

# UFO sighting reported by Eagle Creek resident

By Kate Scrivener

Are we alone in the solar system?

Once again strange lights have been reported in the sky over the Eagle Creek area. Are they meteors, odd attractions of light, normal aircraft — or could they be alien spacecraft from other worlds? Though the term "UFO" is tainted with connotations of craziness on the part of the beholder, it contains the truest description of what these sightings are. They are unidentified flying objects.

Earl Garrick didn't really want to tell the world about what he saw Wednesday night.

(Continued on page 3)

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## UFO reported in area

(Continued from page 1)

"People think you're crazy when you talk about spaceships," said the Eagle Creek resident.

But his wife told a neighbor and the neighbor told the Clackamas County news so Garrick gamely described the bright light that woke the dogs at about 1:30 a.m.

"They were really making a fuss," said Garrick, "and that got me out of bed." Garrick and his wife thought they heard a squeaking, like alien chatter or weird radar blips.

"I got up and went to the bathroom. I could see out the window a huge, bright light hovering over the pump house. It was round. I thought it was the moon at first. Then I realized the moon was above it," said Garrick.

Then the dogs got quiet and the squeaking noise stopped.

"It hung there, right above the pump house, for a long time. Then it took off in a northerly direction towards Sandy," said Garrick. "I'm not saying it was a real UFO—I'm just saying I don't know what it was."

After the light passed through, Garrick went out to call the dogs and they wouldn't come. The biggest one had taken refuge in the doghouse and refused to stir.

Garrick said he has seen other unexplained lights in the sky years ago, when he was still living in Arizona. He thinks he knows what's coming.

"People think you're either crazy or were drunk. You really hate to say anything. But there it was and I saw it. I just don't know what it was," said Garrick. He thinks if more people saw things like this, they'd be a little more charitable. "It's kind of scary, really, because it doesn't fit anything you know about. The thought of not knowing what it is and what it might want is also frustrating. Then you're left with a feeling of wonderment. How did it get here? Where is it going?"

Garrick said a neighbor in the Wildcat Mountain area of Eagle Creek reported seeing a similar moving light about two weeks ago. In 1979 other families living in Eagle Creek and Barton reported seeing UFO's over the Barton flats on Christmas Eve. Then, the sighting was described as red lights which flew at great speeds, making amazing aerial maneuvers in the sky over Barton.

The tales from the first two witnesses brought other stories. One man said he was pursued by flying objects as he rode his motorcycle on Highway 224 through the

Barton flats. He was chased again on another occasion, by a white light that behaved like the object sighted by Garrick this week. It was a huge white light that followed his car, hovered above his barn and shot off in a northerly direction.

On Dec. 30, 1978, more than 40 volunteer firemen from Boring as well as Clackamas County Sheriff's deputies spent over two hours searching for what was believed to be a downed plane. The authorities had been called by an Eagle Creek woman who watched through a large picture window as two huge white lights streaked toward their house. The entire family watched the lights come nearer then gradually fade away. They listened for a crash but heard nothing. Then they saw what looked like fire falling through the sky and smelled an odor akin to burning plastic or insulation. Searches of the area near the house were fruitless.

As Garrick said, it's not easy to see the unusual objects in the sky and talk about them to others. "I know what I saw and I know my state of mind at the time, but that doesn't mean anyone will believe you. You just have to go with your senses," said Garrick.

His sightings come at the tail end of a period of meteor showers, the Geminid showers, which fall in December. This year's meteor activity has been intense, making the news with bright flashes even in the daytime. Garrick said his object was too big to be a meteor. "Anyway, it wasn't falling, it was hovering over my pump house," he said.