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Residents abuzz over UFO sighting

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Based on this experience, he estimates the object he and his family saw was about a mile and a half from his house, "just above the treetops on the north side of Dugualla Bay."

Only a couple of seconds after the group gathered on the porch MacIndoe said the bright ball of light "took off and made a vertical rise straight up at tremendous speed."

Then, he said, his mother exclaimed, "Here it comes!"

"It came directly at us," said MacIndoe, "from Dugualla Bay to my house."

Even to this point, MacIndoe contends, he could have gone to sleep without too much trouble if the incident stopped there. But it didn't.

"As it approached the house the light disappeared," said MacIndoe, "and it drifted directly over the house, never actually stopping or hovering."

"Within 100 yards of the house it lowered way down. As it drifted over our house we got one hell of a look at us thing."

MacIndoe, who emphasizes he and those in his house did not watch "Alien" on television that night, said the only way he can describe what he saw is to make reference to the UFO featured in "Close Encounters of the third Kind."

"It was right over our house," he said. "As it went over I saw — and we all agree — a pattern of lights in a complete circle. There were about 15 lights round the perimeter of this thing — a ring of bluish-white lights. All at the same time, pulsating sequentially in a clockwise pattern."

MacIndoe recalls saying, "Before, never thought no one was talking. He wanted to listen."

"There was no prop noise, let alone anything like that," he said. "There was absolutely no noise."

The object "drifted" over the MacIndoe house to the northeast, he said, "and that was it."

MacIndoe, his wife and guests went back into the house, shaken by the sighting. He looked at a clock and noted the time was 10:45. A few minutes later he called the NAS Whidbey weather station looking for an old friend. The friend was not there, so he asked if anyone had reported seeing any strange lights. No report.

Subsequent calls that night and early Friday morning revealed NAS Whidbey training flights had ended at 10:30 p.m., fifteen minutes before the UFO sighting. MacIndoe also called his brother in California.

"He believes this UFO thing is real," MacIndoe said. "Even though there were five of us (who saw the UFO), I had a strong need to talk to somebody."

One of MacIndoe's Friday morning calls was to radio newsman Dur Roberson of KJTT Radio in Oak Harbor. Roberson listened to MacIndoe's story and concluded he was "credible." The newsman suggested MacIndoe call the UFO Reporting Center in Seattle.

The UFO Center took his report and Roberson subsequently ran a short interview with MacIndoe on the air. A story of two groups of people who sighted a UFO in Australia Wednesday had made news around the world. Before the day was out, Associated

Press picked up the story and Roberson had given a "voice feed" over the telephone to at least 15 other radio stations.

The subject of UFOs, said MacIndoe, "is a subject I never wanted to study. I have no choice now." After the news broke Friday, however, the next two or three days were filled with interviews and exchange of UFO information.

MacIndoe was told his family's description of the UFO "is a very common description." What is significant about the Whidbey Island sighting, he said, is the fact that five adults saw the object — and the object was viewed from an estimated distance of only 1,200 feet.

"It was a very upsetting experience," said MacIndoe. "A very profound experience." Even though it was too dark to actually see the form of the aircraft, he was impressed with the UFO's speed (he calculated its speed across Dugualla Bay at 1,000 mph), its ability to change direction, its "multiplier system" and the "running lights."

MacIndoe has already talked to a number of people, including others who claim to have seen UFOs but no one to his knowledge from North Whidbey, has reported seeing the same strange object he and his family saw.

"I know we saw what we saw," said the man who was once indifferent to the subject of UFOs. "You just couldn't have missed it."

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Dugualla Bay residents all abuzz over UFO sighting

By Steve Berentson
Staff reporter

North Whidbey resident Dan MacIndoe and four other adults at his home say they witnessed an unidentified flying object near Dugualla Bay last Thursday night — and today the reluctant witness is eager to know if anyone else in the area saw the same strange phenomenon.

As MacIndoe tells the story — and he has told it numerous times over the

past few days — the incident occurred last Thursday night while he and his wife, Isida, were visiting with his mother, Connie MacIndoe and Isida's parents, Louis and Dominga Dimalanta.

MacIndoe, a former Navy man who emphasizes, "I am extremely familiar with aircraft," said the night's strange events started at about 8 p.m.

His mother, a cigarette smoker, stepped onto the MacIndoe's porch in the Fircrest Estates residential area to

have a smoke. Seconds later, she called to her son.

"She saw something to the south-southeast," MacIndoe recalled in a Monday interview. "It was a curious bright light — more so than any star I had seen."

Still, MacIndoe concluded: "It could have been anything. I thought it was a helicopter off in the distance."

It was that early evening incident, however, that heightened the family's senses for a far more dramatic event

later that night.

"We kept going to the window to see," MacIndoe said of the curious light. "Sometimes it would be there, sometimes not. That was it until about 10 o'clock...."

Actually it was 10:45 p.m. "What happened next was quite profound," said MacIndoe.

On another trip outside, Connie MacIndoe "let out a scream."

"I could tell by the sound of her voice that something was going on," said the

ex-Navy man. Four of the adults in the house gathered on the porch while one stayed inside with 3-year-old Kimberly MacIndoe, who watched out the window with her grandparent.

Perhaps because of the earlier incidents of the night, MacIndoe, his wife and guests recall the next 25-35 seconds quite vividly. In fact, MacIndoe spent much of that time viewing the strange object in the sky through a telephoto lens on his 35 millimeter camera.

"Off to the south southeast again, in the same spot we saw the earlier object, there was something almost like a flare — a bright ball of light now much lower on the horizon," said MacIndoe.

MacIndoe, who notes his experience with aircraft in the Navy has continued as a civilian watching NAS Whidbey aircraft day and night for four years, said: "I have pretty good judgment of distance as far as aircraft go."

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