did the event end (e.g., how did the engine restart).

It appears to me that although pioneering efforts have been made to gather some data, we have insufficient good hard data to hand to really evaluate much more than has been achieved until now.

The remedy is threefold. Firstly, a call to all investigators to comb their files for past VIE cases and ensure they are published. Secondly, for all future events to be carefully investigated, documented and published in full. Thirdly, there is a crying need for someone, or a group of people, to start looking indepth at these cases. They represent a subgroup of reports from which we should be able to retrieve a vast amount of material. If there are any takers for initiating such a study group, either within an organization or just as a loose network of researchers, this author would be interested in joining in.

Note: The author may be contacted at 3 Park Lake Drive, Wynn Vale, South Australia 5127.

### REFERENCES

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2. *Flying Saucers: The Startling Evidence of the Invasion From Outer Space*, C. Lorenzen Signet, New York, 1966) p. 158.
3. *What We Really Know About Flying Saucers*, O. Binder (Fawcett, Greenwich, Conn., 1967) pp. 72-73.
4. *UFOs—Identified*, P. Klass (Random House, New York, 1968) p. 96.
5. *UFOs—An International Scientific Problem*, J. McDonald. (Presented Mar. 12, 1968 at the Canadian Aeronautics and Space Institute, Astronautics Symposium, Montreal) p. 34.
6. *Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects*, University of Colorado (Bantam, New York, 1968) p. 98.
7. *UFOs the Whole Story*, C & J Lorenzen (Signet, New York, 1969) p. 146 & 164.
8. *UFOlogy*, J. McCampbell (Celestial Arts,

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## Radiation, Continued

Although a true unknown cannot be discounted, it is my opinion that this case is due to a military device not responding to flight control signals and the principals in this case observed the device during the subsequent recovery operation.

### Comments on Stowe Analysis

(Mr. Stowe's analysis was reviewed by Dr. Peter Rank, Madison, Wisc., MUFON consultant in Radiology. Excerpts from his review follow.—Ed.)

Mr. Stowe is to be congratulated for the depth of his knowledge and the thoroughness of his analysis. Many of the general principles he has enumerated were used by me in evaluating the Cash/Landrum case, only with less precision.

I would agree totally with Mr. Stowe's analysis on pages 1 and 2. (The portion published here; the balance consisted of physics and mathematical calculations.—Ed.) Mr. Stowe has made certain assumptions which may

or may not be warranted. The first assumption is that the principals in this case suffered total body radiation. This is by no means clear.

I do not believe that a general dosage level can be assigned to the Cash/Landrum case. My reasoning is based upon the observation, to the best of my knowledge, that although both women had symptoms of radiation sickness, there were no well documented changes in the blood and the diarrhea reported was not bloody in nature.

My analysis assumed that ionizing radiation, exact wavelength undetermined, was responsible for most of the symptoms. We also know that the women had exposure to light as well as to infrared waves. As Mr. Stowe points out, some of the erythema of the skin can be attributed to ultraviolet, and some certainly can be attributed to shorter wavelengths with higher energy and of an ionizing nature. The extent to which microwave radiation was involved is not clear, and I was unable to come to a position with regard to it.

The data Mr. Stowe quotes from the Department of Defense are based primarily on the results of total body radiation at Hiroshima, as well as the pioneering research of Dr. Warren Shields, pathologist, who was one of the first investigators into the effects of radiation following World War II. It must be emphasized that our experience with human total body radiation is limited to these wartime episodes, plus a very few radiation accidents at nuclear installations since then.

I have no opinion as to the source of the radiation in the Cash/Landrum case, either military or unidentified, but must certainly agree that any of the three possibilities outlined by Mr. Stowe could be likely. Nevertheless, it must be emphasized that the source of this radiation probably was an instrument that emitted a wide variety of electromagnetic waves. It is therefore misleading to assume that monoenergetic rays of any kind are the principal determinant of the patient's symptoms.

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## Open Letter, Continued

This apology is for the distortion of the sequence of events at the beginning of the sightings (i.e., just after the plane passed Cape Campbell, or about 12:10 a.m., Dec. 31, 1978). As a result of your version of the sequence of events, millions of NOVA viewers now have the impression that (the) pilot called the air traffic controller and asked if there were any blips on his screen because there was a news crew on board the plane. Your distorted version of the sequence "just happens" to lend some support to the conclusion you drew, namely that both the pilot and the controller *knew at the time* that the blips were only a result of weather conditions, yet they did not inform the news crew, but instead allowed the news crew to believe the radar was picking up unknown targets...."UFOs." In other words, your faulty recitation of the event sequence was used by you to imply that the pilot and controller joined in a *de facto* hoax by not telling the

news crew of the "true" nature of the radar targets.....

Apparently in the recitation of pseudo-history of the flight you are trying to set a "tone" for your comments to follow (about how the pilot didn't think the targets were "real" craft since he didn't try to vector the plane away from them)...What is not acceptable is your statement that the controller reported no blips (radar targets--Ed.) until the pilot (a) said there was a TV crew on board and *then*, (b) asked if there were any "interesting blips."

The uninformed listener would assume that you were reciting the actual series of events in a very even-voiced, accurate manner. And yet the Wellington Air Traffic Control tape proves that this was not the actual sequence of events. (Moreover, I know that you have a copy of the Wellington transcript and have read it, very likely more than once.)....(At this point, Dr. Maccabee recounts the actual sequence of events and the air-ground

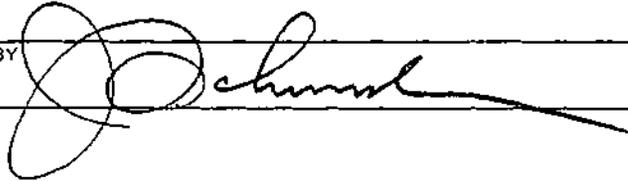
communications from the Wellington tape and analyzes them extensively in comparison to Klass's version.—Ed.)

To summarize, Phil, I think you should apologize for giving the impression that the captain waited until he told the controller about the TV crew before asking about the presence of radar blips, when in fact the captain did not mention the TV crew until 7 minutes after the initial contact with Wellington. Furthermore, you should apologize for giving the impression that the Wellington controller only reported blips because he had been told there was a TV crew aboard and only because the captain asked. Instead, it can be shown that the controller, after the initial contact, reported several radar targets without being prompted by the captain, and before he (controller) was told about the TV crew....

Cordially,  
**Bruce Maccabee**

# VISIT

Venue Internal Systems Investigative Team

SUBJECT/PURPOSE <b>CASH/LANDRUM CASE</b>  <i>Telecon with Betty</i>	DATE OF TELECON/TR/ CONF.  <i>7/10/83</i>
DISCUSSION/COMMENTS (INFO.OBTAINED, CONCLUSIONS)  <i>We have <sup>been</sup> relatively silent on the issues of this case during the time the claim was being evaluated by the U.S. Government. Now, the claim has been rejected "because we did not "prove" the helicopter or the UFO were the responsibility of the US government. Betty has requested we become very vocal again - contacting the media, congress, military, individuals, etc. She feels her health has been badly affected and those who are responsible should not be allowed to ignore their responsibility.</i>	
ACTION REQUIRED  <i>Blitz the media!</i>	
PREPARED BY 	DATE <i>7/10/83</i>

# WISIT

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

SUBJECT/PURPOSE <b>CASH-LANDRUM CASE</b> <b>RECORD OF DISCUSSION @ MUFON SYMPOSIUM</b> <b>J. Schuessler &amp; W. Moore</b>	DATE OF TELECON/TR CONF. <b>2 July 1983</b>
DISCUSSION/COMMENTS (INFO.OBTAINED, CONCLUSIONS)	
<p>Betty Cash and Vickie Landrum asked me to question Bill Moore about his claims of knowledge of their case - information that might help them in their legal proceedings. I had no formal meeting with Bill, but we did have several informal discussions.</p> <p>1. Why does he believe he knows the actual location of the incident - not the location identified by Betty &amp; Vickie? Reply: He cannot answer now. His material is in the hands of someone else for verification.</p> <p>2. Does he really know what the object was and who it belonged to? He had an informant that had started giving him information on several cases. He shared some of that information with Peter Geersten, who later exposed it on national TV. The informant got in trouble and will not cooperate further. That means any information Bill could have gotten is no longer possible.</p>	
PREPARED BY <i>J. Schuessler</i>	DATE <b>7/3/83</b>

Distribution: V. Landrum, B. Cash, W. Moore  
 W. Andrus, P. Geersten  
 P.O. Box 877 • Friendswood, Texas • 77546

(over)

3. Does APPO really have any information that could help Betty & Vicki?  
Possibly so - may also have an informant, but they would maintain the information as confidential, so as not to get anyone in trouble.

4. Bill showed other UFO items with me (not pertaining to the Cash-Landrum case), but requested me not to discuss them; so I'll honor his request, even though he talked openly about them during his public lecture. Since they don't pertain to Cash/Landrum I really don't care about them.

Conclusion: Bill is a pretty good investigator. He talks to a lot of people and asks a lot of questions. He could be a real asset to the investigation; however, he has other priorities, so we cannot depend on him at this time, no matter how important the information is to Cash & Landrum. He may help sometime in the future if it is not too late.

# VISIIT

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

*Andreas*

SUBJECT/PURPOSE	CASH/LANDRUM CASE	DATE OF TELECON/TR/ CONF.	4/17/83
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call to S. Schuessler from Dr. P. Rank

DISCUSSION/COMMENTS (INFO.OBTAINED, CONCLUSIONS)

Dr. Frank Wilson (205) 933-8881 operated on Betty Cash for cancer of the right breast. He called Dr. Rank at Betty's request. Dr. Wilson supplied the following information: Betty's wound is breaking down. There is an indication of previous radiation exposure. She is exhibiting atrophy of the skin with thrombectasias. The skin is thin.

It was considered a good idea for Dr. Wilson to call in a radiographic expert to evaluate approx. how many rads of exposure Betty had seen before further radiation exposure.

Probably saw a superficial dose of 800-1000 rads.

ACTION REQUIRED

LIMITED DISTRIBUTION!

PREPARED BY

*J. Johnson*

DATE

4/17/83

# VISIT

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

SUBJECT/PURPOSE <i>CASH/LANDRUM CASE</i>	DATE OF TELECON /TR/ CONF. <i>4/13/83</i>
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DISCUSSION/COMMENTS (INFO.OBTAINED, CONCLUSIONS)

*Follow-up status report on Betty Cash.*

- 1. Correction to report of 3/29. Betty's cancer was in the right breast, not left.*
- 2. She is at home and fighting back. The method of follow-up treatment has not been determined. She is experiencing problems in the healing process. The skin graft is not attaching. There has been some problem with abscesses.*
- 3. She has been requested to have another bone marrow test. I'll report on it when we have the results.*

**CONFIDENTIAL  
NOT FOR PUBLICATION**

ACTION REQUIRED

PREPARED BY <i>J. Schmitt</i>	DATE <i>4/13/83</i>
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DISTRIBUTION: P. GOSTON, R. PRATT, W. ANDREWS, A. HYNICK  
P. RANK, C. LORENZEN

# VISIIT

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

SUBJECT/PURPOSE <b>CASH/LANDRUM CASE</b>	DATE OF TELECON/TR/ CONF. <b>3/29/83</b>
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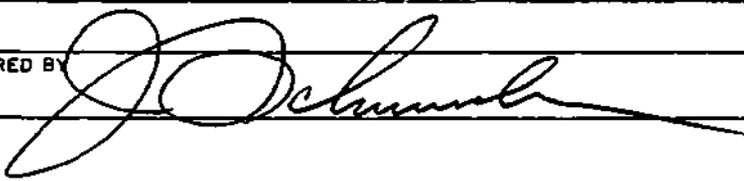
DISCUSSION/COMMENTS (INFO.OBTAINED, CONCLUSIONS)

**BETTY CASH HAS DEVELOPED  
CANCER. SHE UNDERWENT  
SURGERY TODAY FOR THE  
REMOVAL OF THE LEFT BREAST.**

**CONFIDENTIAL  
NOT FOR  
PUBLICATION**

ACTION REQUIRED

DISTRIBUTION  
**P. GERSTEN, R. PRATT,  
 W. ANDRUS, A. HYNICK  
 P. RANK, C. LORENZEN**

PREPARED BY  DATE **3/29/83**

# INVESTIGATOR'S NOTEBOOK

29 DECEMBER 1982

# VISIT

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

The Cash/Landrum incident took place during Monday evening, 29 December 1980. During the incident the three victims were exposed to something that caused lasting physical injury and impairment. Also during the incident the victims reported sighting more than 20 helicopters. Many of the helicopters were of the large twin-rotor type - distinctly military.

During the follow-up investigation Ft. Hood, Ellington AFB, the Inspector General's representative, and others excused the possibility of military helicopter operations during the incident, by stating that military units don't operate during the Christmas holiday period. Ellington people went on step further by stating they fly only on week-ends. VISIT investigators proved both statements to be incorrect by citing specific activities of helicopter units as proof.

Now, two years later, the source of the helicopters that participated in the Cash-Landrum incident is still a mystery. However, helicopter operations continue in the Houston area. On Tuesday, 28 December 1982, a CH-47 Chinook in army markings approached the Clear Lake, Tx. area from the south at 3:01 p.m., made a turn over the Johnson Space Center, and landed at Ellington AFB. Additional CH-47 flights out of Ellington were observed at 6:19 p.m., 6:41 p.m., and 7:19 p.m. Later flights were mixed with F-4 Phantom flights until after 9:30 p.m. Again, CH-47s flew on a week-night and during Christmas week.

End.....

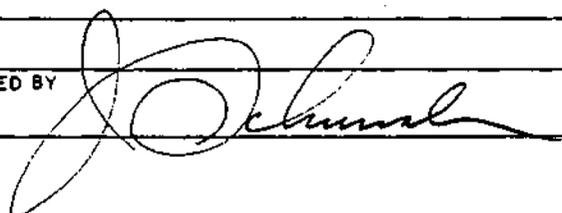
ANDRUS

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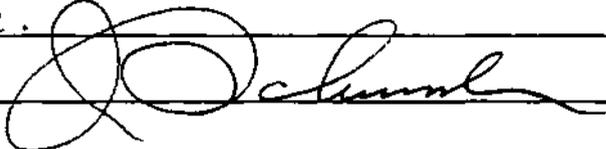
# VISIT

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

SUBJECT/PURPOSE <i>CASH/LANDRUM CASE</i>	DATE OF TELECON /TR/ CONF. <i>9/21/82</i>
DISCUSSION/COMMENTS (INFO.OBTAINED, CONCLUSIONS)  <i>Betty was hospitalized on 18 Sept 82 with symptoms of a light stroke (i.e. numbness in one side of face, arm &amp; leg)</i>  <i>Cat Scan results are not yet in.</i>	
ACTION REQUIRED  <i>Monitor status periodically.</i>	
PREPARED BY 	DATE <i>9/21/82</i>

# VISIT

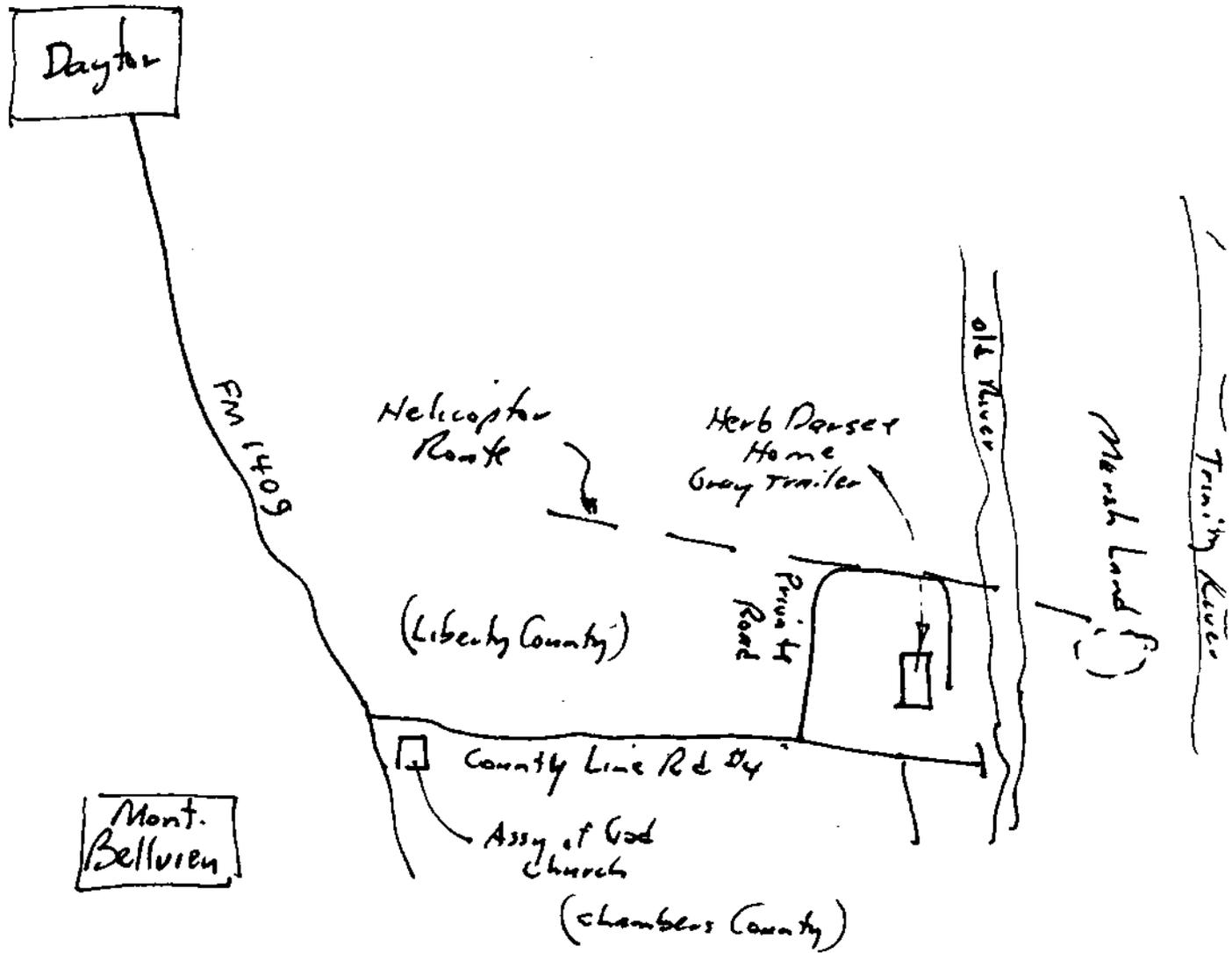
Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

<b>SUBJECT/PURPOSE</b> Report of Helicopters on FM 1485 near Huffman, around end of Dec 1980	<b>DATE OF TELECON /TR/ CONF.</b> 6/16/82
<b>DISCUSSION/COMMENTS (INFO.OBTAINED, CONCLUSIONS)</b>  Mr. John Plaster, 59 H Meyer Rd, Huffman, Tx 77336 (713) 354-3967.  Mr Plaster & his 10-year old son were outside playing with son's new Christmas toys at night in late December. It was dark. Four or five twin rotor "Chinook" Army helicopters flew overhead. They went Southeast.  Exact date & time not known. He is sure of the identification as he was in the army & exposed to CH-47's. He remarked "the army has something going on tonight."	
<b>ACTION REQUIRED</b>  Short interview was tape recorded while standing along FM 1485 at approx. location of Cahland event. He had never heard of their case.  <b>PREPARED BY</b>  <b>DATE</b> 6/16/82	

# VISIT

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

<b>SUBJECT/PURPOSE</b> Report of CH-47 "Chinook" Helicopters in Liberty County  Herb Darsee (713) 576-5137	<b>DATE OF TELECON/TR/ CONF.</b>  6/16/82
<b>DISCUSSION/COMMENTS (INFO.OBTAINED, CONCLUSIONS)</b>	
<p>Betty Cash, Vickie Landrum, Colby Landrum, Kathy Schuessler &amp; John Schuessler met with Herb Darsee of Mont Bellview (Rural) at his home. We were following up on his claim that CH-47 helicopters, in large groups fly over his property periodically. They appear to land in the marshland area owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The subject area is in the southern part of the Texas "Big Thicket" It is rough &amp; remote, therefore we could not "go in" to investigate the alleged landing site. Mr. Darsee said helicopter operations had taken place for the last two years. He was positive that CH-47's were involved.</p>	
<b>ACTION REQUIRED</b>	
1. Write to the Resident Ranger for information.	
<b>PREPARED BY</b> 	<b>DATE</b> 6/17/82

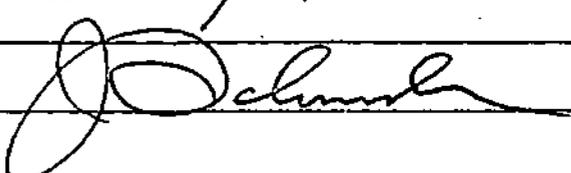


Mr. Dausee reported that 2 KKK paramilitary camps were found on government land out in the river bottom areas. The area is so remote that no one knew they were training 2000 troops. This was in the Winnie & Devils Bayou area.

The area is known as the US Army Corps of Engineers, Wallisville Lake Project, P.O. Box 36, Wallisville, TX, 77597. Ranger is Smokey Cranfill 389-2208.

# WISIT

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

SUBJECT/PURPOSE <b>CASH/LANDRUM INVESTIGATION</b>	DATE OF TELECON / TR / CONF. <b>6/1/82</b>
DISCUSSION/COMMENTS (INFO. OBTAINED, CONCLUSIONS)	
<p>Col. Sarran has had no luck in locating a unit responsible for the helicopters on 12/29/80. He said it was probably a special operation. I asked him to check &amp; see if it was a Quick React Unit out of Fort Benning. He said he had not, but CH-47 units were at Fort Bragg, N.C., Fort Devens, MA, Panama &amp; Europe. These are Quick React units.</p> <p>I asked him to check on the source of the five CH-47's over Dayton, Tx on 5/22/82 just to see where they were stationed - might provide a clue. He said Fort Hood participates in the Refinger operation each Oct - the fly troops to Fort Arthur, Tx.</p>	
ACTION REQUIRED	
1. Col. Sarran to call me about the Quick React units by 6/4/82. 2. Col. Sarran to talk with John Myler, Deputy Head of Congressional Liaison.	
PREPARED BY 	DATE <b>6/4/82</b>

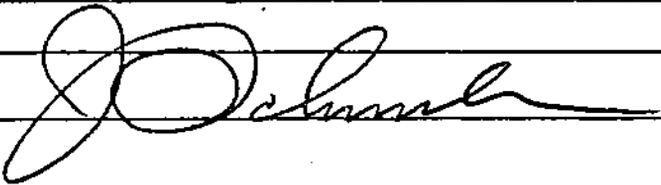
# VISIT

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

<p>SUBJECT/PURPOSE <i>Cash/Landrum Investigation</i></p>	<p>DATE OF TELECON/TR/CONF. <i>5/27/82</i></p>
<p><i>CWO W. F. Gustafson - US Army Reserve called</i></p>	
<p>DISCUSSION/COMMENTS (INFO. OBTAINED, CONCLUSIONS)</p> <p><i>He had a follow-up conversation with Ken Defore (HPD). Capt Defore has <u>no doubt</u> that Dayton policeman L.C. Walker saw CH-47s on 12/29/80. Felt they were part of a Quick React Force. Said Walker saw 12 helicopters. Three groups of three each (a "V" of "V" formation). The lead aircraft of each "V" was shining a spotlight on the ground as if searching for something. Another element flew 1 1/2 miles behind in a 3 abreast formation. Altitude was ~ 500 ft. They altered their course to head in the direction of the Gulf of Mexico. They could have refueled from 5000 gal. bladders in the area or from a "flat top" in the Gulf.</i></p> <p><small>ACTION REQUESTED</small> <i>Gustafson said "we may have uncovered a bucket of worms".</i></p>	
<p>PREPARED BY <i>[Signature]</i></p>	<p>DATE <i>5/27/82</i></p>

# VISIT

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

SUBJECT/PURPOSE <u>CASH/LANDRUM INVESTIGATION</u>	DATE OF TELECON /TR/ CONF. <u>5/26/82</u>
DISCUSSION/COMMENTS (INFO.OBTAINED, CONCLUSIONS)	
<p>Col. Sarran called J. Schuessler</p> <p>Col. Sarran had talked with CWO W.S. Gustafson at the US Army Reserve unit at Hooks Airport in Tomball, Tx. The chief is a super-sharp person. His phone is 376-2990.</p> <p>Gus had talked to Capt DeFave of H.P.D. The Capt. had no memory of the event on 12/29/80.</p> <p>Weather conditions at Hooks on 12/29/80 = wind 210° - 230° @ 10-15 mph. No rain. Mid-40's.</p> <p>Col. Sarran also talked with Chief Culberson at Ellington. Culberson remembers talking to Vicki Landrum. He said he "thought" the Montgomery County Sheriff Dept had called someone. He was "Just talking". He was not flying that night.</p>	
ACTION REQUIRED	
<p>Col. Sarran says that his report will be "inconclusive".</p>	
PREPARED BY 	DATE <u>6/1/82</u>

# VISIT

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

SUBJECT/PURPOSE <i>CASH/LANDORUM INVESTIGATION</i>	DATE OF TELECON/TR/ CONF. <i>5/26/82</i>
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DISCUSSION/COMMENTS (INFO.OBTAINED, CONCLUSIONS)

*I called Carl Mangogna, at the suggestion of the Montgomery Sheriff Dept, to see if he remembered any activity on 12/29/80.*

*I tracked him down through his father (also named Carl - 465-5143).*

*Mr. Mangogna is now chief of security at Kaneb Co. - 622-3456, X-224*

*He had no memory of the events on 12/29/80.*

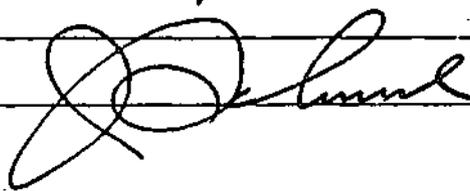
*He suggested we contact Capt. Defore of the HPD.*

ACTION REQUIRED

PREPARED BY *[Signature]* DATE *6/1/82*

# VISIT

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

SUBJECT/PURPOSE <b>CASH/LANDRUM INVESTIGATION</b>	DATE OF TELECON /TR/ CONF. <b>5/26/82</b>
DISCUSSION/COMMENTS (INFO.OBTAINED, CONCLUSIONS)	
His telephones are (work) 376-2990 & 376-2995 (home) 462-2318	
1. He had done some checking with other members of the unit at Hooks Airport & suggested the following:	
a) There was a Quick React Force operating in Louisiana & Texas during the last year & a half. The last they heard of it was about 6 months ago, operating near Morgan City, La. He said they practiced "Iran type" raids, operating from a small carrier in the gulf of Mexico. Other times they had in 5000 gal. fuel bladders for refueling. Their operation is secret & unannounced.	
b) USMC in New Orleans operates CH-46's	
c) Ken DeFore (HPD) lives in Dayton, Tx. He will visit L.L. Walker (Dayton policeman that saw the helicopters on 12/29/80.	
PREPARED BY 	DATE <b>5/26/80</b>

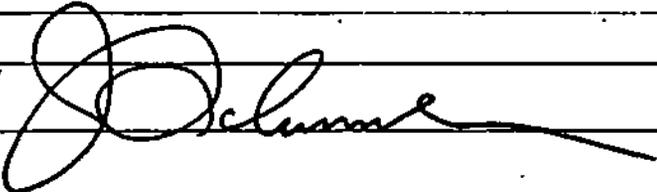
# WISIT

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

SUBJECT/PURPOSE <i>CASH/LANDRUM CASE</i>	DATE OF TELECON/TR/ CONF. <i>5/25/82</i>
DISCUSSION/COMMENTS (INFO.OBTAINED, CONCLUSIONS)  <i>J. Schuessler &amp; Lt. Col. Geo. Sarvan visited the Montgomery County (TX) Sheriff Dept. at Conroe, Tx. It was a follow-up to the rumor that the Dept. called out the helicopters on Dec 29, 1980. Chief Deputy B.J. Grounds, Lt. Louie &amp; Pete Perkins. The sheriff's people all said they would not call Ellington AFB, only Houston Police Dept. The duty officer on 12/29/80 was Gloria Eschenbeck. She now is a patrol officer at the woodlands. Chief Grounds that Carl Mangogna was a helicopter pilot (Major) over the Harris County Patrol Division. He is now Head of Security at the Kaneb Corp. in Houston. He would know if their helicopter had flown.</i>	
ACTION REQUIRED	
PREPARED BY <i>[Signature]</i> DATE <i>5/27/82</i>	

# VISIIT

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

SUBJECT/PURPOSE <i>Cash/Landrum Investigation</i>	DATE OF TELECON /TR/ CONF. <i>5/25/82</i>
DISCUSSION/COMMENTS (INFO.OBTAINED, CONCLUSIONS)  <i>Lt. Col George Sarvan &amp; J. Schuessler visited Vickie Landrum in her home in Dayton, Tx. Col. Sarvan interviewed Vickie. I sat in on the interview and tape recorded it. Vickie would not consent to the interview unless I recorded it.  Vickie's sister Bertha Landrum was also present.</i>	
ACTION REQUIRED <i>Copy of the recording to be sent to Peter Geusten in New York</i>	
PREPARED BY 	DATE <i>5/25/82</i>

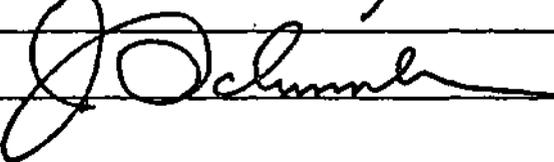
# VISIT

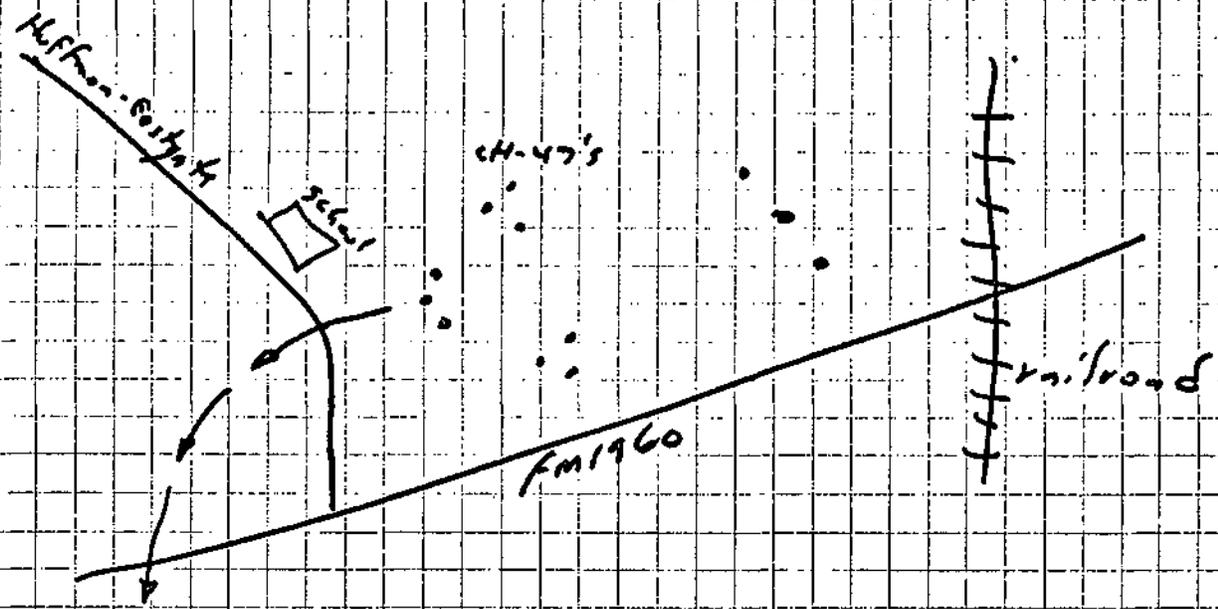
Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

SUBJECT/PURPOSE	Cash/Landrum Investigation	DATE OF TELECON/TR/ CONF.	5/25/82
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DISCUSSION/COMMENTS (INFO.OBTAINED, CONCLUSIONS)

Lt. Col. George Sarran, Vickie Landrum & John Schuessler visited Dayton Police Officer L.L. Walker (1202 N. Winfree, 258-7016-unlisted). Mr. Walker & his wife saw many helicopters in the same area as witnessed by Vickie Landrum, Colby Landrum & Betty Cash on 12/29/80. The Walker sighting was after midnight, however, they had just followed the same route of first saw helicopters on the Huffman-Eastgate road and more when they were on FM 1960. They said the helicopters were first noticed by noise which they first interpreted as car trouble. Then they saw the aircraft. They were clearly visible at about 500 ft altitude. They had huge lights shining on the ground as if looking for something. The walkers stopped the car & watched the flight activity.

PREPARED BY		DATE	5/25/82
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12 helicopters were seen.  
 3 aircraft to a "V" and 3 "V's" plus  
 a line of 3 behind the others

The lead aircraft of each "V" illuminated the ground with spotlight. Appended to be searching for something.

The Walkers were positive about seeing CH-47's. They didn't know the exact name of the helicopters (i.e. Chinooks) but were sure of the size, double rotor, & wheels. Mr. Walker is an ex-marine and current policeman. He is a "no-nonsense" type of guy.

# VISIT

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

SUBJECT/PURPOSE <i>Cash/Landrum Investigation</i>	DATE OF TELECON/TR/CONF. <i>5/25/82</i>
DISCUSSION/COMMENTS (INFO.OBTAINED, CONCLUSIONS)	
<i>Lt. Col. George Sarran &amp; J. Schuessler visited the Army unit at Hooks Airport in Tomball, Tx. It was the USAR Facility, 90<sup>th</sup> ARCOM, AMSA-62A. It was closed.</i>	
<i>We obtained the following listing to contact later by phone:</i>	
<i>Donald McDavid</i>	<i>681-1865</i>
<i>W. S. Gustafson</i>	<i>462-2318</i>
<i>Dudley Mason</i>	<i>351-4819</i>
<i>Tony Demaria</i>	<i>259-0751</i>
ACTION REQUIRED	
PREPARED BY <i>[Signature]</i> DATE <i>5/25/82</i>	

# VISIT

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

SUBJECT/PURPOSE <b>CASH/LANDRUM CASE</b>	DATE OF TELECON/TR/CONF. <b>4/23/82</b>
DISCUSSION/COMMENTS (INFO.OBTAINED, CONCLUSIONS)	
Col. Sarran Called J. Schuessler	
1. Lt. Col. George Sarran, U.S. Army Inspector General's office called to set a tentative date to visit Houston to fact find the claim of helicopter involvement in the Cash-Landrum case. He wants to talk with the following:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• J. Schuessler</li><li>• V. Landrum</li><li>• Major Willy Culberson</li><li>• Dayton Policeman</li></ul>	
2. He has contacted all bases & found no one that flew near Huffman, Tx. Ft. Hood flew only one helicopter to Houston, then Galveston. Returned by 8 P.M. He has exhausted his sources.	
3. Dr. R. Niemtrow will visit Col. Sarran in <del>Washington</del> Washington, D.C. on 17 or 18 May.	
4. Col. Sarran appears to be quite sincere in his efforts and is a cordial person to speak with.	
5. Col. Sarran will visit Houston between 22 and 24 May. Exact date to be determined.	
PREPARED BY <i>J. Schuessler</i>	DATE <b>4/23/82</b>

# VISIT

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

<p>SUBJECT/PURPOSE <i>CASH - LANDCOM CASE</i></p>	<p>DATE OF TELECON /TR/ CONF. <i>4/8/82</i></p>
<p>DISCUSSION/COMMENTS (INFO.OBTAINED, CONCLUSIONS)</p>	
<p><i>Lt. Col. Sarran called J. Schuessler</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>1. He talked with Dr. Rank &amp; Dr. Nientron. Wants to use Dr. Nientron in his investigation since Nientron represents the USAF.</i></li> <li><i>2. Col. Sarran wants to visit Houston in the second week of May.</i></li> <li><i>3. He says "Army doesn't say UFOs exist or do not exist. That is up to someone else."</i></li> <li><i>4. Army will take responsibility if they are at fault.</i></li> <li><i>5. All reserves (not Nat. Guard) are under Force Command-Atlanta</i></li> <li><i>6. Willy Culberson (Major at Ellington AFB) is an Assistant Staff Technician (AST) and is part of a full time skeleton crew.</i></li> <li><i>7. Said he was checking to see if helicopters sprayed fuel or were involved in an agent orange type drill. He received a negative reply from the following: Training Instruction Command, Testing Agency at Ft. Hood, Inspector General at Ft. Hood, Washington, D.C. Testing Agency, Corpus Christi NAS, Aberdeen Proving Grounds and Pentagon R &amp; D. The computer lists no activity at Hurlman, Tx.</i></li> </ol>	
<p>PREPARED BY <i>[Signature]</i></p>	<p>DATE <i>4/8/82</i></p>

# VISIT

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

SUBJECT/PURPOSE <i>Cash - Landrum Case</i>	DATE OF TELECON TR CONF. <i>4/1/82</i>
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DISCUSSION/COMMENTS (INFO.OBTAINED, CONCLUSIONS)

*V. Landrum Called J. Schuessler*

- 1. Her medical results show she has an enlarged artery. Will need tests every three months*
- 2. Eyes are very light sensitive*
- 3. Doctor said her skin tissue is breaking down. It is not caused by fungus or allergy. Probably due to radiation.*

ACTION REQUIRED

*None*

PREPARED BY *J. Schuessler* DATE *4/1/82*

# VISIT

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

SUBJECT/PURPOSE <i>Cash-Landrum Case</i>	DATE OF TELECON CONF. <i>3/19/82</i>
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*Al Bygus Called J. Schuessler*

DISCUSSION/COMMENTS (INFO. OBTAINED, CONCLUSIONS)

- 1. The caller, living in Los Angeles, CA, has been investigating clear air tornados and believes it explains the cash-Landrum Case.*
- 2. Clear Air Tornados usually occur in Sept/Oct or April/May. They occur only in humid air. They are akin to clear air turbulence, only come to low altitude. Gases are spinning at the speed of sound (makes it sound like a swarm of bees). The temperature is about 1800° F. The C.A.T. pulls radiation (cosmic) down thru the vortex and people are burned by the heated strata of air. At night, the moisture in the funnel caused the lightning effect. The army picks up the heat on radar at a distance of as much as 300-500 miles.*
- 3. He can't send information on this because it is proprietary at this time.*

PREPARED BY

*J. Schuessler*

DATE

*3/17/82*

# VISIT

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

SUBJECT/PURPOSE <i>Cash / Landrum Case</i>	DATE OF TELECON / TR / CONF. <i>3/26/82</i>
DISCUSSION/COMMENTS (INFO.OBTAINED, CONCLUSIONS)	
<p><i>Major Haire called to tell me that he had called Col Sarran to report the results of an earlier phone conversation. Col Sarran is evidently digging into the case like a tiger - representing the Inspector General's office.</i></p> <p><i>As an aside Major Haire found out that Col. Sarran is married to the daughter of Col. Jack Fisher - a close friend.</i></p> <p><i>Mark Charbenough works with Maj. Haire. Mark is associated with the Austin reserves of Dennis with the Ellington CH-47, Nat. Guard unit.</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p>	
PREPARED BY <i>J. Delmud</i>	DATE <i>3/26/82</i>

Bob Schaf, a NASA training engineer, is also attached to Maj. Haire's unit. He too is a CH-47 pilot.

Maj Haire said he'd really like to help. He feels kinda pulled into the situation through our conversations and the fact CH-47s were reported in the case.

He said he has no idea what went on that night (12/29/80). 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 about such things.

I asked him if he'd ever heard of a NEST unit operating here. He said "no", he'd didn't even know what the term meant. I related it meant Nuclear Emergency Survival Team. He drew a blank on it.

Haire/Schuessler 3/26/82 P3

We discussed the report that Major Willie Culberson was accused of saying he was at the scene on 12/29/80 in a CH-47, part of a unit called out as the result of an alarm call by the Sheriff of Montgomery County.

Major Haire knows Culberson well - saw him last night, when the CH-47's last flew. Culberson is not a part timer. He is in charge of maintenance, a full time position. When the guard unit flies, he participates with them. He is highly qualified, a top notch officer.

The CH-47 that was on display in Dayton, Tx last summer was flown by Culberson because he is a full timer. It is hard to locate reservists that can fly during the day from Mon - Fri.

An interesting point was made by Major Haire. He said their unit could not, by law, respond to an emergency called by a Sheriff, or any other civilian. Only the

Haire / Schuessler 3/26/82 PY

Adjutant General, Willy Scott, in Austin could authorize either an official or non-official response to such a call. Even a call to Major Del Livingston would not get a response.

The above situation might not apply to an Army Reserve unit, such as the one at Tomball (New Houston). Col. Sarvan is reportedly checking on that one.

As an aside, he mentioned that an CH-47 could airlift 50 people at one time. Why would a large number of CH-47s be required for any operation?

Major Haire's full time occupation is the operation of Tex Star Aviation, a helicopter flying business.

# VISIT

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

<p>SUBJECT/PURPOSE <i>Cash/Landrum Case</i></p> <p><i>Major Dennis Haire called J. Schuessler</i></p>	<p>DATE OF TELECON / TR / CONF.</p> <p><i>3/22/82</i></p>
<p>DISCUSSION/COMMENTS (INFO.OBTAINED, CONCLUSIONS)</p> <p><i>Major Haire is Commander of the 136<sup>th</sup> Transportation unit detachment stationed at Ellington AFB, Houston, Tx. He has been a member since 1966, and in charge since 1978.</i></p> <p><i>His detachment has eight CH-47A Chinooks, assigned there in 1980. Prior to that time they were a Medical unit. The "A" Model Chinook has 2 hours fuel plus 15 minutes contingency. Cruising speed is 110 knots, with a 135 kt max.</i></p> <p><i>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 5000 gal. USAF fuel truck to meet them along the way. Each CH47A takes 450 gal. of fuel for a fill-up.</i></p>	
<p>PREPARED BY <i>J Schuessler</i></p>	<p>DATE <i>3/22/82</i></p>

There are no CH-47 in Louisiana. A contingent is stationed at Fort Sill, Ok and many CH-47's are located at Fort Hood, TX. The Fort Hood CH-47's are the "C" Model. It can do a round trip to Houston without refueling. It has a 3 hour plus 30 min. fuel capacity. Max speed 175 knots, cruising speed 140 knots.

There were no Chinooks flying in 1980 except for military units, so civilian chinooks could not have been involved in Cash/Landrum incident.

The Ellington unit flies around the Houston control area all the time. They average 2000 hours/year/man. Ft. Hood averages 900 hrs/year/man.

The local unit does a lot of airborne troop emplacement drilling. They use The Addicks Reservoir north of Houston as a jump zone.

In addition, to the 8 CH-47s, they have 4 Hueys & 4 SP's. Tomball, TX unit has 4-5 Hueys & 4-5 SP's.

Major Haire is 99% sure that Ellington AFB CH-47's were not involved in the Dec 29, 1980 incident. He said he could find out by looking up flight plans, aviators records, and the form 759's that document flight times.

The Chinook 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 pilots' 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've landed.

Major Haire runs a commercial helicopter service at Lakeside Airport in Houston.

Telephone: 578-0907

Unit drill schedules can be obtained by calling the Houston Army Flight Facility.

# VISIT

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

SUBJECT/PURPOSE <i>Cash/Landrum Case</i>	DATE OF TELECON/TR/ CONF. <i>3/20/82</i>
DISCUSSION/COMMENTS (INFO.OBTAINED, CONCLUSIONS)	
<p><i>As a result of the 18 March "Good Morning America" program I was approached by Mrs. Mahvash. She was a nurse at Parkway Hospital in Houston when Betty Cash was a patient there during January 1981.</i></p> <p><i>As a nurse, she attended Mrs. Cash on several different days and could vividly recount the condition of Mrs. Cash. This included the hair loss, burns, pain, weakness and generally the seriousness of the case.</i></p>	
ACTION REQUIRED	
<i>None</i>	
PREPARED BY 	DATE <i>3/21/82</i>

# VISIT

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

<p>SUBJECT/PURPOSE <i>CASH/LANDRUM CASE</i></p> <p><i>Lt. Col George Sarran, Dept. of Army Inspector General's Office, Washington DC. Called J. Schuessler</i></p>	<p>DATE OF TELECON/TR/ CONF. <i>3/19/82</i></p>
<p>DISCUSSION/COMMENTS (INFO.OBTAINED, CONCLUSIONS) <i>(202) 695-1578</i></p>	
<p><i>1. Col. Sarran called because his office had been pulsed to give some answers on the subject case. At his request I provided a verbal narrative of the incident as it stands. He had been stationed at Fort Hood for 4 years and felt that they would not have been involved in anything in the Huffman area. He said all their testing and operations were in the Fort Hood Reservation area. He said as far as he knew, Fort Hood had the only CH-47s. I suggested he call Ellington AFB or Dallas NAS because they do fly CH-47s. He didn't have telephone numbers of these places so was hard pressed to be able to call</i></p>	
<p>ACTION REQUIRED</p> <p><i>I will try to obtain the base phone numbers and provide them to col. Sarran</i></p>	
<p>PREPARED BY <i>J. Schuessler</i></p>	<p>DATE <i>3/19/82</i></p>

Col. Sarrao concluded that if helicopters were present they would surely have come only from Ellington AFB and said that would be the place to call.

He interpreted the incident to be a helicopter in trouble, landing for repairs; but concluded that there were none reported to be in trouble. 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.

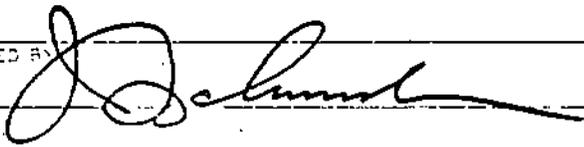
He questioned the replies given us by the various bases and concluded (more or less) that they were truthfull.

He was courteous and said he'd try to contact Ellington (other places could be discounted). Said he'd be glad to act on any hint of cover-up that we might find. Said it was necessary to have a good rapport with the community.

Our conversation lasted about 30 Min.

# VISIT

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

SUBJECT/PURPOSE <b>CASH-LANDRUM CASE</b>	DATE OF TELECON TR/ CONF. <b>3/14/82</b>
DISCUSSION/COMMENTS (INFO.OBTAINED, CONCLUSIONS)  <p><b>R. NIEMTROW CALLED J. SCHUESSLER</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>In radiation cases R. Niemtrow is interested in the following tests: Platelet count, Absolute Lymphocyte Count, and Complete Blood Count.</b></li><li><b>He would expect eventual termination of the victims through a "cardiovascular accident."</b></li><li><b>Victims often contract other diseases or have boils, etc. because the immune system can't fight as it was designed to do if it is damaged due to radiation exposure.</b></li><li><b>Children often end up walking with a limp. This is because their bones don't grow at the same rate.</b></li></ol>	
ACTION REQUIRED  <b>None</b>	
PREPARED BY 	DATE <b>3/18/82</b>

# VISIT

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

SUBJECT/PURPOSE <b>CASH/LANDRUM CASE</b>	DATE OF TELECON/TR/ CONF. <b>12/1/81</b>
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VICKIE LANDRUM CALLED JOHN SCHUESSLER

DISCUSSION/COMMENTS (INFO.OBTAINED, CONCLUSIONS)

VICKIE HAD TALKED TO BETTY'S MOTHER & WANTED TO GIVE ME A STATUS REPORT.

- BETTY HAS INFLAMATION AROUND THE HEART. VICKIE COULDN'T REMEMBER THE NAME USED BY THE DOCTOR (PERICARDITIS?).
- BETTY STILL HAS BADLY SWOLLEN LEGS.
- BETTY'S BLOOD PRESSURE IS LOW & WAS CRITICAL ON 30 NOV. BLOOD COUNT IS OFF BUT VICKIE DIDN'T UNDERSTAND THE DESCRIPTION.
- BETTY HAS SKIN ERUPTIONS AGAIN THE EXTENT AND LOCATION UNDEFINED.
- BETTY'S DOCTOR WAS QUOTED AS SAYING HER CONDITION IS SECONDARY TO RADIATION EXPOSURE.

ACTION REQUIRED

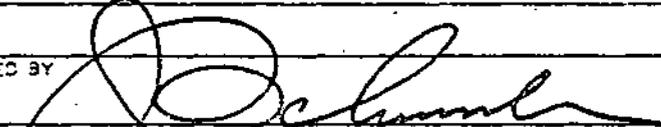
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PREPARED BY  DATE **12/2/81**

# VISIT

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

SUBJECT/PURPOSE <p style="text-align: center;"><i>CASH/LANDRUM CASE</i></p> <p><i>Vickie Landrum Called J. Schuessler</i></p>	DATE OF TELECON /TR/ CONF. <p style="text-align: center;"><i>11/30/81</i></p>
DISCUSSION/COMMENTS (INFO.OBTAINED, CONCLUSIONS) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>1. Betty Cash had a heart attack on Sat, 28 Nov &amp; is in intensive care. She had been suffering from leg swelling. Situation Serious.</i></li> <li><i>2. Vickie &amp; Colby went to see Dr. Murphy in Cleveland, Tx. for a complete blood workup. He said it wasn't necessary &amp; did a count only. Said both Colby &amp; Vicky was low, but not too bad. Vicky is very disturbed by his refusal to really get serious.</i></li> <li><i>3. Vickie is getting another large eruption on her left hand.</i></li> <li><i>4. Colby has pains that run up his leg from his back when he lifts his feet to put shoes &amp; socks on.</i></li> </ol>	
ACTION REQUIRED <p><i>Vicky &amp; Colby need to have tests conducted somewhere that won't block the results. They need help now &amp; don't know where to turn.</i></p> <p>PREPARED BY <i>J. Schuessler</i> DATE <i>11/30/81</i></p>	

# WISIT

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

SUBJECT/PURPOSE <i>CASH/LANDRUM CASE</i>	DATE OF TELECON/TR/CONF. <i>10/22/87</i>
DISCUSSION/COMMENTS (INFO.OBTAINED, CONCLUSIONS)	
<p><i>J. Schuessler Called Vickie Landrum</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Colby is still frail &amp; not gaining weight. He periodically has stomach cramps &amp; diarrhea. Badly affects his eating habits. His eyes are worse.</i></li> <li><i>Vickie is losing hair on the right side again. She has had chest congestion for several months &amp; it is getting no better. She has lost some weight &amp; is having swelling of the legs. Her forehead has sores again.</i></li> <li><i>Betty is hospitalized again. She has diarrhea &amp; vomiting, headaches, sores and her weight is down to 103 lbs. Her health is degrading rapidly.</i></li> </ol>	
ACTION REQUIRED	
PREPARED BY <i>[Signature]</i>	DATE <i>10/22/87</i>

# VISIT

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

SUBJECT/PURPOSE <i>Cash/Landrum Case</i>	DATE OF TELECON/TR/ CONF. <i>10/5/81</i>
DISCUSSION/COMMENTS (INFO.OBTAINED, CONCLUSIONS)	
<p>1. Betty felt congested, had stomach cramps &amp; diarrhea last week. She obtained a prescription from a doctor, had chest pains and was admitted to a hospital. She was released for two days to see her dying aunt; but will return to the hospital on wed 10/7</p> <p>2. She is weak, has large blisters recurring on her body. Said it might feel better to be dead. Dr. Whitaker has been testing her extensively, especially the blood. She will have a copy of the results sent to me.</p> <p>3. I spoke also with Betty's 73 year old mother. She is very worried and is afraid nothing can or will be done about Betty.</p>	
ACTION REQUIRED	
<i>Stay in touch.</i>	
PREPARED BY <i>J. Schuessler</i>	DATE <i>10/5/81</i>

## VISIT

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

SUBJECT/PURPOSE <i>Cash/Landrum Case</i>	DATE OF TELECON /TR/ CONF. <i>9/30/87</i>
DISCUSSION/COMMENTS (INFO.OBTAINED, CONCLUSIONS)	
<p>1. He is Betty's doctor at Lloyd Nolan Hospital in Fairfield, AL (205) 783-5121.</p> <p>2. I explained I was a friend of Betty's &amp; was afraid she either couldn't or wouldn't tell him about the radiation incident. I explained I was concerned that other symptoms that did not fit the cardiac history might be overlooked and they could be important. I gave him a run down on the incident, the symptoms, the other witnesses and asked for his trust. He was happy to hear and said the information could be most valuable.</p> <p>3. He said Betty was resting well. She did not have a heart attack. She had a cold, angina pains &amp; was spitting up. If cardiac problems don't surface tomorrow she will move out of cardiac care.</p>	
PREPARED BY <i>J. Landrum</i>	DATE <i>9/30/87</i>

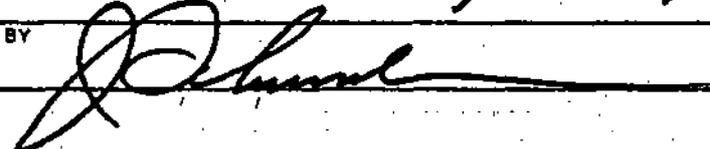
# VISIT

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

SUBJECT/PURPOSE <i>Cash/Landrum Case</i>	DATE OF TELECON / TR / CONF. <i>9/30/07</i>
DISCUSSION/COMMENTS (INFO.OBTAINED, CONCLUSIONS)  <i>Betty's mother called from Alabama to tell her that Betty was in cardiac care in Lloyd Nolan hospital. She had a cold and then developed pains.</i>  <i>Vickie is worried.</i> <i>Betty's mother was crying.</i>  <i>They need support!</i>  <i>Calby says his eyes are playing tricks on him. Things look much smaller than normal. Vickie will take him back to Dr. Chandler.</i>	
ACTION REQUIRED	
PREPARED BY <i>[Signature]</i>	DATE <i>9/30/07</i>

# VISIT

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

SUBJECT / PURPOSE <i>Cash / Landrum Case</i>  <i>J. Schuessler Caller Dr. Peter Rank</i>	DATE OF TELECON / TR / CONF. <i>9/30/87</i>
DISCUSSION / COMMENTS (INFO. OBTAINED, CONCLUSIONS)	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Dr. Rank reviewed Betty's hospital medicines for the second Parkway visit. Nothing unusual except for two doses of 400 mg each of Motrin. He will research that.</li> <li>2. I told him about the current hospitalization of Betty. He said it could be one of 3 things:                         <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Anemic. Use the oral drug for red cells</li> <li>(2) White Cell problem</li> <li>(3) Anti-coagulant problem. Some one may have given her an anti-coagulant, although her record says no.</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. We need to watch for 3 things:                         <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Leukemia or white cell reaction</li> <li>(2) Aplastic Anemia (fibrosis in bone marrow) fail to generate red cells</li> <li>(3) Systemic reactions: Hair loss, vomit, diarrhea, etc.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	
ACTION REQUIRED	
<p>Dr. Rank suggested I call her doctor &amp; tell him we're fairly sure she has had a dose of radiation, some of it ionizing. Explain &amp; ask for his trust.</p>	
PREPARED BY 	DATE <i>9/30/87</i>

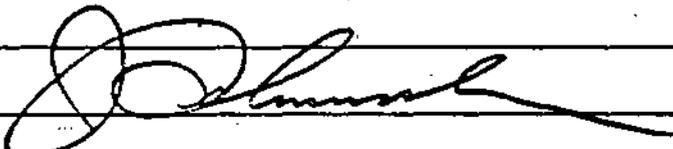
# VISIT

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

<p>SUBJECT/PURPOSE</p> <p>Cash / London Case</p> <p>Cindy Horswell called J. Schuessler</p>	<p>DATE OF TELECON / TR / CONF.</p> <p>9/21/87</p>
<p>DISCUSSION / COMMENTS (INFO. OBTAINED, CONCLUSIONS)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Dayton, Postal Clerk named Angie Stanley is another witness to the 29 Dec 1980 UFO.</li> <li>She was coming to Dayton from New Caney on FM 1485 when she observed a huge object with bright lights over the pine trees.</li> </ol>	
<p>ACTION REQUIRED</p>	
<p>PREPARED BY</p> <p>J. Schuessler</p>	<p>DATE</p> <p>9/21/87</p>

# VISIT

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

SUBJECT/PURPOSE <b>CASH/LANDRUM CASE</b>  Karl Seyfrit called J. Schuessler	DATE OF TELECON/CONF. 9/14/81
DISCUSSION/COMMENTS (INFO. OBTAINED, CONCLUSIONS)	
<p>1. Mr. Seyfrit is with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, located in Arlington TX. I had sent him a letter inquiring about a Mr. Douglas Crofut - a man that died after exposure to radiation in late Dec. 1980.</p> <p>2. Mr. Seyfrit called to assure me that the Crofut incident was in no way connected to the Cash/Landrum incident. He was sure because he had talked about the case with Dave Liker of the Tx Dept. of Radiological Health. The fact that helicopters were in the area helped to convince him that it could not have been a radiation incident. I explained all the medical symptoms, but it didn't increase his interest level in the slightest. He said he has no idea what happened.</p>	
PREPARED BY 	DATE 9/14/81

# Oklahoma man 1st to die of radiation

TULSA, Okla. (AP) — An unemployed industrial radiographer has become the first American to die of radiation poisoning since the early days of A-bomb experimentation, federal officials say.

Douglas Crofut, 33, of Henryetta, died at a Tulsa hospital Monday, six months after he first sought medical care for radiation burns on his chest and left arm.

Officials said the radiation destroyed his bone marrow, burned off his left nip-

ple and ate deep into his body like a cancer.

"I've never seen anything like it in my life," said Crofut's lawyer, Richard Gibbon. "It would make you sick at your stomach."

The source of the exposure remains under investigation.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission had investigated the theft about Dec. 30 of an industrial radiographic device from a

locked pipeline inspection company truck parked one-half mile from Crofut's home.

After Crofut first was hospitalized on Jan. 22, the capsule of Iridium 192 turned up on the porch of another radiographer's home in Henryetta. The Iridium, described by officials as "lethal," was in its protective lead container.

The capsule was described as slightly larger in diameter than a pencil and  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch to 1 inch long. Such devices are used

*Day after Cash/Landium Incident.*

## poisoning since early A-bomb tests

by radiographers employed by oil companies to detect problems in pipeline welds.

Crofut denied knowledge of the theft, and the NRC closed its investigation of the theft and Crofut's injury without drawing conclusions, said Clyde Wisner, the agency's public affairs officer in Arlington, Texas.

The NRC report on the theft indicated Crofut's injuries were consistent with those that would be caused by exposure to

radiation between Dec. 15 and Jan. 10.

He had last worked with sources of radiation in October 1980 when he was employed by a Houston pipeline inspection firm near Lovington, N.M., Gibbon said Wednesday.

Karl Seyfrit, director of the NRC regional office, said exposure of the magnitude suffered by Crofut is "extremely rare."

"I'm not aware of any death that is directly attributable to a radiography source," Seyfrit said.

He said there were a "couple of instances" of death from radiation exposure "back in the early days of development of the A-bomb."

NRC tests indicated Crofut was exposed either to 356 rads of Iridium 192 or 405 rads of Cobalt 60 gamma radiation.

An autopsy was scheduled.

# VISIT

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

SUBJECT/PURPOSE <b>CASH/LANDRUM CASE</b> ↓ sent m/infr 9/23/81 Pamela Lyon Called J. Schuessler	DATE OF TELECON / TR / CONF. 9/11/81
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DISCUSSION/COMMENTS (INFO. OBTAINED, CONCLUSIONS)

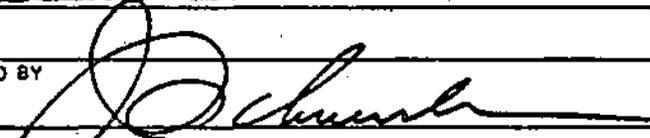
1. Ms. Lyon is a reporter with the Corpus Christi, Tx Caller. She is doing a story on VISIT and another on the subject case. She has done independent investigative work to prepare the story.

2. She called the Press Officer, Major Turney Greshouser, at Fort Hood Military Reservation near Killeen, Tx. to check on the helicopters. He replied as follows:  
 "I cannot confirm the presence of helicopters (at Hurlbain) that night." "If they were they were not from Fort Hood." Also said "Could be some super secret thing that is going on, but I don't know what it was."

ACTION REQUIRED

None

Pamela Lyon telephone no. is (512) 884-2011 x-371

PREPARED BY 	DATE 9/11/81
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**Charles R. (Russ) Meyer**  
Regional Inspector



Radiation Control Branch  
Texas Department of Health  
Division of Occupational Health & Radiation Control

# VISIT

901 Westheimer, Suite 301  
Houston, Texas 77027

7600  
961-~~2338~~  
Area Code 713

Internal Systems Investigative Team

<p>SUBJECT/PURPOSE <b>CASH/LANDRUM CASE</b></p> <p>J. Schuessler met with Russ Meyer, G. Freeland, and M. Vredenburg of the Radiation Control Branch of Texas Dept. of Health per V. Landrum request</p>	<p>DATE OF <del>TRANSMISSION</del> CONF. <b>9/10/81</b></p>
<p>DISCUSSION/COMMENTS (INFO.OBTAINED, CONCLUSIONS)</p>	
<p>1. State Representative Brundage requested the above noted group to look into the case, as the result of Betty Cash &amp; Victor Landrum visiting his office in August. Russ Meyer is a Regional Inspector and acted as spokesman for the group.</p> <p>2. I gave them an overview of the incident and the injuries. They were quite interested, but said they couldn't prove whether or not radiation had been present. This type of case is not their normal job. They would like to have a doctor tell them whether or not his opinion is radiation in this case. They would report that opinion back to the representative in Austin. It would then be up to him to pursue the source, type, responsibility, etc. They could send a report to the state Medical Advising Board in Austin but it only meets once a year. They felt witnesses would live, since they are now alive.</p>	
<p>ACTION REQUIRED</p>	
<p>They will look at Betty's hospital records if she wants to give permission.</p> <p>They suggested going to Dr. Vince Collins, Rosewood Hospital, for his opinion on the case.</p>	
<p>PREPARED BY <i>[Signature]</i></p>	<p>DATE <b>9/10/81</b></p>

# VISIT

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

SUBJECT/PURPOSE <i>CASH/LANDRUM CASE</i>	DATE OF TELECON/TR/ CONF.  <i>9/10/81</i>
DISCUSSION/COMMENTS (INFO.OBTAINED, CONCLUSIONS)  <i>Background: Betty Cash and Vickie Landrum said that Dr. Shenoy had related to them a story about something being transported by the US. government from North or South Carolina, across the USA. He had supposedly been briefed on this.</i>  <i>When questioned about this situation by another doctor on 9/10/81, Dr. Shenoy denied receiving briefings or making such statements to the women involved.</i>	
ACTION REQUIRED <i>None</i>	
PREPARED BY <i>[Signature]</i>	DATE <i>9/10/81</i>

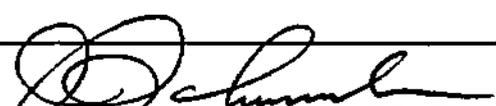
# VISIT

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

SUBJECT/PURPOSE <b>CASH/LANDRUM CASE</b>  <b>STUART SCHWARTZ CALLED JOHN SCHWASSER</b>	DATE OF TELECON/CONF. <b>9/9/81</b>
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DISCUSSION/COMMENTS (INFO.OBTAINED, CONCLUSIONS)

1. Mr. Schwartz of That's Incredible called 3 times.
2. The taped show has been edited and looks real good.
3. He wanted to invite Vickie & Colby to the studio as guests but couldn't find them. I explained that Vickie's eyes had grown worse & she was at the Univ. of Houston College of Optometry for a work-up. I told Mr. Schwartz that Vickie should receive some medical cost assistance, since she'd cooperated so well with "That's Incredible". He asked if she'd undergo another hypnosis & I said maybe, but it would take a lot of money to get her to go thru it again.
4. He caught Vickie at the U of H and she consented. The show will pay medical expenses at least.
5. Later Louann Rawlings, also of "That's Incredible" called seeking the name of a west coast hypnotist. I told her to be very careful in the selection. The wrong person could do irreparable damage. She accepted the name of Dr. Sprinkle as the right person & made arrangements. Dr. Haeder was an alternate.

PREPARED BY 	DATE <b>9/9/81</b>
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# VISIT

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

SUBJECT/PURPOSE <i>CASH/LANDRUM CASE</i>	DATE OF TELECON/TR/ CONF. <i>9/9/87</i>
DISCUSSION/COMMENTS (INFO.OBTAINED, CONCLUSIONS)  <i>1. The session at the Univ. of Houston College of Optometry was puzzling. It appears that the back of the eye is ok, but it is damaged around the edges. She returns there next week for a repeat work-up.</i> <i>2. Vickie and Colby will fly to Los Angeles on 9/10 and return on 9/12 - for a studio intro taping for "That's Incredible". Vickie has agreed to go thru another hypnosis session. Dr. Sprinkle will be the hypnotist.</i>	
ACTION REQUIRED  <i>Vickie to obtain a tape of the hypnosis session for our case file.</i>  PREPARED BY <i>[Signature]</i> DATE <i>9/9/87</i>	

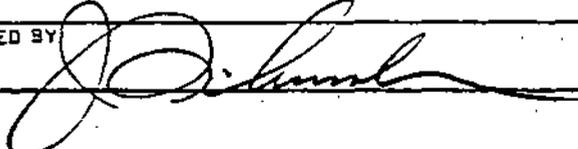
# VISIT

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

SUBJECT/PURPOSE <i>CASH/LANDRUM CASE</i>	DATE OF TELECON #/CONF. <i>9/8/81</i>
DISCUSSION/COMMENTS (INFO.OBTAINED, CONCLUSIONS)	
<p><i>Houston medical person (name on file) gave unusual information, reportedly apropos to the subject case.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>1. Civilian witnesses thought a plane was in trouble and notified Montgomery Sheriff Dept.</i></li> <li><i>2. Sheriff Dept. Patrol also saw object in sky. Called the 273<sup>rd</sup> Medical Detachment Helicopter Ambulance at Hooper Airport.</i></li> <li><i>3. Major said ambulance flew, assuming a plane had gone down. No report on what was found.</i></li> <li><i>4. Randolph AFB, San Antonio, Tx. personnel were involved. Object was a classified device and was in trouble. Military was to cordon off area if it went down. Cash/Landrum bins were from radiation source.</i></li> </ol>	
ACTION REQUIRED	
<i>I have been unable to verify this report</i>	
PREPARED BY <i>[Signature]</i>	DATE <i>9/9/81</i>

# VISIT

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

SUBJECT/PURPOSE CASH/LANDRUM CASE / 961-4830 RUSS MEYER CALLED J. SCHVESSLER	DATE OF TELECON /TR/ CONF. 9/4/81
DISCUSSION/COMMENTS (INFO.OBTAINED, CONCLUSIONS)	
<p>1. MR. MEYER WORKS FOR THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, BUREAU OF RADIATION CONTROL. HE IS AN INSPECTOR, NOT A DOCTOR.</p> <p>2. REPRESENTATIVE BROWN REQUESTED HIS DEPT TO LOOK INTO THE 29 DEC 1980 INCIDENT AND DETERMINE IF RADIATION WAS PRESENT. HE'S NOT SURE HOW HE WILL DO THAT.</p> <p>3. I WILL MEET WITH MR. MEYER AND TWO OF HIS INSPECTORS, GARY FREEZLAND AND MIKE VREASNBORG, ON THURSDAY, 10 SEPT. TO DEFINE THE PROBABLE RADIATION SITUATION. MR. MEYER WILL REPORT RESULTS BACK TO REP. BROWN.</p>	
ACTION REQUIRED	
PREPARED BY  DATE 9/4/81	

# VISIT

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

SUBJECT/PURPOSE <i>CASH/LANDRUM CASE</i>  <i>Steve Johnson visited with J. Schuessler</i>	DATE OF TELECON/TR/CONF.  <i>8/30/81</i>
DISCUSSION/COMMENTS (INFO.OBTAINED, CONCLUSIONS)  <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Steve Johnson is a metro news reporter for the Houston Chronicle. He heard Vickie Landrum on KTRH radio and is interested in doing a story. Steve admits the Chronicle is biased and may not want to cover the case or may want to do a special "slant." I told him we weren't interested if the story was not straight and factual. We don't need the Chronicle.</i></li> <li><i>Steve has military "connections" at Ft. Hood &amp; other bases. He will "exercise" his connections to pick-up some scuttlebutt on the helicopters. He will leave the human interest part up to another reporter.</i></li> </ol>	
ACTION REQUIRED  <i>I believe Steve Johnson means well, but I doubt that the Chronicle will do anything other than a tonaw-in-cheek story</i>  <i>Cindy Nowell ← assigned article by Chitor.</i> <i>Houston Chronicle called station 9/17/81</i>	

DATE

*8/31/81*

# VISIT

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

MUFON

SUBJECT/PURPOSE <b>CASH/LANDRUM CASE</b>  <i>Vickie Landrum Called J. Schuessler</i>	DATE OF TELECON /FR/ CONF. <b>8/29/81</b>
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DISCUSSION/COMMENTS (INFO.OBTAINED, CONCLUSIONS)

- 1. Vickie went to Dr. Chandler and another specialist on 8/28/81 because of further problems with her left eye. She now sees out of a very narrow cone or funnel. The doctors surmised she may have optic nerve damage. She needs another set of glasses but will hold off until after 9 sept when she goes to the Ocular Diagnostic Clinic at the University of Houston for a work-up.*
- 2. Colby's eyesight has degraded significantly in the past months. He just received glasses from Dr. Chandler and is to wear them during all his waking hours.*
- 3. Colby is still losing weight. He seems to be having a lot of appetite trouble.*

ACTION REQUIRED

*Mrs. Landrum to have UH med. records sent to me.*

PREPARED BY <i>J. Schuessler</i>	DATE <b>8/29/81</b>
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When give full choice of foods he still will not eat. He ate only a few bites of lunch last week. Breakfast is a part of a bowl of cereal. He eats very little junk food. Not interested in coke or other soda. He does drink a lot of water. Seems to be thirsty most of the time. (Betty Cash also has the craving for water.)

4. Colby's sores have cleared up. His hair seems to be affected, however. The small bald patch on the crown of the head now has some regrowth. When his hair is combed - it seems to shed excessively. Also, Colby had unusual patches of hair growth on his back, neck & arms. i.e. "1/2-3/4" long. This week he went to the bathroom alone & shaved some of it away.

5. Colby refrains from eating because of a stomach ache. After food intake he complains of a sore stomach in the area of the navel & above. The hurt persists. His bowel habits vary but often are quite loose, like during the weeks following the incident.

# WISIT

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

DATE

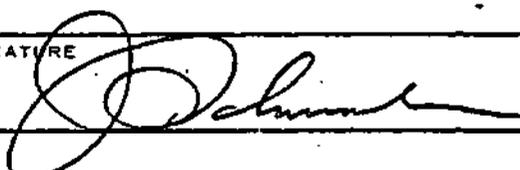
8/17/81

TO: Distribution

CC

FROM: J. F. Schuessler

SIGNATURE

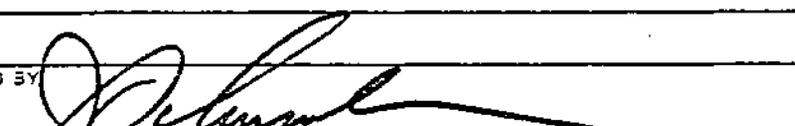


SUBJ: Cash/Landrum Case

1. I called all hot air balloon groups in the Houston area to determine whether or not any of them flew on 29 Dec 1980 in the Huffman, Tx area. The answer from all was - NO! No balloons are certified for night flights in this area. None flew that day or in that segment of the greater Houston territory. It is too rough, and too close to the Houston intercontinental airport.
2. Those called were:
  - a) Bill Murtough - Head of Balloon Pilots Assn. 466-1927
  - b) Air Ad. Ventures - 526-6139
  - c) Balloon Adventures (John Wyler) 780-0711
  - d) Lone Star Balloons 870-8284
  - e) Pretty Balloons Unlimited 463-0080
  - f) Texas Balloon Stables 859-0601 (now out of business)

# VISIT

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

SUBJECT/PURPOSE <b>CASH/LANDRUM CASE</b>	DATE OF TELECON/TR/ CONF. <b>7/19/80</b>
DISCUSSION/COMMENTS (INFO.OBTAINED, CONCLUSIONS)	
<p>1. Vickie has not yet located the 3 women that were reported burned the same night she was, hospitalized and one died. She will keep trying.</p> <p>2. I advised her Bob Pratt was fired by the Enquirer and his replacement Dennis Neeld also. She is worried they will print falsehoods.</p> <p>3. She said she used Betty's 3 for 89¢ throwaway cigarette lighter on 12/29/80. She didn't get her own lighter fluid type unit until Feb. 1981. The lighter fluid smell at the sighting was from above.</p> <p>4. Editor of Science Digest called her. Knew all the story details. She said ok to print if done correctly. He said he'd contact me. Sounds like they have a story to tell &amp; plan to do it no matter what. Also said he said he "knew there were helicopters" there that night.</p>	
PREPARED BY 	DATE <b>7/19/80</b>

# VISIT

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

DATE

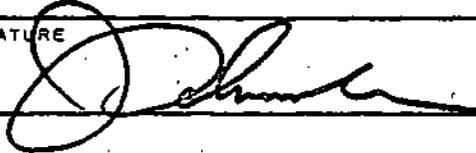
7/15/81

TO: DISTRIBUTION

CC

FROM: J. SCHUESSLER

SIGNATURE



SUBJ: CASH/LANDRUM CASE

1. This evening I accompanied Stuart Schwartz (Assoc. Producer of That's Incredible) to visit Vickie & Colby Landrum.
2. A site visit revealed that the point where the object was first seen above the trees was on the Cleveland-Huffman road approx. 3 miles before the encounter at tree top level over the road. It appeared first as a bright oblong glow, vertical in the sky.
3. Colby now has three new cavities in his teeth and is going to a dentist (was to go today but didn't because of our visit).
4. Vickie has been sick to her stomach since the regressive hypnosis session on 7/11/81. She says "I'll never let myself relive that terror again."

27

# VISIT

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

SUBJECT/PURPOSE <i>CASH/LANDRUM CASE</i>	DATE OF TELECON /TR/ CONF. <i>7/12/81</i>
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*J. Schuessler Called Dr. Peter Rank*

DISCUSSION/COMMENTS (INFO.OBTAINED, CONCLUSIONS)

- 1. Vickie Landrum had expressed strong concern on 7/11/81 about grandson Colby. She feels that he is not eating enough, he is losing weight and a patch of hair (dime size) is missing from his head.*
- 2. I related the information about Colby to Dr. Rank to see if immediate action needs to be taken or what should be done. With that small amount of data he couldn't get too concerned; however, he suggested a plan of action. It well may not be radiation related and that must be determined.*
- 3. One cause of hair loss could be alopecia areata. In this case the scalp would look more or less normal. Another cause*

ACTION REQUIRED

*J. Schuessler to request Vickie to record Colby's physiological data on a regular basis and submit it to be monitored.*

PREPARED BY <i>J. Schuessler</i>	DATE <i>7-12-81</i>
----------------------------------	---------------------

could be tinea capitis (superficial fungus infection) which is fairly common. In this case the skin would be red, rough and scaly.

A perfectly normal reason for apparent weight loss could be growth in height (slimming down). Another is summertime anorexia associated with summer vacation activities and altered eating habits.

It is necessary to closely and accurately monitor Colby to define why he is changing. The following information is needed on a regular basis (try every 2 weeks).

Weight

Height

Scalp inspection (is it bare, are there short hairs, is there inflammation, redness etc.)

Measure size, shape & location of any hair lost.

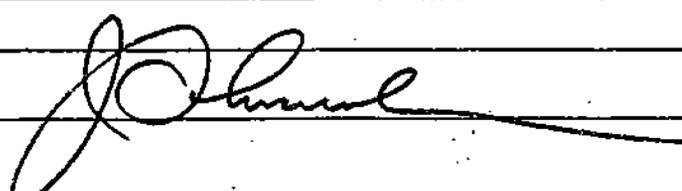
Record Spontaneous complaints

Record any other anomaly.

4. I told Dr. Rank about the hypnosis session by Dr. Sprinkle. He was very interested.
5. I gave him an update on Vickie & Betty as well as I know it. Added to everything else the type of hair regrowth sounded like to him that they were exposed to ionizing radiation - probably gamma X.

# VISIT

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

SUBJECT/PURPOSE <i>CASH/LANDREUM CASE</i>	DATE OF TELECON /TR/ CONF. <i>7/5/81</i>
DISCUSSION/COMMENTS (INFO.OBTAINED, CONCLUSIONS)	
<p><i>1. Richard compared the Cash and Cates burns, suggesting they were a chronic inflammatory reaction that lasts a long period of time. They would be caused by an exposure to a chemical substance rather than radiation (Doesn't explain why Cates had only a <math>\diamond</math> mark on chest &amp; no facial or arm damage).</i></p> <p><i>2. Suggested it could be exhaust products from an advanced aircraft exhaust.</i></p>	
ACTION REQUIRED	
<p><i>Richard will focus his efforts on chemical rather than radiation to explain future cases.</i></p>	
PREPARED BY 	DATE <i>7/5/81</i>

PERSONAL

7/5/81

H. Walt,

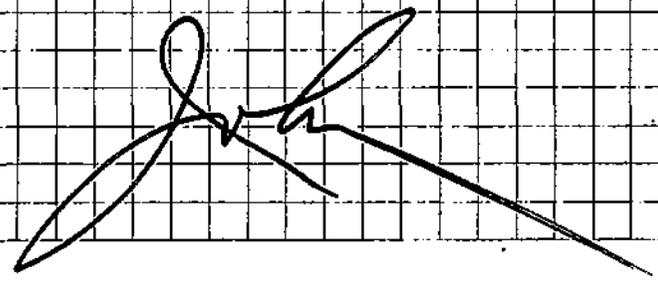
Things have been sorta jumbled around our household for the last 6 weeks since Kathy's mother had a heart attack. I've spent 2 periods in Green Bay & Kathy just returned from an extended stay there. Things are looking better now, so hopefully I'll get back on a normal schedule.

In reply to the Alexis Markham letter I'll offer the following. I have heard your message in the mutant Journal struck a good note with most APD members but naturally not Coral. Their office girl mentioned that cooperation was a good idea but was let go immediately because of "financial considerations." Apparently Coral says that the data will rot in her basement before she cooperates. Knowing that her drinking is worse than ever, however she may not be around to let it rot there.

That is only part of the situation. Alexis is apparently a lubber nice, but psychically oriented individual. Her leanings are not to strike scientific work, but to "rotter" approaches. It seems a good reply would be a simple restatement of your message, without reference to Coral or her problem. She can & will sink herself. It is not necessary to do much other than to "cooperate" Coral out of the picture.

The Cash/Landrum case is more & more interesting. All kinds of inputs & pressures are coming along. The big move for a while was to convince us there were no helicopters. Now the move is to get Betty to say there is no UFO, just a government exercise in return for financial assistance. All very interesting. I'll tell you a lot of little things when we can get a little time together.

William Davidson (new member in our area) is the manager of OAO Corp office here in Houston. He is a very sharp person.



# VISIT

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

SUBJECT/PURPOSE <i>CASH/LANOREUM CASE</i>	DATE OF TELECON/TR/ CONF. <i>7/4/81</i>
DISCUSSION/COMMENTS (INFO.OBTAINED, CONCLUSIONS)	
1. Betty was at mother's home in GA.	
2. Betty read me the letter she had received from A. Hendry. She sent a copy to Senator Tower as instructed by Hendry.	
3. Betty was curious how Hendry had gotten such accurate medical info. when she hadn't released it to him.	
4. Betty was very direct today in saying there were "no little green men". And that "this was a military incident". She said "I now know it was military."	
ACTION REQUIRED	
<i>Betty to send me a copy of the letter. I will check the references on it.</i>	
PREPARED BY <i>J. Schuessler</i>	DATE <i>7/4/81</i>

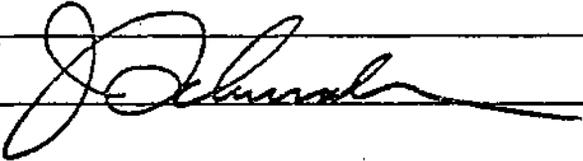
# VISIIT

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

SUBJECT/PURPOSE <i>CASH/LANDRUM CASE</i>	DATE OF TELECON /TR/ CONF. <i>7/3/81</i>
DISCUSSION/COMMENTS (INFO.OBTAINED, CONCLUSIONS)	
<p><i>1. Vickie told me that Allen Hendry (404-469-6288) had sent a letter to Betty Cash for her to send to her Senator to file for money from the federal government, since gov't helicopters were involved.</i></p> <p><i>She was told to use the name of Mr. Whiting in Washington as a reference.</i></p>	
<p><i>2. Vickie had earlier written to her Congressman George Wilson. He gave her the idiot treatment.</i></p>	
ACTION REQUIRED <i>That's incredible will be at Vickie's Place on 15 July. She wants me there</i>	
PREPARED BY <i>[Signature]</i>	DATE <i>7/3/81</i>

# VISIT

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

SUBJECT/PURPOSE	Cash / Landrum Case	DATE OF TELECON / TR / CONF.	6/24/81
J. Schuessler called Betty Cash			
DISCUSSION/COMMENTS (INFO. OBTAINED, CONCLUSIONS)			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Betty was at her sisters home in GA.</li><li>2. She will ask Drs. Spira and Casley to send her copies of her records.</li><li>3. She told me her home in Dayton was robbed earlier this year. Personal things, not furniture was taken. All boxes were opened and raved. A report was made to the Liberty county sheriff.</li></ol>			
ACTION REQUIRED			
PREPARED BY			
			
DATE			
7/2/81			

# VISIT

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

SUBJECT/PURPOSE <b>CASH/LANDRUM CASE</b>	DATE OF TELECON /TR/ CONF. <b>30 APRIL 81</b>
DISCUSSION/COMMENTS (INFO.OBTAINED, CONCLUSIONS)	
<p>1. Vicki called to tell me one of the twin rotor helicopters like they saw on 29 Dec 1980 landed in Dayton, Tx today. It was part of a parade celebration.</p> <p>2. She and Colby went inside of the helicopter and photographed it all around. It had Army and Coast Guard markings. She met the crew and talked with them about the object of the helicopters in pursuit. The pilot said that he was part of that group of helicopters and they were originally alerted to the object by the Montgomery County Sheriff's Dept.</p>	
ACTION REQUIRED	
PREPARED BY  DATE <b>4/30/81</b>	

# VISIT

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

SUBJECT/PURPOSE <b>CASH/LANDRUM CASE</b>	DATE OF TELECON/TRIP/CONF. <b>17 May 1981</b>
DISCUSSION/COMMENTS (INFO.OBTAINED, CONCLUSIONS)	
<p>1. Vickie Landrum provided photographs of one of the CH-47 helicopters and the name of the pilot who claimed to have flown after the UFO near Huffman, Tx on 29 December 1980.</p> <p>2. I met with a representative of the U.S. Army and Texas National Guard, and obtained the following information. The vehicle belonged to the 136<sup>th</sup> Transportation Company. The commanding officer is Major Del Livingston. The unit has 16 CH-47's at Grand Prairie, Texas (Near Dallas) at the Dallas Naval Air Station. They have an additional eight CH-47's stationed at Ellington AFB, near Houston, Tx.</p>	
ACTION REQUIRED	
PREPARED BY 	DATE <b>5/17/81</b>

# VISIT

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

SUBJECT/PURPOSE <b>REPORT OF UFO NEAR CLEVELAND, TX</b>	DATE OF TELECON/TR/CONF. <b>27 APRIL 81</b>
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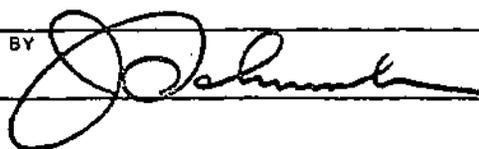
*Darlene Vanghel Called J. Schuessler*

DISCUSSION/COMMENTS (INFO. OBTAINED, CONCLUSIONS)

- 1. Ms. Vanghel is an ex-nurse at Methodist Hospital. Her friend Paul Hadley is the head of Maintenance for the 3:30 - 11:30 shift at the complex. Mr. Hadley saw the UFO.*
- 2. He was returning home to Cleveland from Houston after work (around midnight) in late Dec 1980. Just past the bridge he came across a UFO at treetop level - it was the length of two football fields. He got out of the car and observed it for 20-30 minutes. Inside he could see three humanoids with "Roman noses", wearing silver suits. Their helmets seemed to be separate from the suits. They were all looking out windows in different directions. Each must have been 6-7 ft. tall. The light inside reflected off the instruments. The object made no sound. The object went up & away rapidly. The creek rucked with a horrible stretch after the object left.*

ACTION REQUIRED

*J. Schuessler to contact Paul Hadley and get his story and the date of the incident.*

PREPARED BY 	DATE <b>4/27/81</b>
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# VISIIL

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

SUBJECT/PURPOSE <b>CASH/LANDRUM CASE</b>	DATE OF TELECON /TR/ CONF. <b>28 APRIL '81</b>
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Michael Mave called J. Schuessler.

DISCUSSION/COMMENTS (INFO.OBTAINED, CONCLUSIONS)

1. Mr. Mave represents "That's Incredible" - A. Landsberg's popular TV program. (213) 462-1499.
2. Mike Mave had contacted Betty Cash and Vicki Landrum and convinced them to appear on a future segment of "That's Incredible." He obtained from them names of individuals they had contacted (doctors, UFO groups, etc).
3. Mike called me to support the program & said he called the doctors and others also. Apparently, most people were not interested in his program, so he asked me to suggest a medical consultant to appear on TV. I suggested he drop the program, but he was not receptive to that idea. As an alternate he asked if I would object if his company exercised a friendship situation at Houston's Methodist Hospital to have some additional test run and evaluation made - His company would pay for the exams. My only reply was that I'd be happy to receive any and all data available. Any medical arrangements must be made with and agreed to by Betty & Vicki. I don't wish to be put in a position of pushing tests for publicity purposes.

PREPARED BY

*J. Schuessler*

DATE

4/29/81

# VISIT

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

SUBJECT/PURPOSE <i>CASH/LANDRUM CASE</i>	DATE OF TELECON /TR/ CONF. <i>4/24/81</i>
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*Vicki Landrum called J. Schuessler*

DISCUSSION/COMMENTS (INFO.OBTAINED, CONCLUSIONS)

- 1. Vicki was mad about the inaccurate article published in the 4/28 issue of the Globe. She said she wants it published correctly or not at all.*
- 2. Vicki has been going to the Liberty Tx Health Clinic weekly for four weeks now. She has always had low blood pressure. About 4 weeks ago she was feeling sick, dizzy & about to faint. Her pressure was 160/87, then 142/84 next week, 120/80 the following, and 110/80 this week.*
- 3. Vicki & Colby will enter UTMB at Galveston, Tx on Mon or Wed. next week. The radiation section will test them for radiation exposure. She will also get her eyes checked. Her eyes have been very bad this week. She had Dr. Chandler treat them for her.*
- 4. She will have the Galveston medical records released to us.*

PREPARED BY

*J. Schuessler*

DATE

*4/24/81*

# VISIT

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

SUBJECT/PURPOSE <b>CASH/LANDORUM CASE</b>	DATE OF TELECON /TR/ CONF. <b>4/23/81</b>
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*J. Schuessler called Betty Cash*

DISCUSSION/COMMENTS (INFO.OBTAINED, CONCLUSIONS)

1. Betty was at sisters home in Birmingham, AL.
2. In general, her health is better. Her hair is still missing so she now wears a wig. Her skin is still a problem. The big blisters swell up, then break. After that a large red blotch remains.
3. Yesterday Betty's sister had to awaken her from deep sleep as she was having a night-mare. She was by the UFO and some weird looking people were after her. They were human size but more apelike. She was paralyzed & couldn't get away. Her sister said she was screaming "Go away, leave me alone" and crying very hard. A very traumatic dream.

ACTION REQUIRED

PREPARED BY

*J. Schuessler*

DATE

**4/23/81**

# VISIT

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

SUBJECT/PURPOSE <u>29 Dec 1980 UFO Report</u> <u>Between 7-8 PM</u>	DATE OF TELECON/TR/ CONF. <u>3/25/81</u>
DISCUSSION/COMMENTS (INFO.OBTAINED, CONCLUSIONS)	
<p>1. He was enroute to Greenspoint Mall, driving west on the North Belt, taking his 12 year old son to music lessons. Boy said "Looks like those 2 things are going to crash" One was an aircraft. On the return trip (going W to E in his car), he saw it again, this time: 200-300 feet above ground. It was rectangular and seemed to have wavy lines on bottom - was very bright, moving slowly. He caught up with it going east &amp; it reversed itself. Went over trees to north west. Size was a little bigger than a light plane. It was a clear night - he could see planes in the distance. Location was about 15 miles from New Caney.</p>	
ACTION REQUIRED	
PREPARED BY <u>J. Schussler</u> DATE <u>3/25/81</u>	



Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

Report of Action taken

3/23/81

Trip to Humble/Dayton/Liberty

Letters alerting the authorities to the potential dangers caused by the encounter of 12/29/80 were distributed to the Harris County Constable's office - Chief Tiller, Dr. Phalin - Humble Hospital, Liberty County Sherriff - Bob Echos, Liberty police chief, Humble police detective, Liberty hospital, Dayton Police Chief, Dayton Hospital. All Law enforcement officers were interviewed in person except the Dayton Chief who was off that day. No doctors were interviewed. Maps of the area were obtained which contain the affected areas.

# VISIT

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

SUBJECT/PURPOSE <i>December 1980 UFO Report</i>	DATE OF TELECON/TR/ CONF. <i>3/23/81</i>
DISCUSSION/COMMENTS (INFO.OBTAINED, CONCLUSIONS)	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>Ms. Moffett heard our request for UFO reports on KOUR radio.</i></li><li><i>She called to see if here sighting would be of interest.</i></li><li><i>She was leaving Houston, Tx for Mo. Dakota. Just north of Houston she observed a big bright object coming down on an angle. It disappeared when it neared the ground.</i></li></ol>	
ACTION REQUIRED <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>Ms. Moffett will check her records to see what the exact date and location is.</i></li></ol>	
PREPARED BY <i>J. Schum</i>	DATE <i>3/23/81</i>

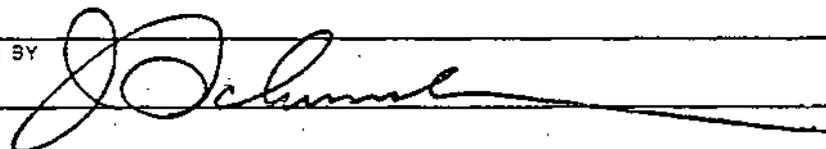
# VISIT

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

SUBJECT/PURPOSE <i>CASH/LANDRUM CASE</i>	DATE OF TELECON/TR/CONF. <i>3/20/81</i>
DISCUSSION/COMMENTS (INFO.OBTAINED, CONCLUSIONS)	
<i>Jerry MacDonald called J. Schuessler</i>	
<p><i>1. Metro News Service carried a plea for witnesses to come forth. Jerry heard the plea on KIKK radio.</i></p> <p><i>2. Between 8 &amp; 9 pm on 29 Dec 1980 Jerry was in his back yard working on a sewer problem. A large object came slowly across the area. It was bright, red in center &amp; fire in back. It crept along, hovered and rumbled. It was frightening. He told only his family &amp; close friends. It was about the altitude of twice the height of the football field light (&lt; 200 ft. altitude).</i></p> <p><i>Jerry lives at 203 Hill St in Dayton, Tx. telephone (713) 258-5956</i></p>	
ACTION REQUIRED <i>Visit Mr MacDonald</i> <i>He lives in a trailer house with a for sale sign. When arriving in Dayton turn right at first red light and left at stop sign.</i>	
PREPARED BY <i>J. Schuessler</i>	DATE <i>3/20/81</i>

# VISIIT

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

SUBJECT/PURPOSE <b>CASH / LANDRUM CASE</b>	DATE OF TELECON /TR/ CONF. <b>3/19/87</b>
DISCUSSION/COMMENTS (INFO.OBTAINED, CONCLUSIONS)	
<p>J. Schuessler called Betty Cash</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Betty is not improving. She still has eye irritation and weakness, head aches and no energy. Her hair is growing very little, leaving her bald in spots. She is getting blisters on her body (arms, legs and back) similar to those that occurred originally.</li><li>2. She has signed the medical release forms and will mail them today.</li><li>3. She identified the helicopters (most of them that were near by) as Chinooks - twin rotors. Her brother (USAF Ret) in Fort Walton Beach looked at her sketch of the helicopter and made the same identification. The second type of helicopters weren't near enough to make a positive identification - she didn't want to guess.</li></ol>	
PREPARED BY 	DATE <b>3/19/87</b>

# VISIT

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

SUBJECT/PURPOSE <i>Cash/Landrum Case</i>	DATE OF TELECON /TR/ CONF. <i>3/18/91</i>
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DISCUSSION/COMMENTS (INFO. OBTAINED, CONCLUSIONS)

*J. Allen Hynek called J. Schuessler*

- 1. Dr. Hynek is very interested in this case. He believes it is one that can fulfill the requirement of high strangeness, plus high reliability. He urges VISIT to stay on it and fully document it. In addition he applauds VISIT for working in cooperation with all the other groups.*
- 2. We discussed the similarities to the Steven Michalak case in Canada. He offered to send me the Mayo Clinic medical records on that case for comparison with the Cash records.*
- 3. He offered the services of the Chicago Assoc. of Technical Societies (CATS) for any analysis of auto parts that we might require.*

ACTION REQUIRED

*JOHN: Please make MUFON a copy (when you receive it)*

*Matt*

PREPARED BY <i>J. Schuessler</i>	DATE <i>3/18/91</i>
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*I definitely will*

*John*

# VISIT

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

SUBJECT/PURPOSE <b>CASH/LANDRUM CASE</b>	DATE OF TELECON/TR/ CONF. <b>3/16/81</b>
DISCUSSION/COMMENTS (INFO.OBTAINED, CONCLUSIONS)	
1. Mrs Landrum has a new telephone number.	
It is (713) 258-2100. She said it is OK	
to release this number.	
2. She is happy Dr. Rank will be consulting	
on the case. She will write to him because	
she is concerned about Colby's future	
health. Apparently, Dr. Shenoy said	
it is possible for Colby to have sickness	
in 1 to 10 years from now. It could mimic	
radiation exposure damage, but not really be	
that. He was reported to be concerned	
that it might not be treated properly.	
3. Vickie identified the helicopter. She will	
mail the info to me.	
ACTION REQUIRED	
None	
PREPARED BY <i>J. J. [Signature]</i> DATE <b>3/17/81</b>	

# VISIT

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

Minutes of Meeting  
3/15/81  
Cash/Landrum/Landrum

Attendees;  
Vickie Landrum  
Colby Landrum  
Don Tucker  
Dave Kissinger

Location;  
506 W. Clayton  
Dayton, Tx 77535  
713-258-2100

## Summary

Purpose for this trip was to obtain a sketch of the UFO. Additional case information was obtained. Two police stations were visited with no success. One detective was contacted who has an interest in UFOs with whom VISIT can communicate with further.

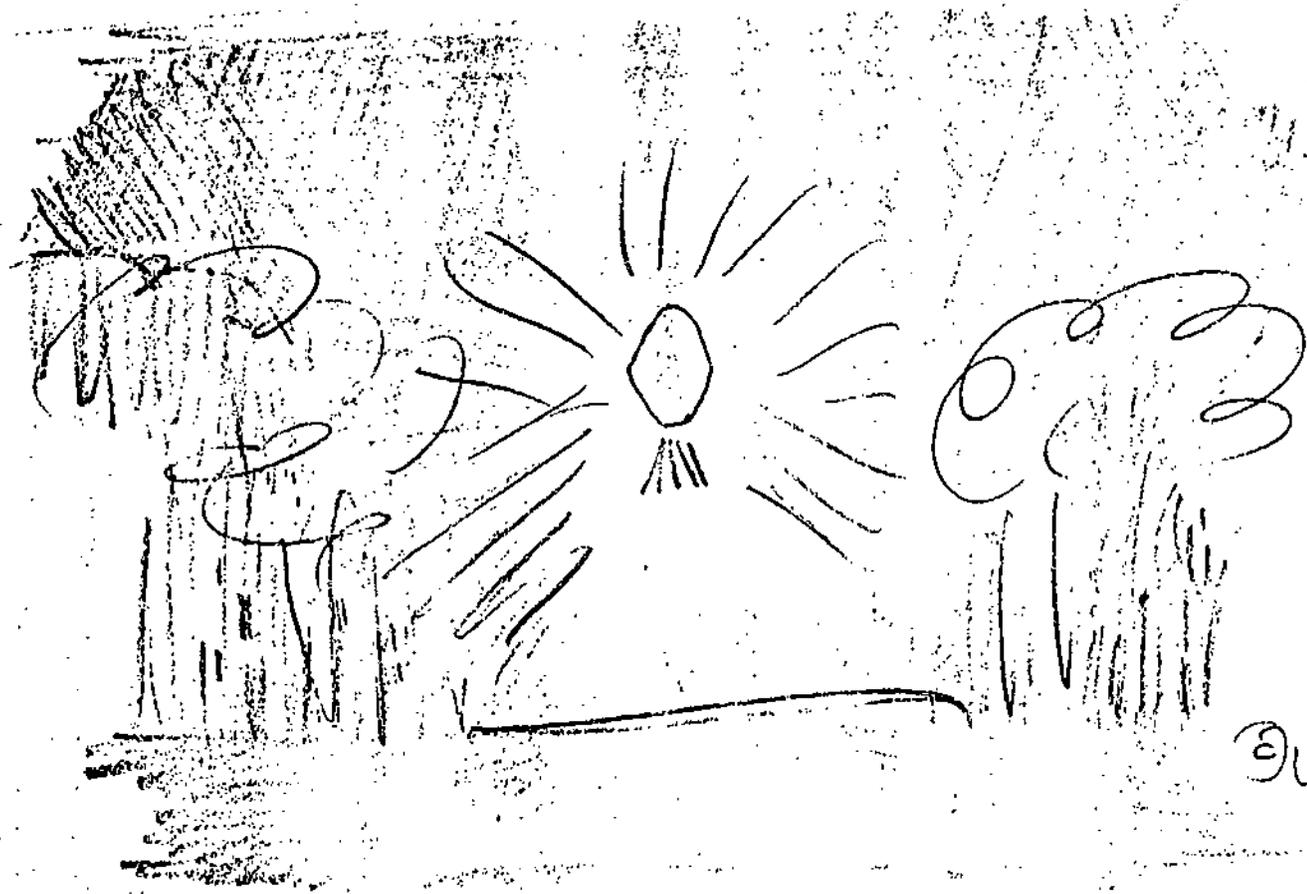
The tape recorder that was taken failed therefore the traditional record of this case was not obtained.

Vickie Landrum gave the description of the craft to Don Tucker, VISIT's artist. The sketch was agreed to by 7 year old Colby as being the diamond that he saw.

The following information was collected during the course of the conversation with Vickie.

No glasses were worn on the night of the encounter.  
Vision appears to be getting worse.  
Craft was about 200 ft away (estimated by comparison)  
Heater was on low before incident. Had to turn airconditioning on after encounter.  
Colby lost total control over urinary and bowel movements for 3-2 weeks. Would wet pants playing.  
English was given to Vickie by the Washington contact.  
Neither Vickie nor Colby had problems breathing or had chest pains after the encounter, (Eliminated Keimtzow's suggestion)  
Colby had slight soar throat.  
It took 3 days to get Washington number to Vickie.  
Stopped car at 2100 and counted the helicopters. Colby has been sleeping by himself for 2 weeks.  
Deputy Sheriff saw one in 78 in the same area. (Reporter photographer reported.  
Car was checked (after washing) one week after by son at shop.  
I asked Vickie to obtain the list of tests and equipment used.  
Colby had asma, therefore respiration was checked carefully.  
White light on the helicopters.  
Helicopters were close enough to know that they were flying overhead.

Photos taken of Vickies finger nails and of Colby's face.  
Sg Davenport 2587621



DUISIT  
1981

# VISIIL

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

SUBJECT/PURPOSE <i>Cash/Landrum Case (29 Dec 80)</i>	DATE OF TELECON /TR/ CONF. <i>3/12/81</i>
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*Call from Peter Rank (M.D.) To J. Schuessler*

DISCUSSION/COMMENTS (INFO. OBTAINED, CONCLUSIONS)

*Dr. Rank is a radiation specialist and offered his services at the request of the Fund for UFA Research. I gave him a case overview and we discussed how to proceed. He recommends at least a one-year follow up. He will provide medical release forms so we can obtain the Hospital, doctor and out-patient medical records. I will provide case data for his review. We will decide at a later date on what to do next. He is:*

*Peter Rank, MD  
Chief of Dept. of Radiology  
Methodist Hospital  
309 W. Washington Ave  
Madison, WI 53703*

*HOSPITAL (608) 251-2371      HOME (608) 256-4139*

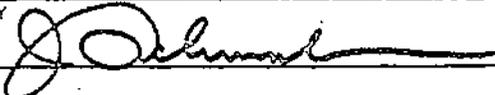
ACTION REQUIRED

- 1. J. Schuessler to provide case data*
- 2. P. Rank to provide medical forms and consultation*

PREPARED BY <i>J. J. O'Connell</i>	DATE <i>3/12/81</i>
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# VISIT

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

SUBJECT/PURPOSE <b>CASH/LANDRUM CASE</b>	DATE OF TELECON TR/ CONF. <b>6 March '81</b>
TELECON: <b>R. NIEMTROW / J. SCHUESSLER</b>	
DISCUSSION/COMMENTS (INFO. OBTAINED, CONCLUSIONS) <p>1. I told Richard about the effects I observed during the Landrum interview on 4/27/81. (i.e. loss of hair, diarrhea, and the lines across the fingernails.)</p> <p>2. Richard said that lines across the nail are common in chemotherapy patients - shows it is working. This is an area of nonviable tissue where something blocked the growth of the nail. The nail line corresponds to the loss of hair &amp; diarrhea as a symptom. Could mean whole body was exposed to something.</p>	
ACTION REQUIRED J. Schuessler to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Get fingernail and hair samples</li><li>2. See if taste was affected.</li><li>3. See if teeth were affected (i.e. loose, bleeding, or new cavities.)</li></ol>	
PREPARED BY 	DATE <b>3/6/81</b>

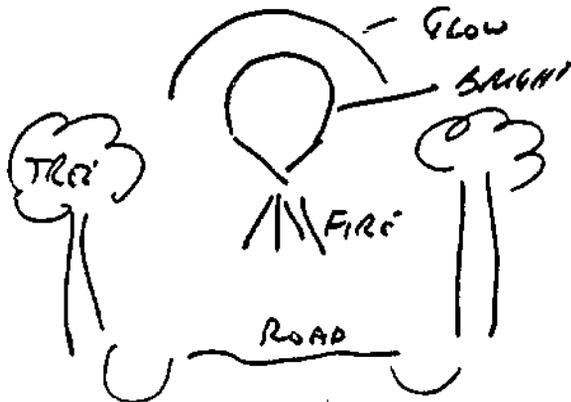


UFO SIGHTING QUESTIONNAIRE - GENERAL CASES (FORM 1)

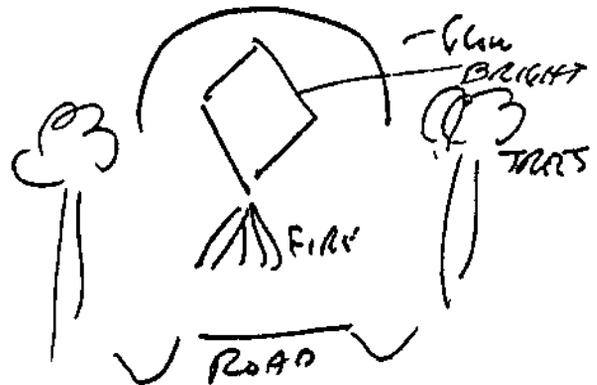
PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM (Print) AND RETURN TO INVESTIGATOR (For MUFON Use)

NAME OF INVESTIGATOR: John F. Schuessler  
 STREET ADDRESS: P.O. Box 58485  
 Houston, TX 77058  
 PHONE: A/C 713 4882834  
 TOWN/CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ P CODE: \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTRY: \_\_\_\_\_

DRAW A SIMPLE SKETCH OF THE OBJECT. (Label any lights, colors, protrusions)



VICKY'S DESC



COLBY'S DESC

(On a separate sheet, please sketch a simple map of the area showing your position and the object's position. Include an arrow denoting the direction of North. Indicate direction that the object was moving.)

PLACE OF SIGHTING

TEXAS STATE/PROVINCE  
 HARRIS COUNTY COUNTY  
 NEAR NEW CANEY CITY/TOWN  
 USA COUNTRY

SIGHTING TIME

9 PM ( ) AM ( ) ZONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 DURATION: 12 SEC ( ) MIN ( ) HRS ( )

DATE OF SIGHTING

29 DAY  
 Dec MONTH  
 80 YEAR

PERSONAL ACCOUNT

PLEASE DESCRIBE THE INCIDENT AS IT HAPPENED. BE SURE THAT YOUR NARRATIVE INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING:

1. WHERE WERE YOU AND WHAT WERE YOU DOING AT THE TIME?
2. WHAT MADE YOU FIRST NOTICE THE OBJECT?
3. WHAT DID YOU THINK THE OBJECT WAS WHEN YOU FIRST NOTICED IT?
4. DESCRIBE YOUR REACTIONS AND ACTIONS, DURING AND AFTER SIGHTING THE OBJECT.
5. DESCRIBE THE OBJECT AND ITS ACTIONS.
6. HOW DID YOU LOSE SIGHT OF THE OBJECT?

SEE ATTACHED WRITE-UP



FOR MUFON USE

TEMPERATURE: 40°

WIND DIRECTION: \_\_\_\_\_

WIND SPEED: \_\_\_\_\_

VISIBILITY: Good

CEILING: High Clouds

EDUCATION: \_\_\_\_\_ MAJOR: \_\_\_\_\_

SPECIAL TRAINING: \_\_\_\_\_

VISION: COLORBLIND? ( ) EYEGLASSES? (  ) USE AID? ( )

HEARING: GOOD? (  ) FAIR? ( ) POOR? ( )

HEALTH: DURING SIGHTING? ( Good ) AFTER? ( Problems )

WITNESS' NAME: Vicky Anderson AGE: 260

STREET: 506 W. Clayton

TOWN/CITY: Dayton TX PHONE: 352-9156

PROVINCE: USA COUNTRY: \_\_\_\_\_

OCCUPATION: \_\_\_\_\_

EMPLOYED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

ENVIRONMENTAL SITUATION (Check/Fill In As Applicable)

VIEWED FROM: OUTDOORS (  ) INDOORS ( ) CAR (  ) AIRCRAFT ( ) BOAT ( ) OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

VIEWED THROUGH: ( GLASSES ( ) WINDOW (  ) SCREEN ( ) BINOCULARS ( ) TELESCOPE ( ) STILL CAMERA ( ) )  
( MOVIE CAMERA ( ) THEODOLITE ( ) RADAR ( ) OTHER ALSO IN OPEN AIR )

AREA/LOCATION: CITY ( ) SUBURBAN ( ) RURAL (  ) INDUSTRIAL ( ) COMMERCIAL ( ) RESIDENTIAL ( )

AREA/TERRAIN: FIELDS ( ) WOODS (  ) HILLS ( ) MOUNTAINS ( ) RIVER ( ) POND ( ) LAKE ( )

AREA/TECHNICAL: AIRPORT ( ) POWERLINES ( ) POWER STATION ( ) RAILROAD TRACKS ( ) OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

SKY CONDITION: CLEAR (  ) AT LOW LEVEL PARTLY CLOUDY ( ) OVERCAST ( ) HIGH CLOUDS FOGGY ( ) HEAVY ( ) MEDIUM ( ) LIGHT ( )

PRECIPITATION: NONE (  ) RAIN ( ) FOG ( ) SLEET ( ) SNOW ( ) HEAVY ( ) MEDIUM ( ) LIGHT ( )

UFO DIRECTION: FIRST SEEN IN 130 ft dist. (PASSO) LAST SEEN IN SW IT MOVED FROM NE TO SW

UFO ELEVATION: ( FIRST SEEN - 1/4 ( ) 1/2 ( ) 3/4 ( ) OF THE WAY UP HORIZON; OVERHEAD ( ) OTHER \_\_\_\_\_ )  
( LAST SEEN - 1/4 ( ) 1/2 ( ) 3/4 ( ) OF THE WAY UP HORIZON; OVERHEAD ( ) OTHER \_\_\_\_\_ )

UFO DISTANCE: WHEN CLOSEST TO ME 130 ft UFO ALTITUDE: WHEN CLOSEST TO THE GROUND < 100 ft

UFO PASSED: ( IN-FRONT-OF \_\_\_\_\_ WHICH WAS \_\_\_\_\_ IN DISTANCE FROM THE WITNESS )  
( BEHIND \_\_\_\_\_ WHICH WAS \_\_\_\_\_ IN DISTANCE FROM THE WITNESS )

ALSO IN AREA: AIRPLANE ( ) HELICOPTER (  ) BALLOON ( ) SEARCHLIGHT ( ) OTHER 23 HELICOPTERS

BEFORE WITNESS SIGHTED UFO ( ) DURING UFO SIGHTING (  ) AFTER UFO SIGHTING ( )

OBJECT DESCRIPTION (Check/Fill In As Applicable)

OBSERVED: ( AN OBJECT ( ) NUMBER OF \_\_\_\_\_ SHAPE OF \_\_\_\_\_ COLOR(s) \_\_\_\_\_ )  
( A LIGHT (  ) NUMBER OF 1 SHAPE OF ○ COLOR(s) Bright light + fire )

DESCRIBE: SOUND Beep-beep SMELL \_\_\_\_\_ SPEED Hovered  
Also roar of helicopter

REAL SIZE: ( LARGER ( ) SMALLER ( ) SAME SIZE ( ) AS THE OBJECT LISTED BELOW )  
( BASKETBALL ( ) COMPACT CAR ( ) STANDARD CAR ( ) HOUSE ( ) OTHER \_\_\_\_\_ )

APPARENT SIZE: ( HOW MANY TIMES LARGER ( ) OR SMALLER ( ) IF PUT IN THE SKY BESIDE OBJECT BELOW? )  
( AS BIG AS CITY WATER TANK TIMES THE SIZE OF A STAR \_\_\_\_\_ TIMES THE SIZE OF A FULL MOON )

BRIGHT AS: A STAR ( ) THE MOON ( ) OR A \_\_\_\_\_ LIGHT IF PLACED AT SAME DISTANCE AWAY

DID THE OBJECT(S) OR LIGHT(S): (Please elaborate on items checked below by using a separate sheet)

CHANGE DIRECTION? ( <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> )	HOVER? ( <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> )	AFFECT RADIO/TV? ( )	FLUTTER? ( )
TURN ABRUPTLY? ( )	DESCEND? ( <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> )	AFFECT ELECTRICITY? ( )	SPIN? ( )
FALL LIKE A LEAF? ( )	ASCEND? ( <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> )	AFFECT MAGNETISM? ( )	BLINK? ( )
ABSORB OBJECT(S)? ( )	OVER POWERLINES? ( )	AFFECT TIMEPIECE? ( )	PULSATE? ( )
EJECT OBJECT(S)? ( )	OVER A BUILDING? ( )	AFFECT ENGINE? ( <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> )	APPEAR SOLID? ( )
CHANGE SHAPE? ( )	LAND ON GROUND? ( )	AFFECT VEHICLE? ( )	HAVE FUZZY EDGES? ( )
CAST SHADOW? ( )	LAND IN WATER? ( )	AFFECT ANIMAL? ( )	HAVE OUTLINE? ( )
CAST LIGHT? ( <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> )	CARRY OCCUPANTS? ( )	AFFECT HUMAN? ( <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> )	WOBBLE? ( )
REFLECT LIGHT? ( )	COMMUNICATE? ( )	AFFECT WATER? ( )	VIBRATE? ( )
LEAVE A TRAIL? ( )	GIVE OFF HEAT? ( <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> )	AFFECT GROUND? ( )	GLOW? ( )
DISINTEGRATE? ( )	LEAVE RESIDUE? ( )	AFFECT VEGETATION? ( )	APPEAR TRANSPARENT? ( )

HOW MANY OTHER WITNESSES? 2 DID ANY OTHER AGENCY CONTACT YOU? \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE PROVIDE THE NAMES/ADDRESSES/PHONE NUMBERS OF OTHER WITNESSES AND/OR INVESTIGATORS OR AGENCIES ON SEPARATE SHEET IF APPLICABLE AND KNOWN.

SIGNATURE OF OBSERVER: Oral Permission During Interview

YOU MAY (  ) MAY NOT ( ) USE MY NAME

DATE THIS FORM SIGNED: 4-3-87

DAY MONTH YEAR

# WISIL

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

P.O. Box 877 • Friendswood, Texas • 77546

CASH/LANDRUM CASE (29 Dec 1980)

ON-SITE INVESTIGATION REPORT

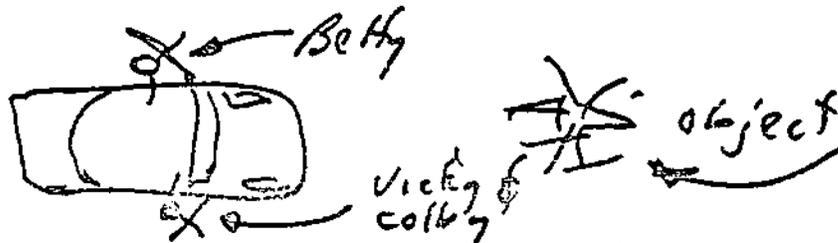
DATE: 28 FEB 1981

INVESTIGATORS: ALAN HOLT & JOHN SCHUESSLER

On Saturday, 28 Feb. 1981 Al Holt & I drove to Dayton, Tx to meet Vicky Landrum and grandson Colby. She and Colby described the incident and then we drove to the location of the 29 Dec 1980 event, near Huffman, Tx

Vicky, Colby and Betty Cash (driving) were headed back home to Dayton after stopping at a restaurant in New Caney.

When they first observed the object it was high in the sky - only a fire-like light. It rapidly descended to treetop level above the road in front of them. Because it was shooting flames downward they were afraid to drive under it. They stopped and stood outside the car, but within the open doors.



The site of the incident is near the lake, so there are businesses, trailers, cabins, etc. periodically throughout the area, however it is sparsely settled. Near the incident site is an occupied trailer home, but the lady living there said they were in bed by 8 PM, about an hour before the sighting.

Betty Cash remained outside the car until the object started to rise and pull away to the right. Note: the road in that area is laid out in a north-south direction.

Vicky stood in the driveway with her right side toward the object and 4 fingers of her left hand on top of the car. She held Colby close up to her as she watch. He was terrified and screamed for her to get back in the car, which she did very soon. She estimates she was outside 2 to 3 minutes. She said Betty was probably outside twice that long. All three were quite frightened

Vicky is a non-drinker and is quite religious. She does smoke. She thought this was the predicted end of the world and was saying this as she watched. She said the Bible says the sky will split and in a rain of fire Jesus will come. She expected that to happen, but when it did not, she felt she wasn't deserving and ready yet. She vows to lead a better life from now on.

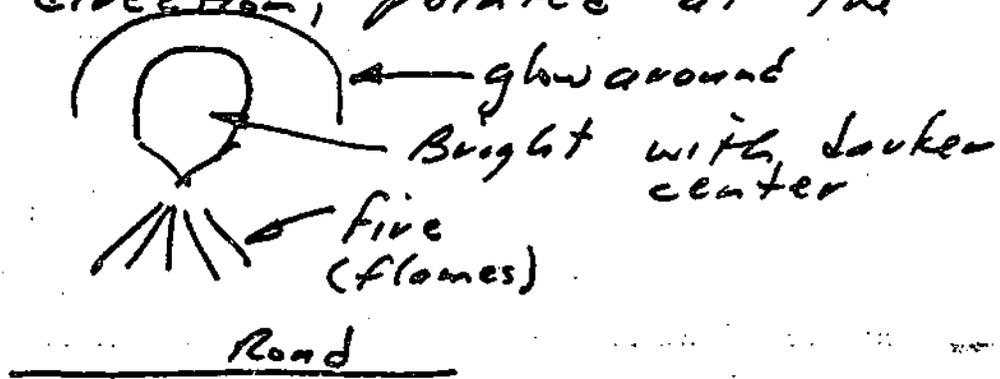
The initial site was along a tree lined road (blacktop, but in poor condition).



Most of the trees are pine, with some oak mixed in.

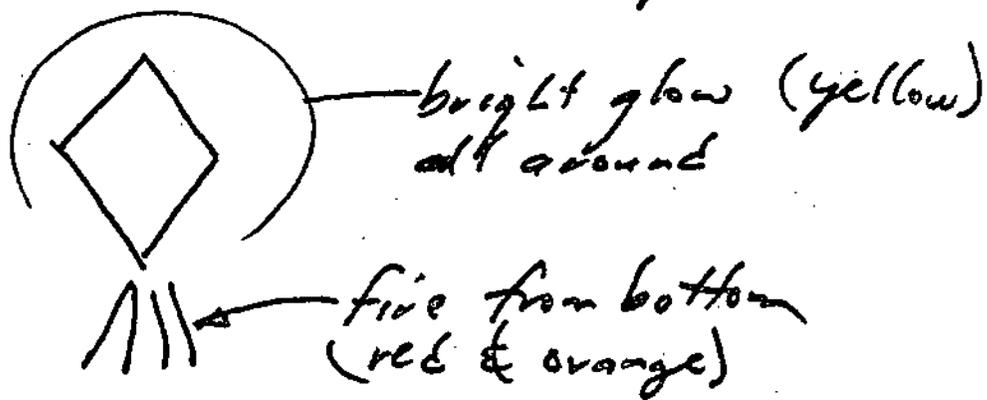
Betty had (earlier) described the object as an extremely bright light, with no distinctive shape, but with 4 points like a diamond.

Vicky described it as oblong in a vertical direction, pointed at the bottom.



She said it was never round, always oblong.

Colby said it was totally diamond shape



Vicky said that after she got back the car she sat and prayed as she watched the object. Colby screamed in fear.

The evening was cool so they had the automobile heater on low. After the event, the inside of the car was very very hot. They then used the air conditioner.

As the object hung above the road Vicky could hear a roar "like a hurricane." Then when the flames would belch out the noise would be a wosh.

They could all three feel the heat from the object.

Medical effects

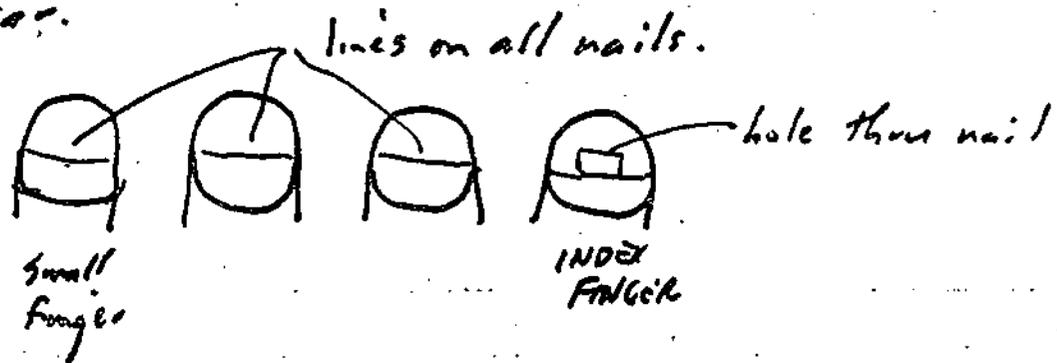
Colby's face was sunburned. He had problems with his eyes and that problem remains even now, but not to an extreme.

Both Vicky and Colby felt strange when they arrived home. She used 3 bottles of baby oil on Colby's and her own face over the next several days. She & Colby had diarrhea for several days (at least 3 days). Colby's was so bad she had to clean him up like a baby. They both had bad stomach aches.

The hair on the right side of Vicky's head came out, but now it is growing back. She said her scalp felt like it was asleep.

(6)

Vicky's finger nails, left hand only are damaged. That hand was on top of the car.



Each nail has an indentation, line-like, across from side to side - now partially grown out.

Colby had nightmares for two or three weeks. He would wet the bed because he was afraid to get up at night. He just started sleeping in his own bed again last week. His school grades fell off for a week or so; but he is back to normal now - A's.

Vicky thought Betty Cash was going to die. Betty was extremely ill until Vicky insisted she go to the hospital on the fourth day. Betty had a swollen neck, large moles (blisters) on her scalp, face and right eyebrow. She couldn't eat, and that is unusual for Betty. Vicky explained that Betty is usually a big eater.

For example, Betty & Vicky had a big lunch on 29 Dec. That evening they stopped at New Coney to eat again. Vicky just had coffee, while Betty had Sausage, eggs and extras. After the incident Betty could not eat. Vicky would make her some soup or other meal - she would eat a ~~bit~~ or so & get deathly ill and vomit. She was unable to eat from the time of the incident until she entered the hospital. She too, had diarrhea very badly.

When Betty was admitted to the hospital at the emergency room (by Dr. Shenoy), the nurses asked if she was a burn patient. After two weeks Betty was released. She was home 13 days, of which she spent 7 or so in bed all the time. Because she remained ill, could not eat properly, and seemed to be getting worse, she returned to the hospital.

Vicky has a problem with her eyes - the right one being the worst. They are both still very inflamed and the right one drains constantly. Before the incident

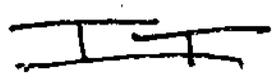
Vicky wore eyeglasses for reading only. Those glasses were from TSO. Now she has glasses she must wear all the time, prescribed by Dr. Chandler, eye doctor from Liberty, Tx.

Helicopters

Vicky and Betty only saw an object during the close encounter - no helicopters. As it rose and flew away there were more than 20 helicopters, although Vicky admitted that they moved around a lot and a few might have gotten more than once. Even so, she is positive there were 10-12 or more - no doubt about it.

Colby says he saw helicopters all during the event, even when the object was low over the road. He is quite sure of that.

Vicky says there were two kinds of helicopters involved - maybe more. One kind was large and smooth running with a very large rotor on top. Another had two rotors on top, but one was above the other slightly



The three witnesses drove on after the object rose up and the fire stopped coming out of the bottom. At three different vantage points they observed the object gaining in altitude & distance and the helicopters in pursuit.

Vicky truly feels that this was not any thing unnatural. She believes the U.S. government was transporting and escorting something dangerous through the area. (Her son mentioned a similar incident near the lake about 6 months earlier where a fiery object landed and burned 300 ft of grass).

Colby said the helicopters appeared to be trying to find out what the object was. He counted 18-20 helicopters and stopped counting.

Site Location

Close encounter at ①  
stopped to view object plus helicopters at ②,  
at ③ and finally at ④.

Note: They could still hear the roar of the coptors at ④

See page 10

Huffman, New  
Caney Rd.

Note: Curves in road  
eliminated for simplicity!



Road Sign

INLAND RL

①

Flight Path

2.5 Miles

object looked  
like an oblong  
ball from this  
point on.

Fishing Camp  
and  
Bridge

②

Cemetery

③

2200

1.3 Miles

Huffman Eastgate Rd

Radio  
Tower

⑤

2.4  
miles

④

FM 1960

TO Dayton



The location of the close encounter was on Huffman New Caney road near the Inland road intersection.

We parked along the road and walked as a group to the spot where Vicky believed they stopped their car on 29 Dec 80. Then Al Holt walked on ahead to a point where Vicky & Colby said he was under where the object hung over the road. I paced the distance from sighting to object location. It was 50 paces. My pace measures 32 inches, or a total of 133 feet

At that point Vicky & Colby said the object was bigger than the town water tank.

Al Holt will prepare a separate set of interview notes. They will not be compared until both are completed and ready for submittal.

*J. Schumacher*  
MUFON

INVESTIGATOR DATA

FIELD INVESTIGATOR'S NAME:

John F. Schuessler

TELEPHONE: AD 713 488-2889

FIELD INVESTIGATOR'S ADDRESS:

P.O. Box 58485  
STREET AND NUMBER

Houston  
TOWN OR CITY

Tx 77058  
STATE/PROVINCE/ZIP CODE

Harris  
COUNTY

USA  
COUNTRY

DATE OF FIELD INVESTIGATOR'S REPORT:

81  
YEAR

3  
MONTH

4  
DAY

AFFILIATION (IF NOT MUFON)

SIGHTING DATA

DATE OF UFO SIGHTING:

1980  
YEAR

Dec  
MONTH

29  
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 Min. ZONE: CST

DAY ( ) NIGHT (X) MORNING ( ) AFTERNOON ( ) EVENING ( ) DAWN ( )

NOON ( ) ABOUT MIDNIGHT ( ) BETWEEN MIDNIGHT AND DAWN ( )

PLACE OF UFO SIGHTING:

near New Caney, Tx  
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:

Vicky Landrum

TELEPHONE: AC 713/258-9156

PRIMARY WITNESS' ADDRESS:

506 W. Clayton  
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 (✓)

LANDING ( ) PHYSICAL TRACES ( ) ARTIFACT ( ) ENTITY CASE ( ) PHOTOGRAPHIC ( ) RADAR ( ) OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS:



UFO SIGHTING QUESTIONNAIRE - COMPUTER INPUT (FORM 2)

INVESTIGATOR DATA

FIELD INVESTIGATOR'S NAME:

John F. Schuessler  
P.O. Box 58485  
Houston, TX 77058

TELEPHONE: AC 713 4882884

FIELD INVESTIGATOR'S ADDRESS:

TEXAS

STATE/PROVINCE/ZIP CODE

Harris  
COUNTY

TOWN OR CITY

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 ZONE: CST

DAY ( ) NIGHT (✓) 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 USA  
COUNTY 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 (✓)

LANDING ( ) PHYSICAL TRACES ( ) ARTIFACT ( ) ENTITY CASE ( ) PHOTOGRAPHIC ( ) RADAR ( ) OTHER

COMMENTS:

Case lead supplied by Rbt. Gribble, APLO & MUFON

# VISIIT

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

P.O. Box 877 • Friendswood, Texas • 77546

CASH/LANDRUM CASE (29 DEC 1980)  
ON-SITE INVESTIGATION REPORT  
DATE: 22 FEBRUARY 1981  
INVESTIGATOR: JOHN SCHUESSLER

THE FOLLOWING NOTES WERE MADE DURING  
A MEETING WITH BETTY CASH AT HER  
BROTHERS APARTMENT (APT. 30, 695 NORMANDIE,  
NORMANDIE WOODS APTS, HOUSTON, TX). HER  
MOTHER WAS PRESENT.

BETTY WAS DRIVING FROM NEW CANEY TO  
DAYTON, TX ON MAY 1985. IN THE CAR  
WITH HER WAS VICKIE LANDRUM AND  
GRANDSON, COLBY LANDRUM. THEY HAD  
BEEN LOOKING FOR A BINGO GAME.

BETTY SAYS SHE WON'T BE GOING OUT AT  
NIGHT ANY MORE LOOKING FOR BINGO  
GAMES. IT IS JUST TOO SCAREY.

BETTY SAW THE THING FIRST. THE WHOLE  
SKY WAS BRIGHT SOME DISTANCE AHEAD  
AND TO RIGHT. AFTER NEGOTIATING A  
TURN IN THE ROAD BETTY SAW THIS  
BRIGHT THING RIGHT OVER THE ROAD

IT WAS TOO LOW TO DRIVE UNDER.

SHE HAD BEEN DRIVING IN A SOUTHERLY DIRECTION ON 1485. HER SPEED WAS A CASUAL 50-55 MPH. VISIBILITY WAS GOOD. AIR WAS COOL - BETTY HAD ON A LEATHER JACKET.

THE OBJECT HUNG OVER THE ROAD. FLAMES PERIODICALLY SHOT DOWNWARD FROM A POINT ON THE BOTTOM OF THE GLOWING MASS. SHE DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO GET AWAY.

THEY STOPPED THE CAR IN THE ROAD A SHORT DISTANCE FROM THE BRIGHT THING. THEY OPENED THE CAR DOORS AND STOOD IN THE OPEN DOORWAYS. THEY WERE AFRAID TO LEAVE THE CAR.

THEY COULD HEAR A BEEPING BEFORE THEY STOPPED AND THE WHOLE TIME THEY WERE STOPPED. THEY COULDN'T DEFINE THE SOURCE. BETTY SAYS SHE WILL NEVER FORGET THE SOUND.

SHE KEPT HER EYES FOCUSED ON THE OBJECT. IT WAS VERY VERY BRIGHT.

3

BECAUSE THE LIGHT WAS SO BRIGHT BETTY COULDN'T SEE DETAILS OF THE OBJECT. AFTER THE OBJECT LEFT THE AREA BETTY HAD TROUBLE SEEING AND HAD TO WAIT A MOMENT BEFORE TRYING TO DRIVE.

FLAMES SHOWERED DOWNWARD. EACH TIME IT HAPPENED THEY COULD HEAR AS SWOOSH - SWOOSH LIKE A FLAME THROWER. THE WHOLE AREA HAD A GREAT SOUND - A ROAR. THEY COULD HEAR THE SOUND EVEN AS IT FLEW AWAY - UP AND TO THE RIGHT.

COLBY WAS TERRIFIED. HE STOOD NEAR VICKY AND SCREAMED FOR HER TO GET BACK IN THE CAR. VICKY THOUGHT THE WORLD WAS COMING TO AN END AND SAID SO.

COLBY HAD SLEPT ALONE SINCE HE WAS A TOT (NOW 7), BUT HASN'T SINCE THE INCIDENT. HE SLEEPS WITH VICKY.

THE CAR HAD BEEN TUNED LESS THAN 4 MONTHS AGO. NOW RUNS ROUGHLY.

④

BETTY FIRST THOUGHT 2 PLANES HAD COLLIDED & WERE CRASHING, BUT SOON DETERMINED OTHERWISE.

WHEN THE OBJECT ROSE & WENT SW, THE FLAMES STOPPED. BETTY THINKS AIR CONTROLLERS AT HOUSTON INTERCONTINENTAL AIRPORT MUST HAVE SEEN THE BRIGHT THING - ALSO ALL THE HELICOPTERS. SHE COUNTED 23 HELICOPTERS.

THE DRIVING AFTER THAT WAS NO LONGER LIMITED TO 55 MPH. THEY SPED WHEREVER THEY COULD. BETTY DROPPED COLBY & VILKY AT THEIR HOUSE, BUT DIDN'T GO IN BECAUSE SHE FELT ILL.

BETTY ARRIVED HOME AT 9:50 PM. HER FRIEND WILMA & GRANDSON AND ONE OTHER PERSON <sup>WERE</sup> WAS THERE. SHE WAS VERY SICK (SHE HAD FELT GREAT ALL DAY).

SHE SAT IN A CHAIR. HER NECK SWELLED AND BUSTERS GROWN ON HER HEAD AND FACE. ONE GROWN ON HER RIGHT EYELID - AND BURST. HER EARLOBES SWELLED SO MUCH SHE HAD TO REMOVE HER EARRING PINS.

HER EYES SWELLED CLOSED. SHE WAS NEARLY BLIND FROM THEN TILL AFTER SHE ENTERED THE HOSPITAL FOUR DAYS LATER. THE NURSE PUT SALVE ON HER EYES AND THEY IMPROVED. IT WAS NEARLY A WEEK BEFORE HER EYES WERE OPEN SO SHE COULD RECOGNIZE PEOPLE.

THE HOSPITAL PEOPLE PUT BURN CREAM ON HER FACE TO PREVENT SCARING. SHE SAID LARGE PATCHES OF TISSUE PEELED FROM HER FACE.

THE DAY AFTER THE INCIDENT VICKIE WENT ACROSS THE STREET TO THE HOME OF MR. WARD, A DAYTON POLICEMAN. HE TOLD HER TO CALL (206) 722-3000 IN WASHINGTON. SHE HAD TO CALL TWICE BUT FINALLY GOT ACTION VIA MR. ENGLISH AT APRD WHO TURNED THE CASE OVER TO DICK DONOVAN OF THE WEEKLY WORLD NEWS.

LATER IN FEBRUARY BETTY CALLED NASA AND THEY REFERRED HER TO JOHN SCHUESSLER.

BETTY LEFT THE HOSPITAL AFTER 15 DAYS. DR. SHENOY HAD CALLED IN SPECIALISTS OF ALL KINDS, AND CONDUCTED A BATTERY OF TESTS, BUT TO NO AVAIL. HE COULD FIND NOTHING THAT WOULD CAUSE HER CONDITION.

HE COULDN'T EXPLAIN THE SWELLING, BURNS OR LOSS OF HAIR. EVENTUALLY, SHE TOLD HIM OF THE UFO AND HE APPEARED RELIEVED.

BETTY RETURNED TO THE HOSPITAL IN A LITTLE OVER A WEEK. SHE HAD REMAINED SICK, SWOLLEN, WITH HEADACHES. THE VOMITING HAD STOPPED BUT HER APPETITE HAD NOT RETURNED.

THE HOSPITAL WAS PARKWAY GENERAL IN HOUSTON.

BETTY IS CONSTANTLY TIRED, HAS A CONTINUOUS HEADACHE, AND CANNOT WORK. HER HAIR STILL REMAINS PATCHY, BUT APPEARS IT WILL GROW BACK.

TREATMENT

BETTY SAID SHE RECEIVED OINTMENT FOR HER EYES. DR. BURMAN PUT CORTISONE ON THE SKIN WITH A NEEDLE.

SHE HAS PRESCRIPTIONS FROM THRIFTY DRUGS - DAYTON, FROM DR KUMAR.

- 1. Flovinal No 3 for pain (1/2 grain Codeine)
- 2. Sinequan 50 mg.
- 3. " 75 mg.

She takes Viobec B. Complex with 50 mg vitamin C.

Betty will leave 2/26 for Birmingham AL. TO STAY WITH HER MOTHER. SHE EXPECTS TO GO IN THE UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL THERE FOR MORE TESTS.

HER MOTHERS ADDRESS IS:

209 48TH ST.

FAIRFIELD, AL 35064

(205) 785-2752

BETTY'S CAR IS A 1980 CADILLAC SUPREMACY LIC. NO. VAS-217 (TEXAS)

WHEN BETTY LEFT THE HOSPITAL THE  
LAST TIME DR. SHENY PRACTICALLY  
INSISTED SHE GO SEE THE MOVIE  
"HANGAR 18." SHE FELT VERY  
ILL AS SHE EXITED THE HOSPITAL BUT  
SHE DID ATTEND THE MOVIE. ALL  
SHE GOT OUT OF THE MOVIE WAS THE  
GOVERNMENT CONSPIRACY ASPECT. THAT  
LEFT HER CONFUSED ABOUT WHY SHE  
WAS TOLD TO ATTEND.

John F. O'Connell

# VISIT

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

## Interview - Vickie Lundrum/Colby Lundrum (Grandson)

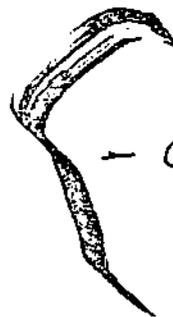
- Saw a light high in the sky which descended to point above the trees
- Vickie told Betty to stop the car
- Light emitted fire from underneath portion which blocked the road ahead of them, they could hear the roar
- Colby was screaming so she returned to get inside the car while Betty stayed outside
- Light hung suspended for 5-6 minutes
- Vickie was out of the car for 2-3 minutes
- Vickie thought this was the end of the world - ready or not
- Whole sky was lit up
- ~~Vickie~~ was reminded of the biblical passage concerning Jesus coming with a rain of fire
- Colby <sup>calmed</sup> called down when Vickie told him that this was Jesus coming
- Car was hot like in the middle of August
- Object lifted up and moved off to the right - Vickie didn't notice the planes then

# VISIT

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

- On the road toward Huffman, ~~we~~ saw the object again and the helicopters, could hear the roar?
- Object floated ahead and to the right of them
- Stopped at stop sign at FM 1760, helicopters were still there
  - some of the helicopters were up there with the object
  - some were circling around it
- They were initially 1-2 blocks from the object - they could feel heat and heard a roar like a hurricane

Colby's Drawing

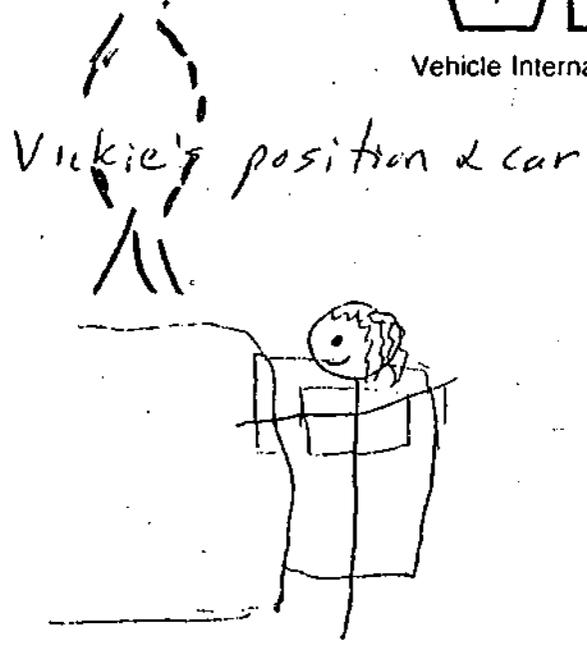


- Christophers contribution to the report

- Very bright
- Pinkish, flame like a bonfire flame

# VISIT

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team



- Colby's face like it was sunburned
  - both of them had skin effects like they were on the beach all day
- Flame stopped as object lifted up
  - appeared as a long bright white light
  - went in a direction between Humble and Houston
- Bigger than a water tank
  - went out ahead to the southwest toward Houston Intercontinental Airport
- Betty & Vickie stopped the car subsequently 2 times - each time they saw the object and helicopters
- Had the impression that the "helicopters were transporting something."

# VISIT

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

- Near Sire Lake 6 months ago a UFO sighting occurred - grass was burned off
- Helicopters had blinking lights
  - two types
  - appeared higher at 2100
  - lower at
  - Colby had diarrhea for 2-3 days
- Colby had a dream about a little spaceman
  - "man inside it, little bitty, 2 ft tall"
  - ~~he wanted to~~
  - had a stomach ache

- Visited 3 sites where object was sighted
  - nothing observed as far as evidence
  - road well traveled in day time
  - at last stop, some of the helicopters
  - were still close enough to be heard (at 1960)

Alan C. Hill

# VISIIL

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

## Conversation with Bill English

- Liberty Guardian newspaper reported witnesses who observed the subject further down the road
  - same description
  - 5-6 miles further to the north
- Vickie Lundrum's doctor refused to treat her

Alan Holt

# VISIT

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

## Helicopter Investigation

3/10/81

### 1. Houston Intercontinental - FAA 443-4297

- 350-400 helicopters in area associated with off shore activity - all single rotor
- types, Bell, 222, etc.
- Helicopter traffic flies VFR (Visual Flight Rules) thus does not contact tower
- No twin rotor helicopters in the area
  - San Antonio
  - Alexandria, La.
  - Corpus Christi, Navy
- Restricted area - beyond 15 miles must stay below 1800 ft. MSL
  - radar limitations 2000 to 2200
  - 15 miles from airport north (radar antenna 12-13 miles south of airport)

### 2. Egglan Air Force Base, Alexandria, La

318-448-5635

- activity does not carry them to Houston, Fort Polk is the extent of their activity

# VISIT

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

- 3. Fort Ralk - 863-27314 (Base ops)
  - UH 2 and smaller
  - no twin rotor helicopters
  - suggested contacting Fort Hood

- 4. Fort Hood 747-9200 (Base ops)
  - have Schnooks twin rotors
  - was a slow day on Dec. 29 and holiday period
  - do not have 20 twin rotors
  - generally helicopters go out in small groups, 5 to 10 at a time

## Robert Gray Field

- exercise in local area where 100 helicopters come in from the field all at one time "for effect"



21 February 1981, 1 pm

Betty Cash called collect from Dayton, TX

She talked briefly about trying to catch me at NASA earlier in the week, but due to the First Shuttle engine firing I was busy and out of contact.

Betty has been out of work now since the incident on 29 December 1980. She had been operating a truck stop restaurant and grocery store. She worked the night shift and slept days.

Betty repeated much of the same information as given to me by Kathy Gordon on 20 Feb. Differences/additions are given herein.

We talked about her hospital stay. She said it has cost her about \$10,000 and she has had to close her business. She is not able to work and looks too bad to meet people.

She said the blisters swelled up soon after she arrived home from the incident on 29 Dec. 1980.

In the hospital, the doctors did little for her. She received pain pills for the headaches. A dermatologist put ointment on the burn on her face and also treated her scalp.

When the group met the UFO they stopped the car - it did not fail on its own. They had the radio on but couldn't tell if the object interfered with the radio or was noisy above the sound of the radio. She described the noise as a beep, beep, beep type of noise.

She was wearing a leather jacket because it was a chilly night. However, she was very hot while near the object. To get back in the car she had to use the leather jacket as a hot pad to keep from burning her hand on the door handle. The whole car was very hot.

I requested her to have a friend help examine the auto for any signs of heating - like melted non-metals or adhesives, or scorch marks.

She went back just last week to the sighting location but could not detect anything significant. Several trees were dead, but the reason was not obvious.

Her car now runs very rough - the engine misses. It was given a tune up just 4 months ago.

Vicky was in pretty good condition before the event. Now she has lost sight in one eye and a little of her hair is falling out, but nothing near the hair-loss on Betty.

The grandson has been having a rough time. He has nightmares much of the time. He is deathly afraid of airplanes. For two or three weeks after the event he was a bed wetter because he was afraid to get up at night.

I requested an accounting of time for their trip. It seems they stopped to eat at a truck stop at <sup>New Caney</sup> Nucaney on highway 59. They left there around 8:15 to 8:30. The location of the truck stop is at Rte 1485 and H-59. They encountered the object around 9 pm. They arrived home around 9:50 pm.

Betty was quite definite about the helicopters. Apparently they were not around it when it was close to her. However when it went up and away the helicopters seemed to rush in from all directions. She thought they would crash into each other. She said they could see each helicopter and she counted 23. Each had little lights and a big rotor on top and a small one on the rear. She thought they were military but didn't actually see military markings.

Betty's doctor is a cardiologist named Dr. Shenoy. She will call him and give her approval for me to talk to her. He has been treating her as a heart patient. She didn't tell him about the object when she went in for the first time. He just thought she had a burn of some kind, perhaps chemical. On a later visit Vicky told him of the cause.

Dr. V. B. Shenoy    Cardiology  
150 W. Parker Rd.  
Houston, TX  
691-3649

Louis Berman    Dermatology  
508 Hermann Professional Blvd.  
Houston, TX  
792-4838

Betty has never had glasses or cataracts or other eye problem. Now her eyes are bad - like a film over them.

Betty's mother is visiting from Alabama to care for her. She may take Betty there to the University hospital next week.

Betty's telephone is 453-6042

# VISIIL

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

Friday, 20 February 1981, 5 pm

Page 1

J. Schuessler Report

Caller: Kathy Gordon, Conroe Daily Courier, Conroe Texas 77301  
P.O. Box 609, (713) 756-6671, X-240

Referred to me by Allen Benz of APRO/  
She is a reporter, but also a friend of a UFO victim - Betty Cash  
Betty Cash, 52 years old, lives in Dayton, TX (just north of  
Houston).

On December 29, 1980 she and a friend Vicky and Vicky's little  
7 year old grandson had been driving around trying to find a  
bingo game. They left <sup>New Caney</sup> Nucaney, TX on Highway 59 and casually  
drove back towards Dayton.

On a lonely road they encountered a bright glowing object.  
It was about one block up. It came down to the road and  
burped out some flames. It was at treetop level and they  
were afraid they couldn't get under it without getting burned.  
So, they stopped and shut off the car motor. It was just a short  
distance away, about 100 feet.

Betty, the driver got out. The night temperature was about 40°.   
It was 9 pm or so. Vicky got out with the boy and he became so  
frightened that she got back in with him and he hid on the floor.  
The fire seemed to hit the treetops. Betty stayed outside for  
10 or 15 minutes. To her it looked like an extremely intense  
glob of light. The boy said it was diamond shaped. It rose and  
went up and to the right.

The site is some 38 miles from Dayton, TX. As the object left  
they followed it to FM 2100. It was higher and very bright. They  
could see between 20 and 25 helicopters around. They had blinking  
lights and were also lit by the object. The women could not see any  
insignia, however. The object and the helicopters went between  
Humble and Houston, TX. The women headed for home.

Betty said that when she went to get back in the car it was very hot to the touch as was the air around her.

Betty dropped Vicky and the boy at home and went to her home. A friend was staying with her.

She sat down in a chair. Her neck hurt and her head felt as if it would burst. She soon developed nodules on the head and scalp that burst and flowed clear liquid.

The next day Betty was too ill to get out of bed. Four days later she was admitted to a hospital in Houston as a burn victim.

The areas burned were the bare areas, mostly on the right side. Even today water makes her skin burn. Her eyes are like she has a film over them. Her eyelid and earlobes swelled and burst like the nodules on the scalp did. They too flowed clear liquid.

She has no appetite.

Betty has been a cardiac patient - had a bypass operation some time ago.

Ms. Gordon talked with Betty's hair dresser and he said she had a great head of hair. Too much to do anything with.

APROs Bill English had assigned the investigation to Dick Donavon of the Weekly World News when first notified about it.

Kathy started to ask about and discuss where other incidents involving helicopters took place. I mentioned that in Texas about the only recent helicopter activity was in conjunction with cattle mutilations. After a brief discussion the telephone connection became very bad and we were cut off.

# VISIT

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

SUBJECT/PURPOSE	DATE OF TELECON/TR/ CONF.
Betty Cash Case (29 Dec 1980)	2/26/81
TELECON PARTICIPANTS: Dr. V.B. Shenoy / J. Schneesele	
DISCUSSION/COMMENTS (INFO. OBTAINED, CONCLUSIONS)	
Dr. Shenoy could provide no details of the case as he had not rec'd written permission from Betty.	
Some non-specific information offered is as follows:	
• Betty has been his cardiac patient for 2 years, and she is no complainer. She only comes in when it is mandatory.	
• She was swollen and had skin problems when she entered the hospital in Jan 1981.	
• All tests showed normal conditions - i.e. white blood count, platelets, etc. Tests proved nothing.	
• Eye exam & skin tests (biopsy) showed nothing.	
• Her heart is fine, operation was quite successful.	
• She has some anxiety, but is taking it well.	
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS	
• Nurses said she was a good patient.	
PREPARED BY	
	
DATE	
2/27/81	

# VISIT

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

<p>SUBJECT/PURPOSE <b>BETTY CASH CASE (29 DEC. 1980)</b></p> <p>TELECON PARTICIPANTS: R. NIEMTROW / J. SCHUESSLER</p>	<p>DATE OF TELECON /TR/ CONF. <b>2/27/81</b></p>
<p>DISCUSSION/COMMENTS (INFO. OBTAINED, CONCLUSIONS)</p>	
<p>Dr. Niemtrow suggested looking for effects that might be caused by Systems (Propulsion?) interaction with the atmosphere (i.e. Betty saw a very bright &amp; hot object). The propulsion system could produce ozone, or Nitrogen Dioxide (<math>NO_2</math>), or Nitrous Tetraoxide (<math>N_2O_4</math>). This effect could cause skin and eye irritation &amp; pulmonary edema in humans.</p>	
<p>An analysis of hair and clothing samples could provide clues. The analysis should look for Sulphur Dioxide, Formic Acid, Formaldehyde, Formaldehyde Phenol, Nitro Benzene, <math>NO_2</math>, <math>N_2O_4</math> and <math>N_2O_5</math></p>	
<p>Reference: UFO Odors &amp; Origins - Flying Saucer Review, Vol 26, No. 8, 1980</p>	
<p>ACTION REQUIRED J. Schuessler to try to obtain hair &amp; unwashed clothing samples. R. Niemtrow to test and evaluate.</p>	
<p>PREPARED BY <i>J. F. Schuessler</i></p>	<p>DATE <b>2/27/81</b></p>

From: MUFONHQ@aol.com <MUFONHQ@aol.com>  
To: alma2@mail.ru <alma2@mail.ru>  
Cc: schuessler@mho.net <schuessler@mho.net>  
Date: Tuesday, May 18, 1999 5:38 PM  
Subject: Re: Sighting

WALT

*I have responded*

Marc Walston:

*to him. He is now in Russia. I'll let you*

Thank you for your sighting report.

*know if he really is*

As for whether it is of other than anecdotal interest to us at this date is problematical. Your message is being copied to other MUFON offices for their possible interest.

*another criteria to the*

Thank you for your postal mail address. If a report is desired, the forms will be sent to you at that address.

*C/L case*

MUFON e-mail Staff

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

In a message dated 99-05-17 05:04:50 EDT, you write:

<< Subj: Sighting  
Date: 99-05-17 05:04:50 EDT  
From: alma2@mail.ru (Marc Walston)  
To: mufonhq@aol.com

Dear Sirs or Madam,

I have finally run across your address on the internet. There is something that has been bothering me for years and I've never told very many people.

I am a witness to a UFO event that happened near Dayton, TX around about 1979 or so. I remember at the time Dr J. Allen Hynek investigating the event and had all intentions of contacting him somehow, but waited too late of course.

Also, I was a little afraid at the time because the government, and the US Air Force were involved, and due to my travelling abroad for most of my life, especially to the USSR and later marrying a former Soviet citizen, I wanted nothing to do with it.

But this has puzzled me and bothered me for years. I'm from Texas originally and remember that it was actually in the Houston Chronicle at the time, because the ladies who actually encountered the "thing" on the highway got radiation poisoning, blamed the USAF, and tried to take them to court (another reason I wanted nothing to do with it at the time).

I suppose my question is, is it still possible to make a report on

this? Is anyone still interested (I thought that this would rank up there with the classiccs)? I would like to finally tell somebody. I remember it once being featured on the tv show "Unsolved Mysteries".

Thanks,

Marc Walston

my US address:

P.O. Box 914

Hendersonville, TN 37077

----- Headers ----- >>

# 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, Gibby, who had burned 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 collaborating 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 marine 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 40,000 to 50,000 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."

THE NEWS, San Antonio, TX - Feb. 23, 1981

## 'Cosmic Watergate' claimed hiding UFOs

By RICHARD SMITH  
NEWS STAFF WRITER

A prominent scientist charges a "cosmic Watergate" by the national government is withholding facts about unidentified flying objects.

Slauton Friedman, an industrial physicist-turned "Ufologist," also said fear of ridicule, along with "fossilized physicists and naysaying newsmen," have made

"One out of four UFOs sighted, many by law enforcement officials, end up being planets. One out of four sightings turn out being things like advertising airplanes," he said.

Klass and Friedman zeroed in on two celebrated UFO incidents, one in 1973 where an Air Force helicopter narrowly averted a mid-air collision with a cigar-shaped object over Ohio, and another case where a couple claimed they were taken for an

Friedman quoted the official statement as saying,

"It's straightforward, but totally false," he said.

He said the percentage of unexplained sightings was seven times greater than the 21 percent in the study, and that sightings by government agencies, such as the North American Air Defense Command, are not public information.

Friedman added that some 130 government documents remain

no material evidence supported the incident and it was dismissed," he said.

"Do you think the CIA could keep secret something like that from the White House and everyone else for all those years?" Klass asked.

"But all the lower-level snooks from the Army who talked to Friedman all said they knew about it," Klass added.

In the 1973 incident, four veteran helicopter pilots claimed the elon-



**MUTUAL UFO NETWORK, INC.**

Lew Willis  
State Section Director, TX.  
405 W I-30  
Garland, Texas 75043  
214/278-0214

11-4-81

DEAR WALT + JEAN,

JUST WANT TO LET YOU KNOW HOW VERY  
MUCH WE ENJOYED THE MEETING AND HAVING YOU AND  
"MRS UFO" IN OUR HOME. I DO HOPE WE CAN DO IT  
AGAIN SOON.

I JUST SPOKE WITH TOMMY BLANN RELATIVE  
TO HIS INVESTIGATION ON THE V. LAURUM - B. CASH CASE  
AND ASKED HIM TO WRITE YOU A BRIEF NOTE ON WHAT  
HE HAS COME UP WITH. HE HAS CONTACTED SEVERAL  
BASES AROUND THE COUNTRY RE HELICOPTER ACTIVITY THE  
NIGHT IN QUESTION AND SAID THE DALLAS NAVAL AIR  
STATION HAD SOME AIRCRAFT IN THE AIR THAT NIGHT, BUT  
IT WAS ALL NORTH OF DALLAS. I HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGING  
TOMMY TO SHARE HIS INVESTIGATIONS WITH OTHERS + HE  
CALLED LEONARD STINGFIRM AND OFFERED TO SHARE SOME  
INFO HE HAS COME ACROSS ON CRASH/RETRIEVAL. I ASKED  
HIM TO STAY IN CLOSER TOUCH WITH YOU, TOO.

P.S. PLEASE ACCEPT SMALL CHECK  
ENCLOSED WHICH REPRESENTS  
1/2 THE MEMBER MEETING DUES  
COLLECTED FOR YOUR TALK.

BEST PERSONAL REGARDS,

SOUTH AMERICAN MAGAZINE MIMICS UFO EVENT IN U.S.

JOHN F. SCHUESSLER

JANUARY 1, 1983

Journalist Bob Pratt of Lake Worth, Florida was scanning the many reports of UFOs to be found in the November 1982 issue of a UFO Newsclipping Service, when he found a story about people being harmed by a UFO encounter in Venezuela. As he read he noted the close parallel to the famous Cash-Landrum radiation case of December 29, 1980, near Huffman, Texas.

The story in the August 20, 1982 issue of TAL CUAL Magazine, published in Buenos Aires, Argentina describes how Maria Elena Suarez, her grandson Gonzalo, and a friend called Susana encountered a huge flaming UFO and were injured. This writer believes the story is a complete fabrication, because the minute details are too identical to the Texas case; while major details such as date, location and where the victims live have been omitted.

TAL CUAL quotes Maria as saying: "My God, save us! That thing is on fire and it's coming over us! It's getting closer! We're burning! God help us!" It goes on to describe how Maria appeared to be hypnotized as she relived the incident.

During a real hypnosis session conducted by Dr. Leo Sprinkle of the University Of Wyoming Mrs. Vickie Landrum, the grandmother in the Texas case, made similar statements. She implored God to help them. She said "it's burning, the whole thing is burning. There is fire coming out the bottom."

The description of the approaching UFO is also the same. A large luminous object clearly visible in the sky, came in a treetop level and emitted reddish tongues of flame down towards the highway. The South American story tells how one of the women got out of the car, running. In Texas, Betty Cash did get out of the car and walked towards the object. Vickie Landrum shouted for her to return, saying "Come back to the car. Don't walk toward it."

The Venezuelan grandson, Gonzola, five years old, wanted to run away because of fear, but was held tightly to prevent his escape. Vickie Landrum feared her grandson Colby, age 7, would run away terror-stricken into the night, so she held him close to her as they cowered in the front seat of the car.

The after effects of the event are also similar. Susana was said to have horrible burns and had to be admitted to a special clinic for treatment. Her symptoms included loss of skin, diarrhea, nausea and headaches. In Texas, Betty Cash had all of these symptoms and more. A final statement in TAL CUAL credited a "cardiologist" with stating that all three people had symptoms of radiation poisoning; when it is very doubtful that people would see a cardiologist for treatment of burns. In Texas, Betty Cash was hospitalized and treated by a cardiologist - a doctor

she knew before the event.

The Venezuelan story points up the need to be critical when examining reports of UFO encounters. Reliable details are a necessity. Bob Pratt and John Schuessler plan to market a book containing all the details of the Cash-Landrum case with the intent of helping other people in a similar situation and dispelling rumors caused by fake events such as the one in Venezuela. The book will be called FIRE IN THE ROAD.

END.....

JOHN F. SCHUESSLER  
P.O. BOX 58485  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77258-8485

# UFO POTPOURRI

no. 270

## 3 claim UFO injured them

Trio files lawsuit alleging object was U.S. aircraft

By **DIANE FREEMAN**  
Post Reporter

The lawsuit against the federal government says Betty Cash was driving back home from New Caney with her friends that night when they saw the diamond-shaped object hovering over the treetops along the isolated two-lane road.

Says Cash: "It was shooting flames from the bottom and making a terrible shrill beeping sound."

Cash, 54, stepped on her car's brakes so suddenly that her friend Vicki Landrum was thrown forward in the front seat. Landrum, 60, braced herself by pushing her hands against the dashboard.

Landrum's handprint remains indented on the dashboard now three years later -- a result of the intense heat inside the car that December night, Cash claimed.

The two women and Landrum's 10-year-old grandson Colby were heading home to Dayton about 9 p.m. that night on Farm Road 1485 about seven miles outside New Caney when they saw the aerial object.

"I was trying to keep Colby from going berserk," said Landrum, who worked as a waitress in a cafe Cash operated in Dayton.

The object "hung there for a while, and then it started lifting," Landrum said.

When the object ascended and moved away, about 23 double rotary "military type" helicopters appeared and surrounded it. It looked as if the helicopters were escorting the object, said Cash, who now lives in Birmingham, Ala.

"The government knew what that object was or where it was going," Cash said.

Cash and the Landrums have filed a \$20 million lawsuit in Houston's federal court against the government, charging it was negligent by letting the alleged experimental aerial device fly over a public road.

The lawsuit said Cash and the Landrums have suffered severe injuries since the Dec. 29, 1980, incident, including swollen eyes and earlobes, loss of fingernails, headaches, stomach pains, blisters, vomiting, scarring and hair loss.

"It seems evident it was radiation," said the trio's attorney, Peter Gersten of Tarrytown, N.Y.

Washington spokesmen for the Air Force and the Justice Department declined to comment on the lawsuit Friday.

The Houston Post/Sat., Jan. 21, 1984/ 15A

### Those Normal Folk Who Sight UFO's

If your best friend came to you and confided seeing an unidentified flying object, you'd probably think it a bit strange, despite the fact that in one Gallup Poll, 9 percent of the adults questioned said they had seen something that could have been a UFO. People who see UFO's aren't nec-

essarily psychos, occultists, or science-fiction freaks with vivid imaginations, according to a study by sociologist Troy Zimmer of the California State University in Fullerton.

Zimmer gave 475 students a questionnaire that measured personal well-being, religious beliefs, interest in the occult, and alienation.

They were also asked if they thought they had ever seen a UFO and if they thought the government was withholding information on UFO's from the public. The only strong difference found between people who had seen a UFO and those who hadn't is that UFO sighters are much more likely to know someone else who has seen one.

Does this mean that sighters are unusually suggestible? Perhaps not. Knowing that someone else has seen a UFO might simply support the reality of the experience, Zimmer said. Or sighters might feel they will be taken more seriously if they confide in someone who has had a similar experience, he said.

—Gaylen Moore

PSYCHOLOGY TODAY / SEPTEMBER 1983

(POTPOURRI NEWS)

BY JOHN F. SCHUESSLER  
P. O. BOX 58485  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77258-8485

## Washington News Conference, Cont.

Noting that the initial documentation on the 1975 crisis came to light via a "leak," Gersten implied that more such leaks would be welcome, especially if that is what it takes to expose any improper or non-performance of duties on the part of Government UFO policymakers. In this connection, Gersten said he would provide free legal assistance to any present or former military person who, because of having come forward with the necessary "hard evidence" of UFO reality, incurs persecution or prosecution at the hands of government authorities.

Implicit in his remarks was a challenge to the nation's news media to cease treating UFOs as merely a subject for entertainment. The subject apparently took hold, for on November 3, 1981, the WASHINGTON POST carried an article by Ward Sinclair, entitled "Suit Seeks to Lift Secrecy Veil from Agency's Documents." On the strength of that article's being reprinted in a number of other newspapers across the nation, Gersten has been flooded with requests for interviews and for appearances on radio talk shows. He appeared August 5, 1981, with Dr. Hynek on the Tom Snider TOMORROW SHOW.

In a statement prepared for later release by CAUS Assistant Director Larry Fawcett of Coventry, Connecticut, he said, CAUS is embarking on a nationwide fund drive to finance the costs of this series of litigations with various government agencies. (Gersten is serving without fee.) In addition, "friend of the court" briefs filed by interested parties in support of the CAUS suit are being sought. Persons, including former NSA members, other Federal employees and others privy to inside information are being asked to come forward with relevant sworn testimony to support those briefs. Enlarging the effort to a nationwide undertaking will greatly increase the likelihood of success in this major attempt at the release of UFO documents for public study. Persons interested in "joining the CAUS" are asked to contact Fawcett at 471 Goose Lane, Coventry, CT 06238. □

## Additional Correspondence

Dear Dr. Hynek,

I would like to know if the Center has ever had any reports on a UFO sighting in the area between Canby and Woodburn, Oregon during the summer of 1967. My sister, who was 25 at the time, saw two UFO's hovering over an electrical substation out in the country. She said that one of them came down, hovered over the substation for awhile, and then it went up and the other came down and did the same. Soon, a plane came out from the direction of Portland and they took off. She was amazed at how fast they could move. She has never reported the sighting, but is interested in knowing if anyone else did. Also, is there ever a power drain during this type of occurrence and is the power company aware of or have a record of it?

A. Lambert  
Aurora, Oregon

## Wanted

Volunteer translators for Turkish and Chinese articles being received by CUFOS. Please write to our Lima office, if you or someone you know would be willing to assist in this work.

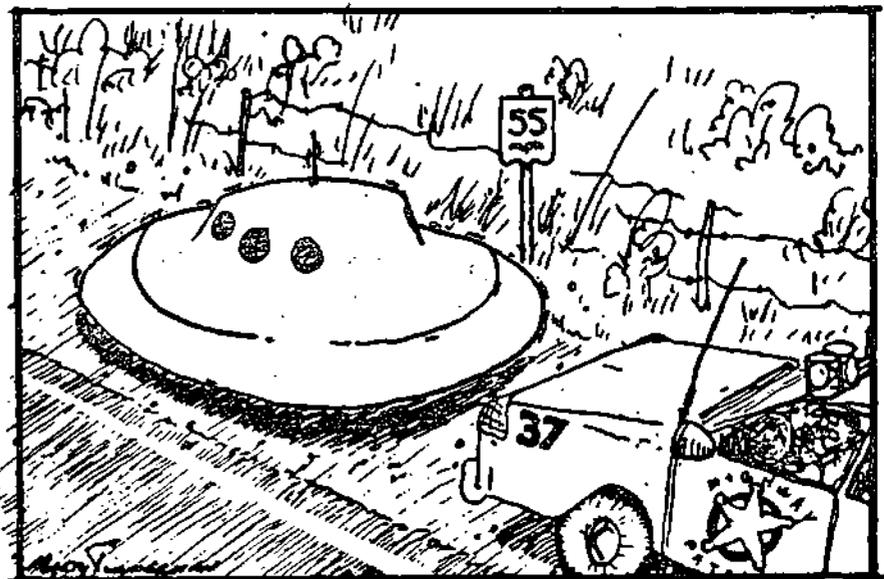
## Recent CT Case Now Under Investigation

Word has just been received by CUFOS that a recent sighting of potential value is under investigation.

New England investigator Larry Fawcett reports that a sighting in Columbia, Connecticut on December 4, 1981 involving three objects for a total sighting duration of about ten minutes is being evaluated for final reporting at a later date. This early notice is an alert to ASSOCIATES in that region to be sure to report anything which may come to their attention relating to that place and time.

The objects were reported to be very large, about the size of 747 airliners. They apparently moved in a diamond or triangular formation with multi-colored lights . . . yellows, greens, blues, greys . . . alternating so rapidly they all appeared to be on at one time. The objects moved directly over the witnesses at a very low altitude, estimated to be about 500 feet. No sound was heard except a slight humming noise.

Photographs were taken and have been sent to Dr. Bruce Maccabee for analysis. The results of the study will appear in the INTERNATIONAL UFO REPORTERS or the ASSOCIATE NEWSLETTER as soon as they are available.



"I don't care if he was going 150 mph., I'm gonna let this one slide."

# UFO encounter makes woman a believer

By CATHY GORDON  
Attaway Newspaper Group

(Part One of two parts)

DAYTON — Vickie Landrum once scoffed at stories of close encounters with so-called Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs). Such stories were merely the ravings of the lunatics, to be taken seriously only by devotees of the supermarket press.

So she doesn't expect everybody to buy her story that a UFO flanked by 23 military-type helicopters doused her and two others with radiation on a deserted Montgomery County road one night in December 1980.

"I never believed in UFOs before," Landrum says. I've always been a religious person and it goes against what I always thought."

But to experts who investigate such mysterious goings-on, Landrum's experience along the lonely stretch of FM 1485 is one of the most convincing and disturbing encounters ever reported in Texas.

Dayton Police Chief Tommy Warring, a friend of nearly 30 years, vouches for her credibility. Records at Parkway Hospital in Houston document the fading eyesight, skin blisters, recurring headaches and temporary loss of hair reported by Landrum, her 7-year-old grandson, Colby and friend, Betty Cash since the Dec. 29, 1980 encounter.

And to further substantiate the trio's story, a Houston scientist has gathered reports from several people in the area who also say they saw something strange in that night.

On that same night, Jerry McDonald, an oilfield roughneck witnessed something eerie from his Dayton home. "It was kinda triangular or diamond-shaped and had two big torches with white and blue fire that were shooting out the back of it," he recalls.

He said he first thought it was the Goodyear Blimp by the rumbling sound it was making. But as it passed 150 feet above him, he discovered otherwise.

"I had to come forward and tell somebody what I saw," said McDonald who contacted investigators nearly two months after the first newspaper article about it appeared.

"I didn't want those poor women to go

around the rest of their lives thinking they are looney-tunes."

"There's no doubt these women are telling the truth about what they saw. The only problem we have now is finding out who is responsible for it," says John Schuessler, a scientist with McDonnell Douglas Astronautics at NASA's Johnson Space Center in 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, who comprise Project VISIT, which is studying UFO technology.

Schuessler met Landrum, her grandson and Cash in February 1981 after they contacted NASA and a UFO reporting network in Seattle, Wash. to try to find out what had happened to them.

After investigating the incident for nearly two years, Schuessler says he believes the federal government had something to do with the mysterious object the three saw that night.

However, he said, the government denies any knowledge of or role in the incident. He said he has contacted every military installation in Texas that might have had sufficient aircraft to have been involved. His efforts have met with little success.

"Those helicopters have us stumped," he said. "with that many helicopters around the object, and being the military type helicopters, somebody in the government should know about them. That's where we keep running into dead ends."

Lawyers for Landrum, and Cash have filed formal requests with the federal government under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) for any reports involving the incident.

The three intend to file a personal injury lawsuit against the government to recover what they say is now more than \$20,000 in medical bills incurred because of alleged radiation exposure from the object.

But their lawyer, Peter Gersten of New York City, says it would be difficult to sue without definite proof that the government was involved, much

less that it was responsible for the UFO.

"You'd think somebody would know about those helicopters," said Gersten, who specialized in handling UFO cases. "Somebody would have to know where those helicopters came from that night."

"I keep getting calls on this," said Maj. Tony Geishauser, a spokesman for Fort Hood, an Army base 100 miles northwest that just happens to have several of the helicopters of the sort described by Landrum. "We did not have any choppers up that night in East Texas," he said.

Geishauser has a theory of his own as to what the women saw that December night: "If it was anything extraterrestrial, and nobody has proven it wasn't, then wouldn't it have the intelligence to create visions of helicopters? It could create visions if it wanted you to see."

The only governmental reaction in the case so far has been from the Texas Department of Health whose Bureau of Radiation Control is conducting an investigation at the request of state Rep. Larry Browder, (D-Coldspring).

Russ Meyer, a departmental investigator, drove the stretch of road last fall where the sighting occurred. His radiation detection equipment did not find any traces of remnant radiation in the area. He also took soil samples, but tests results were inconclusive at the time of this writing.

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

But whatever the outcome of the state agency's investigation, Mrs. Landrum says she is sure of what she saw that night and of the symptoms she has encountered since.

Next — The witnesses develop health problems, and are frustrated at the lack of information available about the incident.

# Radiation ills plague UFO witnesses

Part Two of Two Parts

By CATHY GORDON  
Attaway Newspaper Group

In a Conroe Courier newspaper article in Feb. 1981, shortly after the incident, Mrs. Landrum and Mrs. Cash gave these independent accounts:

The three were riding in their car about 9 p.m. on Dec. 29 when they saw some sort of light in the air about three miles ahead. As they drove nearer they saw it was some sort of object with orange and red flames coming from the bottom.

Then, as the car rounded a bend on FM 1485 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, blindly bright, Mrs. Landrum recalled. From hundreds of feet away, the heat was excruciating.

"I felt as though I was burning up," said Mrs. Cash who stepped from the car to get a closer look at the object.

The two women said the road was too narrow to turn around on and they felt blindly by the light emitted from the object.

About four minutes later the object rose and headed in a southerly direction. "It was going away from the road," Mrs. Cash said, "so we kept going in the same direction."

Though temperatures outside were in the 40s, Mrs. Landrum recalls that they proceeded home with the car's air con-

ditioner on because of the intense heat from the object.

It was then that they first noticed the helicopters buzzing around the object. Mrs. Cash said they seemed to be following it, as though it were in some kind of trouble.

They described the helicopters as relatively large, twin-rotor craft.

Schuessler said the three described them as Boeing-Vertol "Chinook" helicopters, the type used by both the Army and the Air Force.

Finally, the UFO and the helicopters "just shot up" out of sight. The women say the entire encounter lasted about 20 minutes.

The three said they initially made a pact not to tell anyone about what they had seen. "It was just too unbelievable," said Mrs. Landrum. "They'd think we were crazy."

But after developing numerous health problems, the three broke their silence. "We had to do something. We needed help," Mrs. Landrum said.

By 1 a.m. that night, Mrs. Landrum said both she and Colby had blistered as if badly sunburned and were suffering from nausea and diarrhea. She said two days after the incident, she visited Mrs. Cash and found her so weak she couldn't get out of bed. Part of Mrs. Cash's body was covered with egg-sized knots and blisters. She also lost 50 percent of her hair.

Mrs. Cash is now living with her elderly mother in Alabama where she is recuperating from the problems she attributes to her encounter with the flying object. Her hair has since grown back, but is a more "burnt, frizzled texture."

Mrs. Landrum says it is her eyes that have bothered her the most since the incident. "They were burned by the light," she says. Since that night, she has changed her eyeglass prescription twice, each time progressively stronger. She says she now seems to be losing her peripheral vision and is developing cataracts.

Schuessler says the total package of symptoms points to evidence of radiation sickness. "Other things can cause these symptoms, but not likely the total package," he said.

Schuessler said more could have been done for the two women's health problems at the beginning, but doctors were stumped by the symptoms. "They felt they were dealing with some kind of radiation burn, but they didn't know from what and they weren't sure how to treat it," he said.

A radiation specialist who examined the two women said in an April correspondence that the burns suffered by the trio could be secondary to high intensity infra-red radiation, ultra-violet rays of 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.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Landrum says she is getting a bit tired of all the publicity. "It's traumatic to relive this thing all the time," she said. "Especially being hypnotized on television in front of everybody."

To jog Mrs. Landrum's memory of the incident, she was hypnotized on the television show, "That's Incredible" by Dr. R. Leo Sprinkle, a psychologist and director of counseling and testing at the University of Wyoming.

She and her companions were also subjects of a story by the sensational tabloid, the National Enquirer, which ran an article last summer under a multi-color top-of-the-front-page headline entitled "Scientist at NASA Confirms UFO Terrorizes and Burns 3 Texans."

Much of the article was inaccurate and grossly exaggerated, Mrs. Landrum says. "It's sensational enough without exaggerating it more," she said. "We just want to know what it was once and for all."

# 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 1485 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 200 other 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 Hynek 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 Hynek, 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."

Hynek 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 Killen, 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 Geishauer. "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."

February 14, 1989

12/27/87  
AMERICA'S FASTEST GROWING WEEKLY

## DID UFO give woman cancer?

### DID UFO aliens give Betty Cash cancer?

Outspoken Betty believes they did — and she blames the US government as well.

Betty claims she was driving down a lonely country road in west Texas with her friend, Vicki, and Vicki's young grandson, Tobey, when the youngster noticed mysterious lights above the pine trees.

A huge, diamond-shaped spacecraft hovered near them, flames shooting from its bottom like a blowtorch. Betty says she got out of the car and stood paralyzed in the UFO's beam for 20 minutes.

Recalled Betty in a recent TV interview: "When it moved, it made a swishing sound. There was also a deafening beep that I still hear in my mind at night, and my skin was burning."

Suddenly, Betty says, a squadron of helicopters appeared on the scene. The women identified them as belonging to the US military.

Said Vicki: "They were trying to escort the spacecraft. It looked like they were going to collide."

Then the spacecraft hisked over the trees

By EDWARD REYNOLDS

and vanished, the helicopters right behind.

"I was too sick to go to work the next day," Betty recalls. "My eyes were swollen shut, and there were welts on my head and face. I thought I was going to die."

At the hospital, Betty was treated for burns. Weeks later, she had lost patches of skin on her face, and half her hair fell out.

### Tormented

Then, in 1983, Betty was diagnosed as having cancer. She underwent surgery, but doctors were uncertain if they'd removed it all. Now, each passing day is another victory for the tormented woman.

Said Betty: "I'm mad as hell and disappointed with the government of the United States."



BETTY CASH after her UFO encounter.



VICKI

Top UFOlogists speculate the spacecraft was a secret weapon developed by the military, or the craft was given to the US government by the ETs

METRO/STATE

# Lincoln woman says she saw, was hurt by UFO in Texas

By **Scottie Vickery**  
News correspondent

LINCOLN — The bumper sticker on Betty Cash's 1980 Oldsmobile Cutlass sums up her life for the past eight years.

"UFOs are real — the Air Force doesn't exist," it reads.

Mrs. Cash said the words on that bumper sticker became her philosophy after she and two friends in 1980 witnessed a blinding bright light that filled the sky, and a diamond-shaped object that emitted orange and yellow flames.

"We thought it was the end of time," the 60-year-old woman said in a recent interview at her mobile home on Logan Martin Lake. "I've been scared many times in my life, but never, ever, have I been as terrified as I was that night."

Mrs. Cash's experience has become one of the most celebrated and sensationalized UFO sightings in recent years. She said it has left her in poor health, in debt and questioning the credibility of the U.S. government.

It began about 9 p.m., Dec. 29, 1980, on a county road near New Caney, Texas, where Mrs. Cash, friend Vickie Landrum and Mrs. Landrum's 6-year-old grandson Colby were driving home from a bingo game.

"We seen this bright light, and it just lit up the entire sky," Mrs. Cash recalled. "The further we drove, the closer we got to the object."

Despite the 40-degree temperature, an "intense heat" surrounded the car. In a telephone interview last week, Mrs. Landrum said she screamed at Mrs. Cash to stop the car, because "I was afraid we would burn up if we went under it."

All three got out of the car, but Colby was crying, so he and Mrs. Landrum got back in, she said.

## Tried to comfort child

Mrs. Landrum said she tried to comfort the boy.

"I told him if he saw a big man, it would be Jesus, and He wouldn't hurt us. He would be coming to carry us to a better place," Mrs. Landrum said.

Mrs. Cash said she stayed outside about eight minutes trying to figure out what the object was.

Both women described it as diamond-shaped and metallic. Flames were shooting out of the bottom of the craft, and it made a shrill beeping sound, they said.

When the object started to rise, it made a "swooshing" sound, Mrs. Cash said.

When Mrs. Cash got back in the car, she had to use her leather jacket as a hotpad because the handle was so hot, she said.

The two women said they heard a "roaring sound, like a tornado, and helicopters were coming in every direction." Mrs. Cash and Mrs. Landrum said they counted 23 helicopters.



NEWS PHOTO/SCOTTIE VICKERY

Betty Cash sifts through her medical records related to encounter with UFO.

against the government in Houston's federal court in January 1984, but the case was dismissed in August 1986.

In the October 1988 telecast of *UFO Coverup? Live*, two men, whose identities were protected, said they'd been employed by the U.S. government

in "top secret" missions. They said they were aware of Mrs. Cash's incident, and the military was indeed involved.

The object Mrs. Cash and Mrs. Landrum saw was an "alien craft" piloted by military pilots, one of the men claimed. The pilots apparently lost control of the craft, and the helicopters were sent to assist.

The two women identified, through pictures, the twin-rotary helicopters as Boeing CH-47 Chinook helicopters.

At that time, such helicopters were used only by the military, said John Schuessler, an engineer with an aerospace company in Houston and a member of the Mutual UFO Network. Schuessler has studied UFO incidents since 1965, he said in a telephone interview.

Schuessler said witnesses from eight different areas also reported a large group of helicopters that night in 1981. He said he contacted officials at every military base within hundreds of miles, but found no explanation.

Philip J. Klass of Washington, D.C., who has written four books on UFOs and has studied the subject for 22 years, said he thinks the women's story is a hoax.

He said he asked Schuessler to provide Mrs. Cash's and Mrs. Landrum's medical histories, but Schuessler refused. "What do they have to hide?" he asked.

Klass said he thinks the women were suffering from bad health and made up the story to get the government to pay their medical bills.

Mrs. Cash said she declined to provide her medical history to Klass because of the possibility that the information would be needed for a congressional hearing. Mrs. Cash and Mrs. Landrum are now circulating petitions for a congressional hearing, and they are encouraging people to write their congressmen.

Klass said: "I would expect the sun to rise in the west and set in the east before they get a congressional hearing, but that's just my opinion."

Mrs. Landrum and Mrs. Cash said they're used to reactions like Klass'. "I know what happened to me," Mrs. Cash said. "I certainly didn't get out there and tear all my hair out and blister myself so I could lay in the bed for months."

IX  
US 1229 1980-

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The two women said they heard a "roaring sound, like a tornado, and helicopters were coming in every direction." Mrs. Cash and Mrs. Landrum said they counted 23 helicopters.

The helicopters surrounded the craft "like they were trying to escort it somewhere," Mrs. Landrum said.

As the trio drove off, they kept looking out the back window. They could still see the light about three miles away, Mrs. Cash said.

By the time they reached Mrs. Landrum's house, their heads were hurting, their skin was burning and they were nauseated, Mrs. Cash said.

"We were as red as if we had been out on a beach all day long," she said. "We were all deathly sick."

The next morning, Mrs. Cash's eyes were swollen shut, she said. Her hair had fallen out "in gobs on the pillow." Huge welts and water blisters had appeared all over her body.

Mrs. Cash said she didn't go to the hospital at first because "we were afraid people would think we were crazy. I said, 'They'll move me down to the psycho ward.'"

## Moved to Birmingham in 1981

Records from Parkway Hospital in Houston show that Mrs. Cash was admitted Jan. 2, 1981, and was discharged Jan. 14. She was readmitted Jan. 25 and released Feb. 9. She was treated for swelling of the head, severe headaches, loss of hair, nausea, poor vision and skin burns.

Mrs. Cash moved to the Birmingham area in 1981 to live with relatives, because she said she was too sick to take care of herself.

In March 1983 doctors found cancer in her right breast, and a mastectomy was performed at St. Vincent's Hospital in Birmingham.

"She had in the past an exposure to some form of irradiation," records from St. Vincent's say.

Her medical bills now total more than \$1.5 million, Mrs. Cash said.

She and Mrs. Landrum, 65, have told their story many times. Television programs they have been featured on include *UFO Coverup? Live* and *That's Incredible*.

Hundreds of articles have appeared in newspapers, some from France and Germany.

Some articles were more believable than others.

*The Examiner*, a tabloid, quoted a UFO expert who speculated that the government was hiding the bodies of aliens killed in flying saucer crashes.

Another tabloid, *Weekly World News*, said the case was part of a "cosmic Watergate."

The *Dallas Times Herald's* headline in 1981 said, "UFO report: Women, child say they saw ship, 23 helicopters"; and *USA Today* published stories about the case.

## Thought it was a military experiment

While Mrs. Cash said she still doesn't know exactly what she saw on that deserted road in Texas, she never thought it was a flying saucer with little men from outer space.

Instead, because the object was surrounded by the helicopters, Mrs. Cash and Mrs. Landrum think it was a military experiment the government is trying to cover up. Mrs. Cash and Mrs. Landrum filed a \$20 million lawsuit



NEWS

Betty Cash sifts through her medic related to encounter with UFO.

against the government in Houston's federal court case was dismissed in August 1986.

In the October 1988 telecast of *UFO Coverup? Live* titles were protected, said they'd been employed t



## Night Terror in Texas: The Cash-Landrum Story

by John F. Schuessler

The United States of America has developed an awesome military might aimed at protecting its citizens from intruders arriving by land, sea, air, or space. No warplane, ship, or missile can cross our borders without detection. Yet, a phantom air fleet *has been observed* operating within these borders, and government officials continue to deny any knowledge of the operations.

This is the story of how three innocent victims were harmed by this phantom fleet. Two women and a small boy—Betty Cash, Vickie Landrum, and Colby Landrum—drove into the middle of a military operation involving the fleet, and their lives changed forever.

The fleet consisted of one very large unidentified flying object and more than 20 helicopters. The UFO, shaped like a diamond, was bigger than a jet airliner. It could move slowly, hover, and fly, but it had no wings, tail, or jet engines. Its flight pattern contradicted the known laws of aerodynamics.

The helicopter fleet, on the other hand, consisted of well-known and easily recognizable aircraft. Key to the operation were the many twin-rotor helicopters, either CH-46 Sea Knights or CH-47 Chinooks. Also involved were a large flying crane and several smaller, faster, helicopter gun ships.

It is difficult to know whether the helicopter fleet and the huge UFO were working together or whether they were adversaries. Either way, the fleet moved about seemingly without detection by military defense forces. Today, the United States government continues to deny their existence.

This was not a harmless fleet. On Decem-

ber 29, 1980, it was operating across a large area of East Texas. As the numerous aircraft converged on a spot in the East Texas Piney Woods near the small town of Huffman, an automobile was also approaching "ground zero."

Betty Cash was driving. Her friend and employee, Vickie Landrum, was riding in the front passenger seat. Vickie's seven-year-old grandson was standing just behind the front seat between the two women.

Colby was the first to notice something happening in the sky ahead. He began pointing out the large, unusual light coming their way.

By the time the women stopped talking and took notice, the light was huge and was descending out of the sky as if to land on the road. Betty slammed on the brakes—the UFO was pouring fire out its underside like a rocket. The three were terrified, afraid they'd all be killed.

Although the evening was damp and a chilly 40 degrees, the car rapidly heated up as they sat watching. The women opened the doors and climbed out. Colby screamed for Vickie to get back in, which she did. Betty, though, walked to the front of the car, shielding her eyes from the UFO's bright light, which they later said lit the surrounding area like daylight.

After a few minutes, helicopters began streaming into the area, and the UFO rose into the night sky southward to the Gulf of Mexico. The helicopters followed, as though steering its direction of flight.

When Betty returned to the car, the door was too hot to touch with her bare hand. In no time, they caught up with the formation, which was flying low in the sky just ahead of them. Rather than chancing becoming trapped again, they pulled the car over to the side of the road. As they watched the drama being played out in the sky just a short distance away, another huge twin-rotor helicopter flew in low over

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Roswell Report

The Roswell Declaration continues to gain momentum. Since October a year ago, when the Roswell initiative began, the Declaration and position paper have appeared in numerous publications and on various radio and television shows.

In the United States, the three major UFO organizations—the Mutual UFO Network, the Center for UFO Studies, and the Fund for UFO Research—have all endorsed the effort and published the declaration. Members of the Society for Scientific Exploration have also received copies.

The Declaration was published in the October 1994 *Omni* magazine (cir. 713,000) and the fall 1994 (Vol. 3, No. 1) *International UFO Library* magazine.

The Declaration was mentioned by Roswell author Kevin Randle on Larry King's October 1 two-hour UFO special. In

*See Roswell, page 2*

### This Issue

Cash-Landrum  
John Schuessler  
**DEKE! An Excerpt**  
Alvin Sighting  
Flashback  
Worth Repeating  
Video Review

## Cash-Landrum, from page 1

their car, shaking them badly. At this point, they counted at least 23 helicopters. Other witnesses later testified to having seen all these helicopters.

Almost immediately after the event, Betty, Vickie, and Colby became ill. Their problems started with headaches but within hours developed into skin burns, vomiting, and diarrhea. And that was only the beginning.

In the hours and days that followed, the injuries mounted. The conditions were typical of human exposure to radiation emissions—swollen, painful, watery eyes, stomach pains, vomiting, diarrhea, sores, scarring of the skin, loss of skin pigmentation, loss of appetite and energy, loss of weight, massive hair loss, blood problems, embrittlement of bones, cancer, and much more. Their enjoyable, *normal* world had been devastated.

Since government helicopters were involved in the event, those of us working the case contacted a number of government agencies. We felt sure someone would have the information to identify the type and extent of the radiation exposure. With that information, we believed, the healing process could be speeded. Unfortunately, help was denied us at every level. No one seemed to care that Betty, Vickie, and Colby were the innocent victims of this military force's interaction with a UFO.

Eventually, we filed a damage claim against the U.S. government, a claim later denied. We then filed for damages in federal court, but an unscrupulous judge in Houston refused even to hear the evidence. The government cover-up was allowed to continue, and Betty, Vickie, and Colby never got their day in court.

Some people have claimed that this "UFO" was a secret, nuclear-powered aircraft being flown by military pilots. They have suggested that the craft was in trouble, spewing radiation across the countryside. The helicopter crews were there, they say, to cordon off the area and clean up if the craft crashed. If it recovered and flew away, the helicopters would help it find a safe location for landing.

While the nuclear aircraft interpretation is interesting, it is not based on facts. First, this was not an aircraft *as we know it*. It had no wings, no tail, and no engines. In fact, it was just a huge flying diamond, like something from a futuristic "Star Wars" movie, and it defied gravity as it flew. Second, by all reports, the U.S. nuclear aircraft program had been

dead for a number of years.

A more likely scenario is that the object was unidentified and *unidentifiable*—a UFO. It was probably not operated by human pilots and was not being controlled by the U.S. government. However, the government must have been fully aware of the operation and have had helicopters standing by in case of a crash. As part of their standard operations, the helicopters probably carried security and cleanup crews. Had the UFO crashed, these crews would undoubtedly have sprung into action to ensure that all evidence was thoroughly removed and that no details of the crash and cleanup were leaked. So far, the government's efforts have been successful.

Unfortunately, the victims have suffered greatly. Betty and Vickie have never been able to work again. In fact, they have survived the incident only because of their own strong wills: Betty wanted to see justice done; Vickie wanted to see Colby survive to adulthood, which he has.

Recently, because of the rash of government-sponsored radiation and nuclear operational experiments that have come to light in the past year and the resulting lawsuits, I filed a second claim against the U.S. government on behalf of Betty, Vickie, and Colby. That step has started the bureaucratic process all over again. So far, I have been through two separate government agencies, resubmitted all the details, filled out innumerable forms, and spent many months waiting for replies. At this point, the paperwork is being processed by a faceless bureaucracy that fails to recognize that the victims are real people. Instead, humans are seen simply as numbers—statistics to prove how much paperwork each agency has done. I have found no one truly interested in the victims as humans beings.

During the years that have passed since that fateful night in 1980, much more evidence has been collected and recorded. *A smoking gun has been identified that will soon be exposed*. Though I have previously gone public with this basic story, I have held back many of the details. Now, as a result of the mounting evidence, I have resumed work on a book: "Night Terror in Texas: The Cash-Landrum Story." The time has come for the details to be made a matter of public record. ♦

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By WILLIAM P. BARRETT

Houston Bureau

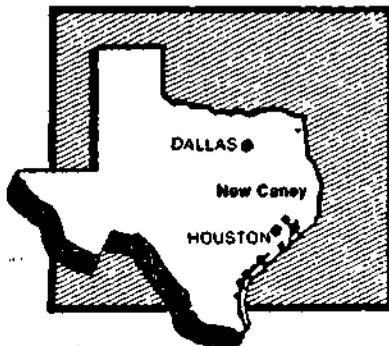
DAYTON — Vickie Landrum doesn't expect everybody to buy her story that a UFO flanked by 23 military helicopters doused her and two others with radiation on a deserted East Texas road one night last December.

"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 30 years, vouches for her credibility. Records at Parkway Hospital in Houston document the fading eyesight, 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 Hynek, 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



— Staff map

Site was near New Caney

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. Schuessel, an engineer for McDonnell Douglas Corp. at the NASA Johnson Space Center in Houston, who, as a hobby, has been investigating UFO sightings around Houston for 15 years. Contrary to the suggestion in the Enquirer headline, his sleuthing 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 either 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.

Schuessel said there are only two possible explanations for the incident. "Either the helicopters were chasing the object, or else they were flying with it," he said. "In either case, the federal government should know something." He is preparing a paper on the incident to be presented at a UFO conference in Chicago Saturday.

Lawyers for the three — Mrs. Landrum, 52; 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 Geishauer, 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."

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. 29 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 flame coming from the bottom.

"Suddenly it got real bright," Mrs. Landrum said. "We could see the object maybe 30 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 saw was 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 25 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 said

DALLAS TIMES HERALD

9/21/81

# Two women share terror of mysterious encounter

3103 unusual  
By CATHY GORDON  
Courier Staff

(First 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

PAGE ONE

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

only route she knew to get to her home about 38 miles away.

As they drew closer to the object, the light from it became more intense as the heat it was emitting, she said. It was then that she stopped the car for fear of hitting the suspended "ball of light" that was now, she said, only a block away.

"I'm sure we would have run right into the thing if we hadn't stopped the car," Cash said. "The heat from that thing was

See WOMEN, page 2A

CONROE, TEXAS  
COURIER

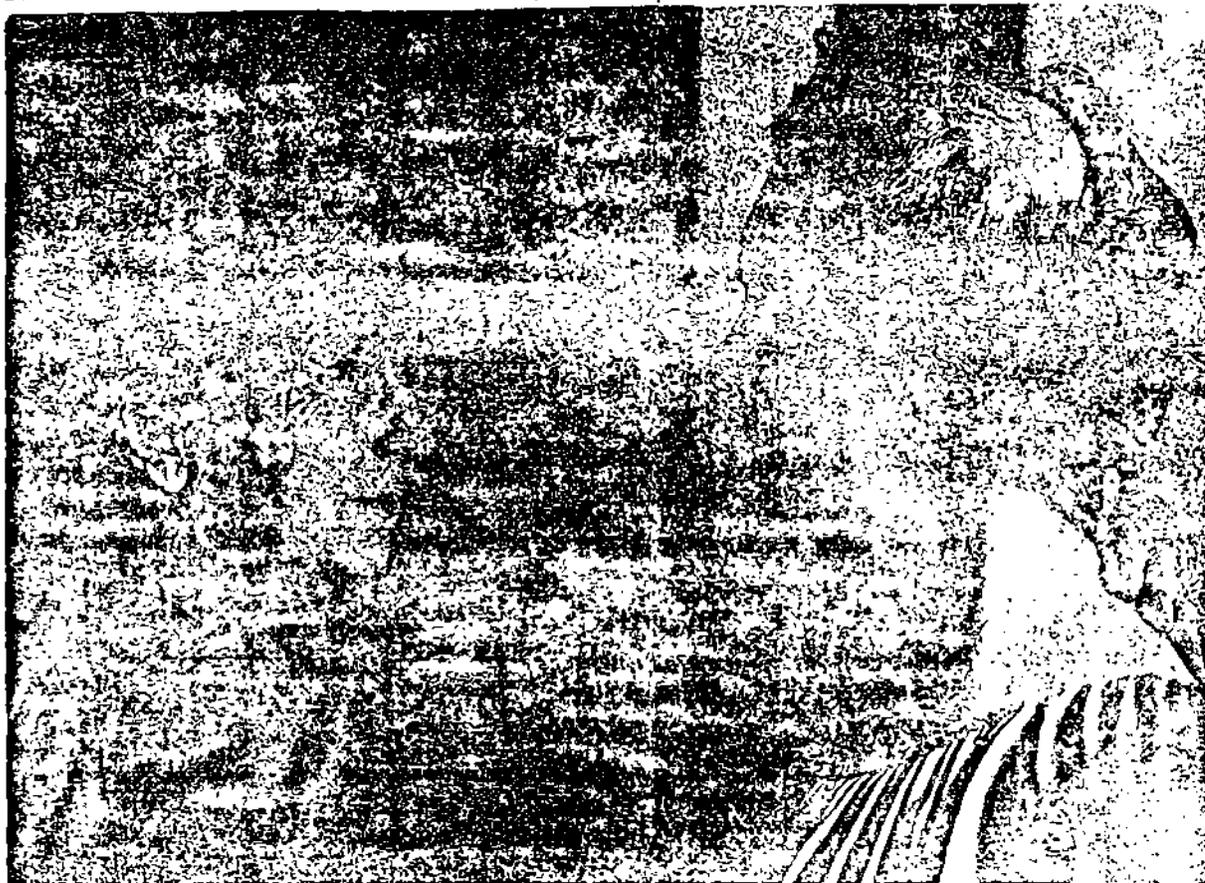
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Vickie Landrum (left) talks with Betty Cash about their strange encounter they feel is responsible for their present physical conditions. (713)

From page 1A

## 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 sunburned 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

# 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 her handprints 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 helicopters 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 146 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 Hindicator

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."

# Dayton Woman Who Saw UFO To Be On 'That's Incredible'

By LOUISE SHAW

DAYTON (Sp) — Vickie Landrum, a 57-year-old waitress, will appear with her 7-year-old grandson, Colby, on ABC's television program "That's Incredible" at 7 p.m. Monday night to tell of their frightening encounter with an unidentified flying object.

Mrs. Landrum said it was a cold, cloudy evening last Dec. 29 as she, Colby, and a friend, Betty Cash, were driving from New Caney to Dayton following a bingo game when Colby spotted the strange object.

"We were about three miles off FM 1485 on a lonely road when Colby screamed "Aunt Betty, what's that."

"I looked up and spotted a long cylinder bright light about three miles ahead," Mrs. Landrum said. "I couldn't figure out what it was. It was diamond in shape and just seemed to suspend over the trees. Every once in a while a fire would come out of it with a big whoosh and it would move to the right," she added.

Mrs. Landrum said she screamed at Mrs. Cash to stop the car and they all jumped out. Mrs. Cash started to move toward the object as Mrs. Lan-

drum begged her to come back.

"Colby was so frightened. The only thing I could think to tell him was to look in the center for the Lord. If it was him coming back we had nothing to fear," Mrs. Landrum said. "In my heart I knew it was not the Lord and I was scared. My main concern was to console the child," she added.

She said the object began to drift off to the northwest and she saw large double-rotary helicopters heading towards it. Colby counted 23 helicopters.

Mrs. Landrum said handprints were burned into the dash of the car where she was gripping it.

On the drive home, the trio made a pact not to tell anyone of their experiences for fear of being called crazy.

It was later when they became sick that they felt they had to come forth with the tale.

On Jan. 3, Mrs. Cash was taken to Parkway Hospital on I-45 in Houston with large red knots under the skin. Tests revealed she was not suffering from blood clots as the doctor first thought. Emergency room personnel said she looked like a burn victim. She was released when additional tests showed there was nothing physically wrong with her.

Four days later, she was back in the hospital with the same complaint. This time, the doctor wanted to know what the ladies had not been telling him. He was told of the sighting and Mrs. Landrum said the doctor told her he believed her story.

Mrs. Cash is now in Alabama, still suffering from burns, blisters, weakness, diarrhea, headaches, eye problems and loss of hair.



Mrs. Landrum and Colby suffered the same symptoms, but to a lesser degree. She said all her hair fell out and she is having severe eye problems.

Colby lost all control of his bowels and kidneys. "The child could not get enough water. Even now, he drinks more than he should and he craves cold milk," she said.

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 Mutual UFO Network.

Dr. P. B. Patil, a specialist in cardiology and internal medicine, said he and his colleagues hospitalized Mrs. Cash for a total of about 3½ weeks at Parkway Hospital. "She definitely had a bad burn on her face and her hair was 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."

Dr. Steve Chandler, a Liberty optometrist, treated Mrs. Landrum for her eye problems. "There was quite a lot of irritation and swelling, but I don't know the cause of it," he said. He said an allergy to sunlight, chemicals and other things could cause the same symptoms.

It was reported that several others, including an off-duty Dayton police officer, spotted the object and-or helicopters that night.

Mrs. Landrum underwent hypnosis by Dr. R. Leo Sprinkle, a psychologist at the University of Wyoming. While hypnotized, she did not reveal additional details, but her story did not alter either.

Mrs. Landrum said she was not trying to say the object was from outer space. In fact, she believes the object belongs to the United States or that U.S. officials know what it was because the helicopters looked like military choppers.

She said government officials deny knowing anything about the object. But Mrs. Landrum won't give up. "I've lived my life," she said, "but I was told my friend Betty is going to die and that in the future Colby could suffer leukemia. He is my main concern. They have got to acknowledge the object and tell us what it was, so we can get him help," she said.

Mrs. Landrum told The Sun Friday that the crew from "That's Incredible" have built a ship like the one she describes. She will also undergo hypnosis on the show.

# 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 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

## Launch effects on environment gauged

Associated Press

Each time a space ship is launched, there is a vast, hot, acid exhaust cloud. NASA wants to know what the cloud does to plant life.

"We are moving along in the environmental areas, reviewing effects of shuttles on vegetation," says Dr. William M. Knott. "We are determining which plant will grow."

KENNEDY Space Center encompasses 140,000 acres, mostly on Merritt Island, including 80,000 acres of land mass. There are citrus groves and native vegetation. "Of concern," Knott said, "is the exhaust cloud. We are using plants sensitive to hydrogen chloride gas, which combined with (rain) might produce acid rainout."

At earlier launches vegetation was sampled for injury, and damage was found to be extremely small. "Shuttles," Knott said, "are designed to go at much greater frequencies. Soon there may be 20, 30 or 40 annually — day or night — under light or dark conditions. It might be ad-

visable to restrict launch times.

"The program is a long-range look at vegetative patterns. Are we doing something subtle to cause a vegetative pattern change? The work includes remote sensing of things in the same place, including weeds. Are any new ones appearing? Low aerial photographs are compared with old photos to determine any real or detrimental changes in the normal ecology."

THE SPACE Center acreage includes a national wildlife refuge, invited to locate there so that effects

of launches on animals may be checked, and a national beach. The meteorological data is confined to a one-mile ground band on Merritt Island. The American Institute of Biological Sciences oversees the project.

Ground-water quality, rain samples, air quality, noise and weather patterns will be recorded. So will sonic boom over-pressures generated by the space shuttle's descent to the landing site — the nation's largest runway, nearly three miles long and wide enough for two reusable space craft to land with space laboratories.

Houston Post  
May 9, 1980  
P. 3AA

Is it possible that the object observed by Betty Cash and Vickie Landrum near Dayton, TX on 29 Dec 1980 emitted a hot acid exhaust cloud? The object shot long tongues of flame downward. After the incident the witnesses exhibited skin effect, burns, loss of hair, etc.

J. Schum

Note: →

# ... Damages

DAYTON (AP) — Two women and a 10-year-old boy have sued the U.S. government, seeking \$20 million in damages for injuries they claim to have received when they encountered an unidentified flying object hovering above a country road.

Betty Cash, 54, Vicki Landrum, 60, and her 10-year-old grandson, Colby Landrum, are seeking payment for medical treatment after suffering chronic illness and injuries from what they claim was radiation that beamed at them from a hovering UFO three years ago.

A lawyer filed the suit in a Houston federal court on Wednesday.

The three claim in the suit that the federal government is somehow involved and should be held responsible for their medical care.

The incident occurred around 9:30 p.m. Dec. 29, 1980, while Cash, Landrum and the youngster were returning home from a bingo game.

## Object glows in sky

As they drove along a country road seven miles outside of New Caney, they noticed a bright object glowing in the sky.

The object hovered 60 to 80 feet above the road and had such "intense brightness and glow that they couldn't make out its shape," said Peter Gerston, a New York attorney representing Cash and her friends.

The object was flaming and gave off so much heat and light that Cash and her friends could drive no farther, Gerston said.

They got out of the car for awhile, said Gerston, and Cash rested her hand on the vehicle. When she removed her hand, he said, she found it had left a permanent imprint on the car.

Landrum said the group then drove down the road, stopping at a small graveyard. She said they counted 23 helicopters near the object, but Gerston said they were unable to determine whether the chop-



**VICKI LANDRUM 'SAW' UFO  
... wants paid health care**

pers were escorting the object or pursuing it.

For a few days after the incident, the three people suffered severe headaches, nausea, swollen earlobes and eyelids, diarrhea and facial blisters, Gerston said. The health of Cash, who received the most exposure, "became much worse," he said. She was admitted to Parkway Hospital for one week and later for two more weeks.

Gerston said that in the year following the event they were chronically ill and Cash was "in and out" of the hospital from October to December 1981.

Cash and her friends still experience some of the symptoms from time to time, including nausea, loss of appetite, skin blotches and blisters, the lawyer said.

In their suit, Cash, Landrum and the boy asked for damages totalling \$20 million.

Gerston said his clients also want to determine what type of radiation they had been exposed to so they could seek appropriate medical treatment.

# Three People File Lawsuit Over Alleged UFO Injuries

DAYTON, Texas (AP) — Three Dayton, Texas, people filed a lawsuit in a Houston federal court this week against the U.S. government, seeking damages for injuries they claim to have received when an unidentified flying object ambushed them on a country road.

Betty Cash, 54, Vicki Landrum, 60, and her 10-year-old grandson, Colby Landrum are seeking payment for medical treatment after suffering chronic illness and injuries from what they claim was radiation that beamed at them from a hovering UFO three years ago. A lawyer filed the suit in a Houston federal court on Wednesday.

The three claim in the suit that the federal government is somehow involved and should be held responsible for their medical care.

The incident occurred around 9:30 p.m. Dec. 29,

1980, while Mrs. Cash, Mrs. Landrum and Colby Landrum were returning home from a bingo game.

As they drove along a country road seven miles outside of New Caney, Texas, they noticed a bright object glowing in the sky.

The object hovered 60 to 80 feet above the road and had such "intense brightness and glow that they couldn't make out its shape," said Peter Gerston, a New York attorney representing Mrs. Cash and her friends.

The object was flaming and gave off so much heat and light that Mrs. Cash and her friends could drive no further, Gerston said.

They got out of the car, Gerston said, and Mrs. Cash rested her hand on the vehicle. When she removed her hand, he said, she found it had left a permanent imprint on the car.

Mrs. Landrum said they returned and drove down the road stopping at a small graveyard. She said they counted 23 helicopters near the object, but Gerston said they were unable to determine whether the choppers were escorting the object or pursuing it.

For a few days after the incident, the three people suffered severe headaches, nausea, swollen earlobes and eyelids, diarrhea and facial blisters, Gerston said. The health of Mrs. Cash, who received the most exposure, "became much worse," he said. She was admitted to Parkway Hospital for one week and later for two more weeks.

Gerston said that in the year following the event they were chronically ill and Mrs. Cash was "in and out" of the hospital from October to December 1981.

Mrs. Cash and her friends still experience some of the symptoms from time to time, including nausea, loss of appetite, skin blotches and blisters, the lawyer said.

The three have twice filed administrative claims for medical treatment with the

Air Force, but were refused help each time. Gerston quoted one Air Force statement as saying, "our investigation has revealed no evidence of involvement by any military personnel, equipment or aircraft in this alleged incident."

Gerston, who has represented several organizations in lawsuits related to UFOs, said he believes that finding "no evidence" means Air Force investigators merely did not have access to highly classified information.

Gerston said the incident also was witnessed by a deputy sheriff.

Mrs. Cash, Mrs. Landrum and Colby Landrum asked in their suit for damages totaling \$20 million.

# Dayton Woman Sues Over 'UFO Injuries'

DAYTON — Vicki Landrum, 60, can't go outside without "breaking out in big blisters."

Chronic illnesses have plagued Mrs. Landrum, her 10-year-old grandson, Colby Landrum and Betty Cash, 54, after their supposed December 1980 encounter with an unidentified flying object.

The women and the boy have sued the U.S. government, seeking \$20 million in damages for injuries they claim were caused by radiation emitted from the UFO that hovered above them, outside of New Caney.

They say the federal government is somehow involved and should pay for their medical care.

"She gets very upset when she has to talk to anyone about this," a daughter-in-law of Mrs. Landrum said Saturday. "She hasn't even been able to go outside because she breaks out in big blisters."

She added that Mrs. Landrum has lost her hair as a result of the encounter.

The Sun was unable to talk directly with the plaintiffs Saturday.

A New York lawyer representing Mrs. Cash, Mrs. Landrum and Colby Landrum said they suffered severe headaches, nausea, swollen earlobes and eyelids, diarrhea and facial blisters for a few days after the incident.

The health of Mrs. Cash, who received the most exposure, deteriorated substantially, attorney Peter Gerston said.

She was admitted to Parkway Hospital for one week and later two weeks. She was in and out of the hospital October through December 1981 with chronic illness.

The attorney said the victims still experience nausea, loss of appetite, skin blotches and blisters.

Gerston has represented several organizations in lawsuits related to UFOs.

On Dec. 29, 1980, the three were returning home from a bingo game, about seven miles outside of New Caney, when they noticed a bright object glowing in the sky.

The object hovered above the road and was so bright they couldn't make out its shape," Gerston said.

The object was flaming and gave off so much heat and light that Mrs. Cash and her friends could drive no farther, Gerston added.

They got out of the car for awhile and Mrs. Cash rested her hand on the vehicle. When she removed her hand, he said, she found it had left a permanent imprint on the car.

Driving away, they counted 23 helicopters near the object, but Gerston said they were unable to determine whether the choppers were escorting the object or pursuing it.

The three have twice filed administrative claims for medical treatment with the Air Force, but were refused help each time. Gerston quoted one Air Force statement as saying, "our investigation has revealed no evidence of involvement by any military personnel, equipment or aircraft in this alleged incident."

Gerston said finding "no evidence" means Air Force investigators merely did not have access to highly classified information.

The incident has been independently investigated, said Gerston, by John Schuessler, a National Aeronautics and Space Administration engineer who has specialized in a study of UFOs.

Gerston said the incident also was witnessed by a deputy sheriff.

Mrs. Cash, Mrs. Landrum and Colby Landrum asked in their suit for damages totalling \$20 million.

Gerston said his clients want also to determine what type of radiation they had been exposed to so they could seek appropriate medical treatment.

"The government has all along denied any responsibility for the incident, he said. "They are not willing to come forward and reveal the type of object to help three people."

Gerston said he is optimistic about his clients' chances of winning the suit. "If we can show the incident happened — and we can — than they (the government) have to show they're not responsible."

# NEST's mission — to find,

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (AP) — A special team of scientists and engineers based in this desert gambling resort where high-stakes showdowns are common think about unthinkable stakes every day. They are the Nuclear Emergency Search Team, known as NEST, a little-known element of America's nuclear program. And its 200 members hope there is no cause to change that.

Their job is to be ready if terrorists ever try to hold an American city hostage with a nuclear device. They are charged with finding and disarming terrorist nuclear weapons. And failure would mean catastrophe.

With international terrorism on the increase and a growing capability for many to produce such devices, the threat of a crisis is taken seriously. "We think the potential for it happening exists," says Mahlon Gates, 63, a retired Army general who heads the Nevada Operations Office of the Department of Ener-

gy and runs the country's nuclear testing program.

"There's a potential there, and if it happens we've got to be ready. My greatest fear is that some terrorist group hoping to gain political advantage of some kind would see fit to carry out a threat. I'm more afraid of nuts within the United States than terrorists from abroad."

There have been 70 nuclear-related threats made since a wave of terrorism swept America in the early 1970s. Twenty of those were deemed valid enough by the FBI to warrant further investigation, and NEST operatives have responded in several instances. To date they have not encountered any nuclear device.

NEST spokesmen say a real crisis would present critical choices:

■ Do you risk panic by announcing a nuclear-mandated evacuation of a major city?

■ Do you delay evacuation and risk

thousands, perhaps hundreds of thousands of lives?

■ If a device is found, do you risk challenging booby traps that are likely to be a part the deadly package?

NEST was born in 1974, the outgrowth of a nuclear threat against Boston. Fortunately, the threat was a hoax, but government officials found themselves without a plan for responding and confusion reigned.

When the threat was over, Gates told his superiors in Washington: "Enough of this. Give me a mission to respond to and we'll develop the capability."

The nation's elite nuclear fire department was born three months later as Gates surrounded himself with some of the finest minds in the nuclear weapons business.

Today, by law, any nuclear threat is forwarded to the FBI. If the threat ap-

The Houston Post/Thurs., Nov. 25, 1982/ 5H

## disarm terrorist N-weapons

pears valid, recordings or copies of the message are sent to NEST's threat assessment group, the Emergency Action and Coordination Team. The team includes scientists from Lawrence Livermore, Los Alamos and Sandia nuclear laboratories plus the Nevada Operations Office.

The team is required to respond to NEST's threat assessment office in the basement of a Germantown, Md., building within two hours.

"The message is analyzed by different people for different things," Gates says. "The scientists try to determine whether the person knows what he's talking about. Does he understand nuclear theory, nuclear reaction? Are the words right?"

"Other groups examine the threat from the point of view of psycholinguistics — Is the guy nuts? Is this a rational mind speaking here?"

If EACT decides the threat is real, a

NEST team is deployed from a nondescript brown hangar across from busy McCarran International Airport in southeast Las Vegas.

The call-up could be a simple one — a handful of scientists to help officers track down stolen uranium such as they did in Wilmington, N.C. Or it could be similar to a 1975 incident when 40 men searched for a nuclear device in an extortion threat against Union Oil Co. in Los Angeles. No device was found.

All 200 members have been called out only once, in the winter of 1978, in Operation Morning Light, they tracked down chunks of a "hot" Russian satellite that disintegrated over Canada.

NEST members have also been used to monitor radiation during the Three Mile Island crisis and to advise authorities at the conventional bombing of Harvey's Resort in Lake Tahoe. In the latter case, it was "because we can look into the black box and tell what's there," Gates said.

If NEST is deployed to seek out a nu-

clear device, a call also goes to the National Military Command Center for on-stance disposal units from one of designated Army bases around the country.

"We think a terrorist might boot trap the device because he would want to protect it until some catastrophic moment when it would detonate. Breaching the booby trap is the Army's job," Gates said.

If the location of the device is spelled out, team members respond there. If an exact location is not given, NEST members begin searching with equipment stored in the Las Vegas hangar.

The equipment is containerized and ready to move on an hour's notice — either by wide-bodied commercial aircraft or C-141s from the Military Airlift Command at Scott Air Force Base, Ill.

The equipment includes a self-contained power generating plant "in case we get stuck somewhere in the boonies," Gates says.

HERMAN/UNGER



According to this, we gave a 45-year-old woman a skin rash

# Government officials new targets in UFO 'Watergate' trial

**G**OVERNMENT authorities are being staggered by a flurry of lawsuits in which lawyers accuse them of a UFO coverup so massive that investigators describe it as a "cosmic Watergate."

Tenacious UFO experts — and shaken contactees — are determined to use thousands of pages of previously super-secret government data to prove that extraterrestrials already have landed.

Larry Bryant, director of the Washington-based

By **CLIFF LINEDECKER**

Citizens Against UFO Secrecy (CAUS), insists the government is hiding the bodies of aliens killed in a series of devastating flying-saucer crashes.

"This is a public issue on the scale of Watergate," he charges.

Bryant points to an incredible document dated March 22, 1950, and recent-

ly pried loose from the FBI as evidence to back up his astonishing claim. The memo reads:

"An investigator for the Air Force stated that three so-called flying saucers had been recovered in New Mexico.

"Each one was occupied by three bodies of human shape, but only three feet tall."

Although the suit was thrown out of court by District Court Judge Oliver Gasch, in Washington, other troubling UFO suits must still be dealt with.

Investigators and contactees have taken advantage of the Freedom of Information Act to pry loose mounds of previously secret documents from the Air Force, FBI, CIA, NASA and other government agencies.

Three Texans — Betty Cash, Vicky Landrum and Mrs. Landrum's grandson, Colby, now 9 — are demanding a whopping \$10 million in a damage suit against the Air Force — which they claim is partly responsible for injuries they suffered in a chilling brush with a fiery, diamond-shaped UFO on December 29, 1980.

They complain they suffered from symptoms similar to radiation poisoning after the harrowing ordeal, including hair loss, blistered skin,

loss of appetite, nausea, psychological problems — and by Colby — progressive blindness.

And, they say, the government shares responsibility for their injuries because the UFO was surrounded by more than 20 helicopters similar to those used by the military.

They claim that the brightly lighted UFO hovered over the road in front of their car, radiating intense heat and



**COLBY LANDRUM** suffers psychological problems and blindness.

shooting flame toward the ground.

Their claim was rejected on grounds there was no proof the helicopters were owned or operated by the U.S. government, but the ruling was appealed.



**WHOPPING LAWSUIT** was filed by Landrum (left), Betty Cash and Mrs. Landrum's grandson.

# \$10 Million Suit Over UFO Filed By Dayton Residents

*Laura Vinde Carter* *2 times a week*

By Britt Hall  
Staff Reporter

DAYTON — A former Dayton woman and two Dayton residents filed a \$10 million law suit against the U.S. Government recently in a Houston federal court in connection with an alleged encounter with what her attorney called "an unconventional aerial object."

The woman, Betty Cash, 54, of Birmingham, AL, and Vicki Landrum, 60, and her grandson Colby Landrum, 10, both of Dayton, claim they were exposed to an unknown type of radiation when they were driving home from a bingo game on FM 1485 near New Caney at 9:30 p.m. December 29, 1980.

The three claim in the suit the federal government was somehow involved in the incident and should pay for their medical expenses, said their attorney, Peter Gersten.

Gersten, an attorney from Tarrytown, NY who has been involved in UFO suits against the federal government before, said the trio suffered severe physical problems following the incident and still have recurring symptoms such as severe headaches, nausea, swollen earlobes and eyelids, diarrhea and facial blisters.

Gersten said Cash and the Landrums were driving along a country road seven miles from New Caney when they saw a bright glowing object in the sky.

He said the object was flaming and gave off so much heat and light the group could travel no farther, stopping on the roadside.

He said they got out of the car and Cash placed her hand on the

hood of the car, leaving a permanent imprint on her 1980 Oldsmobile.

Gersten said the trio returned to the car and drove down the road, stopping at a small cemetery.

Mrs. Landrum counted 23 helicopters near the object but couldn't determine if they were escorting it or pursuing it, Gersten said.

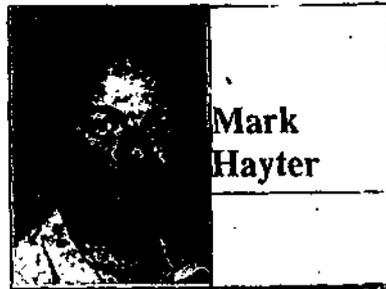
# Interesting space stories circling

I would have to say that this month's most interesting news stories seem focused on one particular area. No, not the Fairfield Fall Foliage Festival, which incidently I would've made this year if I hadn't had to wash the pickup. No, I'm talking about "space." Space is where it's at.

You will recall that last week attention was focused on an alien spaceship that supposedly landed somewhere in the Soviet Union. I believe the town's name started with a "V" and was followed by about 14 other consonants. I don't know why they don't throw in a few more vowels and give their tongues a rest.

After all the hoopla, it was learned that the story originated from a few Vkrsklsxz children. This, along with the fact that the bizarre stones that were supposedly left behind by the craft were actually iron oxide, tend to make one believe that perhaps the story was exaggerated.

Personally, I believe the kids. I just don't think they'd make up a story about 13 foot, three-eyed, no-nosed aliens. I only hope pictures were taken. Of course, I know they'll look like all the other pictures of supernatural occurrences. You'll see a blurred image that, if you squint, looks faintly like the tail of the Loch Ness monster. From a different angle it might be



Big Foot descending a hill.

For me, the importance of the story doesn't rest with the sighting itself. It's significance lies in the fact that the Soviet National News Agency, TASS, actually printed the story. They didn't seem too overly concerned that the Soviet citizens might panic if informed about a possible alien visit. All of the Ivans and Gwenedas still went to work the next day and produced their quota of defective tractor tires.

I guarantee you, in this country, there's no way the government would sponsor such a story, true or not. Just a few years ago two ladies and a child received radiation burns after viewing some kind of vehicle being followed by a bunch of helicopter looking things on a Texas road not too far from my house. The Air Force denied any of it happened. "No, we didn't have 23 helicopters near New Caney. Nothing showed up on radar. We believe the burns actually came from a Ronco Bug Zapper that went awry."

Oh well, on that particular night

the Air Force was probably testing a way to engage the landing gear on one of its B-1 bombers and the experiment turned nasty. I can see where news of malfunction in a nuclear wheel engager might cause a stir.

Another space story of a more positive nature centers around the Atlantis mission. While I've often questioned the wisdom behind naming a shuttle after a lost continent, I am fascinated by the mission. Have you been reading about what all Galileo is supposed to do?

Let's see, once launched by Atlantis, Galileo will circle Venus a time or two, come back by Earth and then hurl itself toward Jupiter. It's going back and forth just to build up speed. By the time it nears Jupiter (in the year 1995) it will be moving at over 100,000 mph. While that's no where near warp speed, it is somewhat faster than a Domino's Pizza truck on a Friday evening run.

At some point, Galileo will release a probe that will zoom towards Jupiter. This is where it gets hairy. This 5-foot capsule will slam into a gravity 400 times greater than Earth's. Then a parachute is supposed to come out to slow the thing a bit more. There will probably be a bit of jolt when the chute opens.

While drifting down, the capsule is likely to be hit by lightning bolts 100 times stronger than lightning on

Earth. I don't know what kind of metal surrounds the probe, but I've got a feeling it's from a source that at one time was located somewhere near New Caney.

And, what is the mission of this suicide probe? Well, before it disintegrates it's going to tell scientists back home how much helium is in the atmosphere of Jupiter. Now, that information wouldn't do a great deal for me, but that's 'cause I don't know how much is supposed to be there. But, a few smart people in Houston will take the helium figure and come up with information about the origin of the Solar System. I wouldn't understand it if they explained it to me, real slow.

One thing that even I will be able to appreciate from the mission is the images that are due to be radioed back to Earth. These pictures should be several times better than those acquired from the two Voyager voyages. I love planet pictures.

The technology involved in this entire endeavor is fascinating. But it does give rise to a major puzzlement. Why is it we can send an object to take some great pictures of a planet over two billion miles away, and we can't get one decent snapshot of a UFO sitting right here in our own backyard? And, what about one unblurred Big Foot picture. Is that asking too much?

Hayter is a regional columnist, syndicated by Rooftop Syndicate.

Sunday  
morning

September 29, 1985

75 cents

☆☆

# Austin American-Statesman

## 'U.S. test gone wild' brings suit

*3 in Dayton claiming damage for exposure to flying object*

By John Kelso  
American-Statesman Staff

DAYTON — Vickie Landrum, 62, used to work as a waitress at the Truck Stop Cafe on Texas 321, about seven miles north of here.

But these days she spends most of her time sitting inside her modest home hiding from the sun. She does not work anymore. She describes her life as that of a hermit.

Landrum's friend, Betty Cash, 56, used to own the cafe, formerly a popular spot for truck drivers hauling logs and other goods. But the cafe is closed now. Cash moved to Birmingham, Ala., in early 1981 to live with relatives. She needed someone to take care of her. She, too, stays out of the sun.

Both women have not worked in years because they suffer from many medical problems, among them sensitivity to sunlight.

Sunlight makes Cash break out in big water blisters, she said.

Landrum, a member of this small rice and soybean farming community about 40 miles northeast of Houston, used to enjoy fishing. She still does, but she goes only at night. The sun causes too much



Vickie Landrum says of flying object: 'I was thinking this was the end.'

pain, she says.

Because of their medical troubles, Cash, Landrum, and Landrum's 11-year-old grandson, Colby, are suing the federal government for \$20 million. They say that while driving on a country road Dec. 29, 1980, about 20 miles from Landrum's house, they received radiation poisoning from a mysterious, diamond-shaped flying object the size of a small water tower. They contend that the object was not a spaceship, but was surrounded by military helicopters. Although they have no proof of it, they say that it was a government experiment gone awry.

"I don't believe in UFOs," Cash said. "I've had people call me and say, 'You mean there were little

green men on it?' And I tell them, 'Well, if there were any on it, I didn't see it.' "

Cash and Landrum say the helicopters they saw were large and were equipped with two rotary blades. According to Jay Miller, a flight expert in Texas, that description fits CH-47s, or Chinooks, which are primarily Army cargo helicopters.

The case is awaiting action in the court of U.S. District Judge Ross Sterling in Houston. Government attorneys have asked that the case be thrown out. "There's no cause of action," said Frank Conforti, the U.S. attorney handling the case for the government.

William Shead, a lawyer representing the three, admits that the case is different. Shead is a member of Mutual UFO Network Inc. in Seguin. The network investigates UFO sightings and has spent countless hours checking out this one.

"There hasn't been much in the legal system about this" kind of case, he said. "I really don't have any theories on it. I do feel like the government knows what it was, but we don't have their answer on it.

See Lawsuit, A14

## Lawsuit From A1

As the witnesses have all stated, there were a whole series of military-type helicopters either going along sort of corralling the instrument, or protecting the instrument, or leading the instrument, or what have you. And surely they must have made some reports on it somewhere. But we haven't been able to get the government to open it up and reveal it."

Network investigators have not been able to find any flight plans for military helicopters in the area on the night of the incident, said Walt Andrus of Seguin, the international director of the network. He said every airport and military base in Texas and Louisiana has been checked.

John Schuessler, network deputy director and an investigator in this case, says he thinks the investigation has been inconclusive because his inquiries were done by telephone and he was not allowed to look at military records. Schuessler, an engineer for an aerospace company in Houston, said he is convinced that there was something in the sky that night, although he said that he has no idea what it could have been.

Naturally, there are some in this town who find the tale about a flying water tower spewing out radiation a little hard to believe. Are people in Dayton talking about it? "They're laughing about it," said a woman working in a hamburger joint who did not want her name published.

The story is a bizarre but serious one to Cash and Vickie and Colby Landrum, who have suffered various maladies since the incident that they reported. All three have suffered skin problems. Cash and Vickie Landrum lost their hair temporarily. Colby, who has lived with his grandmother since he was 4, used to have nightmares. All three have had eye problems. Cash had breast cancer and both breasts were removed. All three say they vomited and had diarrhea the night of the incident.

The story begins with Cash and Vickie and Colby Landrum riding in Cash's car about 9 p.m. Dec. 29, 1980. They had been gone to nearby New Caney to play bingo, but the game was closed for the Christmas holiday. So, after eating supper in a cafe in New Caney, they headed down FM 1485 toward Dayton and home.

The trouble started about seven miles out of New Caney, according to the lawsuit. Colby saw a light in the sky travelling along the road, just above the tree tops. "Colby saw the light," Landrum recalled. "And he said, 'Aunt Betty, what is that?' And she said, 'I don't know.' And he pulled my face around and said, 'Mamma, what is that light?'"

Then, according to the three, a metallic-colored object with flames shooting out the bottom hovered before them. The flames almost reached the pavement, Landrum said.

Cash stopped the car and the trio jumped out to look at the object. Cash, who has suffered the most physical problems, stayed outside longer than the others. "Colby was screaming and trying to get away from me to run," Landrum said. "So I pushed him back in the car."

Landrum said she got back in the car to comfort the youngster. "I was just telling him to hush because he really wasn't saying anything except screaming. And I said, 'Colby, you look at that light and if you see a man step out of the light it will be Jesus Christ, and he will take us to a better place.' I'm not what you'd call a fanatic, but I do believe in the hereafter. And that night I was weighing myself if I was ready or not. Because I was thinking this was the end."

When Cash got back in the car, according to their story, the door handle on the driver side was so hot that she had to use her coat like a potholder to open it. And though it was about 40 degrees that night, the car interior became so hot that they turned on the air conditioner, Landrum said.

After the three had watched the object for a while, it rose higher in the air and headed off with what Colby said was a "roaring noise." Just afterward, down the road, they saw the helicopters around the object, they said. They counted at least 23 helicopters, Landrum said.

"It was like a sight of helicopters that no one has ever seen," Landrum said. "They just kept coming to it. It looked like they were trying to hem it in."

After the incident, which Landrum said lasted about a half-hour, Cash took the Landrums home and then drove to her home. When they reached their homes, they got sick.

Landrum said she drew a bath, but the warm water made her skin burn. She said Colby suffered the same problem. She put Colby to bed, but he woke her up at 1 a.m. because he had vomited in his bed. She began vomiting, too.

Cash said big blisters appeared on her face and neck. She was taken to Parkway Hospital in Houston a few days later. Hospital records show that she was admitted Jan. 2, 1981, discharged Jan. 14, readmit-

ted Jan. 25, and discharged Feb. 9.

Cash's attending physician at Parkway could not be reached for comment. But Dr. Bryan McClelland, a Birmingham doctor who is treating Cash, said he thinks her skin problems are the result of radiation.

"Certainly her skin changes, which are pretty obvious on her hands, are all caused from the radiation," he said. McClelland said he believes Cash and that it is his opinion that a high energy source hung over her head the night of the reported incident.

Few in Dayton can provide any information on the incident. But Dayton police officer L.L. Walker said he saw something that surprised him on that same evening.

Walker, who has been on the Dayton police force since 1964, said he saw some military helicopters that evening about dusk. He said was driving on Texas 321 about 20 miles north of town with his wife when he saw six to nine helicopters flying in a "spread-out V formation."

He said the helicopters bore Army insignias. "My wife said, 'I wonder what they're doing.' And I said, 'I don't know, but they're looking for something.' At first I thought they had an airplane down. They were going in the general direction of where they said they had that problem," he said, referring to the Landrums and Cash.

On the other hand, David Robin-

son saw nothing unusual on that night. Robinson's home is behind his convenience store, just down FM 1485 from the area where Cash and the Landrums say they saw the object.

"I'm sure I would have been home that night because I seldom go anywhere," he said. "I'd bet money on it."

The incident is not exactly on the lips of everybody in town. Many seem to have forgotten about it, if they had heard about it at all. "Nope, hadn't heard about it," said Howard Watley, who owns a bookstore in downtown Dayton. "Didn't know we had one (a UFO) around. Didn't know anything was going on."

The incident has caused prob-

lems for Colby Landrum, a sixth-grader at Colbert Middle School in Dayton. Colby had nightmares for six months, and although the bad dreams have ceased, he is still uneasy. Is he worried about something like this happening again? "No, not really," he said. "But if it does happen, I don't want it to happen."

Another problem for Colby has been kids at school who used to tease him. "They called me names and stuff," he said. "They talked about me and what happened to me, and said I didn't see it and stuff like that."

Vickie Landrum said she is not out to get the government. And she says she did not file the suit primarily for money. More than mon-

ey, she wants the government to provide medical attention for her, Cash, and especially her grandson.

"The money is not important to me," she said. "I would like medical help more than anything else. You understand? I really wouldn't know what to do with the money if I got it. I've always had plenty, like the bills paid and groceries in the house and money in my pocket. I always felt like I was one of the lucky ones."

But she does want her day in court. "I'm not trying to hoax nobody," she said.

"What if it was a whole school up yonder" at the site of the incident? she asked. "Or a whole busload of kids? A thing like that could destroy a whole town. That's what I'm fighting for."

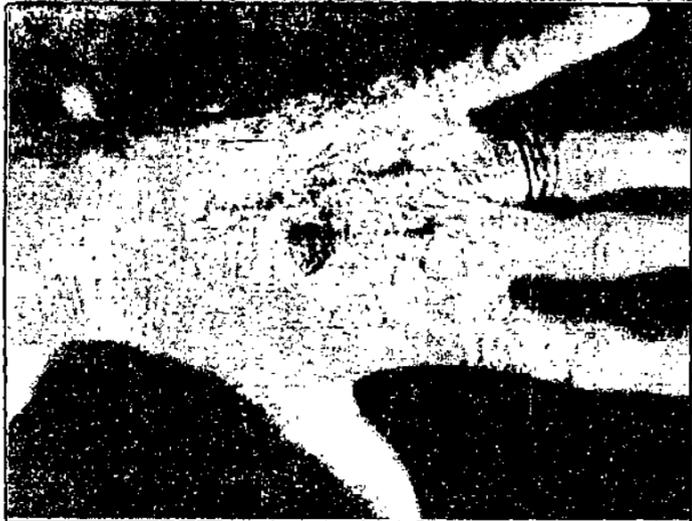


Photo courtesy of John Schuessler

Seven months after her alleged 1980 run-in with a UFO, Vickie Landrum's left hand still showed injuries she said she suffered in the incident.

# Twice burned, not shy

## Stung by radiation, ridicule, trio stick to UFO story

By CINDY HORSWELL  
Houston Chronicle

DAYTON — More than a decade after going public with their strange injuries and an even stranger tale of a UFO encounter, Betty Cash and Vickie Landrum are sticking by their story.

Federal officials have pooh-pooed their claims and a judge dismissed their lawsuit against the U.S. government for lack of evidence. In addition, the two women and Landrum's grandson, who was with them that night in 1980, say they have suffered public ridicule.

Still, they aren't backing down. In fact, they hope to revive their case.

Whether it was piloted by little green men or by humans at the controls of a secret military

project, Cash and Landrum insist they saw an unidentified flying object that night — and that they have the injuries to prove it.

Their skin is so sensitive now it only tolerates cold showers, they say, and they must hide like hermits from the sun to avoid blistering. Medical bills are mounting, and so are their worries.

Cash, a cafe owner, and Landrum, a waitress, blame these and other strange maladies on the intense heat that they say came from the bizarre diamond-shaped craft.

The encounter, on Dec. 29, 1980, occurred on an isolated road in the piney woods northeast of Houston in Liberty County, the two women say. Since then they have lived mainly on Social

See UFO on Page 7C.

# UFO

Continued from Page 1C.

Security, saying they're too ill to hold jobs.

But their story has spread internationally, including *Omni* magazine and several TV programs, and the mystery still arouses curiosity.

Their lawsuit alleged they were injured by an experimental military craft that spewed radiation, or by a UFO under surveillance by military helicopters. Cash and Landrum have been besieged with telephone calls — including some from anonymous tipsters telling of a top-secret project, WASP-2, allegedly discontinued after radiation accidents.

Their attorney, Clay Ford of Gulf Breeze, Fla., wants to reopen the

Breeze, Fla., wants to reopen the case by showing government officials lied about record-keeping procedures during pretrial proceedings.

Meanwhile, he is negotiating the sale of his clients' movie rights.

It all started when the two women and Landrum's grandson, Colby, then 7, drove to New Caney in search of a bingo game. The bingo halls were closed for the Christmas holidays, however, so they had dinner in that east Montgomery County town and headed home.

The women say Colby noticed a bright light in the distance as they traveled down FM 1485 about 9 p.m. Quickly, they say, a large object emitting the light swooped over the treetops and hovered over a spot just ahead.

"I screamed for Betty to stop," said Landrum. "I do believe if we would have continued we would have burned up."

Red-orange flames belched downward as the object struggled to rise, then sputtered and plunged back toward the road, she said. The flames roared like a blowtorch, she said, and the object also made a shrill beeping noise.

"It was a dull-gray, metallic color and about the size of a water tower. It looked as if it would set the woods on fire," recalled Cash, who said she stood outside and watched for 10 minutes.

Landrum said she and Colby also left the car but quickly returned, and the boy cowered on the floor.

Finally, the UFO gave one last blast and flew out of sight with at least 23 helicopters in pursuit, the two women said.

"It's been a nightmare that I wish I could forget," said Cash, now 62 and living in Alabama near her family.

Her physician, Dr. Bryan McClelland of Birmingham, says she has a "textbook case" of radiation poisoning. He compares it to being "three to five miles from the epicenter of Hiroshima."

McClelland said a 1981 biopsy of Cash's skin found radiation dermatitis.

"The dry, thin skin on her hand resembles that of a 90-year-old lady, with little red and purple streaks," he said.

Landrum's doctor declined comment on her ailments.

Houston doctors who first examined the trio say they appeared burned, had puffy, swollen eyes and their hair later came out in clumps. Though they could not settle on a cause, they did not rule out radiation.

"The Cash-Landrum case could very well be the most important UFO incident to surface in the last 20 years, since there was something to examine afterwards," said John Schuessler, a McDonnell-Douglas space shuttle engineer and deputy director of the Mutual UFO Network.

MUFON is a nationwide, 2,100-member organization that investigates and catalogs UFO sightings and incidents.

Cash and Landrum say their health began deteriorating the night of the incident, with the severity depending

incident, with the severity depending on the amount of exposure to the intense heat. They say all three suffered problems, including red, blistering skin; nausea; diarrhea; headaches; and swollen, watery eyes.

Later, they said, they experienced hair loss, open sores that were slow to heal, depressed immune systems and failing eyesight.

"I couldn't take care of myself for two years," said Cash, who claims the longest exposure to the intense light. "I was either bedridden or in the hospital (including for three weeks just after the sighting)."

Besides physical injuries, the trio suffered emotionally.

Landrum, who still lives in Dayton with her grandson, said people stared at her and gave her a wide berth, calling her "the UFO lady."

Colby, now 17, who had the mildest exposure and symptoms, was teased until he sank into a severe depression, Landrum said. She did not want



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the youth interviewed, but his journal gives some insight to his feelings.

"I am not made fun of as much as I had been. But I am sick a lot, and my eyes are still very bad," he wrote recently. "I still look up when I go outside. I guess it is just a habit, but I always wonder what is up there. Lots of nights I lay awake wondering if other kids have gone through what I have."

Since the three reported their encounter, others have said they saw the helicopters or a strange flying object that night.

Dayton police Officer L.L. Walker and his wife, Marie, reported seeing a half-dozen helicopters flying in "V" formation with searchlights. Belle Magee, then a bakery clerk in the area, reported seeing a bright light "like a football field but up in the

Also, a former Liberty County sheriff's deputy reported seeing an identical object almost two years later as he drove on an isolated road near Cleveland.

Jon Mark McDonald — now a Lake Jackson police officer — described it as diamond-shaped, about half the size of a football field and the color of galvanized steel. The only difference between his sighting and the 1980 report was that his had red lights on each corner.

"Everybody was riding me about reporting it — thought I was crazy," McDonald said. "But I just knew it wasn't an airplane, because I've been working in the U.S. Army reserves and know about every fixed-wing (craft) there is."

Today, Landrum and Cash are anxious for some answers. Cash still has the 1980 Oldsmobile

she drove that night. She says the intense heat embedded Landrum's handprint on the padded dashboard.

Also, she said two unidentified men in military uniforms once offered to buy the car. Dr. McClelland, who said his secretary witnessed the offer, suspects somebody wanted to get rid of the car because "ion (electrically charged atom) tracks are visible on the chrome."

Another quirk was the unexplained repair of a melted spot in the road where the incident occurred, Schuessler said.

"I have photographs of a 15- to 25-foot area where even the center stripe was wiggly," he said.

A year later, he said, the spot had been resurfaced. Schuessler said county officials denied any knowledge of the repair.

The reported sighting has attracted numerous other responses, including some from the fringe. On one nationally syndicated TV special, two men using disguises and the names "Falcon" and "Condor" told wild tales of U.S. pilots having problems while testing a nuclear-powered craft that had been acquired from extraterrestrials.

Other tips are coming from callers who recently saw the UFO story aired on the *Unsolved Mysteries* TV program.

Still others, claiming to be military people or their relatives, have called to say they flew helicopters that night, despite the Pentagon's denial.

At least two callers linked the UFO to a classified project, WASP-2, which they said was an experimental nuclear-powered craft abandoned after 1982 when it couldn't stop irradiating people.

"The trouble is that most all the people with something significant to say were anonymous," said Schuessler.

Paul M. Koloc, a retired U.S. Navy research physicist from Maryland, confirmed the existence of a research program called Winged Aircraft Special Projects. However, he theorizes the object Cash and Landrum reported may have been ball lightning, caused by a huge lightning bolt and hot gases.

Lt. Col. George C. Sarran, an Army congressional liaison who recently was sent to review the case, concluded that while there was no indication that anyone was trying to exaggerate the events, he also found that no "Army-related" helicopters were involved.

"Sarran told me, 'I know something terrible has happened to you, but I don't know what it is,'" Cash said.

Neither do she and Landrum.

Houston Chronicle

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Sunday, Sept. 15, 1991

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FILE: HUFFMAN

# 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, 57, her grandson Colby and her friend Betty Cash, 52, 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 sweltering 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, 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

Betty's mysterious illness — and report "she witnessed a very intense fire-like material" in the sky.

In addition, the hospital records show Betty suffered "bumps under her skin," "hair loss of the scalp" and a "very swollen" face.

"The doctors and nurses kept asking me if I was a burn victim," Betty recalled. "Skin was peeling off my face and arms and legs.

"I was blistered all over. My ears and eyes were so swollen my own family didn't recognize me."

Since that mind-boggling night, little Colby has suffered digestive problems.

A radiologist who examined the medical records said they apparently were suffering from the symptoms of radiation poisoning," said John Schuessler, an aerospace engineer at NASA studying the case for VISIT, an independent UFO investigating organization.

Schuessler was present at the spine-tingling hypnosis session.

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 investigated."



**RADIATION** burns on Vickie Landrum's hand.



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

— Elbert Hubbard

# Govt. Sued for \$20 Million Over Encounter With UFO

Three people have filed a whopping \$20 million lawsuit against the U.S. government for severe health damages they say they suffered after encountering a huge fire-spitting UFO in 1980.

## Three Charge Their Health Was Ruined

Betty Cash, 54, Vicki Landrum, 60, and her 10-year-old grandson Colby claim that radiation from the UFO caused radiation burns, loss of fingernails, loss of hair, large lumps under the skin, nausea, diarrhea, vomiting, cataracts, blindness — and a case of breast cancer.

The lawsuit charges that the government either owned the UFO or knew about it — because the victims saw 23 military helicopters surround the object and escort it out of sight.

"The government is responsible," Mrs. Landrum told The ENQUIRER. "The Air Force said they didn't know anything about the UFO."

"But the government had to know about it — or the UFO was owned by the government — because the (military) helicopters were there."

The horrifying UFO encounter occurred on Dec. 29, 1980, and was reported in The ENQUIRER.

The three victims were driving along a deserted stretch of road some 20 miles from the town of Dayton, Tex. Suddenly, a fire-belching, diamond-shaped object the size of a "city water tank" descended from the sky and blocked the road. The UFO made "beeping" noises, and huge red flames shooting from its bottom made the temperature in the car unbearable. Both women got



HAIR LOSS was UFO's fault, claims Betty Cash.



VICTIMS Colby Landrum and grandmother Vicki still suffer health problems from UFO.

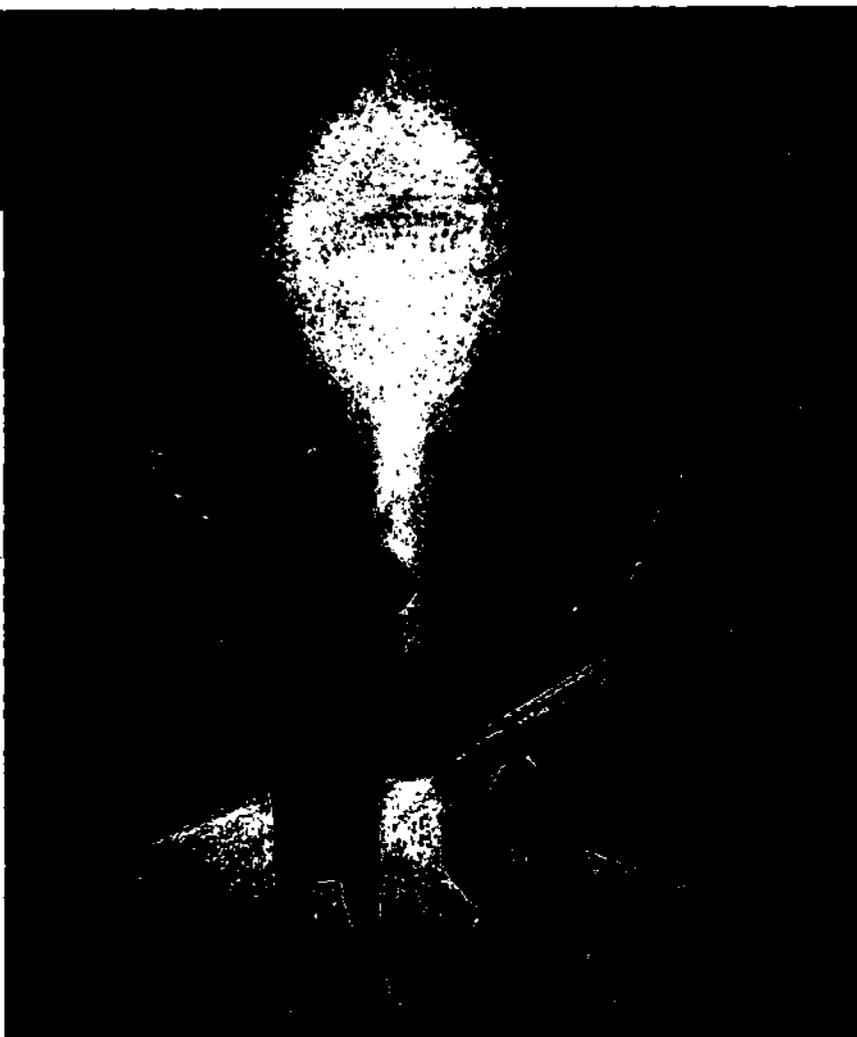
out of the car, but were forced back inside by the heat. For 15 minutes, the women and little Colby cowered in fear.

Finally, the UFO moved off. The victims drove away, but three miles away they looked back — and were astonished to see approximately 23 military helicopters, several of which were the kind with large double rotors. They were all circling the UFO.

After they got home, Mrs. Landrum recalled, "Colby started vomiting and had diarrhea, and Betty's problems started right away."



"All of us were really red and burned, and that night we all got terrible



SKETCH shows how fiery UFO forced car to stop. Victims also claim they saw helicopters circling the UFO.

headaches. Betty developed red knots on her face and hands.

"Within a little more than a week's time she had lost about half her hair. I lost three-quarters of my hair. Colby's hair started coming out. Then I lost my fingernails, which eventually grew back."

The physical damage grew worse. Medical sources say Vicki Landrum developed a cataract in her right eye — and lost her vision in her left eye. Betty Cash suffered cancer of the right breast and underwent a mastectomy.

And little Colby — who had perfect vision — now has to wear glasses. He's also developed anemia.

One physician who examined the medical records of the three victims — a radiologist and former university professor who asked that his name not be used — told The ENQUIRER: "There is no doubt that

they were exposed to radiation."

He added that he believes most of their medical problems resulted from the radiation.

As for the "government helicopters," a 19-year veteran of the Dayton, Tex., Police Department confirms that he spotted several military-type helicopters in the area at the time of the incident.

Officer L.L. Walker, a Marine Corps veteran, told The ENQUIRER: "I saw between six and nine helicopters."

"I was about 14 miles away from where they were, and the helicopters were on a direct course with their location. The helicopters had U.S. Army markings, olive drab with white stars. They were military. I am familiar with what government helicopters look like — and I saw them."

Amazing psychic predicts  
the big winners of this  
year's Academy Awards

CENTERFOLD



March 24, 1981

80587

VOL. 2, Issue 24

## NEWS EXCLUSIVE

# 3 SURVIVE UFO ATTACK

### They tell of nightmare encounter with spacecraft

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Bo Derek reveals her  
hubby's love secrets

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Dream averts tragedy  
in nursing home fire

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Town's pool blamed as  
swimmers' teeth decay

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America's newest threat  
— a kiddie crime wave

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Boy saved from icy tomb  
after a 3-hour ordeal

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### EXCITING NEW FEATURE

Expert offers advice  
just for animal lovers

PAGE 6



Big egos threaten  
WKRP's happy cast

Success has brought discontent on the set of "WKRP in Cincinnati," as some of the stars demand special treatment. The cast, headed by Howard Hesseman, left, Loni Anderson and Richard Sanders, is no longer one big happy family. Page 32.

# Man's wacky backyard is dinosaur playground

Martin Pugsley is a quiet, easy-going old country boy with an incredibly wacky hobby — he builds lifelike dinosaurs in his backyard.

And the amazing creatures of the past are so real and menacing, that stunned motorists often stop to gawk in bug-eyed awe.

But to the children who live near Pugsley's home in Houston, Tex., the "monsters" are anything but frightening. Instead, they are playmates that bring happy hours of fun and exercise.

"I guess they've given a few people a real shock. They've been doing that for years," Pugsley admits with a chuckle. "But it's me and the kids that really enjoy them."

"The kids like to climb on them and I just like having them around. They've been here, most of 'em, for quite a few years."

The oldest of Pugsley's creatures — the one he admits he's "fondest" of — is a 10-foot, toothy giant with a "hide" dented, chipped and scarred by years of faithful service as the bizarre playmate of countless neighborhood children.

Pugsley began his wacky dinosaur-building hobby when one of his sons needed help for a school project.

"Me and my boys started it all about 20 years ago," Pugsley recalled for *The NEWS*. "One of my boys had to make a dinosaur as part of his classwork. So we made one out of coathangers. That gave us the idea to build a larger one. But it didn't last too long because it was kinda frail."

"I started out experimenting with different materials and finally came up with copper wire



Martin Pugsley stands amid his creations — two of the dinosaurs that stand menacingly in his backyard.

that I welded into the shape I wanted. Then I stretched wire mesh over the frame and covered it with roofing cement. It worked real fine."

"I make the legs out of much heavier wire so they can support the kids when they're climbing," he added.

His own kids took such delight in the creatures that he steadily added to his incredible herd. Now his grandchildren play on

them every chance they get. "And I don't mind one bit," the 58-year-old Texan declared. "That's exactly what they're there for. But I did used to get upset when the kids poked sticks into them."

"Then one day I realized that the boys were playing like they were knights fighting off a terrible dragon to save their lady fair. Now I know it's all in fun and doesn't hurt anyone."



Roofers cement sculpted over a metal frame turns into fierce-looking pre-historic creatures at Martin Pugsley's home in Houston. Here, Martin inspects a recent addition to his herd of dinosaurs.

## IT'S A MAD, MAD WORLD

### Crazy money-hungry mutt tests master's patience by eating \$12,000 check

A crazy mutt was in enough trouble for occasionally eating a dollar bill or two — but when goofy Finnigan gobbled up a \$12,000 cashier's check his master raised the roof!

E.W. Edwards Jr. of Virginia Beach, Va., says he once caught his Irish setter with half of a \$10 bill in his mouth.

And money now and then disappeared from the table beside his bed.

To put Finnigan to the test, Edwards says he dropped a \$1 bill on the floor — and Finnigan went for it like a steak.

Then one day Edwards, a used car salesman, put a \$12,000 cashier's check on his dining room table and turned his back.

Chomp! Too late, Finnigan had polished it off without a trace.

Edwards is still trying to get the \$12,000 replaced.

### Obliging thief lets victim call cops

Timothy Marshall, 24, was busily robbing a service station when the attendant asked him if he could make one telephone call.

Timothy figured it was the least he could do so he agreed — then ran away in a panic when the attendant dialed the Reno, Nev., cops.

Obliging Timothy was caught a couple of blocks away from the service station.

### Lovesick ape kisses woman

A lovesick orangutan grabbed a naked woman who was about to take a bath in a river — and kissed her wetly on the mouth.

The woman screamed and fainted dead away in the jungle near Jakarta, Indonesia. The ape escaped into the brush.

Villagers heard her screams and found her unconscious on the river bank and took her home.

### Tiny town confuses big city crooks

Two big city hoodlums went to a little town to burglarize a store and got caught up in a lot of bad luck.

First, while the Kansas City, Kans., men were in the Greeley, Kans., store two local men saw the car with out of town license plates parked in the darkened

### Kitty wasn't dying — just boozing

A young couple thought their poor kitten was dying when it awakened them crashing around the house, screaming its head off and frothing at the mouth — but it was only dead drunk.

Sheri and Bill Estep of Clifton Park, N.Y., dressed hurriedly, called a veterinarian and rushed to meet him at his office in the dead of night.

The vet put the cat on the floor to observe it and it marched headfirst into a wall — and collapsed.

The vet pronounced the cat drunk.

Sheri and Bill went home and found a broken bottle of booze on the kitchen floor.

alley — so they took the keys.

When the pair started to load their car with stolen goods, they discovered that their keys were missing and both made a run for it.

One kidnapped a man and his wife and was caught in a chase with police. The man was a city marshal.

The other thief stole a fancy sports car and would have gotten away except he had to stop for gas — and couldn't find the gas tank cap. He was busily thumbing through the pages of the owner's manual when cops grabbed him.

### Couple advertises to get rid of son

A couple got tired of their 21-year-old son living at home so they took out a newspaper ad begging a woman to marry him and take him off their hands. "Attention girls! Kenny Dixon is 21 today and still available," read the ad placed by Jake and Jane Dixon in Centerville, Ohio.

### Man dozes through his own accident

A man had too much to drink and asked some teenagers to wake him after he slept it off in his car. The four youths tried to wake him up a couple hours later, but he wouldn't budge. So they jumped on his car — and finally pushed it down the street. It rolled down a hill and crashed into a building. Cops woke up the drunk when they reached the scene.

### Disco music makes mice homosexual

Disco music will turn a macho mouse into a homosexual!

That's the astounding result of studies at Aegean University in Izmir, Turkey.

A spokesman for the university researchers says mice exposed to disco music for hours at a time, several days a week, showed the homosexual traits.

The scientists, however, were unable to explain why the music had the strange effect on the mice and expressed concern that disco might do the same to humans.

# 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' 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

*'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.



Artist's drawing of a giant sea serpent spotted by fishermen more than 100 years ago. Witnesses say a similar monster now lurks in the depths of a river in Georgia.

## Monster serpent lurks in murky American river

A huge snake-like monster — very similar to the fabled terror believed to be living in Scotland's Loch Ness — is lurking in the murky waters of a coastal Georgia river.

Witnesses said the creature is between 15 to 20 feet long, as thick around as a man's body and is covered with a slick greenish-to brown-colored skin. It has a pushed in face and large eyes.

Eel fishermen Larry Gwin and Steve Wilson, of Brunswick, Ga., were stunned when the creature made a sudden appearance and almost overturned their small boat in the Altamaha River.

"We were at an elbow in the river near Smith Lake pulling up our traps," recalls the 43-year-old Gwin.

"There's a real deep hole there and we didn't have enough rope to drop a trap. I think there's a big cave way down there.

"All of a sudden a large wave

— like one made by a large boat — almost tipped our boat.

"I looked around and saw these two humps about five feet apart like what would be on a serpent. They were as thick around as a man's body.

"Then Steve saw it and shouted: 'What in the world is that?'

"It had to be 15 to 20 feet long. I was scared.

"We didn't hang around there with our traps, but headed right back up the river."

Gwin and Wilson, both experienced fishermen and familiar with the creatures that inhabit the Altamaha, swear it was nothing like they'd ever seen.

"I'm very familiar with manatees," he said, "and there's no way that was a manatee. If it was an eel, it'd be something. If you catch a 4-foot eel, you've got a large one.

"I know I'll get pretty edgy from now on around Smith Lake."

Incredibly, the same or similar creature was spotted four years ago in the river by Tom

Eller and Harvey Blackman, who were working on the dock at the Two-Way Fishing Camp.

Eller, now 72, of Brunswick, spotted the creature when he looked to see what was making the large waves that caused the boats to bang against the dock.

"It came on to the dock — kind of whipping its body to swim," he recalled.

"I saw the body — it was as big around as a tire on a small car. It was a brownish color and 15- to 18-foot long.

"I saw the head for a moment. It had a pug nose and big eyes a couple of inches apart.

"It startled me to see something that size.

"There were some people from Atlanta there and they were scared. I ran to get a gun, but it disappeared.

Blackman, 74, of Brunswick, said he was more "amazed than scared."

"There are a lot of eels in the river," he said, "but I've never seen one more than 3 to 4 feet long. If that was an eel, it was a monster eel."



**New slant on living**  
Powerful winds in Locke Mills, Maine, toppled a 100-foot pine tree whose underlying roots gave a bizarre tilt to this wooden cabin.



## Pauline Bendit's WORLD OF THE UNUSUAL

### Ships and planes vanish in new Bermuda Triangle

Two journalists claim there is another Bermuda Triangle in the world where ships and planes have mysteriously vanished or been wrecked.

Writers Kevin Killey and Gary Lester have named this bizarre region "the Devil's Meridian" and pinpointed it in the Bass Strait — between Melbourne, Australia, and the island of Tasmania.

One of the most famous disappearances in the strait was that of pilot Frederick Valentich, who vanished in his single-engine plane in 1978 shortly after reporting that he was being followed by a UFO.

In 1979, the racing sloop Charleston and her crew of five disappeared in the strait while on the way to compete in a yacht race near Sidney.

A brand-new four-engine plane carrying two crew members and 10 passengers vanished over the strait in 1932.

The writers, who put their findings in their book "The Devil's Meridian," by Lester-Townsend Publishing, include these and a host of other bizarre disappearances — all occurring in the Bass Strait.

### Blonde mummy found in China

Chinese scientists are baffled over the recent find of the world's oldest mummy who lived more than 6,000 years ago — she has blonde hair.

The body of a young woman with shoulder length blonde hair was found at the site of the ancient city of Loulan, in the northeast section of China.

According to carbon dating, the body was at least 6,470 years old making the mummy the world's oldest.

"If the 5,000-year-old mummies of Egypt were acclaimed as the world's oldest, then the Loulan woman should count as even older," said a Chinese source.

Researchers said the woman, who was wearing clothes and a leather hat, apparently died at a young age. She was lying on her back on a wooden platform.

The most baffling mystery to the scientists was the woman's blonde hair. Historians say that Loulan was later an important trading center which sent caravans to Europe. If the woman was not European, then she

could be a clue to a fair-haired group of people who may have lived in ancient China, historians believe.

### Farmer terrified by UFO pilots

A Brazilian farmer was terrified when a flying saucer glowing with an eerie light landed and two strange beings got out.

The farmer, Domingos Monteiro Brito, of Camaracu Island, said the beings resembled humans and began peppering him with questions in his own language.

The beings questioned him about the number of people in his village and if there were any large uninhabited areas nearby.

He said he was so paralyzed with fear that he could not remember if he answered or not. The beings told him they would return, then went back into their craft and took off.

He described their craft as saucer-shaped and made from a greyish material. It made no sound at all.

Brito said he first noticed the UFO as a small bright spot in the dawn sky which rapidly grew larger as the craft approached at a fantastic rate of speed.

### Golf game is saved by magic

Officials of a professional golf tournament in South Africa used a bizarre method of keeping the event from being rained out — they called in a witch doctor.

The officials turned to the weird use of magic when huge, dark storm clouds formed over the golf course at the Sun City Resort Hotel in Bophuthatswana.

Fearing the rain would spoil the event, they called in Christina, a well-known sorceress at a local village.

Kneeling on the turf near the clubhouse, Christina tossed onto the grass some animal bones, sea shells, two car keys and a domino while wailing an eerie chant.

Incredibly, no rain fell and American Lee Trevino won the \$21,000 first prize.

### Madame Bendit's prediction for this week

Famed Romanian psychic Pauline Bendit has shown amazing accuracy in her astounding predictions of the future. Madame Bendit makes this exclusive prediction for NEWS readers:

The fashion world will be rocked when a Spanish clothes designer introduces mini-skirts for men made from fake animal skins and furs.

## UFO report

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

By WILLIAM P. BARRETT  
Houston Bureau

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

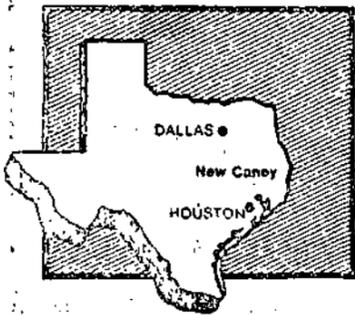
"I never believed in UFOs before, either," she said, suddenly sitting upright in the chair of her home. "I am a religious person."

But the local police chief, Tony Warring, a friend for 30 years, vouches for her credibility. Records at Parkway Hospital in Houston document the fading eyesight, 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 Hynok, 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.



— Staff map

Site was near New Caney

Schuessel, an engineer for McDonnell Douglas Corp. at the NASA Johnson Space Center in Houston, who, as a hobby, has been investigating UFO sightings around Houston for 15 years. Contrary to the suggestion in the Enquirer headline, his sleuthing 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 either 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.

Schuessel said there are only two possible explanations for the incident. "Either the helicopters were chasing the object, or else they were flying with it," he said. "In either case the federal government should know something." 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, 52; 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 Geishauser, 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. 29 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 flame coming from the bottom.

"Suddenly it got real bright," Mrs. Landrum said. "We could see the object maybe 30 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 saw was 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 25 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 said the car became very hot. "An impression of Vickie's hand is still imbedded in my dash," she said.

After about four minutes the object rose, bathing the three onlookers in heat, and headed in a south-



— UPI photo

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-rotor craft, but she could see no markings. Mrs. Cash said she and Colby counted at least 23 of them.

Schuessel said the three persons described perfectly a Boeing-Vertol Chinook helicopter, which are used by both the Army and the Air Force. "There are civilian Chinooks around, but not 23 of them in one place," he said.

Finally the UFO with the helicopters disappeared from sight. Mrs. Landrum said the fleet was last

seen heading southwest toward Houston. The women said the encounter 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. "Frankly, I thought I was crazy," Mrs. Landrum said.

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

— Vickie Landrum

But within hours, they said, all three began to be violently ill with stomach cramps and diarrhea.

"She was in pretty bad shape. The doctors thought she was going to die," Mrs. Landrum said of Mrs. Cash. Finally when doctors could not diagnose the illness, the women broke their vow of silence and told the doctors what had happened. "They seemed relieved that we had some sort of explanation," Mrs. Cash recalled.

They said the eyesight of all three deteriorated rapidly. "I never

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

"I still 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 Police Chief Warring, who last week called Landrum "truthful and reliable," the women in February called a UFO hotline in Washington, D.C., which brought Schuessel into the case.

While grateful for publicity, Schuessel said he wasn't altogether pleased that the National Enquirer, as well as another supermarket tabloid, Globe, picked up on the story, which has received scant mention in the Texas press.

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

Both he and the women lean toward the explanation that the UFO was some sort of military project. "I don't believe for a minute that the UFO was from another planet," Mrs. Landrum said. "I just don't believe in it."

WHAT TERRIFYING OBJECT CAME OUT OF THE TEXAS SKY ON A DECEMBER NIGHT?

# Radiation burn victims seeking \$20 million from U.S. government claiming gigantic UFO cover-up



Mrs. Betty Cash suffered radiation burns.



Colby Landrum: "Petrified" by the UFO encounter.

TWO women and a boy who say they received horrible radiation burns during a terrifying encounter with a UFO are suing the U.S. government for \$20 million — claiming that a huge Pentagon cover-up is preventing them from getting proper medical care.

"I don't think the UFO was from outer space," says grandmother Vickie Landrum. "I think there's been one big cover-up — that the government had something that got out of control.

"We talked to one Pentagon man who told us the U.S. would be panic-stricken if it knew about these things.

"I told him that we're not afraid

of what we know, we're afraid of what we don't know."

Mrs. Landrum, 60, claims that the frightening close encounter began when she, her 10-year-old grandson, Colby, and a friend, 54-year-old Betty Cash, were returning from a bingo game in rural Dayton, Texas, on December 29, 1980.

"We were driving on a back road when Colby saw a light off to our left," recalled Mrs. Landrum. "It came closer to us and was finally so near that I begged Betty to stop the car.

"The object was about 60-ft. across, the size of a water tower. It hovered about 150 ft. over the road near some trees and made a sound like an engine."

To the trio's amazement, says Mrs. Landrum, the cold night became scorchingly hot when the object approached.

"I screamed for Betty to get back in the car — it suddenly felt like we were outside on a hot summer day," she said.

"I was sitting in the car, hugging Colby with one hand and holding onto the dashboard with the other. The dashboard was hot to the touch.

"Colby screamed and cried. I was petrified but I told him, 'If you see a big man coming out of that thing, it's Jesus and he'll take us to a better place.'

"It sounds crazy but I really thought we were going to die."

The object slowly moved away after five or six minutes, only to be replaced by another horrifying visitation, according to Mrs. Landrum. "Immediately after it left, it was followed by a whole group of gigantic helicopters," she said. "They seemed to come out of nowhere.

"Betty climbed back in the car and, although we were all shaking, we drove it a little ways and pulled off the road. To calm Colby, I counted the helicopters. There were 23 of the big, double-rotary kind. They went racing by with their searchlights on."

The terrified group then drove back to Dayton without telling a soul of their bizarre encounter.

"My grandson kept asking me if the thing would come back and get us. He was terrified. I gave him a

**'I don't think it came from outer space. The Pentagon is hiding something'**

bath and put him to bed, but before the night was over he started vomiting.

"Then I got sick. I was so weak I had to crawl back to bed. We were both so thirsty we were begging for water."

The next day the shaken pair learned that Mrs. Cash had also fallen excruciating ill.

"We went to her house nearby and found her lying there with big, red, swollen bumps, half as big as eggs, all over her face."

Mrs. Cash was later admitted to local hospital and treated for radiation burns, Mrs. Landrum said, adding sadly. "She had a beautiful head of black hair, and it all fell out after that night.

"I got cancer after the UFO incident, but the doctors wouldn't give me radiation treatment because they said I had so much radiation in my body," Mrs. Cash said. "I'm now on chemotherapy.

"The doctors told me radiation definitely caused my cancer."

John Schuessler of Houston, a member of the scientific boards of investigation for the Center for UFO Studies in Evanston, Ill., said:

"Betty Cash lost two-thirds of her hair, and had every kind of medical test imaginable, but the diagnosis was never made. The conclusion was that no one knew what had happened.

"But this is a believable case. Other witnesses saw the helicopters that night.

"Betty was exposed to the light longer than the others — she was out there looking for seven to 10 minutes," said Schuessler.

"We checked with all the nearby Army and Air Force bases. The officials were cooperative but said the helicopters weren't theirs. They're not taking any responsibility."



## UFO report

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

By WILLIAM P. BARRETT  
Houston Bureau

DAYTON — Vickie Landrum doesn't expect everybody to buy her story that a UFO flanked by 23 military helicopters doused 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 30 years, vouches for her credibility. Records at Parkway Hospital in Houston document the fading eyesight, 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 Hynek, 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.



— Staff map

Site was near New Caney

Schuessel, an engineer for McDonnell Douglas Corp. at the NASA Johnson Space Center in Houston, who, as a hobby, has been investigating UFO sightings around Houston for 15 years. Contrary to the suggestion in the Enquirer headline, his sleuthing 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 either 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.

Schuessel said there are only two possible explanations for the incident. "Either the helicopters were chasing the object, or else they were flying with it," he said. "In either case the federal government should know something." 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, 52; 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 Geishauser, 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. 29 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 flame coming from the bottom.

"Suddenly it got real bright," Mrs. Landrum said. "We could see the object maybe 30 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 saw was 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 25 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 said the car became very hot. "An impression of Vickie's hand is still imbedded in my dash," she said.

After about four minutes the object rose, bathing the three onlookers in heat, and headed in a south-



— UPI photo

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-rotor craft, but she could see no markings. Mrs. Cash said she and Colby counted at least 23 of them.

Schuessel said the three persons described perfectly a Boeing-Vertol Chinook helicopter, which are used by both the Army and the Air Force. "There are civilian Chinooks around, but not 23 of them in one place," he said.

Finally the UFO with the helicopters disappeared from sight. Mrs. Landrum said the fleet was last

seen heading southwest toward Houston. The women said the encounter 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. "Frankly, I thought I was crazy," Mrs. Landrum said.

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 still 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 Police Chief Warring, who last week called Mrs. Landrum "truthful and reliable," the women in February called a UFO hotline in Washington. That brought Schuessel into the case.

While grateful for publicity, he said he wasn't altogether pleased that the National Enquirer, as well as another supermarket tabloid, Globe, picked up on the story, which has received scant mention in the Texas press.

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

Both he and the women lean to the explanation that the UFO was some sort of military project. "I don't believe for a minute that the UFO was from another planet," Mrs. Landrum said. "I just don't believe in it."

But within hours, they said, all three began to be violently ill with stomach cramps and diarrhea.

"She was in pretty bad shape. The doctors thought she was going to die," Mrs. Landrum said of Mrs. Cash. Finally when doctors could not diagnose the illness, the women broke their vow of silence and told the doctors what had happened. "They seemed relieved that we had some sort of explanation," Mrs. Cash recalled.

They said the eyesight of all three deteriorated rapidly. "I never

# UFO 'victim' to file suit against Air Force

By BILLY COX  
Gannett News Service

This is the second of two articles on an alleged UFO encounter.

DAYTON, Tex. — Vickie Landrum already had placed a number of aimless phone calls into various levels of the Washington, D.C., bureaucracy, trying to get help.

She finally reached a UFO group in Tucson, Ariz., called the Aerial Phenomenon Research Organization (APRO).

She says the man who called her back was named Bill English and that he said he might be able to help.

Betty Cash and Vickie said he told them to tape their story and mail the cassettes to him. Betty also said she submitted to a mugshot session by a photographer contracted by English, and the pictures went to APRO.

It was the last contact they would have with Bill English.

The next thing they knew, the story had worked its way into a West Palm Beach, Fla., tabloid called Globe.

"There's never been a Globe reporter to ever even call me, let alone talk to me in person," Cash said. "And this is the second story now that they have printed ... and then they had a picture of me that ... really, it's bad, where my hair is gone, my ears are all swollen, my eyes are swollen, and all this stuff. Where they got the picture I don't know. Evidently, Bill English is the one that gave it to 'em."

English could not be reached for comment. A spokesman for APRO, who declined to have his name printed, said he left the organization several years ago and is "unable to be traced."

The Globe article was the tripwire igniting alarm bells up and down tabloid journalism's halls of hysteria. The National Enquirer and the Weekly World News zoomed in on the story — that Cash and Landrum one evening three years ago saw a mam-

moth, glowing, diamond-shaped light, being either pursued or escorted by a fleet of CH-47 helicopters near a two-lane highway in the heart of a forest right outside this community. They since have sustained blisters, sores, hair loss, nausea, diarrhea, anorexia. One investigator calls it a "classic case of radiation poisoning," but no definite answers to that night have been forthcoming despite months of investigation.

"I have never quoted this object as being a UFO," Cash said. "It wasn't. It was very well-identified. We don't know, but the government knows. They know because they had the helicopters there to protect it."

That thought had occurred to John Schuessler, NASA's flight operations manager who had begun to investigate the bizarre incident. But one of his most exasperating experiences, he said, was dealing with Ellington Air Force Base, 15 miles southeast of Houston, where eight National Guard Reserve Chinooks were based.

"Every time we talk to them, we get a different story," he says.

Schuessler's probe reached elaborate proportions.

He managed to corral four other witnesses who said they noted unusual activity in the sky on the night of Dec. 29, 1980, near here. Belle Magee said whatever she saw "lit up like a football field"; Angie Stanley saw something "like car lights coming in over the trees"; Jerry MacDonald saw a triangular-shaped object shooting fire, and L.L. Walker insisted he saw the helicopters.

By the spring of 1982, a media blitz would hit the Department of the Army Inspector General's Office (DAIG) on the issue. DAIG's ensuing investigation — and the conclusion it reached — would spawn one of the most unusual lawsuits the judicial system will ever hear.

— Helicopters — not lightweight airbuggies but big, lumbering CH-47s, Chinooks. Troop transports, military oxen for heavy-duty cargo. Nearly two dozen of them, maybe a few smaller Bell Hueys, embarked on an obscure mission over a patch of Texas backwoods on the night of Dec. 29, 1980.

— Two women and a child reporting symptoms of radiation sickness, victims of a nameless glowing thing which rained dangerous heat on them.

Those were the allegations. In early 1982, the U.S. Air Force passed the notes of its investigation to the Department of the Army Inspector General (DAIG) in Washington. The DAIG told Lt. Col. George Sarran to check it out. His orders were explicit.

"My overriding concern was, were there Army helicopters involved in this incident? It seemed to me that something happened to cause these women to be burned ...

"But whether or not they were burned was not part of my chart-

er. My charter was, were there military aircraft that were flying within 100 miles of that area within a couple of hours either way of when they said they had this experience?"

On March 18, 1982, Vickie Landrum, grandson Colby Landrum, 9, and Betty Cash flew to New York to appear on Good Morning, America. Accompanying them was Schuessler. A nationwide viewing audience heard Colby tell it again: "...Some of 'em had double rotors and that's what caught our attention. They were flying around it and some of 'em was coming to it ..."

The case also was beginning to gain acceptance as news in a number of newspapers.

In the summer of 1981, the lesions were still breaking out on Betty Cash's skin. Unable to work, she wrote letters to Texas senators Lloyd Bentsen and John Tower, asking them for help. Both offices gave her the same advice: file a claim with the USAF Judge Advocate claims officer at Bergstrom AFB near Austin, Tex.

On Aug. 17, 1981, Betty, Vickie and Colby drove to Bergstrom to meet with the claims officer. They were met by Acting Staff Judge Advocate Capt. William Camp, Claims Officer Capt. Terry Davis, and Assistant Claims Officer Pat Wolfe.

Following the Good Morning, America show, attorney Peter Gersten volunteered to process the grievances of Cash and the Landrums for free, but on a part-time basis. He told them of his experience in pressing UFO-related lawsuits against the government. They accepted his offer.

Lt. Col. George Sarran says DAIG involvement began in February 1982. He speculates that the Air Force passed its notes his way when the Landrums and Cash persisted in identifying the helicopters as Chinooks. "The Air Force doesn't own Chinooks," he said.

Sarran says he spent three months on the phone trying to establish what installations within a reasonable proximity of Houston could have mobilized a mission of such magnitude.

He drew blanks.

In May '82, the National Guard helicopter pilot who Vickie Landrum claimed told her he'd participated in the UFO mission denied the allegations.

L.L. Walker, a policeman who, with his wife Marie, was driving home to Dayton the night of Dec. 29, 1980, was interviewed by Sarran.

"I was on 321, headed back to town from Cleveland," recalls the veteran patrolman who was off-duty at the time — past midnight, nearly three hours after the Landrums and Cash said they had their encounter. "We'd been up there visiting earlier that night. And we were on the way home ... And I told my wife, 'That's very unusual.' I said, 'Look at all those helicopters.'"

"There were some of those big work helicopters that have double rotors on the front and on the back. Big workhorses. They

had about, oh, four or five of 'em there, and then I saw a little command helicopter, all of 'em painted with Army inscriptions, identification stars and all that. You could see it because of their lights."

NASA's John Schuessler gave Sarran's investigation high marks, except for one thing: "He didn't check to see if there were any classified operations going on that night. He told me it wasn't his job. And that was the loophole in the entire investigation."

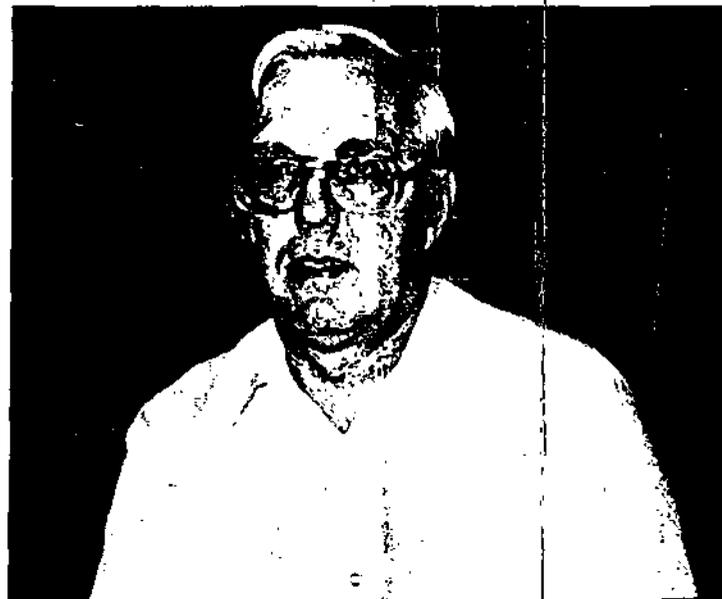
Not so, Sarran counters. He says he even met with a contact in the Central Intelligence Agency. "Is there a chance that somebody was intentionally misleading me?" He pauses. "I would say unequivocally no. There would've been no reason for that to have taken place."

In June 1982, Sarran submitted his report to the division chief. The concluding sentence in the memorandum left no room for ambiguity: "There was no evidence that would indicate that Army, National Guard, or Army Reserve helicopters were involved."

Sarran is now a comptroller for the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Cash-Landrum attorney Gersten thus tackled the mechanics of trying to assign responsibility for his clients' medical injuries to the Air Force. On Dec. 27, 1982, he filed the first claims for compensation at Bergstrom AFB. The motion was denied on May 20, 1983. He filed an appeal on July 23. On Aug. 21 the appeal was denied.

The next step, according to Gersten, is to enter the Cash-Landrum Incident in U.S. District Court. He said the suit will be filed and his clients will be seeking \$10 million. "It'll be the first time the government has ever been sued for damages caused by a UFO."



GNS Photo

Flight operations manager for the Space Shuttle Columbia John Schuessler investigated the possible UFO encounter.

# 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.

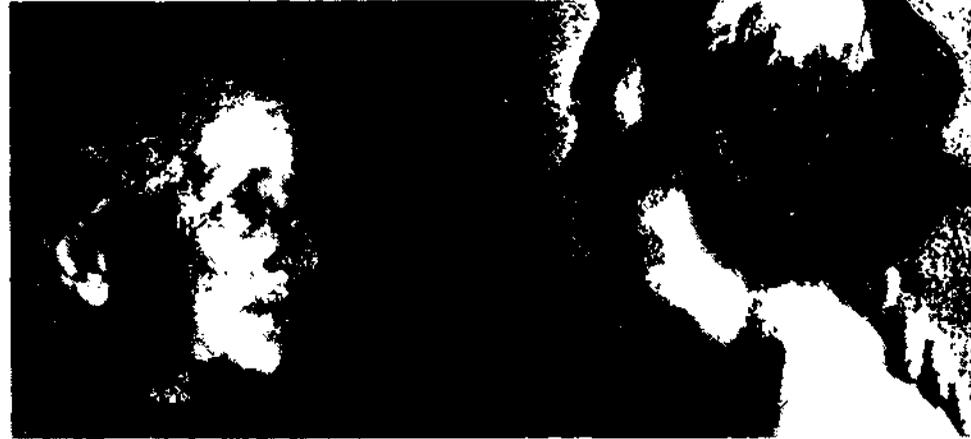
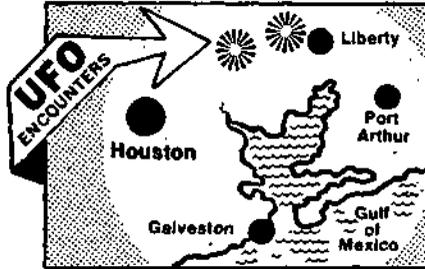
Her companion, Vickie Landrum, 56, has started losing her sight, and even Landrum's grandson, Colby, is suffering eye problems. "He still has nightmares," his shocked grandmother adds.

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.



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

"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

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." Colby 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 Organization 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 ex-

plain the extraordinary incident. English says he believes the helicopters were "unmanned probes," some-

thing 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."

April 28, '81/GLOBE 39



Post photo by King Chou Wong

Vickie Landrum, with daughter Jean Roper, talks to reporters.

# Judge might dismiss \$20 million UFO lawsuit

## Women claim radiation sickness

By JANET ELLIOTT  
Post Reporter

A federal judge Tuesday gave a strong indication he would dismiss a lawsuit filed by three people who said they were injured after a 1980 encounter with an unidentified flying object near Huffman.

"I strongly suspect, at this point, this case is almost over," remarked U.S. District Judge Ross Sterling to attorneys.

Sterling said he would rule on the government's motion to dismiss the \$20 million lawsuit after reading written arguments submitted by both sides.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Frank Conforti said the case should be dismissed. He said the federal courts have no jurisdiction over the matter because it cannot be proven that the government knew about or had control over the mysterious flying craft.

Houston attorney Bill Shead said the presence of 23 military-type helicopters indicates that the government did know about the UFO and had a duty to warn the public.

Dayton resident Vickie Landrum, 61, expressed disappointment that she may not have the chance to tell the judge about the events of Dec. 29, 1980. That is the night she, a friend, and her grandson, Colby, were driving along a deserted stretch of FM 1485

and saw the large diamond-shaped object floating in the sky, she said.

Landrum said they left the car to watch the hovering object. She said flames were spewing from the bottom of the UFO and intense heat was radiating from it.

Landrum and her grandson only stayed outside a few minutes to watch the object, she said. Her friend, Betty Cash, remained outside about 10 minutes before the craft headed toward the north accompanied by about 23 double-rotary helicopters.

The three began suffering medical problems after their encounter, Landrum said. The problems included blisters, hair loss, dizziness, headaches and other symptoms Landrum believes were caused by radiation from the UFO.

Landrum said she has not worked since the incident and cannot bear to be out in the sun. She said Colby also is extremely sensitive to the sun, and Cash, who now lives in Birmingham, Ala., has developed cancer.

Cash did not attend Tuesday's court appearance.

"I think we're being treated unjustly," said Landrum Tuesday. "He won't even hear the evidence. He's already made up his mind."

Landrum said she knows several other area residents who would testify to seeing the UFO and the helicopters.

# UFO POTPOURRI

no. 289

## Story of UFO encounter may be told to U.S. judge Sighting led to medical problems

By JANET ELLIOTT  
Post Reporter

Two women and a boy thought they were entering another dimension on the night of Dec. 29, 1980. They reported they saw a large diamond-shaped object floating in the sky in front of their car on the dark, deserted farm road.

The driver stopped the car along the lonely stretch of FM 1485 near Huffman and the trio got out to view the unidentified flying object.

But they say their initial curiosity soon turned to terror. They saw flames spewing from the bottom of the UFO and felt heat radiating from the mysterious hovering object.

### Watched for 10 minutes

Betty Cash, who was then 52 and the owner of a cafe in Dayton, stayed outside to watch the object about 10 minutes.

Vickie Landrum, then 57, and her then-7-year-old grandson, Colby Landrum, remained outside only a few minutes before retreating to the car where they huddled and listened to the strange beeping noises coming from the craft, they said.

Soon the object headed toward the north accompanied by about 23 military-type helicopters.

This is the story told by Landrum and Cash to numerous people. Today they hope to tell the story to a federal judge.

The encounter with the UFO is only the beginning of the trio's tale. The resulting medical problems are the real issue and the reason Cash and Vickie Landrum filed a \$20 million lawsuit against the United States, charging the government was negligent for letting the alleged experimental aerial device fly over a public road.

"I've waited four years and suffered no end," said Vickie Landrum in a telephone interview last week from her home in Dayton, about 35 miles northeast of Houston.

U.S. District Judge Ross Sterling will meet with attorneys for both parties today to determine if the case should be set for trial.

The medical problems started immediately, Vickie Landrum said, with all three suffering blisters, hair loss, dizziness, headaches and other symptoms. Landrum believes the mysterious object emitted radiation.

To this day, Vickie Landrum said, she cannot go outside in the sun. "Even if I ride in a car during the day, I suffer the consequences," she said.

A woman who used to enjoy gardening and watching her grandson play outside, Landrum now does not even go to the grocery store unless it is night.

Her grandson has fared somewhat better, but still

is ultrasensitive to the sun and must be covered with sunscreen before going outdoors, Landrum said.

Cash — the one who remained outside the car the longest — has had the worst medical problems. She has been hospitalized for cancer and is reportedly so weak she may not be able to come to Houston this week. She is living with her mother in Birmingham, Ala., and could not be reached for comment.

The government has filed a motion that the lawsuit be dismissed, said Assistant U.S. Attorney Frank Conforti. He said the federal courts have no jurisdiction over the matter because it cannot be proven that the government had control over the flying object.

"They didn't say this UFO was owned or controlled by the United States. You can't hold the government liable for actions it doesn't control," said Conforti.

But New York attorney Peter Gersten said the presence of military helicopters indicates the government knew about the object, whether or not it was responsible for it. Thus, it had a duty to warn people, Gersten said.

"If it isn't the government's, they should come forward and say whose it is," said Gersten of the UFO.

John F. Schuessler, a Clear Lake City engineer who has investigated the Landrum-Cash sighting, said he is convinced the trio was "hurt by something."

"There's no doubt something happened to them. I don't know what," said Schuessler, who is involved with the Mutual UFO Network, an organization that investigates sightings.

"We can usually identify about 90 percent of what people see. This one falls into the 10 percent we can't give an answer for," Schuessler said.

He said he has observed the skin sores and hair loss that the women and boy suffered and witnessed their increased susceptibility to colds and infections.

### Same story from each

Schuessler said he first talked to each of the three separately and got the same story from each. He also spoke to several other Liberty County residents who saw the UFO or the helicopters.

"I don't have any idea what it was. But it was pretty big for what it did. And it really did frighten them. The boy was in a traumatic condition when I first saw him," Schuessler said.

He said he believes the government has treated Cash and the Landrums "shabbily."

"They need some wisdom from the government to help them understand what it was so they can know what to treat," Schuessler said. "They have asked and pleaded for help, and were laughed at."

But Landrum has no animosity toward her government, despite what she sees as a "cover-up."

BY JOHN F. SCHUESSLER

P. O. BOX 58485

HOUSTON, TEXAS 77250-0485

(POTPOURRI NEWS)



**Nobody knows what happened to Betty Cash, left, or to Colby Landrum, right, on this stretch of lonely East Texas road, above. They claim to have seen a mammoth, glowing, diamond-shaped light either being pursued or escorted by a fleet of helicopters.**



## UFO encounter?

# Now, and maybe forever, no one knows a thing

This is the first of two articles on a possible UFO encounter.

By BILLY COX  
Gannett News Service

DAYTON, Tex. — Apparently nobody knows exactly what happened to young Colby Landrum, his grandmother Vickie Landrum, and their friend Betty Cash on the evening of Dec. 29, 1980. Not their doctors, not their lawyer, not the sleuth from the Pentagon, and not the then-flight operations manager for the Space Shuttle at Johnson Space Center in Houston.

Or if anyone does know, he's not telling. Nearly three years later, three people who claimed they witnessed a masterpiece of the preposterous are still demanding the truth.

They say they are filing a \$10 million lawsuit against the United States to get it.

It began one night when they said they saw a mammoth, glowing, diamond-shaped light, being either pursued or escorted by a fleet of CH-47 helicopters near a two-lane highway in the heart of an East Texas forest right outside this community. It is the kind of story nobody wants to believe, its credibility strained by the ravings of sensationalist tabloids, painted on a changing terrain which has cast a hallucinogenic pall over their account.

It follows its victims everywhere: in their dreams, on their skin, and sometimes in the isolating stares of others.

The wounds sound ominously familiar: blisters, sores, hair loss, nausea, diarrhea, anorexia. Sunlight makes them ill.

One investigator familiar with their symptoms calls it a "classic case of radiation poisoning."

For nearly three years, they have probed the smoke of illusion for answers and have been rewarded with self-doubt. But they have never called their quarry a UFO, and they continue to talk, nursing a flickering conviction that someone, somewhere, will come forth to explain their unique brand of pain.

For now, though — and maybe forever — nobody knows a thing.

Colby Landrum, 9, has lived with his grandmother Vickie in a modest wooden house since she won custody of him seven years ago.

The yellow-haired youngster weighs 58 pounds, and his grandmother says she has trouble getting him to eat. Today, the rims around his eyes are slightly pink, as if he'd been swimming in chlorine. Colby has replayed the story time and time again, and it hasn't done him one lick of good.

That story begins as Vicky and Colby Landrum, along with friend Betty Cash, on their way to a bingo game, say they see a dazzling light.

Colby's dispassionate recital makes the images seem even more disembodied:

Aint (Aunt) Betty slams on the brakes, the car shuts off, Aint Betty climbs out and gawks, Colby stays inside and wrestles his granmaw back in, granmaw says don't worry, honey, if a man comes out it'll be Jesus.

The car heats up and becomes a furnace. After five minutes outside, Aint Betty reaches for the door handle, but it burns her hand, so she uses her coat like a potholder to open it. The light rises off the highway and cruises over the treeline, and Aint Betty drives on again. They go no more than a few miles when Aint Betty pulls over, and the three of them watch in awe as helicopters come thundering around the glow like a swarm of hornets.

Two fans are running.

Vickie Landrum says if she doesn't stay cool, she could get sick again. Knots on her skin, dizziness, that kind of thing. On this particular day, however, the lesions on her hands and legs are dried up, and the scars are hardly worth taking pictures of.

A waitress and stock clerk most of her life, Vickie is a plain, God-fearing woman. Her husband Ernest builds train engines at a nearby railroad yard when there's work.

She says she's tired of hearing lies. She says the only reason she puts up with this freak-show routine — interviews, getting photographed like something in a test tube — is "so the American people will know the truth."

"I lived my life, you know?" Vickie, 50, says quietly. "I don't much care what happens to me. It's Colby I'm scared for,

you know? He's got his whole life in front of him."

The three have repeated their story on coast-to-coast television, from Good Morning America to That's Incredible. The checkout counter responded with a chorus of marketable answers. "Space aliens have landed on Earth," pronounced a recent blurb in the Weekly World News. Without seeing the medical evidence, Phil Klass, senior editor of Aviation Week, expresses his doubts about the whole thing in his book, "UFOs: The Public Deceived."

Some disturbing medical data exists, but getting doctors to talk about it is another story.

Betty Cash, 54, was the most severely injured. She spent three weeks in January and another week in February (1981) bedridden in Houston's Parkway Hospital.

"I didn't sleep all night long," she recalls of Dec. 29, 1980.

"I had big knots coming up all over my head and on my face. My eyes were swelling, my ears were swelling. I went on to bed but I couldn't go to sleep, I was so sick. I vomited all night long and was dying of thirst. But I still didn't put it together that it was from that thing. I didn't know what it was."

Vickie and Colby drove to Houston and dropped Betty off at the hospital on Jan. 2, 1981. They watched a team of bewildered doctors, including Betty's personal physician, Dr. V.B. Cheney, take notes.

"By now, her hair was coming out in big old balls, and they had a towel around her head to keep that hair from gettin' on the bed," Vickie says. "And these places I was talkin' about, these big old knots, they had burst and was runnin' water."

But Vickie refused to admit herself into the hospital because "I couldn't leave Colby alone because he was too sick and he'd been through too much and I felt like if I left him he'd lose his mind."

Betty, meanwhile, was sticking to a pact she said the three of them made immediately after the incident: not a word to anybody about what they'd seen. Who would believe it? "I didn't explain it to (the doctors)," she says. "They kept telling me I was a burn victim and I kept telling 'em I wasn't a burn victim."

It was about three weeks after the incident that Colby broke his promise. "The doctors had told Vickie they was afraid I was gonna die," Betty says, "and Vickie had made the mistake of letting Colby hear, and he came right in and told the doctors."

What was going through the doctors' minds at the time remains uncertain. According to outsiders who've seen the records, as many as 30 physicians examined Betty Cash, but the only professional who will even talk about it didn't examine the victims personally, and didn't want his name printed.

"I'm not afraid for my reputation," he said. "That is not the issue. The issue is, this whole UFO business attracts all sorts of psychiatrically marginal people. And then they get on the phone and they wanna waste your time ... and I don't have time for that."

The doctor's credentials are impressive: head of the radiology department at a major midwestern university, a former medical school teacher, and a former Army flight surgeon.

After reviewing the records in the case, he says, "I don't think there's any doubt that Betty and Vickie sustained some kind of damage due to radiation action at a distance. I am less sure about that with Colby. Betty was more severely involved than Vickie. The findings are consistent with damage to the superficial tissues, secondary to ionizing radiation."

"Vickie lost a good share of her hair on one side of her head, as is customary with ionizing radiation ... Vickie also lost the nails on the second through fifth digits on both hands, but not the thumbs. The reason being, when she stood behind the right front car door, her thumbs were behind the car door and the second through fifth fingers were in front of the car door, exposed to the source of radiation ... That's pretty convincing, isn't it?"

The doctor says the reluctance of his peers to comment is understandable. "Doctors don't know what to make of UFOs because they're narrowly trained. They're just like anybody else. All they know about it is what they hear on the 6 o'clock news."

Attempts to reach several physicians involved in the case were unsuccessful.

In Houston, February, 1981, John

Schuessler got a phone call from Betty Cash at his Johnson Space Center office. She left a message.

Schuessler, 53, had worked with one of NASA's principal aerospace contractors since 1962. In the winter of '81, as flight operations manager for the Space Shuttle, he was getting Columbia ready for her maiden voyage.

But there was another side to John Schuessler.

In 1965, when he was in St. Louis working on life-support systems for manned spacecraft, he became bemused by a rash of reported UFO sightings.

"Midway through the Gemini program, I decided I ought to be able to take what I'd learned about working in the space program and literally debunk them (UFOs) ... About the time I decided to do this, there were several good UFO cases, and I went out first-hand and investigated them and found out I couldn't easily dismiss them."

In 1967, Schuessler formed MUFON, the Mutual UFO Network, to investigate the phenomena. In 1976, he founded another group. He called it the Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team (VISIT), composed largely of aerospace engineers.

His reputation as a heavyweight UFO investigator was common knowledge at Johnson Space Center.

Weeks before Betty Cash left her message, he heard a seductive morsel of gossip.

"This one doctor friend called me and he said, 'You know, there's a strange case going on at Parkway Hospital. There's a woman there that was burned by a UFO.' I said, 'You've got to be kidding ... He said, 'No, this is serious. This woman has really been hurt.'"

When Schuessler pressed for her name, the doctor backed off, citing medical ethics.

A week after Betty's call, he got a call from a Texas newspaper reporter. She urged him to listen to Betty Cash, and on Friday, Feb. 21, Cash called again. The next day, Schuessler drove to Houston and met her for the first time.

He took notes and color snapshots in what would launch one of the most frustrating projects in his career.

Next: Seeking redress is no simple matter.