

# Marfa Lights convince pair of geologists

By David Hanners  
Staff Writer of The News

For Pat Kinney and Elwood Wright, the Marfa Lights provided a close encounter of the unforgettable kind.

Kinney and Wood, geologists who spent several months in Marfa in Southwest Texas, say they have no doubt the phenomenon known as the Marfa Lights is real.

But unlike the thousands who during the years have seen the mysterious moving orbs from afar, the two men claim they got within 100 feet of one the lights.

"I'll never forget it, I'll guarantee you that," said Kinney, 53, who works in Lubbock for Fort Worth-based Meeker Oil Co. "Those lights are for real, for sure."

"Oh yes, they're for real," agreed Wright, 59, now a consultant in Nevada.

The men were surveying uranium deposits around the Chinati Mountains near Marfa in early 1969 when they heard townsfolk talking about the lights. "We heard the stories, so we went out to investigate," Wright said. "I was fascinated."

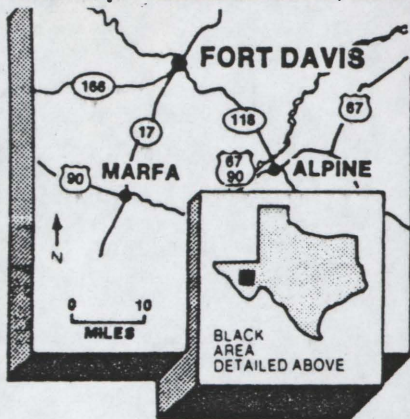
Wright and Kinney made several other trips and kept a journal of their sightings. Although they never found out what the lights were, their attempt remains one of the few serious tries by trained personnel to find out what is behind the phenomenon.

They tried to triangulate the path of the lights in an attempt to see where they originated from, but the lights moved too fast to get a bearing.

But one night they had no trouble seeing where the lights were from.

"As I remember, we were out in the flats, out by the old air base, and we were just sitting in our car with our lights out and the motor running," Wright recalled. "There were about six to eight range horses within 40 or 50 feet of my left side."

"You know how horses are when lightning strikes," Wright said. "Well, it was just like that. The horses just whinnied and took off, and al-



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most instantaneously, two lights — with terrific speed and very low — came right over the horses."

"Boy, I mean they were moving," Kinney said. "We had the impression they were going 150 or 200 mph."

The men said one of the lights stopped in the middle of the road and hovered — about 3 feet off the ground — 100 feet in front of their car.

"Elwood says, 'Put it in gear, Pat! Floorboard it! Run over it!'" Kinney said with a laugh. "I said, 'Seeing how fast that thing could go, we can't run over it.'"

The men watched the light for about 45 seconds. It then brightened and pulled away and flew east toward the abandoned air base.

"We just sat there, and we both felt so stupid," Kinney said. "It had intelligence, definitely. I never felt so stupid in my whole life."

Wright said he also came away with a feeling that he had been in the presence of something with intelligence.

"I really and truly don't have any idea what it was," he said. "It kind of looked like it was playing with us. It was a heck of a lot smarter than we were. It just leaves you looking at one another."

The men say they have no idea what the lights are. But both say they want to return to Marfa to try to find out.

"I'll go back down someday," Wright said. "The country's mineralized and I love the people. I'll go back, if nothing else, just to see old friends."

Does he consider the lights "old friends?"  
"Yes, I do," he said, "even though I feel they made a fool out of me."