

them the next day. The marks could be explained as the residue left by a treadbare car wash roller, for instance.

Man sees light also

Though it was impossible to verify, the object seen by those in the car may have been the same one spotted by Jerry Grant, 29, who was coming home from work at 10:15 p.m. that night. Grant was returning to Foreman on Hwy. 32 from the Nekoosa Paper plant. "To the east he saw a very bright light. He observed the light as it remained stationary for 10 to 15 minutes. The light, he said, appeared to turn red and move off quickly. "I didn't say much. I didn't want to end up in the funny farm, because I don't know what it was," Grant said.

In another nearby sighting (one of the most dramatic in terms of short distance from the object) Eola French, 19, who lives with her family on the Anderson lateral road in "the bottoms," saw a large greenish light extremely near her home at 11 p.m. on this same night. Her story, and the frequent sightings over the bottoms, will appear later in this series. French is quite sure what she was was not Air Life or any other sort of craft she has ever seen. It, too, made no sound, though her dogs were barking furiously, she said.

Margaret Sharp, also married and the youngest of the three women, described how the incident in the car continued to affect her nine days later. "I'm just drained. I know what I have seen. I just wish it would go away. It terrifies me. It followed — or chased — us, however you want to word it. I even unlocked the door in case I needed to jump out of the car. It's the closest I've ever felt to death. I can't sleep. I've only stayed in the house one night in the last five," she said.

As for possible planetary misperceptions, Sharp said, "I've seen Venus. Venus is in the west, and this was in the southeast. I've seen a lot of stars, but I've never seen a star chase after a white Maxima."

Frightening memories

Deanna Irvan had had much the same emotional reaction as Sharp. "I felt threatened by it. We were crying and yelling. It's like an invasion of privacy, like a rape victim. Like I'm always looking over my shoulder now. I feel calmer at home. At work I get a shaky feeling. Like I'm hyper-sensitive."

Though they are relieved other Little River County residents have seen something unidentified, the women remained baffled as to what the object might have been. They simply did not know. Barksdale Air Force Base in Shreveport, La., said there has been no unusual Air Force activity around Foreman.

"I hope it is a government thing because I can't think I'm terrified all the time," Margaret Sharp said.

All three women agree that if they were chased again they would tell no one.

"We're tired of all the ridicule and the stupid explanations like the moon shining off snow-geese. I saw something, and it isn't any of those things," Deanna Irvan said.

Irvan saw UFO last summer also

By BILL MACOMBER

Times Staff Writer

Deanna Irvan remembered seeing strange objects over Foreman on two occasions last year. Until her high-speed chase by an unidentified light in January, however, Irvan didn't tell anyone about what she saw. (See related story page 1A.)

One incident occurred in November. The Irvan was last summer. Both times Irvan was at the Foreman High School track exercising with at least one other person. Irvan works during the day as a hairdresser in nearby Ashdown. She exercises at night.

At approximately 10 p.m. on the nights in question, Irvan and her companions saw something unusual pass over the track as they sat on the bleachers cooling off. This ob-

ject, she said, was "much bigger" than the one she would see in January. She estimated it was at least the size of a football field. She heard no roaring sound accompanying the object's flight.

As it passed over, she said the people with her could clearly make out details of the underside of the object. She said its underbelly appeared to be covered with "crossed pipes." Irvan was somehow reminded of an erector set.

The craft looked highly unusual to Irvan. There had been no UFO sightings in Foreman at the time, however, so she made no connection. She told herself the strange craft was perhaps an extraordinary experiment by Barksdale Air Force Base near Shreveport, La. She dismissed these early sightings entirely until the more intense sighting activity began in late December. So far the Air Force has denied responsibility for unusual air maneuvers over the Foreman area. Regular Air Force refueling operations normally occur at altitudes above 20,000 feet. Irvan said she could not have mistaken this object for a reentering flight, which she has seen before.

More recently, other Little River County residents have reported seeing unidentified flying objects similar to what Irvan remembered. One man described a low-flying object that passed over his house as resembling an electric substation. The substation he mentioned is made of a series of crossed metal pieces. He, too, noted the resemblance to an erector set.