

## RADIATION SICKNESS CAUSED BY UFOs

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### ABSTRACT

Throughout modern history UFOs have been blamed for numerous types of injuries to humans and animals. Most of these cases have been inadequately investigated because of pre-determined opinions about the existence of UFOs held by doctors, investigators, writers, and military people. The Cash-Landrum case is representative of a number of past cases, with one main exception - the victims have allowed a select team to delve into the details of the incident. The result is a well-documented record of injuries sustained by the victims; injuries that could have been caused by exposure to a radiation source.

### INTRODUCTION

October 24, 1887: Venezuelan family exposed to a brightly lit unidentified flying object (UFO) and suffered burns, vomiting, hair loss, and extensive swelling. (Reference 1)

May 20, 1967: Canadian prospector Stephen Michalak encountered a landed UFO and suffered burns, nausea, vomiting, swelling and an extended illness. (Reference 2)

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

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

A small team of engineers, scientists, and medical specialists have formed Project VISIT (Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team), to be a clearinghouse for all UFO incidents involving medical injury or alleged entry into a UFO. VISIT members collect and analyze data on the physical effects of UFOs on people. This scientific and medical data is then examined to discover the probable mechanisms of the UFO. (Reference 4)

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In connection with the Cash-Landrum Radiation Case, John appeared on the nationally televised ABC-TV program "That's Incredible" and the NBC-TV program "Good Morning America" with Betty Cash, Vickie Landrum, and Colby Landrum. John's wife Kathy has illustrated several UFO cases in watercolor. His mailing address is P.O. Box 58485, Houston, TX 77258.



### THE LATEST INCIDENT

The latest entry into the VISIT data base occurred on December 29, 1980, when three Texans encountered a UFO and suffered severe medical consequences. Betty Cash (age 51), Vickie Landrum (age 57), and Vickie's grandson Colby Landrum (age 7), were driving home to Dayton, Texas, on the Cleveland-Huffman road just north of Lake Houston. It was nine o'clock at night and the road was deserted. The first indication of something unusual was the presence of a very intense light several miles ahead just above the pine trees. Betty remarked about the unusual brightness, but temporarily lost sight of it due to the many trees along the road. (References 5 and 6)

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

In addition to lighting the whole area like daytime the UFO periodically belched flames downward. Fearing they would be burned alive Betty stopped the 1980 Oldsmobile Cutlass without leaving the road. They all got out of the car to get a better look at the UFO. Colby was terrified and dived back into the car, begging his grandma to get back in, too. Vickie did and comforted Colby.

Betty stood momentarily by the driver's door and then walked forward to the front of the car. After much pleading by Vickie, Betty finally returned to the car. The door handle was so hot she used her leather coat as a hotpad to open the door. Although the winter night air had been about 40°F the heat from the UFO caused the witnesses to sweat and feel so uncomfortable that they turned on the car's air conditioner.

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

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

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



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

### UNUSUAL MEDICAL EFFECTS

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

December 29th was a turning point in the lives of Betty and Vickie. Betty, an unusually energetic woman, had plans to open a new restaurant. The sickness that followed ruined those plans. For the next four days Betty's health degraded. Her eyes swelled closed, the red blotches became blisters of clear fluid, and she was weak with diarrhea and nausea. The headaches never ceased. Because Betty was unable to function, Vickie was afraid she would die and set out to locate her doctor.

After a number of telephone calls a doctor instructed Vickie to take Betty to the hospital emergency room where the staff received and treated her as a burn patient. Over the next several days Betty lost patches of skin on her face and about fifty percent of her hair fell out. (References 7 and 8)

After 12 days in the hospital Betty went home, even though she had shown little improvement. Her condition again degraded to the point where she returned to the hospital for 15 more days. During the weeks that followed the incident Vickie treated herself and Colby with baby oil to stop the burning of their faces. Their stomach pains and diarrhea stopped after a couple of weeks, but their eyes are apparently permanently damaged and treatment continues. Colby had nightmares for weeks and was extremely frightened by bright lights in the night sky or by helicopters anytime.

### SUMMARY OF THE MEDICAL EFFECTS

Colby	Erythema (reddening of the skin) Eyes swollen and watery Stomach pains Diarrhea Anorexia (loss of appetite) Some weight loss Increase in tooth cavities
Vickie	Erythema Photophthalmia (eyes swollen, watery, and painful) Vision greatly diminished



Stomach pains  
Diarrhea  
Anorexia  
Ulceration on the arms, resulting in scarring and loss of  
pigmentation  
Keratin affected resulting in fingernail damage  
Hair loss  
Hair regrowth of a different texture

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

### KNOWN RADIATION EFFECTS

The electromagnetic spectrum is divided into groups according to wavelengths. X-rays and gamma rays have very short wavelengths; ultraviolet radiation, visible light and infrared have increasingly longer wavelengths. Since the regions overlap, an exposed person may suffer effects of more than one region -- x-ray and ultraviolet for example. (Reference 9)

Exposure to ultraviolet radiation can produce photophobia, photophthalmia (arc-eye), edema of the eyelids and erythema of the skin. Exposure to gamma and x-radiation can provide a strong general weakness, anorexia, nausea, vomiting, apathy, severe headache, sleeplessness, and dizziness. (References 10 and 11)

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

### THE HELICOPTERS

All the witnesses were interrogated separately for information about the helicopters. They all agreed there were at least 20. Illumination from the glowing object clearly showed details of the helicopters even though the night was dark and the moon was in the third quarter. At least two different helicopter models were present, but they referred also to the one large thing amidst the helicopters.

Through use of helicopter identification charts one model was



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clearly identified as the Boeing CH-47 Chinook. Another was identified as being similar to the Bell Huey model, but not positively identified as such.

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

Contact with the Houston Intercontinental Airport FAA representative provided the following: (Reference 12)

350-400 helicopters operate commercially in the Houston area.

All are single rotor types. (No Chinooks)

Helicopter traffic flies Visual Flight Rules (VFR), consequently they do not contact the tower.

Beyond 15 miles from the airport they must stay below 1800 feet.

The Houston radar is limited to 2000-2200 feet altitude around Lake Houston due to the location of the antenna.

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

### **FOLLOW-UP**

The investigation has not ended. We have maintained contact with the witnesses on a weekly basis for well over a year. This has resulted in a vast accumulation of information. The health status of the victims has been the most interesting result and the helicopter investigation the most frustrating.

Colby experienced an increase in tooth decay, loss of appetite, weight loss, periodic stomach pains, unusual hair growth on various parts of the body, and vision degradation. His health state did not start to improve until about December 1981.

The year was especially difficult for Mrs. Landrum. Not only did she have a personal health problem; but she worried continuously about Colby. His immediate problems were bothersome, but the possibility of long term effects such as leukemia weigh heavily on her mind. On the positive side, she sustained nearly total regrowth of her hair. On the negative side she has experienced severe fatigue, appetite loss, cyclic outbreaks of large sores, pulmonary problems, swelling of the legs and arms, increased susceptibility to infections, and extreme degradation of eyesight.



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Mrs. Cash has been totally unable to work due to her health state. She has been hospitalized seven times and three of those were in intensive care units. Skin eruptions, headaches, pulmonary infections and brittleness of bones have plagued her throughout this period.

Both Mrs. Cash and Mrs. Landrum have been 100% cooperative and have aided in the investigation in every way we have asked. I hope others will follow their fine example.

The helicopter part of the investigation has been another story. Early attempts to identify the source of the helicopters were futile. About the only serious reply we could get from Washington, D.C. was from Texas Senators John Tower and Lloyd Bentsen. They suggested that the victims submit a claim against the U.S. Government. That is now being done.

After media exposure through Science Digest, Omni, That's Incredible, and Good Morning America, a few other officials have become interested. Captain Jenny Lampley of the U.S. Air Force Liaison office in Washington, D.C. did a brief investigation and concluded that the Air Force probably was not involved since they do not fly CH-47 helicopters. (Reference 14)

The most active investigator has been Lt. Colonel George Sarran of the U.S. Army Inspector General Office. He has called a number of military installations to ask if they were involved, but without success. (Reference 15)

Major Dennis Haire of the 136th Transportation Unit at Ellington Air Force Base in Houston, Texas, has contributed a lot of information about the capability of the CH-47 helicopters stationed there and of the newer models stationed at Fort Hood. (Reference 13)

They all have the speed and the range to be involved in an event like the case at hand, but all claim non-involvement.

At this point it would be easy to provide an extensive listing of false and misleading information provided by a number of other military people, but since it was easily exposed, it would be counter-productive to say any more.

### CONCLUSION

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

Second, military organizations could better serve the citizens of



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

Third, UFO organizations usually do not cooperate to the fullest to help the witnesses. The Huffman incident is an exception. The Mutual UFO Network of Seguin, Texas, the Center for UFO Studies of Evanston, Illinois, and the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization of Tucson, Arizona, all cooperated in a responsible manner to assist the Houston-based Project VISIT to conduct the investigation by providing consultants, recommendations, and data pertaining to similar cases. Such cooperation is in the best interest of all parties involved.

### **ONLY THE BEGINNING**

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

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





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13. Private communication with Major Dennis Haire, Commanding Officer, 136th Transportation Unit, Ellington AFB, TX, March 1982.
14. Private communication with Captain Jenny Lampley, USAF Liaison Office, Washington, D.C., March 1982.
15. Private communication with Lt. Colonel George Sarraan, U.S. Army Inspector General Office, Washington, D.C., March 1982.



Figure 1 Betty Cash, age 51, Dayton, Texas



Figure 2 Betty Cash, side view showing loss of hair.



Figure 3 Betty Cash, after being released from Parkway Hospital in Houston, Texas



Figure 4 Betty Cash, back of head showing approximately 50% loss of hair



Figure 5 Left to right: Colby Landrum age 7, Vickie Landrum age 57 after experience near Huffman, Texas



Figure 6 Vickie Landrum seven months after the event. The texture of her hair changed when it grew back. Compare to Figure 5 (Photo credit: Ron Zimmerman)



Figure 7 Left to right: Alan C. Holt, MUFON Investigator and Vickie Landrum at scene of sighting on Huffman-New Caney Road FM 1485

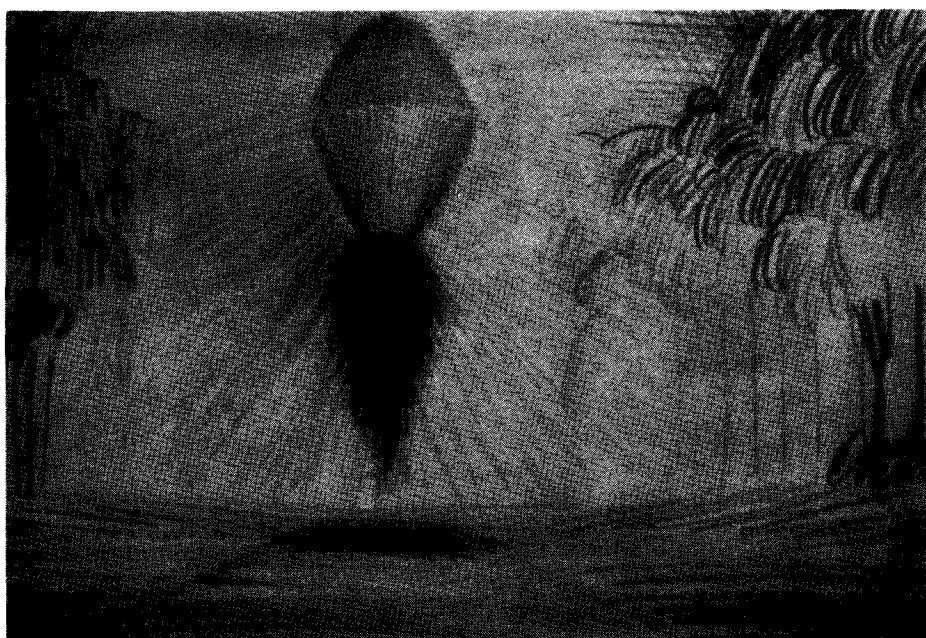


Figure 8 Artist's concept of diamond shaped object hovering over highway FM 1485 as described by Betty Cash, Vickie Landrum and Colby Landrum. (Courtesy of Kathy Schuessler)

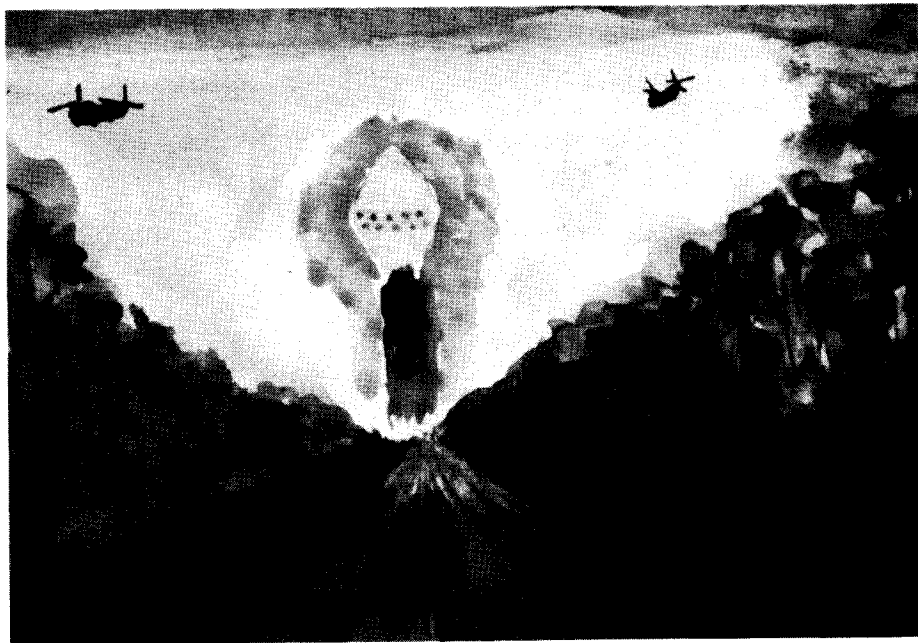


Figure 9 Artist's rendition of object hovering as helicopters immersed upon the scene.  
(Courtesy of Kathy Schuessler)



Figure 10 Photo of Boeing CH-47 Chinook helicopter.  
One of the type of helicopters identified  
by the three witnesses.



Figure 11 Vickie Landrum suffered from photophthalmia (eyes swollen, watery and painful). She now must wear glasses at all times.



Figure 12 Vickie Landrum. A sore on the back of her left hand which has not healed.



Figure 13 Photograph made during the filming of the ABC-TV program "That's Incredible", July 1981.  
Left to right: Betty Cash, Colby Landrum, and Vickie Landrum. (Photo credit: Ron Zimmerman)



Figure 14

Colby Landrum. Photograph made in Dayton, Texas in July 1981 during the filming of the ABC-TV program "That's Incredible". (Photo credit: Ron Zimmerman)



**CASH-LANDRUM CASE****SPECULATION ABOUT THE MEDICAL EFFECTS****John F. Schuessler****Copyright 1984****1980****ABSTRACT**

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

**INTRODUCTION**

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

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

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

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

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

#### BACKGROUND

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

### DEFINITION OF TERMS

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

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

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



### THE MEDICAL INJURIES

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

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

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

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

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

### PRE-INCIDENT HEALTH STATE

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

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



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

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

### RADIATION INDUCED MEDICAL EFFECTS

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

### IONIZING

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### ULTRAVIOLET

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



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

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

### RADIOFREQUENCY RADIATION, INCLUDING MICROWAVE

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

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

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

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

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

### INFRARED

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





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

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

### OTHER RADIATIONS

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

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

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

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

### CONCLUSION

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

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

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



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

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

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**1980****ABSTRACT**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### MILITARY INVOLVEMENT

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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



2733, and are denied.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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





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

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

### FEDERAL COURT ACTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

### SUMMARY

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

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