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JEWETT, VAN ARSDOL & BECK **ink**

## A reliable source tells his UFO story



**THIS IS A FLYING SAUCER** story, not from some namby-pamby, but from about as unimpeachable a source as one could find.

This eyewitness account was sent to INK by Jim A., a former county commissioner who lives in western Skamania County. He asked that his last name not be used in full. "I do not wish complete strangers calling me to compare notes with them," he

wrote. "Local people, OK."

Here's how Jim described the incident:

"A few weeks back, while Polly was visiting relations and I was home alone, I turned off the living room lights and took a look out the window to see what sort of a day we would have next morning. Instead of stars, I saw a large yellow light descending to the (Columbia) river.

"It was about the size of a small auto, like a Volkswagen Beetle, and it was descending quite slowly. About 100 feet above the river, it raised a few feet and then descended a few feet more, and did this over and over until touching the water.

"It appeared to be testing the gravity pull to see if it could raise again as it neared the water. Finally, after touching the water, it rose in a zigzag."

Jim called the sheriff's office, and was asked to watch it.

"I went back to the window and watched for a moment as it zigzagged slowly upwards. Then, at high speed, it made a sharp right-angle, zipped east a quarter-mile, back west a half-mile, and then made long zigzags as it lowered toward the river."

Jim went back to the phone to describe what was happening to the deputy. Then he ran back to the window. The UFO was gone.

"I have felt foolish telling this to a few friends and relatives," Jim wrote. "But, I thought maybe it would make an item for you."

**TODAY IS VETERANS DAY** and we wonder how many veterans of World War I, which ended 64 years ago today, can remember their military serial numbers.

"My number was 500195," said Glenn Haagen, 518 N.E. 162nd Ave. "How could I ever forget it?"

Haagen, who was born in Proebstel 84 years ago, enlisted in 1917 and was assigned to the fledgling air corps. He recalls that he had what must have been one of the most unusual jobs in the Army. "We drained the oil out of the airplane engines and cleaned it of impurities," said the former corporal. They did this by mixing the oil with Gold Dust Twins, an early day-laundry soap that your grandmother probably used.

Haagen is probably best remembered here as one of the biggest turkey ranchers in the state. In the last year before he retired, he had 13,000 adult gobblers running around his ranch. Then the turkey business turned sour. "It really cleaned my slate," he said.

He has 22 grandchildren, he said, two of whom were born on his birthday, Sept. 16.

**IT'S NOW OFFICIAL!** The three authors of the INK column have entered the twilight zone.

For proof, just pick up a copy of the December issue of "The Twilight Zone," the nationally circulated magazine of science fiction and fantasy.

Look on Page 16 and you'll see a reprint of the top half of an INK column of a few months back.

The magazine invites its readers to send in clippings from newspapers and magazines in which the phrase "twilight zone" is used. Virginia M. Marshall of Vancouver spotted the INK column with a headline that said "Welcome, Spanner, to the twilight zone." She mailed it in and got The Columbian's column a mention, along with such other publications as The Sporting News and the New York Daily News.

**THE 1983 CALENDAR** put out by Alcoa spotlights the month of January with art by Ken Olson, 17, of Vancouver.

Olson's artwork, submitted through Alcoa's Vancouver plant, won second prize in a worldwide children's safety poster contest conducted by the company.

For a theme emphasizing safety while skiing, Olson painted a dramatic poster showing a skier coming down the slopes.

**TUESDAY WAS THE FIRST DAY OF WORK** for Carol Curtis, newly elected Clark County Public Utility District commissioner.

At the commissioners' regular Tuesday morning meeting, Curtis was appointed to fill the unexpired term of former commissioner Frank Lambert, who resigned Oct. 1. She would have taken office anyway in January.

There was a standing-room-only crowd in the commissioners' meeting room at the PUD Electric Center for Curtis' first meeting, which was not without humor.

When it came time for reports from individual commissioners, president Paul Runyan nodded, smiling, to Curtis:

"I have to ask ladies first," Runyan said.

Curtis' quick comeback:

"I wonder how long that will last."

If you have an anecdote or tidbit for this column, give Bob Beck a call at 694-3391 during business hours, or drop him a line at The Columbian, P.O. Box 180, Vancouver, Wash. 98666.