

CRIMECHECK

ON THE GENETTE TATE MYSTERY



Genette Tate: Still no clues

The girl who



Genette's bike lies abandoned at the spot where she vanished.

1983

cycled into thin air...

ON the afternoon of Saturday, 19th August 1976, at 3.20pm, 13-year-old Genette Tate was pushing her bicycle along a lane and chatting with two friends.

She left them and rode on for 300 yards. A few minutes later her friends found her abandoned bicycle lying on its side in the road.

She had vanished in daylight and has never been seen since.

Disappeared

This week a spokesman for Devon police said they have a few clues now as they did almost a decade ago — which means virtually none. The case remains a complete mystery.

Genette, who according to her father was of above average intelligence, had been filling in for her friend Paver Barrett on an afternoon paper round.

Genette disappeared in Wotton Lane, a small road near the village of Wotton heading from the village



Genette's mother thinks of Plymouth to the main Devon road.

She had delivered about 17 papers when she met her friends, Tracy Pevs and Margaret Heavry. She gave them a paper and they walked up a small hill together because Genette had to push her bicycle. At the top she remounted and cycled off.

Tracy and Margaret scanned the paper for bargains in the advertising columns, and chatted about the front page story of a local UFO sighting, before ambushing after Genette.

After about 300 yards, at a point where the lane is a small grassy area, they found the one-lane road, they found the bike lying undamaged in the middle of the road with newspapers from the paperist scattered all around.

In the biggest operation of

'A UFO could be to blame'

its type. Devon police interviewed 1,800 motorists. Some 1,000 returned. Some 1,000 returned. Some 1,000 returned. Some 1,000 returned.

Despite rewards totaling £20,000, the Chief Constable John Moran to say his world was unexcited but not quiet.

Search marks

Over 200 mediums offered their services. Many said that Genette was under water.

Every point in the area was searched but nothing was found.

Author Colin Wilson said a UFO could not be ruled out. In a field on the edge of the village, police discovered a series of scorch marks on the grass — long straight lines ending in a circle.

A farmer also claimed that



Father John Tate remarked they were caused by lines spiralling off a cliff.

John Tate, a local resident, said he knew the official explanation but the shape of the markings, a horseshoe line, attracted by a straight line, could be significant, he said.

"I cannot rule out the possibility of a UFO. After all, there were reports of it in the area of the previous night. And of course, coincidentally, the conditions on the local papers Genette was carrying were devoted to a UFO sighting."

"One man arrived at the remuneration of £5,000 for a re-examination of a field down from Wotton in a field at 12.30 the following Thursday.

The Times informed the police and widely followed him, to see what he was up to. Just as we crept up to the field,

the most amazing thing happened — flashing blue lights appeared over the horizon and we thought My God, this is it.

It was a position which had also come to Wotton Hill.

Miss Maitland, Roberts and her daughter Cadi were walking at a bourgallow in Wotton Road. This afternoon Genette disappeared they were walking back from the village when a car passed them.

The car was so close that they had to jump out of the way. The driver was a young man in a good view of the driver but could only give the police vague details.

Emigrated

At the request of BBC producers they visited Wotton water by bicycle, with the driver as young Genette, with dark hair, a thin face and blue eyes.

Calcutta's family clung to the hope that she was alive. Five years later she was found exactly as she had left it. The driver, John Tate, an ex-RAF pilot, joined the Child Organisation.

After a year he and his second wife Violet, broke up. He has remarried and she has emigrated to Canada.

The case is still open. Genette Tate is recorded as a missing person. Two officers are at court.