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Hired Hand

UFOs remain as elusive as the unseen

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Members of genus homo still are seeing UFOs, or unidentified flying objects, but, like Gelett Burgess' purple cow, I'd rather see than be one.

(Burgess is the zany who wrote, "I never saw a purple cow . . . I never hope to see one . . ." and ends his doggerel with "But this I will say anyhow . . . I'd rather see than be one.")

I firmly believe in UFOs. That is, I am convinced that many people see unidentified flying objects. If one saw a boy's kite and didn't know what it was, that object then would become for him an unidentified flying object.

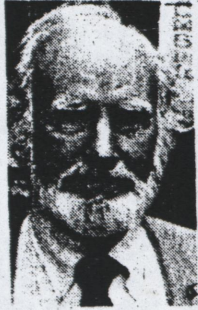
Obviously, there are many objects, or sights, in the heavens that those who behold them are unable to identify.

But spaceships from other planets?

Come now.

I wrote a UFO story once that

Glenn Shelton



Commentary

was printed on page one of the Wichita Daily Times. I quoted a man from across the river in Oklahoma. He was driving home on a lonely road near Grandfield when "a UFO, radiating all colors of the spectrum, sat down on

the road just ahead of me." The story created quite a sensation.

People have been seeing UFOs for hundreds of years, but "flying saucers" really became popular after 1940. During World War II, American pilots reported seeing "foo fighters." In 1947, a prominent businessman reported seeing several saucer-shaped objects flying near Mount Ranier. Since 1947, the Air Force has received an average of about one flying saucer report daily.

Meanwhile, one of us will find a purple cow before we actually find a spaceship from another planet.

OFF ON A TANGENT — When the Texas legislature in 1858 passed the act that created Wichita County, it ordained that the name of the county seat would be Wichita. But some time around 1880, this embryo community took the name Wichita

purple cow

ing question: "What does the pronoun 'it' refer to when one says, 'It's going to rain?'"

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Wish I had said that: Rear Adm. Eugene J. Carroll, in opposing the MX missile, said: "Calling the MX a 'peacekeeper' is like calling the guillotine a headache remedy."

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On Aug. 15, we celebrate V-J Day, and if you are like most Americans, you won't even be able to remember where you were on the first V-J Day. Though it was 7 p.m. Eastern War Time, when President Harry Truman announced victory over Japan, not many of the 80 million Americans old enough to remember, remember. The Census Bureau says 159,260,000 of us were under 40 when the Big War ended.

Falls, violating a portion of that law. It is doubtful that the people who suggested the name Wichita Falls were aware of the legislative act that legally made the town Wichita.

Nobody cared, apparently, that already there was a Wichita up in Kansas.

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Are you old enough to remember the old Katy railroad that ran from Henrietta to Wichita Falls? Did you know that building the line, as it was, probably was unique in the history of U.S. railroads?

Here is the story of that 18-mile line: A few Wichita Falls residents just before the turn of the century wanted the MK&T, which had built into Henrietta, to extend its line into Wichita Falls.

The Katy management refused, saying it was not interested in paralleling an already existing line (The Fort Worth & Denver). But the residents, led by that indomitable J.A. Kemp, hatched an idea. Would Katy operate the line if Wichita Falls would build it?

Katy officials thought it over and decided they couldn't lose by accepting. So the people here organized a company they called "The Wichita Falls Railway Co.," raised the money and built the line. That railroad was said to have had a profound effect upon the future of Wichita Falls.

In 1912, the Katy purchased the 18-mile line.

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That pretty, erudite, inquisitive and probing Norma Hill, 2004 Granada, asks a titillat-