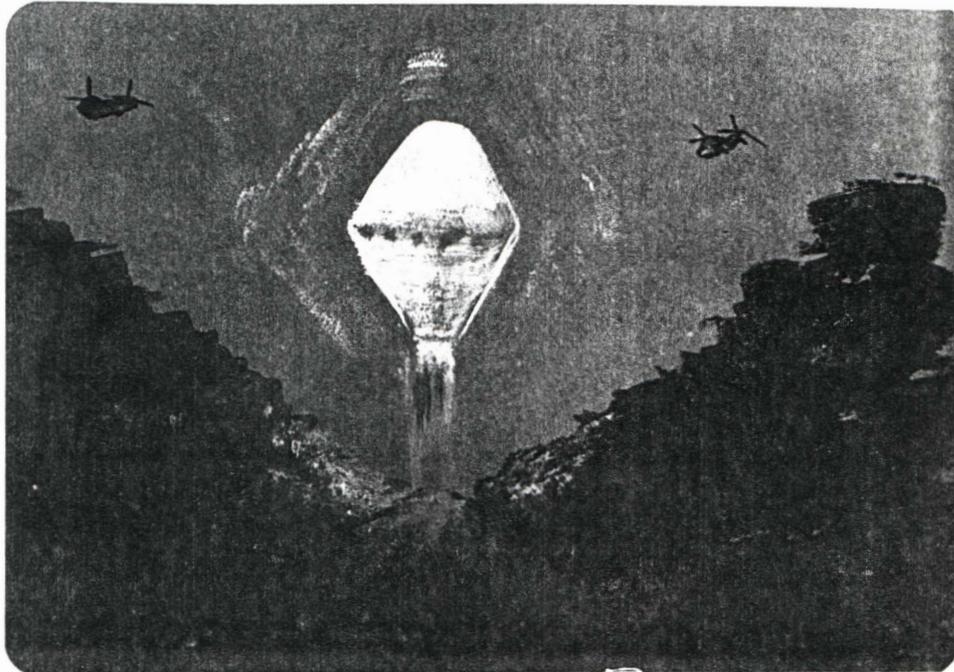


WISIT

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

CASH-LANDRUM RADIATION CASE

By John F. Schuessler



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

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PROJECT VISIT

By John F. Schuessler

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

RADIATION INJURIES FROM UFO

By Richard Hall

Preliminary Report

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

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

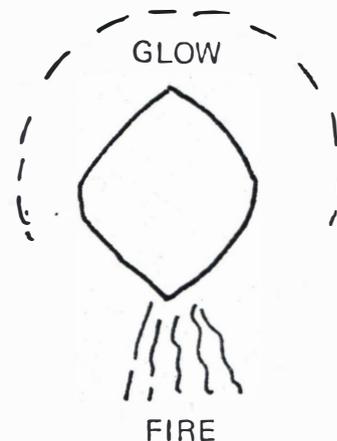
Colby became terrified and he and Vicky got back in the car, but Betty remained outside for a longer period of time. (Probably significantly, Betty's injuries were the most severe.) Finally, the object started to rise and move away to the right in a southwesterly direction with a large number of helicopters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

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

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

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

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



General appearance of Huffman, Texas, UFO

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

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



Two women share terror of mysterious encounter

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

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 on route from New Caney to Dayton via FM 1485 about 9 p.m. on Dec. 29 when they spotted what they describe as a "large luminous object" hovering about one-half mile up in the sky.

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

Women

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

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 25 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.

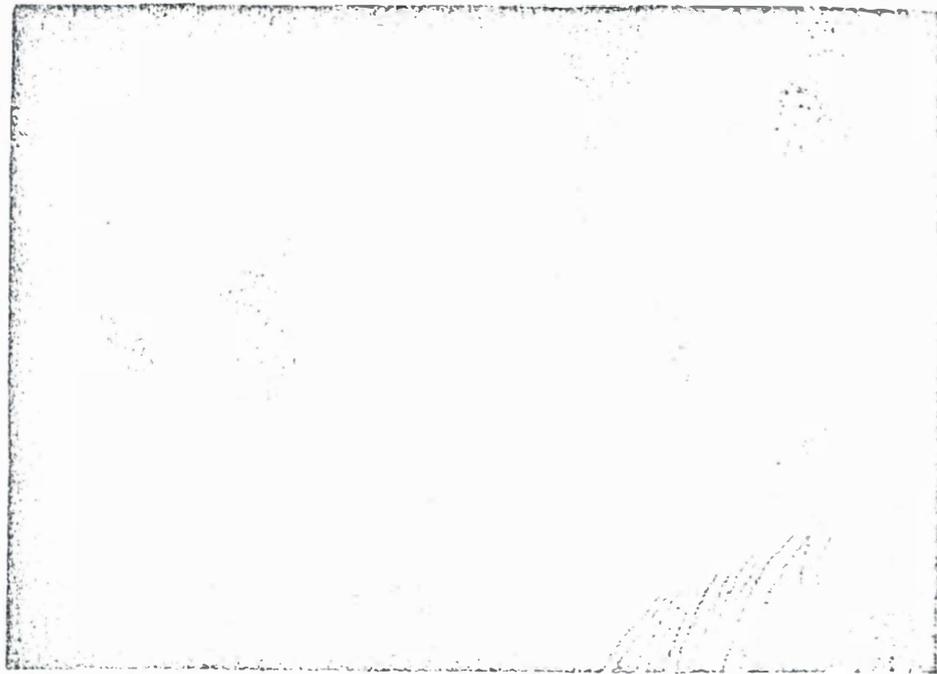
"It's as though I'm seeing everything with a plastic covering over it," she said of her left eye. "I'm afraid I'm going to lose this one too."

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



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

Investigators eye 'close encounter'

Second of two parts

By CATHY GORDON
Courier Staff

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

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

Cash and Landrum shared his fear, but they scanned the sky nevertheless for some sign of the strange-looking object they had previously encountered that night along a lonely stretch of FM 1426 coming from New Caney.

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

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

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

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

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

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

"genuine sighting" on FM 1426 that night.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

close to the main object.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

she is telling the truth — totally."

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

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

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

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

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

He said the Houston area is not "productive" in UFO reports because of lack of places to report them. "I've personally handled about 40,000 to 50,000 reports from all over the world, but very few from the Houston area," he said. "There just aren't enough places to report them and the city is so spread out. I hear about a lot of reports in this area from other people — sometimes long after it's happened."

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

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

Three live in pain and terror after attack by blazing UFO

By DICK DONOVAN

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

— Mrs. Betty Cash

NEWS EXCLUSIVE

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

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

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

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

"I stood out on the road for about five or seven minutes, just staring up at it," Betty continued. "Then it suddenly lifted

The faces of fear: these women live a nightmare



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



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

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

"But because of our in-

size lumps, her hair was falling out in handfuls and she was suffering the most agonizing headache she had ever experienced. The woman was so weak from pain she couldn't even get out of bed to call for help.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"I had always lived my life so

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The three Dayton residents



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

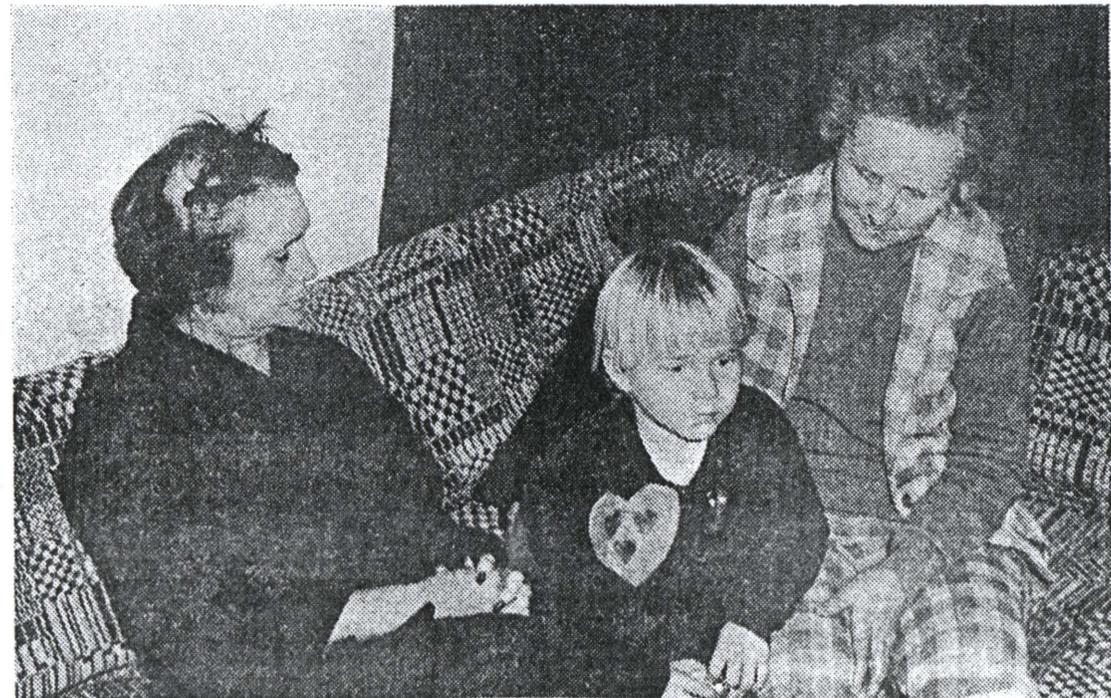


didn't leave their car during the sighting and have suffered no ill effects.

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

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

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



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

CLOSE ENCOUNTER WITH UFO FLEET SCARS TWO WOMEN

By BOB BORINO

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

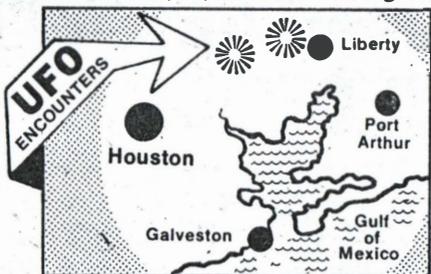
Cash stopped the car, then felt an incredible surge of heat strike her from the light. "It hit like a physical blow," she told GLOBE.

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

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



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



still feel the heat."

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

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

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

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

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

heard "a terrible roaring sound," says Landrum.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

GLOBE
4/28/81

STOP PRESS



Three Survive U.F.O. Attack

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

By DENNIS NEELD and BOB PRATT

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

"Lord help me — I'm burning up!"

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

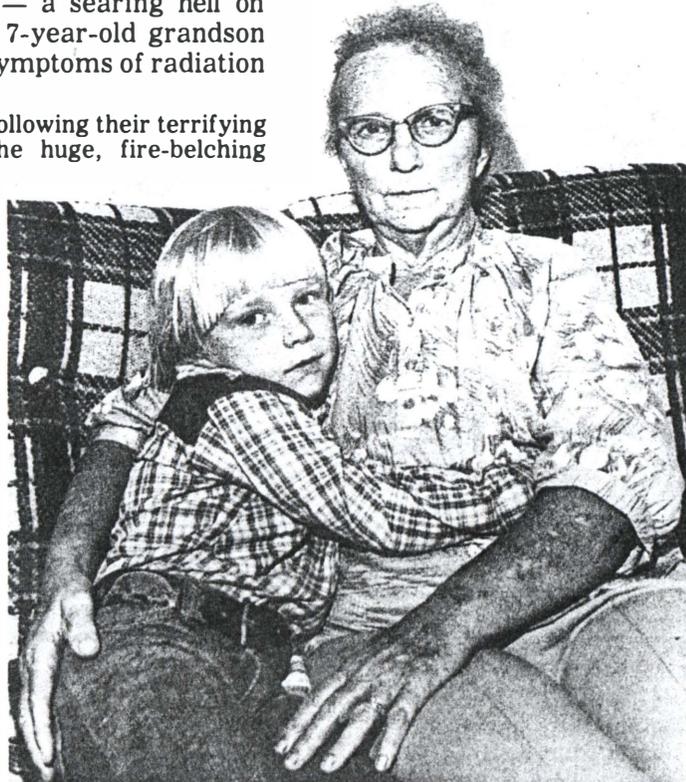
Incredibly, in the weeks following their terrifying 15-minute encounter with the huge, fire-belching UFO, all three developed severe burns and blisters, diarrhea, headaches, nausea and severe eye problems — and Vickie's friend, who was burned the worst of the three, spent almost four weeks in a hospital.

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

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

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

Suddenly Vickie, 57, her grandson Colby and her



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

beeps . . . beep, beep, beep."

As she recalled the terrifying close encounter, Vickie clutched compulsively at the front of her blouse, screwing



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

heard a loud rushing sound, like air brakes on a truck, as more flames shot toward the road.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Betty's mysterious illness — and report "she witnessed a very intense fire-like material" in the sky.

In addition, the hospital records show Betty suffered "bumps under her skin," "hair loss of the scalp" and a "very swollen" face.

"The doctors and nurses kept asking me if I was a burn victim," Betty recalled. "Skin was peeling off my face and arms and legs.

"I was blistered all over. My ears and eyes were so swollen my own family didn't recognize me."

Since that mind-boggling night, little Colby has suffered digestive problems.

"A radiologist who examined the medical records said they apparently were suffering from the symptoms of radiation poisoning," said John Schuessler, an aerospace engineer at NASA studying the case for VISIT, an independent UFO investigating organization.

Schuessler was present at

severe eye problems — and Vickie's friend, who was burned the worst of the three, spent almost four weeks in a hospital.

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

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

Suddenly Vickie, 57, her grandson Colby and her friend Betty Cash, 52, noticed a glowing object in the sky.

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

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

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

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

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



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

beeps . . . beep, beep, beep."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ing wildly, he tried to jump out of the car and run off into the woods. Vickie grabbed him.

"Don't cry, baby, just pray, pray to Jesus. Don't be afraid."

"Now I'm holding him, loving him . . ."

For 15 minutes the brilliant object hovered in front of them, huge flames spewing from the bottom end continuously.

Sometimes the terrified trio

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hospital records confirm

In addition, the hospital records show Betty suffered "bumps under her skin," "hair loss of the scalp" and a "very swollen" face.

"The doctors and nurses kept asking me if I was a burn victim," Betty recalled. "Skin was peeling off my face and arms and legs."

"I was blistered all over. My ears and eyes were so swollen my own family didn't recognize me."

Since that mind-boggling night, little Colby has suffered digestive problems.

"A radiologist who examined the medical records said they apparently were suffering from the symptoms of radiation poisoning," said John Schuessler, an aerospace engineer at NASA studying the case for VISIT, an independent UFO investigating organization.

Schuessler was present at the spine-tingling hypnosis session.

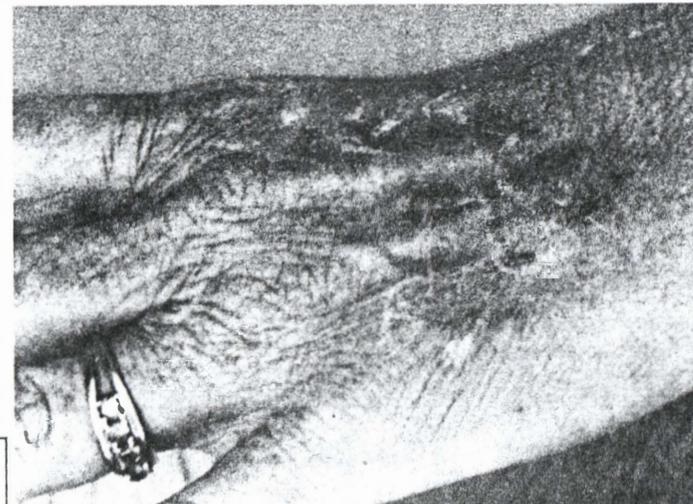
Dr. Leo Sprinkle, Ph.D., who conducted the session, said he's convinced the terrifying details of Vickie's ordeal are for real.

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

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

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

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



RADIATION burns on Vickie Landrum's hand.



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

— Elbert Hubbard

Corpus Christi Caller

46th Year — No. 94

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1981

Times

174 Pages — Price 50 cents

Health problems add to mystery

Texans tell of strange encounter

By PAMELA LYON

Staff Writer

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

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

She was having a religious experience.

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

First they saw a bright, mysterious light through the treetops up ahead. Then, as the car rounded a bend on Farm Road 1485 about 15 miles northwest of Dayton, it was suddenly before them.

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

From 133 feet away, the heat was excruciating.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Although she says that "time sort of stood

See Encounter, page 6A

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

somewhere or it was in trouble and they were helping it."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"I don't know of any other place around here that would have the number of helicopters," said press officer Major Tony Geishauer. "There may be something to this, but I don't know what it could be... unless there's a super-secret thing going on and I wouldn't necessarily know about it."

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

Dayton Lady To Appear On TV

By Rebecca Goodballet-Hamilton

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mrs. Landrum added that her handprints are still on the dashboard of Mrs. Cash's car.

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

They were still able to see the object and the helicopters as they reached Highway 146 and even as they came on into Dayton up to the new bank, she said.

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

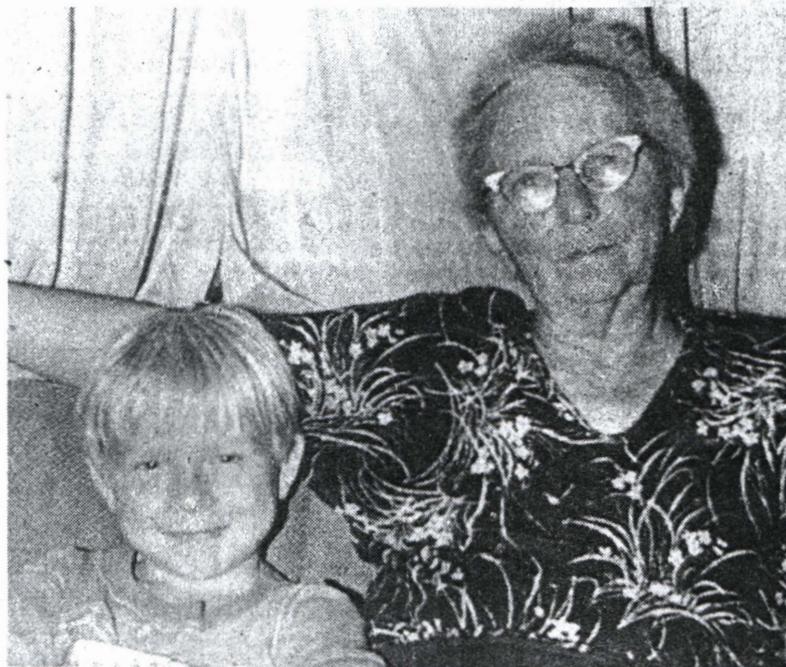
She and Colby got sick that night, and Mrs. Landrum said that when she went to check on Mrs. Cash the next day, she found her in bed with lumps on her neck and head and blisters on her body. She said that she wasn't even able to get up to get a drink of water.

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

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

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

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



Colby and his grandmother, Vickie Landrum

The Vindicator

Page 12B, Liberty, Texas

Wednesday, September 16, 1981

Within Three, Four Weeks

• Dayton Lady On 'That's Incredible'

(Continued From Page 1)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Monday, September 21, 1981

UFO report

Women, child say they saw ship, 23 helicopters

By WILLIAM P. BARRETT

Houston Bureau

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

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

But the local police chief, Tony Varring, a friend for 30 years, vouches for her credibility. Records at Parkway Hospital in Houston document the fading eyesight, skin rashes, recurring headaches and temporary loss of hair she says he has experienced. There are other witnesses. A state agency is investigating. Professional UFO watchers are excited.

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

All this was more than enough for the National Enquirer, the sensational tabloid, to run the story last month under a multi-color, top-of-

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

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

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

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

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



sational tabloid, to run the story last month under a multi-color, top-of-the-front-page headline. That is how "Scientist at NASA Confirms UFO Terrorizes and Burns 3 Texans" came to greet millions of supermarket shoppers across the nation the week of Aug. 11.

The scientist involved is John F.



— Staff map

Site was near New Caney

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

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

Schuessel said there are only two possible explanations for the incident. "Either the helicopters were chasing the object, or else they were flying with it," he said. "In either case the federal government should know something." He is preparing a paper on the incident to be presented at a UFO conference in Chicago Sept. 26.

Lawyers for the three — Mrs. Landrum, 52; her 7-year-old grandson, Colby, who lives with her; and

copiers of the sort described by Mrs. Landrum. "We did not have any choppers up that night in East Texas," he said.

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

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

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

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

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

Mrs. Landrum and Colby were riding with Mrs. Cash in her car about 9 p.m. on Dec. 29 along a lonely, two-lane stretch of FM 1485 near New Caney, Montgomery County, about 30 miles northeast of Houston. About three miles ahead they could see some sort of light in the air, occasionally obscured by trees. As they drew nearer they could see it was some sort of object with orange and red flame coming from the bottom.

"Suddenly it got real bright," Mrs. Landrum said. "We could see the object maybe 30 feet above the ground. I screamed for Betty to stop. Then I said, 'Betty you might as well face it — this is it.'"

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

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

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

"The road was too narrow to turn around and we were blinded by all the light," Mrs. Cash said. She said the car became very hot. "An impression of Vickie's hand is still imbedded in my dash," she said.

After about four minutes the object rose, bathing the three onlookers in heat, and headed in a south-



— UPI photo

Vickie Landrum never believed in UFOs before an experience in December

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

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

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

— Vickie Landrum

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

Schuessel said the three persons described perfectly a Boeing-Vertol Chinook helicopter, which are used by both the Army and the Air Force. "There are civilian Chinooks around, but not 23 of them in one place," he said.

Finally the UFO with the helicopters disappeared from sight. Mrs. Landrum said the fleet was last

seen heading southwest toward Houston. The women said the encounter lasted perhaps 20 minutes.

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

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

— Vickie Landrum

But within hours, they said, all three began to be violently ill with stomach cramps and diarrhea.

"She was in pretty bad shape. The doctors thought she was going to die," Mrs. Landrum said of Mrs. Cash. Finally when doctors could not diagnose the illness, the women broke their vow of silence and told the doctors what had happened. "They seemed relieved that we had some sort of explanation," Mrs. Cash recalled.

They said the eyesight of all three deteriorated rapidly. "I never

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

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

On the suggestion of Police Chief Warring, who last week called Mrs. Landrum "truthful and reliable," the women in February called a UFO hotline in Washington. That brought Schuessel into the case.

While grateful for publicity, Schuessel said he wasn't altogether pleased that the National Enquirer, as well as another supermarket tabloid, Globe, picked up on the story, which has received scant mention in the Texas press.

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

Both he and the women lean toward the explanation that the UFO was some sort of military project. "I don't believe for a minute that the UFO was from another planet," Mrs. Landrum said. "I just don't believe in it."

State, private agencies probing claim of UFO encounter

BY CINDY HORSWELL
Chronicle Staff

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The helicopters, as described by the women, would appear to be CH47 Chinooks, used by the military as troop carriers. However, spokesmen for the Army and National Guard, both of which keep helicopters in the Houston area, said there are no records of military helicopters being flown on Dec. 29.

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

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

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

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Final of three parts

The Island Sun SHOPPER

Encounters with fiery diamond

By CHUCK STEVICK
Texas City Sun Reporter

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

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

They have not been the same since.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Things began to get hot . . .

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

They were noisy. "The helicopter roar was

like a tornado," said Vickie.

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

Almost immediately their medical problems became apparent.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

None of the military installations would

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

What the VISIT investigators did find out was this:

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

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

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

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

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

"They really deserve help," says Schuessler.

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

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

Was it a UFO?

Was it a UFO intercept?

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

"It's a mystery," he says.

And the investigation continues.

THREE TEXAS RESIDENTS INJURED BY UFO NEAR HOUSTON

by Patricia A. Shaw

CLOSE ENCOUNTER OF THE SECOND KIND

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

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

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

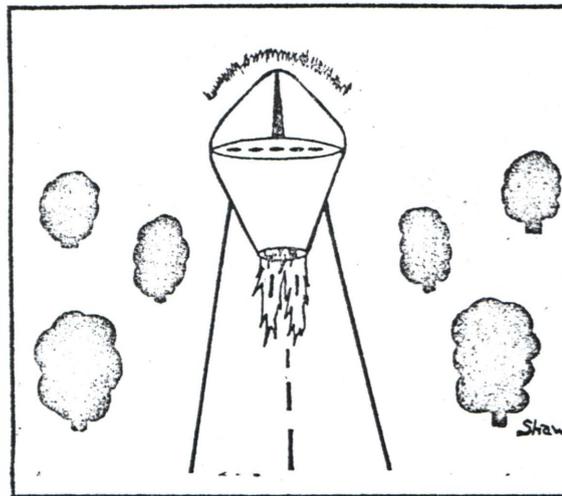
Researchers working on the case believe they were exposed to Ultraviolet and soft X-ray radiation. The physical effects included: nausea, vomiting, headaches, loss of hair, swelling of flesh, blisters, and a loss of appetite.

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

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

Betty, Vicky, and Colby got out of the car to look at the object. Colby became frightened and entered the car with his grandmother. Betty remained outside of the car for the duration of the sighting. (19 to 15 minutes).

At last the object (approximately 130 feet in front of the car) ascended into the night sky, moving slowly in a southerly direction. Betty returned to enter her car and she could not open the door without using a leather jacket on the door handle. The interior of her car was very hot. It was necessary to turn on the air conditioner. The outside temperature was 46° Fahrenheit.



DRAWING OF UFO AS
DESCRIBED BY WITNESSES

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

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

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

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

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

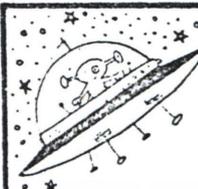
VISIT will continue to work with the Landrum's and Betty Cash. They will monitor their health, keeping tabs on sleeping habits, weight, size, physiological changes of any sort, etc. Also the search for the fleet of helicopters is still going on. Attempts to obtain information from military bases have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

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

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

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

Solidarity Across The Galaxies



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

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TIME: THURSDAYS,
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CASH-LANDRUM RADIATION CASE

By John F. Schuessler

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

night and the road was deserted. The first indication of something unusual was the presence of a very intense light several miles ahead just above the pine trees. Betty remarked about the unusual brightness, but temporarily lost sight of it due to the many trees along the road.

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

In addition to lighting the whole area like daytime, the UFO periodically belched flames downward. Fearing they would be burned alive Betty stopped the 1980 Oldsmobile Cutlass without leaving the road. They all got out of the car to get a

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

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

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

(continued on next page)

Radiation, Continued

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

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

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

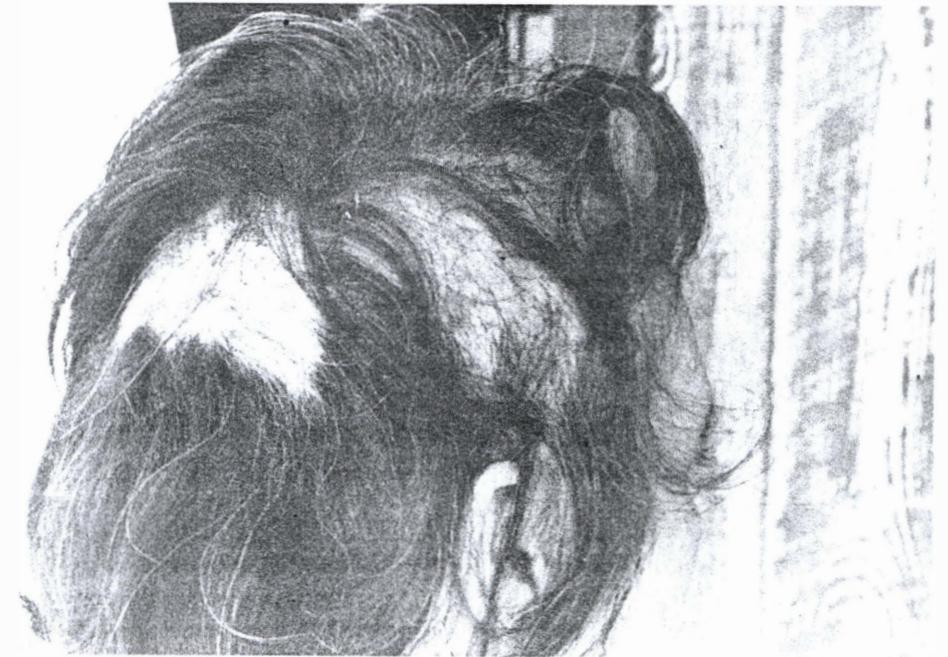
Unusual Medical Effects

Betty dropped Vickie and Colby in Dayton and arrived home at 9:05 p.m. where her friend Wilma was waiting. Vickie said as she left the car, "My head hurts, I'm sick." Betty felt even worse. In addition to a terrible headache and nausea, her neck began to swell and red blotches appeared on her face and head.

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



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



Betty Cash Showing Hair Loss

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

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

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

(continued on next page)

Radiation, Continued

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

SUMMARY OF THE MEDICAL EFFECTS

Colby Erythema (reddening of the skin)

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

Vickie Erythema

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

Betty Erythema

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

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

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

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



Vickie Landrum: Photophobia Eye Condition



Vickie Landrum: Sores Persist After 8 Months

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

The Helicopters

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

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

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

(continued on next page)

Radiation, Continued

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

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

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

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

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

Conclusion

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

Second, military organizations could better serve the citizens of the



Distinctive Silhouette of CH-47 Helicopter

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

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

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

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

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

(Photographs provided by John Schuessler)

MUFON
UFO JOURNAL
November 1981

Schuessler seeks UFO's

By KAY HUNING

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

sound was heard by the threesome throughout the sighting.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Exchange
NEWS

We Care

Volume 12 Number 89 Page 1 April 5, 1982

A terrifying encounter with a flame-belching UFO on a lonely road near Huffman, Texas, resulted in appalling injuries for the three innocent victims. JOHN SCHUESSLER reports on this most bizarre case

LATE ONE CHILLY EVENING at the end of December 1980 two middle-aged women and a young boy were driving along a lonely road in the Huffman area of east Texas, U.S.A. It was the Christmas season and they were in a festive mood. Suddenly a bright light appeared in the sky a little way ahead. A few minutes later the light had turned into a huge diamond-shaped object, shooting out from its underside intermittent bursts of fire. This alarming apparition seemed to be trying to land on the road ahead, making it impossible for the three people in the car to continue on their way.

For the occupants of the car it was to be a terrifying encounter. The intense heat from the UFO burned their skin and the bright light injured their eyes. When the object eventually left the area, a large number of helicopters filled the sky in close pursuit, making a deafening noise that hurt the witnesses' ears.

'A diamond of fire' was how one of the witnesses described the huge glowing object that hovered over the road, blocking their way. Ringed with lights at the centreline, it emitted bursts of fire from its underside that threatened to set light to the surrounding forest

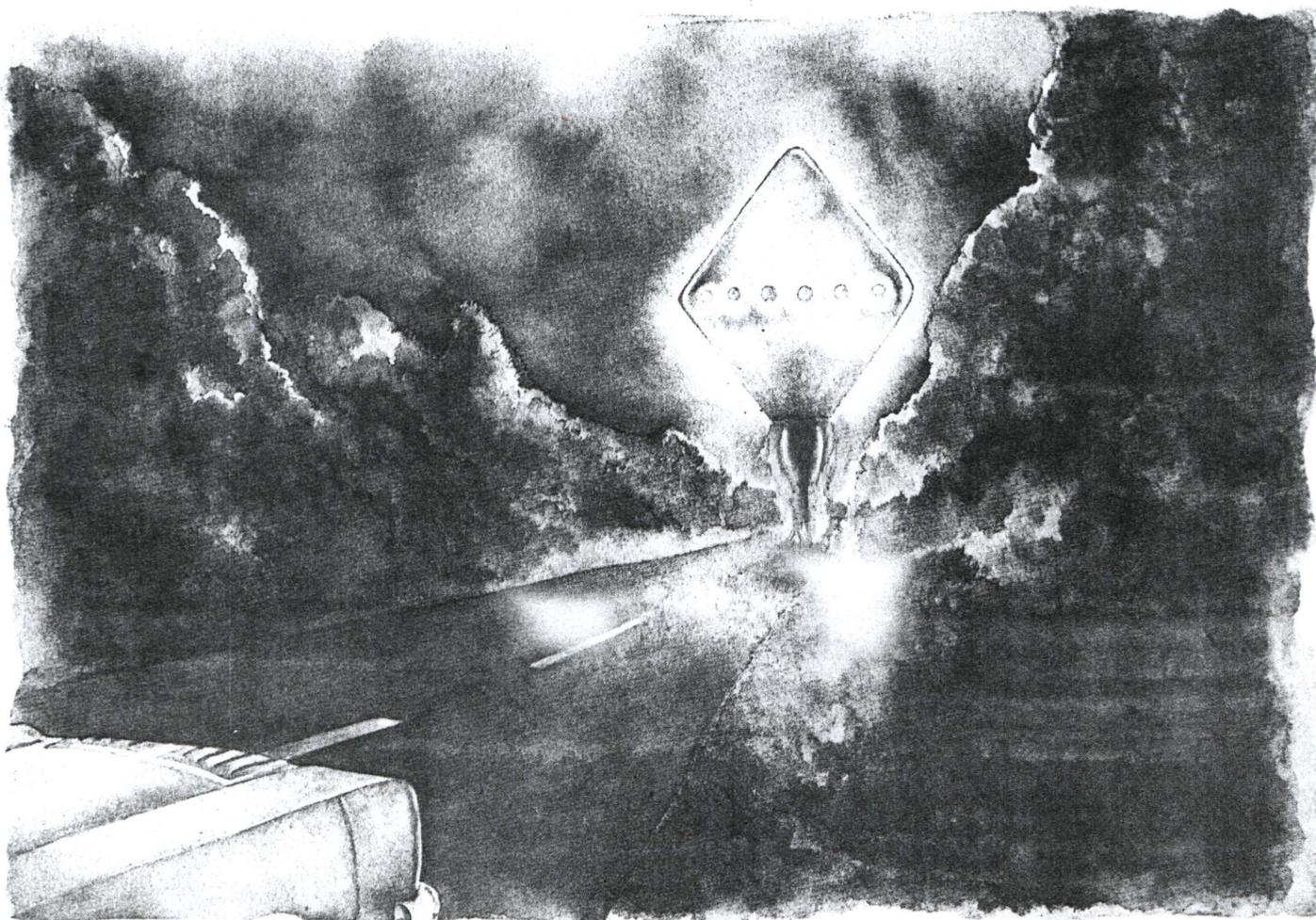
For the three spectators it was like being caught in the middle of some strange battle for the skies.

Earlier that evening, Betty Cash, Vickie Landrum and Colby Landrum had visited several small towns in the Piney Woods area of east Texas in search of a bingo game; but to their disappointment they had discovered that all bingo games had been cancelled while the clubs prepared for the New Year's Eve celebration. Instead the three of them had settled for an evening meal at a roadside restaurant in New Caney. It was soon after this that the terrifying events of the evening began.

Betty Cash, who was driving her new Oldsmobile Cutlass when the trio encountered the UFO, was then a 51-year-old business woman who ran a restaurant and a grocery store. She was planning to open a new restaurant the very next week. A year or so earlier she had undergone a heart bypass operation, and had made a complete recovery. Within the next hour she was to sustain physical injuries more debilitating than any caused by the cardiac surgery.

Vickie Landrum, then 57, is a pleasant,

Blind terror in Texas



Cash-Landrum case



hard-working woman who worked for Betty in the restaurant and also occasionally as a school meals assistant. She is a committed Christian, and does not believe in UFOs or extra-terrestrial life. When the bright object appeared in the sky, she thought it was the coming of the end of the world. Because she expected to see her Saviour come out of the bright cloud, she gazed intently at the UFO. Her reward was not to meet her Saviour, but to sustain severe eye damage.

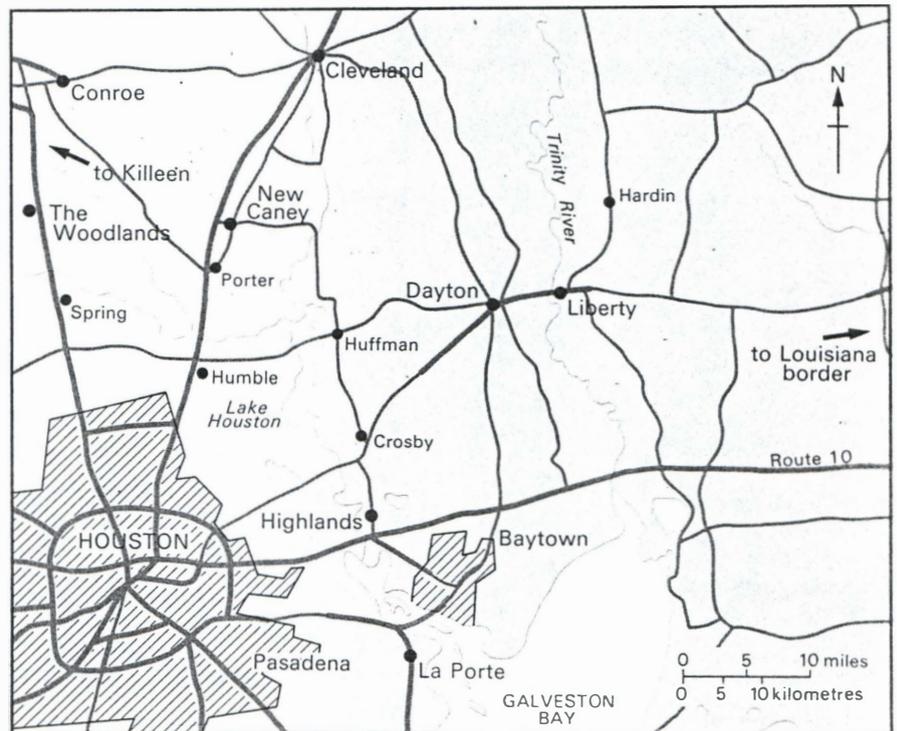
Colby Landrum, Vickie's grandson, was being brought up by her. He was a healthy and active lad, and at seven years old he had already earned several trophies for baseball, bowling and other sports. The encounter left him with severe physical and emotional scars. It is difficult to tell whether he was more frightened by the UFO or by the overpowering noise of the helicopters thundering overhead.

The day of 29 December 1980 had been cold, damp and overcast in Texas. In the Huffman area there had been periods of light rain during the day, but by night-time the rain had stopped and the sky had partially cleared. Light from the third-quarter Moon, supplemented by an airglow from lights in the surrounding area, made the sky bright and the visibility good. Because the temperature was only 40°F (4.5°C) the victims were wearing coats and the car's heater was keeping the winter chill at bay.

After leaving the restaurant some time between 8.20 and 8.30 p.m., the three drove along Highway FM1485, a road normally used only by people who live in the area because it is so isolated. Although only about 30 miles (50 kilometres) from the metropolis of Houston, the area is sparsely populated and is covered by oak and pine trees, and dotted with swamps and lakes.

Above: the lonely tree-lined road where Betty Cash and Vickie and Colby Landrum saw the UFO

Below: a map of the region north-east of Houston showing the Huffman area where the incident occurred. The three victims had dined in New Caney about half an hour earlier and were driving home to Dayton when the UFO appeared on the road ahead



It was about 30 minutes later when the three noticed the bright UFO above the treetops some distance away. Colby, an alert youngster, was the first to see it. He pointed it out excitedly to Betty and Vickie as it glowed brightly above the trees about 3 miles (5 kilometres) ahead. As they approached, it appeared to get larger and larger, rather than diminishing as an aeroplane would appear to do as it flew further away. As they realised the object was approaching the road only a short distance ahead their apprehension increased. Nevertheless they hoped to get by in time and leave it behind. But before they could do so, the object had straddled the road, blocking their way.

Vickie screamed, 'Stop the car or we shall be burned alive.' Her warning was probably correct. The object, many times larger than their car, remained hovering at treetop level and sending down an occasional large cone of fire like a rocket blast. In between these blasts it would settle downwards some 25 feet (7.5 metres) or so, only to rise again on the next cone of fire like some huge science-fiction spaceship in trouble. Vickie's vivid description of it was that it was 'like a diamond of fire'.

When Betty eventually brought the car to a standstill the object was less than 65 yards (60 metres) away. It looked as if it were made of dull aluminium, and it glowed so brightly that it lit up the surrounding forest like daylight. The four points of the diamond were blunted rather than sharp, and blue spots or lights ringed its centreline. Had the UFO not come to rest over the road, the cone of fire that periodically emanated from its lowest point would have set the forest on fire. In addition to the blast of the fire, the UFO emitted an intermittent beeping sound.

It is not clear whether Betty turned the car engine off, or whether it just died. Whichever it was, the three of them got out of the car to take a closer look at the thing that was blocking their way. Vickie stood by the open door on the right-hand side of the car, with her left hand resting on the car roof. She stared intently at the UFO.

Colby plucked at his grandmother's clothing and begged her to get back inside the car and hold him. Two or three minutes later, in response to his pleading, she did so; but she told him not to be afraid, for 'when that big man comes out of the burning cloud, it will be Jesus' and Jesus would not harm them.

As Vickie held Colby to comfort him she screamed to Betty to get back into the car with them. But Betty was so fascinated by the UFO that she walked round to the front of the car and stood there gazing intently at the bright object. She seemed to be mesmerised by it. Bathed in the bright light, she remained standing there even though the heat was burning her skin. Even the skin on the finger beneath her ring was burned. Eventually, as the object began to move up and away, she responded to Vickie's calls and walked back to the door. When she touched the door it was so painfully hot that she had to use her leather jacket to protect her hand while she got in the car.

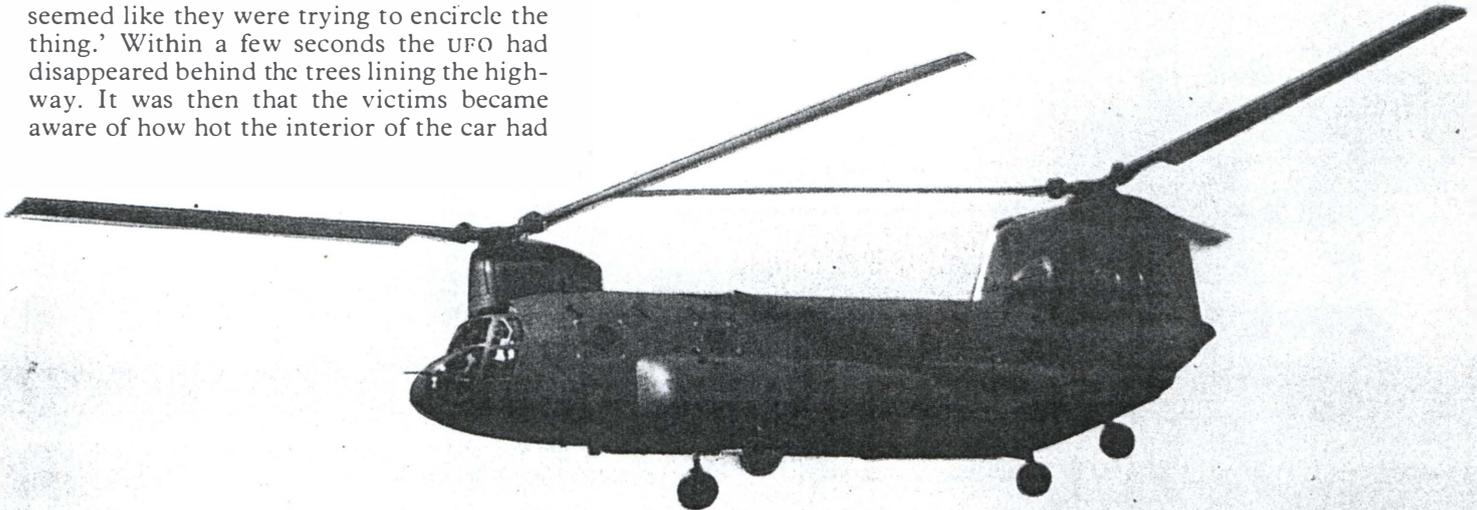
As the three of them watched the departing UFO, a large number of helicopters appeared overhead. As Betty said, 'They seemed to rush in from all directions . . . it seemed like they were trying to encircle the thing.' Within a few seconds the UFO had disappeared behind the trees lining the highway. It was then that the victims became aware of how hot the interior of the car had



A number of small, single rotor helicopters of the Bell Huey variety, similar to the one shown above on a military exercise, were seen with the Huffman UFO

surrounding area and illuminating the helicopters.

By this time the helicopters were spread out over a 5-mile (8-kilometre) area. One main group was still near to the UFO, but moving in an erratic flight path. The others were clearly visible in a steady trail formation. At one point one of the large 'choppers' flew directly over the car engulfing it in the roar of its engine and flap of its rotor



become. Instead of the heater, they now switched on the air conditioner to make the environment more comfortable.

When the effects of the bright light had worn off, Betty started the engine and they sped off down the darkened highway. After a mile or so of twisting road they joined a larger highway and were able to turn in the direction of the departing UFO. This was about 5 miles (8 kilometres) and five minutes later. The object was clearly visible some distance ahead, and looked like a bright oblong cylinder of light. It was still lighting up the

Heavy, double rotor helicopters like the CH-47 shown above were identified by several witnesses as being present in large numbers at Huffman

blades. As they watched from this new vantage point the victims counted 23 helicopters. Many of the helicopters were the large double rotor type, with four wheels, and a large housing to the rear (these were later identified as CH-47 Chinooks, manufactured by the Vertol division of the Boeing company). Others were smaller, very fast, single rotor helicopters. These were never clearly identified, but they appeared to be of the Bell Huey variety. There was also a suggestion that there may have been a single even larger helicopter in the middle of the

Cash-Landrum case

group. Whatever the exact number of helicopters, a lot of aircrew members must have seen the UFO that night.

As soon as the UFO and the helicopters were a safe distance ahead, Betty drove on cautiously. When she reached an intersection, she turned away from the flight path of the UFO and drove towards Dayton, where the three of them lived. By this time they had been involved with the UFO and the helicopters for at least 20 minutes, perhaps longer.

Betty dropped Vickie and Colby at their home at 9.50 p.m. and went home herself. A friend and her children were waiting there for Betty to return, but by then Betty was feeling too ill to tell them about the incident. Over the next few hours Betty's skin turned red as if it were badly sunburned. Her neck swelled, and blisters erupted and broke on her face, scalp and eyelids. She started to vomit and continued to do so periodically throughout the night. By morning she was almost in a coma.

Some time between midnight and 2 a.m. Vickie and Colby began to experience similar symptoms, although less severe. At first they suffered the sunburn-like condition, then diarrhoea and vomiting. It was a miserable night for all three victims.

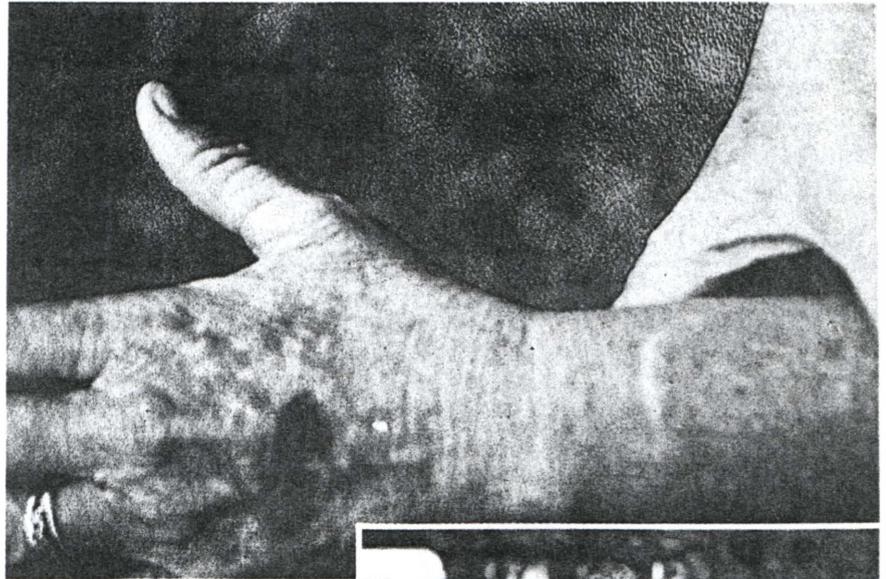
Colby tells all

The following morning Betty was moved to Vickie's home, and all three were cared for there. Betty's condition continued to deteriorate, and three days later she was taken to a hospital casualty department. The casualty staff assumed that Betty was a classic burn victim, and treated her accordingly. They were not told about the UFO until several days later when Colby blurted out to a doctor that he knew what had burned them.

The burns and swelling altered Betty's appearance so radically that friends and relatives who came to visit her in hospital did not recognise her. Her hair started to fall out and she was eventually to lose more than half the hair on her head. When her appearance was compared with the photograph of her taken just before Christmas, it was impossible to believe that it was the same woman. Treatment was further complicated by the fact that Betty and the others had intense headaches and painfully swollen eyes; in fact Betty's eyes were so swollen that she was unable to see for nearly a week.

The appearance of helicopters at UFO sightings is becoming a common event, as it is also at the scene of animal mutilations (see page 1119). The large number of helicopters at the Huffman incident is just another link in the chain. One thing is certain - it is virtually impossible to be mistaken about the presence of CH-47 helicopters when you are directly beneath these large noisy craft.

The evidence of all the witnesses to the Huffman event was consistent. All were interrogated separately, not only about the UFO but also about the helicopters. They



Months after seeing the UFO the victims were still suffering the results of their encounter. Above: the burn on the back of Vickie's hand. Right: a year and a half after the event, Vickie's face showed lasting damage, particularly around the eyes



provided consistent descriptions and sketches that indicated they had seen a large number of CH-47s, plus several other helicopters of a common type. They were also given silhouette charts and asked to identify any helicopters that appeared to be the same as the ones they had seen. Again, all the witnesses agreed in their identification of CH-47s.

Locating the source of the helicopters proved to be a much more difficult task. According to an official of the Houston Intercontinental Airport Federation Aviation Administration, about 350 to 400 helicopters operate commercially in the Houston area. All of these are single rotor type units; there are no CH-47s. The official also said that because helicopters fly on Visual Flight Rules (VFR), they do not need to contact the airport control tower. Other information provided by Houston was that outside a 15-mile (24-kilometre) radius from the airport, helicopters must stay below an altitude of

1800 feet (550 metres), and that due to technical limitations the Houston control radar is restricted to a minimum altitude of 2000 feet (600 metres) around Lake Houston (the Huffman area).

At the US Army's Fort Hood near Killeen, Texas, press officer Major Tony Geishauser told the *Corpus Christi Caller* that no Fort Hood aircraft were in the Houston area on 29 December 1980. 'I don't know any other place around here that would have that number of helicopters,' he said. 'I don't know what it could be . . . unless there's a super-secret thing going on and I wouldn't necessarily know about it.'

At the Robert Gray Field near Fort Hood a spokesman said they might have 100 helicopters from the field home in at one time 'for effect', but he claimed they avoided the Houston area. And all other bases in Texas and Louisiana denied they were responsible



being observed. Dozens of residents of Ohio county, Kentucky, had seen strange moving lights. But when a helicopter arrived in the area, the UFOs left. Again, all military installations denied having any helicopters airborne that night.

Betty, Vickie and Colby were not the only witnesses to the strange happenings at Huffman. An off-duty Dayton policeman and his wife were driving home from Cleveland through the Huffman area the same night and also observed a large number of CH-47 helicopters. A man living in Crosby, directly under the flight path, also reported seeing a number of heavy helicopters flying overhead.

Oilfield labourer Jerry McDonald was in his back garden in Dayton when he saw a huge UFO flying directly overhead. At first he thought it was the Goodyear airship, but he quickly realised it was some unidentified object. 'It was kind of diamond-shaped and had two twin torches that were shooting brilliant blue flames out the back,' he said. As it passed about 150 feet (45 metres) above him, he saw that it had two bright lights on it and a red light in the centre.

The same evening bakery clerk Belle Magee was in her home in Eastgate, about 8 miles (13 kilometres) west of Dayton, when she saw a bright light in the sky heading in the direction of New Caney.

Certainly Dr J. Allen Hynek, founder of the Center for UFO Studies in Evanston, Illinois, was convinced the witnesses were not mistaken. 'We are dealing with a real event,' he said, 'but we're not sure if it's a government exercise or a UFO sighting. There is a lot of top secret stuff going on that most people don't know about.' He added, 'Something sure as hell happened. Those women didn't pull out their hair and blind themselves. The connection with the event is clear-cut.'

On page 2146: the doctors are baffled by the nature of the victims' injuries

for the helicopters seen at the Huffman UFO incident.

Is it possible that the witnesses were all mistaken about seeing and hearing the helicopters? The descriptions and sketches provided by Betty, Vickie and Colby indicate that they all clearly saw helicopters of a particular configuration, which is common only to CH-47s. As far as the noise is concerned, witnesses had been accused of wrongly identifying helicopters at an earlier UFO incident on 22 March 1978, which was reported in the St Paul, Minnesota, *Dispatch*. That newspaper quoted Dan Meyers, supervisor of the Army Reserve Aviation Support Facility at Holman Field, as saying 'Just one of those helicopters at 1500 feet [450 metres] would sound like a humming chain-saw from the ground. With five helicopters up there, you would have tremendous amplification.'

In another (possibly related) incident the day before the Huffman event, helicopter activity had also been noted when UFOs were

Eighteen months after the Huffman sighting Betty Cash (top) and Colby Landrum (above) were still suffering from facial burns and other injuries

Anguish of the UFO victims

In one of a flurry of UFO sightings at the end of 1980, three people in Texas received injuries that resembled severe radiation poisoning. JOHN SCHUESSLER continues his report on the gruesome events at Huffman



A CLOSE ENCOUNTER with an unidentified object can be a dangerous rather than an exciting experience, as three people discovered on a lonely road in Texas, USA, on 29 December 1980. On that evening when Betty Cash, Vickie Landrum and young Colby Landrum met up with a large diamond-shaped UFO on their way home, they had no idea that the event would change their lives. All three were injured by the encounter, and since that evening their health has continued to deteriorate.

When they stopped the car and got out to look at the UFO, the object was less than 55 yards (50 metres) away. It gave out so much heat that they were bathed in perspiration and their skin burned. The light that came from it was so bright that it hurt their eyes, and they were alarmed by its shrill beeping and by the bursts of flame it emitted. And this was only the beginning . . .

When the UFO departed, Betty drove Vickie and Colby to their home in Dayton. As she got out of the car Vickie said, 'My head hurts and I'm sick.' By midnight she felt worse. By that time both she and Colby had developed a condition similar to severe sunburn; they felt feverish and started to vomit. Later diarrhoea started and was uncontrollable for many days. They also experienced severe headaches.

Vickie attempted to treat their burns with



baby oil, but it took several days, and several bottles of oil, to bring the pain under control. She and Colby also consumed several bottles of commercial medicine intended to prevent diarrhoea, but without success. The headaches also refused to respond to any treatment. After three weeks the severity of their illness subsided, but the symptoms continued to recur over the following year.

Since their encounter with the UFO Vickie and Colby have been plagued by periodic outbreaks of skin troubles, as if they were more susceptible to infection than before. But the most far-reaching injury has been the damage to their eyes. Their eyelids became infected very rapidly, and have never fully recovered. Since the incident Vickie has had to have three new pairs of spectacles with successively stronger prescriptions to match the deterioration in her eyesight. Her eyesight is continuing to deteriorate and she still suffers from periodic eye infections; she fears she may eventually go blind. Colby too has experienced similar problems with his eyes, although he has needed only one new pair of spectacles since the incident.

Within a few weeks of the encounter Vickie had lost about 30 per cent of her hair, and had large bald patches on her head.

When her hair grew again it was of a different texture. 'It is frizzy,' she says, 'but more manageable.' Colby lost only a small patch of hair on the crown of his head: this, too, grew again in time.

Betty's injuries seemed even more severe than those of Vickie and Colby. 'The blinding headache that developed within an hour or so made me feel like I was going to die,' she said. She experienced a severe sunburn-like condition, and developed large water blisters, some as large as golf balls, over her face, head and neck. One of these covered her right eyelid and extended across her right temple. She also developed a long-term aversion to warm water, sunshine or other heat source.

Betty had been an energetic woman. She ran a restaurant and a grocery store, and she had been planning to open a larger restaurant. Two years later she was still physically drained. In the year following the encounter she spent five periods in hospital, two of them in intensive care. Within four weeks of the encounter she had lost over half the hair on her head. Although it grew again slowly the texture of the new hair was not the same as that of the original hair. Betty has also been plagued with skin eruptions; many

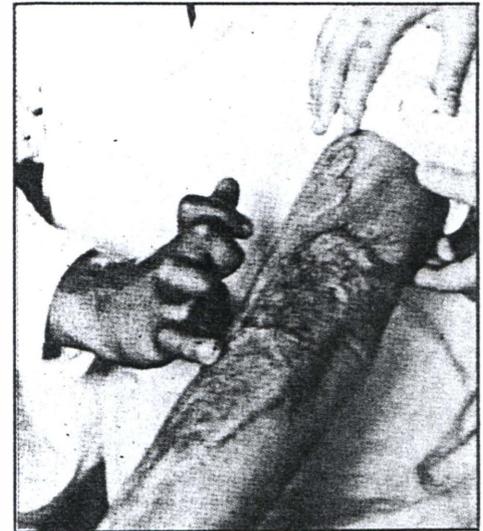
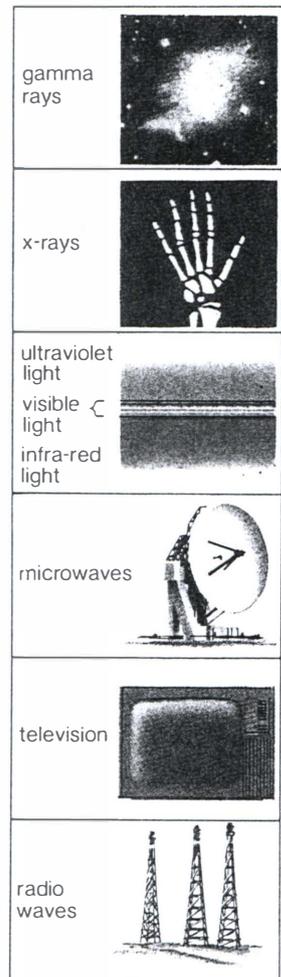
Two months after her encounter with the UFO Betty Cash (left) had lost much of her hair. She was also suffering from skin blisters, nausea and severe headaches. A year and a half after the event Vickie Landrum (far left) still exhibited signs of facial burns and (below left) skin sores

Sickening waves

Electromagnetic radiation consists of waves of energy of varying lengths and frequencies spanning a spectrum from radio waves to gamma rays (right). Moving up the spectrum the wavelength decreases and the frequency increases. The spectrum also divides into ionising radiation (gamma rays, x-rays and ultraviolet) and non-ionising (infra-red, microwaves, television and radio waves). It is ionising radiation that is potentially most damaging to living tissue. Exposure to ionising radiation can cause skin burns, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, loss of hair, lowered resistance to infection, headaches, fatigue, and other problems.

The sunburn-type injuries inflicted in the Huffman incident could be described as typical of exposure to ultraviolet radiation. They could also have been caused by x-rays or microwaves. The eye injuries could have been caused by any type of radiation, but they are most commonly seen in cases of ultraviolet exposure. Workers exposed to microwaves have also suffered damage to the tissues of the eye.

Microwave exposure produces symptoms similar to those of ionising radiation; it often produces an easily irritated skin such as Betty, Vickie and Colby experienced. If the microwave is pulsed,



its effects are more harmful. Some devices that pulse microwaves also produce x-rays, and this combination could account for most of the injuries seen in the Huffman case.

Radiation damage is difficult to diagnose. Radiation burns (above) can be mistaken for more commonplace injuries such as sunburn. Even more difficult to predict are the long-term effects. Once exposed, an individual may develop diseases such as leukaemia up to 20 years later. Colby's grandmother Vickie is deeply worried about these potential future problems, and doctors can give her little reassurance.

Cash-Landrum case

of these are as big as a large coin and leave the skin permanently scarred.

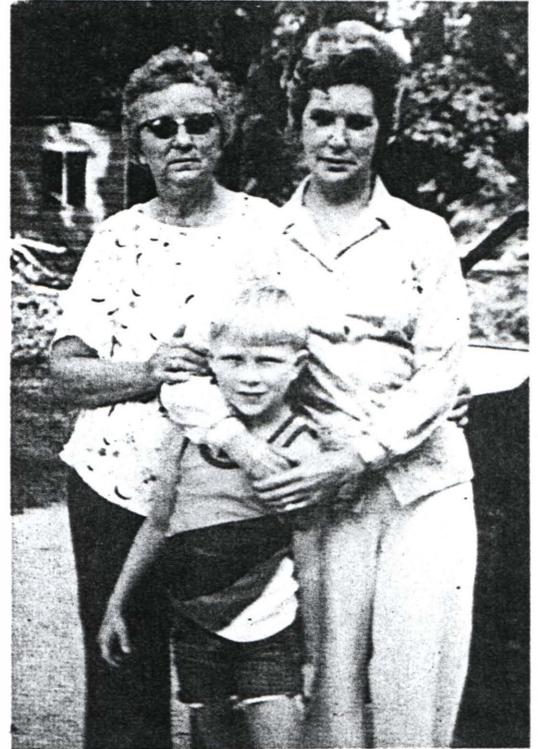
Doctors are baffled by Betty's symptoms, and are convinced they are not connected with her earlier heart surgery. They have speculated that the symptoms exhibited by all three victims could have been caused by exposure to some type of electromagnetic radiation (see box).

Betty, Vickie and Colby not only suffered physical injuries from their encounter with the UFO; they also exhibit strong emotional disturbances as a result of their experience. Whenever they recount the events of that evening, or return to the place where they saw the object, they become very upset. Colby had terrifying nightmares for several weeks after the encounter, and during a re-enactment of the event set up by investigators he developed a high temperature and fever. 'He was so terrified,' said Vickie, 'I thought he would die of fright.'

Neither woman has fully recovered from the experience, nor been able to return to work. The consequent loss of income has been devastating for them. Even if they were not prevented from working by their poor eyesight and general debilitation, it would be impossible for them to work in the food service industry because of their continuing skin eruptions. Doctors are unable to predict when their condition will improve.

Betty, Vickie and Colby were not the only people to report seeing a UFO in the Huffman area on the evening of 29 December 1980.

Betty Cash, Vickie Landrum and her young grandson Colby Landrum a year and a half after they saw the UFO that changed their lives



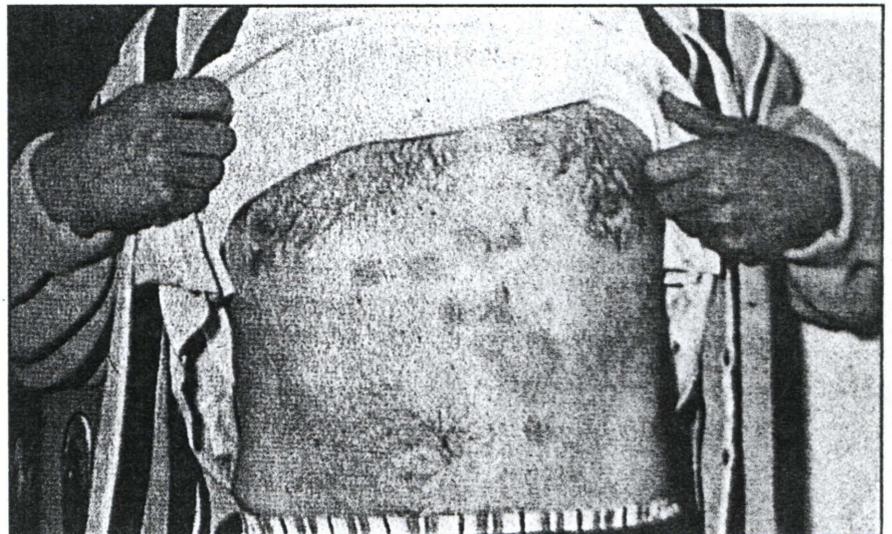
Several residents of the small east Texas towns of Eastgate, Dayton and Liberty (all lying on an east-west line running from Humble, Texas, to the Louisiana border) reported seeing UFOs within two hours of the Huffman incident (see page 2121). The countryside in this part of Texas is sparsely

Early one morning in December 1967, Maryellen Kelley was outside her home in Mohomet, Illinois, USA, when she saw a large orange UFO. The object was about 40 yards (36 metres) away and flying about 50 to 65 feet (15 to 20 metres) above the ground. As soon as she saw the object, Mrs Kelley felt an electric shock go through her body. She developed a severe headache (which refused to respond to treatment), her face reddened, her hands and legs were burned, her eyes became bloodshot and her vision was affected. She also developed earache in her left ear, nosebleeds, pains in the chest and excessive thirst. Although her exposure was of short duration, her injuries endured for a long time. The incident was described in *Fate* magazine in May 1969.

In Finland in November 1976, 19-year-old Eero Lammi was knocked to the ground by a luminous ray from a UFO and suffered burns to the chest. His injuries were similar to those of a 20-year-old man from Tyler, Texas, who was hit in the chest by a luminous ray from a UFO in January 1979. His chest was marked by a large diamond-shaped burn for many months (right).

Burnt and bewildered

In August 1972, *Data Net Report* described how Osvaldo d'Annunzio (19 years old) was paralysed by a low-flying UFO, so that he was unable to run away. His face was severely burned, and he suffered afterwards from violent headaches. He commented: 'The cows in the surrounding meadows changed colour and did not resume their true colour until after the UFO's departure.'



populated and dotted with forest and marshlands.

On the day before the Huffman event a number of residents of Ohio county, Kentucky, reported seeing strange objects in the sky. Two young observers were six-year-old twins Jason and Jesse Williams, who said they saw four silver 'triangle things' flying at low altitude; two of the things flew on together, while the other two flew off in different directions.

Also on 28 December 1980 deputy sheriff Frank Chinn of Echols, Kentucky, told a local newspaper he saw 'an upside-down diamond' with flashing lights around the middle. His description of its shape, brightness and low speed corresponded with the description of the object seen at the Huffman incident. This was one of six UFOs sighted at about 5.30 p.m. that day.

A young Houstonian, Jan Moffett, believed she saw the same object seen by Betty and the others near Huffman. She was en route to North Dakota when she saw a big bright light coming down from the sky north of Houston. Unfortunately she lost sight of the object when it neared the ground, because it was obscured by the trees covering the area. Others also saw the bright light. A man and his 12-year-old son, who were travelling eastwards in the vicinity of New Caney, Texas, said they saw the object only a short distance away, flying about 150 feet (45 metres) above the road. When they accelerated to get closer to it, the object turned

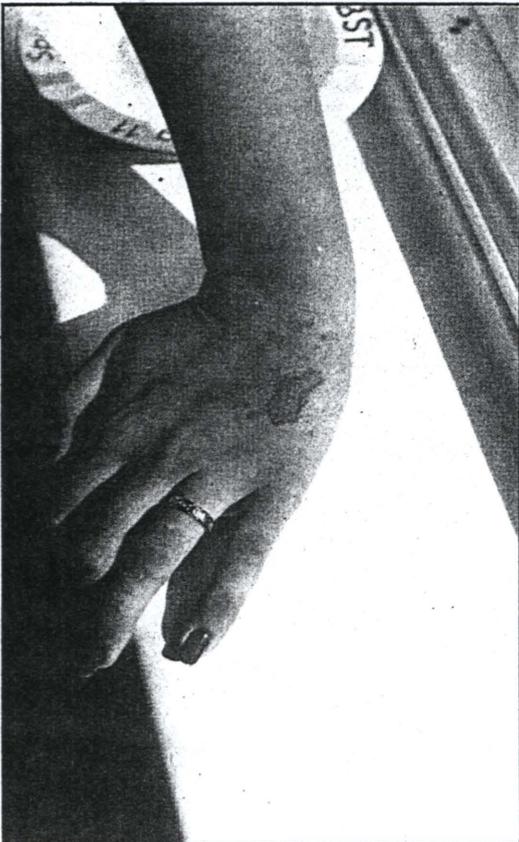
away from the road and headed north. According to these two observers, the UFO was bright, rectangular and flew slowly. It was larger than an aeroplane.

Betty, Vickie and Colby originally agreed not to tell other people about what they had seen, for fear they would be thought crazy. 'It was just too weird to mention,' said Vickie, 'but we didn't know then we had been hurt.' They eventually broke their pact of secrecy to tell the doctors who were treating them what had caused their injuries.

Vickie has been concerned to establish what really happened that fateful evening, primarily to ensure that Colby will receive the correct treatment and be able to grow up healthy. She is not concerned about, or interested in, other UFO sightings at the time. Betty shows rather more interest in the other sightings, but her continuing illness prevents her grasping the full significance of these events.

There seems to be no doubt that on the evening of 29 December 1980 the three of them encountered a brightly lit flying object and a large number of helicopters, and that as a result of this encounter all three have sustained lasting physical and emotional damage. In the past they used to make fun of people who claimed to have seen UFOs. They are still sceptical, but they no longer find it a joking matter.

UFO or US secret weapon? Which was it the victims saw? See page 2198



Left: in England a Plymouth girl was burned on the hand by the light from a UFO on 10 September 1981. This picture was taken two days later

In Canada, Steve Michalak was out in the countryside one weekend in May 1967 when he encountered a cigar-shaped object emitting a brilliant, purple light, near Falcon Lake about 75 miles (120 kilometres) east of Winnipeg. He received burns on his face and chest (below) and subsequently experienced nausea, vomiting, weight loss, weakness, diarrhoea, dizziness and blackouts. Mr Michalak eventually made a full recovery from the effects of the encounter, as did most of the other victims.



Five easy pieces

Hoax, hallucination or secret military operation? To establish exactly what happened at the Huffman UFO sighting in Texas, investigators produced five possible scenarios. JOHN SCHUESSLER concludes his report

AS A RESULT of their encounter with a bizarre object on 29 December 1980 Betty Cash, Vickie Landrum and her young grandson Colby suffered serious injuries. Despite continuing investigations, a satisfactory explanation for the events of that evening had still not been found by mid 1982. Members of the Houston-based Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team (VISIT) called in to examine the case at first approached it with extreme caution. However preliminary investigations provided basic information of a kind that suggested the case merited serious attention.

Drawing on this initial basic information the VISIT members created a series of 'scenarios' of possible interpretations of the events of that night; these have formed the basis for extensive enquiries.

Scenario 1 In this scenario Betty, Vickie and Colby had set out to have an enjoyable evening at a bingo game. Disappointed to find all the bingo clubs closed, they were feeling let down as they drove home after a meal at a New Caney restaurant. The dark, lonely road also made them feel jittery, and

When Betty, Vickie and Colby encountered the UFO they counted up to 23 helicopters accompanying it. Some were CH-47s, the large double rotor type that so frightened Colby, others were smaller, faster single rotor craft similar to the ones shown here

they began making jokes about the lights of the distant aeroplanes they could see in the sky. One thing led to another, and soon they were saying that the lights could be UFOs. Confirmed scoffers, they decided to invent a UFO story to match those they had read in the newspapers. To make it seem more 'official', they added the helicopters; they then rushed home to tell their friends.

Scenario 1 was the starting point for the whole investigation. Until VISIT could be certain that this scenario was false there was no reason to proceed. And analysis soon showed that it did not stand up.

In the first place, all three victims had sustained serious physical injuries that had been verified by doctors. Furthermore a number of independent witnesses had also reported seeing the UFO and helicopters that evening. Interviews with friends and colleagues of the three victims failed to produce any indication that the story might be invented, or any suggestion that the three were prone to this kind of hoax.

In fact the three had made no attempt to tell their friends about the incident, fearing they would not be believed; nor had they approached the press. When the story leaked out and newsmen asked for an interview, this was granted free of charge. All three cooperated freely with VISIT even when this proved personally embarrassing.

Scenario 2 The three were driving home when they met a UFO blocking the road, making it impossible for them to proceed. This was not a chance encounter but a





planned abduction, which may have lasted for as long as 20 minutes. While they were in the UFO the three victims had the idea implanted in their minds that government helicopters would fill the sky after the event, making them think they were involved in some kind of military exercise. In this scenario the UFO and the injuries were real, but not the helicopters.

Parts of this scenario stand up under scrutiny while others do not. Independent UFO sightings in and around the Huffman area, across Texas and in adjoining states during the same period suggest that the UFO was indeed a physical craft. The victims were certainly injured, possibly by the craft.

But no evidence could be found that an abduction had taken place. A few months after the incident Vickie agreed to undergo regressive hypnosis under the guidance of Dr R. Leo Sprinkle of Wyoming University. An authority on abduction cases, Dr Sprinkle said he found no indications that Vickie had been abducted. Betty did not undergo hypnosis because her doctors feared it might put too great a strain upon her heart.

VISIT decided that there had been no abduction. Since other witnesses had also testified to seeing the helicopters, it was concluded that the only part of scenario 2 that was true was the part about the UFO and the injuries.

Scenario 3 In this scenario the huge UFO was carrying smaller UFOs and dispensing them near the city of Houston. Betty, Vickie and Colby happened along just in time to interrupt the operation and were accidentally injured. Rather than risk having the three observers talk about what they had seen, the UFO operators made them (by holographic means, mind control or hypnosis) see the smaller UFOs as helicopters. The UFO operators were probably unaware that the victims

Vickie undergoing regressive hypnosis under the guidance of Dr R. Leo Sprinkle, in an attempt to discover whether she had been abducted by UFO operators. Since no evidence of abduction was found, VISIT concluded that the idea of the helicopters had not been 'implanted' in the victims' minds

had been injured, and hoped they would accept the sight of helicopters as unremarkable, and say no more about them. (This scenario was suggested by an investigator for the Aerial Phenomena Research Organisation of Tucson, Arizona.)

Since the late 1960s there have been a number of cases in which it was not clear whether UFOs or helicopters were involved. At the Huffman event it appears that a UFO and helicopters were interacting in some way. The victims saw the helicopters at Huffman while the UFO was nearby and also after it had moved several miles away; other witnesses saw the helicopters without the UFO, or the UFO without the helicopters. As a result of all these sightings VISIT concluded that the helicopters were not camouflaged UFOs.

Scenario 4 Betty, Vickie and Colby encountered a UFO in trouble: it was operating an emergency system (the cone of fire) to overcome the problem and get it on its way again. Two hours earlier the same craft had been seen over Dayton and Liberty flying like a spaceship in trouble: it had been tracked on radar until it dipped too low to be seen, when a military team was sent to investigate. The team had CH-47 heavy lift helicopters to carry troops to cordon off a crash scene, and equipment to neutralise any problem; the smaller helicopters were gunships for protection. When the UFO regained control and made for the coast, the lead helicopters stayed close to it to collect data. Other helicopters held back, in case the UFO should try to land, or should crash.

Research for this scenario produced a number of other UFO sightings involving triangular or diamond-shaped objects, but only a few of these belched flames from the underside for a prolonged period. This seemed to support the idea that the Huffman

One day in April 1981 a CH-47 helicopter flew into Dayton, Colby Landrum's home town. As the little boy watched the aircraft fly overhead, he became very upset and agitated, because it was the same type of helicopter he had seen near Huffman the previous December. To allay his fears his grandmother Vickie decided to take him to the place where the helicopter had landed, in the hope that it would seem less frightening on the ground.

When they reached the landing zone they found a lot of other people already there, and had to wait some time before they were allowed to go inside the helicopter and talk to the pilot. Vickie and another visitor both claim that the pilot

Adding insult to injury

said he had been in the area before for the purpose of checking on a UFO reported in trouble near Huffman. When Vickie told the pilot how happy she was to meet him, because she was one of the people burned by the UFO, he refused to talk to them any further and hustled them out of the aircraft.

VISIT later located the pilot and questioned him. He admitted to knowing about Vickie's and Betty's encounter with the UFO, but maintained that he had not been in the area in December, and had had nothing to do with any UFO. Unless another pilot decides to speak up, it seems that the source of the helicopters reported at Huffman will remain shrouded in mystery.

UFO was in trouble. Moreover, people close to a UFO seldom suffer the dire injuries experienced in the Huffman incident, and this suggests that the injuries were caused by a system that was not operating properly.

One possible explanation for the helicopters is that a military team was co-operating with the UFO. If that was the case, it seems possible that similar incidents had occurred in the past, and that this was a fairly routine operation. It might also suggest that a NATO-like pact exists between the US government and the UFO operators, under which a craft in trouble might issue an emergency call for help. However, it has to be said that the US government refuses to acknowledge that UFOs exist, nor is there any evidence that such a mutual aid pact exists.

Scenario 5 In this scenario the whole affair was a government classified operation and was mistaken by the witnesses for a UFO encounter. The helicopters could have been transported to the Houston area from any base in the USA or central America, and could have been taking part in anything from an annual training exercise to some special operations simulation. The 'UFO' might have been a power plant, a weapons system or an electronic countermeasures system, and it might have been slung from a helicopter or flown by remote control. The injuries could have been caused by a powerful pulsed microwave system, or by exposure to some fuel, defoliant or other unidentified liquid.

As far as this scenario is concerned, the US government categorically refuses to acknowledge ownership of the helicopters seen over Huffman on 29 December 1980. Nor were there any commercial operations involving helicopters of the heavy lift type along the Gulf coast at that time. Since six witnesses have positively identified the helicopters, and since no one will accept responsibility for them, it must be assumed that this was a secret operation and that the welfare of the victims was of secondary importance. Vickie Landrum is quite certain that scenario 5 is the correct one. The UFO was not, she says, 'from outer space with little green men, that's for sure. If the government doesn't know about it, they better find out.'

VISIT has taken steps to make things easier for future victims of UFO encounters. When Betty and Vickie first sought help, they could find no one willing to take an interest in their case. VISIT has now produced a UFO Alert Card, which is distributed to the media and police within a 150-mile (240-kilometre) radius of Houston. Even when the women did find medical help, there was no information available to their doctors about injuries sustained in earlier UFO encounters. VISIT is now researching such injuries and hopes to produce a check-list for use by doctors and UFO investigators in future incidents.

In their initial attempts to get help after their alarming and damaging experience, Betty and Vickie could find no one willing to take an interest in their case. To make things easier for future victims, VISIT produced this UFO Alert Card, which is distributed to the media and police within a 150-mile (240-kilometre) radius of Houston

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IF NO RESPONSE CALL: (713) 488-2884

Or Write to:

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Friendswood, Texas 77546

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VISIT

Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team

PENTAGON INVESTIGATES CASH-LANDRUM CASE

By John F. Schuessler

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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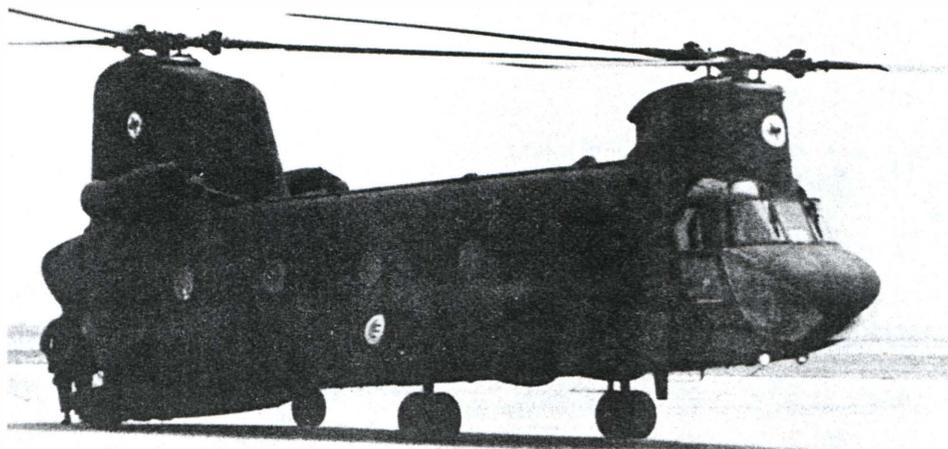
Pentagon, Continued

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

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

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

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



Boeing CH-47 Chinook Helicopter

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

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

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

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

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

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

Pentagon, Continued

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

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

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

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

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

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

I said well they must be on maneuvers again, National Guard or something, out at Fort Polk or the Coast Guard doing something and I looked a little bit closer and you could see some lower lights back off in the distance quite a ways back. I'd say about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile — real good visibility that night and uh, I just registered off and we went on home. And it wasn't about oh, maybe three-four weeks uh three-four days maybe a little bit longer when I heard over the news of what happened and I told Marie I said, gee whiz I even told the men around the office there. We setting around talking one day I said, "What in the devil's all the helicopters around for?" I said "They have an airplane crash?" They said, "no, not that I heard."

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

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

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

On 26 May 1982 I called Carl Mangogna as a followup to the Montgomery County Sheriff Dept. I tracked him down through his father, also a Carl Mangogna. He is now Chief of Security for a Houston corporation. He had no memory of the events on 29 December 1980. He suggested that I call Capt. Defore of the HPD.

On 26 May 1982, Chief Warrant Officer Gustafson of the Army Medivac unit called. He had done some checking at our request with other members of the unit at Hooks and suggested the following possibilities:

(a) There was a Quick React Force operating in Louisiana and Texas during the last year and a half. The last they heard of it was about 6 months earlier, operating near Morgan City, Louisiana. He said they practiced "Iran type" raids, operating from a small carrier in the Gulf of Mexico. Other times they haul in 5,000-gallon fuel bladders for refueling. Their operation is secret and not announced.

(b) The USMC in New Orleans operates CH-46 helicopters. He doesn't know of any operation in the Houston Area but it is always a possibility. (VISIT check on the USMC unit in March 1981. No activity.)

(c) Ken Defore of the Houston Police Department lives in Dayton, Tex. He will visit L.L. Walker and double check him on his claim of seeing CH-47s on 29 Dec 1980.

On 27 May Chief Gustafson called with an update report. His followup with Ken Defore of the Houston Police Department was positive. Capt. Defore said he has no doubt that Dayton police officer L.L. Walker saw CH-47s. He too felt they were probably part of a Quick React Force. He said Walker saw 12 helicopters. Four Groups of three each in "V" formation. The lead aircraft of each "V" was shining a spotlight on the ground as if searching for something. Another element flew $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles behind in a three-abreast formation. Altitude was around 500 feet. They altered course and headed for the Gulf of

(continued on next page)

MUFON UFO JOURNAL

OCTOBER 1982

Pentagon, Continued

Mexico. They could have refueled from 5,000-gallon fuel bladders in the area or from a flattop in the Gulf. Gustafson said "We may have uncovered a bucket of worms."

Col. Sarran called on 1 June 1982. He had no luck in locating a unit responsible for the helicopters on 29 Dec 1980. Only Fort Bragg, N.C., Fort Devens, Mass., Panama, and Europe have Quick React units. They weren't involved. Five CH-47s flew over Dayton on 22 May at 11 a.m. I asked him if it would help to check and see where they were from, thus providing a clue to at least the range for operations on 29 Dec. He said it wouldn't help. Lots of units could overfly the area. Fort Hood participates in the yearly Reforger exercise and flies from Fort Hood to Port Arthur as part of the exercise. That would take them near Dayton. Col. Sarran is due to answer the original inquiry and talk to John Nyter, Deputy Head of Congressional Liaison. He said he would get back to me on the Quick React thing. He expects to report

"negative findings."

Col. Sarran called on 25 June 1982 as a last follow-up. We talked about the *APRO Bulletin* claim of knowing it was a government device and having evidence that would help in the case. I suggested he call Coral Lorenzen, the author of the article, since I had no idea what she was talking about. As a wrapup he told me he had contacted the lawyers at Bergstrom Air Force Base; Vickie and Betty had gone there to give testimony at the suggestion of Senators Bentsen and Towers. Vickie told Col. Sarran he should get a copy of the tape made at Bergstrom. He had gotten that tape. It revealed nothing new. He said, "obviously something happened to the ladies." However, he could find no group responsible for the helicopters. An operation of that magnitude would have been "big time." Fueling would have been a problem. He just cannot believe it wouldn't have been exposed. The Special Operations Branch, Delta Project (Iran raid) and skyjack and terrorist fighting groups were checked and all responded with a "negative."□

THE NEW YORK TIMES
MAY 19 1967

UFO'S

AND OTHER COSMIC PHENOMENA



Their lives depend on end to UFO secrecy

These three people still suffer symptoms similar to victims of an atomic attack ever since their close encounter with a UFO more than two years ago. Their condition worsens every day. Government authorities have data which they won't release, about the UFO, that may help cure them... See story on page 3.



REPORTS

continued from page 2

that the group was so cold-hearted, when he had gone to such lengths to try and locate his son. Raising the plane from the watery grave could provide some answers, but it may cause some new ones. (SUN, Melbourne, Australia, Jan. 11, 1983).

Some researchers believe cattle mutilations are connected with UFO sightings, while others reject the suggestion. Denver television producer Linda Moulton Howe is one of the believers. She relates the story that Texan Judy Doraty was abducted by an alien craft just a few miles from NASA's Johnson Space Center. During the event she watched two beings cut into an animal — a classic mutilation. Apparently, the aliens have no emotions and are "just doing their job."

Ray Boeche, an investigator for the Mutual UFO Network, said mutilations have been reported in 37 countries. Curiously, mutilation cases in the United States also contain reports of mystery helicopters in the air near the mutilation site. His report ties in with the mystery helicopters seen during some of the recent UFO incidents as well. (JOURNAL, Lincoln, NE, Nov. 15, 1982).

During December a mutilated heifer was found near Norfolk, Nebraska. The 750 pound animal was missing the ears and the right front leg. Flesh was cleanly cut from the face. Little blood was found and no evidence that the animal was shot could be found. The carcass was untouched by scavengers, an unusual event in itself. (DAILY NEWS, Norfolk, NE., Dec. 15, 1982).

A nine-year-old cow was found mutilated near Cheyenne, WY in December. The rancher owner said the case was classic, with one eyeball gone, half an udder, rectum, and vagina cleanly removed from the body with expert precision. Very little blood was found. Predators avoided the carcass. (EAGLE, Cheyenne, WY., Dec. 3, 1982).

COVER-UP

continued from page 3

copters now than of this big, glowing thing. When it first happened — he was 7 then — we took him aside and we had him make little drawings of the 'copters. We talked to him alone without any of his relatives so no one could accuse us of slanting things. He's a rugged, active, intelligent little guy, he gets very good grades in school and the teachers like him. But he's terrified of 'copters. Once, shortly after it happened, I had his grandmother bring him down to the space center where I work.

"Then the big red and white coast guard helicopter came from the Gulf direction right over the space center. When he heard it and saw it he ducked and ran for the building. It was quite an automatic reaction. He completely panicked."

Schuessler, who's worked in the space craft field since 1962 and has been on every major space program in this country, feels this case doesn't fit the mold. "We're still looking for clues. It takes a lot of detective work. For instance,

some of the pilots in these helicopters must have gotten hurt the same way these people were. I can't see how they could have been protected unless they wore special suits. Of course they'd be in military hospitals. We asked around the hospitals but got nowhere. If they died their families might talk.

"I really think that whatever it was, it was out of control. If it was from Alpha Centauri or some Air force base, whatever, I haven't seen anything that looks like it. It fits the mold of what people think of as UFOs but UFOs don't put out radiation. The only radiation comes from countermeasures here and they're not generally deep or intensified enough to hurt people. If they were carrying something — weapons or a high energy source platform that could explain it (red and orange flames) but I can't find anything in any of the technical archives that looks this way."

Schuessler, who's deputy director of the Mutual UFO Network, in Seguin, Texas, insists it is a UFO in any classic sense of the word.

Victims suffer as mystery deepens

In the meantime, the two women and the little boy have not gotten better. They have sores and big welts which comes and goes as if something happened to their immune system and Colby has developed knots the size of thumbs in his knee joints. They've run out of money for treatment and they can't work to make money. Betty has moved to Alabama to live with her mother. Vicky feels she looks too terrible to reopen her restaurant or grocery store and moreover, can't see enough to hold a job. Her diagnosis reads, "Radiation damage. Type and dosage unknown. Prognosis: Unknown at this time."

New York lawyer Peter Gersten, an authority on Freedom of Information Act requests regarding UFOs, hopes his administrative claim filed in December 1982 (see box) will open government files and produce the needed information. The Air Force has five months to respond and if he doesn't get any action by then he will file suit in U.S. District Court in Texas.

So far the government has denied any knowledge of the helicopters at the scene and even extensive investigation led by Schuessler could not move any branch of the military to admit to the incident.

Nevertheless there have been other witnesses. Things like this can't just happen and vanish into thin air. With so many people and several witnesses involved and the highly explosive radiation issue in the story, sooner or later someone's got to talk.

Gersten confidently predicts that this year or the next, the government will make some major disclosures regarding UFOs. And that's when the story will break wide open. Let's hope it won't be too late for Betty Cash, Vickie Lendrum and little Colby.

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WOMAN

continued from page 4

once and for what purpose?

This is why it is imperative that we overcome the mental block of UFO witnesses and show they are not alone in their encounters. It is of prime concern to ufology to come forward with their experiences no matter how insignificant they may feel

their encounter is. With this thought in mind, those wishing to inform us of their UFO encounter, or to aid UFO research by either subscribing to our bi-monthly literature or enrolling as an active member, may write us at:

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Victims cite UFO in protest

\$15 million sought from government

By WAYNE SAVAGE

Staff Writer

Two women who claim to have suffered radiation burns in an unexplained UFO incident almost three years ago near Dayton, Texas, are seeking \$15 million from the government to compensate them for their medical treatment, pain and suffering.

The claim, which the Air Force rejected in May, also seeks \$5 million for the 9-year-old grandson of one of the women.

Betty Cash, one of the women who reported the December 1980 UFO sighting, said she developed cancer after the incident and underwent surgery in March to remove her right breast. The three victims complain of a variety of other ailments, including eye and skin disorders and an inability to resist infections.

Ms. Cash and the other woman, Vickie Landrum, said they blame the government for the incident because they saw numerous military-type helicopters along with the mysterious UFO. Mrs. Landrum counted 22 of the double-rotor helicopters, and her two companions each counted 23.

Mrs. Landrum's grandson, Colby, drew a picture of an aircraft that resembled a military helicopter like a CH-46 or CH-47, said John Schuessler, a UFO investigator in Houston.

But the Air Force, after an investigation by its inspector general's office, concluded the U.S. military wasn't involved.

The attendant facts fail to establish that the unidentified flying object or helicopters were

owned or operated by the U.S. government or any agency or instrumentality thereof," the Air Force said in a letter denying the claim.

The denial came in a May 23 letter from Col. R.R. Semeta, chief of the claims and tort litigation staff of the Air Force judge advocate general's office, said Peter Gersten, a Tarrytown, N.Y., lawyer who filed the claim.

Semeta could not be reached for comment last week, and a spokesman for his office referred questions to Air Force public-affairs officials.

Gersten said he appealed the denial on July 20. "I would expect if they deny the appeal, we would be in court by the end of the year," he said.

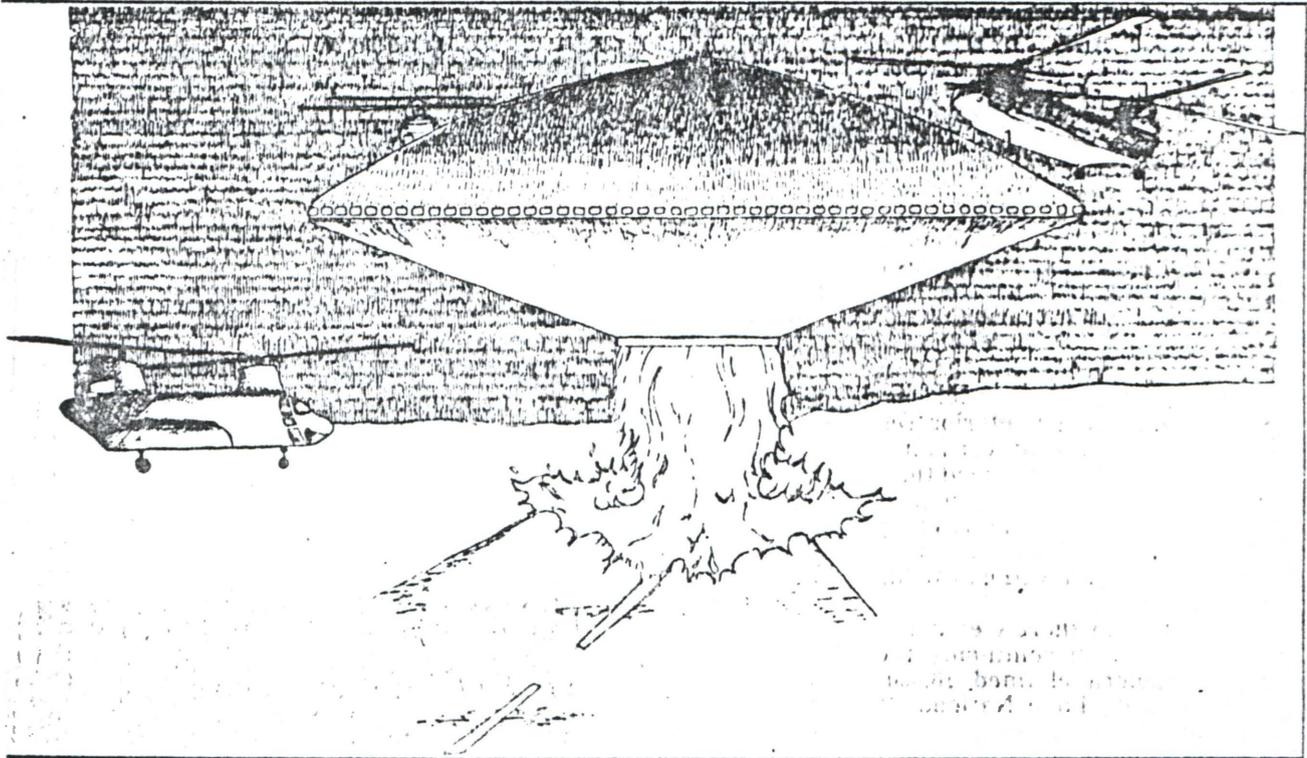
By then, it will be three years since the night the women and Mrs. Landrum's grandson encountered the UFO.

As described by Mrs. Landrum in a 1981 interview, they were driving toward Dayton on the night of Dec. 29, 1980, when they saw a bright light shining through the treetops ahead.

As their car rounded a bend on Farm Road 1485 about 15 miles northwest of Dayton, the UFO suddenly appeared before them. Diamond-shaped and "tall as a water tower," it floated over the road just above the treetops, blindingly bright, Mrs. Landrum said.

She said red-orange flames spewed from the bottom and intermittently burst into greater intensity with a rushing sound like a flame-thrower as the object moved higher.

From 133 feet away, the heat was excruciating. "We felt like we were burning up," Mrs. Land-



rum said.

She estimated that she and her companions were exposed for at least 10 minutes before it drifted off over the trees.

When the object finally sailed off, they saw the helicopters.

"They were up over it and following it. It was like they were taking it somewhere or it was in trouble and they were helping it," Mrs. Landrum said in the earlier interview.

Lt. Col. George Sarran said he conducted a thorough investigation of the incident for the Air Force and concluded no U.S. military helicopters were involved.

During his inquiry, Sarran said, he contacted Fort Polk, La., and every military installation in Texas, including the Corpus Christi Army Depot, that might have deployed a large number of

See UFO, page 3E

double-rotor helicopters on the night of the UFO incident.

The Corpus Christi depot overhauls CH-47 engines and transmissions. Overhauls of most other CH-47 components, including their steel bodies, are performed at the New Cumberland, Pa., Army Depot.

Sarran said flight records were checked for the night of the incident, and the investigation covered not only the active Army, but also the National Guard and reserve forces.

He said a check with the Federal Aviation Administration turned up nothing, even though the incident occurred only 25 miles from the main flight path to Houston Intercontinental Airport.

Sarran said he didn't consider probing classified information as part of his investigation. And in a Caller-Times interview, he dismissed the possibility that the incident was part of a top-secret project.

"Everybody who might have been remotely involved in this thing I called and talked to," Sarran said.

"We don't do research and development 35 miles northeast of Houston, Texas," or during the Christmas holidays, he said. Such research would be conducted at military facilities such as Fort Hood, near Killeen, Sarran said.

A report released last year by the U.S. House Committee on Appropriations said a classified project at the New Cumberland Army Depot during fiscal year 1981 — which began in October 1980 — resulted in approximately \$11.4 million in labor costs.

Army spokesmen said the project still is classified, and Sarran said he was unaware of it.

So what happened?

"I don't know . . . We gave it what I felt was our best shot," Sarran said. "I wasn't in the business of saying this thing was a hoax or not a hoax. That was not my call."

Schuessler, who works for a NASA contractor on the space shuttle program, has his own theories.

"I think the Army knows, quite frankly," he said.

He speculated that the incident was either a UFO in trouble or a "military project . . . that went astray, and the helicopters were there to clean up the mess."

As they await the outcome of their claim, the three witnesses tend to their injuries.

Ms. Cash, who now lives in Birmingham, Ala., said doctors can't treat her cancer with radiation because they diagnosed her as already suffering from radiation dermatitis, a disorder that blisters the skin.

"They say my skin is just tissue-paper thin," she said.

She also complained of an internal burning sensation and said she suffers chronic bronchitis because her resistance to infection is diminished.

Mrs. Landrum said she suffers sores on her arms and legs.

"I can't get out during the day because the sun brings out those blisters," she said.

In addition, she can't resist colds and suffers almost constant pain in her legs, she said.

Both Mrs. Landrum and her grandson have vision problems.

"It's where I can't hardly see out of my glasses," she said.

She said Colby's eyes become red if he doesn't

wear his glasses, and he suffers from dizziness.

"We are going to push it," Mrs. Landrum said of their claim against the government, "because we need the doctoring, and we need some of these bills paid."

Ms. Cash sees another purpose in the claim.

"I hope to accomplish one thing: that the government is going to admit to the American people what they are doing to us every day of the year and why they can't take responsibility for their mistake," she said.

Space Engineer Links Sickness To UFO Sightings

By Dennis Hannon
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

If you chance upon a flying saucer — or any other form of airborne dinnerware — don't stand around rubbernecking like someone from a Steven Spielberg movie. Those things can be dangerous.

That's the advice of John F. Schuessler, a space industry engineer who has been studying such encounters for 18 years.

He told a meeting of the UFO Study Group of Greater St. Louis on Sunday that many persons who reported experiences with UFOs had exhibited many of the symptoms of acute radiation poisoning.

Schuessler is writing a book about a UFO experience near Dayton, Texas. In December 1980, Betty Cash, 54; Vickie Landrum, 59, and Mrs. Landrum's 9-year-old grandson, Colby, were driving through the woods, taking a detour home after abandoning their search for a Bingo game.

Colby noticed a flash from an object descending from the sky to about treetop level. Ms. Cash skidded the car to a halt, about 135 feet from the object.

The odd thing was that the flying object — an elongated, diamond shaped thing — was being pursued by about 20 large, double-rotor helicopters similar to those used by the U.S. armed forces.

Although the car became almost unbearably hot, Ms. Cash and the Landrums managed to drive home. Later, all three developed severe nausea, then sunburns. In about two weeks, Schuessler said, Ms. Cash and Mrs. Landrum began to lose their hair, and skin fell from their faces in clumps.

Both women since have suffered various degenerative ailments, and Ms. Cash eventually developed cancer, he said.

Schuessler accompanied his talk with slides that showed Ms. Cash and Mrs. Landrum in their pre-encounter days and in the deteriorated state in which they have more recently appeared.

The missing element in what Schuessler calls the "Cash-Landrum Case" is hard proof: physical evidence, records, multiple witnesses.

Schuessler said he had found three witnesses to helicopter flights in the vicinity of the woods that night and one man who had seen a diamond-shaped flying object. The armed services at first gave an informal confirmation but now deny that a large number of helicopters were operating in east Texas that night, Schuessler said.

Ms. Cash and Mrs. Landrum filed \$10 million damage claims against the U.S. Air Force but lost their case because they could not prove their suffering was a result of anything done by earth-based craft, Schuessler said.

Schuessler calls the possibility of extraterrestrial visits a "working hypothesis," rather than a demonstrable fact. But he scorns the habit of dismissing such reports as mere lunacy.

"That is answering a mystery with a mystery," he said. "I don't subscribe to that. I'd rather say I don't know."

Schuessler says he hopes to see "a responsible solution to the problem" in his lifetime.

"As long as there is a mystery, why not work on it?" he said.

CONFIDENTIAL COMMO'S

By John Schuessler



BINGO PLAYERS BURNED BY UFO

Two women and a small boy left their home in Dayton, Texas on December 29, 1980 intending to play bingo in nearby New Caney. Unfortunately, fate had something else in store for them. Driving along a dark and deserted road they encountered a huge glowing diamond in the sky. The object stopping over the road, belching flames downward, causing the car to heat up.

Betty Cash, the driver left the car and walked a short distance toward the object. She held her arm up in front of her face to shield her from the heat and glare, but this was no help. The exposure left her burned so badly that large blisters swelled up on her head and face. The skin under the ring on her finger was cooked raw. This was only the beginning. Later her hair fell out and her health deteriorated to the point she was unable to ever work again.

Her friend Vickie Landrum and grandson Colby remained outside the car only a short time because Colby was so terrified. This proved to be a good move, because their injuries were not nearly as severe as those reported by Mrs. Cash. After months of headaches, degrading eyesight, loss of appetite, and skin burns, they have nearly recovered.

What was the huge object that turned an evening of fun into a nightmare? They are not sure, but they believe the United States

government knows, because more than twenty large double roto helicopters rushed in to accompany the object away in the direction of the Gulf of Mexico. It is doubtful that the victims were mistaken about the strange object or the helicopters, because the whole incident lasted more than 20 minutes. The object was as close as 150 yards and some of the helicopters came within a few hundred feet of the car. The injuries sustained by the trio have been fully documented and the scars are still visible today.

Some other witnesses have come forward to verify the story, but no government agency will accept responsibility or offer help. The Air Force rejected a claim for damages on the basis that "the attendant facts failed to establish that the unidentified flying object or the helicopters were owned or operated by the U.S. government." The victims have always been strong patriotic Americans and were crushed by the fact that their government seems to have written them off as unimportant.

Mrs. Landrum speculates that some of the helicopter crews may have been harmed in a similar manner and may not know the cause of their injuries. She would like to talk with them and share her experiences. In some small way this could be very helpful. She says "no one should have to suffer like we did and have no one to turn to in such a time of need." She may be contacted through the writer of this column.

You may direct any questions or inquiries to: Mr. John Schuessler, P.O. Box 58485, Houston, Texas 77258.

Sun., Jan. 22, 1984

2A

U.S. Sued For \$20 Million UFO Damage

HOUSTON (UPI) — A boy, 10, his grandmother and another woman are suing the federal government for \$20 million, contending that they suffered radiation and other injuries in a brief encounter with an unidentified flying object.

"I've never believed in UFOs. I was the first one to laugh," said Betty Cash, 54, of Helena, Ala.

But now, she said, "I'm afraid to look up."

Mrs. Cash, Vicki Landrum, 60, and her grandson, Colby, 10, of Dayton, Texas, say in a federal court suit that they encountered the unidentified object the night of Sept. 2, 1983, when riding in a car on a farm-to-market road near Houston.

She described the object as diamond-shaped, about the size of a city water tank standing on legs, very bright and hot. She said it had made a loud beeping noise and whooshed.

Mrs. Cash said she believed that the object had not been a UFO in the classic sense of a strange visitor from

outer space, but some sort of secret government device. She said it had been surrounded by military helicopters at one point.

After the brief encounter, she said, all three of the people in the car developed radiation sickness symptoms — swelling, rashes, nausea, hair and fingernail loss and headaches.

The suit says Mrs. Cash developed breast cancer and Mrs. Landrum has developed severe cataracts that have impaired her vision. The boy "suffered nightmares ... and continues to display extreme anxiety."

Lawyer Peter Gersten of Tarrytown, N.Y., who has handled freedom of information suits by UFO organizations to obtain government documents on UFOs, said the government denied knowledge of the incident.

Gersten filed the suit last week in Houston. He said the plaintiffs want the government to disclose what the

object was to aid doctors in medical treatment. The plaintiffs also want the government to pay their medical costs.

When Mrs. Cash saw the object 60 to 80 feet above the roadway "with flames coming out of the bottom," she said, she stopped the car and she and Mrs. Landrum stepped out to see what the object was.

"But it was so hot ... Vicki screamed for me to get back in the car. Colby was beside himself. I tried to open the car door but it was so hot" it burned her hand, she said.

"It rose up over the trees and headed toward Houston Intercontinental Airport. I started the car and then we drove on a little ways. We heard this awful noise. We stopped again and looked.

"We could still see the object. When we got out of the car again there were helicopters everywhere. And they weren't little helicopters. They had two rotors," Mrs. Cash said.

UFO-viewers sue U.S. for damages

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

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

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

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

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

Object glows in sky

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

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

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

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

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



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

pers were escorting the object or pursuing it.

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

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

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

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

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



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