

UFO' left ashes and crater

By TOM BARRETT
and CHRIS ZDEB

Smoky Lake RCMP officials aren't laughing at a recent report of a UFO sighting in their area.

A confidential report, complete with pictures and ashes from a possible UFO crater, has been shipped to RCMP headquarters in Ottawa.

The excitement began last Saturday morning when Pat Wilson and her husband Jim sighted a strange fire burning in a field on their acreage, as they drove home from their sister's wedding.

"It wasn't like a normal fire," Mrs. Wilson told The Journal. "There was no crackling sound, no smell, and it was a bright orange color."

The Wilsons quickly changed into work clothes and went to examine the strange sight. They weren't prepared for what they found.

"There was no fire at all," says Mrs. Wilson.

"Just mounds of cold ashes and a wierd sulphur smell."

The Wilson's are convinced the fire they sighted was a UFO taking off from their field. And they're not one bit embarrassed to say so.

"What we saw was definitely not anything normal," Mrs. Wilson told The Journal.

"I'm getting tired of people telling us we didn't see what we know we saw.

"Everybody's trying to make us feel like some kind of crazy nuts that came home polluted from a party," she said bitterly.

RCMP officals have taken the Wilsons very seriously.

They questioned the family and investigated the site carefully before filing their report.

"The ground was burned to a depth of six or seven inches," said a Smoky Lake RCMP officer who wished to remain anonymous.

"The ash was grey black with a crater-like surface. It was soft. If you stepped on it, you would sink up to your ankles," he said.

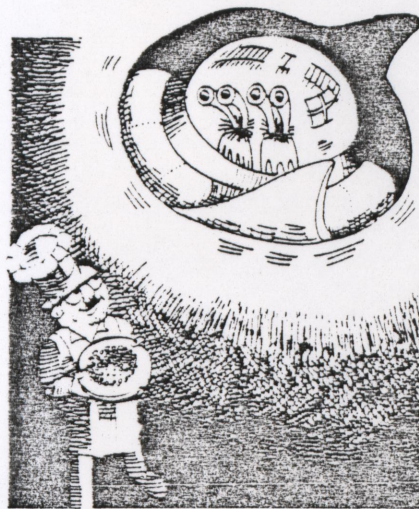
"The area was cigar-shaped, about 30 feet across.

"If you let your imagination get away, you could almost see jet

propulsion marks," he said.

Samples of the ashes have been shipped to Ottawa and to a University of Alberta professor for analysis.

The site has been overrun by curious locals anxious for a look at the alleged UFO launching pad.



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THERE is nothing like being prepared for all eventualities (writes Ivor Smullen). So one feels some empathy with a Nelson man who has been piling his attic high with food (baked beans, jam, dried milk, etc.) against the day when some unnamed disaster overtakes us.

Harold Mattam is also convinced that, when the catastrophe is over, we will all be taken over by people from other planets. Not only has he seen a number of UFOs; he has also, he says, had telepathic communication with creatures from outer space.

The last I heard, he was planning a public meeting to air his theories. So here's an item for his agenda: will those little green men really go a bundle on baked beans and jam? Or should we offer them Mars Bars?