

# Hundreds Witness Dazzling UFOs Over Indian Reservations

By HAROLD LEWIS  
and ERIC FAUCHER

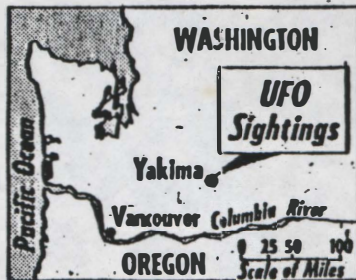
A rash of UFOs has been sighted over two isolated Indian reservations — and folklore experts link the encounters to tribal legends about mysterious visitors from other worlds.

Trained observers, such as the fire lookouts and tribal policemen, have made most of the over 160 sightings of dazzling objects that have swept across Northwest skies in recent years.

"The Indian legends tie in with these incidents," declared Willard Vogel, chief fire control officer on the Yakima Indian Reservation in south Washington, where at least 80 sightings have been logged.

Sightings have ranged from "strange lights in the sky" to reports of objects that have actually landed atop moving cars at night, causing the vehicles' lights to go out and their radios to quit," Vogel said.

And since 1966, some 80 sightings



**WASHINGTON:** The arrow points to Yakima Indian Reservation, scene of many UFO sightings.

Sightings at the Ute Indian Reservation in northeast Utah have been personally investigated by Dr. Frank Salisbury, a plant physiologist at Utah State University in Logan. "There were as many as 500 people who witnessed these sightings," said Dr. Salisbury.

And Yakima Tribal Police Sgt. Harry Smiskin remarked: "The sightings are such a common occurrence that they don't really alarm anybody any longer."

One of the most vivid descriptions came from Smiskin, who

said he and another officer were on patrol one night when they saw a dazzling bright light in the sky, silhouetted against the mountains.

"The object appeared white at first, but as we drove on I could make out red, green and yellow colors. We had a good view for about five minutes. I know it was a UFO, definitely not a helicopter or plane," he said.

And Yakima fire control chief Vogel told of reports of UFOs "being seen to dip into canyons and the canyons lighting up, as if there was a small city in them."

"The following day we would get helicopters to investigate, and the canyons would not appear to be any different from the way they had been before."

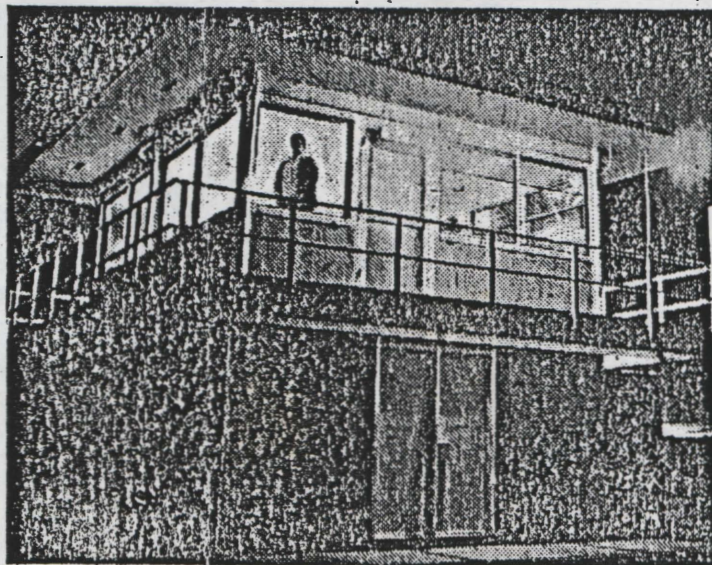
Ute Tribal Police Chief Lloyd Arrowchis asserted he has seen 24 UFOs in the 10 years he has served as a lawman on the reservation. "I don't hallucinate, and I don't fabricate stories," he declared.

About half a dozen times, Arrowchis said, he has spotted a mysterious object glide silently through the nighttime sky, with an orange-yellow light on top and a clear light on the bottom, like a powerful searchlight.

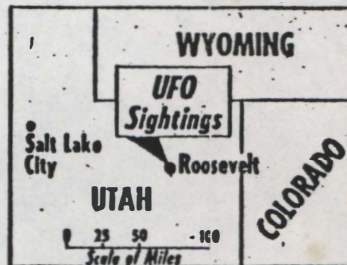
"It appears to be looking for something. When I started to get close to it once, it just faded out," he said.

Tribal legends may account for the rash of bizarre episodes, said Watson Totus, chairman of the Yakima tribal council.

"There are many stories in the legends of super beings. The Indians believe that such people came to this land from other planets, and this could explain the lights in the sky and UFO sightings," he told The ENQUIRER.



**LOOKOUT** in observation station on Yakima Indian Reservation. Most UFO sightings at Yakima and Ute have been made by trained observers in similar observation stations.



**UTAH:** Map shows the site of Ute Indian Reservation where 80 UFO sightings have been reported.

seen UFOs. "They were two balls of light, shifting back and forth, and they could not have been airplanes or helicopters," she remembered.

Larry George, who's a former

lecturer on Indian legends at Washington schools, said he "couldn't count the number of UFO experiences" he had while serving as a fire lookout at the Yakima reservation.

He said most of these experiences involved "bright lights, gold lights and blue lights, red lights and flashing lights," although he once saw several metallic objects that were shaped like teardrops zipping overhead.

George told of another Indian legend about a flying object that dives into and climbs out of a lake on the reservation.

"These Indian legends could be a very real clue to the identity of these objects — whatever they are," he said.

MORMON

Agreeing with this theory, Virginia Beavert Martin, a former lecturer on Indian language at Central Washington State College, Ellensburg, said: "Long ago, Indian prophets predicted just what is happening now."

For example, Martin said, one Indian legend tells of a man with red eyes and miraculous healing powers who came from afar to live with a tribe.

When he was old and dying, the legend goes, the man asked to be taken to a specific location. After he died, a large flying object descended from the sky and flew off with the body.

Martin said she herself has

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