

RN

# UFO Fans Explore Strange Case Of 'Bizarre' Sighting In Texas

By Joan Rice  
Journal Staff Writer

It was one of the last days of 1980, and it was also the last time Texans Betty Cash, Vicki Landrum and her grandson, Colby Landrum, enjoyed good health.

And although it happened five years ago, the Cash-Landrum case is probably one of the strangest close encounters ever experienced, said John Schuessler, deputy director of the Mutual UFO Network.

Schuessler, an aerospace engineering manager associated with all major manned U.S. space programs, will show participants at a June 28 to 30 symposium the latest evidence gathered in the Texas case.

Sponsored by the Mutual UFO Network in cooperation with the UFO Study Group of Greater St. Louis, the conference will address various topics relating to the theme "UFOs: The Burden of Proof."

It will be at the Chase Park Plaza Hotel. People from around the world are expected to attend.

**EACH AND THE** Landrums claimed they suffered burns as a result of their encounter with a UFO at about 9 p.m. Dec. 29, 1980, during a drive through a secluded wooded area northeast of Houston.

Schuessler recounted the details, terming the sighting "a bizarre incident" in which a bright object the size of "a small town water tower" appeared through the trees and seemed as if it were attempting to land on the road ahead of the car.

It was diamond-shaped, he said they reported, and "flames shot out of its bottom like it had retro-rockets."

The witnesses said although it was about 45 degrees that winter night, their car became very hot, so they got out. Within the course of several minutes, however, they became extremely hot and decided to get back in. Schuessler said the door handles burned to the touch, and the two women and child had to use their coats like oven mitts to get back in.

The object continued to hover between 30 and 50 feet above the road, he said. When it finally moved away, about 20 large helicopters surrounded it and slowly escorted the craft through the sky, the three witnesses said.

The helicopters had two rotary blades and seemed like the type used by the U.S. Air Force, Schuessler said.

**CASH, LANDRUM** and Colby continued to follow the odd display above them, Schuessler reported. He said they noticed they could stay abreast of the UFO by maintaining a speed of 55 miles an hour.

At a crossroads, they turned in the opposite direction of the spectacle and made their way home to Dayton, Texas.

In all, the three "had the thing in sight for roughly 20 minutes," Schuessler said. Average sightings last from three to five minutes.

Schuessler said injuries are not common to UFO cases, but in the

days following the incident the three experienced headaches, vomiting and diarrhea. Their skin, which had turned red following the sighting, began to peel off in patches.

After the New Year's holidays, Cash reported to a nearby hospital. Doctors said she was badly dehydrated. She underwent a series of tests, but doctors could not discover the nature of her problems, Schuessler said.

Landrum could not afford a hospital, Schuessler said. An investigator said Colby's immune system was "affected," rendering the boy susceptible to most viruses and other contagious illnesses.

He lost weight, most of his teeth developed cavities simultaneously, his eyes weakened and sores began to appear on his body, Schuessler said.

**PICTURES WERE** taken of the victims as new symptoms of radiation exposure became evident. Schuessler and a few others attempted to compare the evidence in the Cash-Landrum case to other sightings in which people sustained injuries.

A common factor was eye damage in varying degrees, Schuessler said.

"The (Cash-Landrum) medical effects were much more drastic than in any other case. Mrs. Cash just developed cancer within the last year," he said.

The woman has been hospitalized "more than 30 times," he said. In eight of these instances,

Cash was monitored in intensive care.

As part of his symposium presentation, Schuessler will show recent photographs of the witness.

He said he is interested in cases with medical evidence because they offer factual proof in addition to that which is relayed from witnesses.

"I always wanted to get an idea of what's real and what's imagined," he said.

Although the two women said the helicopters appeared to be government property, Schuessler said "We have no way of proving that."

"We have worked closely with the U.S. Army Inspector General's office (on the case)," Schuessler said, and they had no information verifying the women's reports.

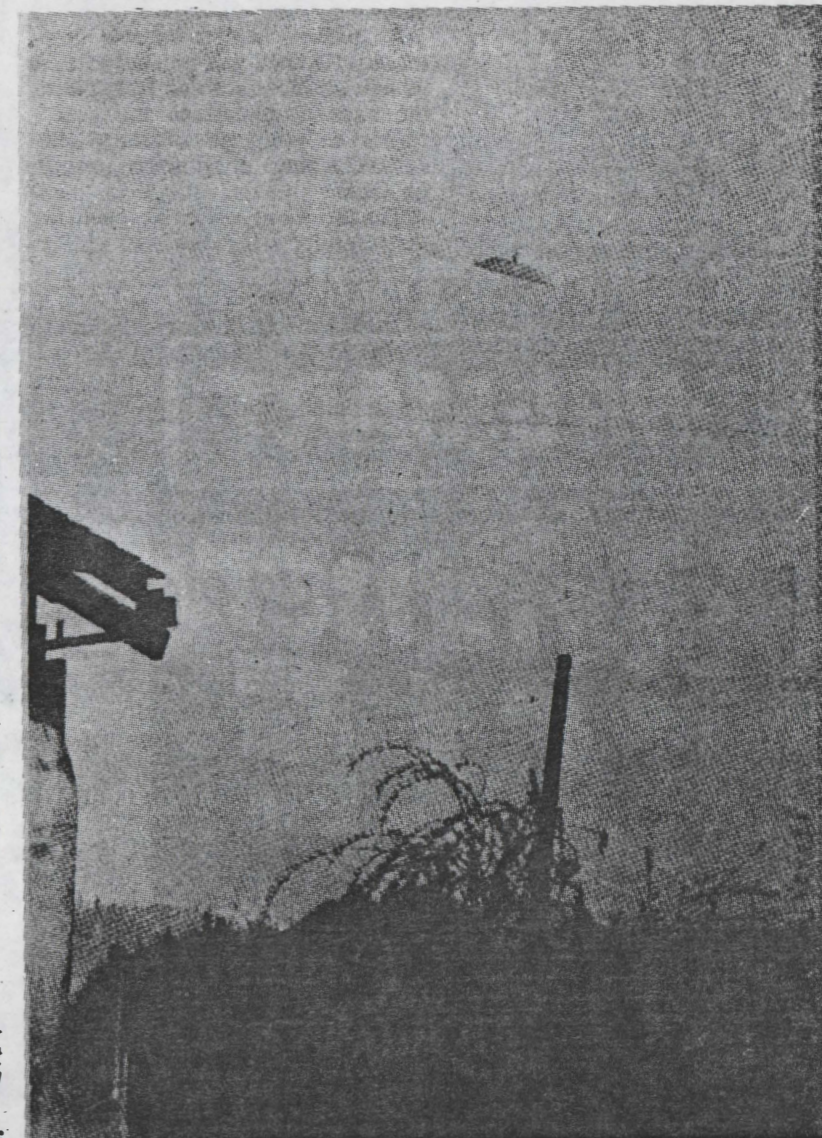
The technology involved in creating a spacecraft of the nature described by the women is "beyond anything I've ever seen, and I've been following space technology pretty closely," Schuessler said.

"That's what makes it so interesting to me."

\*\*\*

Registration for the symposium is \$25 until June 21. After that date, the cost is \$28. Individual sessions are \$7.50.

To register, call 831-0413 or write Mufon Symposium, 4024 90th Ave., Florissant, 63034.



The object of numerous investigations, this is one of two clear photos taken by a McMinnville, Oreg. couple back in 1950. They claimed the object in the picture was flying past their farm. Although Mr. and Mrs. Paul Trent treated the pictures casually, news of them traveled to the most dedicated investigators in the country. Unidentified flying objects are the subject of a symposium to be held June 28-30 at the Chase Park Plaza Hotel in St. Louis. It is an international conference sponsored by the UFO Study Group of Greater St. Louis and the Mutual UFO Network, a grassroots investigative group which originated in St. Louis.