

Canadian U.F.O.
Research Network

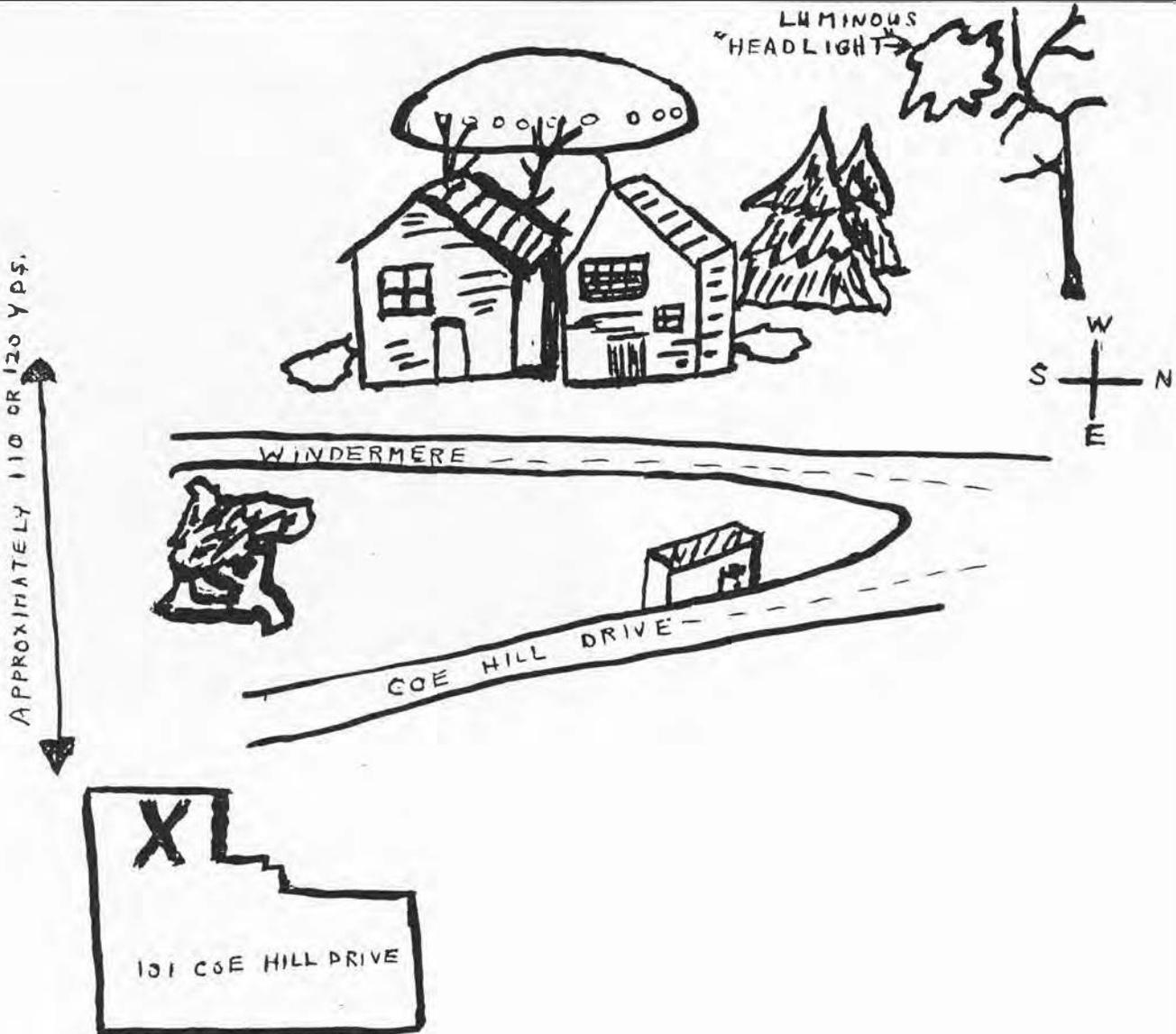
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BULLETIN

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Crescat scientia vita excolatur (Where knowledge increases, life is ennobled)
Vol. 9, No.2, March-April, 1988

\$3.25



This drawing of two UFOs was done by Deborah Theaker, 25, an actress and writer. She and her friend Darren Boyce saw them around 1.30 or 1.45 a.m. on the morning of March 11, 1988. They were looking through their apartment window in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. The location is less than one km. (½ mile) from Lake Ontario. See story inside for details.

IN THIS ISSUE:--POSSIBLE ABDUCTION CASE INVESTIGATION THWARTED BY OBSERVER'S FEAR OF HYPNOSIS
--CUFORN CONSULTANT'S ANALYSIS OF 21-YEAR-OLD METAL SAMPLE
--THE NULLARBOR, AUSTRALIA CLOSE ENCOUNTER
--DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS HAS CLOSE ENCOUNTER IN TORONTO
--APRO'S CORAL LORENZEN DIES

'Repeater' in Toronto CE1 Refuses Hypnosis

by Lawrence J. Fenwick

A close encounter with two UFOs occurred in Toronto, Ontario, Canada in the early morning hours of March 11, 1988. This was less than $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from Lake Ontario, one of the Great Lakes of North America and in a major metropolitan urban area. One of the observers, Deborah Theaker, later told investigators that this was only the latest in a series of UFO events that had seemingly followed her around wherever she lived in Canada.

CUFORN was alerted to the report when Deborah and her friend Darren Boyce called Metropolitan Toronto Police, who referred them to Downsview Air Force Base. Staff Corporal McKay there had CUFORN's phone number and gave it to the couple who called us.

Deborah, 25, is an actress and scriptwriter for SCTV (Second City Television), a famous TV comedy show. She and Darren had just arrived back in Toronto from Darren's native Australia, where they had just watched the Channel 7 special about the Nullarbor Plains CE2 of January 20, 1988. Darren, an electrician, 24, was a skeptic until the night in question.

Flickering lights

Here is what happened in Deborah's own words: " It was approximately 1.10 or 1.20 a.m. on Friday morning that the incident occurred. I was watching television, sitting on the sofa, when I noticed lights out of the corner of my eye. Something seemed strange about it and so I looked out the window to my left which was uncovered and gave a clear,unobstructed



Deborah Theaker and Darren Boyce, seen here

view. I saw a very large oblong object surrounded by flickering lights. There were definitely red and white lights, but I'm not sure whether there was another colour or not. There might have been blue lights as well, but I'm not exactly certain. I am uncertain of the time, but I would think that I saw it around 1.20 or 1.30 at the very latest."

" There was a large, luminous "headlight" in the sky over the trees across the street to the right. It was pulsing and I felt that it was communicating with the larger object. The larger metallic object moved towards the light. But I don't remember seeing it move there," Deborah said.

woke up friend

"I phoned my sister and she instructed me to wake Darren up as he was asleep in the other room. We both looked out the window.

Continued from page 2

At this point, I could no longer see the bright "headlight". I thought that the object moved slowly behind the trees on the street opposite Coe Hill Drive. It was either moving west or descending slowly. After a brief period of time, we lost sight of the object. Darren suggested that we phone the police. They arrived within approximately 20 minutes. It was just after 2.20 a.m. when they knocked on our door."

Curiously enough, Deborah had a dream the previous night which she felt was a warning that "something was coming to get me". She called her mother in Sidney, British Columbia, 2000 miles away, that night, and told her "a UFO is coming to get me."

something hovering

Darren described his part in the observation: "Deborah woke me up shouting that there was a UFO outside the window. I went and had a look and could see something hovering beyond the line of houses across the street. While it was too dark to see the outline of the object, it appeared to be circular from the way the lights around it appeared to be pulsing. It slowly moved away from us to the west. All the lights were on all the time, but each light would individually pulse bright and then the one next to it would pulse. The pulse would take about one second to complete one revolution."

That night was a clear one, with no wind and few stars visible in the glare of the city lights. There are high tension power lines in the area. No sound was heard. The objects were about 20 degrees above the horizon.

In our interview with Deborah, she said she was "scared. I felt like they were looking at me and I felt like I knew who they were and they were coming back."

Investigators Harry Tokarz and Joe Muskat did what the two police officers had done on the night of the event--they carefully looked at the area where the UFOs were seen--a small park and a children's playground. No traces were found, nor was there any damage to the trees.

Muskat and Tokarz personally investigated the case on March 12. The next day, Tokarz spoke to Police Constable Wilkinson who had been summoned along with PC (Police Constable) Sonsini. The officer said Deborah was "hysterical but sensible." The officer said a Staff Sergeant had gone to the area first, but on checking police records, there was no mention of any such prior check by a Staff Sergeant.

hearing defect

Deborah recently had visited an audiologist who told her she had a congenital defect in both ears. She cannot hear low frequency sounds. Yet she could recall no ear problems in her past, except for the odd earache.

CUFORN investigators Tokarz and Muskat discovered in their interview with Deborah that she is a 'repeater'. She was born in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. Her father was Mayor of the town of Esterhazy in that Canadian Province. Her mother was a nurse. She has one younger brother, Kent and one sister, Shelley.

Deborah said that when she was three years old, she saw what she called then the Easter Bunny. She remembered its eyes as being bright but otherwise normal. That would have been in 1966. At age seven, she and Shelley saw a circular object in their home town. In 1976, at age 13, she did not menstruate for four months. She did not go to her family doctor or tell her parents. She did tell CUFORN that at that time, she felt "something was taken from me." She has what Darren says appears to be a Caesarian birth scar, although she has never been pregnant.

looked like beans

She said ,when she was 13, she woke up one morning feeling sore all over. When she looked at her bed, she saw what looked like dried-up kidney beans covering the bed of her brother who slept in the twin bed next to her. She thought he had eaten some beans and had vomited in his sleep. He had not eaten beans, however. She slept through the night and was not wakened by anything that could have caused the beans to appear.

Continued on page 4

APRO folds as co-founder dies

With the recent death of Coral Lorenzen, Deputy Director Robert G. Marsland has announced that APRO is defunct as an organization.

She said that one night when she was at a summer camp at Round Lake, Saskatchewan, she and the other campers saw a formation of UFOs. The camp was Camp O'Neill. She recalled one other camper-Roger Keyes, and that the head of the camp, who was a Minister, also saw the object. The Minister said he would report the sighting to someone, but, as far as Deborah can recall, no authorities were ever notified about the encounter. The year was 1978.

We also found out that when Deborah lived in Saskatoon, in 1982, she and her brother Kent observed a UFO on a summer night. She recalled that she could not account for a period of time amounting to an hour and a half.

Not only is Deborah a repeater, but the element of missing time may mean that she was abducted. She has noticed in the past three years or so, that she has a hollowed out cut or scoop mark on her left shoulder.

fear of hypnosis

All these stories remain just stories at this time, as, after some discussion with Tokarz, she got as far as agreeing to visit our Consultant in regressive hypnosis, Dr. David Gotlib. And that is as far as it got, as after an interview with the doctor, Deborah said she was afraid to undergo hypnosis. She said that an amateur hypnotist had unsuccessfully tried to hypnotize her years ago. She used that and her fear of what she might find out as her reason for declining to pursue regressive hypnosis. Hypnosis would give some scientific credibility to CUFORN's investigation and could relieve her fear or the trauma she may have undergone as a result of an abduction by humanoids. Unless she changes her mind, we will never know for sure what happened to her over the years.

LORENZEN, Coral E., 63, of Tucson died April 12, 1988. Preceded in death by husband, Leslie James Lorenzen and daughter, Leslie Stryker. Survived by son, Lawrence Lorenzen of Phoenix; grandchildren, Jason and Blaire Stryker, Richard and Matthew Lorenzen; sisters, Colleen, Clarice and Eleanor; brothers, Everett and Corliss. Memorial services, Monday April 18, 1:00 p.m. at Unitarian Universalist Church, 4831 E. 22nd St. with the Reverend David Johnson officiating. Inurnment, Arlington National Cemetery. Family suggest donations be made to the Humane Society of Tucson, 3450 N. Kelvin Blvd. Tucson, Arizona 85716. Arrangements by ADAIR FUNERAL HOMES, Aviator Chapel, 8090 N. Northern Ave. (at Magee).

Tucson
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 15 Apr 88

The Arizona Daily Star

Tucson, Sunday, April 17, 1988

Service set for UFO expert Coral Lorenzen

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. tomorrow for Tucsonan Coral E. Lorenzen, a leading UFO expert and author.

Lorenzen, 63, died Tuesday at St. Mary's Hospital.

The service will be held at Unitarian Universalist Church, 4831 E. 22nd Street. Lorenzen will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery in a plot next to her husband, L.J. "Jim" Lorenzen, who died in 1986.

The couple founded the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization in 1952. The Tucson-based agency has 1,200 members worldwide.

In a 1986 interview, Mrs. Lorenzen estimated that the group had received "at least 150,000" reports of UFO sightings and incidents over the years.

"We never stopped to take a head count," she said. "We receive reports practically every day."

The husband and wife team wrote five books on UFOs.

The fear of being labeled a "kook" inhibits many people from reporting UFOs, she said in a past interview with the Arizona Daily Star.

Even some organization members don't want to be identified because they have

important jobs and fear for their reputations, she said.

Also in that interview, she said the six most common UFO shapes are a disc, sphere, egg, triangle, cigar and doughnut. She said she never concluded that UFOs represent extraterrestrial beings.

In another interview with the Star, Mrs. Lorenzen said flying objects and their occupants have been reported taking soil samples and picking objects out of garbage dumps.

Mrs. Lorenzen is survived by a son, Lawrence, of Phoenix; three sisters; two brothers; and four grandchildren.

Government Communications

Director sees UFO with black "pipes" hovering outside her 44th floor apartment window in mid-town Toronto

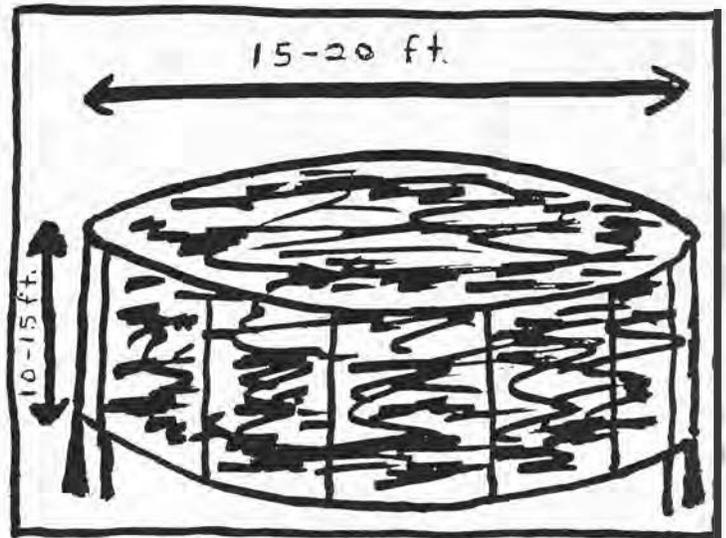
by Lawrence J. Fenwick

A lady whom we will call "Shelley Wells" was watching television while lying in bed at 7 p.m. on Friday, March 18, 1988, when out of the corner of her eye she saw a strange object hovering outside her 44th floor apartment in the Thorncliffe Park area of Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Interviewed by Joe Muskat and Harry Tokarz of CUFORN, she described the object as a charcoal grey metallic device about 15-20 feet in diameter with black struts hanging from each end. She said she was "astounded and ran to the window". The UFO seemingly reacted to her movement by first moving slowly eastwards, then swiftly ascending to the clouds. She called the two appendages "pipes" which were about five inches long. The UFO had no seams and she could not hear any sound as her window was closed and there was no balcony on that side of the building, so she could not go out to observe more closely. She estimated the UFO was no more than ten feet from the window which faces north.

She estimated the total observation lasted 15 seconds. All her neighbours were either away at the time or were elderly and no one else reported seeing anything.

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Ms. Wells told us that it was dusk, overcast and cool. The UFO had sharp edges. The area is near high tension power lines and a hydro-electric substation. She waited two months before calling the police about the sighting. They referred her to Downsview AFB who gave her CUFORN's number. Her disbelief in what she saw made her wait to report the sighting.

Shelley is a former Air Canada stewardess and now works as Director of Communications for one of the Ministries of the Ontario Government in Toronto. She is 43 and has a male friend, Lawrence Sherman, Jr., who is an architect and former U.S. Air Force officer who was based in the Pacific. Sherman's late father was Chairman of the Joint Intelligence Staff at the Pentagon and a friend of the late U.S. Air Force General Nathan Twining of MJ-12. Colonel Lawrence Sherman, Sr. was also Director of U.S.A.F. Intelligence for the Pacific.

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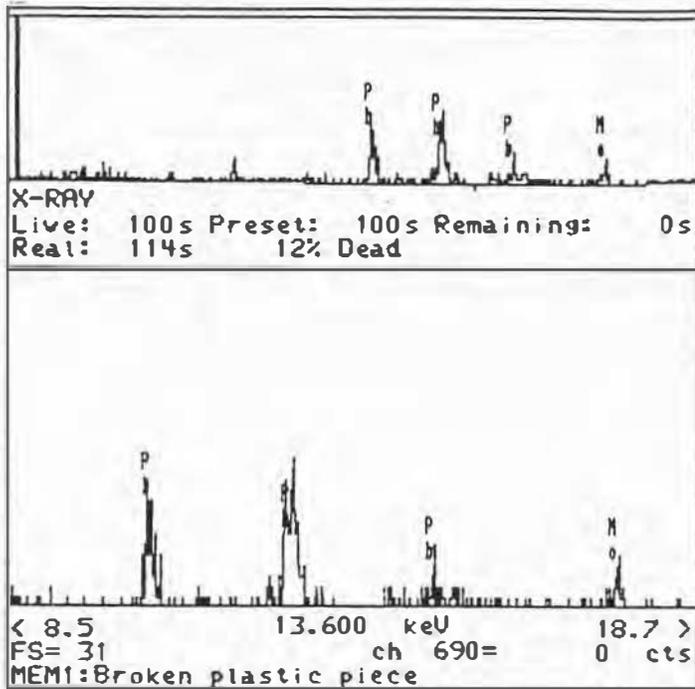
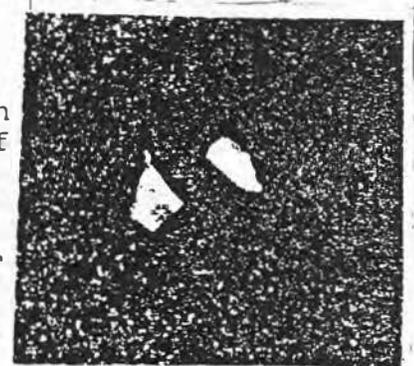
Regressive Hypnosis-David Corliss, M.D.

Lead found in light-weight fragment

Abductee Betty Dagenais of Bond Head, Ontario got a few small pieces of a hard, pinkish-orange material from her cousin in California in 1966. Her cousin got it from a "world traveller" who had found large quantities of it on a mountain-top in the Sierra Nevada Range in California. In 1968, it was analyzed as a phenolic or polymeric plastic of the type used in aircraft undercarriages. It is heat-set and has high density, low weight and cannot be melted under high temperatures. It looks like a form of Bakelite. It will carbonize when a match is held to it. Initial analysis was done under the direction of George D. Hathaway, P. Eng., at the Ontario Science Centre in December 1986, and at the University of Toronto just prior to that time.

A scanning electron microscope was used. Elements found were: lead (note: the material is light-weight; molybdenum; and kryptonite (shades of Superman), with possible traces of actinium and arsenic. The "at" in the list means atomic weight; "cts" refers to counts.

RIGHT: a photo of two pieces in CUFORN's possession. It would be interesting to find out if such a plastic was used in aircraft in 1966. Readers may be able to assist us in finding out. If it was not, we may have something which was not man-made.



LIST OF PROBABLE ELEMENTS:

Memory: MEM1
Spectrum: Broken plastic piece

Element	Line	at (keV)	peak found at (keV)	discrepancy (keV)
Kr	Ka	12.631	12.620	-.011
Mo	Ka	17.443	17.500	.057
Pb	L _a 1	10.549	10.560	.011
	L _b 1	12.611	12.620	.009
	L _b 2	12.620	12.620	.000

List of possible elements with peaks overlapping those of the probable elements:

As	Ka	10.531	10.560	.029
Ac	L _a 1	12.650	12.620	-.030

Initial investigation results revealed in Mundrabilla, Australia CE 2 report

by Lawrence J. Fenwick



← OBJECT
 WHITE LIGHT
 with shape
 in centre
 a yellow
 light.
 About 3 feet
 wide. 16
 estimation
 of length



DRAWING BY
 KNOWLES
 FAMILY
 GIVEN TO
 POLICE

Sketch of the UFO drawn by the Knowles family soon after the incident in which they claim they saw an egg-shaped object on the Nullarbor Pt.

The article which appears in the next five pages is a compilation of information from various sources. Chief amongst them is The Mundrabilla Incident, by Walter Andrus, a two-part series which appeared in the MUFON UFO Journal, March and April, 1988. Information also came from Judith Magee of the Victoria UFO Society; Keith Basterfield and Ray Brooke of UFO Research Australia and UFO Research Southern Australia; The Sun (Melbourne); Weekly World News; The National Examiner; the News (Adelaide, SA); the Advertiser (Melbourne); the Sunday Observer (Melbourne); and two other Australian newspapers, the Sun-Herald, and the Sunday Press. Canadian coverage included the Globe and Mail and the Toronto Star, as well as the Toronto Sun.

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We are indebted to Judith Magee of the Victoria UFO Research Society for her assistance in the preparation of this article. She was kind enough to send us 24 newspaper clippings and talked with us briefly by phone from Australia.

An Australian family claims that they encountered a UFO as they drove from Perth to Melbourne on the morning of January 20, 1988. The incident occurred about 40 km west of Mundrabilla on the Eyre Highway on the Nullarbor Plain in the State of Western Australia. The Knowles family were combining a holiday with a job hunting expedition. Mundrabilla is a village 1,207 km (750 miles) east of Perth.

They say that their automobile, a blue 1984 Ford Telstar, was lifted into the air by the UFO and deposited back on the road, causing a tire to burst, their luggage, which was on the roof, to disappear, and indentation marks to appear on the roof. The UFO had shaken the car before it slammed the car onto the roadway, and then it showered it with a powdery ash before flying away. It also made their voices sound distorted, and caused a red blotch to appear on the back of Mrs. Faye Knowles left hand. This occurred, she said, when she reached out over the roof edge and touched something that felt like a rubber suction pad.

The case is still under investigation by three UFO groups after statements from the media, police, the military, two motel owners, debunkers, and a laboratory which examined the automobile. The car, according to investigators, had been covered with a black ash due to the incident, and some of it entered the interior of the auto. A total of 72 people were involved in this case as of the beginning of February, 1988. We caution readers to avoid drawing any conclusion about the case, as no firm conclusion has been reached by the investigators yet.

one drove away

There were four vehicles whose occupants saw the UFO, only three of which have been identified. One other car was seen to drive away and, despite an ad in the local newspaper, the driver of the car has not come forward to make a statement. In the Knowles car were Mrs. Faye Knowles and her sons Sean, 21, Patrick, 24, and Wayne, 18. Other witnesses were truck driver John de Jong (known as Porky) and his friend and co-driver Anne, and truck driver Graham Henley (or Hewley in some accounts). Mrs. Knowles took over for her son Sean who was driving until the event took place. She drove 640 km to the Ceduna police station to report the event. She had been sitting in the left rear seat of the car when Sean was driving. De Jong later saw the red blotch on Mrs. Knowles hand during his investigation of the event. During the incident, Anne was driving while de Jong slept in the truck's rear cabin, although he woke up at the start of the event to speak to Henley on the CB radio.

At about the same time, the crew of a tuna fishing boat, the Empress Lady, reported seeing a similar UFO approach their boat in the Great Australian Bight which is 80 km away. It caused their speech to sound slurred. The crew of the boat has not been interviewed by anyone other than the police, so that part of the case is also incomplete. The skipper of the boat said the UFO he saw was shimmering and was dome-shaped. He said the crew's voices became very deep and their words seemed to be spoken in slow motion. The tuna boat sighting was just a few minutes after the Knowles sighting. A fleet spokesman said details of the tuna boat sighting had been exaggerated.

Anthony Monte Luke, speaking for Amdel (Australian Mineral Development Laboratory), which examined the car, said the ash was consistent with disintegrating brake linings found on other vehicles, which could occur if the car was driven some distance on a flat tire. The entire valve for pumping air into the damaged tire was missing. Photos taken of the burst tire show it to be shredded and a spring within the front wheel well showed an area of bright metal as if buffed in a violent up-and-down motion. John Auchetti of the Victoria UFO Research Society said the blown-out tire was "very unusual" because there were no signs of wear and tear. He said the tire would be sent to its

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

manufacturer for analysis. Auchetti and Paul Norman, VUFORS Vice-President, collected dust samples from inside the car and from the brake linings and tested the car for radioactivity and changes to its magnetic field.

The indentations on the car roof were at the corners. They looked the same as a mark made by hitting the roof with a fist. Auchetti said the dents were so widely spaced that they could not have been caused by the car rolling over.

As you can see from the drawing by Mrs. Knowles on the first page of this article, the UFO looked like a giant egg in an eggcup. This is at odds with the dome shape reported by the tuna fishermen. As for its colour, the Knowles boys described it as a "huge, bright glowing object". In other interviews, they said it was "orange" and "bright and white with a yellow centre." It was a metre (three feet) wide. The UFO made a humming and hissing sound and was described also as a "whirring" noise, which the family thought was a truck, at first.

"real weird feeling"

Sean Knowles said the family car had almost collided with the object. "We swerved to miss it as it was parked in the road in front of us. We nearly hit a car and caravan (trailer) coming the other way. It was a weird looking thing and we stopped to go back and have a look." He said the family ran back to their car to get away from the object. "It chased us and, at one stage, when we were trying to get away, we were doing up to 200 kmh," he said. He said that then it landed on the car roof and lifted it from the road. "We had a real weird feeling that this thing had control of us." At first, when they saw the object, Sean said he thought it was the lights of a truck approaching them from the east. As it approached, it then disappeared after "jumping about a bit." It became visible again and continued to approach their car. Sean said it "looked like a spaceship." It became brighter and brighter and they kept driving towards it. It then disappeared. The next thing they knew it was behind them. After Sean accelerated, it appeared in front of them again. At this point, it landed on the roof.

car's radio affected

The family told police that while they were suspended in the air, their voices were distorted as though they were talking in slow motion. They said that while the object was hovering their car radio cut out. They were in the air a short time. After the car was dropped onto the highway, the tire blew out and Sean braked the car to a halt. After hiding in the bush for 15 minutes, they returned and replaced the tire, leaving the jack and tire iron on the road. Then they drove to the Mundrabilla roadhouse where they were met by De Jong. Later, when he and Henley investigated, they could find no trace of the tire iron or the jack. They did find footprints and dog paw prints at the site of the encounter., and a skid mark 15-20 metres long, apparently made by the rear left hand tire when the car pulled over to the side of the road to change the tire. De Jong did not see any black ash on the vehicle, either inside or outside. The car was dusty and dirty, and the trunk was in a shambles. He saw no suitcases either on or in the car. The family had two suitcases banded to the roof of the car. De Jong saw no trace of the clothes in the trunk. The clothes had reportedly been moved around when the Knowles took out the jack.

Mrs. Knowles said that when the UFO landed on the roof, "we heard a clunking sound." She said the UFO "kept tormenting us. This was happening for about an hour and a half." She added: "If you're driving 200 km an hour, how could you blow the back tire without rolling the car. It was after us. It was chasing other cars. Then all of a sudden it came for us. Something's got to be done or else someone will get really hurt. There's something out there we can't explain."

Mrs. Knowles said of the moment when the ash entered the car's interior: "We were going silly. Something was going into our heads. We didn't know what it was." In a later interview on the "Hinch at Seven" TV show, she said: "We were in a state of shock. All of a sudden, this thing was on our roof and lifted our car up. I said to my sons 'I don't know what to do' and as soon as I said that, this smoke stuff

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

started coming into the car. It was like a soot..coming in on top of us. We thought we were dying, so we got out of the car and stood behind a little tree in the bushes. It couldn't find us but it was still there waiting for us and looking for us. Then all of a sudden, it took off again and we hopped in the car to take off. It came after us again. It wouldn't leave us alone." The Knowles family appeared distressed and shaken in the exclusive TV interview.

Mrs. Knowles told another interviewer the following: she placed her hand on the car's roof and felt a "spongy" substance. They wound down the windows and a greyish-black "mist" came into the car. The sound of their voices changed in pitch and appeared to slow down. They believed the object was on the roof of the car, but they did not see anything protruding from the front, sides or rear of the car. They all became hysterical, crying and shouting. They believed their car was lifted off the road, but said they had not looked out in order to verify this. She said that when she touched the UFO "it felt warm and spongy and it smelt like dead bodies. When we started yelling and screaming, our voices became deep and very slow like in a dream." She hit out at the Channel Seven Network after tests showed the car had no signs of an extraterrestrial encounter. "They're calling us liars. That's not true. What we know happened to us did happen to us."

The reporter who did the story was Channel Seven's Frank Pagnello, the chief-of-staff at the network's Adelaide outlet. He said: "Nobody's really disputing that they didn't see anything. It's just that nothing hit the car." He said some dents found on the car were old and consistent with wear and tear. There were two dents on the roof and some on the side of the car. Two dents were fairly recent. He said Geiger counters used in the Amel test found no trace of radioactivity. He said the smoke in the car was caused by the burst tire. He went on to say "there's nothing saying you didn't see a UFO because it has been witnessed by other people on the road. Independent witnesses have seen it and it was seen again the following night. So it's not that they're being made out to be liars. They were genuinely distressed at seeing something."

Senior Sergeant Jim Furnell of Ceduna police said: "We were a little bit skeptical at first, but after investigating, we are treating the reports very seriously. There were too many witnesses for us not to take it seriously." The fishermen could not have known about the Knowles experience when they reported their sighting, Furnell added. He summarized the event well: "It looks authentic. They saw a light object following a truck going west along the highway, then it turned around and caught up with them. It landed on the roof, picked up the car, shook it violently, pressed it back on to the road and blew a tire," he said. "It showered it with ash on the roof and interior through the open windows. The occupants escaped to hide in the scrub. They watched the object hover around in mid-air for some time, then fly off."

The time of the event is estimated at around 5 a.m. and lasted until 6.30 Western Australia Time. There has been some confusion because of the different time zones in Western Australia and South Australia States. Furnell stated that "truck driver Graham Hewley reported being followed by a UFO on the highway and a **tuna spotter aircraft said it spotted a bright light near the highway.**" This makes at least 12 observers of this UFO, and maybe more as we don't know the number of fishermen on the tuna boat or the number of people in the tuna spotter aircraft.

Senior Sergeant Furnell said the family were "very frightened. I think something has definitely shaken them up. He stated that when the family talked with him for an hour and a half "they were physically upset as if someone close to them had died. They were convinced it was a UFO." Mrs. Knowles did not tell the police she touched the object. That only came out in the TV interview later on. Furnell said: "With a glowing thing that looked like a ball of fire, you wouldn't touch it, would you?" Furnell said Faye Knowles did not report there was luggage on the roof. So there was doubt that the dents on the roof were made by a luggage rack. The police found no skid marks. Someone eventually found the tire jack which was sent to another police station.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

Patrick Knowles described the incident: "Something seemed to be on top of us. We looked around but it didn't seem to be there. It seemed to kind of grab the car. The car began to smoke more or less. It felt like something was on the car. I couldn't really explain it. **The dogs in the car started going crazy.** I wound up the windows and the car began to smoke up inside. **It smelt like dead bodies or gas.**"

Truck driver Henley said: "I touched the mother's hand where she said she touched the thing and it was cold, not clammy, but cold like marble." Henley has driven on the Nullarbor Plain run for 31 years. He said that morning the Knowles car was about 10 to 15 kilometres behind De Jong's truck. Henley said he had seen in his rear view mirror a bright white light hovering above the car headlights. "It was hovering and just flickering in and out between the trees. I had only just been talking to Porky on the radio, but once I saw that light it all went dead." De Jong believes he was out of range to receive the call from Henley.

He said he saw the Knowles family try to hail his truck, but he told Anne, who was driving, to ignore them because of the dangers of stopping for strangers in the outback. He said that when he saw the family at the Mundrabilla roadhouse, they were in a state of shock and even their dogs were cowering in the front seat of the car. He said: "The whole car smelt like Bakelite or just like as if you'd blown a fuse. A soot was all over the car and there were four dents as though the car had been picked up by a magnet. He said that when he checked the tread of the burst tire, there was nothing to indicate it had swerved off the road.

Anne noted no unusual effects during the time she was driving the truck. She heard no unusual sounds.

Sergeant Fred Longley, also of Ceduna, thought he would have to title his report "Incident on the Nullarbor Highway." He said this report was the most unusual of all the UFO reports he had taken in the area. He said he was normally skeptical, but was keeping an open mind. He said the Knowles family was obviously distressed when they walked into his police station at lunchtime. "These people have definitely seen something. Just what--well, I don't know. They were in a terrible state, even though it was five hours after the incident...very upset. You could say 'whitefaced, shaking, obviously distressed.' The woman was just thankful to be alive. These people were in a 1,000 percent worse state than other people who've made UFO reports to me. Something happened out there. Their car, even after being driven all that way, still had black ash, or dust, over it. Even on the inside. There's no soil like that here--there's only sand. Everyone else here in the station is pretty skeptical, but I'm keeping an open mind." Longley said De Jong, who was originally followed by the object, had driven to Perth and reported the incident to the media, who alerted police. The police said the car had damage consistent with the alleged incident--there were marks on the road and ash was found scattered around the area. Contrast this with what De Jong found. Longley added, "It's a bit like the Himalayan Yeti. Some say it exists, others say it doesn't. Who knows?"

"Luggage of the gods?"

One important item should be stressed--the suitcases which were tied to a pack-rack on the roof had vanished. The incident happened in clear weather, with no moon, the stars were visible, and there was no sign of any lightning in the area. A spokesman at the Royal Australian Air Force base at Edinburgh, South Australia, said he was unaware of military aircraft in the area at the time. Police at Eucla said they had been unable to find the spot where the encounter allegedly took place. Ray Brooke of the UFO Research Centre in Adelaide said he is convinced they had an authentic experience. "Hopefully, because of the physical nature of this sighting, we might be able to find out more about the object," he said. Oddly enough, Sergeant Dennis Sutton of Ceduna said "There was no evidence of black ash at the site."

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The family rested at the Eyre Highway Motel at Wudinna, 350 km north-west of Adelaide prior to returning to Perth. Another sidelight: None of the sophisticated radars or satellites is pointed at the Nullarbor Plain. No airport or satellite station reported anything unusual at the time of the encounter.

TV Show publicity

The media and the debunkers all had comments to make on this case. Major articles appeared in every leading newspaper in Australia. UPI, Reuter and Associated Press picked up the story. The Ceduna police contacted UFOR(SA) 9½ hours after the event occurred. The family were present at the police station when the call was made. Arrangements were made then for the family to call to see Ray Brooke when they got to Adelaide with the car. However, the story had already been leaked to the media by De Jong and the family were intercepted en route and a deal was concluded with the Channel Seven Network. A television special was aired on the network, which paid the Knowles family \$5,000 for the rights to the story for a three month period. This network was the first on the spot with a reporter. Later on, the Nine Network bid more--\$20,000-- for the rights. But by then it was too late for them. Channel Seven is reportedly negotiating with American TV producer Aaron Spelling for U.S. rights to a TV movie about the event.

meteorite theory

Space engineer Matthew James suggested the incident could have been caused by ball lightning. Glen Moore, a research physicist from the University of Wollongong, said the UFO was probably part of a falling, disintegrating meteorite. He said the details were consistent with just such an occurrence--that of a carbonaceous meteorite. He said the fall of a carbonaceous meteorite at Murchison on north Victoria State in 1969 was replete with the same details as the incident at Mundrabilla. Several farming properties there were showered with black material and people reported a peculiar smell and a shock wave as it entered the atmosphere, he said.

Professor Peter Schwerdtfeger, the head of meteorology at Adelaide's Flinders University, said a severe electrical storm could have caused the incident. The former head of the South Australia Bureau of Meteorology, Allen Brunt, said he believed the family had seen an extremely distorted view of the sun. He said, "I'll go and jump in the lake if that dust they found turns out to be some sort of extraterrestrial material." The debunkers say the dust, the banging on the roof and the feeling they were being lifted could have been the car tipping over and landing back on its wheels. In their panic, the family confused the events. A highly-charged pocket of air turning into a mini-electrical storm could create effects such as an engine cutting out, strange lights, shaking of the car, and even the ash. A meteorite piece could have hit the car with a shock wave which force the car hard down on the road. Strange smells could have been caused by the burning up of the meteorite.

Charles Morgan of the Sydney Observatory said the Knowles family may have lost control of their car during a meteorite shower. He said: "Either they went into fright and went into a spin without realizing it or it is an unexplained phenomenon." He said it could have been a large, carbonaceous meteorite shower, which would explain the ash and the claim of the smell of dead bodies inside the car. "But," he said, "there's no explanation for the car being picked up unless they drove off the road, hit a bump and went into the air."

According to Colin Norris, the Nullarbor Plain has produced more UFO sightings than any other area of Australia. The South Australia police, upon completing their investigation, sent a report to their counterparts in Western Australia.

A final comment from Paul Norman is in order. He said of the statement about the meteorite theory: "They watched it fly off. What sort of meteorite does that?"