

## God, Flying Saucers at Work?

# Man Vanishes Without Trace

By CHANCE CONNER  
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When Maurice Dametz disappeared April 29 in the wilderness of Pike National Forest near Deckers, authorities thought they had a good chance of finding evidence that would lead them to the 84-year-old man.

Today, three weeks since Dametz vanished on a rock-hunting expedition, police admit they are stumped. There are no clues in the bizarre case.

In fact, officials say they don't even know where to start looking for Dametz.

"There is no evidence for us to evaluate," said investigator Ace Ratliff of the Douglas County Sheriff's Department.

"If we had something — a piece of clothing, a tool, anything — we'd know which way to turn.

We've covered a 5-square-mile area in the forest, every crevice up there. It was the most detailed search we've conducted in 15 years."

Still, no evidence has been found.

Credit cards that Dametz was carrying have not turned up anywhere, Ratliff said. Daily checks with Denver area hospitals have produced nothing. Even a \$5,000 reward offered by the Dametz family hasn't prompted any information.

Devout Christians, Dametz' family has suggested that he may have been "taken up to heaven by the Lord." Other theories suggest Dametz was kidnapped, or that he simply may be lost in the forest.

"Who knows?" Ratliff said. "Maybe a flying saucer came

down and ... ZAP ... picked him up and took him far, far away.

"This is a bad thing to say, but if we had a body, we'd have a place to start," Ratliff continued. "But there's nothing. Nothing."

Authorities have interviewed Dave McSherry, 51, of Boulder, who was with Dametz when he disappeared. They've also spoken with a number of persons who accompanied Dametz on his frequent rock-hunting excursions.

Dametz, a former teacher and pastor of several Longmont area churches, was with McSherry in a part of the park called Devil's Head. McSherry left Dametz to drop off some equipment at a car parked 300 yards away. When he returned to the area where they had been rock hunting, Dametz had vanished.