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Alabama woman says she was burned by UFO in Houston, Texas.....

Lincoln woman has been subject of 'UFO Cover-Up:

By GARY NICHOLS
DeKalb Press Editor

Betty Cash of Lincoln, Ala., says she not only saw an unidentified flying object but that she was burned by it in Houston, Texas, on Dec. 29, 1980.

She says the chrome-colored diamond-shaped object was about the size of a water tower and had blinding flames shooting out the bottom of it. She says the object made a "shrill terrible" beeping sound.

Ms. Cash's story was noted in October 1988 in the television special "The UFO Cover-Up: Live from Washington."

Ms. Cash says that she, her friend Vickie Landrum, and Mrs. Landrum's grandson, Colby Landrum, who was six at the time, had gone to play bingo, but that the bingo game was canceled due to the holidays, so they were returning home at about 9 p.m..

"It was on a desolate farm-market road," says Ms. Cash. "It had lit up the entire sky way in front of us, and little Colby noticed it first and he said, 'Grandma, what is that?' And she said, 'Well, I don't know,' and she punched me with her elbow not to say anything.

"We didn't want to excite him because we didn't know what it was either."

Car heats up

Ms. Cash says that the car heated up as they got closer to the object.

"Vickie screamed for me to stop, not to try to go under it," says Mrs. Cash. "I mean the car was actually hot. We had on coats because it was about 40 degrees that night in Houston."

Ms. Cash says that she slammed her brakes and that Mrs. Landrum's handprints were burned into the dash of the car when she reached out during the sudden stop. She says they then got out of the car and watched the object.

"There were flames coming out of the bottom of it, and it was a diamond-shaped object, and it was real shiny, like on the bumper of a car," says Ms. Cash. "As the flames would shoot out, it would rise, and then it would get up over the car."

Ms. Cash says that the trees and the highway were burned by the flames.

"It would make a swooshing sound, and then it would fall, and then the flames would shoot out and it would rise up again," says Ms. Cash. "It went on this way, I guess, maybe 10 or 15 minutes. It seemed like a lifetime to us."

"He told her that he was called out that night on a mission. He said that there was a top-secret object that was in distress."

Helicopters surround it

Ms. Cash says that helicopters surrounded the object.

"Vickie counted 22 of them, and I counted 23," she says. "Either one of us could have made a mistake counting them. Later we identified them as Shinook 47s."

Ms. Cash says that the Shinook helicopters convinced her "the United States government was either towing or had something in flight going across the United States that was in trouble."

The object rose up and went over the trees, and Ms. Cash says they got back in the car and drove on, but could see regular helicopters going towards the object from the direction of Ellington Air Force Base, which was about 30 miles from where they saw the UFO.

Ms. Cash says that she and Mrs. Landrum got out of the car at a church and watched the helicopters and the object fly low over the northwestern part of Houston in the direction of Houston Intercontinental Airport.

"We found out later that anything that's flying under 2,200 feet does not appear on radar from the airport," says Ms. Cash.

She says they then got in the car and drove home.

Sickness follows

"Before we got home, we were all deathly sick," says Ms. Cash. "We had terrible headaches. I don't know how to describe it, but we had knots that were coming up on our heads and our faces and all over our bodies.

"We were just dying of thirst. We were burning like we were burning from the inside out."

Ms. Cash says that she looked for news of the object on television that night, but saw nothing about it.

She says her hair fell out on the pillow that night, and her eyes were swollen to the next morning. She says she also had diarrhea and was vomiting.

She says that Mrs. Landrum came to her home and carried her back to her residence the next day.

The three had decided not to tell anybody what happened and what they saw, says Ms. Cash. Ms. Cash says she stayed at Landrum's home for four days.

"We were all just deathly sick,"

she says. "So her husband just flat insisted that I go to a hospital."

Ms. Cash says that the doctor kept wanting to know how they got burned and that Colby told the doctor what happened on the 13th day after the UFO sighting.

"I stayed in the hospital 30 days, and then they sent me home, and then two weeks later I had to go back for another two weeks," says Ms. Cash. "I was in the hospital, all total, about six weeks. The skin was coming off my face where blisters had formed, and they just used the same salt-saline solution and salve to pull skin off my face and arm that they use on burn patients."

Radiation burns?

Ms. Cash says radiologists came to Houston to see the three and "almost everyone of them" said it was either ionizing radiation or microwave radiation that caused their burns.

"They said the government was the only one that used ionizing radiation, and that's usually done in the nuclear warheads," says Ms. Cash.

Ms. Cash's family eventually had to fly her to Birmingham to take care of her.

"I wasn't able to take care of myself for almost two years," she says. "And then in 1983, I came up with cancer, and the doctors say it was caused from overexposure to radiation."

Ms. Cash says that Mrs. Landrum has lost her eyesight and that the eye problems began six months after the UFO sighting. She says that doctors have diagnosed Mrs. Landrum's vision problems as radiation-induced cataracts. She says that Colby has had to go on a kidney machine.

Pilot tells of mission

Ms. Cash says that she was concerned about the helicopter pilots being burned and that Mrs. Landrum later talked with a helicopter pilot with the Texas National Guard.

"He told her that he was called out that night on a mission," says Ms. Cash. "He said that there was a top-secret object that was in

distress, and that they had been called out that night just in case it went down."

She says the pilot later said he made up the story he told Mrs. Landrum. Ms. Cash says the pilot's name is Lieutenant Willie Culberson.

Ms. Cash says that a diamond-shaped UFO like they saw was sighted in England on Dec. 30, 1980, by an entire town.

Ms. Cash says that her UFO sighting was mentioned on the television special "UFO Cover-Up: Live from Washington" on October 14, 1988.

"On this television program, there were two guys who came forward who were Central Intelligence men for the government," says Ms. Cash. "They had to keep their identity secret, but they came forward and they said they knew all about our case.

"They said the government had bought this craft from the alien people; that the aliens had sold it to the United States government, that they had trained government pilots especially on how to fly it, and that it got in trouble. They said they would be willing to testify before a Congressional hearing."

Congressional hearing

Ms. Cash says she wants a Congressional hearing in the case. She said Tuesday that she is hoping to meet with Sen. Howell Heflin later this week to show him her medical records.

Ms. Cash says that she cannot say whether or not the UFO was from outer space, but she says she believes the government knows what it was.

Ms. Cash says a Dayton, Texas, policeman and a schoolteacher and her son and daughter-in-law saw the UFO at the same time she and Mrs. Landrum and Colby saw it.

"There were about 12 to 15 people who saw it and saw the helicopters and all," says Ms. Cash.

Ms. Cash says she told her story on the Cable News Network in 1981, on "Good Morning, America" in 1982, and on "That's Incredible" in 1982. She says that Home Box Office has done several specials about it recently.

Lincoln, Ala., where Ms. Cash lives, is 10 miles south of Taladega on Interstate 20.

Live from Washington'

"There were flames coming out of the bottom of it, and it was a diamond-shaped object."

Ms. Cash turned 60 on Friday, Feb. 10. She says she was 52 when she saw the UFO. She says Mrs. Landrum and Colby live in Dayton, Texas, which is 38 miles north of Houston.