

house and got back in the car. As they began rolling east on Hwy. 32 towards the Hwy. 41 junction and home, the object appeared again out of the south. To Irvan, who was now seated on the passenger side in front, the light resembled a large ball of fire.

The light behaved as it had earlier, running almost parallel with the car, except this time it glided to the left of the automobile. "It seems to adjust itself to the terrain, up and down," Irvan said. "Where there are no trees it will get lower very quickly. Very quickly."

Jeanes floored her Maxima. When they got to Hwy. 41 they turned right, or north, toward Foreman. The light also turned north. Irvan said the turn made by the object did not describe the typical arc of a car merging with a perpendicular highway. Instead, the light made a sudden, 90 degree turn.

#### Large metallic machine

Completely terrified now, the women sped toward Foreman at speeds that reached 120 miles per hour. As they approached town they could see the lights of the local Chevrolet dealership ahead on the left. Jeanes remembered thinking at this time that the light must have come closer to the car or changed somehow because Deanna Irvan suddenly became even more terrified than before.

Irvan's terror increased because she was getting her first clear look at the object behind the bright light. In front of the Chevrolet dealership in Foreman stands a brilliantly-lit advertising sign. "It went right in front of their sign," said Irvan. "That's where I could really see it. It was a large metallic machine. The lights seemed to be in the center of the object. It threw a glow out to where I couldn't see the top as well as I could see the bottom. To me it was shaped like a tank. It was flat on the bottom. It had a dull finish. Dark." Irvan estimated its width at two pickup trucks side by side, and its length at three pickups end to end.

In a drawing Irvan made the next morning, the "tank's" turret is evident above the main body. Two bands of light circle the object, one high and one low.

Irvan watched the object all the way into Foreman. She said the light came to a halt over the rodeo arena next to the highway. It hovered a moment and streaked into the night sky. The light appeared to become a distant star "in half a second," according to Irvan. At no time during the incident did anyone hear sound coming from the object.

The women turned into a convenience store where they saw a police car parked. By the time Irvan and Jeanes convinced those inside to step out and look, the light was gone. The police officer made fun of their sighting. Since their sighting all the women have become acquainted with ridicule.

They have remained adamant that the light they saw was not the Air Life medical helicopter. Even if the lights were the same, they said, no helicopter makes the kind of high-speed 90 degree turn this object made over the intersection of Highways 32 and 41.

None among the three women has claimed the object was a flying saucer. They simply said the object was something very strange that they had never seen before that night.

Jeanes headed back up the Anderson lateral road toward his house.

The light followed their car at treetop level, running slightly to the right of the road and parallel with the car. Before arriving at Taaffe's house, the object passed over the top



Margaret Sharp (left) and Terri Jeanes pose in video store where Sharp works.

of the car, according to Irvan, throwing a shadowy "red cast" of light inside the car as it disappeared.

#### Terrifying chase

Sharp was frightened enough by what she had seen to crouch on the passenger-side floorboard of Jeanes' car. At Taaffe's house the women ran inside and told Sharp's uncle what they had seen. In a later interview, Taaffe said the moment he opened the door to his niece and her friends on the night of Jan. 19, he knew something was wrong. At first he thought they might have had an accident of some sort. Sharp decided she would wait at Taaffe's house for someone to come and take her home.

At approximately 11 p.m., Jeanes and Irvan left Sharp at Bob Taaffe's

#### Women ridiculed

"I don't know why people think we would make something like that up," Deanna Irvan said. Irvan, who is married with children, runs a hair-dressing business in Ashdown. The women received obscene phone calls shortly after reporting their unexplained sighting. Friends and neighbors ridiculed them. The ridicule has died down, however, as more and more UFO reports flooded the local newspaper and sheriff's office.

As in most UFO sightings, the women have no absolute proof of what happened to them. The only potential physical evidence can be explained. Across the trunk of Jeanes' white Nissan Maxima were odd markings. Each group of markings has four lines side by side. The lines are approximately three inches long and are dotted. The black marks appear to the naked eye to be rubber marks, though Jeanes has been unable to wash them from her new car. Jeanes said the markings were not visible on her trunk the day before the "chase." She first noticed

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