

NOV 3, 1989 Fri.

Sarah Overstreet



UFOs? I'd rather not know

If this were 25 years ago, my cousins and I would be right in the middle of a ghost hunt.

Billie Jo and Ginger lived in a tiny Kansas town, and about all there was for kids to do was go down to the tavern for some chewing gum, climb boxcars, and play in the many decaying houses whose families had moved away years earlier in search of jobs in the bigger cities.

No one paid much attention to the houses, because no one wanted to live in the town. The hapless owners just gave up and let us have at 'em.

They were exquisite places for calling forth ghosts, a practice we never tired of. We never tired of it because we never actually found what we were looking for. Sometimes we felt "cold spots" and occasionally we even heard strange voices cut the still air — just enough to keep us coming back without truly frightening us.

As I grew older, I gradually lost my belief in ghosts; a combination of changing philosophy and, I'm sure, having never actually seen one. My cousins and I gradually stopped looking for flying saucers, too; our faith a victim of our failure to experience.

But recently in Kansas folks were seeing UFOs — about 100 people in southeastern Kansas and northeastern Oklahoma reported sightings. Reading their accounts, I realized I haven't stopped believing in flying saucers as much as I just stopped thinking about them; and I think that's because I'd just rather not know.

The Kansas UFOs did all the usual things — hovered, zipped swiftly while making no noise, rose straight up in the air. They had colored, blinking lights. One careful of folks reported a "round thing with two red lights" from which popped two 9-foot, green, glowing, thin beings that may or may not have had heads. Across the world in the Soviet Union, Tass, the official government news agency, reported sightings of a "shining ball or disc" from which emerged human-like creatures, 9 to 12 feet tall, with "very small heads."

A couple years ago, one of the reporters at the TV station where I work did a series on local UFO sightings, and one report really impressed me. In it, members of North Arkansas Community College's women's volleyball team, who had been returning from a match, told of seeing a round, blinking, "saucerlike" object come close to their bus, hover, then zip back and forth across the horizon. Although the whole busload saw it, only two or three were willing to tell the story on camera — the rest were afraid of being branded as wackos.

It's the same with my high-school friend's father: When he called the local airport to report what he'd seen, they guffawed and set the tone for all future re-tellings. If you aren't a family friend and don't earn his trust, forget it. But it is the only UFO story I put any real stock in, because this man is about the straightest arrow I've found in this crooked old world. I know either he saw what he says he

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The way he tells it, a saucer-shaped object (like a "teacup upside down on a saucer") with red and blue blinking lights hovered and then landed on his back-40 one evening at milking time. When it took off again it left a circle of scorched earth behind.

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Woman reports UFO near Mosinee

Wausau Daily Herald

At least one person saw an unexplained sphere-shaped object hovering above Locker Road in Mosinee Thursday night.

"I was so scared I must have driven home about 70 mph," a 19-year-old Mosinee woman said this morning. She asked that her name not be used.

The sighting occurred about 9:30 p.m.

When she got home, she told her father what she saw. He reported the sighting to the Marathon County Sheriff's Department at 9:36 p.m.

"I was coming down the road when I saw red and white lights," the woman said this morning, her voice cracking with emotion. "I thought 'My God, what's going on.' I thought it was a plane that was going to crash.

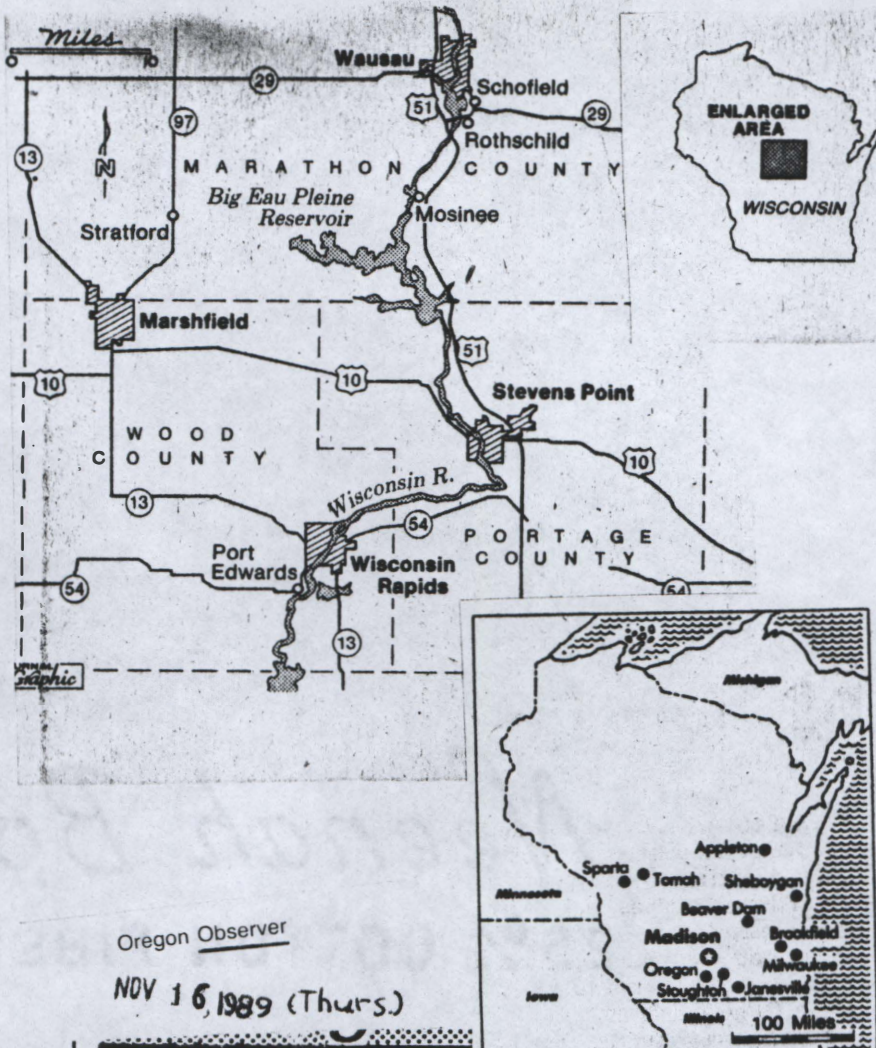
"It started following me and sped up real fast.

"It was fairly low ... it was rolling and tumbling."

A Central Wisconsin Airport official this morning said Northwest Airlin flight 3195 from Detroit, Mich., was in the Mosinee area at the time.

The plane landed at CWA at 9:35 p.m. and would have been in the area since 9:25 p.m.

Rhineland (Wis.) DAILY NEWS, Nov. 7, 1989
(Can somebody identify the Arkansas case in the 3rd-last paragraph? I checked the UFO NEWSCLIPPING SERVICE issues for Jan. 1986 through April 1988 without finding it.)



Oregon Observer
NOV 16, 1989 (Thurs.)

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by ann
*Oregon resident Ed Owen saw something strange in the sky last Sunday night when he was returning from Stoughton at approximately 6 o'clock. It was a "box-like" object with bright lights and stationary. When he arrived home, he told some of his neighbors to come and see it. When he went into his house at about 6:20 to get his binoculars and returned to view it, the object had vanished! He's wondering if anyone else in the area saw it. We never know what's up there, do we!

possibly Venus

RICHARD HEIDEN via COUD—I