

Woman reports UFO sighting over Eagle Creek

★ Have they returned after 10 years in space? ★

By Ray Horn

It's been 10 years since a number of persons reported UFO sightings in Barton and Eagle Creek but last week an Estacada woman said she saw one on the night of March 24.

Dorothy Derr said she was driving eastbound on Highway 224 at about 8:30 p.m. when she saw two crafts with lights hovering at a low altitude near the Eagle Creek store.

Derr said the two crafts had white lights and repeated the same maneuver several times. "They would hover close together and then they would dart away from each other at high speed and then come back together," she said. Derr stopped her car as she and five passengers in her car observed the phenomenon. Derr said each craft had six white lights in triangular arrangement. Asked if she could hear any engine noise from either craft, Derr said she could not. Derr said another motorist stopped behind her parked car to observe the same sight. Derr lives on Coupland Road in Estacada and said she could still see the objects after she continued on home.

Derr said she reported her sighting to the Clackamas County Sheriff's Department and asked if she should report the incident to any other law enforcement or governmental agencies.

"I don't believe in those things myself but I saw something," Derr said Friday afternoon. Derr said she was raised in a religious family and "I believe earth was made for man."

Derr's father, Willis Mitchell, was the subject of a Clackamas County news story about a similar UFO sighting in Eagle Creek in the Jan. 24, 1979 issue of The Clackamas County News. "A lot of people have seen strange stuff in the Carver curves," Derr said. "That's kind of why I wanted to report it," she said.

Derr said she was a passenger in her father's car in 1979 when they both saw a UFO. At that time, Derr said her father, Willis Mitchell, said "I want to follow it. I said then let me out," Derr recalls. He said "I am so old I don't care."

Derr said she felt more fearful during the 1979 sighting but "this time I felt more interested than scared. She said one of her children thought the crafts were following the car but she did not have the same perception.

Charles Woods, a former World War II B-17 flight engineer, reported his UFO sighting in Barton in the Jan. 17, 1979 issue of The Clackamas County News. Woods said he saw a craft with six bright red lights. Woods, and his 23-year-old daughter, Brenda, saw the craft hovering and then streaking over Barton at a high rate of speed on Christmas eve 1978.

Editorial comment

I've never had a strong opinion about UFO's but during 1979 I came to realize that the people reporting these incidents were totally sincere and honest in their recollections. Most of the people who saw such phenomenon did not call the newspaper as they were afraid others might not take them seriously. As a rule, our UFO stories developed after someone told us they had a friend or relative who saw a UFO at a specific time and place. If someone was merely seeking publicity, we felt it would be more likely that they would contact the newspaper directly.

One person who saw a UFO — indeed shot at one — was former Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ron McInire. McInire did not share his story with us while he was superintendent of schools because he feared some would question his sanity.

McInire told us a friend of his wife's stayed at his home several nights during a summer. The woman slept on the deck the first night but wouldn't the next night after she saw an orange light hovering in the yard. McInire slept on the deck the next night and saw the same hovering orange ball. What's more, he fired at the object with a 12 gauge shotgun, he said.



Sees UFO's twice in her life

Dorothy Derr saw something on the night of March 24. She said she's religious and has never believed in UFO's because "earth was made for man." But still, she knows she saw something. Many people have reported seeing UFO's in the Eagle Creek and Carver areas over the years, she said. The Clackamas County News carried a

number of stories about persons who reported seeing UFO's in January of 1979. Derr and her father, Willis Mitchell, saw an UFO in Carver on Christmas eve 1978. Derr is curious about others who may have witnessed the same phenomenon she saw on the night of March 24. (Clackamas County News photo by Ray Horn)

Asked why he fired at something that could have been from another world and which might have had its own defensive and offensive capabilities, McInire said, "I guess I am kind of like my dog. I am territorial." McInire also lived in Eagle Creek.

One reader brought us a photograph of an alleged UFO he saw hovering over the power lines in Eagle Creek some years ago. We gave the photograph to the Estacada City Library where it may still be on display.