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Farmer says UFO flew near home

Lawrence deputy hears of 'close encounter'

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State Writer

WEST POINT, Tenn. — A farmer's reported UFO sighting yesterday morning had Lawrence County investigators seeking to verify his claim of seeing a bright, globe-shaped object near power lines behind his home.

Coy Luna, 59, said he was "bugging my potatoes in the garden" when his barking dog called his attention to a shiny round object "that had lit in the bottom behind the house."

"I'm not seeing or imagining things, and I haven't had a drink or nothing," said Luna, whose sobriety was confirmed by a sheriff's deputy investigator, Tim Jackson.

Luna described the object as "big enough to hold four or five people" and said "it looked kind of like one of those water tanks you see around here and was covered with something that looked like tinfoil."

"When I first saw it, it was just sitting there. It was so bright it would put your eyes out to look at it. I really don't know if it was the sun reflecting off of it or if it was some kind of lights."

He said he left his garden to take a look because his dog was "raising so much hell."

"He just took off running and barking toward it. When he got about 30 feet away, it went straight up ... and took off real fast. The dog like to went nuts and I did, too."

Despite the brightness, Luna said he could see a small door but "no kind of propeller, landing gear or nothing."

"The door was so small a person would have to bend over to go through it. It went out of here like a jet plane, but it was quiet. You could hear that it had some kind of engine, but I don't know what. It sounded kind of like a Weedeater," said Luna.

Jackson said he was unable to find any ground markings at the scene.

"I made him go over the story seven or eight times and he had the same story each time. He never varied and he wasn't — and hadn't been — drinking," he said. "I'm going to call the air traffic controller to see if TVA or anyone else has had any planes or helicopters flying around these power lines."

Luna said he wishes someone could determine what he saw.

"I'd give a good piece of money to find out what it was," he said. "I didn't call the Sheriff's Department to report it. The only reason I called was to see if anyone else had seen it too."

"I've never believed in UFOs or anything like that, but this sure scared me to death." ■

Paul Moss