

Texas Department of Health

SEP 28 1981

AUSTIN

TEXAS

INTER-OFFICE

FROM Russ Meyer Files, thru Richard Ratliff, Chief
TO Div. of Compliance and Inspection
SUBJECT Citizen request about possible exposure to radiation

On September 2, 1981 I received a memo from Dave Lacker requesting I contact Mrs. Vicki Landram concerning an incident in which she believed she may have been exposed to ionizing radiation. The next day I called Mrs. Landram to arrange a meeting. Mrs. Landram gave me a very cursory description of the events she experienced on the night of December 29, 1980 and requested I speak with Mr. John Schuessler (ph. 483 2609) who had assisted her in trying to determine what she had witnessed.

On September 10, 1981 Mike Vredenburg, Gary Freeland and I met with Mr. Schuessler. Mr. Schuessler explained that at approximately 9:00 P.M. on the evening of December 29, 1980 Mrs. Landram accompanied by a friend, Mrs. Betty Cash and her grandson, Colby Landram was driving on highway 1485 (2100) from New Caney to Huffman. At a point somewhere between a highway warning sign and a tavern on a straight stretch of the road, they stopped the car and observed a large (about the size of the Dayton water tower) ovoid object approximately 80 feet above the ground. The object was glowing and emitting flames from the section closest to the ground. The flames fanned out and covered the road ahead. The car was approximately 133 feet from the flames. Mrs. Landram stated that the object lit up the sky and was accompanied by 23 helicopters (twin and single rotor). They stayed there for an unspecified time observing the object. Mrs. Landram and Mrs. Cash were exposed in the open for the longest period of time. Colby was frightened and only remained outside the car for a few minutes. The object rose and moved off accompanied by the helicopters. Mrs. Landram and Mrs. Cash got in the car, the door handles were hot to the touch (under hypnosis Mrs. Landram remembered feeling heat). They drove up to a "T" intersection and took a connector road (FR 2100) to 1960; at this point they again observed the object moving toward Huffman(?). Later that evening when Mrs. Cash returned home her neck began to swell and redden and she began to vomit and have diarrhea. Approximately three days later she went to Parkway Hospital. She was seen by Doctor V. D. Menoy. She was also seen by Joseph E. Darsey, M.D. (ophthalmologist), Solomon Brinkman, M.D. (dermatologist), K. P. Fung, M.D. (radiologist), Hauser, M.D. (performed EEG), Dr. Shinoy (checked her for heavy metal poisoning), Karen Kumar, M.D. (neurologist) and all lab work was done by Brown and Assoc. Medical Lab. Hypnosis was performed on Mrs. Landram by R. Leo Sprinkle, Ph.D. a psychologist at the Univ. of Wyoming. Medical records were reviewed by Peter Rank, M.D., Madison, Wisconsin, ph. 608/251-2371.

SIGNED _____

DATE _____

I asked Mr. Schuessler if any other people had reported seeing the object that night. He stated they had - some just saw helicopters and some just saw the object. One of these individuals is Mr. Jerry McDonald, 203 Hill St., Dayton, TX., ph. 258-5956.

I then asked Mr. Schuessler if he had pin-pointed the location of the siting. Mr. Schuessler stated that due to the late hour and the ladies' emotional state they could not remember the exact location and could only state that they believed they saw the object on the straight portion of FR 1485 between a beer joint and some kind of highway warning sign.

On September 16, 1981 Mike Vredenburg and I drove to the Montgomery Co. library in Conroe and xeroxed newspaper articles about Mrs. Landram's experience and then drove down FM 1485 to 1960 following the route she took the night of Dec. 29, 1980. During the drive we surveyed both sides of the road using the Ludlum 14-C and NaI probe. No significant deviations from background radiation were noted. We specifically surveyed the 7.2 mile straight stretch of road between the junction of FR 2100 and FR 1485 and the W. Casey residence (point at which FR 1485 begins the straight stretch). We drove and surveyed this stretch 3 times. Three soil samples were also taken. As there were no unusual readings noted during the surveys samples were taken at the beginning, middle and end of the 7.2 mile stretch (specifically sample no. B-1 across the road from the Casey residence, sample no. B-2 by the roadside in front of the "Place of Faith", 29410 Huffman - New Caney Rd., sample no. B-3 at the Northwest corner of the intersection of FR 2100 and FR 1485 (Wolf Rd.) Field analysis of the samples is negative; they are being sent in for additional analysis. We also noted that there are two beer joints along this stretch of road - one at Luce Bayou and another at 12,800 Huffman-New Caney Rd. (FR 1485); no warning signs were noted.

Conclusions

Survey and sampling results indicate that no contamination from radioactive material exists along the stretch of FR 1485 on which Mrs. Landram saw the object. As to whether Mrs. Landram, Mrs. Cash and Colby might have been exposed to radiation from a sealed source or radiation producing equipment can only be determined from clinical findings and consultation with physicians educated and experienced with the cytological and clinical manifestations of exposure to radiation. It is worthy to note that Dr. Rank(?) stated that the type of injury reported could have been caused by ultra-violet, infrared, low energy x-ray or particulate radiation.

Recommendations:

A release should be obtained for Landram's, Mrs. Cash's and Colby's medical records and these be scheduled to be reviewed by the Bureau's medical advisory committee to make the final determination as to whether or not those individuals were exposed to non-ionizing or ionizing radiation.

Signed

Charles R. Meyer

Date 9/17/81

'U.S. test gone wild' brings suit

3 in Dayton claiming damage for exposure to flying object

By John Kelso

American-Statesmen 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 north-east 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 Law suit, A14

Lawsuit From A1

COMPLAINT

-11

R-R-B-B

As the witnesses have all stated, there were a whole series of military-type helicopters either going along sort of controlling the instrument, or protecting the instrument, or leading the instrument, or what have you. And surely they must have made some reports on it some here. 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 internal 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,

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 Landrum case.

On the other hand, David Robin-

son saw nothing unusual on that night. Robinsson'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 Valley, 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 provide Cash, an "The I me," she cal help You und I got it. I the bills house at lucky or But si court. "I body," s "What yonder" she ask kids? A stroy a I'm figh



Friday, September 29, 1935

COMPLAINT

-11

~~PH-BF-BB-BG-DB~~

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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 boss anybody," 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."

S. MANSEN 6-5-97

5091

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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 little less 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 lumps and two 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 5 p.m. Dec. 20, 1980. They had been asked to go by New Caney to play cards, but the game was canceled for the Christmas holiday. After Christmas supper in a cafe in New Caney, they headed down FM 108 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 traveling along the road, just above the tree line. "God saw the light," Landrum retorted. "And he said, 'Aunt Rose, what's 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 story, a metallic-colored object with flames shooting out of the bottom hovered before them. The flames almost reached the pavement, Landrum said.

Cash stopped the car and the car climbed out to look at the object. Cash, who has suffered the most physical problems, stayed outside

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Cash stopped the car and the trio climbed 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 Hopston a few days later. Hospital records show that she was admitted Jan. 2, 1981, discharged Jan. 14, readmit-

S. HANSEN 6-5-97

5091

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

AUSTIN

TEXAS

COMPLAINT

INTER-OFFICE

inc. file

12

~~12-01-85-BC-00~~

file ~~BC~~ ~~BP~~

FROM John R. Haygood, Administrator
Radioactive Material Inspection Branch

TO Richard A. Ratliff, P.E., Director
Division of Compliance and Inspection

SUBJECT Contact with News Media

On 9-10-85, Tom Curtis, a reporter with the Dallas Times-Herald called Charles R. Meyer to inquire about the "2 ladies that were exposed to radiation in the Houston area" incident. Mr. Curtis's call was referred to me inasmuch as Mr. Meyer was on travel this week.

Mr. Curtis asked if any evidence of radiation was found. I replied that no indication was found that there was a source of radiation exposure in the area. I explained that radiation (gamma, X-Ray) from a source or machine would not leave any indication, but loose contamination might be found in the soil. I pointed out that Mr. Meyer was limited in his investigation since he was not able to directly contact the 2 ladies. He was forced to deal with ~~area~~ an intermediary.

Mr. Curtis did not indicate whether this information would be published, but did say it "looked like their file would remain open".

cc: RM, BL

SIGNED

DATE

J. Haygood
9/12/85

FORM NO. AG-2-A

Best Copy

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

AUSTIN

TEXAS

COMPLAIN

INTER-OFFICE

12

~~12-05-85-AC-01~~

inc. file

AC ~~DEC~~ BP

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cc: RM, AC

SIGNED

J. Haygood

DATE

9/12/85

FORM NO. AG-2-A

Best Copy

Available

certify these samples were
collected by me at 2:30 P.M.
9/16/81 and remained
continuously in my custody
until transferred to Ken Gaddes
5:00 P.M. on 9/16/81



WSP
MAR 30 1982

Number of Samples: 1
I certify these samples were
continuously in my custody
from the time of receipt listed
hereon until transferred to
Ken Gaddes at
8:00 A.M. on 9/21/81

Texas Department of Health
Bureau of Laboratories
Austin, Texas

Ken Meyer

X Ken Meyer

Product: soil sample

Laboratory No CE2-1355

Sample No.: B-2

Date Received:

Delivered By:

Condition of Seals:

Description of Sample: drive way at 29410 Nuffman - Near Carey Rd (FM 1485)

Licensee

Collection

Date 9-16-81

Time 2:30 P.M. by Meyer

City between Nuffman & Near Carey

suspected isotope(s) any gamma emitter

Class Analysis A (g)

From: Thiel - Radiation

I certify these samples were
continuously in my custody from the
time of receipt listed hereon until
transferred to Lab
at 2:30 P.M. on 9/23/81

LABORATORY FINDINGS

dry wt 642g

X Ken Gaddes
602 SED

Pb-214 5.0×10^{-7} $\mu\text{Ci/g}$ $\pm 20\%$ 12-28-81
Bi-214 4.0×10^{-7} $\mu\text{Ci/g}$ $\pm 24\%$
Tl-208 1.3×10^{-6} $\mu\text{Ci/g}$ $\pm 21\%$

COMPLAINT C-12

Date Reported

I certify these samples were continuously in
my custody from the time of receipt listed
hereon until the completion of laboratory
analyses on 2/3/82

X Don Bon

TE FORM NO. C-55
L
C+I

UK

frank gl

Best Copy

S. HANSEN 6-5-97

5097

collected by me at 2:15 P.M.
9/16/81 and remained
 continuously in my custody
 until transferred to Phyllis Wickham
5:00 P.M. on 9/16/81

Wm Meyer

Texas Department of Health
 Bureau of Laboratories
 Austin, Texas



UFO

Number of Samples: 1
 I certify these samples were
 continuously in my custody
 from the time of receipt listed
 hereon until transferred to
KAREN GEDDES at
6:00 A.M. on 9/21/81

x Phyllis Wickham

Product: soil sample

Laboratory No CE2-1354

Sample No.: 81

Date Received:

Delivered By:

Condition of Seals:

Description of Sample:

taken from driveway across from Casey residence, FM 148

Licensee

Collection

Date 9-16-81

Time 2:15 P.M. by Meyer

City Littleton, Hoffman-New Can

suspected isotope(s)

any gamma emitter

Class Analysis A(1)

From: Thiel - Radiation

I certify these samples were
 continuously in my custody from the
 time of receipt listed hereon until
 transferred to La B
 at 2:30 p.m. on 9/23/81

LABORATORY FINDINGS

Don J + 6915

x Karen Geddes

1002
SED

<u>RA-226</u>	<u>2.3</u>	<u>$\times 10^{-6}$</u>	<u>mc/g</u>	<u>$\pm 39\%$</u>	<u>(2-28-81)</u>
<u>Pb-214</u>	<u>1.0</u>	<u>$\times 10^{-6}$</u>	<u>mc/g</u>	<u>$\pm 12\%$</u>	
<u>Bi-214</u>	<u>1.0</u>	<u>$\times 10^{-6}$</u>	<u>mc/g</u>	<u>$\pm 12\%$</u>	
<u>K-40</u>	<u>4.0</u>	<u>$\times 10^{-7}$</u>	<u>mc/g</u>	<u>$\pm 62\%$</u>	

FEB 04 '82

Date Reported

I certify these samples were continuously in
 my custody from the time of receipt listed
 hereon until the completion of laboratory
 analyses on 2/3/82

x Don J + 6915

LK

FORM NO. 6-11
TRI
CVI

trash
 glo

Best Copy

S. HANSEN 6-5-97

5091

I certify these samples were
collected by me at 6:22 a.m.
on 8/24/81 and remained
continuously in my custody
until transferred to John Haygood
at 2:44 p.m. on 8/24/81



Texas Department of Health
Bureau of Laboratories
Austin, Texas

Number of Samples: _____
I certify these samples were
continuously in my custody
from the time of receipt listed
hereon until transferred to
K. Geddes at
8:30 a.m. on 11/2/81

Product: Soil

Laboratory No. CE2-3272

Sample No.: #2

Date Received: NOV 10 1981

Delivered By: Haygood

Condition of Seals: _____

Description of Sample: _____

Alvin Bkgd

Licensee _____

Collection _____

Date 8-24-81

Time 6:37 p.m. by Silva

City Alvin

Suspected isotope(s) _____

Class Analysis V Scan

From: Thiel - Radiation

LABORATORY FINDINGS

I certify these samples were
continuously in my custody from the
time of receipt listed hereon until
transferred to Lab

at _____ m. on 11/10/81

x K. Geddes

Dry wt 423g

V Scan

1-22-82

Cs-137

1.14 x 10⁻⁵ mcp/g ± 3%

K-40

5.7 x 10⁻⁶ mcp/g ± 15%

Date Reported _____

I certify these samples were continuously in
my custody from the time of receipt listed
hereon until the completion of laboratory
analyses on 2/3/82

x Don Brown

LK

C&I

trash
glo

Best Copy

S. HANSEN 6-5-97

5091

collected by me at 2:40 p.m.

9/16/81 and remained

continuously in my custody

until transferred to James Wilson

5:00 p.m. on 9/16/81

James Wilson



USE

Number of Samples: 1
I certify these samples were
continuously in my custody
from the time of receipt listed
hereon until transferred to

KAREN GAINES

at 8:00 A.M. on 9/21/81

Texas Department of Health

Bureau of Laboratories

Austin, Texas

James M. Wilson

Product: soil sample

Laboratory No CE2-1356

Sample No.: 8-3

Date Received:

Delivered By:

Condition of Seals:

Description of Sample:

taken from alongside road, junction FM 1485 & FM 2100

Licensee

Collection

Date

9-16-81

Time

2:40 p.m.

by Meyer

City Huffman, New Can

suspected isotope(s) any gamma emitter

Class Analysis: A (y)

From: Thiel - Radiation

I certify these samples were
continuously in my custody from the
time of receipt listed hereon until
transferred to Lab

at 2:00 p.m. on 9/23/81

x Karen Seddes

LABORATORY FINDINGS

224 wt 555g

SED

PA-226 1.5×10^{-6} $\pm 4\%$
Pb-214 6.0×10^{-7} $\pm 19\%$
Bi-214 5×10^{-7} $\pm 23\%$
K-40 8.0×10^{-7} $\pm 50\%$

12-29-81

Date Reported

I certify these samples were continuously in
my custody from the time of receipt listed
hereon until the completion of laboratory
analysis on 12/3/82.

x Don Brown

LK

C+I

trash glo

Best Copy

S. HANSEN 6-5-97

5091

lected y me at 12:30 P.m.
9/2/81 and remained
continuously in my custody
transferred to U.S. Mail
4:30 P.m. on 9/2/81

Charles R. Meyer



Texas Department of Health
Bureau of Laboratories
Austin, Texas

Number of Samples: 1
I certify these samples were
continuously in my custody
from the time of receipt listed
hereon until transferred to
Lab at

4:10 P.m. on 9/9/81

x Karen Seddes

Product: Soil

Laboratory N CE2- 467

Sample No.: BF-1

Date Received: SEP 09 1981

Delivered By:

Condition of Seals:

Description of Sample:

Sand

License None

Collection

City Bellaire

Date 9-2-81

Time 12:30PM

by R. Meyer

Class Analysis ACR

suspected isotope(s) any x emitter

From thiel - Radiation

LABORATORY FINDINGS

γ scan

Bi-214 Trace

K-40 1.1x10⁻⁵ ± 12%

Date Reported

I certify these samples were continuously in
my custody from the time of receipt listed
hereon until the completion of laboratory
analyses on 12/23/81

x Don Brown

FORM NO. C-33

Best Copy

S. HANSEN 6-5-97

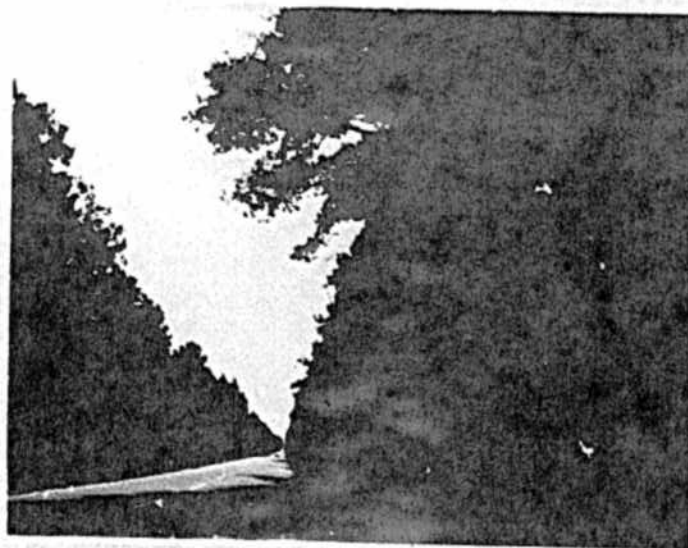
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RR-BF-BS-CW-BG

NCR

page 1

COMPLAINT C-12



Best Copy

Texas Department of Health

SEP 28 1981

AUSTIN

TEXAS

INTER-OFFICE

FROM Russ Meyer *RM BF ES BF* to Files, thru Richard Ratliff, Chief
 Div. of Compliance and Inspection

SUBJECT Citizen request about possible exposure to radiation

Complaint #C-12

On September 2, 1981 I received a memo from Dave Lacker requesting I contact Mrs. Vicki Landram concerning an incident in which she believed she may have been exposed to ionizing radiation. The next day I called Mrs. Landram to arrange a meeting. Mrs. Landram gave me a very cursory description of the events she experienced on the night of December 29, 1980 and requested I speak with Mr. John Schuessler (ph. 483 2609) who had assisted her in trying to determine what she had witnessed.

On September 10, 1981 Mike Vredenburg, Gary Freeland and I met with Mr. Schuessler. Mr. Schuessler explained that at approximately 9:00 P.M. on the evening of December 29, 1980 Mrs. Landram accompanied by a friend, Mrs. Betty Cash and her grandson, Colby Landram was driving on highway 1485 (2100) from New Caney to Huffman. At a point somewhere between a highway warning sign and a tavern on a straight stretch of the road, they stopped the car and observed a large (about the size of the Dayton water tower) ovoid object approximately 80 feet above the ground. The object was glowing and emitting flames from the section closest to the ground. The flames fanned out and covered the road ahead. The car was approximately 133 feet from the flames. Mrs. Landram stated that the object lit up the sky and was accompanied by 23 helicopters (twin and single rotor). They stayed there for an unspecified time observing the object. Mrs. Landram and Mrs. Cash were exposed in the open for the longest period of time. Colby was frightened and only remained outside the car for a few minutes. The object rose and moved off accompanied by the helicopters. Mrs. Landram and Mrs. Cash got in the car, the door handles were hot to the touch (under hypnosis Mrs. Landram remembered feeling heat). They drove up to a "T" intersection and took a connector road (FR 2100) to 1960; at this point they again observed the object moving toward Huffman(?). Later that evening when Mrs. Cash returned home her neck began to swell and redden and she began to vomit and have diarrhea. Approximately three days later she went to Parkway Hospital. She was seen by Doctor V. D. Shenoy. She was also seen by Joseph E. Darsey, M.D. (ophthalmologist), Solomon Brinkman, M.D. (dermatologist), K. B. Fung, M.D. (radiologist), Hauser, M.D. (performed EEG), Dr. Shinoy (checked her for heavy metal poisoning), Karen Kumar, M.D. (neurologist) and all lab work was done by Brown and Assoc. Medical Lab. Hypnosis was performed on Mrs. Landram by R. Leo Sprinkle, Ph.D. a psychologist at the Univ. of Wyoming. Medical records were reviewed by Peter Rank, M.D., Madison, Wisconsin, ph. 608/251-2371.

SIGNED _____

DATE _____

FORM NO. AG-2-A

Rest Copy

I asked Mr. Schuessler if any other people had reported seeing the object that night. He stated they had - some just saw helicopters and some just saw the object. One of these individuals is Mr. Jerry McDonald, 203 Hill St., Dayton, TX., ph. 258-5956.

I then asked Mr. Schuessler if he had pin-pointed the location of the siting. Mr. Schuessler stated that due to the late hour and the ladies' emotional state they could not remember the exact location and could only state that they believed they saw the object on the straight portion of FR 1485 between a beer joint and some kind of highway warning sign.

On September 16, 1981 Mike Vredenburg and I drove to the Montgomery Co. library in Conroe and xeroxed newspaper articles about Mrs. Landram's experience and then drove down FM 1485 to 1960 following the route she took the night of Dec. 29, 1980. During the drive we surveyed both sides of the road using the Ludlum 14-C and NaI probe. No significant deviations from background radiation were noted. We specifically surveyed the 7.2 mile straight stretch of road between the junction of FR 2100 and FR 1485 and the W. Casey residence (point at which FR 1485 begins the straight stretch). We drove and surveyed this stretch 3 times. Three soil samples were also taken. As there were no unusual readings noted during the surveys samples were taken at the beginning, middle and end of the 7.2 mile stretch (specifically sample no. B-1 across the road from the Casey residence, sample no. B-2 by the roadside in front of the "Place of Faith", 29410 Huffman - New Caney Rd., sample no. B-3 at the Northwest corner of the intersection of FR 2100 and FR 1485 (Wolf Rd.) Field analysis of the samples is negative; they are being sent in for additional analysis. We also noted that there are two beer joints along this stretch of road - one at Luce Bayou and another at 12,800 Huffman-New Caney Rd. (FR 1485); no warning signs were noticed.

Conclusions:

Survey and initial sampling results indicate that no contamination from radioactive material exists along the stretch of FR 1485 on which Mrs. Landram sighted the object. As to whether Mrs. Landram, Mrs. Cash and Colby might have been exposed to radiation from a sealed source or radiation producing equipment can only be determined from clinical findings and consultation with physicians educated and experienced with the cytological and clinical manifestations of exposure to radiation. It is worthy to note that Dr. Rank(?) stated that the type of injury reported could have been caused by ultra-violet, infrared, low energy x-ray or particulate radiation.

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S. HANSEN 6-5-97

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- 3 -

Recommendations:

A release should be obtained for Landram's, Mrs. Cash's and Colby's medical records and these be scheduled to be reviewed by the Bureau's medical advisory committee to make the final determination as to whether or not these individuals were exposed to non-ionizing or ionizing radiation.

Signed

Charles R. Meyer

Date

9/17/81

Best Copy
11-11-11

Bill

OCT 1 1981

OCT 1, 1981

Please read this series of memos and
 news items regarding interesting
 event in East Texas - Do you think that
 access to the medical records would help?
 more than likely nothing new will turn up
 but medical review would ~~be~~ contribute to
 a more complete investigation regarding
 the findings DMC.

Best Copy

Texas Department of Health

AUSTIN

TEXAS

INTER-OFFICE

FROM George R. Anderson, M.D. Occupational Medicine & Toxicology TO David M. Cochran, P.E. Associate Commissioner for Environmental and Consumer Health Protection

SUBJECT Investigation of possible radiation exposure from unidentified object near Huffman, Texas

If medical records can be obtained, I would like the opportunity to review them.

hf

Attachments

SIGNED 

DATE October 9, 1981

FORM NO. AG-2

Best Copy

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AUSTIN TEXAS
INTER-OFFICE

David K. Lackner, Chief
FROM Bureau of Radiation Control TO David M. Cochran, P.E.
Associate Commissioner for Environmental
and Consumer Health Protection
SUBJECT Investigation of possible radiation exposure from unidentified object near
Huffman, Texas.

Attached is a copy of Mr. Charles R. Meyer's report of his investigation of possible radiation exposure to several persons near Huffman, Texas. This investigation was performed at the request of Representative Larry Browder's office. As the report indicates, Mr. Meyer did not find any evidence of radioactive material above background levels in the area. The only way to continue the investigation would be to obtain the medical reports from the physicians of the individuals involved and have them reviewed by the members of the Texas Radiation Advisory Board and/or Doctor George Anderson of the office of Occupational Medicine and Toxicology. To obtain the records, the individuals would have to sign a legal release of medical records document that the Department's legal office could prepare.

Enclosure

SIGNED

David K. Lackner

DATE

September 29, 1981

FORM NO. AG-2-A

Best Copy

Texas Department of Health

AUSTIN

TEXAS

INTER-OFFICE

THRU: Robert A. MacLean, M. D.
Deputy Commissioner

David M. Cochran, P. E.

Deputy Commissioner for Environmental

Robert Bernstein, M.D., F.A.C.P.

FROM and Consumer Health Protection TO Commissioner of Health

SUBJECT Legislative Contact, Bureau of Radiation Control

Complaint #C-12

Mr. David K. Lacker, Chief of the Bureau of Radiation Control received a call from Ms. Ann Castlebury of Representative Larry Browder's office. Ms. Castlebury requested that Mr. Lacker contact a constituent of Representative Browder, a Mrs. Landram, Dayton, Texas 713-258-2100. Mrs. Landram had reported to Representative Browder that on the night of December 29, 1980, she was burned by something which fell out of the sky and she is concerned that she has been injured by radiation since her hair has been falling out. Mr. Lacker agreed to contact Mrs. Landram and report back to Representative Browder's office.

Mr. Lacker contacted Mrs. Landram by phone and learned that she, a friend, and her grandson were traveling along a farm road between Huffman and New Caney on the night of December 29, 1980. She noted that there were a number of helicopters flying around in the area. There was a bright flash and fire began to fall from the sky. She experienced a high degree of heat and this apparently went on for some period of time. The next day she, her friend, and her grandson all experienced blisters on the skin of their faces and hands. On January 3, 1981, her friend was admitted to a hospital for treatment of her burns. Subsequently, Mrs. Landram and her grandson began experiencing epilation; however, she stated that most of her hair had regrown. Mrs. Landram indicated that a Mr. John Schussler, who lives in Houston, had placed her under hypnosis during which he taped her account of the incident.

In order to rule out any possibility of ionizing radiation injury, the Bureau of Radiation Control Regional Personnel will contact both Mrs. Landram and Mr. Schussler in an attempt to sort out the facts of the incident.

Representative Browder's secretary requested that Mr. Lacker call a Ms. Randy Cosson, Aide to Representative Browder, and report our findings.

SIGNED _____

DATE August 26, 1981

FORM NO. AG-7

Best Copy
Available

506. West Clayton
Mrs. Landrum
Dayton, Tex 713-258-2100

Dec 29, 1980 New Comer, & Huffman
Fire out of the sky - Object going
toward Huffman - Blister - severe
face on arm - Hair falling out
2 yr old small boy - grandson - Brain came out
in spots - fried also burned -
Blister like sun burn - Radioactive?
Eyes turned for 3 months
Dr. Chandler - Liberty
Eye Doctor
Huffman - New Comer Rd -

Randy Cosson - aide to Rep Browder

S. RANSEN

6-5-97

5091

Lamotte recalls baseball legends

See page 10A



J.R. Richard back at 90

See page 11A



SUNDAY

February 22, 1981

50 CENTS

A Section, 445 East
Printed in Montgomery County, Texas

COURIER

MONTGOMERY
COUNTY

Two women share terror of myster

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

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

Willis ISD

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Adress

**J.R. Richard
back at 90**

See page 11A

**Way out west
in Montgomery**

See page 1B



The

COURIER

MONTGOMERY COUNTY LIBRARY
SCENEOE, TEXAS 77361

men share terror of mysterious encounter

nuster just to get out of L. J. wouldn't be so bad, friends say, if the change in Betty was only mental. It's physical as well.

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"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 1465 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 30 miles away.

As they drew closer to the object, the light from it became more intense as did 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



More U.S. aid

S. RANSEN

6-5-97

5091

uld go into effect 90 days
by the governor.

ICT COURT

for the creation of a
district court for Mont-
numbered the 275th
ains in committee after
o come up for a vote
of the omnibus courts

is no problem with the
committee is taking a
an omnibus bill together
the Committee on Inter-
irs..

IST AID

v. D-Conroe, introduced

aid. Tow had targeted the legislation as
one of his primary goals for the session
prior to taking office.

Tow also introduced HB 923, which
would provide for a school of nursing at
Sam Houston State University in Hunts-
ville. The bill was referred to the Com-
mittee on Higher Education.

OTHER LEGISLATION

In other action last week, the Senate
passed a bill which would require that any
instances of suspected child abuse or
neglect be reported to local police officials
as well as the Texas Department of
Human Resources.

Currently, child abuse and neglect cases
are only required to be reported to TDHR,

Senate Committee on Jurisprudence,
where it carried unanimously, and on the
Senate floor. It now goes to the House for
consideration.

Caperton is also a member of the juris-
prudence subcommittee considering addi-
tional restrictions on those criminal cases
which may be eligible for shock probation.

Shock probation is special treatment
designed for first-time offenders who are
sent to Texas Department of Corrections
for a short sentence, and then released
under certain conditions. They are not
classified probationers.

Current law allows the use of shock pro-
bation for any offense except criminal
homicide, rape or robbery.

as: murder, capital murder, voluntary
manslaughter, aggravated kidnapping,
aggravated rape, aggravated sexual
abuse, sexual abuse of a child, indecency
with a child, deadly assault on a police-
man, robbery, aggravated robbery,
bribery, tampering with a witness, tam-
pering with government records, escape
from custody, official misconduct, un-
lawful possession of a firearm by a felon,
possession of a prohibited weapon,
organized criminal activity, burglary in
the first degree or providing a deadly
weapon for escape.

An aide to Caperton said other crimes
may be added to the list.

From page 1A

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From page 1A

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

Women

From page 1A

"Incredible. 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 split-
ting 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

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

"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," Lan-
drum 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

Best Copy

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From page 1A

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

Women

From page 1A

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



Best Copy

Investigators eye 'close encounter'

By CATHY GORDON
Courtier 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, Colby, who had buried his face in her lap, refusing to look out at the night street.

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 1465 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

junction 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 1465 that night. "I scouted all the newspapers in that general area and it's seemed to have paid

Second of two parts

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 30 medical doctors and scientists.

English and other case workers from APRO have been investigating the "sightings" near New Caney in con-

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 enacting 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

summer, health services with the health district, says the inspectors intend to curtail the sale of contaminated foods and added that restrictions may be strong enough to close some vendors down.

"They could be dispensing food that hasn't been prepared under the proper conditions," Roessler said. "It will be the very same principle as to why we inspect restaurants."

"We have periodically stopped and inspected these vendors in the past," she said. "But since we haven't worked we intend we are going to make a concerted effort from Friday evenings through Sunday evenings. The vendors haven't been much of a problem until the past year. With the economy the way it is, people are doing whatever they can to make money."

The inspectors will check on a variety of

vendor, those foods must be proper temperature.

Vendors can be fined as much as \$100 for failure to comply with health inspectors said the county can

vendors of the premises violations. If they refuse to be subjected to additional fines of \$200 per day.

Also, similar fines would apply to vendors operating without a permit from the county.

Roessler said produce vendors exempt from health district unless specific complaints are made. "We don't regulate the vendors," she said. "Let's face it, when it's growing in the field going to take it home and wash it, potentially hazardous food. We investigate unless we get a com-

inside

- Comics
- Entertainment
- Opinions
- Sports
- Television
- Trend
- Paul McGrath



WHEN GENE SHELBY talks pigeons, he's not just flapping his gums. Here he holds a prize bird, one of

Birds of a feather will bring flocks together

to see who's better

By DANN BLAKE

"I enjoy keeping pigeons because you can breed for colors. They make for life."

said. "If you say show, I'm going to do something to take it for just

Best Copy

Available

5091

6-5-97

S. HANSEN

Page 4A, The Courier (Comroe, Texas), Friday, February 27, 1981

Opinion

Approach UFO reports with open

as skeptical as the next person when it comes to talking about UFOs — the world's most persistent running reminder that there might be life elsewhere. The very mention of the subject brings titers of nervous laughter from most people.

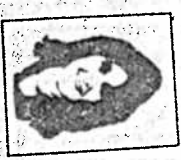
But there are a few who have shed their fear of public ridicule in order to find a sensible explanation for the UFO enigma. If their research is stumped at all, it's not by the limitation of our science, but raised by their peers and the public who are so eager to prove their theories wrong — and offer no alternative explanations.

Officials of UFOs are quick to point out that vision depends on the brain just as

much as the retina of the eye — much depends on what we think we see, they say.

That might be the case sometimes, but what about numerous cases reported where large groups of people have simultaneously witnessed the same mysterious object floating through the sky? Can we honestly say it's just a figment of their imagination?

It's much easier to label a person a "kook" than it is to give them the benefit of the doubt and take positive steps toward finding some answers. Accepting the assumption that UFOs are real, the next step would be an analysis of data through observations of those familiar with space flight



Cathy Gordon

technology and theories for its advancement.

Speculation has it that these mysterious objects sighted in the sky could be using four-dimensional space-time travel — a notion other than the three-dimensional space travel we are

familiar with. This of course is based on the assumption that the objects sighted are extraterrestrial. This theory speculates that space travelers from other planets may understand the effects of merging magnetic field lines and may have converted this knowledge to a propulsion system we have yet to understand.

As far fetched as this sounds, we can't simply deny the possibility of extraterrestrial life or the extra-dimensional component.

But not all theories rest on the extraterrestrial possibility. Others hold that "blinding lights" in the sky are the result of pressurized quartz-bearing rock in the earth which are released as a sort of electrical zone in our at-

mosphere. This zone remains bright and earth's atmosphere, creating an — much like a fly. This explanation appears more credible than the green me-

space. However, if we adopt a definite attitude toward UFO incidents a recent inter-

Saying goodbye

Trouble for Reagan

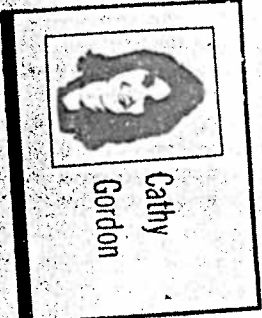
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February 27, 1981

Opinion

Too roach UFO reports with open mind

As the retina of the eye — much as the mind on what we think we see, they feel might be the case sometimes, what about numerous cases — what about large groups of people who simultaneously witnessed the same phenomenon? Can we honestly say that the sky? Can we honestly say that just a figment of their imagination? It's much easier to label a person a "fool" than it is to give them the credit of the doubt and take positive steps toward finding some answers. Accepting the assumption that UFOs are real, the next step would be an analysis of data through observations of those familiar with space flight.



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familiar with. This of course is based on the assumption that the objects sighted are extraterrestrial. This theory speculates that space travelers from other planets may understand the effects of merging magnetic field lines and may have converted this knowledge to a propulsion system we have yet to understand. As far-fetched as this sounds, we can't simply deny the possibility of extraterrestrial life or the extra-dimensional component. But not all theories rest on the extraterrestrial possibility. Others hold that "blinding lights" in the sky are the result of pressurized quartz-bearing rock in the earth which are released as a sort of electrical zone in our atmosphere. This zone, they say, can remain bright and suspended in our earth's atmosphere for long periods of time, creating an almost spherical look — much like a flying saucer. This explanation would of course appear more credible than the thought of little green men coming from outer space. However, if we're ever to find any definite answers, we must drop our adopted attitude that all reporters of UFO incidents are "kooks."

A recent interview with three people who saw a UFO has convinced me that such things do exist. But again, you have to remember that UFO stands for an unidentified flying object, with an emphasis on the unidentified. It could be anything. Too often people conjure up images of flying saucers carrying alien beings when a UFO is mentioned. It is my contention that we have a lot to learn in this field of science and proper observation of UFO reports can help us get there faster.

To help researchers find answers we must stop constantly attacking the credibility of their work simply because the origin of UFOs cannot be easily explained. It's time we brought this subject out of the realm of mystery and into the realm of active scientific study. For so we might have some answers to this celestial phenomenon that has fascinated mankind for centuries.

Goodbye Trouble for Reagan in Guatemala

There are four active left-wing groups operating in

who heads Guatemala's ultra-right National Liberation Movement, the self-proclaimed "party of organized

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'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 north-east 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



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Austin American-Statesman

Sunday, September 29, 1985

COMPLAIN

lawsuit From A1

he witnesses have all stated, were a whole series of military helicopters either going to or protecting the instrument, adding the instrument, or what you. And surely they must have made some reports on it where. But we haven't been to get the government to open and reveal it."

Network investigators have not been able to find any flight plans for military helicopters in the area the night of the incident, said Andreas of Seguin, the international director of the network. He covers airport and military in Texas and Louisiana has checked.

In Schuster, network deputy editor and an investigator in use, says he thinks the investigation has been inconclusive because his inquiries were done by one and he was not allowed to look at military records. Schuster, an engineer for an space company in Houston, is convinced that there was something in the sky that night, although he said that he has no idea it could have been.

Surely, there are some in this who find the tale about a flyer tower spewing out radiation a little hard to believe. Are you in Dayton talking about it? "We're laughing about it," said a worker in a hamburger shop who did not want her name used.

The story is a bizarre but serious one. Cash and Vickie and Colby, who have suffered various ailments since the incident was reported. All three have had skin problems. Cash and Landrum lost their hair quickly. Colby, who has lived with his grandmother since he was 10, has had nightmares. All three have had eye problems. Cash has had cancer and both breasts removed. All three say they had diarrhea the night of the incident.

The story begins with Cash and Colby Landrum riding in a car about 9 p.m. Dec. 28, 1984. They had been gone to near Caney to play bingo, but the place was closed for the Christmas. So, after eating supper in New Caney, they drove toward Dayton.

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."

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Sunday, September 29, 1985

COMPLAINT

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discharged Feb. 9. The physician at the hospital could not be reached for comment. Dr. Bryan McClelland, a doctor who is said to think her symptoms are the result of

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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 to provide for Cash, and her

"The money," she said, "can help me. You know, I don't know what I got it. I got it from the bill. I got it from the house and I always had a lucky coin."

But she said she didn't go to court. "I'm body," she said. "What if I'm yonder?" she asked. "I'm kids? A kid? I'm stroy a kid? I'm fight."

away. "UFOs," Cash said, "call me and I were little."

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The trouble started about seven miles out of New Caney, according to the lawsuit. Colby saw a light in the sky traveling 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 climbed 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 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-