

UFO sighting leaves Lithia man frightened

By BENJAMIN WAKSMAN
Times Staff Writer

LITHIA — The thing was oblong, black and big, and it has a local man so frightened he says he can't sleep.

The "thing" is an unidentified object, or UFO, which Mike Lafferty, 28, and a neighbor say they caught a glimpse of it just before it disappeared as they were driving along Carlton Lake Road last night.

It is the second UFO sighting reported in east Hillsborough County in less than a week. Warren Coons of Bob Head Road north of Plant City said he saw a fiery object flying over his house at a high rate of speed Friday night. The object flew quickly away when his wife turned on a light to look for a camera, Coons said.

Lafferty told sheriff's deputies he and a neighbor, William Parrott, were driving on Carlton Lake Road about 9:20 p.m. when his truck's headlight suddenly reflected on the black, floating object.

Lafferty today described the object as being 18 feet long, six to eight feet wide and seven feet high. It was oblong, with square corners that "looked like a van, but larger," he said.

Lafferty said he has been "terribly scared" since the sighting and unable to sleep.

"I don't know what's going to happen," he said.

He said he didn't believe in UFOs until he saw the object last night.

"When I see something like this I want to know the whole truth about it," the 28-year-old dairy worker said.

Lafferty said he gets "cold chills" thinking about the object because he thinks it might be a bad omen. "I just wish I could put it out of my mind," he said.

Parrott said this morning he just caught a glimpse of the object before it disappeared.

"I wasn't going to say anything because I didn't want Mike to think I was crazy, but then he asked me if I had seen it," Parrott said.

Lafferty said he and Parrott spent about an hour looking for traces of the UFO before reporting it to sheriff's deputies today to search in better light turned up no trace of the mysterious vehicle, he said.

Sheriff's office spokesmen could give no explanation for the incident, but said it is being investigated.

Tampa, Florida
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1976: Lithia, FL
CEI



18' long Black
(Coffin) Rectangle-
Shaped Object
Scores 07 S-less.

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