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Washington update



Still no proof on those UFOs

By PHIL GAILEY
and WARREN WEAVER Jr.
New York Times

WASHINGTON — Thirty-five years ago Thursday, an era opened. On that fateful day in 1947, a businessman flying his private plane over Mount Rainier, in Washington state, sighted an unconventional formation of what were later described as "flying saucers," the first of many such sightings of unidentified flying objects.

No special observance is planned to commemorate that magic moment, but Fred Whiting of the private, non-profit Fund for UFO Research thought it was a good time for stock-taking. Over the years, he said, 9 out of 10 initially unexplained sightings have turned out to be known natural or man-made objects. The tenth, however, is still unidentified.

"There is considerable evidence to support the theory that some of these unidentified flying objects are extraterrestrial spacecraft, but there isn't any proof of it," Whiting said.

In four years, the fund has raised and spent about \$15,000 on research. "You could call us the National Science Foundation for UFO research, on a small scale," Whiting said. The organization has also sued and obtained the release of 3,000 pages of government documents by the Central Intelligence Agency and the National Security Agency, but so far no proof.