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Flying saucer real?

AN ACQUAINTANCE, who definitely does not wish to be identified, says she and two companions watched an unidentified flying object fly low and slowly ahead of their car one rainy evening when they were returning from Seattle. After weaving back and forth for a while, it swerved aside and went out of sight. She tells her story calmly and with no effort to convince her selected listeners that she saw what she saw. The opinion of others does not matter — she knows what she saw and that's that.

According to a Merit Report poll, nearly half the people in the country would accept her story. The poll, with an accuracy of plus or minus 3 percent, found that 49 percent of Americans believe that flying objects from outer space have either "probably" or have "definitely" visited Earth. On the other side, those who believe we have had no, or probably had no visitors from space total 40 percent. That leaves 11 percent with no opinion.

Thus more believe in flying saucers than do not believe. People over 50 are evenly split, 41 percent each way. Believing in flying saucers is more fun than snorting at them, and anyone who doesn't believe probably doesn't believe in tooth fairies either. We belong to the "probably have not been here" group, but we're not anxious for the question to be resolved. Either way, half of us would be disappointed and the other half would be jeering "I told you so." Some things are better left unanswered.