

Mysterious orange lights common sight in Yoncalla

25 Mar '81 Roseburg, OREGON "News Review"

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YONCALLA — Most folks around here are familiar with the stories Grandma Taylor has to tell. Chances are, if you have ever walked into her Rainbow Trading Post on Highway 99 just north of town you will have heard one or two of them.

"Most people around here tell me I'm crazy," Grandma Taylor says. "But if I am, I plan to stay that way, kid."

Grandma Taylor is 74 years old. She said she came to Yoncalla 17 years ago from Sun Valley, Idaho, but is originally from Nevada.

She has owned several other businesses — selling odds and ends — and two auction companies. Soon, Grandma Taylor said, she will be leaving Yoncalla to open another business on the Oregon coast at Newport.

But what sort of stories earn Grandma "Mickey" Taylor her reputation?

"Take the business of the orange lights," she said, "the balls of light those policemen saw."

On March 17 various news sources reported the sighting by several law enforcement officials, crew members of a Coast Guard vessel and a CB operator of a "bright orange ball" hovering over the Columbia River near Portland. The sighting was photographed and the sounds recorded.

One Coast Guard crewman who saw the phenomenon speculated it might have been an amphibious aircraft in-



GRANDMA TAYLOR

involved in a drug run.

"I've seen them around here for the last three years. I saw nine of them right over the valley floor," Grandma Taylor said, pointing out the door toward the east. "That was last fall. At first there was only three. They come in from the coast."

She has seen the lights many times and claims they have been seen by friends and members of her family.

Grandma Taylor describes the lights as being "about 20 times the size of a star" and resembling wheels. "They are the colors of the rainbow. One of them will turn. It will stop and another one will start turning."

"It has to be clear. They come in about an hour before the stars come out."

She said the strange lights will be around for several

hours, one of them leaving the formation at times to move toward the city. She said one once hovered over the train tracks running through the valley and followed the train for several minutes.

An odd element of Grandma Taylor's story is that she claims to have been burned by rays from the lights.

Showing a spot on her hand, she said, "See here. That's where they burned me. You never know, they hit you until the spot comes out."

According to Grandma Taylor, she has been hit by the rays a number of times and has spots over her body. She claims she was even knocked off the porch on one occasion.

"Listen kid, I'm black half way to my knees," Grandma Taylor said, showing the black marks on legs.

"It's got me tattooed.

"What are they, kid? That's what I want to know. I don't believe there is life on other planets except animal life."

Grandma Taylor said anyone is likely to see them if they look for them over Yoncalla on a clear night. She said they are difficult to see without the aid of a telescope or binoculars.

Grandma Taylor has a treasure chest of such stories. If you like to talk and want to visit, Grandma Taylor is generally on tap at the trading post — ready to talk and share some of her experiences.

28 people

25-3-81

UFOs may be 'black holes'

THERE IS evidence that some UFOs are "black holes" — ships consisting of light-resistant anti-matter.

Such a craft may have been spotted by PEOPLE reader David Jarman of Calen, Queensland, who writes: "Three years ago I was a student at Thornborough College, Charters Towers.

"One hot, sleepless night I was watching the drifting clouds outside my bedroom window, when I saw something that made me spring to my feet.

"It was an enormous, circular object, moving slowly through the sky. Although the clouds above it were reflecting the streetlights, this immense disc was pitch-black, emitting no light at all.

"The five seconds this mindblowing thing stayed in view I will never forget."

• Late in 1978, I published, on the front page of "The Australian", a photograph of a UFO very similar to the disc David Jarman describes.

This circular object, also black

and emitting no light, was snapped over Bass Strait at sunset by plumber Roy Manifold. Mr Manifold photographed the disc one mile from the spot pilot Frederick Valentich vanished — and just 20 minutes before Valentich made his final broadcast, reporting that he was being buzzed by a UFO.

The object that destroyed a forest in Tunguska, Siberia, in 1908, is also thought, by some researchers, to have been a spacecraft consisting of "black hole" material.