

Biloxi, MS - Oct. 5, 2003)

and the last experience of that kind for me," Parker said in a telephone interview. "I don't have any aftereffects from it."

He called the encounter traumatic.

"I don't think or talk about it a lot, but my wife and I were talking about it this evening," he said Tuesday night. "I'm a private person and I really don't talk much."

He said he has not had any contacts with any aliens. "I can't say if the craft was from outer-space. I don't know what it was."

Parker stood by their original account.

"It's the same as it was 30 years ago," he said. "I haven't thought of anything new to add."

Parker said he is in construction work, is happily married and has a son and a daughter. He was reached at a central Alabama telephone number, but he declined to say where they lived.

Hickson has participated in UFO lectures, appeared on talk shows, talked at schools, churches and libraries, and co-wrote the "UFO Contact" book, which he sells. Parker, after some brief hospitalizations after the incident, has moved around in construction work. Except for the brief telephone interview, he has refused most, if not all, interviews on the incident.

Hickson and Parker received many letters of support from UFO enthusiasts. Locally, their account is believed by many,

some saying they saw it that very night, but doubted by others.

"I just told what happened and I don't care if people believe," Hickson said.

Budd Hopkins, an Oberlin (Ohio) College arts graduate who has spent 28 years investigating UFO abductions, said he has no doubt of any part of Hickson's account.

"He had nothing to gain and everything to lose by telling his story," Hopkins said. "His account is one of the premier cases in the world. The bravery of his decision to reveal the abduction has stood the test of time with no recounting."

Capt. Glenn Ryder, who has since retired with the Sheriff's Department, interviewed Hickson and Parker for hours right after the incident and said last week that he still believes they are telling the truth.

"They told the same story over and over in separate interviews, and the tape we made when we put them together in a room alone convinced me they weren't lying," he said.

He called the UFO incident the biggest event he experienced in law enforcement.

"I received hundreds of calls from all over the world," he said.

Capt. Mike Diamond with the Jackson County Sheriff's Department said his father, the late Sheriff Fred Diamond, who investigated the encounter, believed something happened to Hickson and Parker.

"He didn't disbelieve their story," he said.