



Family counts cost of a UFO sighting

By MARK THORNTON

MEMBERS of a Perth family terrified by what they say was an unidentified flying object on the Nullarbor four months ago are still trying to come to terms with the incident.

They were forced to move out of their Midland home because former friends believed they were crazy.

And the Knowles family say because of the UFO they have lost about \$18,000.

Most of the money was tied up in the family's \$13,000 Ford Telstar car which was repossessed by a finance company after they could not meet the repayments.

Mrs Faye Knowles said she and her three sons had only intended taking a two-week holiday but had ended up spending

six weeks away before they flew home. This frittered away the rest of their money.

"We were relying on money promised us by an advertising man in Adelaide who said he could use our car for promotional purposes," Mrs Knowles said.

The family said the car was damaged when the UFO picked it up off the road 40km west of Mundrabilla and dropped it again, bursting a front tyre.

At the time Sgt Jim Furnell, officer in charge of Ceduna police, said the car was covered with ash inside and out and had dents in the roof "as if something had landed on top".

Mrs Knowles said the advertising man said the damaged car would fascinate the public.

Mrs Knowles' eldest son, Patrick, 25, said he was fed up with sceptics who disputed the UFO encounter.

"And after all this time we still have no explanation of what happened," Mr Knowles said.

"We don't even know who has the dust that police took from the car."

Yesterday Supt Brian Schütz of Adelaide police said only a few specks of dust were recovered from the car.

"The car was driven 500km to Ceduna after the incident and townspeople there swarmed all over it after the family reported the story," Supt Schütz said.

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