

WESTERN PRESS
CLIPPING BUREAU
BERTHOUD, COLO.

*San Angelo, TX
Standard Times*

24 April '85

UFOs: one of the rather-not-knows

Three days after I mentioned that a letter writer told me he had seen an unidentified flying object at Lake Nasworthy, I received letters from three other people who said they had seen UFOs as well. I don't know why. For some reason, they decided I should be told. Maybe they just figured I should be the one to accumulate this kind of information.

I wish they hadn't written to me. I've been thinking about the letters for 10 days now, and it's all pretty disconcerting.

I don't believe in UFOs, but I don't *not* believe in them, either. I'm just not sure about them, and I'd just as soon not have to make up my mind until one lands in my backyard.

The way I figure it, there are four reasons people might report UFO sightings:

(1) They're playing a joke on everybody. They know that reporting a UFO will create interest, and what better way to do that than to sucker a newspaper columnist in on the deal?

(2) They have some mental problems. Let's face it, some folks don't have all the dots on their dominoes. They're on a different plane than the rest of us, so they see things a little differently.

(3) They're honestly mistaken. Most of



Jack
Cowan

the reported UFO sightings have turned out to be perfectly explainable objects, like weather balloons or something.

(4) They really did see one.

It's the possibility that the people who wrote the letters might be in that last group that prevents me from setting out here to have great fun at their expense.

One of the writers was a retired Air Force colonel — a pilot for 20 years, he claimed — who said he recently saw a "squadron of glowing unidentified flying space ships. I say space ships because they didn't have wings, nor did they have engines . . . I get chill bumps when I even think about it. You may make jokes about me, but I would be watching the sky more often if I were you."

I have noticed myself watching the sky more lately.

If the guy really was a colonel in the Air Force, he probably isn't a crackpot or a

joker. That leaves just the other two options. What really got me about the letters, though, was that, just as the first writer had done, a housewife who reported seeing a UFO two weeks ago drew a picture of what she saw. The space ship (or whatever you call it) that she sketched had an emblem on the side — a diamond shape, not completely closed on one side, with a dot in the middle and two lines protruding outward on opposite sides.

Now that ordinarily would qualify as your basic ho-hum-another-nutso message except that, a couple of days ago, when I was comparing all the letters, I noticed that another writer had drawn that same emblem at the bottom of her note. So I pulled out the first letter I received, and *his* space ship had similar markings.

Hmmmm, does anyone else hear that Twilight Zone music?

With three people describing the same thing, it's pretty clear they're not crazy. So, are these people trying to put one over on me? If so, I will be very hot. Did someone put one over on them, intentionally or not? If so, they probably will be very embarrassed.

Did they really see a UFO? If so . . . uh, have I ever mentioned how much I admire folks from outer space . . . ?