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Family baffled by strange object in Raleigh County sky

COAL CITY, W.Va. (UPI) _ Norm Asbury finds himself gazing skyward more often lately, wondering if he'll ever see the light again.

Asbury stepped out the door of his Coal City home Sunday night to get some soda from his truck, when his progress was halted by a peculiar object in the heavens.

"I saw this crazy light in the sky blinking," Asbury said Wednesday. "I thought at first it was a star. But it kept jumping around, from left to right, and up and down.

"It was brighter and bigger than a star."

Asbury darted inside his house to fetch some binoculars for a closer look. What he saw only deepened the mystery. The object was ringed at its edges with blue lights, and there were red lights in the center, all of them flickering on and off.

"It wasn't a helicopter and it wasn't a plane, because there was no noise," he recalled.

In fact, Asbury pointed out, during the 90 minutes he watched the object with his wife, Ella, daughter Valerie and son Aaron, a noisy jet streaked across the sky. When it vanished, silence reigned again.

Asbury cannot estimate its size, but he guessed the object was about two or three miles high.

"Finally, it just faded away," he said. "It looked like it was going farther away from me. I don't know if it was going up or backward. It didn't scare me. But I'm wondering what the heck it was. I never saw anything like it before."

He telephoned some folks in nearby Beckley but they could not see the object. His closest neighbors were away at the time.

His father called a radio station but go no help in identifying the object.

"If it was anything to ride around in, it was up high," he said. "The reason I don't think it was a star (was) because it was jumping around and flickering more than a star. And it had those lights.

"I've been in my front yard many times at night and never saw it. It wasn't there last night."

At times, the object danced behind the treetops, but then would return to full view, he said.

Asbury has never seen an unidentified flying object and says he does not believe in them, anyway.

"It's sure got me baffled," he said. "It beats the heck out of me. I'd like to know what it was. I'm sure there's a logical explanation for it somewhere." It might be just a once in a lifetime thing."

Until he finds the answer, Asbury plans to maintain a nocturnal vigil.

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D. Blum via B. Robbins

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BETH ROBBINS *VIA* COUD— I