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JEWETT, VAN ARSDOL & BECK **ink**

After three decades, man tells about UFOs



COULD THE MOTHER BASE of the flying saucers or UFOs or whatever you choose to call them be inside a remote mountain range in northern Arizona?

Sandy Linker firmly believes it is, and he has decided to come forward after 31 years to tell his story.

Linker, who describes himself as a beat-up old bronc buster, lives in eastern Van-

couver. Now 56, he was a young man in 1952 when he spent six months breaking horses at a remote corral in the Hualapai Mountains, halfway between Las Vegas, Nev., and Kingman, Ariz., nearly 100 miles from the nearest town.

"My ex-wife and I used to sit on the fence of the Archibald corral and watch the flying saucers," Linker said. "They seemed to come right out of the side of the mountains at about the same time every evening."

When Linker tells his story, in his cow country drawl, one immediately becomes convinced he is telling the truth. This is an honest, sincere working man, not just another freak.

Linker said he has been within 300 feet of one of the hovering UFOs, which he said was about the size of a two-story house, so close that a silvery-blue light from the machine burned his eyes. He tried to take pictures of the craft, but was foiled by this same light.

"My ex-wife and I were driving across the desert one night, when suddenly our car was bathed in this light," he recalled. "The engine just plain stopped. Then, after whatever it was had left, I turned the ignition and the engine started right up."

The UFOs Linker claims he saw are identical to the photographs that are being printed with more and more regularity around the world. They had the appearance of a flattened bell, with portholes or windows around the perimeter. The space machines seemed to glow with blue, orange and red lights.

"I went to the place where one had landed," Linker said. "There was a circle about 60 feet in diameter where the grass had been singed and sand had blown away. There were indentation marks made by what appeared to be three landing pods."

The former wrangler said he has no idea what the flying saucers are, or if they are from outer space or originate here on earth. Along with dozens of others who have seen them, he firmly believes the government knows much more about them than it is letting on.

Linker said he had kept quiet all these years because he didn't want to be labeled as a crackpot. "I was known to be a little bit crazy in those days anyway," he said.

What he would like, he said, is to lead an expedition of scientists back into this remote country, to show them exactly where the UFOs materialized every evening.

"They still might be there," he said. "Even if they're not, there should still be some evidence of them lying around."

HE HAS NO IDEA HOW it happened, and the postman is scratching his head, too, but Paul Johnson swears it is true.

It seems that Johnson, 801 N.W. Sluman Road, and his wife, Lucille, were gone for several weeks and had the post office hold their mail. When they returned recently, they were handed quite a bundle of letters.

Much to their surprise, included were two picture postcards which had been mailed to them nearly 22 years ago, in the summer of 1961. One had been written by a man who has been dead for several years.

One of the cards had been mailed from New Orleans, the other from New Mexico.

Whatever the reason, Johnson said, it was as if ghosts of the past had suddenly reappeared. Johnson, incidentally, is one of the Pearl Harbor survivors who promoted the reunion here on the 40th anniversary of that fateful day.

TWO FAMILIES IN this area heard greetings from relatives down in San Antonio, Texas, during last week's television broadcast of a basketball game matching the Portland Trail Blazers and San Antonio Spurs.

This is how it happened, according to Barbara Meggs, who lives northeast of Camas on Vista Mountain:

It seems Michelle Brusseau works in a hotel where KPTV announcer Jimmy Jones was staying while waiting to broadcast the game. She spotted him in the lobby and said hello. She told him that she has relatives in Vancouver and that her roommate, Karen Kerkhoff has relatives near Camas. Karen, a registered nurse at Lackland Air Force base, is the sister of Barbara Meggs.

Jones took the names of the families and said he'd send them greetings on the air.

As things turned out, Jones suffered a heart attack sometime later and had to be hospitalized, so missed the broadcast. But he somehow passed along the message about the Clark County families and his replacement then passed along the video greetings.

Nice fellow, that Jimmy Jones.

NO SOONER HAD WE asked the question than here came Lou Watkins with the answer.

An INK reader asked what had happened to all the oxen that used to be used for logging in this area. Watkins, a longtime logger (although not with oxen), said an ox is really a steer (neutered bull) past the age of 4. "Since such an animal is of no use anymore, it is not economical for anyone to have one," Watkins explained.

However, he added, oxen still are used in many "third world" countries, but are more commonly called bullocks.