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### Roswell Sky Screens UFO Show

From: [Stig\\_Agermose@online.pol.dk](mailto:Stig_Agermose@online.pol.dk) (Stig Agermose)  
Date: Thu, 24 Jul 1997 06:25:03 +0200  
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>From the New York Post July 6  
[http://www2.mostnewyork.com/most/archive/97\\_07/070697/news/26873.hta](http://www2.mostnewyork.com/most/archive/97_07/070697/news/26873.hta)

Sky Screens A UFO Show

By HELEN KENNEDY

Daily News Staff Writer

ROSWELL, N.M.

If you want to see a UFO, drive 5 miles out of Roswell to a humble wooden shack where Becky Escamilla lives. UFOs buzz her house every day.

At least that's what she says, and after spending a night there with a group of other star watchers, you just might believe her.

On Thursday night, just before the 50th anniversary of the famous Roswell crash, a handful of people sat in lawn chairs in her yard, talking quietly.

Mother Nature was putting on a spectacular show, throwing jagged bolts of lightning at the horizon. The sky above, however, was so clear that satellites could be seen sweeping steadily across the great bowl of stars.

In one chair sat ex-Bronx defense attorney Peter Gersten, 55, who quit three years ago to devote time to suing the federal government for UFO information.

There were men in cowboy hats with few teeth, and women in tent dresses sat and said nothing.

"Will we see one?" someone asked.

"Oh, sure. They're out every night," Escamilla replied.

"I feel like I'm in that scene in 'Close Encounters,' " whispered William Forrest, 32, of Portland, Ore.

For a long moment everyone watched the lightning.

Then, a meteor streaked across the sky. "I see one!" yelled James Pirtle, 39, of Denver, Colo.

There was an urgent chorus of "Where?"

Lit by the lightning bolts, he pointed to the north sky, but the meteor was gone.

Several people had seen it. Those who knew it was a meteor held their tongues.

A dim moving light caused another uproar, until it was clear from its slow steady march across the sky that it was only a satellite.

Pirtle got everyone's heart racing a few times claiming to see lights dart around and then vanish into clouds.

"I'm seeing them good tonight," he exulted. But no one else did.

And then something appeared that could not have been a satellite.

It moved across the sky like a satellite. It was faint like a satellite.

But it moved at least 10 times faster than a satellite.

It crossed the sky from north to south in about 45 seconds.

"I'm about as skeptical as you can get, but that was weird," said Forrest, rattled. "I'm sure there's a rational explanation for that. There has to be."

He didn't sound convinced. He didn't sound like he wanted to be convinced.

"I think that made the trip for me," he said, sinking back into his folding chair.

Becky's brother Emanuel offered to show videos. The Escamillas spend most of every day filming the sky over their house.

Spliced into a montage, more than 100 shots of what appear to be UFOs appeared on a TV screen.

The objects whizzed across the sky, some in pairs. Some hovered. Some darted.

There is also a shot of what looks like an armada, a formation of dozens of UFOs, hovering as in the battle scene from "Independence Day."

Whatever the truth of UFOs, a visitor leaves the Escamillas' home a little creeped out, and looking at the skies.

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