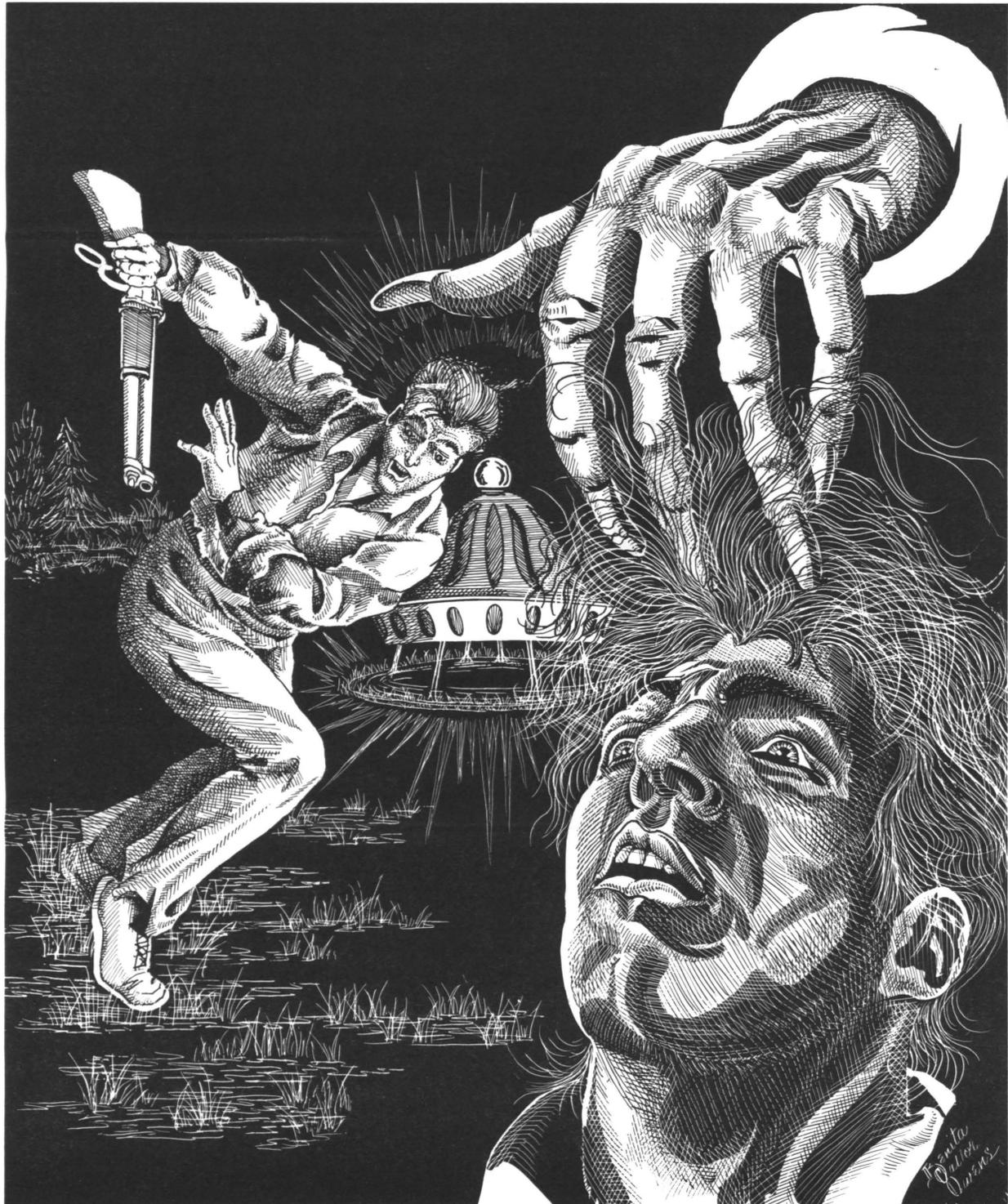


FLYING SAUCER DIGEST

NO. 135

FALL 1996



UNITED AERIAL PHENOMENA AGENCY

ON THE COVER

by Allan J. Manak

One of the best known cases in all of ufology is the Kelly-Hopkinsville encounter. It took place on August 21, 1955, near Kelly, Kentucky. In a small farm house outside Kelly, were eight adults and three children. One of the men came in from outside and said that he had seen a flying saucer land near their farm. Half an hour later the family dog began barking violently, and two of the men saw through the back door a strange glow approaching the farmhouse. Then they noticed a glowing three-and-a-half foot creature with a round oversized head. The eyes were large and glowed with a yellowish light; the arms were long, almost reaching the ground. The creature seemed to be made of silver metal. Two men grabbed their guns and waited until the creature got within 20 feet of them, and then fired. The creature flipped over backward and then got up and ran away. After a few minutes a creature appeared at the side window, the men fired through the window. They also shot a creature off the roof. Many shots were fired at the creatures for about four hours. The family all got into two cars and drove to the Hopkinsville Police Department. Officers came back to the farm house with a photographer and proceeded to search the house and grounds, but found nothing. The next morning more investigators came back to search the entire farm, however nothing was ever found. Source: The files of Allan J. Manak

UFO BITS AND PIECES

by Allan J. Manak

THE "MARFA LIGHTS" OF MEXICO: Tales of flying fireballs are rampant in the Ojinaga area, primarily around a place called Lomas de Arena, a rural area near the Rio Grande down river from Ojinaga. These fireballs are seen at night, and cause great fright among the local populace, who believe that they are witches who transform themselves into this form as part of their Satanic rituals. Conventional wisdom has it that the Lomas de Arena fireballs are the witches who are just experiencing their apprenticeship in the black arts, and that this is their "training area" for night flights. It is said that they often crash against the nearby cliffs, and in the morning they can be identified by the cuts and bruises they sustain in these training mishaps.

San Carlos, also known as Manual Benavides, is a town about 50 or 60 miles away from Ojinaga, not far from Lajitas, Texas, where lights are perceived as being either brujas, or connected with them somehow, are reported to have been seen flying between two mountain peaks which are visible from the town. It is reported that this occurs only two days out of the week, and is considered bad fortune to see one. For this reason, children were formerly kept indoors during the days that the fireballs were believed to go flying about. This tradition is probably hundreds of years old, dating back to the pre-hispanic era.

The Cerrito (or Sierra) de la Santa Cruz, is a small mountain range just outside of Ojinaga, and is one of the very symbols of Ojinaga itself. Tales of both religious and folkloric significance surround the Cerrito, and at least some of these tales have been linked with those of the Indians who inhabited the region before the arrival of the Spanish.

Of particular importance is the tale of the devil who danced on the tightrope stretched between Chinati Peak and the Cerrito (another version

has it that it was not a matter of dancing on a tightrope, but rather that it was more like a swing that swung back and forth). This tale is rooted in an older tale of a spider who stretched a filament of its silk from one peak to another and then lowered itself down to the sleeping quarters of naughty children in order to punish their misdeeds. This was the Indian tale which was later made into a sort of Catholic tale of good and evil by the Franciscan friars who first came to what was once a collection of Indian pueblos in and around what is now Ojinaga.

It is reported that balls of fire, or of light, emanate from or fly about the Cerrito de la Santa Cruz, and that they are indeed brujas traveling about. On this particular point, it is worthwhile to note that the existence of "fireballs" or flying balls of light are an almost universally held belief among the people who are actually native to the Ojinaga region, and that two "facts" regarding this are also almost universally held to be true.

One is that they are people practicing witchcraft, flying about in this form, which is an alternate form of travel for them, the other being the mode of transforming themselves into lechuzas. This belief in witches who transform themselves into either lechuzas or bolas de lumbre, which is the term used to describe the "fireballs," is not specific to this region, but is also documented by folklorists in New Mexico and in other places, too.

The other "fact," as it were, is that it is another almost universally held belief that, by reciting the Doce Verdaderes del Mundo, the bola de lumbre will change back into a person and can then be caught. The Doce Verdaderes are pretty much the prayer choice to be recited any time any evil occurrences are suspected, and are part of the "cure" used by curanderos, who themselves are sort of like exorcists in Mexican culture, removing evil spells from people who are victimized by those who practice

brujeria (witchcraft). Source: The Desert Candle, Jul/Aug 1996, Vol10, No.4. **FSD SUBSCRIBERS TO RECEIVE NEW SOURCEBOOK:** As a way of celebrating Flying Saucer Digest's 30th anniversary in 1997, we've decided to give all FSD readers an early bonus. Within several weeks you will receive a free copy of our new UFO Sourcebook catalog. It's a 36 page publication crammed with hundreds of rare UFO and Fortean items going back as far as 1951! Needless to say, the Sourcebook contains many holiday gift ideas for that special ufologist or Fortean on your shopping list.

ANOTHER NEW PLANET: The planet-hunting team of Geoff Marcy and Paul Butler have discovered their fourth extrasolar planet in less than six months. The new planet orbits the 4.5 magnitude star Tau Bootis, which is about 60 light-years away. The planet lies a mere 6.9 million kilometers (0.046 astronomical unit) from Tau Bootis, making it closer to its parent star than any other planet discovered to date. Tau Bootis is an F7 star, meaning

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it is slightly larger and hotter than the Sun.

The planet's exceptionally short orbital period is similar to those of the planets orbiting 51 Pegasi and Rho Cancri. All three stars have relatively high abundances of elements heavier than hydrogen and helium. "There's a real hint of a correlation, but what that correlation means is not known," says Butler. "These 51 Peg-like planets were completely unexpected. Source: Astronomy Magazine Sept. 1996.

COLLECTORS CORNER: The following magazines are one of a kind, unless otherwise specified. These magazines are extremely rare. Each magazine will be mailed in plastic sheets for extra protection with the collector in mind. The price includes shipping. (First come, first served, only!) Special prices this issue: Ufology Magazine Spring 1976, 52 pages - Study Of Time, Pascagoula Update \$3.00. Ufology Magazine Summer 1976, 68 pages - Ancient Astronauts, Exobiology Evidence \$3.00. Official UFO Magazine March 1978, 68 pages \$3.00. Official UFO Magazine April 1982, 52 pages \$3.00. Second Look Magazine Sept 1979, 36 pages \$3.00. UFO Sightings Magazine Jan 1981, 68 pages \$3.00. People Press UFO Report Magazine 1975, 68 pages \$3.00. Close Encounters Magazine Feb 1978, 68 pages \$3.00. Ufology Newspaper Aug. 26, 1977, rare \$3.00. Ancient Astronauts Magazine July 1976, 68 pages \$3.00. Paperbacks - No Earthly Explanation by John Spencer \$3.00. The Bermuda Triangle Mystery Solved by Lawrence Kusche \$3.00. The Book Of Encounters by Warren Smith \$3.00. Intercept UFO by Renato Vesco \$3.00. Extraterrestrial Visitations From Prehistoric Times To The Present by Jacques Berguer \$3.00. Fate Magazine Specials: No. 178 Jan 1965; No. 181 April 1965; No. 192 March 1966; No. 217 April 1968; No. 223 Oct 1968; No. 226 Jan 1969; No. 231 June 1969; No. 273 Dec 1972; No. 284 Nov 1973; All are \$2.00 each. Send to: Collectors Corner P.O. Box 347032, Cleveland, Ohio 44134.

UFO RETROSPECTIVE

IS THIS A REAL ACCOUNT, OR IS IT A NEWSPAPER HOAX?

Hon. Alex Hamilton of Vernon, Kansas, came to town last Wednesday (April 21, 1897) and created quite an excitement by announcing that he had been having some experience with the much talked about airship. Mr. Hamilton is an old settler, was a member of the legislature in the early days and is known all over Woodson, Allen, Coffey and Anderson counties. He stakes his sacred honor upon the truthfulness of the story. Mr. Hamilton said:

"Last Monday night about half past ten o'clock we were awakened by a noise among the cattle. I arose, thinking perhaps my bull dog was performing some of his pranks but upon going to the door, saw to my utter amazement an airship slowly descending over my cow lot and about 40 rods from the house. Calling Gid Heslip, my tenant, and my son Wall, we seized some axes and ran to the corral. Meanwhile the ship had been gently descending until it was not more than 30 feet above the ground and we came up to within 50 yards of it. It consisted of a great cigar-shaped portion

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possibly 300 feet long with a carriage underneath. The carriage was made of panels of glass or other transparent substance, alternating with a narrow strip of some other material. It was brilliantly lighted within and everything was clearly visible. There were three lights; one like an immense search light and two smaller, one red the other green. The large one was susceptible of being turned in any direction. It was occupied by six of the strangest beings I ever saw. There were two men, a woman and three children. They were jabbering together but we could not understand a syllable they said. Every part of the vessel which was not transparent was of a dark reddish color. We stood mute in wonder and fright, when some noise attracted their attention and they turned their light directly upon us. Immediately upon catching sight of us, they turned on some unknown power, and a great



turbine wheel about 30 feet in diameter which was slowing revolving below the craft, began to buzz, sounding precisely like the cylinder of a separator, and the vessel rose as lightly as a bird. When about 300 ft. above us it seemed to pause and hover directly over a three year old heifer which was bawling and jumping, apparently fast in the fence. Going to her we found a cable about half an inch in thickness, made of the same red material, fastened in a slip knot about her neck, one end passing up to the vessel and tangled in the wire. We tried to get it off but could not, so we cut the wire loose and stood in amazement to see ship, cow and all rise slowly and sail off, disappearing in the northwest. We went home but I was so frightened I could not sleep but arose early Tuesday morning, mounted my horse and

started out hoping to find some trace of my cow. This I failed to do but coming back to Leroy in the evening found that Lank Thomas who lives in Coffey county about three or four miles west of Leroy had found the hide, legs and head in his field that day. He, thinking some one had butchered a stolen beast and thrown the hide away, had brought it to town for identification but was greatly mystified in not being able to find a track of any kind on the soft ground. I went home last night but every time I would drop to sleep I would see the cursed thing with its big lights and hideous people. I don't know whether they are devils or angels or what but we all saw them and my whole family saw the ship and I don't want any more to do with them."

Mr. Hamilton looked as if he had not entirely recovered from the shock and every one who heard him was convinced he was sincere in every word. Source: Flying Saucer Magazine No. 79.

AROUND AND ABOUT THE SAUCER WORLD
by Rick R. Hilberg

WHERE ARE ALL THE UFOs?

The above was the title of the special aired on the A&E cable network on September 22nd. Narrated by Michael Dorn, an actor on the "Star Trek" television series, it was a generally negative look at UFOs that was almost a flashback to a similar debunking effort that I watched on CBS back in 1966!

It was the same old formula: constantly refer to the "UFO myth", and start out by a brief look at the Roswell story and (rightly, perhaps?) hammer home the fact that there's no physical proof that a UFO crashed in New Mexico going down 50 years ago. Then flash over to a long look at silly contactee yarns from the 1950s; and be sure to run plenty of forty year old interviews with speakers from the long gone Giant Rock "nutventions" in the California desert. Hey, this is what mainstream ufology is all about in the 1990s! We also got to see a glimpse of Budd Hopkins interviewing an abduction claimant, and learn that the "lack of physical evidence is dubious."

Throughout the two hour program we were shown scratchy old copies of the Tremonton, Utah (nothing but a flock of seagulls) and Great Falls, Montana (aircraft) movies. Only the famous Paul Trent photographs of 1950 were labeled as unknown. And to make matters worse, we were constantly shown a 1957 photograph from New Mexico that was identified as a lenticular cloud when Ike was still in the White House.

We also got to see Doug and Dave hoaxing crop circles, and I'll bet you get the picture by now.

There were also interviews with several leading ufologists who were more than willing to play right into the producers'

They couldn't dismiss the Trent photo

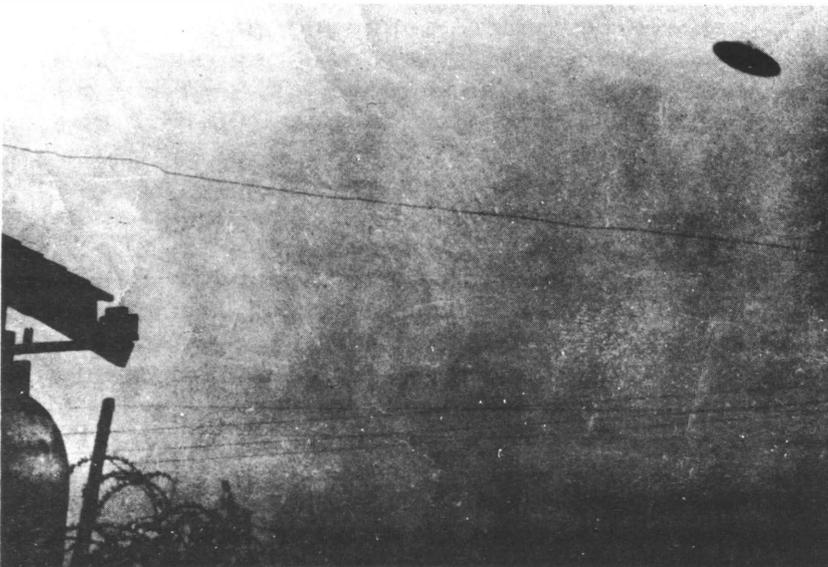
hands. In their rush to make it onto the boob tube they were more than willing to bring up the negative aspects of the UFO "evidence," and generally spout all sorts of silliness to make them look like horses' behinds. Hopefully these same gentlemen weren't responsible for providing the producers with the large number of errors regarding basic facts and chronology cited throughout the program.

Sadly, this special was far from an honest and objective look at the UFO mystery. I've gotten better information from "tabloid" TV programs! A FLASHING RED LIGHT AND "LASER BEAMS" IN CALIFORNIA

As sheriff's detectives hid in the early-morning darkness July 11th near a train trestle over Altomont Pass to look for whoever has been zapping motorists with laser beams, an intense red light reportedly flashed above the rural countryside several miles away.

A Patterson Pass Road resident told the Alameda County Sheriff's Department he was in the back yard about 1:30 that morning when he noticed a narrow red beam cut through the sky.

Miles down the grade from Patterson Pass, detectives had staked out the terrain around the Union Pacific Railroad trestle that crosses Altamont Pass Road near Carrol Road. But they couldn't find the source of laser beams fired in past weeks.



Almost 24 hours earlier, sheriff's Deputy Richard Frish was driving on Altamont when he noticed a red beam and felt his left cheek warm up. When he turned to look, the light temporarily blinded him.

Moments earlier, a trucker told Frish his truck had been hit by such a beam as he was hauling a load of trash to the Altamont Landfill.

Other truckers en route to the landfill have related similar experiences, according to sheriffs Lt. Dave Hoig.

Frish, described by colleagues as taciturn upon his return to the overnight shift, discussed details of the incident with Detectives Stephen Rocerick and Casey Nice, who headed a team of investigators perched out of sight along Altamont until near dawn Thursday.

Investigators suspect the beam that hit Frish came from the trestle or nearby hill. Frish was about 100 yards from the trestle when hit by the beam.

Laser devices are used by construction crews in the Altamont, as well as by workers who maintain railroad tracks and the nearby windmills, according to investigators.

At Lawrence Livermore National Laboratories, laser research is focused on creating commercially feasible fusion power.

"I think most people in the Bay Area don't know they are at the center of the laser universe when it comes to research and developing technologies," said Craig Savoye, a lab spokesman. "It is like living in Pennsylvania in the 1800s, when the first pool of oil was discovered.

Sheriff's investigators have ruled out the chance that laser flashes in the Altamont came from the lab, however. Source: Glenn Chapman, Hayward, CA Review, July 12, 1996.

INDIANA "UFO" FOLLOWS OHIO CROP CIRCLE

Here's an interesting follow-up to the crop circle story in our last issue. One has to wonder, however, since the object was in sight for such a great amount of time, could we be dealing with an astronomical object, an "IFO"?:

When Dawn Sprunger left the home of a close friend in Bluffton, Ind., early on July 6th, the last thing on her mind was the existence of Unidentified Flying Objects. She hadn't heard anything about a crop circle in Paulding County.

But at 4:10 a.m. (5:10 a.m. EST) all of that changed. Approximately five miles west of this Adams County hamlet, Sprunger noticed what appeared to be red and blue lights blinking to her left. At first she thought the lights were coming from towers located in the area. However, when the lights continued after she passed the towers, she became concerned.

"I finally tried to get a good look at it and what I saw scared me," noted Sprunger. "It looked like a vertical jet, triangular in shape. At certain times you could see red and blue lights in it.

"When I came to a stop light in Berne it was in front of me. As I drove toward our house it was to my left," said the 19-year-old.

Sprunger said that she entered the house and went to bed, hoping that the sighting would just go away. But when she peered out the window a short time later, it was still hovering in the area. She awakened her parents, who also saw the object, and they telephoned law enforcement officials.

According to a report by news editor Tony Mellencamp in Monday's Berne Triweekly News, local police chief Merlin Bixler headed east out of town where he spotted the object. Even though Bixler and three other officers were observing the object first hand, controllers at Fort Wayne International Airport indicated there was no sign of an object in the area on radar.

In the meantime, Berne Mayor Blaine Fulton, who had been alerted of the situation, was able to capture the possible UFO for several minutes on

his camcorder before it finally drifted toward the east close to sunrise.

Officers then returned to the home of Sprunger to inform her that they had also seen the object.

Was there any connection between the Berne sighting and the discovery of a crop circle east of Paulding two days earlier on July 4?

John Timmerman, vice president of public relations for the Center for UFO Studies in Chicago, said Monday that he wouldn't rule out that possibility. In fact, the closeness of the two appearances in timing, as well as geographically, more than captured Timmerman's interest.

"There had to be something that caused all the wheat to fall in the same direction," said Timmerman. "That only happens when you have something in motion."

While Timmerman refused to identify either incident as official UFO activity, he noted that it's not unusual to have UFO sightings close to crop circles. He also noted that the fact that none of the stalks of wheat were broken would seem to heighten the credibility of the situation.

Berne is located eight miles from the Ohio line, approximately 40 miles southwest of Paulding, in Adams County, which borders Mercer and Van Wert counties in Ohio. The crop circle, located on Paulding County Road 126, just off of Ohio 637, is located about 15 miles north of Van Wert.

What does Sprunger think about the whole thing?

"I keep wanting to say, 'Dawn, you're crazy,'" she said. "but it helps to know that the officers also saw it. I used to think that there was no such thing as a UFO, but not anymore. I believe there is life up there that could be interested in seeing what's going on down there. Source: Jim Langham, Defiance, OH Crescent News July 9, 1996.

WEIRD LIGHTS SPOTTED NEAR ALAMOSA, COLORADO

Erin Smith of the Pueblo, Colorado Chieftain filed the following on April 30th:

The weird lights ar back in the San Luis Valley - this time near Mount Blanca.

Alamosa County Sheriff's Sgt. Harry Alejo said Monday that for four nights in a row a Blanca woman has observed a "light" hovering in the area of Mount Blanca.

The Alamosa and Costilla county line runs up the mountain and it was not known Monday whether the light was in Alamosa or Costilla county, Alejo said.

Alejo said the woman, whom he identified as Helen Willhite of Blanca, sounded "credible."

A call to the woman's home was answered by a machine delivering the message to leave a name and telephone number and "have a good day in the Lord." The call was not returned by press time.

Alejo said Ms. Willhite's story caused him to contact air bases in Colorado and New Mexico and the Air Force Academy for information.

He said none of the officials seemed interested and would tell him only that "nothing of our was in the area."

Alejo said he will take a video camera on the road with him and see what he can find and record.

Strange lights are no unusual in the San Luis Valley. In January 1994, there were numerous reports of lights, particularly a blue one near Greenie Mountain, in Rio Grande County across the San Luis Valley, but there have been other reports of strange lights throughout the valley.