

Pretty sure this is
an early JUR case.

Strange Happenings Going on In Wood Canyon Area

CARIBOU CO. SUN
SODA SPRINGS, IDAHO
DEC 30, 1976

Strange happenings have been reported up Wood Canyon, approximately three miles east of Soda Springs.

In the early hours on Sunday, Dec. 19, area law enforcement officials were involved in a search for what was reported as a possible downed aircraft in the vicinity of Wood Canyon.

Various sightings had been made on what appeared to be an aircraft over the mountains above Wood Canyon.

Idaho State Police Officer Dennis Abrams, Sheriff-elect Kelly Izatt, Deputy Sheriff Herb Walters and Deputy Sheriff Barry Snooks were all involved in the search at some time during the night.

Izatt was in his own private vehicle and was communicating with the others with a CB radio. He said he was at the top of Wood Canyon coming back down when Abrams, who was in front of him, came on the air with a report of an object that he couldn't identify off to the side of his vehicle.

Apparently the object was stationary and then moved off to the west and north from Abrams' position. Izatt reported that it was a clear night and no moon. Because of the position of the hill, Izatt said he was unable to see Abrams' vehicle and the object. Another State Police Officer also observed and was reported to be tracking an object north of Soda Springs.

A Soda Springs City Police

Officer also said he saw something that looked similar to a shooting star about 11:30 Saturday night. It came across in a northerly direction, stopped momentarily, and then continued on.

Rumors of a bomb found at the sight were partially unfounded. A spokesman for the Idaho State Police in Pocatello said a "very crude homemade bomb" was found on the Wood Canyon road, but not in the general vicinity of the sighting. He said it looked like a part of a car muffler and black powder had been used as the explosive.

Abrams, who made the closest and most accurate sighting, has been out of the Soda Springs area, and could not be reached at press time. Much of the information being passed around this area is rumor based on very little fact.

The real fact remains that a trained law enforcement officer made a sighting at very close range of an object that could not and has not been identified. Other observances made that night by law officers and others may or may not have had anything to do with the incident in Wood Canyon.

This may never have a logical or satisfactory answer. It will probably just be recorded as another "sighting." It seems very difficult, though, to ignore the facts.

First, a comprehensive study of the UFO's reported characteristics, then the technical judgment necessary to satisfy our UFO definition.

3—UFO of High Merit

CE I SEEN BY INDEPENDENT POLICEMEN IN IDAHO

CASE NUMBER 2-2-8

This incident involves a large, oval-shaped object witnessed by two policemen separated by almost 15 miles. In view for several minutes, the object stayed low to the ground and disappeared off toward some foothills; it was as close as 60 feet away from one witness, Dennis Abrams, a 30-year old trooper in Soda Springs, Idaho. The other, distant witness was Officer Erfel Christianson of the Pocatello State Police. This case was deemed as the most intriguing of this month's sample reported to IUR.



ENVIRONMENT

DATE: Tuesday, Dec. 18, 1976. TIME: 12:55 AM, MST.

PLACE: Wood Canyon Rd., 4-5 miles NE of downtown Soda Springs, Idaho; viewed from both inside and outside a police car at a wooded recreational area.

APPEARANCE

The object was described as appearing like an oval, devoid of seams, windows, and bumps. At an estimated 60-foot distance, it had the bulk of "3-4 police cars". The light emitted was light green, uniform, and seemed to arise from the interior of the oval, with occasional "spikes" of white, orange, and pink light. The object was silent while stationary, and made a whistling "wind" sound when in motion. The outline was distinct, the texture seemingly smooth although the light rendered this judgement difficult. No odor or heat waves were detected.

MOTION

The object rose up from the trees and hovered at treetop level (25-30 feet) about 60 feet away for almost 3 minutes. It was situated on the north side of his car. Then it "casually" drifted off with a whistling sound toward the foothills a few miles to the northwest and was gone from view in about 15 seconds.

Officer Abrams called out on his radio about the incident; a second officer located 10 miles west of downtown Soda Springs watched a light he described as looking "fluorescent", though orange-pink in color, shining a light toward the ground. Holding stationary for about 10 minutes *between himself and the foothills* in the north, he watched it head further north, climb, and clear the top of the foothills in "seconds".

WEATHER

The witness described the weather as clear, calm, and cold, about 10 degrees. The weather bureau agreed: visibility, 20 miles-clear sky, winds from the SE at 5 m.p.h.; 15 degrees temperature. There was a trace of precipitation on the 9th and the 23rd.

WITNESS REACTION

Thirty to forty-five minutes earlier, Officer Abrams saw what appeared to be a bright, flashing light descending into the area described above. Seeing a flash of light arise from the distant tree, he drove off to search that area, radioing in about a possible downed airplane. While driving to the area, he was told that the FAA at Burley knew of no plane in the sky at that time. Then, while driving downhill he watched the object rise up out of the trees; disconcerted, he skidded the car off the road.

The two police officers both had cameras in their respective cars, but neither thought to use them during the excitement of the incident. Officer Abrams had firearms, but didn't know whether or not to shoot it. He was quick to point out that he holds a responsible job, and doesn't drink while on duty. Both officers

claim to have seen UFO's in the past. Officer Abrams that IUR would be the last group to whom he would speak on this incident; we had difficulty reaching him as he had left town to escape the press harassment! He had given some thought to the prospect of extraterrestrial visitation.

An individual was contacted who had seen a falling light the night before, but the account appears to be ascribable to a meteor.

ON THE CASE

Original source: Officer Abrams via the UFO Hotline. Comprehensive interviews were conducted with the officers when Officer Abrams returned to Soda Springs at the end of the month.

The FAA at Burley, Idaho established that there were no flights scheduled over that area at that time. No reports from Logan or Idaho Falls airports. The Salt Lake City, Utah radar center receives input from 12 different radar stations, and can "see" as far north as the Canadian border, but nothing was reported to them; they pointed out, however, that it's a poor area for radar returns from a low altitude. No additional reports from the direction the object was last seen heading. Remember, it was 1 AM, and in a rather rural area.

Although Officer Abrams did not release details to the press, many furtive articles were written in local papers; inquiries came from as far as San Francisco, with television coverage in Salt Lake City. Officer Abrams deemed these accounts inaccurate and incomplete. Hill Air Force Base called for further information, but implied that it was probably a balloon.

The possibility of a weather balloon (illuminated) was checked. The U.S. Weather Bureau launches balloons from Salt Lake City at 4 AM and 4 PM; they burst after 1½ hours, and are only 6 feet in diameter at low altitude. Hill Air Force Base launch even smaller balloons that burst even quicker during daylight hours.

There are two seeming discrepancies here: the two policemen reported different colors (green vs. orange) but then, the second policeman saw it well in the distance as a light source only. Also, the durations differ (3 min. vs. 10 min.), but the trajectory was observed from different vantage points. The possibility exists that the two officers were watching two different sources, of course, but the absence of plane flights makes this seem remote.

A search revealed no physical traces in the woods. No physiological or electromagnetic effects were noted.

TECHNICAL CONSULTANTS

ASTRONOMY: Dr. J. Allen Hynek, Northwestern University: No astronomical interpretation is possible in this case .

METEOROLOGY, Owen Rhea, Colorado State University: The possibility of searchlights can be ruled out due to the lack of a cloud base. Weather balloons can be illuminated but the light source is usually a small flashlight bulb suspended below the balloon. The possibility of a commercial or industrial balloon (perhaps with a leak) exists; the wind direction is appropriate, yet this seems unlikely.

Vern Zurick, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Colorado: The low altitude maintained by this object makes it unlikely that it would register on the meteorological radar records for Idaho.

AERONAUTICS, Herb Roth, United Air Lines: The description does fit the observation of a manned, hot-air balloon seen at night. The gas flame thrower illuminates the balloon from within, the light being the color of the balloon itself. The basket under the balloon would not be seen in the dark. The "whooshing" noise made by the burner would account for the sound heard, and the wind is right.

Ed. Note: No ballooning clubs could be found in that area by IUR. Also, this took place at 1 AM, in sub-freezing weather!

SOCIOLOGY, Dr. Robert Hall, University of Illinois, Circle Campus: From the standpoint of a behavioral scientist, this case is not rich in psychological elements which can be profitably studied. To what extent was the secondary witness "contaminated" by the information of the radio appeal of Officer Abrams? There are minor items of merit here: the slight discrepancies in the individual testimonies, and the desire of Abrams to avoid publicity both help rule out a pre-planned hoax, at least.

CONCLUSIONS

Probability of

Total
Hoax:
1%

Misperceived
balloon:
39%

Genuine
UFO:
60%

The %'s JAH used in this sort of thing were such utter Bullshit.

FILE NO

STATUS

6:30 PM

CASE

CASE NO. 2-2-8

X ~~SEARCHED~~ INDEXED FILED

PLACED

SEARCHED INDEXED FILED

INDEXED

Doug Stewart > 5 PM Friday

DATE

CLASSIFIED

EXEMPT FROM GDS

EXEMPT FROM GDS

EXEMPT FROM GDS

EXEMPT FROM GDS

EXEMPT FROM GDS

EXEMPT FROM GDS

X
NO
NO
NO

INDEXED

Dennis Abrams

Box 94

Soda Springs Idaho 83276

208-547-~~344~~ 2314

~~30~~ - 232-1486

30 trooper

2

Ertel Christianson - Pocatello St. Police

Merlin Poulson - night club owner - Soda Springs

208-547-3252

3300 at 5 PM

12-18-76

12:55 X

Wood Canyon Rd.

NE 4-5 mi. of Soda Sps.

Idaho

✓

FILE NO _____

CASE

STATUS

6:30 PM

CASE NO. 2-2-8

INVESTIGATION
AM

PLACE _____

DATE _____

WITNESS _____

Doug Stewart > 5 PM Friday

TYPE _____

CLASS _____

BY _____

INITIALS

BY _____

DEPT CALL

BY _____

INQUIRY

NO

NO

NO

SODA SPRINGS, ID

Deanis Abrams

Box 94

Soda Springs Idaho

83276

208-547-~~3447~~ 2314

30 ~~232-1426~~

trooper

2

Ertel Christianson - Pocatello St. Police

Merlin Poulson - night club owner - Soda Springs

208-547-3252

3300 at 5 PM

12-18-76

12:55

Wood Canyon Rd.

NE 4-5 mi. of Soda Sps.

Idaho

✓

... ~~N~~ ^N ... $\sim 30^\circ$... rose over trees
 ... NW ... low ... over top of hills
 ... toward Soda Spring

~~3 mi away~~ ... dropping down - flashing
 (passed it in car, coming down hill) - ^{the saw light} (not flashing now)
 ... came up from behind trees, 60 feet
 away - stopped car (slid sideways, struck
~~train~~ hovered 60' away ^{to N} - got ~~of~~ out of car
 just above trees (25-30' high)
 → NW, smooth, ~~fast~~ casually toward hills
 15 sec. - ~~thought saw explosion~~

30 min - 45 min
 later, ^{drove there}
 * thinking
 A/C
 down,
 exploded
 (fire?)

... STATEMENT ...
 ...

...	20 mi.
... clear	clear
... calm	SE, 5 m.p.h.
... 'crisp' cold - 10°	15°
...	none, or day bef/aft
...	9 th , 23 rd

WITNESS INFORMATION

DATE OF EVENT TO BE COVERED

LOCATION OF EVENT

TYPE OF EVENT WORK SPORT OTHER
 MEETING RACE PERFORMANCE

INDIVIDUALS NAME ORGANIZATION TELEPHONE ADDRESS
 CLASSIFICATION SIGNATURE POLARIZATION

TYPE

APPROXIMATE DATE NO YES

DESCRIPTION INTERVIEW OBSERVATION SCAN VISUAL VIDEO
 PHOTO SOUND COPY

STATUS STANDING EXPIRING WITHDRAWN

BY NAME NO

YES Speed Mileage/Tow Traffic

Address Mtn. Rd. "Wood Canyon Rd."
MAGAZINE/REPORT FOR SALE

REMARKS (OPTIONAL)

didn't know to shoot it or not
so scared -- didn't think to use camera I had
I hold a responsible job don't drink on job
You're the last person I'll speak to about it (left town for awhile to escape)
-didn't tell papers, but carried locally
in papers, Salt Lake TV, San Francisco

TYPE OF PHOTO POLAROID NEGATIVE SLIDESHOT OTHER

DATE OF PHOTO NO YES
"ET?" 1, last Aug, 2, split-up, come together

DO YOU THINK THERE ARE OTHER WITNESSES

RECORDED IN VIDEO YES INDEPENDENT NO

RECORDED IN AUDIO YES INDEPENDENT NO

Hill
books
A.F.B. called - inquired about "balloon"
Caribou Co. Sun wrote good article - all articles for local
Pocatello paper claimed Merlin was with me! (Boss got mad)
Never forget the experience, more for the press than the

④ Disp. Cordoba ^{208/}
called FAA at Burley (233-3532)
no unusual reports - flights

⑦ Idaho Falls ATC (208) ~~522-3191~~
523-7044
no reports (no radar) - read about it in papers

⑦ Salt Lake City 801-521-8272
Center
12 radar stations report directly to them ~~in~~
(as far N as Canadian border) - nothing reported
"Poor area for radar returns from low altitude"

Off, Christianson -

10 mi W. of dntn Soda Sp.

stat. - hovering over mtns - 5 mi. to North
flour. glow - searchlight shining to ground

~ 10 min, climbed vertically → N (in sec.)

bet. me + foothills (Chesterfield) ^{clearing mtn top}

spotted it shortly after it was near Off. Abrams
orn-pink in color

(both had cameras - didn't use them)

back in '64 - 150' away, ^{large} oval (orn color)

March 9, 1977

Dear Sir:

Enclosed are a few photos I promised I'd send you of the area in which I observed a UFO. I've numbered them to give you an idea of what each picture represents. I hope the pictures give you a better idea of how things were when I made the sighting.

- #1 This photo was taken approximately one (1) mile east of Soda Springs, just off U.S. Highway 30. The area of the sighting would be approximately between the two hills. The area is known as Wood Canyon.
- #2 This photo was taken approximately three (3) miles east of Soda Springs, going up Wood Canyon Road.
- #3 This photo, along with #3A, is the approximate area in which the UFO was sitting or hovering when officers were proceeding into the area in search of a possible airplane crash. Neither officer observed the UFO at this location. This photo was taken approximately five (5) miles east of Soda Springs, on the Wood Canyon Road.
- #4 This photo is the same as Photo #3, except from the opposite direction. This is the location of the UFO when first observed by this officer. I've drawn in approximately how the UFO was situated, and its approximate shape.
- #5 This photo, along with Photo #5A, will give you an idea of the position of the UFO once this officer got his patrol car brought to a halt. Also, the arrows indicate the direction of travel of the UFO. I would estimate the distance to the top of the hill to be around 1,000 to 1,500 yards. If you will take Photo #5A and place it next to Photo #5, you will get a good idea as to route of travel of the UFO.
- #6 This photo is a picture of my patrol car and area of sighting directly behind it. Maybe this will give you an idea of the size of the UFO.

I hope these pictures have been of some help to you. If I can be of any further help, please feel free to call.

Dennis F. Abrams, Trooper
IDAHO STATE POLICE
P. O. Box 94
Soda Springs, ID 83276



Photo
1



Photo
2



Photo
3



Photo
3a

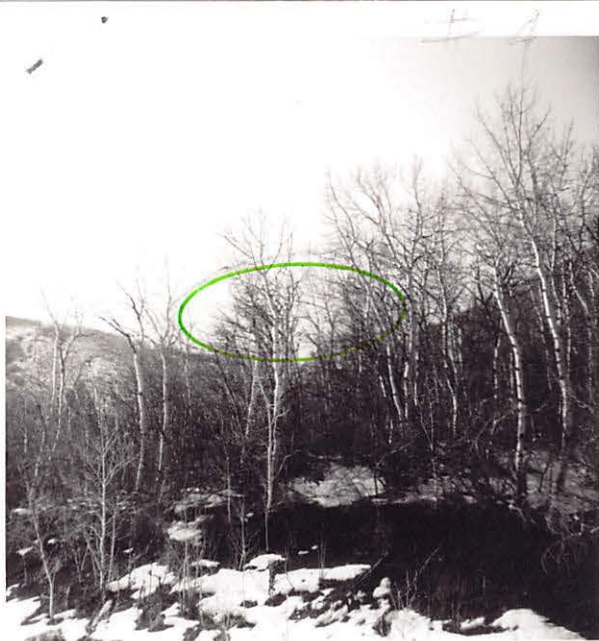


Photo
4



Photo
6



Photo
5a

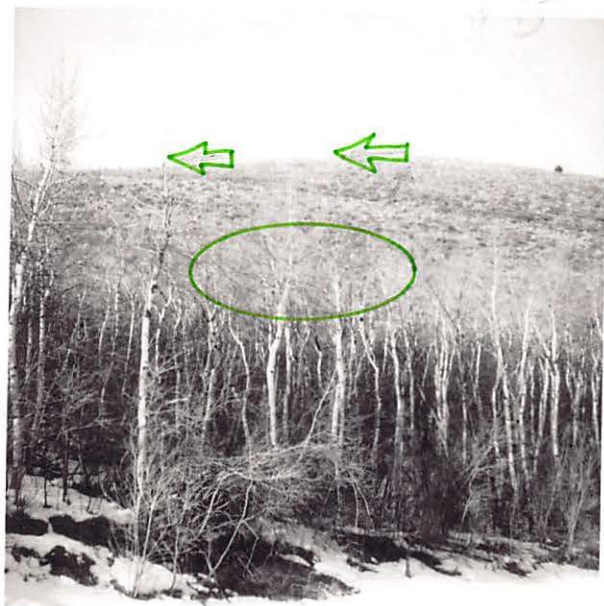


Photo
5

[I have (obviously) drawn in a neater green oval over Abrams' markings on these pictures. MDS.]



Colored-in rendition of Abrams' daylight photo of the spot of observation. (I had a black-ink run-out

during the copy which left a green tint to picture, so I called it serendipidity & used it).

Colored in combination of flowers

highlight charts of the report

to be used as a guide for observations of

color I. as, making of that name a few kinds you see

(to see \$ significance to

Mark Rodeghier

From: "Dennis Abrams" <steelheadfever@yahoo.com>
To: "CUFOS" <infocenter@cufos.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 06, 2007 9:49 AM
Subject: Re: UFO report

Thank you Sir. I am very grateful. I sat with my wife and talked with her in detail about the sighting. She and I have only been married about 6 years and she was unaware of the incident. I am unsure as to how she received it seeing that I am her husband. If she thought I was on drugs, dreaming or making it up that night she did not let on. I think the way I was looked upon after the sighting was the most memorable to me.

In the days following the sighting I was getting calls from everyone you can imagine, TV stations, newspapers etc. I refused to give any statements. They complained to Idaho state Police higher ups and I was ordered to give a statement. Well it snow balled and I was inundated by reporters. It got so bad that I had to request leave from duty to let everything die down. I went to Boise, Idaho, about 250 miles away, to stay with my father.

That Christmas my father gave me a child's ray gun and a helmet with a red light on top. He though it was a hoot. Well I went along with his joking. The ray gun, which was battery operated, had a dead battery, so I went to a local 7-11 to get a battery, taking the ray gun with me. The clerk was laughing about the ray gun, He said you should send it (ray gun) to that State Policeman in Soda Springs. I just got the battery and walked out of the store without commenting to the clerk.

It took a long time for everything to die down so I could get on with my life. To tell you the truth I do not believe I would ever tell anyone if I ever saw another UFO.

I know that what I saw that night in December was not of this world. When I first saw the object it was coming down had a high rate of speed. Someone or something had to apply the brakes to prevent it from striking the earth. I know it was being operated by something or someone with intelligence It was not a weather balloon or swamp gas as a lot had suggested. A lot of my fellow officers said " Why didn't you shoot it" I responded by saying "Oh sure and when I did not show up and you had to come looking for me all you would have found would have been a pile of ashes with a badge laying on it". To this day the hair on the back of my neck still stands up when I think about the incident. I just wish we knew what it was for sure and if it was from another world as I believe it was why contact wasn't made. Oh well one of these days.

Well Sir that is about all I can comment on at this time. If I can be of further assistance just let me know. Once again thank you for sending me a copy of the report.

Dennis F. Abrams, Caldwell, Idaho

----- Original Message -----

From: CUFOS <infocenter@cufos.org>
To: steelheadfever@yahoo.com
Sent: Tuesday, February 6, 2007 4:40:09 AM
Subject: UFO report

Mr. Abrams,

We did indeed write an article about the sighting you and other policeman had on Dec. 8, 1976. Since it was your own report, and that issue of IUR is out of print, we've photocopied the issue at no charge and will be sending it to you by regular mail.

If you have any comments on the incident to add to our records, we would appreciate it.

Mark Rodeghier
 Scientific Director, CUFOS