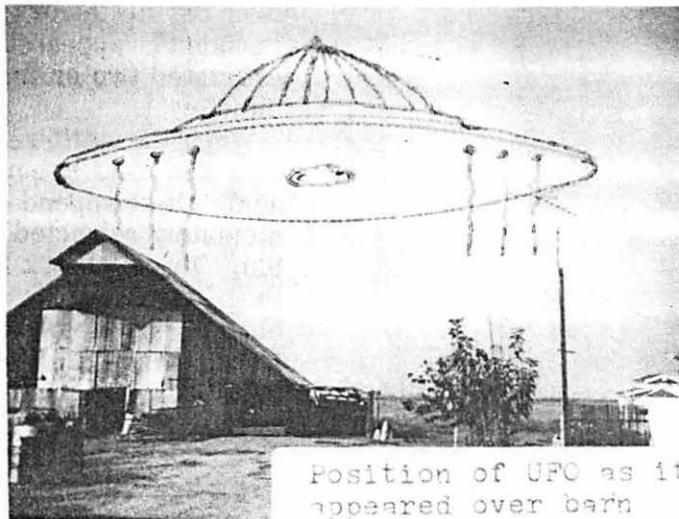
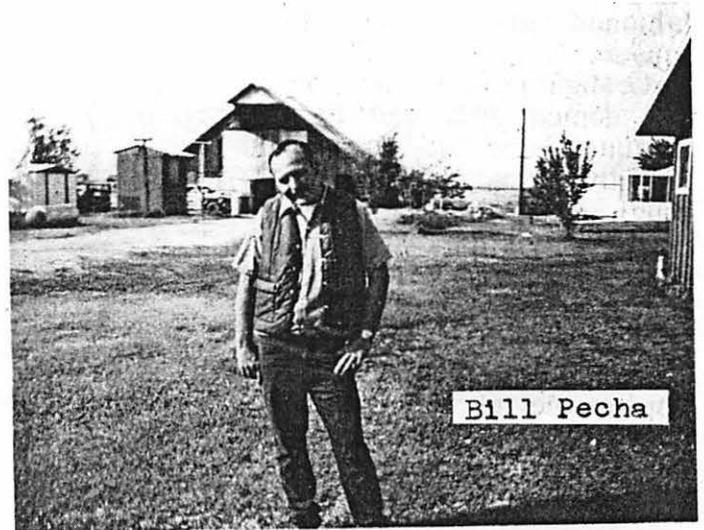


# UFO Hovers Over California Farm

by Paul Cerney, MUFON Western Regional Director

Bill Pecha, 39 year old heavy machine mechanic, was watching a late movie on T.V. His wife and two small children, 8 and 10, were asleep in bed. At about 12:45 A.M., the TV suddenly went dead, as did the air conditioners. Thinking the circuit breaker had kicked out from a short somewhere, Pecha went outside in his shorts to reset the breaker.

As he approached the corner of his mobile home, he became increasingly aware of a static electricity effect on his body. The hair on his chest, arms, and head began to stand up as if being pulled upward. As he reached the corner of the house, his hair began to crackle and snap similar to running a nylon comb through dry hair very rapidly.



Something told him to look up and he saw a huge circular craft almost over his head about 50 feet in the air bathed in the light of a full moon and crystal clear night sky. The awesome sight of some strange and unknown craft silently hovering mostly over his barn and the corner of his mobile home startled him. All the sensation he felt was the electrostatic phenomena causing his hair to stand on end. We was aware that his heart was pounding very fast in response to the excitement. Standing there in apprehensive amazement and becoming increasingly frightened of the awesome spectacle almost over him, he was still inquisitive enough to take in the intricate detail of the craft. He told the Mufon investigators he must have stood there for four or five minutes.

Estimated diameter was 140 feet. There were no rivets, no bolts, no screws, no seams, he commented. In his profession, these are familiar things. The dome had vertical ribbed sections, the "ribbing" quite pronounced. Between each ribbed section, the surface was quite concave (inward) and reminded Pecha of the old fashioned glass lemon juice squeezer in structure. The dome had a slight peak or point. The upper domed area and its immediate flared out base section had the appearance of mildly rough and porous "slag." This upper area was dark gray or dull silvery in color. The second rounded and flared out area leading toward the edge of the craft appeared to have a surface appearance of procelain. The edges of the craft and the perimeter that was rotating clockwise looked more like stainless steel.

The rotation rate was difficult to determine, but Pecha indicated it was quite rapid. A smaller section in the bottom of the disc, surrounding a large diameter light source, was rotating

counterclockwise and revolving much slower than the rim. No air disturbance could be detected from the rotating areas. Pecha stated that the unusual lighting and large center light which was giving off only a mild, dim, gray color illumination in the hovering state, could have possibly caused an optical illusion of the two spinning portions being in opposite

directions. However, he got the distinct impression they were spinning contrary to one another.

The six dangling objects hanging down, apparently from the edge facing the observer, gave the appearance of loosely dangling heavy flexible conduit with frayed ends. They were hanging down about six to eight feet from the bottom of the craft. The three on the left (see sketch) were staggered in length to match the slanting roof of the barn they were over but not quite touching. The "conduit" appeared to be an estimated two or three inches in diameter.

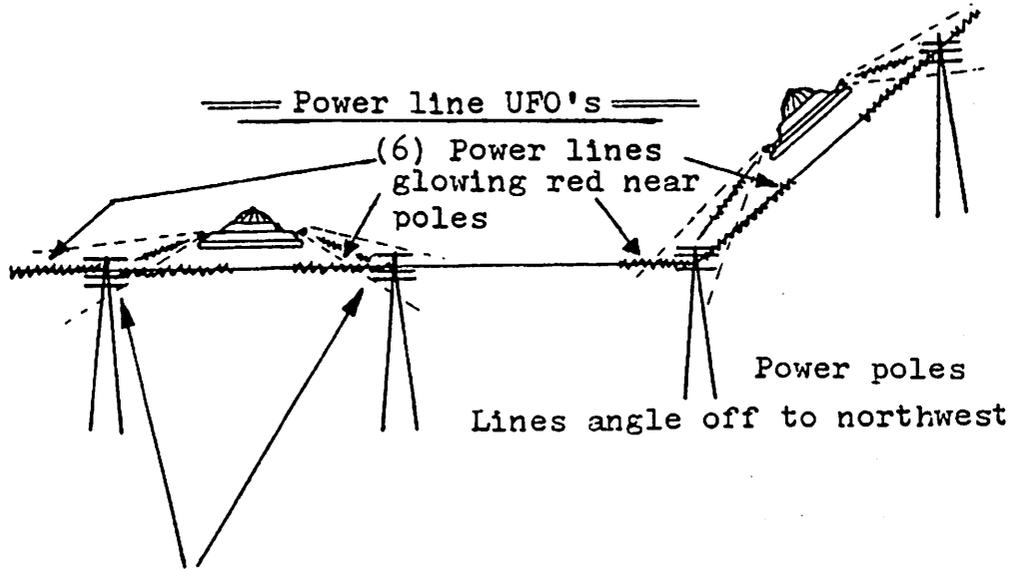
When the craft retreated back over the field behind the Pecha home, these appendages were immediately retracted into the bottom. The two hook-like arms on the bottom also retracted upward, but not completely into the hull. At the same time, as if they were part of the same arm or mechanism, a small door opened on each side just above the arms and a light seemingly mounted on a curved piece of tubing protruded out and slightly downward. The lens area seemed to consist of what looked like many glass

Pecha mobile home and TV antenna

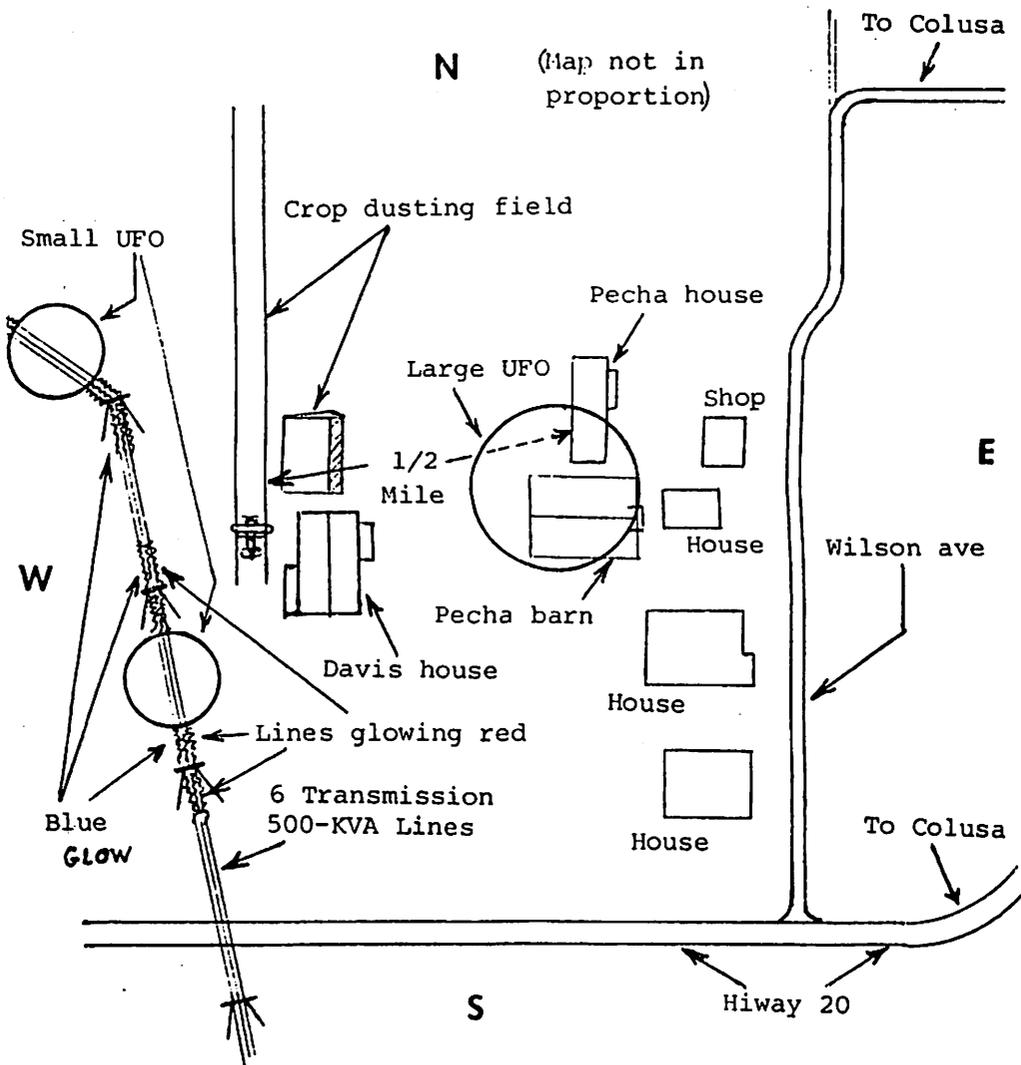


Barn and home with the "field" out in background





Each power pole at top bathed in brilliant white light.



cubes clustered together. These side lights sent out a bluish-white beam of light.

As the UFO backed away toward the Slim Davis home and crop dusting airfield a half mile behind the Pecha home, the large red light in front came on. The large center bottom light which was dull gray at hovering, now intensified to a bright white cone shaped beam downward which reached only half the way to the ground and stopped in mid-air! Cut off beams of light from UFOs have been noted on occasion.

Pecha watched the large UFO maneuver over the Davis home and airfield hanger, lighting up everything like daylight including the trees and ground. At this moment, he noticed that two other similar UFOs about half the size of the large one were hovering directly over the 500 KVA (500,000 volt) power lines a couple hundred yards beyond the Davis strip. These two identical craft appeared to be almost resting on the lines, each one between two power poles but separated by one span section between poles. Each UFO was shining a powerful col-

umn of white light from its side edges down onto the tops of the powerpoles on either side of it. There was one span unoccupied in between. (See sketches) Inside each of these columns of light was an inner blue pulsing core. The power lines themselves were glowing red for some distance out on each side of the poles. Here is an actual visual example, in

detail, of an apparent blackout in process being caused by two UFO craft over a high voltage power line, observed and witnessed by Bill Pecha and his wife.

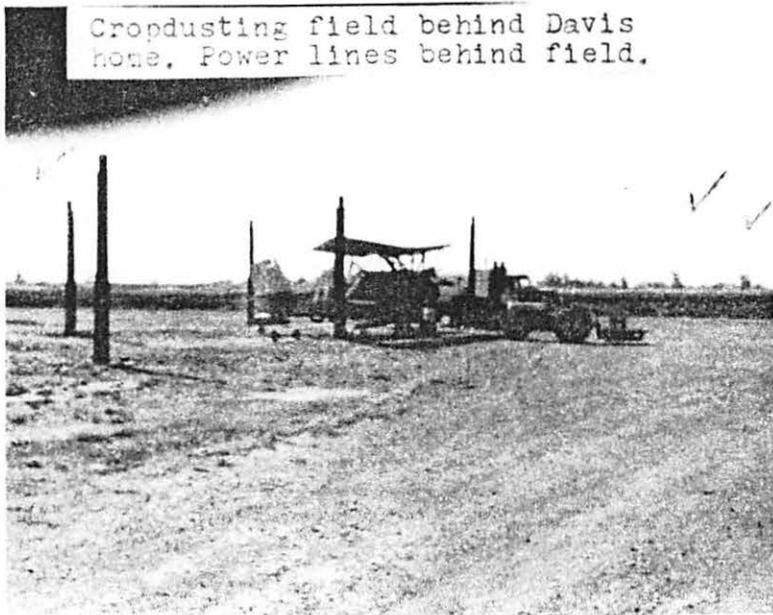
At this point, Pecha ran into the house shouting for his wife to get up. He rushed to the window facing the back field where the UFO had backed off, pushing the curtains aside so he could see. At this time, the large craft was hovering over the Davis home. The large bottom light was now extended to the ground, maneuvering around the Davis home and airfield hanger, lighting everything up like daylight.

Lenda Pecha by now had joined her husband after arousing her from sleep by his shouting and stumbling through the blacked-out house to both observe the strange phenomena now taking place over the Davis home and the nearby power lines. After spending about a minute over the Davis home and airfield, brilliantly illuminating the whole immediate area, the large UFO suddenly shot off at incredible speed toward the foothills as Bill and Lenda watched from the window.

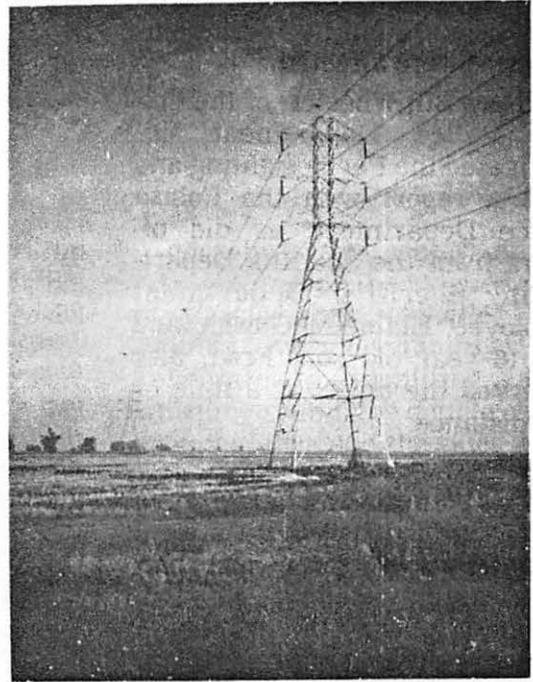
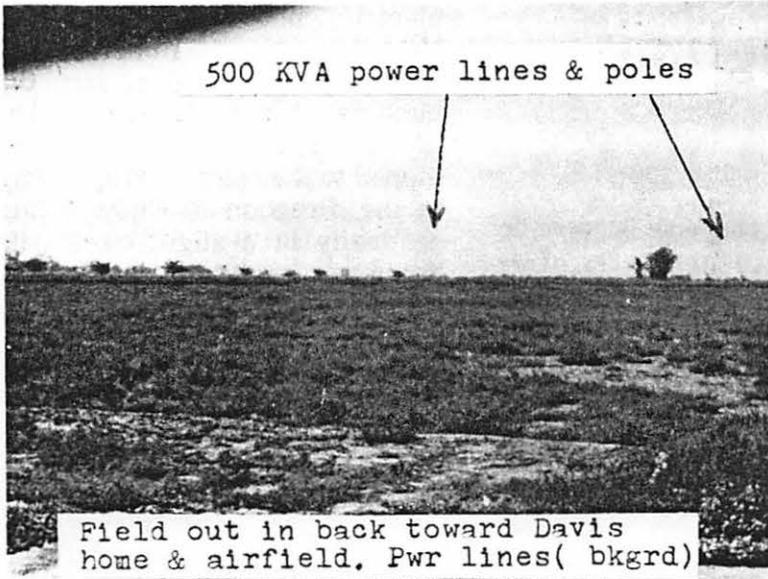
Barn and slanted roof area where appendages hung over slant roof.



Cropdusting field behind Davis home. Power lines behind field.



Power lines where smaller UFO's hovered causing blackout.



The foothills are approximately 18-20 miles distant to the west. Pecha commented the large UFO travelled this distance in a matter of 2-3 seconds and he observed it shining its powerful bottom light down onto the tops of the hills for a second or two when it rushed back at the same velocity to once again hover over the Davis home, repeating the illumination patterns over the Davis property. Everywhere around the immediate countryside all the lights were off, ranch yard lights and the whole town was in darkness except for the moonlight and the UFOs.

Pecha stated that watching this light beaming procedure began to unnerve him if it should return to his place and begin doing the same thing, not knowing what effect was taking place at the Davis home, if possibly harmful. Fearing for the safety of his family and

himself, he was about to turn from the window when he saw both UFOs over the power lines suddenly break away at the same time, shooting up and out of sight.

Pecha decided it was time to flee the house in case the still present large intruder came back their way. In his frantic haste to get away, he pulled on a pair of old "jeans," grabbed the children, bed clothes and all, his wife, and headed for the door. Just then the T.V. and air conditioner came back on. Noticing this, he instinctively hit the off button shutting the TV off on his way out the door. Piling the family inside his new pickup truck, he raced backwards out the driveway with the lights deliberately turned off, but forgot about the truck's backup lights being on, which may have attracted the UFO. As he raced down the blacktop road toward

town at speeds up to what he assumed may have been 90 miles per hour, he noticed the large craft following their truck. Glancing back to watch the UFO while driving with no lights down the moonlit road at those speeds was probably a crazy thing to do he admits, but all he could think of at the time was to get away from this strange machine and get his family to the somewhat more safety of the town.

Pacific Gas and Electric (P.G.E.) personnel stated there was a blackout of undetermined nature. They would not admit to any such explanation as a UFO causing it. The transmission lines, which were stated to be 500 KVA, were said to come from the Redding-Shasta area. The substation seven miles west of Colusa, near Williams, was said to have "blown" an overload transformer. The nine minute

blackout, as checked by Lenda Pecha when she looked at her clocks, was confirmed by the Colusa Sheriff's Department. All of Colusa County and some adjoining areas were affected.

Officer Bill Wheeler, of the Colusa Police Department, investigated the Pecha sighting and filed a report with the Colusa Police Department, as did officers from the Sheriff's Department. Sheriff's Department employee, Elaine McGowen, and her 18 year old son, Fred, also observed the object at a mile or two distance.

Davis home and airfield -- some leaves on top of the trees were turning brown, some just half brown as if heated or scorched, especially near the house -- samples were taken. Analysis will be attempted. One small pear tree and a nearby lilac bush have never bloomed this time of year (late October) before. Other areas of the town of Colusa were checked for similar possible off-season blooming, but none could be found except on the Davis property. The pear tree was slightly scorched or damaged on one side.

At the time of the sighting and when the UFO was over the Davis residence, their dogs reacted, howling and barking in an unusual manner.

Bill Pecha, 39 years old, heavy machine mechanic, outdoors type, goes hunting and fishing a lot. Drives racers in destruction derbys. A rather fearless, healthy, husky individual. A keen mind and photographic memory for remembering intricate detail, good observer, and good listener. Eyesight 20-20, no signs of colorblindness. No apparent after effects from the experience, though badly frightened and apprehensive at the time.

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Number 107

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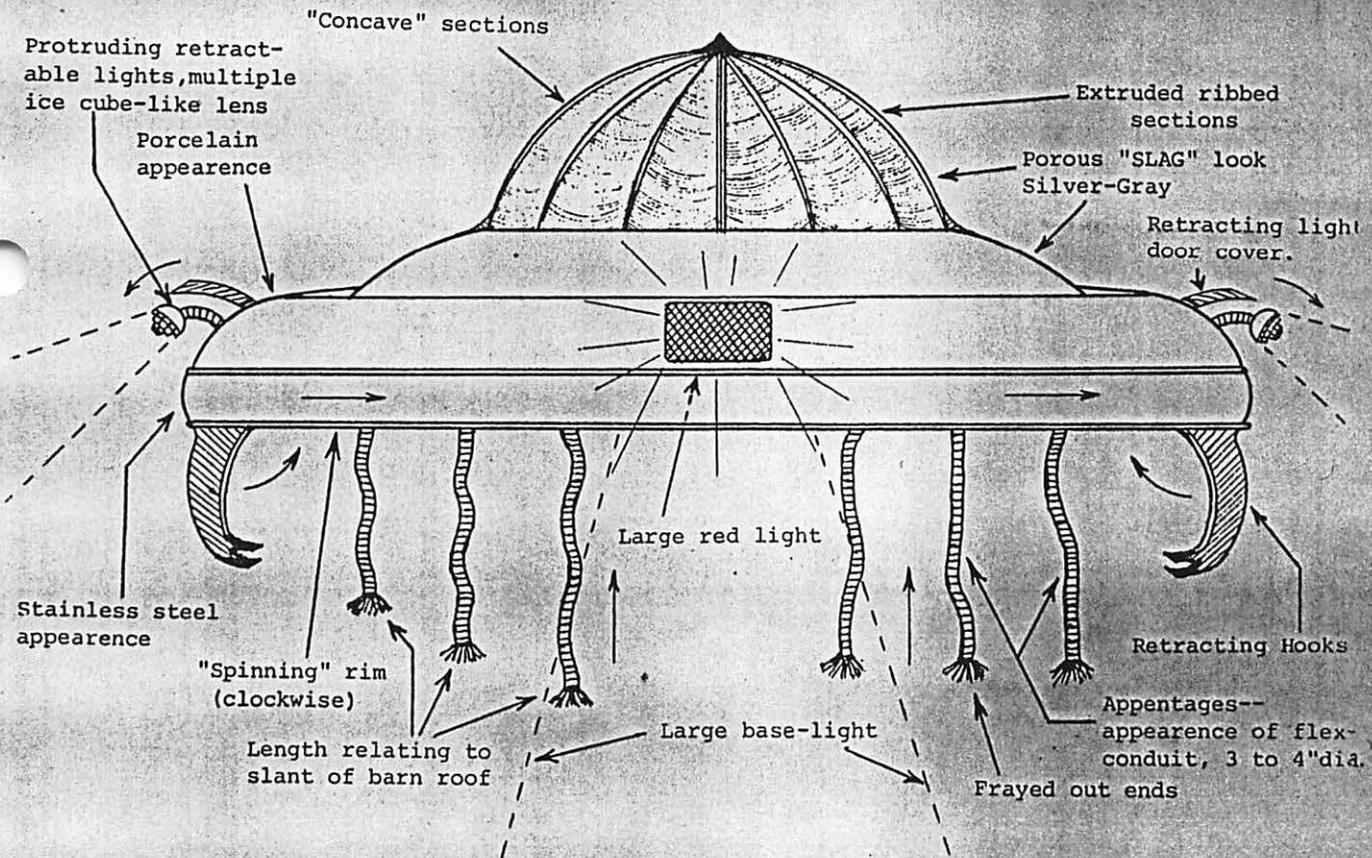
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Sketch of large UFO seen hovering over a farm near Colusa, California on September 10, 1976. Smaller UFOs of same description, were seen hovering near power lines in the area.

COLUSA (CALIFORNIA) CLOSE ENCOUNTER, 10 SEPTEMBER 1976

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

Prepared by Brad Sparks

JUN 28 1977

Investigators: Mr. Thomas R. Bowden (APRO)  
Dr. James A. Harder (APRO)  
Mr. Dale N. Rettig (APRO-MUFON)  
Mr. Brad C. Sparks (APRO)  
Lt. Mark A. Uriarte, USAFR (MUFON\*)

(\*Later expelled from MUFON because of his participation in this investigation.)

Abstract

A single-witness close encounter with a UFO took place three miles southwest of Colusa, California, early on Friday, 10 September 1976. Colusa is a small (population nearly 4,000) farming community on the west bank of the Sacramento River, some 45 miles northwest of the state capital, Sacramento, in the northern section of the state. There were six or seven witnesses (in two or three independent groups) to the far encounter phase of this series of events, so far as is known.

Pre-Sighting Circumstances

On the evening of 9 September 1976, Mr. Billy Vinson Pecha, Jr., age 39, went into town to do some shopping. It was his wife's 34th birthday that day, so he bought her a present. When he returned home, he left his keys in the ignition of his 1975 Chevrolet pick-up truck and camper. Pecha went to work in his shop, about one hundred feet east of his home. Pecha is a self-employed heavy equipment mechanic who repairs farm machinery. He does most of his work in the shop.

Around 11:30 p.m., Pecha went into the house, where his wife, Lenda, and his two children were asleep. He showered quietly and dressed down to his shorts. He did all of this in the dark so the house lights would not wake his family. Pecha settled down to the sofa (on his back), feet towards the television set and his eyes about 15 to 18 feet away. He watched a TV Channel 12 movie, "Waterhole No. 3." About an hour later, the two-foot color picture tube crackled, then faded (browned out), then completely blacked out. His air-conditioner likewise died at the same time. The official time of the black-out on the Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) system was 0054 Pacific Daylight Savings Time on 10 September 1976.

SEPT. 10, 1976

CE II

COLUSA, CA

Pecha thought the transformer in his shop had tripped the circuit breakers because of his heavy welding work earlier that night. Electrical power comes into his mobile home (now stationary), at 1650 Wilson Avenue, via an underground cable from his shop. Pecha went outside to flip the circuit breakers back on again. His front door faces azimuth 91 degrees (east). Pecha moved to the right (south), away from his neighbors, the W. K. Baileys, as he went out the door, so he wouldn't be seen wearing only shorts. He knew his mother-in-law (Mrs. Leonard G. Morrow), who lived next door to the right (south), was gone at that time. He did not know until later that the Baileys were gone, too.

### Close Encounter Phase

Pecha stuck close to the house to avoid getting wet from the lawn sprinkler. All of his body hair stood on end when Pecha came within a few feet of the underground cable. At this point, he was about twenty-five feet from the southeast corner of the nearly rectangular house, near his own bedroom window. Pecha then thought the power cable was shorting out and that he was feeling it because of the wet grass.

As Pecha continued walking southward in the darkness, he noticed that the static electricity-like effect was increasing in intensity, even though he had passed the underground cable and was then moving away from it. "But the further I got past the--I knew or know just about where the line is--it was gettin' worse," Pecha told us on our first visit on 3 October 1976. "I mean it wasn't bad or nothin', it was just gettin' heavier."

Near the southeast corner, Pecha noticed a diffuse grayish-white illumination, he told me (off tape). It was coming from the southwest, where the barn was located. He looked up, expecting to see the moon. Instead, he saw a large object hovering above the space between his house and the barn.

"It wasn't makin' a sound, and I couldn't believe what I was seein', you know. And as I walked a little bit--I took another few steps and then I was horrified. I realized what I was lookin' at."

Pecha, who is about 68 inches tall and about 170 pounds in weight, has normal vision. He was able to point out distant features (such as the Three Sisters peaks) without difficulty. I showed him several materials with which he was unfamiliar. Pecha correctly identified the colors of each one. He told me that while his right ear was normal, he had 50% hearing impairment in his left ear. He has good mechanical working and drawing abilities. Pecha was unable to estimate time durations of the events of his sighting to within better than an order of magnitude.

Pecha was standing about four feet northeast of the southeast cor-

ner of the house when he looked up and saw the UFO. The circular UFO was just above the thirty-foot TV antenna, which is attached to a telephone pole situated sixteen feet south by twenty feet west of the southeast corner. Part of the rim seemed to have been directly over the forty-foot-high gable roof of the barn (which protruded eastward), about 80 feet away (ground distance). Pecha estimated the object was about 50 feet off the ground. He was close enough for his stereoscopic vision to determine a reliable distance, it seems to us. Pecha said he did not see the (97% illuminated) full moon, which was at azimuth 210 degrees (south-southwest), altitude 50 degrees, though he knew it should have been there. Apparently, the UFO was in front of the moon.

Pecha described the object's underside as having a glazed-ceramic texture, a round shape in the center that had a translucent "shaft" of grayish-white "light" coming out of it, six wavy (but motionless) cables with frayed ends hanging vertically, and two pincher-like appendages at opposite (north and south) edges of the UFO's perimeter. The bottom looked like white porcelain, but Pecha said it may have been metal with the light causing it to look porcelain-like. Pecha drew the "shaft" of "light" as a truncated right circular cone making an angle of about 55 degrees at the base. It was projecting from a circular region about 10 feet in diameter, expanding outward to a level about 5 to 6 feet below the bottom of the UFO. Pecha told us the "shaft" ended sharply in mid-air and did not reach the ground. This "light" did not generate enough diffuse lighting to cast shadows, Pecha remembered. (Neither the television he watched or the UFO left after-images on his retinas, so far as Pecha could recall for us on our follow-up visit.) Pecha said the "shaft" seemed to rotate counterclockwise, but he thought that might have been an effect of the lighting. He further noted that the outer rim (above the spots where the pincher-like things were attached) was rotating clockwise.

The wavy cable-like appendages were hanging in a line that would cross the center of the UFO's underside and were oriented approximately south-north. There were six "cables," each of about equal length (6 to 8 feet) and two to three inches thick, Pecha said. There were three "cables" on either side of the center "light," but Pecha was not certain of their exact spacing, other than appearing regularly spaced. The pincher-like appendages were about the same length as the "cables," and they were approximately aligned with the "cables" (south-north). The pincher-like things protruded downwards and curved inwards.

The base of the UFO appeared elliptical to Pecha, but was consistent with a truly circular base seen at an angle, so far as Pecha could tell. Pecha drew an ellipse with a major/minor axes ratio of 1.8 to represent his view of the object as it (later) started to move away (probably from a ground distance of about forty-five feet from the edge of the UFO). The base of the UFO was approximately parallel to the ground, to within about ten degrees, I would estimate (from my on-site interview with Pecha). The UFO maintained this same horizontal orientation throughout the close and far encounters, as far as Pecha could tell.

Pecha walked towards the UFO, stopping at a point about eight feet west by about twenty feet south from the point where he first sighted the object. He told us that he stood directly under the edge of the UFO at this last spot. Pecha and the UFO were then located at geodetic latitude  $39^{\circ} 12'.07$  ( $39^{\circ}.2012$ ) North, geocentric latitude  $39^{\circ} 00'.77$  ( $39^{\circ}.0128$ ) North, longitude  $122^{\circ} 02'.20$  ( $122^{\circ}.0367$ ) West, surface elevation about 47 feet.

If one likens the UFO's base to a clock, with 12 o'clock pointing north (N), 3 o'clock pointing east (E), etc., then I would estimate from my on-site interviews with Pecha that he stood under the edge of the UFO at about the 2 o'clock position, and that the east tip of the gable roof of the barn was at about the 5 o'clock position (with the bulk of the UFO towards the west). Our investigation determined that this distance (chord across the UFO's circular base) was about 60 feet. Hence, the UFO was about 85 feet in diameter (about 90 feet wide including the pincher-like protrusions)--or about 75 to 100 feet wide, allowing for probable error. We reached these conclusions during the initial investigation, but we did not tell Pecha about them until later.

Pecha told us that on the day of the sighting, he had paced-off the dimensions of the UFO and figured that it was about 150 feet in size. After our first visit, Pecha, on his own initiative, measured the length of his pace (32 inches, he said). Then, using his memory of where the UFO had been situated, Pecha remeasured the dimensions of the UFO as carefully as he could. On our follow-up trip, Pecha told us he came up with a better figure of about 90 feet for his UFO. Then we told him about our 75-100-foot estimate, for the first time. Thus, Pecha brought his own calculations into agreement with ours before he even knew we had found a discrepancy (i.e., Pecha's initial 150 feet versus our 75-100 feet). "I guess I wanted it to be big," Pecha remarked in explaining his early estimate.

After about a half-minute to five minutes, the UFO slowly started backing off to the west, Pecha said. At about 75 to 150 feet out, three changes occurred at the same time: (1) the cable-like things were pulled up and they disappeared; (2) the pincher-like things swiveled upward and inward about half-way; and (3) two hatches on the south and north rims swung open (the open flaps pointing to the outer edge of the upper surface) and a "spotlight" lamp came out of each opening. The "spotlights" were held out by cable-like fixtures, Pecha said. The spotlights came on as soon as they popped out. They emitted collimated shafts of "light" that hit the ground at about a 45-degree (outward) angle.

Pecha walked westward to get a better view of the UFO as it departed. He stopped next to the telephone pole-TV antenna. At this spot, he was about fifteen feet west by about two feet south of his previous position. While the UFO moved out to about a distance of 400 to 800 feet towards about azimuth  $263\frac{1}{2}$  degrees (west), Pecha started to see more and more of the upper side of the object.

The top of the UFO was shaped like a pointed-helmet on top of an

inverted dish. The helmet-like part had three or four (as far as Pecha could see) vertical meridian-like ribbings about eight to twelve inches high, Pecha reported. The surface of the helmet-like section looked like coarsely molded metal: Like "a casting with the slag not cleaned off," Pecha told us. But the inverted dish part, near the rim, had a fine aluminum-metal finish, Pecha said. He told us that the upper part of the UFO was visible from the light of the moon shining through broken clouds. Pecha said he could not see where the helmet-like part joined the plate-like upper side of the UFO because of the aspect angle--he still had the underside of the object in view at that point.

At about this time, Pecha said he thought about how high the UFO was from the base to the pinnacle. He did not think about the width until much later (after the sighting, in fact) for some reason. He told us on our first visit that it had looked about 15 to 20 feet high (excluding protuberances). (He gave a 10 to 18-foot figure to the Colusa Sun-Herald two days after the sighting.) Dr. James Harder and I pointed out that the UFO in his detailed drawing (width to height ratio of  $2\frac{1}{2}$ ) prepared for the local newspaper on 12 September 1976 was too fat if it was 150 feet wide and only 15-20 feet high. Pecha answered that he had done that drawing for detail, not for width-height ratios. I redrew the object for width-height ratio under Pecha's supervision.

I did not find time to measure this new width-height ratio until after the initial visit. The resulting ratio was 5--which was still too fat for Pecha's erroneous 150-foot width figure. But it was consistent with the 75-100-foot width we had determined during the visit (information we withheld from Pecha until the follow-up trip). Our independent figure for the UFO width plus the corrected width-height ratio suggest that Pecha's height figure (estimated during the sighting) was the accurate one, not the 150-foot width estimated after the sighting. Some additional evidence for the logic and consistency of Pecha's story can be found in Pecha's independent redetermination of the UFO's width. When Pecha arrived at the 90-foot value, he was unaware of my measurement of the corrected width-height ratio because I took the drawing with me and measured it on the way home. It might be argued that Pecha remembered the proper ratio and then measured it. But, for some reason, he still did subsequent drawings for detail with the same incorrect  $2\frac{1}{2}$  ratio.

#### Far Encounter Phase

Pecha ran into the house in an excited state. He looked out the west-facing dining room window. He saw the UFO still backing off towards John W. "Slim" Davis' house and airport. Pecha ran down the hallway to get his wife up to see the UFO. He banged against the left wall, his wife, Lenda, recalled.

"Get out of bed. You gotta see this!" Pecha screamed at his wife (as she recollected). Mrs. Pecha got up, and went down the hall. Pecha

moved into the west-facing bedroom where his son Chris, age 10, was sleeping. Mrs. Pecha went into the dining room.

From his son's bedroom window, Pecha saw two more UFOs. The objects were over the high-tension electrical power lines about a mile away to the west. Each object was between and above two towers. The arrangement was: tower-1, UFO, tower-2, open cables (this was where Pecha's close encounter UFO would soon pass over), tower-3, UFO, tower-4.

Each of these far encounter UFOs emitted two light-like beams that hit the tops of the power transmission towers each object was between. The beams were blue and all four towers were lit up in blue light. The beams were emitted outwards at 30 to 45 degrees below the horizontal. The towers held up six power lines. One or both of the highest two of these lines glowed bright red from the insulators on towers-1 and 2 out to an estimated fifty to one hundred feet on both sides of the towers, Pecha reported. (These were the same towers lit up in blue light by the UFO on the left.) The beams on towers-1 and 2 had "darker" (by this Pecha said he meant brighter, or more intense) blue "jerky" light-streams inside them, Pecha said. He said the "jerkiness" was unlike lightning or a zig-zag and it did not seem to have a phase velocity or motion. He could not determine if the beams from the UFO on the right had these "jerky" light-streams or if the power lines near towers-3 and 4 glowed red. The towers and the UFO on the right were more distant than the ones on the left. The left-hand towers were about 4,450 and 5,150 feet away (towers-1 and 2, respectively)--the lines between these towers pointed about 53 degrees off Pecha's line of sight (so he had a good view of them). The right-hand towers were about 6,200 and 7,320 feet away (towers-3 and 4, respectively). But, the lines on these latter towers are pointed only  $4\frac{1}{2}$  degrees off Pecha's line of sight--hence they would have been difficult to see. (The lines from towers-1 and 2 run southeast to northwest, but turn almost due west at tower-2.)

Pecha's verbal descriptions and his drawing of the scene fix the locations of the far encounter UFOs at about the mid-points of their respective transmission towers. The UFO on the left was about 4,800 feet away at azimuth  $257 \pm 3$  degrees and altitude of roughly 1.7 degrees (true height about 140 feet). The UFO on the right was about 6,800 feet away at azimuth 264 degrees and altitude of roughly 1.0 degree (true height about 120 feet). The angular size of the UFO on the right can be found from Pecha's drawing because the closeness of the towers provides a good reference frame. I measured the angular separation of the centers of towers-3 and 4 as about twelve milliradians and their respective heights as about sixteen and twelve milliradians. The UFO on the right appears to have been about 4 to 5 milliradians in width. Pecha told me this object was roughly the size of the full moon--which was about 8.6 milliradians in diameter at that time. The 4-5 milliradian figure would make the actual size of the UFO on the right about 27 to 34 feet.

The close encounter UFO, Pecha said, passed between the far encounter UFOs on a straight-line path to the hills in the distance. He said the far encounter UFOs were about equal in size and "a little bit

less than half the size" of his close encounter UFO. This is consistent with the 75-100-foot width for the close encounter UFO and the 27-34-foot width for the right-hand far encounter UFO. Pecha was not sure if the larger UFO passed directly between towers-2 and 3, or if it passed somewhat above the towers. A straight-line path from Pecha's house toward azimuth 263 degrees would allow only about 70 feet clearance between the tops of towers-2 and 3. In any event, the larger UFO crossed over the power lines at a height of no less than 100 to 150 feet. Since the UFO had been about fifty feet off the ground near Pecha, this altitude increase along the approximate 5,670-foot distance represents a linear flight path angle of about 0.5 to 1.0 degree above the horizontal.

Pecha said the close encounter UFO picked up speed and reached the mountains in the distance very quickly--on the order of one to ten seconds. He said he could tell approximately where the object was located because he could see where the blue "spotlight" beams lit up the ground and man-made structures--the beams followed the terrain. Pecha thought the UFO was over Three Sisters peaks (three 1900-foot peaks in the south-north Cortina Ridge) when he left his son's room to join his wife in the dining room. The UFO was probably over another set of three 2000-foot mountain peaks at azimuth 263 degrees which are some four miles north of Three Sisters along the Cortina Ridge. Three Sisters are at azimuth 250 to 251 degrees. Under the circumstances, Pecha probably confused these sets of triple peaks.

On a linear trajectory towards 263 degrees azimuth, the UFO would have to clear a minimum altitude of about 1850 feet to pass above or between these three unnamed 2000-foot peaks. At a distance of about 87,200 feet (16.5 miles) from Pecha, this represents a linear flight path angle of no less than about 1.06 degrees above the horizontal. (This takes into account the earth's curvature, i.e., a 182-foot drop from the horizontal at a distance of 16.5 miles.) This is almost the same as the previously determined lower limit for the flight path angle. I suggest that this means the UFO followed nearly a three-dimensional straight-line path from Pecha's location out to a distance of 16.5 miles.

Mrs. Pecha reached the dining room window at about the time a UFO approached from the same direction in which the close encounter UFO had departed--263 degrees azimuth. There probably were a few seconds then when the UFOs went unobserved by both Bill and Lenda Pecha. Hence, it would be dangerous to assume that the departing UFO and the approaching UFO were one and the same--an assumption Bill Pecha made. "It was dark 'cause there was no power," Mrs. Pecha told us. "And he (Bill) wasn't behind me, so I hollered at him. And he had gone into my son's room, which is the next room (across) from where he came and woke me up. And he was looking out the window to see if he could still see it (the UFO)."

Mrs. Pecha pulled the white shade up and looked outside. She was not sure Bill was with her at that time or a little later. "I saw this big light, which reminded me of an airplane light--like an airplane getting ready to land." She described it as a light-yellow round light with an angular size less than that of the full moon and less than that of an

aircraft landing light (roughly two milliradians). If the UFO was at least twenty-five feet in size, then distances of greater than 0.6 mile and 2 miles are indicated, respectively.

"Then, all of a sudden," Mrs. Pecha continued, "there was light coming from underneath it (the UFO) and it was shining (on) the ground underneath it." This vertically-oriented, nearly-tubular cone of "light" was frost white in color, Mrs. Pecha indicated to us. The cone of "light" followed the form of the mountains in the distance, so Mrs. Pecha was able to determine the approximate true location of the UFO. "And then once or twice I saw like an orange glow coming from the ground," where the UFO's beam struck. "So, then, my first reaction is 'Maybe it's a meteor coming out of the sky,' which I've never seen--and I don't know what they look like.... And I thought, 'Maybe this is a meteor coming out of the sky and its particles droppin' off and lightin' the ground up or somethin'.' Well, then, I knew that couldn't be right because this was a constant light--it wasn't just (an) off and on thing."

When Bill Pecha entered the dining room, he screamed at his wife (according to her account), "You don't know what I saw! We have to get out of here! It's gonna get us!" Mrs. Pecha made no move to leave the house as her husband told her to do. For a while, she entertained the notion that her husband had "flipped" because of (hypothetically) over-work or exhaustion.

"So, I looked out the window again," Lenda Pecha continued. "And it (the UFO) was starting to come towards us--or I could see it getting bigger." Bill Pecha screamed at his wife again, then looked out the window. By this time, the UFO's beam had apparently retracted from view because: (a) Neither Bill or Lenda Pecha continuously watched the UFO from their dining room window; and (b) Mr. Pecha said he didn't see the beam lowered until later and Mrs. Pecha always saw the UFO with the beam extended to near ground-level after the first lowering of the beam over the Cortina Ridge. Mrs. Pecha said she had trouble seeing the UFO itself because a tree several feet from the window obscured her view. She demonstrated to us how she observed the object: She had to stoop over, crane her head up the shade and look upwards. Neither of the Pechas could give meaningful angular altitudes for the UFO during this phase of the sighting. Neither of them could estimate time durations for this phase because of their agitation and excitement.

Mrs. Pecha works as a computer operator for a Colusa accountant and she has normal vision. We verified her visual acuity with a hand-made eye chart in good lighting at a distance of 15 feet. She correctly identified all of the dozens of colors in a plastic, color-filter pack (white paper backing) that I had borrowed from Dr. Richard Haines.

Sometime, probably during the approach of the Pechas' UFO, witnesses nearly two miles away, in southeastern Colusa, caught sight of what must have been the same object. Mrs. Elaine McGowen is an L.V.N. (licensed vocational nurse) who works for the Colusa County Ambulance Service. She is also a reserve radio dispatcher for the Colusa County

Sheriff's Office. Her son, Fred Morris, is a senior in high school who turned 17 years of age on 9 September 1976. ,

"I had gone to bed, oh, around 12:15," Mrs. McGowen recounted. "Soon after I got in bed, the electricity went off--the fan went off in my room. And I got up, went into the living room, and turned the hurricane lamp on. And (then I) walked outside to see if anybody else's lights were out--(or) if it was a fuse in the house...."

Fred was watching the same TV movie that Bill Pecha had been watching when the power went out. The rest of the family was asleep at the time. Fred's digital clock read 12:30 a.m. (according to a note he wrote later that night) when the blackout began at 12:54, indicating the clock was 24 minutes behind. Both Mrs. McGowen and her son thought their observations of the UFO took place during the last half of the blackout. And they both thought the seven-minute blackout had lasted half an hour--an error that seems to have resulted from the uncalibrated digital clock. Hence, their off-hand time estimates were greatly inflated to accomodate the erroneous half-hour duration of the power outage.

The McGowens walked south-southwest out to their mailbox at the end of the sidewalk leading to the street. Mrs. McGowen saw a light above the silver-dollar tree down the street. She saw it for perhaps a second, but she didn't pay any attention to it because she thought it was an aircraft light. Fred does not remember if he saw the light at that point. Mrs. McGowen walked northwest across her yard to reach First Street "to see if there were any lights up town further." Fred ran ahead of his mother. Their home at 58 Sioc Street is situated at the northeast corner of Sioc and First Streets.

"There was no light I could see anywhere in town," Mrs. McGowen said. "And I walked back over to where I was originally standing, right by my mailbox. And (I) looked up and the light was still there." In Mrs. McGowen's re-enactment of the event, we timed her walk to and from First Street at about three-quarters of a minute. The light was "a lot smaller" than the full moon in angular size and was as bright as 10 automobile headlights (but the size of one) a block away, Mrs. McGowen reported. (The headlight comparison works out to an angular size of about one to two milliradians.) The UFO was brilliant white in color. It was still positioned above the silver-dollar tree, at azimuth 260 ±3 degrees and angular altitude of 3 to 5 degrees. Note that the Pechas' house was about 9,140 feet (1.73 miles) away at azimuth 262 degrees from where the McGowens stood, and that the Pechas were watching the UFO come straight towards them from about azimuth 262 to 263 degrees (more on this latter figure below). The McGowens did not see the beam that the Pechas' described as emanating from the bottom of the UFO at certain times.

Mrs. McGowen variously estimated that she watched the light hover apparently motionless for anywhere from three to twelve minutes. As I noted above, this is probably a greatly inflated estimate--the true

states of the Pechas, the difficult view of the UFO itself, and her difficulty in accurately remembering what she observed and applying the concept of angular size to the observation (difficulties Bill Pecha seemed to share). The object was nothing more than a round light in her drawings and in her descriptions.

"Well, then," Mrs. Pecha recounted, "with his screamin' and what I saw out there, I knew I better move. I didn't--to me I still did not have any idea what I was lookin' at. I--I really didn't know what it was.... I was lookin' at this light and it was scarin' me. But I could not imagine how come it was scaring Bill so much more." Mrs. Pecha last saw the UFO when it was over the Davis' buildings. Her drawing of the scene places the UFO at about 262 degrees azimuth, suggesting a small swerve southward from the original 263-degree azimuth. Mrs. Pecha never saw the other two UFOs over the power lines in the distance and she did not see the power lines at all that night. Nor did she see the "spotlights" her husband said were emitted by the UFO that approached. (Bill Pecha's observation of similar "spotlights" on both the approaching UFO and the departed close encounter-UFO reinforced his assumption that both objects were the same.) Her explanation for why Bill saw these phenomena and she did not was that she was more concerned about her husband's agitation than about the strange light outside.

"Bill's screamin' at me to get the kids out (of the house)," Mrs. Pecha continued. "And I was standin' like I said tryin' to figure out why he was so upset. And the minute I saw that (the Davis' place) light up, that really scared me. And I figured between the state he was in and what I saw of that light over there, I'd better get movin' like he told me to. I went down the hall and grabbed my daughter (Debbie) out of bed, wrapped a blanket around her.... I just went right directly out the front door into the pick-up.... I guess when I went down the hallway, Bill must've followed me...."

Bill Pecha recounted: "When I seen what it was doing at Slim's house ... I figured (pause). I didn't know what I figured. I just figured that something drastic's happened to their house, 'cause it (the Davis' house) was just glowing." The two UFOs over the power lines suddenly shot into the sky in opposite directions (the right-hand UFO to the north and the left-hand one to the south) at about 45 degrees (apparent) inclination above the horizon. (This latter information was developed by subsequent investigations carried out by MUFON and the National Enquirer. Pecha did not tell us about the departure of these two UFOs.)

Then, as Pecha lingered near the window (a few seconds after his wife left to get Debbie), he saw a reddish-amber light in the middle of the UFO brighten greatly. He had seen the light before, but he is not sure precisely when he had seen it. "And when it did this I--I was really petrified. I told my wife we better leave, you know!" Pecha told me he thought the reddish-amber light was something aimed at him, or somehow intended for him. The "spotlights" on each side of the UFO had been "workin' on the ground" all along, so Pecha thought the reddish-amber light might turn into something like another "spotlight," he ex-

figure remains speculative. Fred suddenly realized that the light was a UFO and he started jumping up and down in the street in front of his mother. The McGowens were located (near the mailbox) at geodetic latitude  $39^{\circ} 12'.29$  ( $39^{\circ}.2048$ ) North, geocentric latitude  $39^{\circ} 00'.99$  ( $39^{\circ}.0165$ ) North, longitude  $122^{\circ} 00'.28$  ( $122^{\circ}.0047$ ) West, surface elevation about 54 feet.

"So I went in to get (my) big brother, Mark," Fred told us. "So I said, 'Come on outside! Mark, there's a UFO outside! Come on outside and watch it.' But he said he was too tired and (he) was going right back to sleep." Fred ran back out to watch the UFO. He probably lost sight of the UFO for between a quarter and a half minute.

"Then I made a mad dash (back into the house) to get my camera," Fred said. "But I had no film in it. So I went outside and ... watched it (the UFO)." This interlude also probably occupied between a quarter and a half minute. So the total time from Mrs. McGowen's first observation to this point was probably no less than about  $1\frac{1}{4}$  minutes, including about three-quarters of a minute near the beginning when the UFO went unobserved (during the walk across the yard).

Mrs. McGowen and her son, Fred Morris, both have normal vision, as we verified with the eye chart and the color-filter pack. Fred said a doctor told him he was "blind to brown colors." But he was quite able to identify brown colors when we tested him.

Meanwhile, Bill Pecha watched the UFO's continuing advance from his dining room window. "As he (the UFO) come over Slim Davis's house ... this light (from the center of the bottom) was lowered. Now this is where I was getting pretty well terrified, because I--I don't see light that goes down and stops so far, and then they can lower it a little (more). As they (the UFO) got over the (Davis') house this light like dropped on, and it was just as bright as a flash-cube light type. It was really a bright, brilliant ... white light...."

Pecha had become more frightened than ever when the beam from the UFO lowered onto the Davis' property: "He (Bill) is screamin' at me again," Mrs. Pecha said. "So I look up (through the window) and by this time this is when I see all the lights (from the UFO) on the Davis's house." She did not see the actual lowering of the beam. The UFO's beam also covered the Davis' barn and aircraft hangar (Davis Aviation) on Nutter Road, she said. The Davis' house was about 2,500 feet away at azimuth 261 degrees, the barn was about 2,540 feet away at azimuth 264 degrees, and the center of the hangar was about 2,580 feet away at azimuth 268 degrees (the whole hangar covered about 266 to 269 degrees azimuth from the Pechas' vantage point). Mrs. Pecha said she thought the UFO's angular size might have been twice the full moon, i.e., 17 milliradians--"I'm not really too sure. I just remember the first time I saw it, it was small. Then when it got over Slim's house, it was big." She also said it was one-third the size of Davis' house (which I measured at twelve milliradians wide by three high), i.e., 4 milliradians. The discrepancy is probably due to the late hour of the sighting, the emotional

plained to me. He last saw the UFO when it was about half way between the Davis' property and his house (roughly a thousand feet). The McGowens, evidently, were still watching the UFO at a distance of about ten thousand feet. They saw the UFO at a spot about three to five degrees above their horizon. Thus, the true height of the UFO must have been about 500 to 900 feet.

The Pecha children were asleep in separate rooms down the hall. Mrs. Pecha carried her 5-year-old daughter, Debbie, to the Chevrolet pick-up truck & camper in the driveway. Mr. Pecha retrieved Chris, while half pulling the mattress off Chris' bed, strewing his blankets across the floor, and knocking over some chairs, the Pechas later found. Sometime before he left the house, Bill managed to put on an old pair of jeans (which he doesn't remember doing), but otherwise he was bare-chested and barefoot. Just as he reached the already open front door, the TV and the air conditioner came back on, indicating that the power had returned. According to Mr. Dale Strunk, Electrical Superintendent of the Marysville office of Pacific Gas and Electric Company, the seven-day recording voltmeter charts showed that the power outage affecting Colusa lasted about 7 minutes. Hence, the blackout ended at about 0101 Pacific Daylight Savings Time on 10 September 1976.

"He got to the front door and he screamed, 'The power's on. The TV's on. They're gonna see us!'" said Mrs. Pecha, who was already sitting on the front seat of the camper. "So he ran back in and turned the TV set off." He still had Chris under one arm.

Inside the house, Pecha noticed: "The back of our house up here, the (dining room) window--the windows was gettin' lighter, and I knew it (the UFO) was comin' closer, and I was gettin' scared."

Mrs. Pecha continued: "He closed the front door. In fact, he slammed it--I remember that.... On his way out to the pick-up he was askin' me if the key was in it. I didn't even answer him. He got in here and he started it up." Pecha had left the key in the ignition earlier that day.

Pecha backed the west-facing truck into reverse. He curved to the right, making a "Y" shaped turn in the gravel driveway, so that he could reach Wilson Avenue about 170 feet to the east. If the UFO was 500 to 900 feet up at a ground distance of about a thousand feet, then it was roughly 27 to 42 degrees above the horizon. The steering wheel would have prevented Pecha from seeing anything this high if it was straight in front of him--only if the UFO had been off to his left could he have seen it. His back-up maneuver put the UFO off to his right side and behind him. Pecha had a vague impression that the UFO was coming toward him, but that may have been only a lingering impression from seeing the lighting in the dining room window as he left the house. Mrs. Pecha was worried more about her husband than about the strange light--she never saw the UFO again after she left the house.

The Pecha kids, Chris and Debbie, woke up. Ten-year-old Chris

Pecha told us, "I didn't know what it was. I thought it was my sister because she'd been sick." Mrs. Pecha told us Debbie had been sick with tonsillitis that day and that she had had a 105°F. fever. She said Chris must have thought they were taking Debbie to the hospital.

When Pecha backed up, he noticed how bright his camper's back-up lights were. He became alarmed at the possibility the UFO might see the lights as he curved to the right until he faced east. Thus the back-up lights faced west--the direction of the UFO. Mrs. Pecha said he screamed, "They're gonna see the light! My God they're gonna get us!"

Pecha turned north on Wilson Avenue and started accelerating to the camper's top speed (he "floorboarded it"). But without headlights. Lenda Pecha yelled at her husband to turn on the headlights, but he screamed back that he didn't want to (because the UFO might see him, he told us). Fortunately, there was just enough moonlight for Pecha to see where he was driving. (There are no street lights on Wilson Avenue outside Colusa city limits.) She continued to plead with him to turn on the lights, but to no avail. But she agreed that she, too, had been able to see where they were going because of the moonlight. The Pechas saw no other vehicles on the road then or later.

#### UFO Chase-Sequence

Pecha saw the UFO again for sure when he reached the intersection of Wilson Avenue and Hunter Road, about 1,750 feet (0.33 mile) from the entrance to his driveway. Hunter Road runs west-only from this intersection. By this time, Pecha had reached the camper's top speed of 90 to 95 miles per hour, having taken probably about twenty seconds to do so, and he was then braking to negotiate a curve in the road. Pecha drew a map of this chase sequence for us. At the Hunter Road junction, he saw the UFO to his left (in the west). He thought it was several hundred feet away, over an orchard, at about 45 degrees above the horizon. (The orchard stretches out 1,200 feet west from that point.) But he also said it was travelling at about 50 feet off the ground--this must be in error if the UFO was several hundred feet away at a 45-degree altitude. Nor would the McGowens have been able to see the UFO at such a low altitude--but they apparently did.

Pecha drove another 1,380 feet (0.26 mile) or so at 90-95 miles per hour, apparently losing sight of the UFO in the interim. This brought him to a sharp, right-angle turn in Wilson Avenue. He braked and just barely made the turn. (Pecha has several trophies from his ten years of driving cars in destruction derbies.) Just after the turn, as he headed east: "I caught it out of the corner of my left eye. It was approachin' us (from the side) at pretty fast (rate). But it wasn't catchin' up (in the forward direction)--it was just stayin' there." Some 10 to 15 seconds had passed since he saw the object near Hunter Road, and the UFO had reached its most northerly point.

Mrs. Pecha related the story of the high-speed sharp turn: "Okay, so we get down to the corner and he puts the brake on. Of course, the brake light(s) come on. He starts screamin', 'My God, they're gonna see us! They're coming after us!' Well, I never did turn around (and) look because I didn't--I still didn't know what was makin' my husband so hysterical." Since Bill Pecha saw the UFO off to his left just after this turn, his wife could not have seen the UFO very easily from where she was seated.

The McGowens were less than two miles from Pecha's truck, towards the east-southeast. They saw the UFO move northward from 260  $\pm$ 3 degrees azimuth (the direction towards the Pechas' house) to 287  $\pm$ 2 degrees--the latter azimuth sighting straight down Sioc Street to a point north of the right-angle turn in Wilson Avenue. The UFO maintained a constant angular altitude of 4  $\pm$ 1 degrees. This corresponds to a real height of 500 to 800 feet, if the UFO was near Pecha's location about nine thousand feet away. The McGowens had moved into the street to continue seeing the UFO.

"When we first saw it (the UFO)," Mrs. McGowen recalled, "it was bright white. And then when it started to move was--is when I noticed the orange cast to it." Pecha reported that a reddish-amber light in the middle of the UFO brightened just before he evacuated his family from their home. Mrs. McGowen said the city lights came on just as the UFO stopped its northward movement. This would be about three-quarters of a minute after Pecha's TV and air conditioner came on. We have not been able to determine just how simultaneous the restoral of electrical power had been in different parts of the Colusa area. The blackout affected the entire Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) Company system in northern California (but not all areas were blacked-out). Though the power went out nearly simultaneously, it returned at varying times in different locations on the PG&E grid--generally between two and nine minutes after it went out. The duration in the Colusa area was approximately seven minutes--but some variation is possible. Another explanation for this discrepancy might be that Mrs. McGowen's realization that the power was back had been some time after it had actually returned.

The McGowens said the UFO seemed to come straight towards them when it stopped its northward progression. The McGowens, in their verbal account, said that the UFO went "east" at this point. But, when they re-enacted the sighting for us, on-site, they showed us how the UFO had come straight at them, i.e., toward 107  $\pm$ 2 degrees azimuth, not 90 degrees (exactly east). That being the case, the UFO probably would have had to cross over Wilson Avenue from its north side to its south side.

The McGowens' view of the UFO along azimuth 287  $\pm$ 2 degrees would intersect Wilson Avenue some 1,800 to 3,300 feet east of its right-angle turn. Indeed, Pecha said the UFO passed over his truck (from Pecha's left/north side to his right/south side) sometime before he drove over the Southern Pacific Railroad tracks. These tracks cross Wilson Avenue about 3,450 feet east of the right-angle turn. Just before he went over the tracks, Pecha said he saw the UFO again, off to his right/south side--that is how he knew the UFO had crossed over Wilson Avenue. (The northern

section of Wilson Avenue runs from azimuth  $89\frac{1}{2}$  to  $269\frac{1}{2}$  degrees. If extended far enough toward  $89\frac{1}{2}$  degrees, it would pass the McGowens' location at a closest distance of about 1,940 feet and about 8,760 feet east of its right-angle turn.)

Mrs. McGowen indicated the UFO was still smaller than the full moon (which was 8.6 milliradians). From nine thousand feet away, a 1,500 to 3,000-foot decrease in distance would increase the angular size of a 75-foot object from 8 milliradians to 10-12 milliradians. But, say, a 30-foot object would increase in angular size from 3 to 4-5 milliradians--all smaller than the full moon. This suggests that this UFO was a different (and smaller) object than Pecha's 75-100-foot close encounter-UFO.

Mrs. Pecha picks up the story from here: "He didn't even slow down for the railroad tracks. I remember we sailed over them.... So, as we got to the tracks, I remember him sayin', 'I gotta get to Les's. I gotta go to Les's.' And I remember thinkin'--I don't know. I'm still so confused (at this point) 'cause I don't know what's the matter with him.... In fact, I don't even think he even put the brakes on when we went around the corner--there's a kind of a round corner at Les's house." Leslie and Gayle Arant live at 846 Thirteenth Street, on the north (or inner) side of the curve. Wilson Avenue merges into the north-northeast-running Thirteenth Street at the Arants' home. From the right-angle turn on Wilson Avenue to the Arants' house, Pecha would have covered about 4,400 feet (0.83 mile) in about three-quarters of a minute.

"So we come around this way," Lenda Pecha continued, "and just right directly into their (the Arants') gravel and that's where he stopped." The truck was parked in front of the Arants' house, pointing north-northeast (i.e., illegally, on the left side of the street). "And he jumped out of the pick-up and left the door open. The next thing I realized was that (Bill was) beatin' on their door with both his fists, screamin' at them...." (Mrs. Pecha told us earlier, "And here we've known Les and Gayle for years. And I thought, 'My God, they're gonna think my husband is just completely flipped.'")

"We're still in the truck....," Mrs. Pecha continued, "And then, Gayle--it seemed like right away she opened the door. And I thought that was kind o' funny because there was no time for her to get out o' bed.... So, I remember Gayle sayin' something to the effect of, 'My God what's that?!'... And, of course the whole time, like I said, I never did look back. So I don't know what even was over there. I wish I would have (looked for the UFO) now. But I didn't." Indeed, because of the north-pointing orientation of the truck, Mrs. Pecha could not have seen the UFO towards the south from inside the truck.

Pecha said that as he drove towards the outskirts of Colusa, he realized that he was close to his long-time friends, the Arants. He decided to stop there because it was the first "safe" place he knew he could reach. The UFO seemed to drop behind him on his right side, so he could not see it. "As we got close to town, it (the UFO) went behind us, and I knew by that time it was gonna get us--I don't know what made me

think of things like this, I don't. But normally, I'm pretty level-headed." Pecha said he ran to the Arants' door "hysterical," and Gayle Arant answered the door right away: "She just said, 'Oh, my God, what's that?'" And I says, 'Well, that's what I'm trying to tell you, it was at the house.'"

Leslie Arant, age 36 (at the time of the sighting), is a price clerk in a wholesale plumbing supply company. He had no trouble identifying any of the colors in our color-filter pack. But his vision is poorer than average--we'd estimate about 20/30 visual acuity from our test with the eye chart. We do not know if Arant is hyperopic or myopic (more likely the latter). Gayle Arant, age 34 (at the time of the sighting), is a senior library assistant in the Colusa County Library. She had no trouble identifying colors and her vision tested as normal. The Pechas and the Arants have known each other for just over 20 years.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Arant were awakened when the air conditioner stopped because of the power outage. Mrs. Arant reported to us: "I had gotten up (at) first because ... it was really hot that night. And our air conditioner was on and it shut off. And I thought, 'Gee, that's strange.' And then when I got up, there wasn't any lights on. And I thought, 'That's really strange.' And I really didn't think too much of it because once in a while we have this (blackout), you know, for some reason. So I came out in the kitchen. The dog was still whining. So I thought, 'Well, I'll feed him.' ... I had my flashlight--I was goin' around with my flashlight. And while I was in (the kitchen) here, the electricity came on." She said the blackout lasted "8 minutes--maybe not quite that long." Her husband agreed that the outage lasted 7-8 minutes--which they had determined from re-setting the digital electric clock in the bedroom. Mrs. Arant said she thought her husband told her that night that the electric clock stopped at 12:58 a.m. But, Les Arant said, "All this (blackout) took place within--from what I can remember, from, say, 12:55 'til a few minutes after 1 o'clock.... (I)t couldn't have been more than, like I say, 7 or 8 minutes of duration of the failure." (The actual time was 12:54 and the duration was about 7 minutes.)

Mrs. Arant heard a truck (Pecha's) and saw it through the south-facing kitchen window, but she didn't see anything else unusual. She saw no other traffic on the road then, or later, during her UFO sighting. She heard the truck pull up in front of her house and then she concluded that it was Bill Pecha. She noticed the time on the battery-driven clock in the living room (which is not affected by power outages) as she ran to the door. It was a few minutes after 0100, she told us.

"He (Pecha) had opened up the screen (door)," Mrs. Arant recalled, "and he was pounding on my door. At the time I got to the door he was pounding on it. I opened it." She said "he was yelling at me to look up in the sky. And when I looked up, over in the west was this large object with a white--very brilliant white--light underneath. And, you could see the outline of the top of it. It was dark in the middle, but you could see the outline. And it reminded you of a saucer--a cup and saucer--and it (the cup) was turned upside down.... It went from the west to the

east.... Bill and I were by ourselves on the porch. His wife and kids were in the pick-up. And we kept yelling for my husband.... When he finally got up, it was right at the end of it (the sighting)."

"My wife being up at that time," Les Arant recounted, "(she) answered the door and Bill Pecha was on the porch. And (I heard) his very excited voice. And I was still in bed."

Gayle Arant looked to her right and saw the UFO over the south part of her house, at azimuth 225  $\pm$ 10 degrees (southwest, not west). The angular altitude could not have been less than about 15 degrees because of the house--it was probably 20  $\pm$ 5 degrees. She told us the UFO's angular size was roughly that of the full moon. But, under Dr. Harder's questioning, she compared the angular size to that of a portion of a building that Harder measured out to be about 14 milliradians (almost twice the full moon). Mrs. Arant and Pecha were then located at geodetic latitude 39° 12'.62 (39° .2103) North, geocentric latitude 39° 01'.32 (39° .0220) North, longitude 122° 01'.21 (122° .0202) West, surface elevation about 53 feet, eye level on the porch about 59 feet (above mean sea level).

Mrs. Arant's drawing shows a flattened bell-like shape (dark outline seen in moonlight) with a flat bottom (luminous in brilliant white) seen as an ellipse. She insisted that the width-height ratio and all other proportions were very nearly correct. If the bottom of the UFO was circular, then her drawing represents the UFO inclined about 8½ degrees above Mrs. Arant's line of sight (minor/major axis ratio of 0.148). And, if the UFO's angular altitude was about twenty degrees, then the UFO seems to have been flying with its base tilted roughly 11½ degrees from a plane parallel with the ground. (The axis of these intersecting planes would seem to have been perpendicular to Mrs. Arant's line of sight and parallel to the ground.) Continuing under the assumption of a circular base, the width-height ratio would be 3.6. (Without an assumption as to the UFO's shape, the ratio would be 2.8.) Since the width-height ratio for Pecha's close encounter-UFO was 5, this discrepancy further supports the premise that the close encounter-UFO was not the same object that returned along the 262-263-degree azimuth and chased the Pechas to the Arants' home. Unless, of course, the UFO changed its size and shape on a large scale during these observations. Recall that Mrs. McGowen's angular size description coupled with the UFO's triangulated location at a known (and decreasing) distance suggested that the UFO that chased the Pechas was on the order of thirty feet in size, i.e., it suggested that it was not Pecha's 75-100-foot close encounter-UFO. This (assumed) actual size and Mrs. Arant's angular size estimate (about 14 milliradians) indicate a distance of roughly 2,000 feet from the Arants' house.

#### UFO Departure

Les Arant recollected: "My wife said, 'Les, you have to come out

here and see this.' Or something to that effect. So, getting out of bed, I grabbed the first thing I could put on. And I went out to the door. Bill was standing outside on the porch. And his first comment was, 'Les, you have to see this....' (or) 'I want you to see this. So that I won't be the only one....' So, at that time, I was looking through the storm door, which is a clear pane, glass door. And, Bill was pointing to the south. And there was a brilliant, ball of light.... I couldn't exactly tell, it being pitch dark, how high it was.... It was gaining altitude very fast. But it--to me it didn't go straight up. Instead, it looked like it was going in a southern direction at about a 45-degree angle (pointed away from me), and I watched it until it disappeared."

Arant said he saw none of the structural details of the UFO that his wife saw--it was just a round light. His uncorrected vision problem seems to be the explanation for this discrepancy.

Mrs. Arant said she saw the UFO move from her right to left, maintaining about constant angular altitude of  $20 \pm 5$  degrees. Then, it suddenly shot straight up and disappeared in roughly half a second, she said. She could not point to the spot where she last saw the UFO--hence no angular altitude for this departure point can be estimated. She first thought the UFO disappeared when it reached a line-of-sight over Colusa High School (about 175 degrees azimuth). But, later, while standing at the exact spot where she stood on the night of the sighting, Mrs. Arant showed me she last saw the UFO over in the direction of some buildings in the northern section of the Colusa County Fairgrounds, i.e., azimuth  $150 \pm 5$  degrees. Her re-enactment of the observation took about 10 to 15 seconds, not half a minute as she had estimated.

Les Arant thought he watched the UFO for no more than about the last quarter minute. But, he did not see the eastward motion that Pecha and Mrs. Arant saw. He only saw the departure of the UFO--thus, the total duration of his observation was probably only a few seconds. Arant's on-site description places the UFO at about 185-195 degrees azimuth, going from the horizon to about 10 degrees altitude, where it disappeared. We consider Gayle Arant's data more reliable than her husband's because of the shorter duration of his observation, the condition of his eyesight, and the (probable) fact that he watched the UFO through a glass window (his wife thought differently about this last point).

Bill Pecha said the UFO disappeared in the southeast, towards Sacramento (about 145 degrees azimuth). This is consistent with Mrs. Arant's revised last position of  $150 \pm 5$  degrees azimuth. The time at this disappearance was probably about 0103 Pacific Daylight Savings Time.

Some 4,820 feet away to azimuth  $114\frac{1}{2}$  degrees (east-southeast), the McGowens watched the eastward movement of the UFO. They had observed the UFO continuously from its northernmost point (while Pecha tried to escape in his truck several hundred feet to its south), through its motion straight towards them (nearly passing right over Pecha's truck), through its eastward displacement to some point (probably) just before its disap-

pearance as seen by the Arants and Pecha.

There were some problems with the re-enactment of this phase of the McGowens' sighting. They were inconsistent as to which portions of the telephone poles (down the street) the UFO passed behind. They were unsure about whether the UFO had disappeared by going dark like a light switched off or by passing behind the large tree across the street from them. They did settle on a spot at 195  $\pm$  5 degrees azimuth and 18  $\pm$  5 degrees altitude as where they last saw the UFO. The duration of the movement from 287  $\pm$  2 to 195  $\pm$  5 degrees azimuth seems to have been roughly 5 to 10 seconds. But, the disappearance as seen by the McGowens was not necessarily coincident with the disappearance as seen by the Arants and Pecha.

While the UFO moved across the sky, a pick-up truck came by the McGowens, going east on Sioc Street. As the truck passed by, the McGowens heard a whining or humming sound, which they think came from the UFO. "Like a high, turbine-engine sound," Mrs. McGowen said. "But there was like a whirling ... like a very high-powered machine running at a very fast rate of speed." Mark Uriarte asked if the sound was like a jet engine starting up. "No, ... you never heard it start up like a jet will start up slowly. This was all of a sudden. I mean, it was just there. And it was a very, very high-pitched, shrill kind of noise." She said she could hear the whine over the noise of the truck. Her son described the sound as a low "humming." Neither the Pechas or the Arants said they heard a sound that they thought might have come from the UFO at any during this entire incident.

#### Post-Sighting Circumstances

Mrs. McGowen's son, Fred Morris, ran out in the street and then over to First Street to make sure the UFO was gone. Then he ran to the Colusa County Sheriff's Office, two blocks away, to report the UFO sighting. A mile away, Mrs. Pecha got her kids out of the truck and into the Arants' house. Inside, Bill Pecha became concerned about the Davis' safety. He thought the beam of light (or whatever) that the UFO had lowered onto the Davis' house might have harmed them somehow. So he called the Davises on the Arants' telephone.

"As soon as it (the UFO) was gone," Pecha told us, "I told 'em (the Arants) I'd like to call Slim (Davis) and his wife--make sure they was okay. So I--I call, and the phone rang for quite a bit and I figured they were--something really happened, you know, but it didn't. She--she (Mrs. Davis) answered the phone (at last) and she said they'd been asleep. For the first time in a long time they'd retired early.... I said, 'What I'm about to tell you I don't want you to get scared,' or. 'This is not a crank call.... I'm very serious. I was worried about you.... There was weird things out there at your house tonight, and I wanted to make sure that you were okay.' She says, 'Sure, we're ... both

okay. We wish we were awake so we could see it (the UFO). And (of course) I told her who I was, because I didn't want to scare her, you know, wakin' people up out of bed at night tellin' 'em weird things. And so then, I wasn't quite satisfied yet, I called the Sheriff's department, and they said yes, it's been reported (by the McGowens)...."

Les Arant described Bill Pecha's state of mind this way: "Bill, being (in) the state of mind he was, I was concerned with him. I've never seen him exactly that way before. The man was--was distraught 'n shaking and this type of thing. And uh--." I asked him, "How long have you known him?" "Oh, 20 years," Arant replied.

Colusa City Police Department officers Bill Wheeler, age 27, and Peter C. Grevie went to the Arants' house in response to Pecha's call. (Colusa police officers had gone over to the Sheriff's Office when the power went out, thinking a jailbreak imminent.) Wheeler said that Pecha was so agitated that he touched Pecha's arm to get his attention. When he did so, Wheeler said he felt a strong electric shock. As Thomas Bowden pointed out during our initial investigation, the charge was probably collected by Wheeler who discharged it to Pecha (who was bare-foot). Pecha does not recall the incident. Wheeler told us he didn't smell any alcohol in Pecha's breath. He told us he believed Pecha's story.

After the policemen left and after Pecha told his story several times, Mrs. Pecha said she finally understood what had happened to her husband. The Pechas decided to go home around three to five a.m. Mrs. Pecha drove the family home. She said her husband was still upset and she thought it would be best that she drive. Later that day, Pecha drove out to the electrical power lines that one far encounter-UFO had caused to glow red. But, he did not find the scorch marks or any other damage as he had expected to find.

#### Other Witnesses

We have talked to other potential witnesses to the Colusa UFOs. Mr. and Mrs. John W. "Slim" Davis told us they observed nothing unusual that night because they had been asleep in a room with no windows to the outside. Mrs. Davis told us that her pear tree had bloomed again about a week after the UFO sightings. She said the fruit had already been picked, but the tree was blooming again. All five of us (Bowden, Harder, Rettig, Uriarte and I) saw the blossoms on the upper south part of the small tree near the north fence of the Davis' yard on 3 October 1976. There is an extremely tall (over a hundred feet) tree in the middle of the Davis' yard, but we saw no sign of damage or unusual effect on it, or on any other bush or tree in the Davis' yard (or any place else connected with this case, for that matter).

Another individual said she saw the Pecha UFO, a Mrs. S. She de-

cided to remain anonymous when the National Enquirer entered the case. (There were two inquiries into the case prior to our in-depth investigations; the Colusa Police Department on 10 September 1976 and the Colusa Sun-Herald on 12 September 1976. There were two investigations, so far as we know, after ours, including one by the National Enquirer.)

Mrs. S. told Mark Uriarte she had gone outside after the start of the blackout on 10 September 1976. She said she saw a pulsating orange-red light hovering in the west that suddenly darted away and then came back. But she did not know how the UFO had disappeared. "I came in before it (the UFO) disappeared..." (emphasis added) she told Uriarte on 3 October 1976. "The object was not leaving when I came in." Yet, Mrs. S. told the National Enquirer in mid-November 1976: "I watched it (the UFO) go off toward the mountains and come back and then it disappeared in the south." (Emphasis added.)

#### Some Investigative Conclusions

We have found no evidence that UFOs in the Colusa area caused the blackout or that the cause was located anywhere in northern California. First of all, the electric power lines over which Pecha saw two UFOs belong to the Central Valley Project, a federal power project near Shasta Lake, about a hundred miles north of Colusa. Secondly, the Colusa area gets its electric power from the Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) Company system, not the Central Valley Project. Thirdly, the City of Los Angeles' Department of Water and Power (DWP) said it was their system that caused the problems on all the other systems that are inter-tied in the Western Systems Coordinating Council (including PG&E). Officials of the Los Angeles DWP, and PG&E officials in Colusa, Marysville, and San Francisco, all state that the disturbance was caused by problems at the DWP substation at Victorville, about sixty miles northeast of Los Angeles and almost four hundred miles from Colusa. Pat Messigian of the DWP said that the Victorville substation suffered insulator contamination on high-voltage circuits during a light rain. Most areas in the western United States only experienced a drop in voltage. But some areas on the PG&E grid were completely blacked out for about two to nine minutes, and some areas on the DWP grid were out for three to seventeen minutes.

The persistent observation of lights (UFOs) around azimuth 263 degrees led me to determine the location of bright celestial objects. Azimuth 263 degrees and altitude 1.1 degrees from Colusa on 10 September 1976 (0800 to 0803 Universal Time) reduces to right ascension 17 hours: 30 minutes and declination  $-5\frac{1}{2}$  degrees on the celestial sphere. The bright planets were then at:

Venus	Right Ascension: 12 hrs. 39 mins.	Declination: $-3^{\circ}$
Mars	12 41	$-4$
Jupiter	3 57	+19
Saturn	8 58	+18

Hence, none of the planets could have been responsible for the lights. The brightest star within 15 degrees right ascension or declination was Rasalhague (Alpha Ophiuchi), a magnitude +2.1 star at 17 hours:34 minutes right ascension and +13 degrees declination. This reduces to azimuth 277 degrees and altitude 12 degrees at the time and location of these sightings. I think it is highly unlikely that this star was seen as a UFO during this Colusa incident.

Aircraft and helicopters are man-made phenomena that need to be ruled out as explanations for the far encounter UFO sightings around Colusa. We have not checked with airports and helicopter services by phone because it is highly unlikely that the appropriate records would be available more than a few days after the event. Letters of inquiry will be sent out in a few weeks. Finally, it is rather unlikely (but not impossible) that any aircraft or helicopter would carry a large diameter light source (Mrs. Arant's observation).

A hoax would require before-the-fact collusion among the six principal witnesses or after-the-fact collusion among these witnesses and the Colusa police officers who investigated the case. It is conceivable that such conspirators would throw together a lot of interesting details, with the initially apparent discrepancies being the result of error, poor planning, and faulty memories. But, I find it hard to believe that such conspirators would deliberately take the risk of casting doubts about any one of their members' sanity, i.e., Mrs. Pecha's report that she had thought her husband had "flipped." Moreover, all of the witnesses had had weeks to hammer out the apparent differences in their stories before we interviewed them. But they didn't.

If we assume (as is most likely) that genuine observations of "something" are involved here, the same opportunity to iron out differences has existed. But, as of the time of our investigation, none of the witnesses had taken advantage of this opportunity. Mrs. Pecha insisted that she did not see the "spotlights" or the two UFOs over the power lines that Mr. Pecha reported. Mr. Arant insisted that he did not see the eastward motion or the "cup and saucer" shape that Mrs. Arant reported. Mrs. McGowen's son, Fred Morris, insisted that he did not hear the "high-pitched, shrill" sound his mother reported, but that he heard a low "humming" noise. In fact, Mr. and Mrs. Pecha, and Mr. and Mrs. Arant, said they heard nothing at all. In other words, not only does this case seem to involve a genuine event, but it seems the witnesses cited here have honestly reported a genuine event (as opposed to dishonestly reporting a genuine event).

To give another example: The local newspaper, the Pechas, and the Arants, all quoted 7 to 10-minute figures for the duration of the 7-minute power outage. However, the McGowens insisted that they had had to adjust their clocks by 30 minutes after the blackout. Hence, they reported the blackout as having lasted 30 minutes. As I discovered later, their clocks had been 24 minutes behind, so  $24 + 7 = 31$  minutes, thus accounting for the apparent discrepancy. The McGowens could have just as easily rationalized their minority opinion with the majority, leaving us

with a discrepant 12:30 a.m. time to explain. But they didn't. This example attests to the McGowens' basic truthfulness. Other examples could be given to certify the Pecha's' and the Arants' basic honesty.

There was an independent MUFON investigation of the Colusa case by Robert Neville, Lois Williams, and Paul Cerny, on 9-10 October 1976. Three of us (Bowden, Rettig, and I) were pleased to witness a presentation of the results of this investigation on 6 November 1976, but we do not have a copy of the report to MUFON. Robert V. Pratt, a staff reporter for the National Enquirer, conducted an investigation of the case on 11-16 November 1976. We have examined copies of the Colusa UFO story draft (which will not be published by Enquirer) and Pratt's edited interview transcripts.

Pratt has gathered further (personal) testimony to Bill Pecha's integrity. Colusa City Police Chief Raegene Cation told Pratt, "I've had him (Pecha) work on police cars.... He seems to be reliable. I've never known him to stretch the truth or make up anything. I've known him for several years...."

Pratt asked, "To your knowledge, he's pretty reliable and honest?"

Chief Cation answered, "Yes, yes."

"And (he's) not the kind who would make up wild stories?" Pratt inquired.

"No, he wouldn't make anything up, no. He's not that type." Chief Cation replied.

Lt. Frank W. Hubbell of the Colusa County Sheriff's Office told Pratt: "He's well known in the community. He's beyond reproach."

Pratt asked Lt. Hubbell, "So, he's not the type to make up something frivolous?"

"I wouldn't think so," Lt. Hubbell replied. "I mean, he honestly believes he saw something. Maybe he did.... As far as I'm concerned, he's a good citizen of the community. I don't think he's inclined--he saw something. No question in my mind about that...."

Pratt asked Colusa City Police officer Bill Wheeler (who investigated the case minutes after it ended), "Can you vouch for his (Pecha's) honesty? Is he likely to make up stories?"

"I've never known of Mr. Pecha to make up stories or to even tell any tales (or) to stretch the truth," Officer Wheeler responded. "He's not that type of person."

Mr. Wilmer G. Brill, publisher of the Colusa Sun-Herald, told Pratt: "He (Pecha) has a good reputation. The best."

On the other hand, between our interviews with Pecha on 3, 9 and 10 October 1976 and Pratt's interview on 16 November 1976, certain discrepancies crept into Pecha's story. For example, Pecha described the close encounter-UFO's "spotlights" to us on 3 October 1976:

"... and out comes these two little things ... and they had a spotlight on the end of 'em.... And the light was perfect round-- a tube of light, like a shaft of light, and they did touch the ground." (Emphasis added.)

At one point in the Pratt interview, Pecha described the "spotlights" just as he had described them to us. But, later in the interview, Pecha told Pratt:

"... these lights came out ... and when they hit the ground, it was just the same size, just like it hit a spot, but never a beam or a shaft or tube of light." (Emphasis added.)

One explanation for this inconsistency might be that Pecha's memory is fading and that details are getting mixed up. Another explanation might be that an external influence was brought to bear on Pecha, causing him to become confused, between the time we talked to him and the time Pratt talked to him. Indeed, there was a separate MUFON investigation and interview with Pecha between our investigation and Pratt's. There is some evidence that the MUFON investigators were an external, confusing influence:

Pecha told us on 3 October 1976 that the two UFOs over the power lines were "a little bit less than half the size" of his close encounter-UFO. Six weeks later, Pecha told Pratt that a MUFON investigator had insisted differently:

"One fellow told me they must be the same size, just farther back." (Emphasis added.)

It is one thing for a UFO investigator to argue his own interpretations in a published paper or in a discussion with his colleagues. It is quite another matter for an investigator to try to impose his own simplistic notions on the witness. Such behavior is reprehensible. If the MUFON investigators have an explanation for this, I would certainly appreciate hearing it. And, if it is a good, reasonable explanation, I will retract this criticism and make the appropriate apologies.

In my opinion, we have nearly reached the limit in obtaining scientifically useful data from the Colusa witnesses by conventional means. A few more reliable details may have been turned up by investigations subsequent to ours. An analysis of the other reports on this case will be done if and when they all become available.

NOTE: All reductions of geodetic latitude to geocentric coordinates are based on the NORAD flattening constant,  $f = 1/298.324 = 3.35206 \times 10^{-3}$ . This differs from the constant adopted by the IAU,  $f = 1/298.25 = 3.35289$

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Read brackets for parentheses inside all quotations herein.

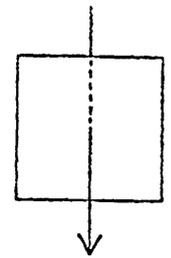
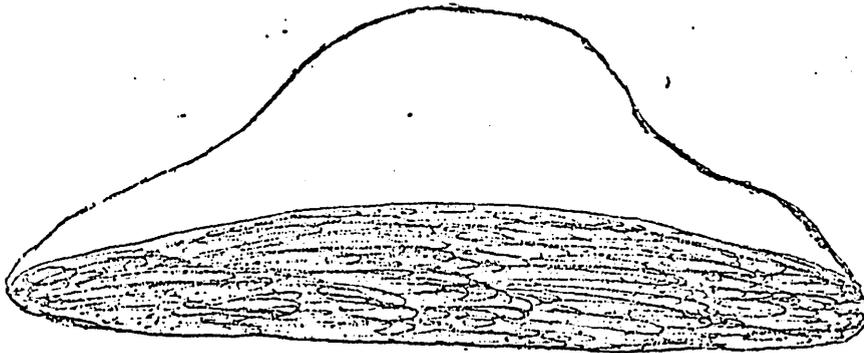
*Brad C. Sparks*

Brad C. Sparks  
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1 February 1977

Info cys: P. Cerny  
T. Gates  
R. F. Haines

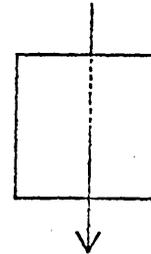
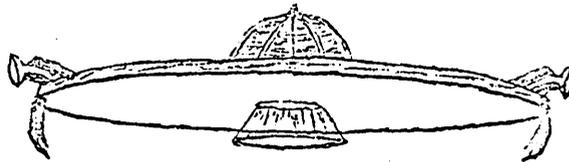
References

- B. V. Pecha telecon with C. E. Lorenzen, 1 October 1976.
- C. E. Lorenzen telecon with B. C. Sparks, 1 October 1976.
- B. V. Pecha telecon with J. A. Harder, 1 October 1976.
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- M. A. Uriarte telecons with E. McGowen and Mrs. S., 3 October 1976.
- B. C. Sparks and M. A. Uriarte interviews with:
  - B. V. and L. Pecha (9, 10 October 1976);
  - L. and G. Arant (9 October 1976);
  - E. McGowen and F. Morris (9 October 1976).
- B. C. Sparks telecons with:
  - Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) Company, Colusa office, 29 October and (Mr. Barnes) 2 November 1976;
  - PG&E Company, Marysville office and substation, 29 October and (Mr. Dale Strunk) 2 November 1976.
  - PG&E Company, San Francisco division, (Mr. Paul Gerard or Girard (refused to give exact spelling)) 29 October and (Mr. Don Baxter) 2 November 1976.
- Ms. Pat Messigian, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, 29 October and 2 November 1976.



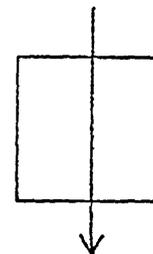
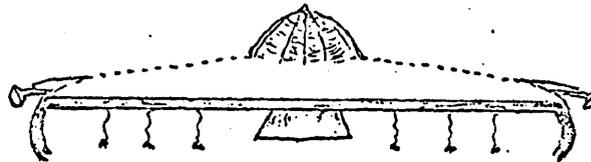
Gravity  
(about 20°  
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Negative image of UFO observed by Mrs. Arant, based on her drawing of 3 October 1976.



Gravity  
(about 5°  
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Pecha's approximate actual view of the close encounter-UFO as it departed. Width-height ratio corrected to 5:1. Distance about 500 feet. (Sky was black and cone of white "light" illuminated underside.)

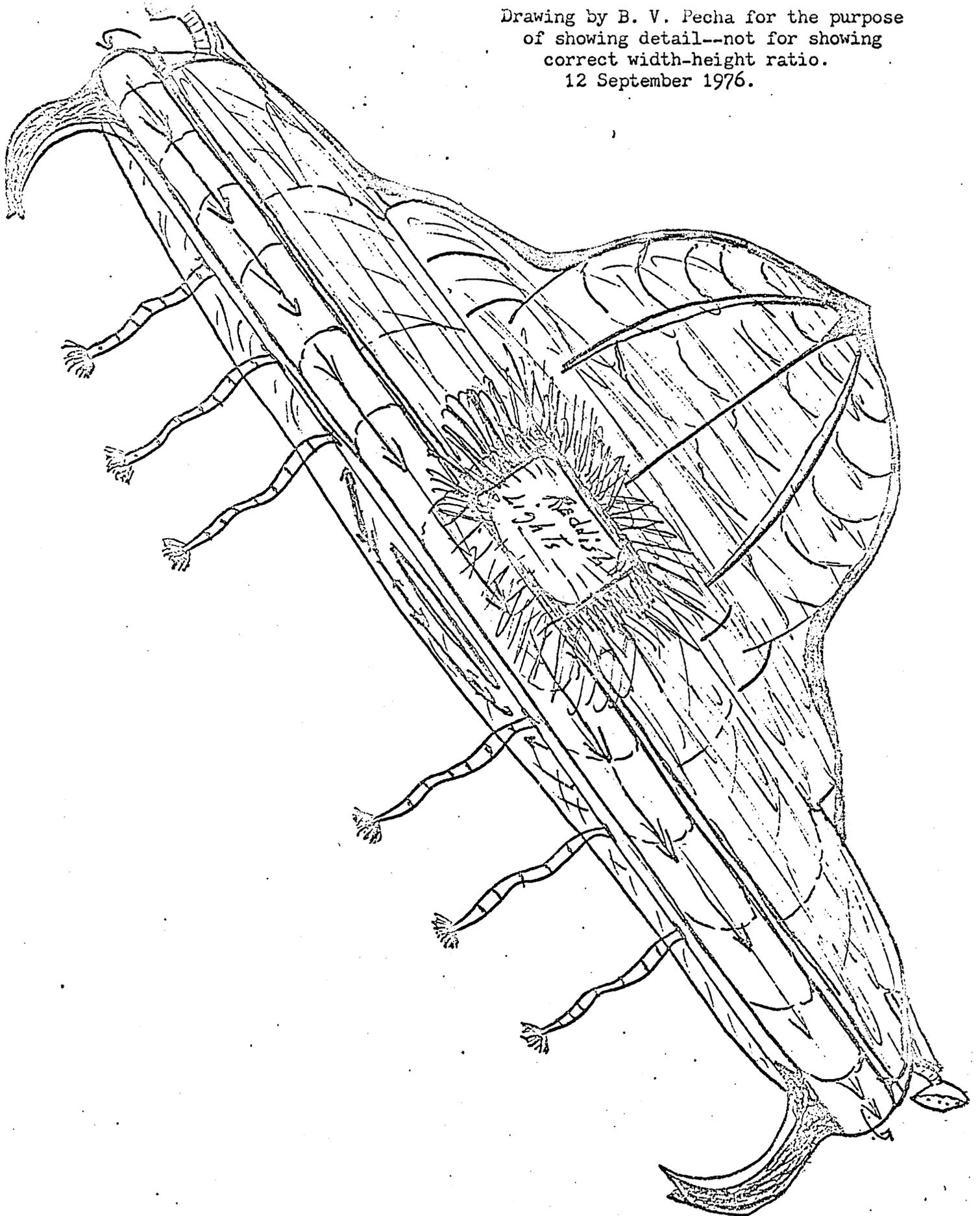


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Simulated side-view of Pecha's close encounter-UFO. Dotted lines are portions of the outline Pecha never saw close enough to represent accurately. Details are combined (the "cables" actually retracted and disappeared when the "spotlights" came out). Width-height ratio corrected to 5:1. Based on drawing by B. C. Sparks done under Pecha's supervision, 3 October 1976.



Drawing by B. V. Pecha for the purpose  
of showing detail--not for showing  
correct width-height ratio.  
12 September 1976.



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- Bill Pecha Jr., 1650 Wilson Street, Colusa, Calif., 916-458-2700. Personal interview at the Pecha (he pronounces it PAY-kee) on N v. 16, 1976, about his UFO experience early on the morning of Sept. 10, 1976.

. . . I worked late (that night). I build bankout wagons for the rice harvest. A bankout is a 4-wheel-drove bulk tank type and they use it to go up beside the harvester and they unslaid the rice into it and then bank it out to the road, and during the rice harvest I got them ready. I had worked until about 11:30 that night (Sept. 9) welding, getting one ready, and I came in pretty tired and everything. So I took a shower and the wife and family were in bed asleep. I decided to watch a western that was on (TV). It was called "Waterhole Number Three." I was too tired to go to sleep and about 12:30 or so it was really getting interesting--the movie--and the TV starts messing up. Well, I said, that's ~~ghazmazzi2x~~ par for Channel 12. It was just fluttering like a plane went over or a car went by because it sometimes does mess up the TV, and I didn't think too much about it. I was laying there on the couch. All I had on was my sherts and it was really getting interesting and I got up--it was my wife's borthday and I bought her a new coffee maker and I got me a cup of coffee and I sat down there (on the sefa) watching and it just got really loused up. So I moved to the corner of the van and I was just going to go up and see if I could re-adjust it (the TV set) and it came in clear again. I thought, "Maybe it's going to quit"--they always flash on the screen "Beyong our control" or audio or video trouble, but that never happened. So I guess around a quarter to one--I'd say it was hlawfway through the movie--and it just went out real slow, like a ~~ra~~ tube. I figured, "Well, the picture tube ~~it~~ must have went out 'cause it was getting old and it was about time for it to go, I guess"--when the coller (air conditioner) quit. When you turn it off it runs for a few minutes till she quits but it just stopped. Well, I didn't pay any attention. I had been welding pretty heavy all evening and I figured the transformer blew in the shep. I feed and underground (wire) from there to the ~~h9~~ house here and I thought, "Well, I'll just go outside and go over and flip that circuit breaker. My mother-in-law (who lives next door at 1652 Wilson) was gone at that time and I didn't notice that the power was off, and the Baileys (who live next door on the opposite, or north, side) were gone for the weekend. So I just opened the door and started off the step (walkin toward the south end of the mobile home toward barn next door at mother-in-law's) and I felt real strange. (I had been) laying down on the couch and it was kind of a sultry night and I figured maybe it was static electricity. I didn't think anything of it, so I got past this window here (in the mobile home's livingroom window on east side of building) and I ~~x~~ started feeling tingly--real bad. I didn't give it a thought. I thought I'd jumped up too quick. So I started along the edge of the house and my hair--I'm prett6 hairy on my body--and my hair and the hair on my

on my head was standing just straight up and it was crackling like if you'd run a comb through ~~z~~ your hair--you know how you get static, you can hear it crackling, ~~xxx~~ especially on a woman's hair. I didn't give it any more though and the closer I get to my wife's ~~w~~ bedroom window--that's where the underground cable comes through and I figured I've got a short because I was getting shocked--not a lot but a tingling feeling. I was barefooted and I thought I'd better get on over there (to the machine shop) and see what's happening, because I have had electrical failures over there before and it throws the circuit breaker. It gets pretty warm. So I get past the bedroom window and it was getting worse. I don't know what made me look up. It was a fairly quiet evening and the moon was out but it was high clouds, not real heavy concentrated clouds but big fluffy ones and I guess I looked up at the moon or something, I don't know. But I looked up and here is this huge object between the barn and the house and the more I looked up, the bigger it was. I guess I kind of panicked a little bit and all this time I can hear this crackling all over the top of my body. I was just terrified and the more I looked at it the more things I was picking up on (noticing). These flexible type cables came down. This light came down so far and never touched the ground. Never lit up the barn top--

Q. You mean the beam of light?

A. Well, it was a funnel type of light--

Q. Cone shaped?

A. Yeah, like an upside down ice cream cone coming out of the underbelly part of it. And then I looked up again and the brim was spinning clockwise very fast and no sound--

Q. As you ~~xxx~~ looked up it was spinning clockwise?

A. The outer side. And the inner side was going in the opposite direction. But yet these things were hanging from the center of the area. But I didn't concentrate on that. I ~~x~~ was just horrified by what I was seeing. And it was very still. Not a sound. If there was a sound there I didn't hear it. All I could hear was my heart (laughs), I guess, and I was trying to holler for the wife but I couldn't get nothing out. Nothing was coming out. I guess I was out there 4 to 5 minutes and it backs out over the field there (to the west). I just watched it, kind of took one step out beyond the house so I could get a better view of it--and I noticed two more (objects) over by Slim Davis' house, but they were hovering above these high-powered lines. They were just glowing red (later he said he meant the power lines, not the UFOs, were glowing red). I thought we were being invaded. You know, I don't believe in this stuff, but ~~I~~ I do now. I really do. At that time it was a nightmare. I just figured we were being invaded. I didn't know what was going on. I ran in the house, I came to the (diningroom) window (on west side) and I could still see 'em good so I ran down the hall, knocking over a chair. The wife thought maybe the house was on ~~fire~~

fire, I guess, because I was making a pretty good racket hollering for her. And she got up and I said, "You've got to come to the window, you've got to see this. So she came in here (dining area) and we had this blind pulled and I was trying to get it up and I couldn't and she said, 'Well, just wait a minute and I'll get it up for you.' So she peeked out and here's these other two sitting over there and here's this big one--it was much bigger than the other two. One of a fellow told me (later) they might be the same size, but just farther back. But when this (big one) went between them and out towards the foothills--in just seconds!--it stood out much larger than the two on the power lines and when I got her here it had already went up to the hillside, which is about 20 miles. Now, it stood out. I can't figure out why more people didn't see it than they did because it was one of those nights when just nothing was going on. There was no traffic on the road (Route 20 going west toward Williams). And the Freeway (Interstate 5) at night you can see--

Q. That's a good 6 miles away--

A. The Freeway is more. I would say between 7 and 8 miles. And there is a huge rice guard (?) that sits north of Williams approximately 6 miles and it lights up everything and I didn't notice it at the time. It was just dark. As it (the huge object) approached and came back it stopped over Slikm Davis' house (half a mile west of the Pecha home), which is a crop-dusting service right behind my field--and this beam of light was down. It lowered it down over the top of the house and it lit up the whole house, the tree line and the hangar, which is quite a ways from the house. It looks close (from the Pecha house), the big hangar to the north and there's a smaller hangar (between the house and bigger hangar) with a windsock on it. Now I could see just like xxx if you had a flashcube camera and you could keep that light steady on everything. That's the color everything was lit up, a bright gray and bluish light. I got worried. I said, "Well, if it did that there's no telling what's going on." I thought it was zapping them or whatever was going on. OK, it started across our field again and it was out I'd say halfway between theirs (the Davis house) and out and I told the wife: "Don't get dressed, just get the kids out of bed, let's get in the pickup and get out of here." I said, "You don't know what I seen outside." This is when I started telling her what I'd seen outside. She didn't know what I saw. I guess I was a wild person, and I don't get shook much. The only thing--like if I come up on an accident and see someone pretty well mangled it bothers me a little bit but it doesn't spook me that way. So she ran in and get Debbie and she (Debbie) had been real sick and I ran and got Chris and as I started running out the door the TV came back on and the cooler started running, so I flipped the switch on the cooler and I shut the TV off. I still had Chris under my arm and I had the blanket all tangled around him--I guess that's when

I knocked down some other chairs and we got in the pickup and the back of the house at that time--I went into this room behind this (dining area) wall to get Chris and it was getting lighter in the window, much lighter, and I thought "It's coming pretty close" and I was getting more horrified. So my wife and Debbie was already in the pickup and I put Chris in there--of course, the kids was pretty scared. We woke them up out of a sound sleep and Chris kept thinking Debbie was real ~~sxz~~ sick and we were getting her to the hospital. . . . and I jumped in the truck and I didn't turn the lights on and I put it in reverse and ~~sx~~ it ~~had~~ has ~~przky~~ very bright backup lights, and I went zooming out the driveway and we took off down the road. As I was backing out the driveway, it (the object) was pretty close to here and it was sort of going in that direction (~~sxz~~ pointing north-northwest) at about a 45 (degree angle) at that time, still about 50 to 75 feet off the ground. It was very large. Of course, the moon shined on it a little bit which probably made it stand out twice as big as ~~ix~~ I would think it would be. Everything is big when that's going on. And so we started down this road (Wilson, going north into town) and I got down about a quarter of a mile and there's another road called Hunter Road and as I went past that road I looked and it was setting ~~x~~ right there beside the road just like it was following us, and I really panicked and the wife says, "Turn the lights on." Well, I could see the road pretty fair from the moon and there is a pretty good turn (about 90-degrees). Well, I almost didn't make the turn. And we started going down, picking up pretty ~~sxz~~ good speed and my wife said "You better turn the lights on." And I said, "Just don't worry about it, I can see, I don't want to turn the lights on." But in the moonlit night they could see my ~~sxz~~ white camper and I looked out the corner of my eye by the cemetery and it was right there. It was off about this angle from my eyes and I'm driving around 90 mph. I shouldn't have been doing that but I was scared. We got into town, as we were getting over the tracks it disappeared. and I thought it was on top of us. and thought maybe it was going to zap us. And I stepped on it some more and I made that turn (where Wilson, turns from due east to due north) and there are some friends of ours we know in town, the Arants, and I don't know what made me go in their driveway but I spun right around and slid right up to their door. I almost hit their step and I ran to the door. I guess I was out by the time I put it in park and ran up the steps and I was beating on the door. Well, she had been up. They have a refrigeration unit (air conditioner) in their house and their ~~x~~ power had been off and she was trying to figure out what was going on and she came to the door pretty fast. And I ~~x~~ was trying to tell her and she thought maybe Debbie was sick, and she come to the door and asked me what was wrong. I was beating on the door pretty hard and she came to the ~~s~~ door and asked me what was wrong and she said,

"My God, what's that!" Well, it (the object) was just going out over the field at that time and I said, "That's what's m been at the house" and I said, "I don't know what it's doing but it's scared the heck out of it." I think I used that word, but I don't remember. Anyway, I had to call Slim Davis and his wife so I called and the phone rings and rings and rings and I figured, "Oh boy." but she (Mrs. Davis) comes to the phone and I asked her, "Are you OK?" And she said, "Yes." And I said, "Y u sure you're all right?" And she said "Certainly" And I said, "Well, what I'm about to tell you--I live across the way from you" I old her my name and she said "I know you" and I said, "I'm not trying to be a crank or ~~anyzknz~~ scare you or nothing but there's weird things happening out here tonight and it looks to me like flying saucers." And she said, "Well, we believe in saucers in a way, we read up on them ~~ix~~ <sup>as much as</sup> we can, so you're not really scaring us" And I said it had lit up the whole area over there and she said, "Well, we were woken but we were very warm and she said that's the only thing that woke us up, nothing else." And she was very disappointed because they always ~~stay~~ up late at night--and he's a crop duster and they go through ~~sh~~ schedules for the next day and they read and she said "this night we had had a heavy day and had went to bed early, around 11 o'clock." and I told her it happened around 1 o'clock. I didn't know how long it had been out there. I just I was just laying there watching TV and the TV started really acting up bad, but usually that happens, on Channel 12 anyway, that from the Chico area. Now Cable TV, we have better luck with ~~Rxix~~ pole antenna than we do cable. Of course we don't get cable out here just yet. . . but the power, I called the Sheriff's Department after I got through talking to Slim Davis and his wife and I called them and I just wasn't, I wasn't secure enough. I had to find out if somebody else had seen it and the sheriff's depart,ent said 'Yes, we've been notified already.' And I said, "Well, could you find out a little more?" I said, "The power's been off" and she said, "Yeah we know about it. Our auxiliary plant didn't come on like it should . . . Well, as soon as the powr went off, the police station thought it was a break at the jail so they, the police was there (at sheriff's department) that's how they come to see us. She said, 'Well we're going to send two officers out to talk to you right away.' . . . So they came out, Bill Wheeler (and Peter ~~Grix~~Grevie) and I was in the yard, I went back out in the yard. We'd seen something else go ~~axkxaxz~~ across the sky, we figured maybe they were taking off in a different direction but, pretty high speed like and we just couldn't--it was ~~xgtxxgtx~~ gone in a flash. These two (the smaller ones on the power lines) went up very rapidly ~~wham~~ after this one (the big one) started across the field (toward the Pecha house).

Q. Which way across the field?

A. As it was approaching (the Pecha house) the last time, the time we last saw

it and left, it was coming across again and the other two disappeared just straight up this way (holding arms apart, each up at 45 degrees, with a 90-degree angle between the arms). One went north direction and the other went south. The just went straight up at a 45 like and they went real, at high speed.. They just took, you know, very fast. And no sound. But the animals in the area, now we have bird dogs in that area over there (pointing to some homes northwest of the Pecha house) and they were howling and abarking, but it never bothered me much. I could hear them but I was more concentrated on what I was looking at. So they (the police) came out and talked to me, and I was pretty well shook up and he ~~xxxxxxx~~ (one of the officers) said we have a number for you to call. I said, "OK but I don't think I can dial." He said that's OK, we'll dial, and he took my hand to--I guess he was trying to calm me down and he said, "Man you're loaded with electricity." Now Bill Wheeler told me this and then the next day I had forgotten about that part and he reminded me. He said, "Boy, you were loaded that night. I grabbed a hold of your hand to try to calm you down and you had a pretty good jolt to you."

Q. He got a charge off you?

A. He got a charge out of me. And--

Q. Were you aware of it?

A. At that time, no. But he noticed it. He could tell I was terrified. They know me there and I'm just not that type of a person. And I don't make crank calls and I don't make an anthill out of--you know, make things larger than they should be. Like I say, I run race cars and I drive in destruction derbies and things doesn't bother me, but this time it petrified me and this is the first time--I go out of state hunting and this is--I go out every year--this is the first time that I had a thought in my mind as I was walking out there late in the evenings or early in the mornings. I just, you know, I kept my eyes awake. I didn't want to tell myself I was but I looked up, and then one night late we were coming back from town up there, this was last week and I called my wife the next night, I told her, "Well, you won't believe this but we spotted something in the air up here (in Oregon) last night that all four of us saw it--well three of us were ~~xxxxx~~ standing outside and my dad was in the trailer cooking dinner, and I said, "We believe it was one (UFO) but we don't know." It brought everything back again. But I have seen things in the air but we always said oh that's a flying saucer or that's a Sputnik and we dropped it, that's as far as it ever went. And we have never picked up a magazine or anything like that with that (UFOs) in it. We used to watch them on TV, the kids like to watch that kind of ~~stuff~~ stuff. So, I just never did believe in that stuff (UFOs) until that night. It was a very horrifying experience. It was like a nightmare. Something that you couldn't--it never happened, but it did. I wished that it had happened

to somebody else and not me. It wasn't very nice the next couple of weeks. People in town, some of them were very nice, some of them would say, "Well, how many flying saucers did you see out there today?" Or, "Did that lighting storm the other day, did the saucers cause it?" I mean, they're kidding but to some fellows you're just a kook. I mean, geez, that's weird. They don't believe it. But that's their business. If they don't want to believe it, fine. That's all right with me but . . . I've asked people higher up what they thought, if it's Russia or if it's the United States, but they all say, "Well, they're confined to a certain altitude, they have to have identification on their aircraft, they just don't go out flying over people's houses at night scaring them, and I have talked with a few fellows up in Oregon this time that works in the Forest Service in the Ranger station lookouts on top of peaks and they see weird things. And they say, well, if we're on Mars why can't they be here? But I never did give it a thought like that and it just--I believe in it now. It's hard to believe in because you just don't think there's any other beings around. They might be, I mean, they gotta be now.

Q. What did you think was going to happen to you?

A. I thought we were going to get destroyed. The lighting appearance that was doing over at Slim Davis' house. These shafts of light were just unreal. I mean when you can turn on a light and it doesn't touch the ground, doesn't even light the ground up, that bothers me.

Q. You mean it just came down part of the way--

A. It hovered, now when it was out here over the house it was hanging down, the light shaft was down approximately--well I ~~didn't~~ <sup>didn't</sup> notice it until it backed off into the field, but it was coming out of it maybe only 4 or 5 feet from the bottom of the hole opening. It looked like the giant shutters of a camera underneath, it was black but yet it was a grayish dull light was coming out of it but when it went out over the field these things (the flexible cord-like appendages) went up very rapidly and out comes two big kind of spotlights (from outer edge of saucer--see sketch) and the lighting, like if you turn the headlights of a car on you get a cone like, you know, you go out and shine up the area. These were just a round tube like shaft, brilliant blue, soft blue, and when it hit the ground it didn't break up the area, it only lit up the area the same size that shaft was. And they were moving around and about and ~~it went~~ as it went over Slim's house this light lowered (the one from the bottom). It got real white, like a flashcube camera type light. The brightest light I've ever seen. And everything on the ground glowed. At nighttime you can make out ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> outline of Slim's house and they have a giant floodlight out there, maybe two, around the hangars, and it lights up an area very dim like from

here but you could see every detail. You could see the trees real good, you could see the shingles on the roof from here, you could see the chimney, the brick, just glowed. And this is what was horrifying me, because when it went over hill--now that's 20 miles away--the top of the peaks of the Three Sisters, approximately Three Sister Ranch, three unusual domes on the hills and they call ~~them~~ it the Three Sister Ranch. The light was follering it up the hillside and you could see the top of the peaks and then it just came right back in the same pattern, follering the contour of the ground. And then as it approached Slim's house--the other two were still on the power lines and they (the lines) were getting very red. The towers was bluish like, where the lights was on them. It was just like they were taking electricity off. Well, at the time I didn't know the lights were off. It didn't dawn on me what had happened. And, it was just a nightmare. So, what it was doing to that house and then it started across the field, I figured it was going to do the same thing to us and I panick I told my wife we gotta get out of here, we don't know what it's doing, And this is why I thought it was destructing things, that it was laser beaming or something. But the house wasn't blown up or it wasn't burning or nothing. It was just glowing, and Slim and his wife said it was very warm but they never heard anything or saw anything.

Q, Do~~a~~ they have any dogs there?

A. They have two little dogs in the house.

Q. Do you have any dogs here?

A. I have onepoodle, but it's blind, just about blind and deaf and he stys in th shop over there. I keep him inside.

Q. So he didn't hear anything? Or act unusual.

A. He doesn't, he only howls when he wants out. He doesn't. He used to be a rea good watchdog but he--

Q. Let me ask you this--your shop and the transformer are back here (to the east

A. Well, see, can you see that pole coming through the roof there? OK, that little pipe? Well, right below that is a box on the outside and I was going to walk around there--I just had my shorts on and I don't want to be noticed too much (box was on front of shop next to Wilson Street). I was just going to cut across the ground and see what happened. I never made it to the shop.

Q. So that is why you went this way (to the right) instead of directly to the shop.

A. Right. But at the time I didn't know the Baileys wasn't home. They was up at Clear Lake, off toward the coast maybe 50 miles from here.

Q. Did you know when you took off out of here that you wre going to the Arants?

A. Nope. I had no idea. I was just going to town. I was just going--running

away, trying to get to where there was more population, I guess. To this day I don't know what made me drive to the Arants' house. They are very good friends of ours, but they always retire early and I just--you know, the first house I came to around the ~~xxx~~ turn and I couldn't make the turn and that's where I ended up at.

Q. You wound up in their front yard?

A. Yeah. I just jumped out of the truck and ran up to their front door and I guess I was trying to tear the door apart.

Q. Were you still ~~just~~ in your shorts at this time?

A. No, I had an old pair of Levis on at the time, the same ones that I had taken off and I had put them in the laundry box. I don't know how, but I must have picked them up on the way back from getting Chris out of the bedroom. They wasn't all the way buttoned but they were on, and--

Q. Did you have any shoes on?

A. No shoes. No shirt, and like I say, when I came in from the shop I was pretty tired and I can't go right to bed. I mean, I just shut everything down. Anyway I lay on the couch and watch TV occasionally. A lot of times I just read, or I do nothing. I maybe watch TV or listen to the radio. And I just kind of quietn down or settle down, because at that time of the year people are pushing they want machinery done and I always try to get it done quick so when the elk season comes I'm gone. And I just, like I say, this is what happened, and I'm not a believer, or I wasn't until now, and I definitely believe in something I'm not sure whether they're from outer space but it is definitely a flying saucer. And I have a very good memory on parts. People's names no, but I can ~~xxxxxx~~ go out in a field and if there's something broke down, I can take a look at it, run into town and get the ~~x~~ stuff I need. It might not be exact but it works and it ~~f~~ does the job. And I had, I'm like that. I might have 2 or 3 jobs doing and I'll just go by and make sure everything's what I need and I'll just go into town and get it, and then I'm OK. And detail work, I restored antique cars. I used to, up to I had some people who didn't pay me and I just got out of the business. . . . It took me a year and a half to tear it down and restore it and get it out to show . . .

Q. So you have a good eye for mechanical details?

A. Right. I mean, he (?) asked me how I could pick out all these up. Well, when I see something I like photograph it and all the details, like I say, there was no rivet destructure--

Q. Could you draw a sketch of it?

A. Oh, sure. I can draw one until I'm 80 years old, if I live that long. . . . I drew one for the police that night, just a rough sketch. I wanted them to see what I saw. Now as it went past us and went out over town, it was the same

shape, but it had much larger lighting and it was gaining speed with no sound. Until it began really gaining speed and you could hear a winding. Then--but I didn't hear anything here, I didn't take time to hear. At least, I was scared and frightened and I didn't hear no sounds. I just don't think there was any sounds. If there was, it was very high and I can't hear that--but the dogs ~~exmāz~~ evidently could hear it, I guess. I didn't give it a thought at that time. Dpgs can pick up a much higher pitch. It might have been a high, whirling sound. And I just didn't notice. To me, it ~~g~~--there was no sound. And the lady up at the ambulance (Elaine McGowen) and her son (Fred Harris) I think she said it had a whirring sound or something. I can't remember. She talked to my wife. I never talked to her. After the people gave me such a bad harrassment, I just couldn't --I couldn't--for the first couple of days I was all ~~xxx~~ shook up, and then when I got spooked out--you know, they tell you, "H<sup>w</sup> much did you drink that night?" I have highballs like a lot of people but I don't drink when I'm that tired. I just don't feel like having one. I have a cup of coffee or something. Sometimes I'll have a highball if there's Seven-U<sup>n</sup> in the house, but I don't like water and whiskey. I can't take it, and I just wasn't drinking. I mean I don't need to drink. O<sup>n</sup> occasions like Christmas and holidays I feel pretty good but I don't overindulge. A lot of times I feel like it. You know, you have a rough day. L<sup>i</sup>ke I say, I just, uh--I just couldn't believe it. You tell them all you had was a cup of coffee and they don't believe you. They think maybe you're, I don't know (throughout this part of interview he continued working on sketch of the object) . . . It was very slaggy on top, like it was poured in a mold and l<sup>i</sup>ke it was real fine, or like a percelainized ~~fm~~ finish underneath, and up, along these sides here (widest part of object, which he had said earlier was spinning clockwise) wherethis ~~gāzātzqxz~~ gyro, I call a gyro but I think it's a stablizer of some kind to keep it balanced, at the speeds it goes. And this part here (widest part) was going clockwise-

Q. This is the bottom part, eh?

A. This is the brim and then this underneath part, now I was looking under it. I mean, when you're looking on the side of it, it looks just like this and then it has ridges (upper part). I don't know what you'd call it but it was crater-like, it was dished in--

Q. They go in?

A. Dished in, and these were ribs, high ribs. Well, I don't know how high they were but they were ribs. Structures that stood out. This is what was so horrifying, very ugly looking mess. Anyway, the concaves of it was like (sketching such and this here was a rounded affair and then it was just like this--

Q. Oh, were there ribs down there too (area between upper concave part and the widest part of object) ?

A. No, no. I mean the contour of the body or the shape of the dome, and then right in here was a very reddish, ~~szagazzhx~~ orangish swirly light that never got real bright until it started across the field and then it got very bright. My wife thought it was a meteorite when she saw it first coming at us--she could see this light shining very bright--

Q. Very red--

A. Yeah. Then underneath was this shaft of light that came out of a little hole in the center. Now, it looked like a shutter deal. It was a--I don't know what you'd call it. There was a door of somekind for the light to come out of and this light only hung down approximately 5 to 6 feet below it and never lit up the ground below it--

Q. It just came down and stopped?

A. It just stayed there, and I thought it was part of the ship or whatever it was attached to it, but it was a light, you could see through it.

Q. Was it very sharply defined? Or just sort of fuzzy at the edges?

A. It was just agray, very dull light. Just a grayish dull light. And then out here was three cable type flexible (see sketch) --and I thought maybe it was hung onto something like my barn out here. I didn't know. I thought maybe it had broken them off. They were like wire bristles coming out of them (at the ends) and as it backed out away from the barn and maybe a hundred yards into the field, these things (the flexible cords) went up very rapidly--

Q. Retracted?

A. Just went up, and as they went up--all of them--these little things opened (extended lights at right and left edges in sketch) like a little door and out came a flexible type, like a desk lamp you could pull down. I had a bonnet type lighting, like this, and the lighting lens on it was crystallly looking. It looked like a very, like a bunch of white agate rocks, rock crystals, salt crystals, for a lens. And on each side of this thing was this same type of light. Now they were just across from each other. There wasn't any lights like that on the back or the front--I don't know which was the front or the back, because it looked the same. All but this--

Q. Was light coming out of these things?

A. These--when they came up (the six flexicords on bottom) and these lights came out, these lights just turned on immediately and they were straight-- straight blue type light, and when they hit the ground, it was just the same size, just like it hit a spot, but never a beam or a shaft or tube of light. This thing here (big reddish light in middle) was just a whirling color and it was a very orangish-red but never glowed. Looked like it was like a TV screen starting  
~~szagazzhx~~ to come on --

Q. You know how molten steel swirls?

A. Yeah

Q. Is that, was that right?

A. Now this part here, all the way down (from uppermost tip down the ribbed, concave part) was very crude. I used to make fish sinkers, take lead and melt it and pour it into molds and when you would open them up, they wouldn't be very pretty and there would be a lot of slag on it. Well, like a piece of steel, if you're a blacksmith or know anything to do around a blacksmith's shop and they heat iron, like we make chisel points here and file points, and as it cools there is a bluish type slag that appears, which you've distorted the metal and it's slag that comes off. Well, this is what was all over this thing apparently at the bar right here (?). This was very shiny--

Q. This big bottom part.

A. From this brim, it started getting real shiny about the last part of the contour. This thing (widest part) was spinning very fast and it looked like a creamy, like chinaware, and the underneath of it was like stainless steel, but still the creamiest colored porcelain finish. I couldn't see any rivets, I couldn't see any doors, I couldn't see any windows, it was just a hull with nothing made into it but this thing I call a TV screen or I don't know what it is (the reddish light) but it was a sort a light of some kind and as it approached the second time, this thing started getting really brilliant and red and amberish and started brightening up things. Now this light (the one on the bottom) was down by this time--

Q. All the way down to the ground or what?

A. I was say 50 to 60 feet off the ground at that time and it just lowered the light and this here was a jerky--now these here lights were just a soft blue--

Q. The little ones?

A. Yes, but the other two (objects) back here are on the power lines (skatech) these had the same appearance or light (the two outer lights) and they were shining directly on the power poles, the metal structures--

Q. The metal towers

A. --and it was a jerky bluelight inside. It was the same color as this it was a bluer, darker jerky light and out so far on these power lines (the wires themselves) was just a brilliant red--

Q. The wires themselves

A. The wires themselves. There was about three cables on each side, and these two were doing the same thing. As this (the big object) went between them (the two smaller ones) . . . it was much larger. This one here (the big one) I figured at the time was about 150 feet across. Well, the next morning we went

out about where it was (sketches house, barn and TV antenna) and this thing was just past center of the barn peak and about just a quarter ways past my antenna, and I was standing looking under it, and that's when these things were hanging down like this (the flexicord things). They wasn't straight hangin down, they were kind of limp half coiled like. They wasn't moving, they was just like stiff. And as it backed off, these things (the flexicords) went up very fast and out came these lights. And--I mean, you just don't see these kinds of things happening--

Q. I saw a sketch that had a couple of hookson it--

A. Right. On each side. This is what startled me. These things came out about like this (see sketch) and they had a little claw on them on each side, and they looked like they was made out of a robbery deal. Any way they were very flexible. As these things (the flexicords) went up, these things (the claw structures) curled up, just halfway. They didn't retract (retract) or go out of sight or nothing. These things had sort of a curl under it and came back up. This is what bothered me because on the peak of the roof on the barn, and the antenna was sitting approximately right there (sketch), this thing was almost touching the antenna, and ~~this thing was curled down on the side~~ the roof (of the barn) was like this and this (other claw like thing) was curled like this and they were moving a little bit, just back and forth. I don't know they were a loose type of a landing craft or something holds it up or not, but these things, as these things curled up, out pops this light. I can't describe (sketches way the claws pulled in, curled up) and this sponning thing was going all the time, and there was no noise and this was going a very high speed. Now I could have got an illusion out of the bottom when it was going the other way because of the lighting system. There was a shelf up under there like, and this possible could have been lights . . . Anyway, this is what I saw. I can't change it any, this is what it was. There was no rivet structures in there. I didn't see any bolts or screws . . . and the only things I saw move was these (flexicords) and the lighting.

Q. Were they touching the roof at all?

A. No. As the barn roof comes down like this--we've got an old sort of lean-to there--this thing was sitting in this position (over roof etc) and this one (left outerm ost flexicord) was short, and this one (second one) was a little longer and this one (third one) was even longer. And these (the three on the right that were ovwr the house) were all the same length.

Q. You got the impression this was definitely a mechanical object of some kind?

A. It had to be a mechanical object. It could have been remote control object, but it was just like it knew I was there because when I came out into the open and looked up and seen more and more of it, these things (the flexicorda) started to

protract up and these things (claws) started to come in and I thought it was going to take off and it just ~~stazkedzta~~ kind of moves back real silently back into the field, and these things (flexicords) move up real rapidly and out comes the lights.

Q. When you measured the next day from the peak of the roof--

A., When I walked out behind the barn--there's a loft like where they used to put hay in. Well, this part (of the object) was way behind it because where I was standing, it had to be more than half of the roof size past it, and I went out and marked it, stepped it off to where I was standing by the TV pole, and I came out to about 150 feet. Well, we re-stepped it and we come up with around 120 (tape ended) . . . I didn't see any signs, I didn't see any windows. If there ewas anything in there, it knew through this screen (the reddish light affair) apparently, it might have been a TV camera type that absorbed the outline of us, I don't know. All I know is what I saw and the family was pretty well horrified and we didn't scome back until 5 o'clock in themorning. like I say, I don't get scared, but I was so, I just didn't want to come back here right away. And I --I don't know. The next day I wasn't worth a darn. I couldn't work and I was pretty well shook up and then we started having all these people come out and we happened to have a little rain and they wanted to know if the flying saucers brought the rain. I mean, they could be kidding but yet it bothers you because you know, if you see something and somebody tries to tell you you didn't, I mean--

Q. Well, there were quite a few people who saw things that night.

A. I didn't notice it at the time, but they didn't want to say anything either. I know why x now. They didn't want to be the laughing stock of the town . . . I have more to lose than to gain about this. I have a small town to work with here. It's my business. I mean they're going to say, I'm not going to take out jons to some kook out here who sees flying saucers, and you can't blame a small town. It's like that . . . I try to be honest with these people because if you pull a bad boo-boo in this town--which I never have--but if you did you wouldn't have any business, and there's a few little towns like this in a 20-mile radius and word gets around fast to these farmers. Like I say, this is my living. I should be working right now. I've got quite a few jobs lined up. This is what I do in the winter time, rebuild and get engines ready. I don't have to lie. I was never brought up that way. Oh, we used to fib in school. I think every kid's done that, exaggerating a little bit. But I don't have to, there's no point in it. My wife is very straight to me and I'm the same way with here. I mean, we don't hold anything back, no secrets, we try to be honest and we work out fine. No arguments. Oh, we have ball problems like anybody else. . . .

Q. May I ask how old you are?

A. I'm 39.

Q. How big are you physically?

A. I'm ~~axixix~~ 160--I was 170 pounds when I left (to go elk hunting) and I'm 162 now. I think it wore off packing the meat out. We brought back about 800 pounds . . . The bears got my elk. I've got to head hanging on my pickup right now. My brother's elk is the one that we've got cut up. I killed this elk on the 10th of the month and it took four of us 8 hours to get it up to the first camp, and during the night ~~wa~~ we were so tired we didn't take time to eat. We just went to bed. And during the night a couple of grizzlies decided they were hungrier than we were or something and they took and tore my elk down and they tore my father's elk down, knocked everything in the dirt. What they didn't take--a bear is very funny. If they can't eat it all, or can't take it all, they will potty on it, or mess on it, and nothing touches it. Not even the birds. So here's what good meat I had they ruined, and they were coming back, I guess. I stayed up three nights, all night long until sun up--I wasn't much good the next day but I kind of waked it off--waiting for these two critters to come back and they never showed up. So, in the meantime I crippled another one. I was down there and saw some fresh signs and I said, "Well, me and some bears are going to have it out." Because bear season is open. And I didn't care if-- I don't like to kill game and leave it, but I was so mad. I've hunted 5 years now and I've got only one elk. This was the second elk. They are very hard to animals to hunt where we were at, and they're pretty smart. And I figured all that trouble hauling this elk out, with three other guys, and they take and destroy it in one evening, I was pretty mad. I was going to shoot them. I was burnt. And licenses were much higher this year than they ever have been. You can only get one elk for a \$150 tag . . . and I was pretty disgusted, hunting pretty hard and all I brought back was a head and hide. Well, my brother got one the very next day, same place only a little deeper and it took us all night to get it out, because after what happened we were afraid to leave it down there. We were going to leave it on a tree and come back the next day in daylight and pick it up, but we were too stubborn. Nine chances out of ten they wouldn't have come back and bothered it, but then again we had coyote trouble and wolves are pretty heavy in there. So we just worked all night, and nothing happened to it.

Q. How tall are you?

A. 5-8.

Q. Any idea of the approximate high height of this thing?

A. I would say roughly between the brim and the dome was roughly 15 to 18 or 19 feet tall. That was when it backed off. See, I couldn't see the dome when I

under it. I could see all the portion underneath, but when it backs off I could see more detail in the dome appearing, and the further out the higher it was . . . the moon was out and you could see, and then I started seeing all these weird looking things all over it, ~~and~~ the crusty looking finish and of course I was petrified, horrified, whatever you want to call it, I was just in a hysterical state, and when I caught the other two, this is when I thought, boy we're getting invaded by something. Something's happening.

Q. How did you happen to notice the other two?

A. When it backed out over the field I could see these lights out there, just plain as daylight, and it went through them (between them) back over the ~~hangar~~ hangar . . . That night everything was lit up (at the Davis house). You could see the corrugated tin on the hangar, you could see the windsock you could see the trees, you could ~~almost~~ almost see leaves on it, the tree. But I couldn't believe what was going on. This is why I got horrified and got the wife up. I thought it was very, I thought it was destructible. I thought it was going to do something drastic. I seen these lights up and down the power lines and I was getting worried I figured it was time to get in the house and get the wife up, I wanted her to see it, so I got her up and I told her, "You don't know what I seen outside, you just get the kids and get going," you know, "fast, don't take time to dress them, let get out of here." I was thinking of a gun. One guy says "why didn't you shoot it?" Another guy said why didn't you take pictures? Well, there could have been cameras laying over here knee deep and I would never have thought of taking pictures. I just--I don't take pictures. I'm not a cameranut. The only time was this hunting season. I've taken pictures of everything I could take of. As a matter of fact I've got the dash on my pickup full of film I've got to have developed (Pecha had just returned the night before from a 2½ week hunting trip in Oregon. . . .

Q. How high above you--did you estimate that too?

A. Well, my antenna is only ~~at~~ out 25 to 30 feet high. It wasn't much higher than that, so I estimated it was about 50 feet, because the barn is higher than the antenna. Basically in that area. I figured it couldn't have been more than 60 feet and not less than 50 feet (off the ground).

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Q. What kind of a barn is that?

A. It's just an old barn. It was here before I met my wife. She was raised here. They had cows in there I guess at one time. And it's a junk storage place now. My derby car parts are scattered all around out there. There's nothing in the barn. The fellow I talked to in Seattle (UFC reporting center) asked me if I had any animals in the barn, and I says no, there's nothing in there but junk.

. . . (interview moved outside so Pecha could show exactly where he saw object) (describing tingling feeling, he said underground electricity cable and some water lines are in the same area) This is why I thought I was getting ~~x~~ shocked. I feel this, and I'm looking for the shock, see if there's a fire or something and there's nothing. And then I just kind of looked up and there it is . . . Those deals I was trying to draw you--those flipper jobs or hooks (claws), one was on the back side of that peak (roof of barn) and the other was on this side . . . It was very weird . . . It was more behind the place, behind the barn than it was sticking over this way (he was standing on northeastern edge of mobile home looking toward the barn, southeast of him) . . . This feeling (tingling) leaves me as this as this thing is going out (object moving to west). I no longer feel like I'm being shocked or anything and I started getting real scared then and I run for the house and when I peeked out the window again, this is when I could see the lines glowing (power lines) still yet and this thing is going across the field at a very slow speed.

Q. When it moved off, did it stop at the Davises on its way to the mountain?

A. It just went right past it and going out toward the foothills--

Q. Right between the two on the wires?

A. Right between the two sitting there--

Q. All the way to the foothills?

A. All the way to the foothills and then ~~xx~~ when it went up to the foothills, this light dropped. It stayed on the ground, you could see the foothill pattern and it come right up back directly toward Slii's house and it stopped directly over the

reeline, in that area, and this light just finished dropping all the way down

to the ground and it lights up the whole thing. But it only lights up the whole part of the trees and out that way, the funnel part, and then it starts across the field. Well it gets over the first fence line, now between that fence line and their house is a rice field. It was just approximately at the fence line when I told the wife to get the kids .

Q. That fence is about 200 to 300 yards, isn't it?

A. Well, this is a 10-acre plot, from the road to the fence is about 10 acres, 10 acres that way. It's a total of 13 and 3/4s acre square.

Q. You know, the high voltage lines go almost in a straight line to the mountains, not completely. There is a jog down there

A. Right, and then they go the other way . . . (describes location of the two smaller objects on the power lines (see ~~XXXX~~ sketch)

Q. Those towers are approximately 900 feet apart. When I was driving back to Williams the other day I measured 6 to the mile, which would make them something like 880 feet apart. I don't know if they are, exactly the same distance apart--

A. I think they are. They're pretty uniform. when they set them down I think they're pretty close. . . . The wires themselves were glowing red (he said point out a tree near one tower and said lines were red out as far as the tree, which would make it maybe 75 to 100 feet on either side of the tower). And the towers were just blue, light blue light and they were all lit up and the lines were red and this jerky bluish, darker bluish type of light, impulse or whatever, was coming through the center of the shaft (of lighter blue light).

Q. Like a lightning flash or a Z, that type of thing?

A. Well, I guess like an arc weld or something, and this is what made me come apart because I--

Q. Could you see it moving (the darker blue jerky light)

A. It was coming back toward the objects, it was jerking, like it was drawing it through--

Q. Up toward the craft itself?

A. Yeah. This is why I thought they might have been zapping power.

Q. How long do you think it took to get to the mountains?

A. Seconds, just seconds . . . as it was approaching the foothills, the wife by that time I could let her see it and the other two but she was more interested in that big one. It had the most lighting on it--

Q. Could she see the little ones?

A. I don't know if she did or not. I was trying to get her to look, and she said she saw them going this way (up at different angles) but she said she didn't see anything on the power lines, and as it was approaching Slim's house and started this light business, these two split, and then it started this whirly like affair (reddish light) and it just started making these outrigger type lights going on the ground, and this is when I got pretty worried . . . She thought it was a meteorite from that orange light coming right at us. I says, "No, you don't know what I seen outside, we gotta get out of here." I just thought maybe it was destructiful and it wasn't. It didn't harm anything apparently. I went over and looked at Slim's pear tree, which was unusual. They don't bloom at this time of year--

Q. Oh, did you go over and see it in bloom?

A. Oh yeah . . . The very next day I got in my pickup and drove over to the power lines. You can drive off the road around the canal. I couldn't see anything had happened. I couldn't see anything unusual happened. I wouldn't know what to look for anyway. Buzz It didn't hurt the old barn. Nothing happened to the old barn, and they (UFO investigators) took a reading of it and nothing showed. It was moving a little bit but they said that was standard. But it didn't seem to hurt anything around here. Now Slim's house, they say it ~~sc~~ scorched the leaves a little bit, this was 3 days after when the blooms started, and the lilac bush was blooming. I don't know. I didn't pay any attention. Nothing seemed to have happened around here. It was just like it knew I was there the minute I walked out into the area and looked up. It started to move. It was there a second or so--well, it had to be longer than that because I figured I was out here for 5 or 6 minutes, when all this happened and I was watching everything. But in that 20 minute period

20-minute period I was in town. It was just a big nightmare, and to this day I don't want to go through it again.

Q. You would never want to do that again?

A. I just never--if I could see it at a distance and know ahead of time, it probably wuldn't bother me as bad. I don't think I would ever want to go aboard of one. Maybe there's nothing to it, maybe they're not going to be harmful but it's a very crude looking machine. It's not a pretty looking thing. The underneath part of the thing was very streamlined. Ever thing was unique but the topside was something that looked like something a poor mechanica like me would make and it wouldn't come out good but. I mean, you know, the molding--

Q. Would you say "ugly"?

A. Ugly, Very ugly. The outside ~~xxxx~~ structure was very--it was highly streamlined and real shiny underneath, the outer parts of the thing started to ge real ~~lka~~ shiny, but that dome--

Q. Was there any suspicion in your mind that this was a living thing?

A. I don't know what to think. I mean at that time. When I seen it it was very ugly and the more I looked, the worser it got anf the more details starting showing and I started seeing all this, I just couldn't believe what I was looking at. It was like waljing outside and it had a giant picture turned flatwards and I was looking at it. But it was moving and, very quiet, and these things was spinning and these things was hanging down and they would just distract or whatever you would call it, go up, retract--it could have been automatically controlled but--

Q. But the thing itself was a strictly mechanical object of some kind? The object itself was not some kind of living, human, or--

A. The whole thing itself? It was a ship of some kind and it was controlled by remote or people. Now the thing that makes me think there was maybe something in it was j st like it knew I was there. I started backing off and just staying ther for a period of seconds or minutes--

Q. You mean, as soon as you stepped out--

A. As soon as I stepped out farther to get a bigger look, everything starts coming up (the appendages) and it starts backing up. Well, these things moved up a little bit but when it went out there (into field between Pecha and Davis places), then zap, they went away. They went up, and these things (claws) folded on the sides, and the whole thing itself wasn't the monster type thing that people would say it was or, I'd guess, describe it. To me, it was a space type ship in a bell-type form, very intelligently built and very crude on the top surface but--

Q. There is no doubt in your mind this was real.

A. This was real. I'd swear on a stack of Bibles (taoe ended) . . .

Q. Quite a few people saw this thing (at a distance)

A. They seen the structure as it was leaving town . . . There was no sound from this object. It was definitely a spacecraft of some kind. I even asked if it was Russia's or even if it was ours, and they deny it. They said they just don't fly around and scare people. There was no writing on the thing. It was blank....

~~Q. Could you hear any insects or birds or--~~

~~A. Just animals, just the dogs barking in that area over there (pointing to NW)~~

It was just plain material--

Q. There was no paint that--

A. There was no ~~pink~~ paint or designs or no--if there was a design on it, I never saw anything.

Q. In other words, <sup>the color was from</sup> ~~knows~~ the material itself--

A. It was a silverish, stainless steel type of finish. Parts of it looked like a porcelainized ~~type~~ chinaware underneath, and the rest of it looked like it came out of a mold of a molten furnace type. It had slaggish slag on top of it-- I would call it slag, I don't know what it was. I just figured it would be a slag . . .

Q. How long have you been driving these things (junk cars in destruction derbies)

A. Ten years. In my shop in there I've got alot of trophies . . . I'm getting to

the age if I get hurt again--you know, I'm self-employed, I've got to watch it.

Q. I understand you got hurt ~~xxxx~~ once?

A. I Yeah. I got my hand broken. I can't straighten it. I got it busted up real good. It's a lot of fun, and there's more money in this--if you're going for the money. I go for the sport of it. It helps if you win, too. The team I sponsor sort of tears up the fairs around here.

Q. What is this "Wild Bill" (painted on roof of one wrecked car)?

A. That's the name they give me--

Q. How do you pronounce your name?

A. PAY-kee. It's Bohemian. I have Bohemian and Cherokee Indian--my mother's mother was a full-blooded Cherokee Indian, she's about 90 years old right now.

. . .

Q. I've forgotten. When did the little ones (objects) move off?

A. When the big one was coming back and approaching Slim's house. They just disappeared. Went up above the cloud line. And then after Gayle and Les Arant had seen it--I was going for the phone and he said, "I think it's ~~z~~ coming back." And there was a streak across the sky. I don't know if the others joined this one or what happened. I just quit.

Q. Why didn't you turn the lights on on your truck?

A. I was afraid it was going to see us. I had this feeling tha it was going to harm us and I wanted to sneak away as fast as we could without being seen but when I backed up out of this driveway, the backup lights came out / . . .

Q. Did you have it down to the floorboard?

A. I had--well, the pickup will only do about 95 and I had it floorboarded.

Q. Didn't you feel this was pretty dan erous with your family in the car?

A. Yes. After it was over, I told the wife I was very sorry I drove like a madman, but I said I couldn't help it. I was scared. I tried to get my family out of here, I guess. I drive fast all the time, decent speeds. I should drive 55 like-- (interrupted by camera instructions) . . .

Q. But you had no idea where you were going that night?

A. I had no idea. I was just going to go to town, I guess, and find people. I guess that was what I was thinking. I really don't know. All I wanted to do was to get out

Q. Away from here, eh? Were you still pretty spooked the next day?

A. Yeah, I had the jitters, or shakers or whatever you want to call it. It just messed my whole day up. I had a lot of work to get out that day and I didn't get it done.

Q. Were you ever that frightened before in your life?

A. No, like I say I tromp around in timber late at night or early in the morning and I guess I feel secure with a gun in my hand. Nothing generally bothers me like that. This time it did. The people that knows me, they never see me that way before. My wife didn't either. I don't want to go through that again I don't know if I could . . . That night when it happened to my elk, I felt like I could go down there and whip them (the two bears) by my hands, I was so mad. . . . I'm not scared of people here, but this is something you don't see every day. You don't see a thing that weird looking. It was very ugly. It looked like it was alive but yet it wasn't. It was a mechanical works, it was a spacecraft of some kind or a flying kind of hover craft or something, but no sound. All I can say is they've got to be pretty smart to make something that doesn't ~~make~~ make any sound. That thing can make speeds so fast and dart and gain altitude . . .

Q. This was faster than anything you've ever seen?

A. Very fast and it can stop and back up as fast as it can go one way. It can go this way, that way. It can ~~an~~ go ~~ay~~ which way but it doesn't bank or elevate like an aircraft would have to bank or turn. This stays stable. This is why I called that outer perimeter--like Slim Davis, he's a crop duster, he's been in aviation all his life and he thinks the thing I seen must be some kind of a gyroscopic of some kind to stabilize it because at that kind of speed it can get out of--to me, I think it could get out of control . . . When it backed off, it

~~didn't lean this way (like plane banking) it just~~

didn't lean this way (like plane banking) it just--

Q. Straight, it didn't have to bank.

A. No way, it just . . .

Q. You didn't see the movie that had been on earlier in the evening (The UFO Incident, about Betty and Barney Hill)?

A. NO, I don't get to watch TV until very late.

Q. Did you know there was a UFO movie on that evening?

A. No, I didn't until somebody says, "Well, you've been watching that kind of movie." And I says, No way. My wife and I seen that movie a long time ago.

But I didn't know about it until the next day, but the only movie I watched was "Waterhole Number Three" with James Corbin or Corbine or whatever he calls his name. James Coburn, and I have always wanted to watch the movie and I could never get around to see it . . . when I seen that over there (the two smaller objects on power lines) they had to be taking on electricity or they--well, I don't know if it was or not, but it looked like that was what they were doing . . .

Q. (When the power lines were glowing red) what did the little ones look like?

A. They were just--well, from that distance there was just an outline and you could see the lights and the shaft of light was not coming to the ground, just hanging there, just like this one here only it was much--I'd say half the size of that one (smaller ones a out half as large as bigger one).

Q. Did they have the same configuration as the bigger one?

A. Same outlines and they had the same outrigger lights like this one. This is why I figured they were two identical ones just like this big one, only smaller. They had to be smaller . . .

#

Mr. Lenda (cq) Pecha, wife of Bill Pecha Jr., interview at her home evening of 11/11/76. 1650 Wilson Street, Colusa, Calif. 916-458-2700

. . . Bill's the one that actually saw it (the object). I just saw a light.

. . . If anybody doesn't believe (in UFOs) could have been here that night and went through what I did with him, it's, in fact, he's in Oregon right now and he called me three nights ago and said about 4 nights ago. Him and his dad couldn't sleep . . . and he said they couldn't sleep so they got in the pickup and they went out and parked on a ~~kn~~ bluff and just looked around. And he said, I saw another one and just got in the pickup and went back to the trailer, locked the door and went to bed.' But as terrified as he was, he told me that if he walked out the door and saw another one like he did, he would be terrified all over again. And what terrified him to start with, I think, was he was looking and this and saying I know it isn't possible, but it's right there. . .

Q. I understand you were in bed asleep and the children were asleep, too. Is that right?

A. Yes. The newspaper clipping says the kids saw it too, but they didn't. I'll tell you to the best what happened to me. About 11 o'clock, I put the kids to bed and Bill was going to take a shower and go to bed. He had been cutting rice for the last 30 days or so, so he went into the bathroom and stripped down to just his shorts and he came in and he hollered, "There's a a good movie on," 'cause he comes home at nights and he's good and tired, too tired to go to sleep so he'll lay on the couch and watch TV. So he looked ~~x~~ in the TV book and "Waterhole Number Three" was on and he had always wanted to see it. And incidentally, also that night was on TV "The UFO Incident" movie, which we had seen before and he had ~~ax~~ already seen it so he didn't-- . . . anyway, I don't know whether I should relate to you what he told me, or, I'll just tell you what I know and we can go on from there.

Q. All right.

A. So I went on ~~x~~ and went to bed. The next thing I remember . . . our bedroom is down the hallway here. Like I said, Bill's a very quite person. I yell. He never does. I'm the one that does that. And he's standing at the doorway and

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he's screaming at me at the top of his lungs: "You've got to get up! It's going to get us! We've got to get the kids out of here!" He was just screaming. And he woke me out of a sound sleep and I said, "What's the matter?" And he said, "You've got to see what I saw." So I came down the hallway and there's no lights on. I mean, it's black in the house and he said the power's off. So I got in here (dining area) and I asked him where it was. Well, our son's room is right the first door here. He'd ran to there. He said he was looking out the window. So I came in here and he follows me to the window (on west side of home) and this shade is pulled down. He tried to get the shade up and I said, "What's the matter?" And he said, "You've got to see what I saw." So I pulled the shade up and out this window here, well there's 13 acres behind us and then another ~~field~~ field and then the Davises house--I don't have any idea how far it is. Anyway, I looked out the window, and usually when I look out here I see the lights from Williams (A small town about 8 miles west) and the lights from Maxwell (another small town) and Davises have either two or three floodlights, I'm not sure. Well, I looked out here and I didn't see anything. I didn't pay any attention to that because Bill said the power was off. So I looked out and, there's a mountain range about 20 miles. I looked over at the mountains and above it, the first thing I saw was this big white light and the only way I can explain what it looked like to me was a landing light on an airplane, because I've been at the airport in Sacramento when I've seen it coming in. So I'm standing there and the whole time Bill's got ahold of me and shaking me, screaming, "We've got to get out of here, it's going to get us!" He's yelling at me to go get the kids out of bed, we've got to get out of here. And what scared me more than anything was the state Bill was in. I've never seen him like he was. And I couldn't imagine what was the matter with him because I'm looking at this light and I can't--I mean, it scared me at first--not at first it didn't because I thought it was an airplane, but the more I looked at it I could see--OK there was this big light up here and there was like a light coming like this (hands held in cone-shape fashion) down to the ground--

Q. Like a cone of light?

A. Yeah. OK--

Q. Fanning out at the bottom?

A. This light was shining down here (bottom) and I could see the tops of the mountains--

Q. 20 miles away?

A. Right. It was just a real bright light and I could see the outline of the top of the mountain.

Q. Was the light on the other side or this side of the mountain?

A. Well, see, the mountains kind of come like this (sort of stair-step down towards the east) and it looked like it was lighting up the tops of the mountains as it was moving--

Q. Which way was it moving?

A. Coming towards us. K, so then I looked out a little bit more and a couple of times I could see like an orange glow coming off the ground. This light shining down and there's a little bit of orange here. Well I could see that kind of coming off the ground and at times it seemed like this light came all the way down and at other times it seemed like it didn't go really clear to the ground. But this all happened very fast and I'm looking at this and Bill is shaking me and screaming at me, saying "We've got to get out of here or it's going to get us." And when I saw the light--because when I first saw it I didn't see the light shining down. When I saw the light shining down and I looked at him and what I saw, it kind of started scaring me. I don't know why because I didn't know what it was or because he was the way he was or what it was. So the more I looked at it it kind of got bigger because it started coming this way. Well, it kind of came over Davises' house. I mean, this was just, Davises is maybe half a mile that way (to the west). OK, and the mountains are 20 miles, at least, right around there, and it seemed like in just a matter of seconds the light got here and it was bigger.

Lenda Pecha--4

Q. When you say "here," where do you mean?

A. OK, the Davises' house.

Q. Was it over their house?

A. Yes. And this light was still kind of coming down but it wasn't  $\bar{x}$  all the way down. It's really kind of hard to explain. The light was shining down out of it and Bill was standing there screaming. In fact, he was shaking me by now, and I stood there looking and he's screaming at me to get in the pickup and through my mind--I don't know, it happened so fast but I kept thinking I'm not going to get in no pickup with him because I don't know--to tell you the truth, he had been working long hours and I honestly thought my husband had flipped. OK, so we were standing there and all of a sudden this light is coming out, this big light, it just--I don't know how to really explain it. I've explained it so many times. It's like a, it was brighter than any light I've ever seen. It was like neon in a way. But anyway, the Davises have a house and a garage and a hangar and all of a sudden the light from this big light lit up all three of these buildings, and the minute I saw that and the way Bill was, I started moving for my kids. I went clear down the hallway and got our daughter, who had a temperature of 105 all day with tonsillitis, so I grabbed her out of bed and I came down the hallway and Bill was still looking at the window. Well, ~~then~~ he went in and got our son from his room and by that time I had got out and I was in the pickup. We have a '75 Chevy pickup with a camper on it. OK, Bill got out here with Chris and as he hit the front door the TV came back on, so, the power came back on then and he screamed "It's going to see us leaving!" And he (end of tape) . . . "come with me." Well, that day was my birthday and Bill had gone to town about 5 o'clock that afternoon to get me a present and when he came back he left the keys in it or else the keys would have been either sitting up on my freezer or in my purse and--I don't know. I'd hate to think what would have happened if the keys hadn't been in the pickup. Anyway, he did and he slammed the door and he started the pickup and I can see this light coming a little bit closer and from then on I didn't look any more at the light because I still ~~didn't know what I saw. It bothered me, but I was more~~

Lenda Pecha--5

didn't know what I saw. It bothered me but I was scared more by the state he was in. So he put it in reverse and our back-up lights are almost as bright as our headlights, and he started in again, "It's going to see us leaving! My God, it's going to get us!" So he backed around ~~xx~~ into the neighbors' yard a little bit and he took off. OK, we're about 2 miles or so from the Arants' house (Note: in measuring the distance later by car, it turned out to be approximately 1.5 to 1.6 miles between the two houses/RVP), the couple that we went to. So he tears down the highway on the road here, and--of course, something I can remember is the moon was out that night because we went all the way into town without any headlights on and I could see the ~~x~~ road perfectly. The other people asked me and I can't honestly say whether it was the light from this thing or the light from the road. I just know that I could see the road and it was like the moon was lighting the road up. So, there is a little S curve down the road here and Bill just kind of slowed down there and when we got down to the corner, which is a ~~xx~~ square corner ~~xxxxxxx~~ and when he did hit the breaks and when he did he hollered again, "It's going to see us!" Well, I still don't know how we made the corner because, we made it on two wheels--I don't know, but we got around it, and he keeps hollering, "It's following us!" Well, we get, there's a railroad tracks down here and we get kind of over those and we got right in the outskirts of town and the road curves this way (to north) and right here is the Arants' house. OK, when we got to the railroad tracks, he said something like "I've got to get to Les', I've got to get to Les'." And I don't know whether it was the first people we knew on the road ~~xxxxxxx~~ <sup>is why</sup> he felt he wanted to get us there but anyway he skidded ~~xxx~~ around the corner ~~x~~ and kind of drove into their lawn and he jumped out and he goes up and he starts ~~xxxx~~ <sup>beating</sup> on the front door with his fists. He's screaming at them to come out. Well, Mrs. Arant, Gayle, she was up because when the power went off, her air conditioner went off. So she was up, and they have a new puppy and she was up trying to figure out what happened and she heard us coming down the road and heard Bill skid around the

corner. So she opened the door and I was still in the pick up in the process of getting out with the kids and I heard Gayle say, "My God, what's that?" Well, apparently what I saw came across and it was our high school's out in this direction (points SE) and she looks up from ~~xxxx~~ her house and from what she--Inever did look any more from when we left here--but she explained to me later that she saw an outline, just the outline of this and a red light on the front of it. So I got the kids in the house and Bill's still standing out there and he's, like I say, he's shaking and everything else. So he come in the house and first of all his concern was for the Davises. He said he--all this happened and I didn't know what he'd seen but with the light shining over the top of the Davises he just had a feeling from looking at it that it was doing something--we don't know them real well but we know them. He said I know something's happened to them. So he got the telephone book, and I can't remember whether he dialed it or who gave the number of what. He was still ~~hysterical~~ hysterical by this time. So he called and told her who he was and he said. "You're going to think something's wrong with me," and he explained to her what had happened and he said "I just want to make sure you're all right." And she told him later not to apologize, my husband and I are firm believers in UFOs" and she thanked him for being concerned and for calling. So then he hung up and he says "I have to call the sheriff department. Somebody else had to have seen what we saw." It came across the Williams Freeway and had all this light shining down. So he called the Sheriff's Dept. and there had been one call already, one person had reported seeing something in the sky but that's-- at the time we didn't know who it was or anything. So the Sheriff's Dept in turn got ahold of the Police Dept and that's when Mr Wheeler and that other policeman came out. And they were out--Bill, I guess after he called he went back outside because when the police came he was outside, and I didn't know until later what Bill Wheeler had commented. When he touched Bill he got a terrible shock. So anyway, Bill came in the house and they started taking his

Lerida Pecha--7

report and this other policeman (Grevie) said, I heard him say to Bill shall we call this number or something. Bill was still hysterical and I was still very confused, I still didn't know what was going on. So anyway, he dialed and it was a UFO Center out of Seattle, Wash. . . . So Bill got on the phone and he told him everything that had happened--and he got off the phone and in fact when he was telling him everything what happened, until then I didn't know actually what he'd gone through, and we sat in there for about 2 hours and I just felt like I should bring us back ~~home~~ home. It never scared me to think anything was--because, really, even though I sat and listened to what Bill said and I saw what I saw, it still didn't make all that sense to me, until I got home and him and I sat and we talked oh, I think it was 5 o'clock that morning before we went to bed. And at first it bothered me because I know if I hadn't seen what I did I would have believed ~~in~~ Bill eventually but it would have taken a while because as I said, I wasn't really a believer in them but I am now.

Q. Did the kids, were they--

A. They were both asleep. The only thing, Chris thought we were taking her to the hospital, 'cause when he sleeps he wraps himself in his blanket, and when we came back his mattress was on the floor and his blankets were all the way down the hallway. Bill had just literally jerked him out of bed. But he told me later, that with this light over the <sup>D</sup>avises' house he had this feeling that it was destructing and it was heading towards our house and ~~that~~ that's why he said he had to get us out of here because whatever it was--he already knew what it was but he was afraid it was going to--because he said it did come over ~~our~~ our house and then he said it followed us to town and then it apparently had to because Mrs. Arant--he saw three of them altogether . . . Now after this all happened and a couple of weeks later after we talked about it, I can't remember--well, Chris was gone then. He went to school two days later and the kids were saying, "Hey, Pecha, seeing any flying saucers?" You know, that's for kids, and he told Bill, Bill asked him if he believed him and he said "I believe what you said, <sup>D</sup>ad, but I wish I could have seen it so I could

really believe it, and really, that would have been my comment because what I saw, this one was--the first two weeks they never really had nightmares or anything but these two kids really went through a lot with all this.

Q. How old is Chris?

A. He's 11, or 10, excuse me.

Q. What grade is he in?

A. The fifth.

Q. What about her, what is her name?

A. Debbie, she's in the first grade.

Q. That makes her 6?

A. Yes.

Q. What is your first name by the way?

A. Lenda--L-E-N-D-E-A. My father's name was Leonard and I was supposed to be a boy and I wasn't, but I got named after him anyway.

Q. I understand that over on the Davis property there were some leaves that were singed or scorched or something of that nature. Did you get over there ~~xx~~ to take a look?

A. I never did, but Paul Cerny and the gentleman from Reno went over and looked . . . He (Paul) asked me to check around (to see whether other trees and bushes were blooming) and I know a fellow from the agriculture department and my boss also has a few apple trees and nobody I talked to after that had any apple trees blooming . . . but all this--I can't use "unbelievable" for the word of it. Maybe that is the word to use for it. But Bill has been accused of drawing this . . . of tracing this out of a book. And the comments made were, "Well, if you saw it for only a few minutes how could you draw it that clear?" Well, Bill does body and fender work and he used to draw little, oh when the craze was going, he draw little pictures on cars for teenagers in the 1950s. He used to do artist work and he's just got an eye for details and he said he could sit down and draw you the same picture a million times because he said it terrified him so bad it is etched in his brain and it's never going to go away.

. . .

Q. May I ask how old you are?

A. How old am I? 2 34.

Q. How long have you been married?

A. Going on 14 years.

Q. How long have you known him?

A. I've known him 16 years.

Q. You said you had never seen him this way before?

A. Not in my life, and I hope I never see him act that way again. And we've had not tragedies but we've had some pretty sad times and some rough times in all the years we've been married but to me--in fact, I have never seen anybody on or anything television/as terrified as he was.

Q. Can you describe his physical appearance and all this?

A. Uh, I don't know. He was shaking--when he gets upset, when he gets mad, which is very seldom, he shakes all over . . . He was just, I keep wanting to use the word "hysterical," I guess that's the only way to describe him.

Q. Was he sweating or anything, perspiring?

A. This I can't really,

Q. Did you touch him? Or was he trying to get you away from the window. Was he trying to pull you away?

A. I remember he was shaking me, but I don't remember--

Q. You couldn't see--everything was dark?

A. Yes.

Q. But you could see, obviously, otherwise you--

A. Well, of course, I know this house like I know the back of my hand. And we had a different table in his, it was quite a bit longer and was closer to it was about this far away from the wall. . . .

Q. But you never felt this shock that Bill Wheeler got, right?

A. No. Not that I know of, that I can recall. This all happened, the whole

incident from the time Bill got up and walked outside when the power went off

. . .

Q. Wheeler said he looked like he was in a state of shock.

A. Well, that might be--I don't know, hysterical is somebody who's just screaming all the time and he wasn't--maybe shock is a better word to use. I know hw was in a state I've never seen and I don't want to ever see it again, I hope.

Q. You work?

A. Yes.

Q. Where?

A. Clyde Harris' office. He's a public accountant and he does income tax work. I'm a computer operator . . .

. . . the state he was in, it was absolutely terrifying . . .

#

Leslie Arant, 846 13th Street, Colusa, Calif., unlisted phone number. Phone interview from WPB 11/18/76.

Q. I understand you got out there in time to see something in the sky.

A. Yeah, that's correct. It was approximately 1 o'clock in the morning and by the time I got out of bed my wife and Mr. Pecha was already at the door watching the object and by the time I got something on and got to the door so I could see, the object--we approximated the distance, around a mile--it was taking off to the south at a rapid <sup>rate of</sup> speed, climbing as it went until it just disappeared out of sight. That was just about the length of the sighting that I had.

Q. What did you see, just a light or what?

A. Yeah, it was a brilliant white light. Like I say, it was off in the distance and the actual time I saw it ~~it~~ was probably no more than 15 or 20 seconds. To me, it made a rapid rate, climbing as it went. It didn't seem to go straight up into the air but it seemed to go to the south at an angle, and I just watched it until finally the light just went out. It disappeared.

Q. Blink out maybe? That type of thing?

A. Well, it faded out gradually.

Q. What did you think when you saw that?

A. (Laughs) Well, it was like nothing else I ever saw before in my life. I didn't know what it was. I've never seen anything like it before, that's for sure. . . .

@xxHx

Q. You've known him for quite some time?

A. Bill? Yes, that's correct. I guess I've known him for at least 20 years, since we were kids.

Q. I understand he was in a rather agitated condition?

A. Well, he was in a --not a hysterical condition but a very excited state. I've never seen him that way before. He's by nature a pretty calm individual.

Q?. What did you think when he told you all this?

A. Well, I was astonished. But however I did believe him.

Q. You had no reason for not believing him do you?

A. No I do not, absolutely not. . . . Like I say, I've known this man a long time and I've never seen him in a state like that. . . .

"I'm really bad on how large things are but it was ~~very~~<sup>really</sup> large, a very large object," said Mrs. Arant, drawing a sketch showing an object with a rounded, disc-shaped bottom and a large dome on top.

"The whole bottom was a massive, brilliant white light," she continued. "And the top of it was dark in the middle. You couldn't see any windows or anything but you could definitely see the whole outline of the object.

"I don't know if this was from the light being so bright and throwing a glare so I could see the outline of the top or because of the type of metal it was made of. But it was very clear that the outline of the dome was there."

end add

Gayle Arant, 846 13th Street, Colusa, unlisted phone number, works at public library as a senior librarian's assistant. Interview at library morning of 11/16 76

This happened about 1 o'clock. I had just gotten up out of bed because we have a new puppy and so I was in the kitchen, and also our air conditioning had gone off and so this one of the reason's I had gotten up. It kind of scared me. I thought maybe it had burned up, but after I got up I realized the electricity had gone off. And so then I went ahead and went to the kitchen and was in there for, oh, just a couple of minutes when I heard this--you want me to go ahead and tell you about it? I heard this pickup come flying down our road, which is normal, because we have a lot of fast drivers out there. And there I heard it slam on its brakes, <sup>in front of our house</sup> and I thought, 'that's kind of odd.' ~~in~~ I looked out the window because I was right next to it and I noticed it was Bill's pickup and that's when I ran to the door and he came running up ~~the~~ the steps hysterical. and screaming at me to "Look." So that's when I stepped out the door and that's when this object was over in the west . . . the object was in the west (looking at a map) and it was coming from the west and it went over to the east and then it just flew south. We figured it was about over the high school area. After we had talked to everybody. We decided it was approximately a mile off. It came from the west over to the east. We watched it for approximately 35 seconds.

Q. What did you see?

A. Well, it was a very large object. I'm really bad on how large they are but it was really large. the bottom of it was a massive brilliant white light. And the top of it it was dark in the middle of it. you couldn't see any windows or anything. You could see the outline of the top of it, and I don't know if this ~~&~~ was from the light ~~being so bright on the bottom throwing a glare or the type of metal it was made out of or what~~, but you could see the whole outline of the object. And, as I say, we watched it ~~as~~ as it went through the sky and then, ZOOM, it was gone.

Gayle Arant--2

Q. Where was your husband all this time?

A. He came out the last, oh, I don't know how many seconds because we were yelling at him to come out. Of course, he was in bed. He didn't know what was going on and he was trying to find something to put on. And when he got out it was just right at the end, where he just saw it go and then shoot up. I thought it shot straight up. He said it veered off. It was very large.

Q. You did not see it until Pecha called your outside?

A. Ah, as I hit the door and he was screaming at me to look up in the air and pointing. That's when I saw it and we watched it, but it was in view the whole time we watched it

Q. You said very bright on the bottom--

A. A very brilliant light.

Q. Did you see this clear enough to get a good idea of its shape or anything?

A. Yeah, it's--

Q. Could you draw me a sketch of what you saw?

A. All right . . . you don't forget something like that. It scares you to death

Q. You say very vivid--you say scared you to death?

A. It was just the unknown, I think that's what it was, because me legs, they were just--tight. Like you get when you're upset. You see something you really don't know what it is, and of course you read about these things . . . but it was really a weird experience . . . and to see Bill so upset, <sup>one thing</sup> ~~this is what~~ <sup>that</sup> really got me because Bill is not a person who gets upset, that's all. He's a very relaxed person really. You know, I mean he doesn't get upset about a lot of stuff, and he was just really keyed up and nervous and wiry. It was just unbelievable. I've never seen him like this and I've known him for years. And like he said, the only thing he could think of was to ~~he~~ get away from, to get his family away from there because he didn't know if it was going to harm him or what.

Q. What was Mrs. Pecha doing?

A. When he was at the door? She was in the pickup. It was really odd because it happened so quickly and he was so upset, and of course you're upset watching that, and you stop and think after everything is over with and think, what was everyone doing--but she was in the pickup with her children . They said sat there and waited because he went to the door to get someone's attention so they could see this--

Q. Are you close friends--is that why he came to you?

A. Very close friends. Well, like he said, his neighbors weren't home and all he could think of was to get away from there and so he flew as fast as he could into town and he made that turn to where we were there and hoped to God we were there and not so eplace else. and they stayed until, oh about 3 in the morn

We tried to get them to stay overnight because Bill was extremely nervous, but they finally went home at 3 . . . this was white here (sketch).

Q. This whole bottom was white.

A. This whole area, brilliantly lighted.

Q. And this area up here (dome), was there any light on that?

A. That's where it was dark. That's where it was so odd, that this was so dark, all through here (upper part) but this outline--

Q. You could see the outline?

A. Yes, just as distinct. It was really odd.

Q. Was there a glow around it or anything?

A. No.

Q. But you could see the outline?

A. You could see this outline.

Q. Was this a dark night?

A. Uh, it was dark but it was very clear. The stars were out. It was crystal clear.

Q. Was the moon out that night?

A. Uh, there must have been. But you know, it was odd. I didn't notice it.

Q. And you watched for maybe 35 seconds, so it wasn't moving very fast, eh?

A. It didn't seem to be, but then uh, like we were told by these gentlemen that were up (UFO investigators), it's kind of hard to tell how fast. It just looked like it was just floating like this and then all of a sudden it was gone.

Q. Shot off to the east?

A. It came from the west and went to the east and then it just--I interpreted it as just going straight up, but my husband said it veered off. But, it was just like I say, it was just floating across it and all of a sudden it was gone. That was what really surprised me so, it just disappeared so quickly.

Q. Somebody said something about you're seeing a haze after this was gone.

A. Yes . . . this haze? That was strange. Like I say, the sky was crystal clear and then afterwards I noticed just a haziness in the sky where this had come from and it (seemed) kind of odd. It wasn't like a trail, more just a kind of a , well, it won't be a straight line . . .

Q. And the only colors was--

A. Only a brilliant white below. The top was dark and the outline. It was very clear that the outline was there.

Q. What did it sound like?

A. There was no noise. I didn't hear not one noise. Not even when it shot up, I heard no noise.

Q. Did it change color or anything when it shot up?

A. No, nothing.

Gayle Arant--4

Q, Did it remain that color?

A. Right , and when it did shoot up, it was gone so quickly. That's what was so surprising, for it to be going across the sky. I mean, it just seemed like it was floating along and then all of a sudden for it to just shoot up. And I saw no other color but this brilliant light.

Q. Did you get the impression it had been following him?

A. It came from his area. It was out that way (pointing in direction of Pecha home) and also Bill mentioned that it had followed them all the way. It was coming from where they live, down in that area.

Q. But you feel this was maybe a mile or half a mile away from you?

A. Uh, I prwsome about a mile. Like I say, the lights were off and we do have a cable plant out on the high way (Route 20 to Williams, west) and the school is out there and when the lights are on, this is all lit up. And we were just kind of figuring it was probably about out that way, and the way I described it, the gentleman who were here (UFO inv3stigators) figured it was about a mile.

W Q. What were your personal feelings when you saw this thing?

A. I was very upset (laughs). I, I was really curious to know what it was. I mean I believe it was a UFO. I don't believe it was a plane or anything else, because I've never seen anything like this, and I've seen a lot of aircraft of different types. But like I say, I do believe it was a UFO--and it scared me (laughs).

Q. Oh it did scare you?

A. Yeah. The fact that it was unknown, that I didn't know what it was, and the first time seeing something oike this, ~~xxxxxx~~ I was very nervous. Now I would like to see one again . . .

Q. What was your husband's reaction to all this?

A. He was fascinated.

Q. What does he do for a living?

A. He's a price clerk for a wholesale plumbing house in Yuba City.

Q. What are you, a librarian?

A. A senior librarian assistant.

Q. May I ask how old you are?

A. 35.

Q. How about your husband?

A. He's 36. Excuse me. He's 37. He just turned 37. . .

Q. You say you've known the Pechas for many years?

A. Oh, well, I'm 35 and I went to school with his wife and I've known Bill since I was 16 or 17.

Q. And he's not the type to make up a story like this?

A. No. No, no. He's a very fine person. He's a very reliable person. He's just a very good person. No, he would never make up anything like this. He's not tht



Q. (how many degrees up in sky?)

A. They figured about 35 degrees.

Q. And it was in the west--

A. Right

Q. --and it was moving east--

A. Right

Q. And then it shot off to the south.

A. Straught up. I say it went straight up, just, I mean it was going along like this and all of a sudden it's going like this . . .

Q. What have your thoughts been about this since then?

A. Uh, I'd really like to see one now. We go out in the evenings and look around, hoping to see something. We didn't know there was so much aircraft traffic at night. Once you see something you're more aware when you start looking more.

Q. Did you get a little flack over this?

A. At first we did. We had a few people who laughed . . . and then we had a lot of people who said they really believed us . . . The children got a bad time from other kids . . . They really gave the Pecha kids a bad time. They gave my son a bad time. He got kind of mad at them . . .

Q. What's his name?

A. Bobby . . . It was quite a different experience . . . I'll probably never see it again. I feel fortunate that I did because you do read a lot of things about this. I believe in them but there is always this question. Is it real?

Q. You have to see to believe--

A. You really do, to really make it, it really sets in your mind that these things do exist.

#

Mrs. Elaine McGowenm, 58 Sioc Street, Colusa, Calif. 916-458-5727. Interview outside her home on 11/12/76

It (the object) was out in the same area where the Pechas live. See where this telephone pole is and the large tree next to it--well, right up aboe that (is where the object was). It was just a great big bright light. All the lights in the city were out that night . . . But the lights had gone out in town and we (her son, Fred Harris and her) had gone outside tosee if it was just our block or what, and we spotted it and we watched it for, oh, 20 or 25 minutes.

Q. And it was off in the west toward Williams?

A. Yes, just about in that area.

Q. What is it you saw then?

A. Just a great big huge light, and we watched it hovering and then it went to the north a little bit and then all of a sudden it went southeast and when it went southeast it was like somebody turned a light switch. It went off.

Q. What color was the light?

A. It was white, like a headlight would be, but it had like an orange cast to it. The outer edges or circumference of it. And my son, it was his birthday, so he though, Aw that was the greatest thing inthe world. He was 17 and he was jumping up and down here acting like a damned idiot. And that's really all we saw. He then reported it to the sheriff's office and we found out the next afternoon we weren't the only ones who had seen it and other people had seen it a lot worse than we did, so we thought we were quite fortunate. . .

Q. Did you go out to the street?

A. Yeah, I walked out to the mailbox (at the end of the sidewalk leading out to street)--I can show ~~xx~~ you from here--to look up the streets and see if we could see lights and it sat right between that telephone pole and that big tree (west, northwest of mailbox) and it was centered between the two. Not higher. At first we thought it was a plane and we walked overthis way --

Q. to your right--

A. --because we do have a small airport out here and we looked around to see if we could see any lights because sometimes blocks go out but not the whole town. The only light that was on, some man had turned his headlights and shone them inside the village tavernover there, there's a bar, (about a block to two blocks tothe south) and he had his lights going inside, I guess so the people could still have their drinks, and we stood here. I guess we walked across and came back and we kept watching it and we watched it and watched it and then my son says, "I know what it is." I says, "What is it?" And he says, "A UFO." Sure, Freddie. Well, he was just jumping up and down like an idiot and we watched it go, we walked out into the street and it stopped, oh, almost evenly with us here, and then just took off like a bat that way.

Mrs. McGowen--2

Q. Off back down south?

A. Just toward Sac (Sacramento) and as it got just south of us here it was  
just like someone took a flashlight and flipped it off. <sup>due</sup> There was no gradual  
disintegration . . . (she had to leave to go to Williams on a court  
case.)

#

Fred Harris, 17, of 58 Sioc Street, Colusa, Calif . 916-458-5727. interview at his home 11/12/76 (he is son of Elaine McGowen)

We just came out of the house--

Q. Were you watching TV or something?

A. She was in bed and she had the fan on every night and when it went out, I was watching a movie on Chanell 12 and when the lights went out she came in and we lit the hurricane lamp and came outside. My mom was standing right at the end of the sidewalk and I was standing out here--

Q. In the middle of the street?

A. Yeah. When I seen it it was between the telephone pole and that tree there. OK, it stood there for a while. It moved toward the foothills--

Q. To your right, which is north?

A. Yeah and then it started to come back this way and then it took off down the valley toward Sacramento, and as it was taking off down the valley it was gaining altitude and disappeared. That's when I took off up to the sheriff's office (several blocks away).

Q. Had the power come back on then?

A. Yeah. As soon as it started taking off, that's when the power came back on

Q. Any estimate of how long you guys watched it?

A. I'd say about --probably between 10 and 15 minutes.

Q. What color was this light?

A. Oh, it gave a, an orange cast to me.

Q. How high above the ground was it? (Explain about degrees) 15 degrees?

A. (nodded yes)

Q. Which way is true north?

A. That way.

Q. So that would be about 270 or 275 degrees then. Anyway, was it just sitting there?

A. It was sitting there when we first saw it, and it didn't make any sharp, fast incline or anything, it just went like that, then it came over this way and then it took off.

Q. It first took off that way?

A. Yeah, like I told you it was going toward the foothills. And then it came straight back and then just cut south toward Sacramento.

Q. In relation to the size of the moon, can you compare the size?

A. To me it looked like about the size of a street light sitting up there. It was pretty bright.

Q. It didn't bother your eyes to look at it, did it?

A. No.

Q. Did you hear any sound?

A. I did. I tried to get M<sup>m</sup> to pick it up but-- I heard a faint humming sound.

Q. When it was standing still or when it was moving?

A. Moving, going that way.

Q. Down south towards Sacramento. What did you think when you saw this?

A. I started jumping up and down and heading for my camera, but I had no film. We just got back from vacation.

Q. Where were the rest of the kids?

A. They were asleep in bed. I woke up Mark, my older brother, to have him come out and look at it but he just wanted to go back to sleep because he's working ~~up~~ the next morning. So me and mom just came out and watched it.

Q. Did anybody else out on the street that night?

A. Yeah. A pickup truck went by, it went east, and one of my best friends drove by on his bike. He didn't see not hing. . . .

Q. What grade are you in now?

A. I'm a senior in high school. (This happened on his birthday) . . . That night we seen ours, my sister and her husband, they were running a bean swather up in the buttes, right at the edge of the buttes, and they said they seen something but they didn't report it.

Q. This was the same night?

A. Yeah.

Q. Can you tell me their names?

A. Yeah, it's Cheryl and Alan Shely (SHEE-lee), I think it's 1615 Lurline 458-7370. . . . they saw a bright glowing object above the buttes

#

Patrolman Bill Wheeler, Colusa (Calif) City Police Dept., 916-458-4800. Home address 6 Clay Street, Colusa, 916-458-4443. Interview 11/11/76 at CPD.

We got a call at 1:10 in the morning (9/10/76) and we went over to a friend of Pecha's house--

Q. Leslie Arant.

A. Right, and when I arrived I talked with Mr. Pecha and he had on pants and no shirt or shoes and as I was talking to him I touched him and I felt static electricity, a shock. He was talking to me and was kind of incoherent at the time, so we went in the house and he calmed down for a while and he told me the story about seeing this object that he couldn't explain. About the same time as this object was sighted we had a blackout in Colusa County and, I believe, parts of Glenn County and Butte County, a blackout of approximately 7 to 10 minutes. What he saw was some type of oval-shaped object that was bigger than his barn. I can't remember exactly how big he said it was. It was at least the radius was at least as big as a pole barn would be . . . I talked also with Mr. Arant and Mr. Arant also saw this object, which was following Mr. Pecha from his residence . . . Mr. Pecha lives approximately a mile out on Wilson and Mr. Arant lives at 1th and Fremont streets, and he saw this object following Mr. Pecha . . .

Q. You never personally saw anything, right?

A. No, I didn't.

Q. Did you receive any reports from anybody else in the area?

A. Yes, I did. A reserve dispatcher, Mrs. Elaine McGowen, she works for the Sheriff's Department and she works as an <sup>LPN</sup> LVN--she's a nurse, she draws blood, takes blood samples also. . . .

Q. When you talked to Mr. Pecha, was he a little shook up?

A. I've known Mr. Pecha for a long time and he used to race cars and he doesn't get too upset about many things and he was definitely upset about this.

Q. Can you vouch for his honesty? Is he likely to make up stories?

A. I've never known of Mr. Pecha to make up stories or to even tell any tales,

Wheeler--2

to stretch the truth. He's not that type of person.

Q. You had no reason not to believe what he was telling you, then?

A. No, I didn't.

Q. Can you describe his, uh--

A. Mannerism? Well, Mr. Pecha was definitely in a kind of state of semi-shock when he was talking to me when he spoke to me at first, and as he calmed down later he just related to me what he had seen. To the best of my knowledge, when I first made contact with Mr. Pecha, I would say that he was in a state of shock

Q. And when you physically touched him, you were shocked?

A. That's correct.

Q. And this was out in the, uh--where did you see him, inside the house or outside?

A. This was outside on the grass.

Q. On the lawn? So it couldn't be from ~~walking~~ walking over a rug and picking him static electricity--

A. The hair on his arm were standing up also. When I made contact with him outside of the residence. It's interesting . . .

Q. How long have you been a police officer?

A. For 2½ years.

Q. May I ask how old you are?

A. 27 years old.

Q. What about Mr. Arant--what was his mental attitude at this time?

A. Mr. Arant--I've known him along time, too. He's a very calm person, and he was amazed at what he had seen. He didn't know exactly what he had seen--

Q. Did you talk to Mrs. Pecha?

A. Yes.

Q. What was her condition?

A. Well, Mrs. Pecha didn't see the object at first. They saw the object--Mr. Pecha had heard some noise, dogs barking, and he went outside and then he saw this object above, hovering over his place and when he saw the object he became

frightened and he went in the house and he got his wife and two children out of bed and explained what was happening and then they got in his private vehicle and turned the lights off and drove all the way into Colusa with their lights off, so as not to attract any attention. At this time Mrs Pecha saw this object following them down the road.

Q. Was she excited or frightened?

A. Yes. She was pretty upset, but like I said, she just saw it from the rear.

Q. Was there any explanation for the power blackout?

A. Not that I know of. PG&E didn't have any knowledge of any lines being knocked down or anything. As far as I know, there was no explanation for it . . .

Q. Where were you at the time of the blackout?

A. I was on duty. I had gone into the Sheriff's Department and while I was in there we had a blackout and all communications were knocked out. The Sheriff's Dept. radio was knocked completely out.

Q. The whole town was dark, to your knowledge?

A. That's correct. All the alarms were going off. We kept answering alarms in the city--

Q. You mean the power blackout tripped the burglar alarms?

A. That's right.

Q. How many of those do you estimate there were?

A. Let's see, I answered one, two three--I answered maybe three burglars alarms personally.

Q. All at the same time.

A. Right. Because the power blackout tripped them all off at the same time?

A. I think so.

Q. Have you had any other UFO incidents before or after that?

A. We've had a lot of sightings over the Buttes and a lot of people attribute that to Beale Air Force Base (at Marysville). They've seen quite a few sightings and they don't know exactly what it is. We have been called from time to time--I haven't but other and they have said it was none of their doings. This is the

first incident that somebody has actually reported. You know, other people have called in and said, "I've seen something up in the sky" and they've drawn pictures and things of that nature but nothing as detailed as Mr. Pecha's.

Q. You say you've known Mr. Pecha for many, many years?

A. Yes.

Q. Is this your home town--did you grow up here?

A. Yes.

Q. So this could go way back to your childhood, I suppose?

A. Oh, I'd say probably 8 or 9 years.

Q. And you say he used to be a race car driver?

A. Yes, he was in demolition derbies and things of that nature. I would say he's the type that would not get excited over just anything.

Q. Did anybody from the Sheriff's Office investigate this too or were you the only officers?

A. I just took the report. Officer (Peter) Grevie was with me at the time . . .

Q. Did he observe you touch Mr. Pecha?

A. I don't know if he did or not because I believe he was talking to Mrs. Pecha and I was talking to Mr. Pecha. I told him what had happened.

Q. Was this a moonlit night?

A. Oh--(thinking) I don't believe so.

Q. Was it a very cold or warm or cool night?

A. Nothing unusual.

Q. It wasn't unusual for him to be out there without a shirt on? That didn't strike you as unusual?

A. Well at that point in the morning it gets cool around here and I felt that was a little bit unusual.

Q. Going back to the hair standing on end--you could see standing up on his arms?

A. That's right.

Q. All right. Was the yard light on or did you use a flash light or how could you see?

A. Well, when we pulled up to the door, they had the door open, they had the porch light on, it was well lit.

Q. "as he inside and came outside?

A. That's correct.

Q. And he was at that time rather excited?

A. Yes.

Q. How long do you think it took him to calm down and tell you a rational story? Or speak rationally?

A. I would say probably 3 to 5 minutes and then he was--

\* Q. And after that he was very calm?

A. He was still upset but he was coherent. He knew what was happening.

Q. No question of his drinking at that time?

A. No. I smelled no alcoholic beverages on his breath. . . . (going back to the shock he got when he touched Pecha's arm) you ever touch a circuit that happened to be closed. You know how you touch it and it shocks you, like when you were a little kid and playing around with sockets? OK, it was the same type of shock, just a sensation that went up my arm.

Q. Right up your arm, right up to the elbow?

A. Yes, like that.

Q. In other words, this was more than just static electricity?

A. It was just like a sharp shock. It's hard to describe, just as if you've been shocked and it moves up your arm.

Q. What prompted you to touch his arm?

A. Well, when I was talking to him, he was upset and I went like this (reaching over) as if to say, 'let's go in the house', you know, to calm him down a little bit, and that's when I got the shock.

Q. What did you think at the time that happened?

A. I thought (smiling), 'this is interesting.' . . . We've had a lot of reports of sightings in this area?

Q. In the past six months or so or what?

Wheeler--6

A. In the past year, I'd say we've had, well when I've been on duty I would say we had three or four in the past year.

Q. Always at night?

A. Always at night.

Q. And generally it's just something that can't explain?

A. Right.

Q. Strange lights doing strange things?

A. Yes. Usually it's an object, from an oval object to an octagon object. We've had different stories and different ideas of what it could be, Nobody's been able to pin it down . . .

#

A mechanic who races cars in destruction derbies as a hobby was so terrified by a huge unidentified flying object hovering over his

much of the work in his shop next to his home.

house that he flung his family into a pickup truck and drove <sup>madly</sup> down  
the road in the middle of the night with his lights off to flee from it.  
I thought we were being destroyed." Bill Pecha, 39,  
old the EQUINER as he described seeing a 15-foot wide UFO hovering  
10 feet above his house and barn--and two smaller ones over high-voltage  
powerline nearby.  
It was just a bad nightmare and I don't want to go through that  
again never! It was very ugly. The more I looked, the worse it got  
and the more details I started seeing. I just couldn't believe what I  
was looking at."  
Pecha lives in the small (pop. 3,500) farming community of Colusa  
California, 60 miles northwest of Sacramento. Townspeople touch for his  
honesty and truthfulness, saying it is beyond reproach. He is considered  
to be a calm, reasonable man who doesn't upset or frighten very easily.

Pecha's horrifying experience occurred early on the morning of September 10 and at least seven other people in town saw a brilliantly lighted object at the same time. The case included these other unusual aspects:

Seconds before Pecha became aware of the huge, silent UFO just

above his head, he felt the hair on his head and body stand on end and

I was too tired to sleep," he said. "The wife and children were asleep, so I took a shower and decided to watch a western movie on TV. I was laying on the couch and all I had on was my shorts." About 11:30 the picture began going bad, getting better and then worse, he said. Finally it just slowly went out completely. At the same time his air conditioner went off. "I had seen welding pretty heavy all evening and I thought the transformer had blown so I decided to go over and flip the circuit breaker back on. "I went outside, started on the step and I felt real strange. I started feeling real tingly, real bad. I thought maybe I had jumped up off the couch too quick. "As I started walking along the edge of the house my hair and the hair on my body--I'm pretty hairy--began standing just straight up and it was crackling like if you run a comb through your hair. "A policeman who investigated shortly afterwards touched the fringed and incoherent Pecha in an effort to calm him down--and received shock that traveled up his arm. Pecha told of seeing two smaller UFOs hovering directly over high voltage power lines seemingly drawing electricity from the bus, but this apparently had no connection with power blackout that affected the area at that very same time. "I had worked until about 11:00 that night welding getting a self-bankout wagon ready for the rice harvest," said Pecha. He was a self-employed heavy equipment mechanic who repairs farm machinery, doing much of the work in his shop next to his home. He is a slender man standing 5 foot 9 and weighing about 160 pounds. At the time he talked with this ENQUIRER reporter in the dining area

he had just grown on a 2 1/2-week elk hunting trip in Oregon.

"It was getting worse--and then I looked up. I don't know what made

MORE

of his mobile home 2 miles west of Colusa, he was sporting a new beard he had just grown on a 2 1/2-week elk hunting trip in Oregon.

"I was too tired to sleep," he said. "The wife and children were asleep, so I took a shower and decided to watch a western movie on TV.

I was laying on the couch and all I had on was my shorts."

About 12:30 the TV picture began going bad, getting better and then

cream cone came out of the bottom--but only so far down as the beard  
of light never touched the ground. I had jumped  
"1/2" was almost as if this thing knew I was there because the minute  
I stepped out beyond the house it began to move silently away from me, ba  
toward the west. I felt real strange.  
"Thats when I began to see the upper part, the dome. The bottom  
was spinning rapidly clockwise, but a smaller part of the bottom was  
spinning counterclockwise. And as it began to move away, these six  
horse-like appendages began moving up and suddenly were gone. At the  
same time two clam-like hooks just curled up on the bottom.  
"As these appendages retracted, two little covers open on the  
top of the hull and out comes a pair of lights that shined a beam of  
blue light on the ground. I went outside and I guess I stood there 4 or 5 minutes  
worse, he said. Finally it just slowly went out completely. At the same  
time his air conditioner went off. I had been wedding pretty heavy all evening and thought the  
transformer had blown so I decided to go over and flip the circuit  
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up on the couch to quit. I was seeing. "I was trying to hold my  
As I started walking along the edge of the house my hair and the  
hair on my body--I'm pretty hairy--began standing just straight up and  
it was crackling like if you ran a comb through your hair.  
It was getting worse--and then I looked up. I don't know what made  
me look up but I did--and here was this huge object right over the barn  
and the house. The more I looked, the bigger it was. I guess I kind of  
panicked.

MORE



these high-powered line. The lines were glowing red for maybe 50 to 100 feet out from the towers.

The little ones were the same shape as the big UFO and they also had these two small lights on either side with blue light coming out of them

The towers are about 125 feet tall and the distance between the

towers is about 900 feet. The lines run northwest-southeast and then

turned directly west toward the mountains half a mile or so west of the

David's house. Pacha said each object was between two towers, with

one in front of the other. The lines were glowing blue. But inside

each of the towers, the light was a darker blue. The objects were

glowing toward the UFOs, if they were drawing electricity

from the wires," said Pacha. "I thought we were being invaded. I didn't know what was going on.

I ran into the house, came to this window and could still see them good.

By this time the big one had gone right over the two small

ones and all the way to the foothills about 20 miles east here. . . . in

just seconds!

get out of here."

thought the house was on fire because I was making a pretty good racket hollering for her. "Some got up and I said, 'You've got to come and look at this.' She came in and I looked out this window. The object was over the mountains but pretty soon it came right back toward us and hovered over them. David's house is half a mile west of us. He has a crop dusting service there. "As it came back to the David's house, the two small ones shot up into the air at 45 degree angles, one going north and the other south and just disappeared above the cloud lines. "Now the beam of light was lowered all the way to the ground and it hit the whole house, the tree line, the hangars and everything. I could see everything in sharp details. "Each of the towers, the light was a darker blue. The objects were glowing toward the UFOs, if they were drawing electricity from the wires," said Pacha. "I thought we were being invaded. I didn't know what was going on. I ran into the house, came to this window and could still see them good. By this time the big one had gone right over the two small ones and all the way to the foothills about 20 miles east here. . . . in just seconds!







the door right away. She asked me what was wrong and suddenly she said, 'My God, what's that?' Well, it was just going out over the field west of us at the time and I said, 'That's what's been at my house.'

Pecha immediately phoned the Davises to see if they were all right. Mrs. Davis answered and assured him nothing had happened to them, only that she and her husband both noticed the weather seemed very warm and that their two small dogs seemed restless.

Then Pecha called the police. Colusa City Patrolmen Bill Wheeler and Peter Greive went to the Arant home immediately.

"We got a call at 1:10 in the morning and when we arrived I talked with Mr. Pecha," Wheeler, 27, who filed a formal police report on the case, told The ENQUIRER.

"All he had on was a pair of pants. No shirt or shoes. He was quite upset and I've never seen him that way before.

"I reached over to try to calm him down--and as I touched him I got a shock.

"You ever touch a circuit that ~~is energized~~ happens to be closed, like when you were a kid and playing with sockets how you touch it and it shocks you? OK, it was the same type of shock, just a sharp shock, a sensation that went up my arm to the elbow. MORE

"The hairs on his arm were standing up also. I thought that was pretty interesting, especially since he was barefoot and we were outside on the grass."

(Experts at both Georgia Tech and MIT told The ENQUIRER that in theory this ~~should~~ <sup>should not</sup> happen .

("In ~~the~~ theory, a person walking on wet grass should be able to work up a charge of static electricity within his body, but this is only theory," ~~the experts~~ said one. "In paractive this is impossible. I would say . . . it is impossible to pass any kind of electric charge to another person."

(The other expert said: "Without having studied the case I would say the police officer should not have received a shock when he touched the man. This is so unusual as to be almost impossible except under rare and remarkable circumstances.

("if you accept the existence of UFOs, then they could have an electrical system that could build a static electricity charge in people exposed to them.")

(Writers: The experts are Dr. F. Kenneth Herd at Georgia Tech's electrical engineering department and Dr. Steve Ymans, a research professor at MIT but neither can be quoted by name.\*

MORE

The policemen then had Pecha phone a UFO reporting center in Seattle, Wash., and describe what had happened to him. It was only at this time that Mrs. Pecha--upset herself and still very confused as to what had happened--learned the full story herself.

"I had put the kids to bed about 11 and went to bed myself," Lenda (cq) Pecha, 34, a computer operator for a public accountant, told The ENQUIRER.

"The next thing I remember, Bill--he's a very quiet person who never yells--is standing at the bedroom door and he's screaming at me at the top of his lungs: 'You've got to get up! It's going to get us! We've got to get the kids out of here!'

"He was just screaming. He woke me out of a sound sleep and I said, 'What's the matter?' He said, 'You've got to see what I saw!'

"So I came down the hallway and there's no lights on. ~~There~~ He follows me to the window and I pull the shade back and look out. There's a mountain range 20 miles from here and above the mountains I can see this big white light.

"I'm standing there and the whole time Bill has got a hold of me, shaking me and screaming, 'We've got to get out of here! It's going to get us!'

MORE

"What scared me more than anything was the state Bill was in. I've been married to him for 14 years and I've never seen him like this. I couldn't imagine what was the matter with him.

"I'm looking at this light--and there is this cone-shaped light coming down from the bottom. I could see the tops of the mountains as it moved--and then it began coming toward us.

"This all happened very fast, and it started scaring me. The more I looked the bigger it got and suddenly it was right over the Davises' house. The mountains are 20 miles away and it seemed like in seconds it was right there ~~at~~ at the Davises!

"I kept thinking, 'I'm not getting into no pickup with him, because to tell you the truth I honestly thought my husband had flipped. Then all of a sudden this light is coming out, brighter than any light I have ever seen and it lit up all those buildings over there at the Davises.

"The minute I saw that I started moving. I grabbed Debbie out of bed and I came down the hallway. Bill was still at the window but he ran and got Chris. As he hit the front door the TV came on and he screamed, 'It's going to see us leaving.'

"That day was my birthday and Bill had gone to town about 5 o'clock to get me a present and when he came back he left the keys in the truck

MORE

Otherwise they would have been on my freezer or in my purse. I hate to think what would have happened if he hadn't left them in the pickup.

"He slammed the door and started the truck and I can see this light coming down a bit closer. From then on I didn't look at it because I didn't know what I saw.

"It bothered me but I was scared more by the state he was in. He put it in reverse and our back-up lights are almost as bright as our headlights and he started again: "It's going to see us leaving! My God, it's going to get us."

"He tears down the road without any headlights on. I still don't know how we made it around those corners. He skidded into the Arants' lawn, jumped out and began beating on the door. I was getting out of the truck when I heard Gayle say, 'My God, what's that?'"

Mrs. Arant, 35, a senior librarian's assistant at the Colusa Public Library, told The ENQUIRER: "I had just gotten up because we had a new puppy and it was crying and our air conditioner had gone off. I was in the kitchen when I heard this pickup come flying down the road and slam on its brakes in front of us, which I thought was odd. I looked out the window and saw it was Bill's pickup, so I ran to the door.

"He came running up the steps, screaming at me to "Look! That's

*Mae.*

when I stepped out the door and there was this object a mile or so west of us.

"It was coming from the west and it went east and then it just flew south. It was a very large object with a massive brilliant white light on the bottom and a dark dome on top. I watched it for maybe 35 seconds before it disappeared.

"My husband came out in time to see it go off to the southeast. I thought it shot straight up but he thought it feathered off. It was very large. You don't forget something like that. It scares you to death because it's something unknown.

"It was a really weird experience. And to see Bill so upset--this is one thing that really got me because Bill is not a person who gets upset. He was just really keyed up and nervous. It was just unbelievable. I've known him for years and I've never seen him like this."

Her husband, Leslie, 37, a price clerk at a wholesale plumbing house in Yuba City, told The ENQUIRER:

"By the time I got to the door the object was taking off to the south at a rapid rate of speed, climbing as it went until it just disappeared.

"It was a brilliant white light and I probably saw it no more

MORE

than 15 to 20 seconds. It was like nothing I've ever seen.

"I've never seen Bill like that before and I've known him since we were kids. He was very excited, and by nature he's a pretty calm individual.

"I was astonished by all this, but I believe him. I have absolutely no reason for not believing him."

Nor do a number of people in Colusa. Said Lt. Frank Hubbell of the Colusa County Sheriff's Department:

"Mr. Pecha is well known in the community and his reputation for truthfulness and honesty is beyond reproach. He's not the type to make up something frivolous. He's a good citizen of the community. He saw something. There's no doubt in my mind about that."

Colusa City Police Chief Raegene (Rae) Cation told The ENQUIRER:

"I've never known him to stretch the truth or make anything up. I've had him work on police cars and he's reliable. He wouldn't make anything up. He's not the type."

Wilmer Brill, publisher of the Colusa daily newspaper, the Independent Sun Herald, told The ENQUIRER: "Mr. Pecha has a good reputation--the best."

And Officer Wheeler, who investigated, said: "I've known Mr. Pecha

for a long time and I've never known him to make up stories or even to tell tales. He's not that type of person."

Pecha was not the first person to report a UFO that night. Fred Harris, 17, had gone to the Sheriff's Department a few minutes earlier to report that he and his mother had seen a strange object in the sky west of their home. The Pecha home is almost due west of there.

"My mother was in bed and I was watching TV when the power went out," young Harris told *The ENQUIRER*. "She came in and we lit the hurricane lamp and went out to see if it was just outside our house or our block or the whole town that was out.

"We saw this bright light in the sky off toward the west. It moved toward the foothills and then it came back and then it took off down the valley toward Sacramento. We watched it for maybe 10 or 15 minutes."

His mother, Mrs. Elaine McGowen, who works for the local ambulance service, told *The ENQUIRER*: "It was out in the same area where the Pechas live. It was just a great big bright light. We watched it hovering, then it moved off a bit, came back and then all of a sudden it went southeast. When it went southeast toward Sacramento it was like somebody turned a light switch. It went off.

"My son reported it to the sheriff's office and we found out the  
MORE

the next afternoon that we weren't the only ones who had seen it and other people had seen it ~~worse~~ a lot worse. So we thought we were quite fortunate."

A woman who lives half a mile south of the McGowen home also saw the object but would not let her name be used. (Note: She is Mrs. Harry B. Strickler, 315 Willow Glen Ct., Colusa, 916-458-4957).

"I was awake when the power went off and I waked out to the street to see what was going on," she told The ENQUIRER. "When I turned around and waked back to the house I could see this big light pulsating in the sky west of here in the direction of the Pecha house.

"I watched it go off toward the mountains and come back and then it disappeared in the south. I called Mr. Pecha the next day to tell hi he wasn't the only one who saw it.

"I didn'r report it to the police because people make fun of you. I know of at least one other woman who also definitely saw it because I talked with her, and she didn'r report it ~~w~~ either. And I've heard of a few others who also reportedly saw it but I haven't talked with them yet."

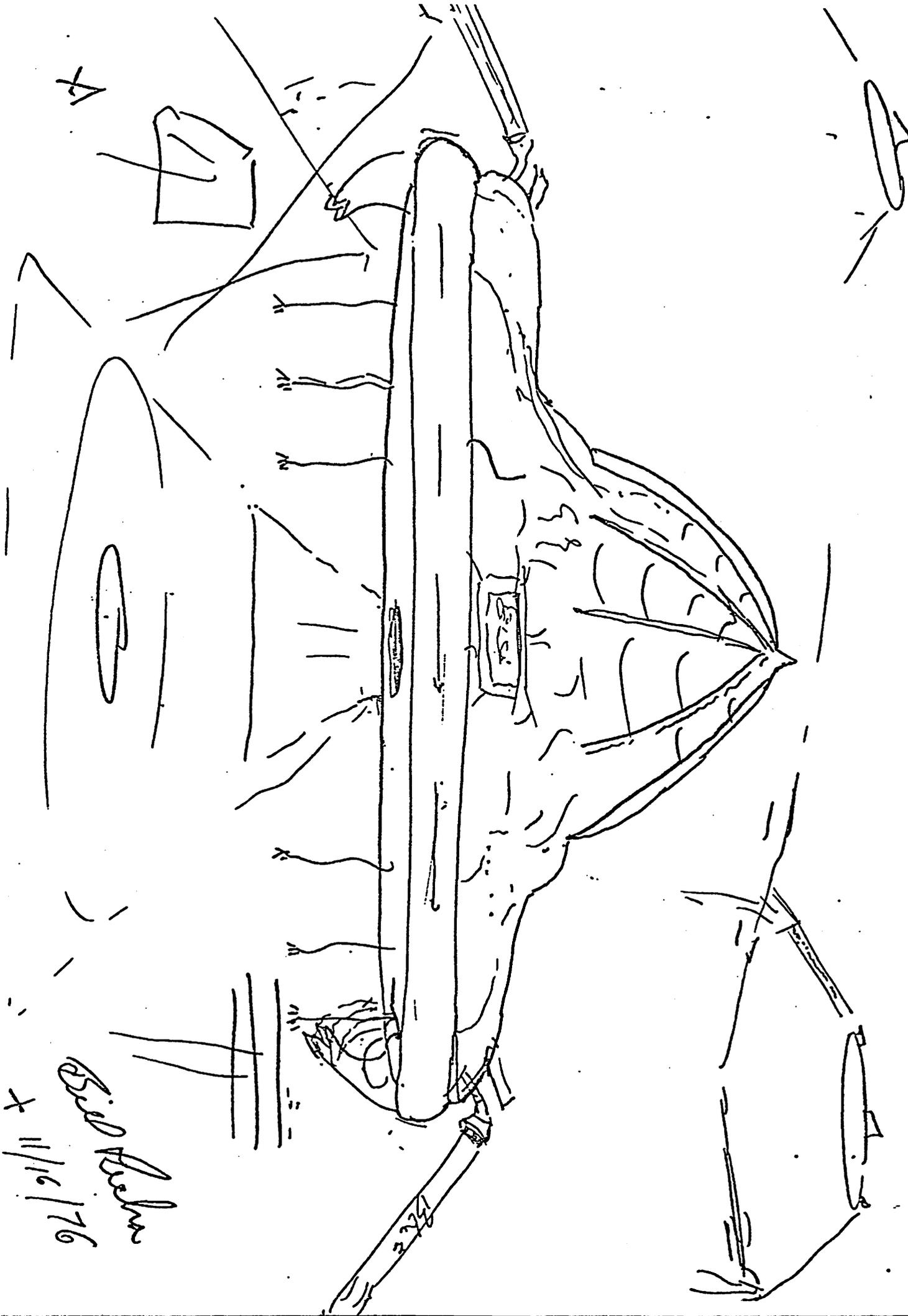
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The power lines where Pecha reported seeing the two small UFOs are part of the Central Valley Project, a federal power system, while the company that supplies electricity to the Colusa area is the Pacific Gas and Electric Company.

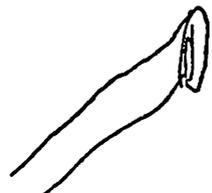
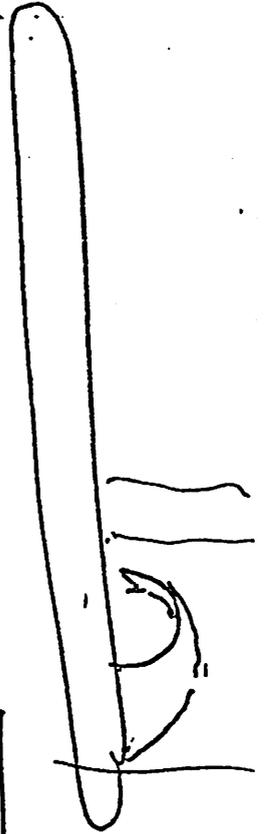
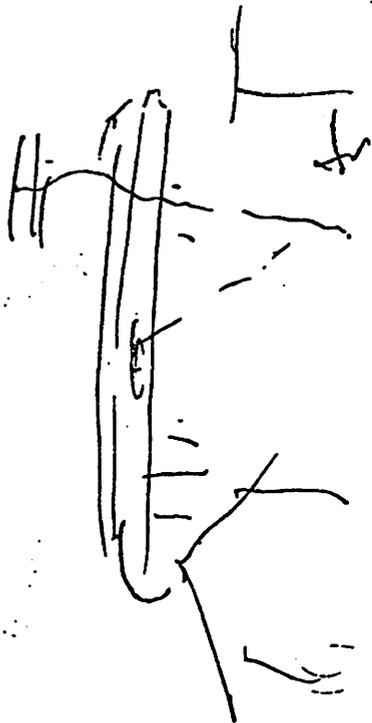
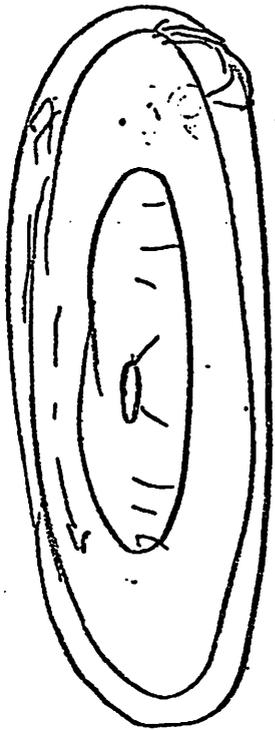
A PG&E spokesman in San Francisco told The ENQUIRER that a number of communities throughout California experience a ~~black~~ blackout ranging from 2 to 14 minutes that night. He said it was caused by something that had happened in ~~Los~~ Los Angeles. He said the power normally comes into southern California from Arizona but because of a disturbance of some kind in Los Angeles, an overload was caused at a substation in Victorville, west of Los Angeles.

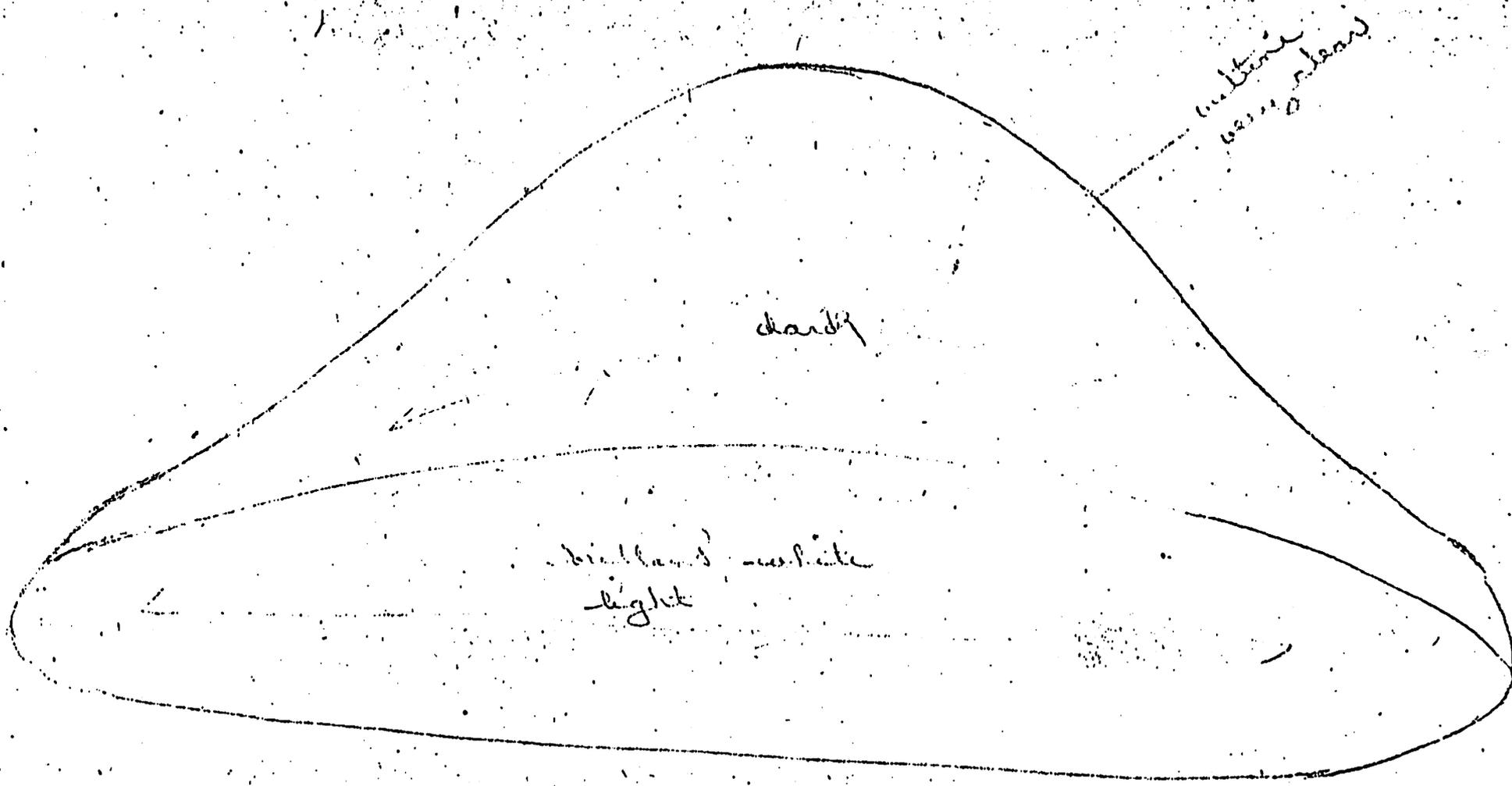
This in turn caused the power to be re-routed north through Nevada and down into northern California, thus affecting Colusa and other areas.

Another PGE ~~and~~ ~~an~~ official said there is no connection between the Central Valley Project power lines and those of PG&E and that if something affected the CVP lines, it would have no effect on those of PG&E.



Bird House  
x 11/16/76





dark

white  
light

sublime  
water

Stuyck. Q. 1000

#411809 Colusa UFO

Bill and Lenda Pecha, 1650 Wilson Street, Colusa, Calif., 95932,  
916-458-2700

Leslie and Gayle Arant, 846 13th Street, Colusa, ~~916-458-5500~~

Elaine McGowen and Fred Harris, 58 Sioc St., Colusa, 916-458-5727

John W. (Slim) Davis, Davis Abiation, Hunter Road, Colusa, 916-458-4244

Colusa Police Dept., 740 Market Street, Colusa, 916-458-4800

Colusa Police Chief Raegene (Rae) Cation, 916-458-5151

Colusa Patrolman Bill Wheeler, 6 Clay Street, Colusa, 916-458-4443

Colusa Patrolaman Peter C. Grevie, 1431 Westcott Rd, Colusa, 916-458-5625

Colusa County Sheriff's Office, 929 Bridge Street, 916-458-2115

Colusa Sun Herald, 210 6th Street, Co usa, 916-458-2121

Mrs. Leonard G. Morrow (Mrs. Pecha's mother), 1652 Wilson, 916-458-2839

Pacific Gas and Electric news bureau, San Fransisco, 415-781-1714<sup>4211</sup> (Paul Girard)  
~~43-1100~~

Mrs. Harry B. Strickler, 315 Willow Glen Court, Colusa, 916-458-4947

#

COLUSA (CALIFORNIA) CLOSE ENCOUNTER, 10 SEPTEMBER 1976

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

Prepared by Brad Sparks

Investigators: Mr. Thomas R. Bowden (APRO)  
Dr. James A. Harder (APRO)  
Mr. Dale N. Rettig (APRO-MUFON)  
Mr. Brad C. Sparks (APRO)  
Lt. Mark A. Uriarte, USAFR (MUFON\*)

(\*Later expelled from MUFON because of his participation in this investigation.)

*This took 9 months to get finished!!!*

*5 investigators!!!*

*prepared by*

*about 22 yrs old!*

Abstract

A single-witness close encounter with a UFO took place three miles southwest of Colusa, California, early on Friday, 10 September 1976. Colusa is a small (population nearly 4,000) farming community on the west bank of the Sacramento River, some 45 miles northwest of the state capital, Sacramento, in the northern section of the state. There were six or seven witnesses (in two or three independent groups) to the far encounter phase of this series of events, so far as is known.

*correction 55 mi. error 3500 1/2 mi*

*just what does this mean??*

Pre-Sighting Circumstances

On the evening of 9 September 1976, Mr. Billy Vinson Pecha, Jr., age 39, went into town to do some shopping. It was his wife's 34th birthday that day, so he bought her a present. When he returned home, he left his keys in the ignition of his 1975 Chevrolet pick-up truck and camper. Pecha went to work in his shop, about one hundred feet east of his home. Pecha is a self-employed heavy equipment mechanic who repairs farm machinery. He does most of his work in the shop. *really!!!*

*Bill didn't care for this of other Comm.*

Around 11:30 p.m., Pecha went into the house, where his wife, Lenda, and his two children were asleep. He showered quietly and dressed down to his shorts. He did all of this in the dark so the house lights would not wake his family. Pecha settled down to the sofa (on his back), feet towards the television set and his eyes about 15 to 18 feet away. He watched a TV Channel 12 movie, "Waterhole No. 3." About an hour later, the two-foot color picture tube crackled, then faded (browned out), then completely blacked out. His air-conditioner likewise died at the same time. The official time of the black-out on the Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) system was 0054 Pacific Daylight Savings Time on 10 September 1976.

*all valuable data*

*very important data!!!*

*"precisely"*

*this "novel", if you want complete copy - let me*

*this report is full of this!*

*Allen - Pardon my Sarcasm!*

*no kidding!!*

Pecha thought the transformer in his shop had tripped the circuit breakers because of his heavy welding work earlier that night. Electrical power comes into his mobile home (now stationary), at 1650 Wilson Avenue, via an underground cable from his shop. Pecha went outside to flip the circuit breakers back on again. His front door faces azimuth 91 degrees (east). Pecha moved to the right (south), away from his neighbors, the W. K. Baileys, as he went out the door, so he wouldn't be seen wearing only shorts. He knew his mother-in-law (Mrs. Leonard G. Morrow), who lived next door to the right (south), was gone at that time. He did not know until later that the Baileys were gone, too.

*very important*

*Oh me!*

Close Encounter Phase

Pecha stuck close to the house to avoid getting wet from the lawn sprinkler. All of his body hair stood on end when Pecha came within a few feet of the underground cable. At this point, he was about twenty-five feet from the southeast corner of the nearly rectangular house, near his own bedroom window. Pecha then thought the power cable was shorting out and that he was feeling it because of the wet grass.

As Pecha continued walking southward in the darkness, he noticed that the static electricity-like effect was increasing in intensity, even though he had passed the underground cable and was then moving away from it. "But the further I got past the--I knew or know just about where the line is--it was gettin' worse," Pecha told us on our first visit on 3 October 1976. "I mean it wasn't bad or nothin', it was just gettin' heavier."

*embarrassing to the witness & certainly not necessary!!*

Near the southeast corner, Pecha noticed a diffused grayish-white illumination, he told me (off tape). It was coming from the southwest, where the barn was located. He looked up, expecting to see the moon. Instead, he saw a large object hovering above the space between his house and the barn.

*what no azimuth angle?*

"It wasn't makin' a sound, and I couldn't believe what I was seein', you know. And as I walked a little bit--I took another few steps and then I was horrified. I realized what I was lookin' at."

*usually stated as 5'8"!!!*

Pecha, who is about 68 inches tall and about 170 pounds in weight, has normal vision. He was able to point out distant features (such as the Three Sisters peaks) without difficulty. I showed him several materials with which he was unfamiliar. Pecha correctly identified the colors of each one. He told me that while his right ear was normal, he had 50% hearing impairment in his left ear. He has good mechanical working and drawing abilities. Pecha was unable to estimate time durations of the events of his sighting to within better than an order of magnitude.

*jumps back of forth in story!*

*what does this mean??*

Pecha was standing about four feet northeast of the southeast cor-

*need I go on???*

*pages (3) thru (28)*

*inclusive pages of this "novel" are excluded because of mailing problems of Bowden.*

with a discrepant 12:30 a.m. time to explain. But they didn't. This example attests to the McGowens' basic truthfulness. Other examples could be given to certify the Pecha's' and the Arants' basic honesty.

There was an independent MUFON investigation of the Colusa case by Robert Neville, Lois Williams, and Paul Cerny, on 9-10 October 1976. Three of us (Bowden, Rettig, and I) were pleased to witness a presentation of the results of this investigation on 6 November 1976, but we do not have a copy of the report to MUFON. Robert V. Pratt, a staff reporter for the National Enquirer, conducted an investigation of the case on 11-16 November 1976. We have examined copies of the Colusa UFO story draft (which will not be published by Enquirer) and Pratt's edited interview transcripts.

*you bet they don't have a copy & won't!*

Pratt has gathered further (personal) testimony to Bill Pecha's integrity. Colusa City Police Chief Raegene Cation told Pratt, "I've had him (Pecha) work on police cars.... He seems to be reliable. I've never known him to stretch the truth or make up anything. I've known him for several years...."

Pratt asked, "To your knowledge, he's pretty reliable and honest?"

Chief Cation answered, "Yes, yes."

"And (he's) not the kind who would make up wild stories?" Pratt inquired.

"No, he wouldn't make anything up, no. He's not that type." Chief Cation replied.

Lt. Frank W. Hubbell of the Colusa County Sheriff's Office told Pratt: "He's well known in the community. He's beyond reproach."

Pratt asked Lt. Hubbell, "So, he's not the type to make up something frivolous?"

"I wouldn't think so," Lt. Hubbell replied. "I mean, he honestly believes he saw something. Maybe he did.... As far as I'm concerned, he's a good citizen of the community. I don't think he's inclined--he saw something. No question in my mind about that...."

Pratt asked Colusa City Police officer Bill Wheeler (who investigated the case minutes after it ended), "Can you vouch for his (Pecha's) honesty? Is he likely to make up stories?"

"I've never known of Mr. Pecha to make up stories or to even tell any tales (or) to stretch the truth," Officer Wheeler responded. "He's not that type of person."

Mr. Wilmer G. Brill, publisher of the Colusa Sun-Herald, told Pratt: "He (Pecha) has a good reputation. The best."

*could be included or eliminated!*

*every ridiculous, intricate, unneeded detail is included!! absolutely not necessary!*

On the other hand, between our interviews with Pecha on 3, 9 and 10 October 1976 and Pratt's interview on 16 November 1976, certain discrepancies crept into Pecha's story. For example, Pecha described the close encounter-UFO's "spotlights" to us on 3 October 1976:

"... and out comes these two little things ... and they had a spotlight on the end of 'em.... And the light was perfect round—a tube of light, like a shaft of light, and they did touch the ground." (Emphasis added.) //

At one point in the Pratt interview, Pecha described the "spotlights" just as he had described them to us. But, later in the interview, Pecha told Pratt:

"... these lights came out ... and when they hit the ground, it was just the same size, just like it hit a spot, but never a beam or a shaft or tube of light." (Emphasis added.)

One explanation for this inconsistency might be that Pecha's memory is fading and that details are getting mixed up. Another explanation might be that an external influence was brought to bear on Pecha, causing him to become confused, between the time we talked to him and the time Pratt talked to him. Indeed, there was a separate MUFON investigation and interview with Pecha between our investigation and Pratt's. There is some evidence that the MUFON investigators were an external, confusing influence.

B.S.!! (letter explaining follows soon!)

Pecha told us on 3 October 1976 that the two UFOs over the power lines were "a little bit less than half the size" of his close encounter-UFO. Six weeks later, Pecha told Pratt that a MUFON investigator had insisted differently: this is a damn lie!!

"One fellow told me they must be the same size, just farther back." (Emphasis added.) badly misinterpreted

It is one thing for a UFO investigator to argue his own interpretations in a published paper or in a discussion with his colleagues. It is quite another matter for an investigator to try to impose his own simplistic notions on the witness. Such behavior is reprehensible. If the MUFON investigators have an explanation for this, I would certainly appreciate hearing it. And, if it is a good, reasonable explanation, I will retract this criticism and make the appropriate apologies. completely erroneous

In my opinion, we have nearly reached the limit in obtaining scientifically useful data from the Colusa witnesses by conventional means. A few more reliable details may have been turned up by investigations subsequent to ours. An analysis of the other reports on this case will be done if and when they all become available.

NOTE: All reductions of geodetic latitude to geocentric coordinates are based on the NORAD flattening constant,  $f = 1/298.324 = 3.35206 \times 10^{-3}$ . This differs from the constant adopted by the IAU,  $f = 1/298.25 = 3.35289$

we apparently had no right to be there at all!!  
causing all that bad external influence!!  
who cares!

Bill sure appreciated this!!  
H.S. caused some bad vibes here and were responsible for screwing things up for poor APPRO - even tho they were there a week ahead of us!!

NOT

very valuable!!  
note

x 10-3.

Read brackets for parentheses inside all quotations herein.



Brad C. Sparks  
2725 Haste Street, Apt. 306  
Berkeley, CA 94704  
1 February 1977

Info cys: P. Cerny  
T. Gates  
R. F. Haines

References

- B. V. Pecha telecon with C. E. Lorenzen, 1 October 1976.
- C. E. Lorenzen telecon with B. C. Sparks, 1 October 1976.
- B. V. Pecha telecon with J. A. Harder, 1 October 1976.
- T. R. Bowden, J. A. Harder, D. N. Rettig, B. C. Sparks, and M. A. Uriarte interviews (3 October 1976) with: B. V., L. and C. Pecha; L. and G. Arant; Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Davis; B. Wheeler; W. G. Brill.
- M. A. Uriarte telecons with E. McGowen and Mrs. S., 3 October 1976.
- B. C. Sparks and M. A. Uriarte interviews with:
  - B. V. and L. Pecha (9, 10 October 1976);
  - L. and G. Arant (9 October 1976);
  - E. McGowen and F. Morris (9 October 1976).
- B. C. Sparks telecons with:
  - Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) Company, Colusa office, 29 October and (Mr. Barnes) 2 November 1976;
  - PG&E Company, Marysville office and substation, 29 October and (Mr. Dale Strunk) 2 November 1976.
  - PG&E Company, San Francisco division, (Mr. Paul Gerard or Girard (refused to give exact spelling)) 29 October and (Mr. Don Baxter) 2 November 1976.
- Ms. Pat Messigian, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, 29 October and 2 November 1976.

Allen: We can  
use this is ICR  
for this next  
issue. Put it into  
format of the Wasted case.

COLUSA, CALIFORNIA - UFO ENCOUNTER

12:45 A.M. - SEPTEMBER 10, 1976

And I want to include a  
comment by JAH!

Disc shaped craft 140 feet diameter hovers 50 feet  
over home. Unusual appendages, E. M. effects, lighting.  
Described in intricate detail by witness. Two smaller  
craft close by perch over power line apparently causing  
nine minute blackout in area.

Interview conducted on October 9, 1976 at the Bill Pecha  
residence on the northwest outskirts of Colusa by Robert  
Neville, Mufon State Director for Nevada (Planetarium Director  
at Nevada State College in Reno); Investigator Lois Williams,  
and Paul Cerny, Western States Director for Mufon; \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Investigator for CUFOS.

Bill Pecha, 39 year old heavy machine mechanic, was  
watching a late movie on T.V. His wife and two small children,  
8 and 10, were asleep in bed. At about 12:45 A.M., the T.V.  
suddenly went dead, as did the air conditioner. Thinking the  
circuit breaker had kicked out from a short somewhere, Pecha  
went outside in his shorts to reset the breaker.

As he approached the corner of his mobile home, he be-  
came increasingly aware of a static electricity effect on his  
body. The hair on his chest, arms, and head began to stand  
up as if being pulled upward. As he reached the corner of the  
house, his hair began to crackle and snap similar to running  
a nylon comb through dry hair very rapidly.

Something told him to look up and he saw a huge circular  
craft almost over his head about 50 feet in the air bathed in  
the light of a full moon and crystal clear night sky. The  
awesome sight of some strange and unknown craft silently  
hovering mostly over his barn and the corner of his mobile  
home startled him. All the sensation he felt was the electro-  
static phenomena causing his hair to stand on end. We was  
aware that his heart was pounding very fast in response to  
the excitement. Standing there in apprehensive amazement and  
becoming increasingly frightened of the awesome spectacle  
almost over him, he was still inquisitive enough to take in the  
intricate detail of the craft. He told the Mufon investigators  
he must have stood there for four or five minutes.

Estimated diameter was 140 feet. There were no rivets,  
no bolts or screws, no seams, he commented. In his profession,  
these are familiar things. The dome had vertical ribbed

This was called in by police to Cerny - but not to us.  
Cerny is getting our gear out to the police.

sections, the "ribbing" quite pronounced. Between each ribbed section, the surface was quite concave (inward) and reminded Pecha of the old fashioned glass lemon juice squeezer in structure. The dome had a slight peak or point. The upper domed area and its immediate flared out base section had the appearance of mildly rough and porous "slag." This upper area was dark gray or dull silvery in color. The second rounded and flared out area leading toward the edge of the craft appeared to have a surface appearance of procelain. The edges of the craft and the perimeter that was rotating clockwise looked more like stainless steel.

The rotation rate was difficult to determine, but Pecha indicated it was quite rapid. A smaller section in the bottom of the disc, surrounding a large diameter light source, was rotating counterclockwise and revolving much slower than the rim. No air disturbance could be detected from the rotating areas. Pecha stated that the unusual lighting and large center light which was giving off only a mild, dim, gray color illumination in the hovering state, could have possibly caused an optical illusion of the two spinning portions being in opposite directions. However, he got the distinct impression they were spinning contrary to one another.

A The six dangling objects hanging down, apparently from the edge facing the observer, gave the appearance of loosely dangling heavy flexible conduit with frayed ends. They were hanging down about six to eight feet from the bottom of the craft. The three on the left (see sketch) were staggered in length to match the slanting roof of the barn they were over but not quite touching. The "conduit" appeared to be an estimated two to three inches in diameter.

When the craft retreated back over the field behind the Pecha home, these appendages were immediately retracted into the bottom. The two hook-like arms on the bottom also retracted upward, but not completely into the hull. At the same time, as if they were part of the same arm or mechanism, a small door opened on each side just above the arms and a light seemingly mounted on a curved piece of tubing protruded out and slightly downward. The lens area seemed to consist of what looked like many glass cubes clustered together. These two side lights sent out a bluish-white beam of light.

7. ? As the UFO backed away toward the Slim Davis home and crop dusting airfield a half mile behind the Pecha home, the large red light in front came on. The large center bottom light which was dull gray at hovering, now intensified to a bright white cone shaped beam downward which reached only half the way to the ground and stopped in mid-air! Cut off beams of light from UFOs have been noted on occasion.

Pecha watched the large UFO maneuver over the Davis home and airfield hanger, lighting up everything like daylight including the trees and ground. At this moment, he noticed that two other similar UFOs about half the size of the large one were hovering directly over the 500 KVA (500,000 volt) power lines a couple hundred yards beyond the Davis air-strip. These two identical craft appeared to be almost resting on the lines, each one between two power poles but separated by one span section between poles. Each UFO was shining a powerful column of white light from its side edges down onto the tops of the powerpoles on either side of it. There was one span unoccupied in between. (See sketches) Inside each of these columns of light was an inner blue pulsing core. The power lines themselves were glowing red for some distance out on each side of the poles. Here is an actual visual example, in detail, of an apparent blackout in process being caused by two UFO craft over a high voltage power line, observed and witnessed by Bill Pecha and his wife.

At this point, Pecha ran into the house shouting for his wife to get up. He rushed to the window facing the back field where the UFO had backed off, pushing the curtains aside so he could see. At this time, the large craft was hovering over the Davis home. The large bottom light was now extended to the ground, maneuvering around the Davis home and airfield hanger, lighting everything up like daylight.

? ( Lenda Pecha by now had joined her husband after arousing her from sleep by his shouting and stumbling through the blacked-out house to both observe the strange phenomena now taking place over the Davis home and the nearby power lines. After spending about a minute over the Davis home and airfield, brilliantly illuminating the whole immediate area, the large UFO suddenly shot off at incredible speed toward the foothills as Bill and Lenda watched from the window. The foothills are approximately 18-20 miles distant to the west. Pecha commented the large UFO travelled this distance in a matter of 2-3 seconds and he observed it shining its powerful bottom light down onto the tops of the hills for a second or two when it rushed back at the same velocity to once again hover over the Davis home, repeating the illumination patterns over the Davis property. Everywhere around the immediate countryside all the lights were off, ranch yard lights and the whole town was in darkness except for the moonlight and the UFOs.

Confirmation?

Pecha stated that watching this light beaming procedure began to unnerve him if it should return to his place and begin doing the same thing, not knowing what effect was taking place at the Davis home, if possibly harmful. Fearing for the safety of his family and himself, he was about to turn from the window when he saw both UFOs over the power lines suddenly break away at the same time, shooting up and out of sight.

Each left in opposite directions at about a 45 degree angle and climbed out of sight in a few seconds time.

Pecha decided it was time to flee the house in case the still present large intruder came back their way. In his frantic haste to get away, he pulled on a pair of old "jeans," grabbed the children, bed clothes and all, his wife, and headed for the door. Just then the T.V. and air conditioner came back on. Noticing this, he instinctively hit the off button shutting the T.V. off on his way out the door. Piling the family inside his new pickup truck, he raced backwards out the driveway with the lights deliberately turned off, but forgot about the truck's backup lights being on, which may have attracted the UFO. As he raced down the blacktop road toward town at speeds up to what he assumed may have been 90 miles per hour, he noticed the large craft following their truck. Glancing back to watch the UFO while driving with no lights down the moonlit road at those speeds was probably a crazy thing to do he admits, but all he could think of at the time was to get away from this strange machine and get his family to the somewhat more safety of the town.

As they drove along at this high rate of speed in just the moonlight, they could see the UFO appear on one side, then cross over and appear on the other side of the truck within a few hundred feet. Reaching his close friend's house at the edge of town, Pecha skidded to a stop in their front yard, leaped out, still in his bare feet, and pounded on the door of Les Arant. By this time, the glowing craft had moved out over the edge of town again, somewhat higher in the sky. This is where Les and his wife, Gayle Arant, came to the door and observed the UFO. At about a mile away now, Gayle, who came to the door first, saw the glowing craft as a definite saucer-shape with dome, of which she later drew a good sketch. As all four adults and two children watched, the UFO angled up into a gradual climb and rapidly disappeared into the night sky in the direction of Sacramento.

- - - - -  
\* \* \*

Power Blackout Info

Pacific Gas and Electric (P.G.E.) personnel stated there was a blackout of undetermined nature. They would not admit to any such explanation as a UFO causing it. The transmission lines, which were stated to be 500 KVA, were said to come from the Redding-Shasta area. The sub-station seven miles west of

Colusa, near Williams, was said to have "blown" an overload transformer. The nine minute blackout, as checked by Lenda Pecha when she looked at her clocks, was confirmed by the Colusa Sheriff's Department. All of Colusa County and some adjoining areas were affected.

-----  
\* \* \*

Law Enforcement Investigations

Officer Bill Wheeler, of the Colusa Police Department, investigated the Pecha sighting and filed a report with the Colusa Police Department, as did officers from the Sheriff's Department. Sheriff's Department employee, Elaine McGowen, and her 18 year old son, Fred, also observed the object at a mile or two distance.

-----  
\* \* \*

Davis Crop Dusting Airfield

Davis home and airfield \_\_\_\_\_ some leaves on top of the trees were turning brown, some just half brown as if heated or scorched, especially near the house --- samples were taken. Analysis will be attempted. One small pear tree and a nearby Tilac bush are beginning to have a number of blooms appearing. This tree and bush have never bloomed this time of year (late October) before. Other areas of the town of Colusa were checked for similar possible off-season blooming, but none could be found except on the Davis property. The pear tree was slightly scorched or damaged on one side.

At the time of the sighting and when the UFO was over the Davis residence, their dogs reacted, howling and barking in an unusual manner.

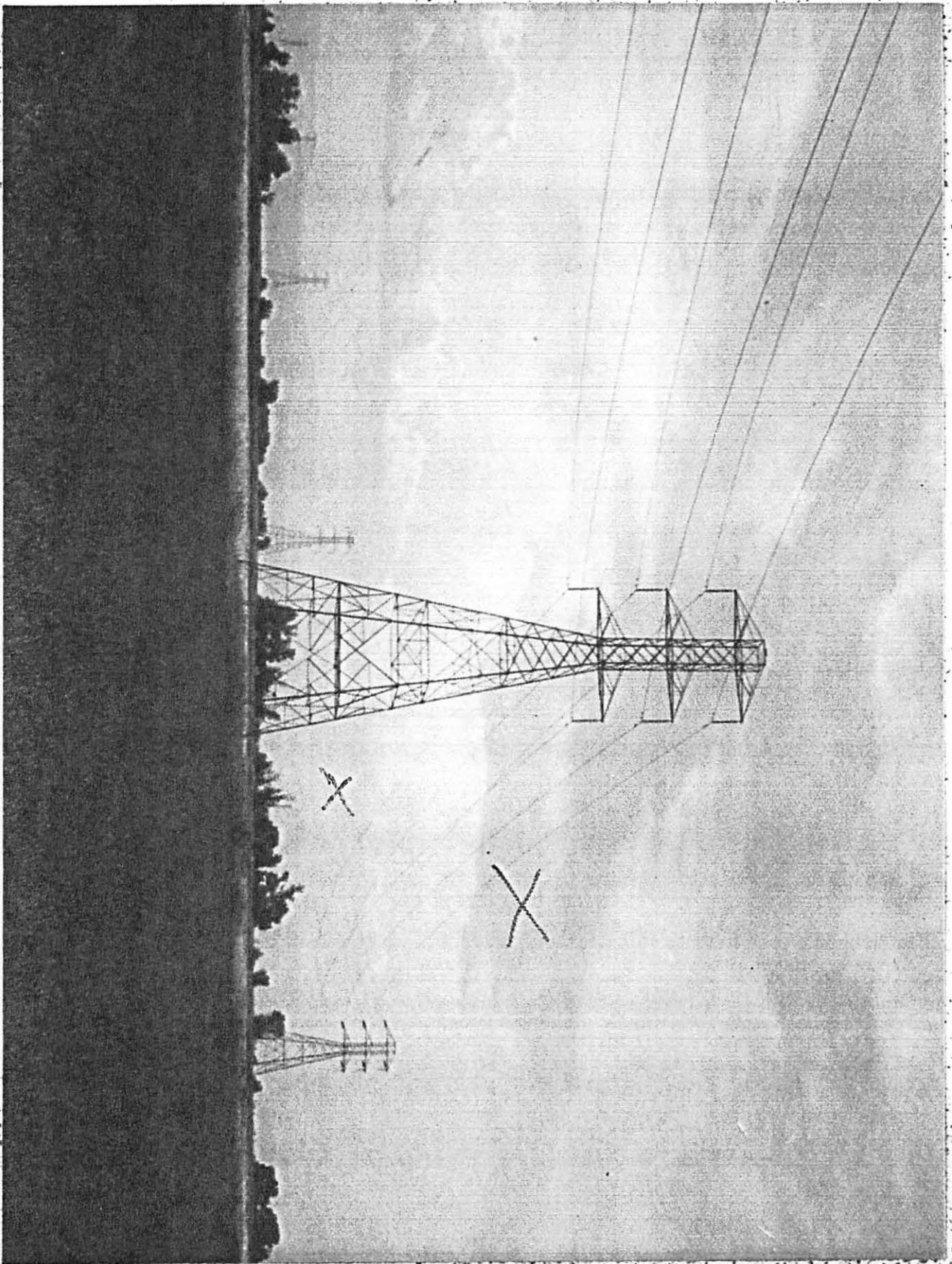
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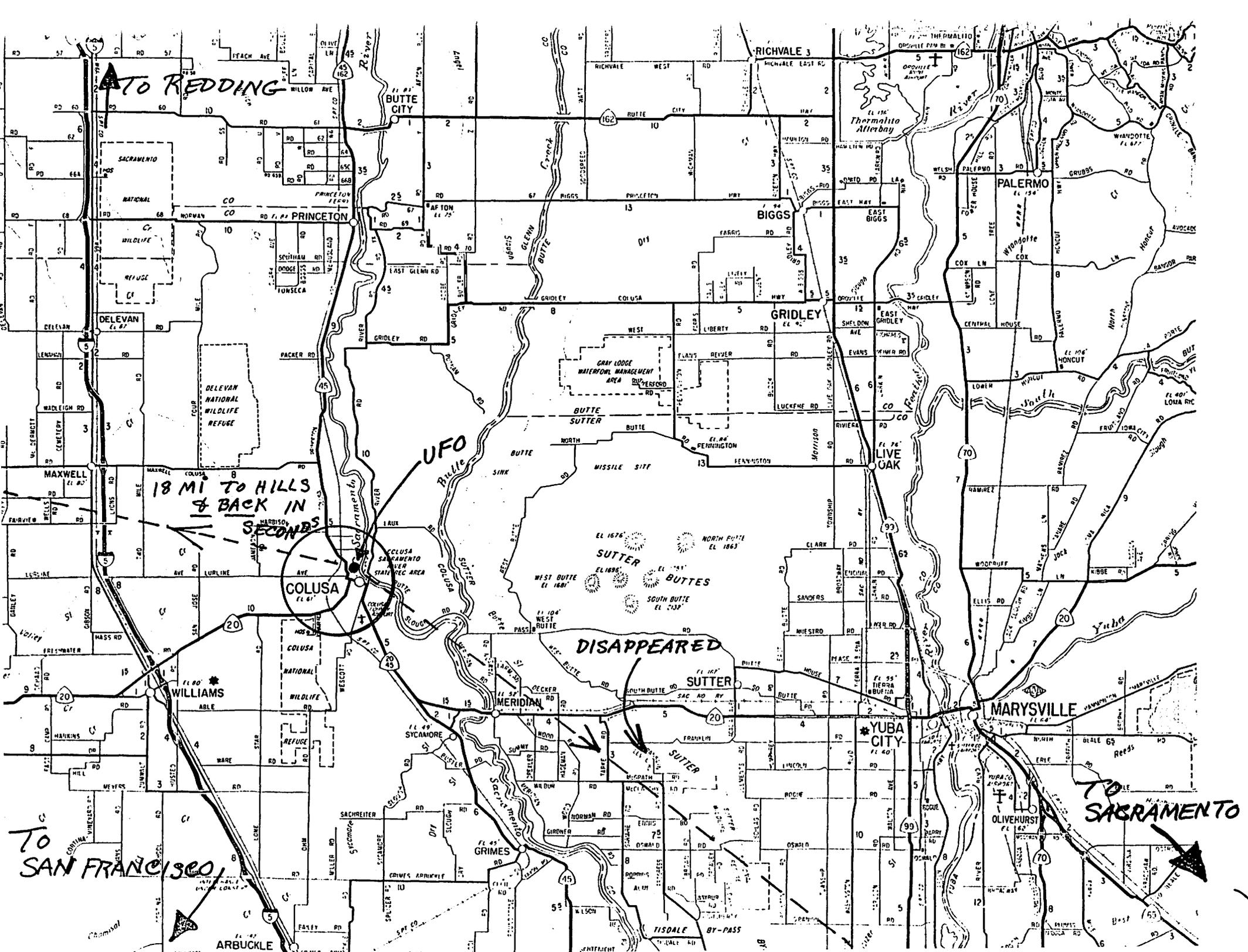
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\* \* \*

Bill Pecha, 39 years old, heavy machine mechanic, outdoors type, goes hunting and fishing a lot. Drives racers in destruction derbys. A rather fearless, healthy, husky individual. A keen mind and photographic memory for remembering intricate detail, good observer, and good listener. Eyesight 20-20, no signs of colorblindness. No apparent after effects from the experience, though badly frightened and apprehensive at the time.

-----  
\* \* \*

Report by: Paul Cerny





TO REDDING

TO SAN FRANCISCO

TO SACRAMENTO

18 MI TO HILLS & BACK IN SECONDS

UFO

DISAPPEARED

SUTTER BUTTES

SUTTER

RICHVALE 3

COLUSA

MARYSVILLE

YUBA CITY

GRIMES

OLIVENHURST

PRINCETON

BIGGS

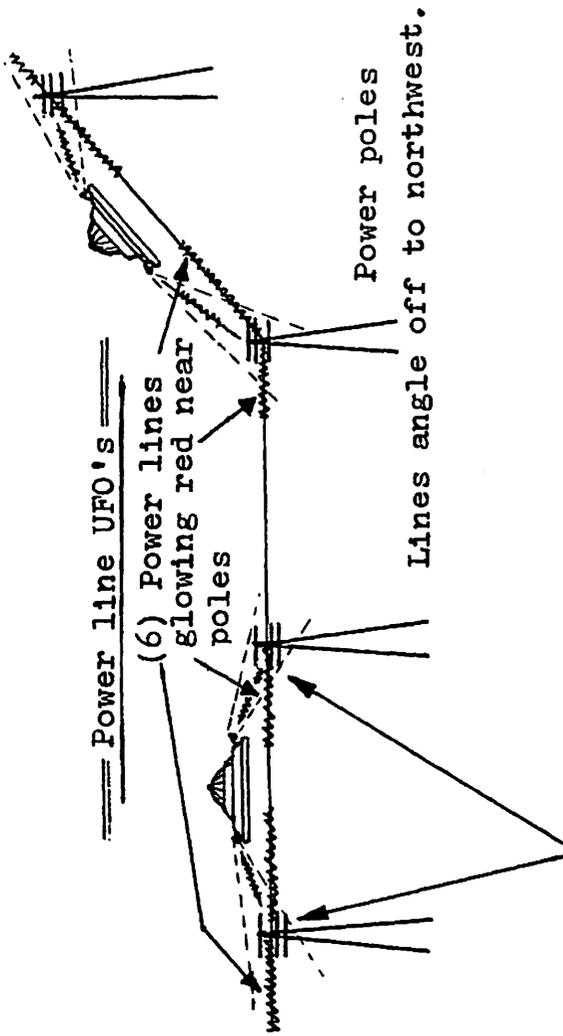
GRIDLEY

PALERMO

GRAY LODGE WATERFOWL MANAGEMENT AREA

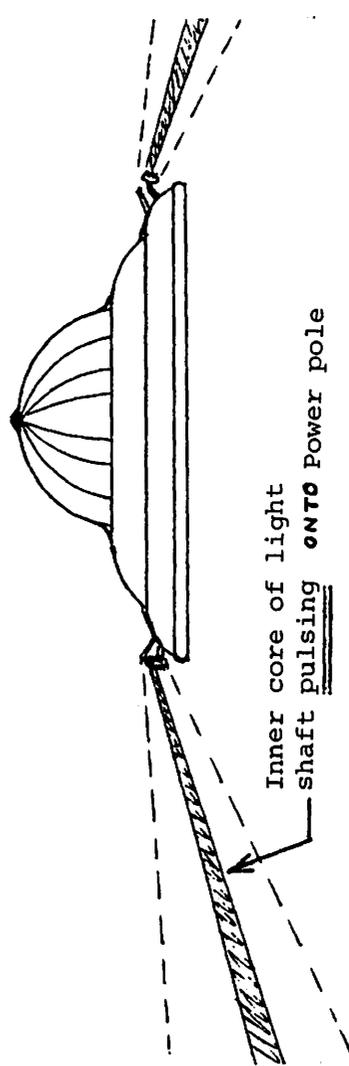
BUTTE SUTTER

BUTTE



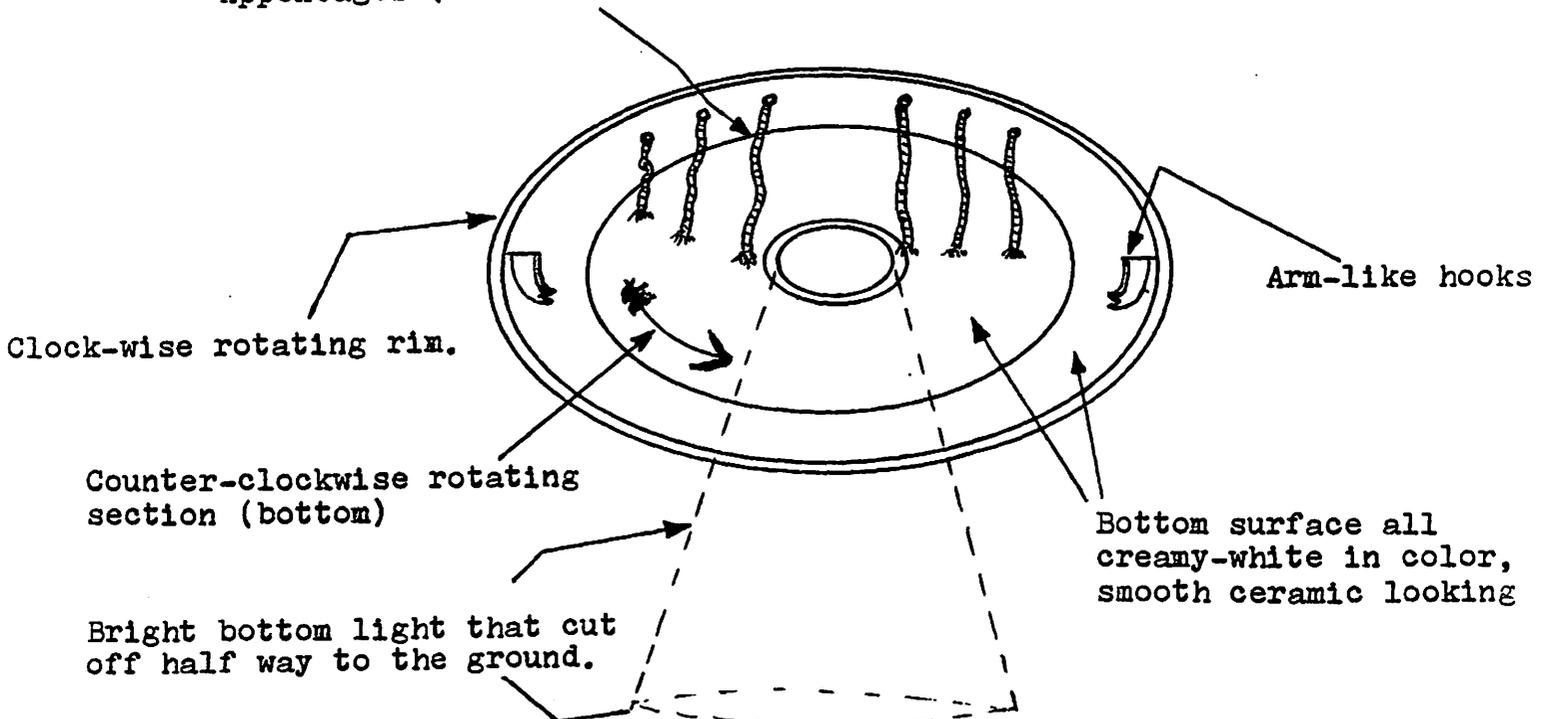
Each power pole at top bathed in brilliant white light.

Small UFO's



Bottom View, large craft.

Appentages (conduit-like)



# FAMILY TELLS OF TERROR AS UFO CHASED CAR AT 90 M.P.H.

A CALIFORNIA couple said this week they were chased by a spaceship as they raced for safety at 90 miles per hour.

Bill Pecha, a 39-year-old mechanic, said that before his experience he was skeptical about UFO reports.

"But I believe now," he told THE STAR. "There's got to be something."

His wife Lenda, 34, added: "It was something I have never seen before and I have a feeling it was not something our people have made."

The couple with whom Pecha and his family sought safety also saw the spaceship.

And policeman Bill Wheeler, who interviewed Pecha soon after the chase, told THE STAR: "Pecha is a very reliable person, I would say.

"He was quite convinced of what he had seen. I don't think he is an excitable type. I would say he was very sane and could be relied on."

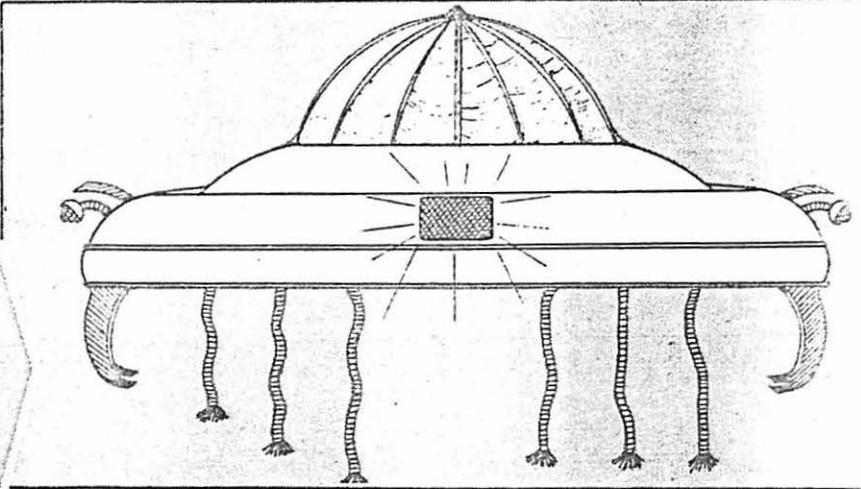
But Pecha thought he might be losing his sanity when he saw the strange object hovering near his home on the outskirts of Colusa, a town north of San Francisco.

He said it was 140 feet wide and looming 20 feet above his barn.

"At first I couldn't believe what I was seeing," Pecha told THE STAR. "Then I felt all my hair standing on end.

"It was a crystal clear night, about 12:45 a.m., and I could see

This is the spacecraft the Pecha family saw



Lenda and Bill Pecha after escape from mysterious UFO.

it had a ribbed dome that was a dull silvery color. The edge of the saucer area looked like stainless steel and was rotating. But there was no sound."

As the UFO began to move, Pecha said, it retracted six

metallic cables and two hook-like arms and switched on two bluish-white lights and a cone of white light that stopped in mid-air.

Pecha, who had gone outside to check on an electrical failure that had stopped his TV and air conditioning, said two smaller UFOs hovered above 500,000-volt power lines several hundred yards away, causing them to glow red.

He ran back into the house and he and his wife watched the largest UFO race toward a line of hills 20 miles away, reaching them in two to three seconds and bathing them in light.

Then it came back. And that's when Pecha decided to bundle his wife and children into his pickup truck and get them to safety.

"It was more horrifying the more I saw of it, particularly when it came back," he said. "I got really frightened then. I didn't know what it was up to."

He drove toward Colusa at 90 mph with his headlights off and the UFO in pursuit. Finally he reached the home of friends Les and Gayle Arant and hammered on their door.

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Jan 31, 1977

Dear Al,

A friend has described to me the editorial you recently published in which you comment on the need to protect witnesses from repeated and perhaps annoying encounters with UFO investigators. I certainly agree with your sentiments. But my friend suggested that perhaps you had been given information in the Colusa California case that had been distorted. Let me amplify.

On October 1, 1976, I telephoned the principal in the case, expressing APRO's interest, and asking if we could come up for an interview. Five members of an APRO team did visit Colusa on October 3, and it was my impression that we were favorably received. A local newspaper editor arrived, and I did my best to impress him with the fact that witnesses are not crazy just because they report unusual things; I hope that this aided the mental composure of the principal witness.

On October 9 two of the team arrived for a short follow-up visit, and were told that Paul Cerney and other MUFON investigators were planning to arrive shortly. They left before Paul arrived, so we have no direct evidence of whatever happened then.

Some month or more later Bob Pratt came through town, and we offered him whatever data we had. He declined even looking at it, expressing his instructions that he was to do a completely independent investigation. I should add that Pratt has always been generous in sharing.

I think we are experiencing what in the newspaper trade is known as competition for a scoop, and which may be characterized as producing a less-than-thorough investigation in some cases. Bob did uncover some witnesses that we had not found, however.

As an aftermath of that case, Paul Cerney arbitrarily kicked out of membership in MUFON one of the five investigators (who was at that time associated entirely with MUFON) apparently on the basis that he had associated with APRO members in the case. We had placed no restrictions on who he could report to, and as a matter of fact this same person had participated in a previous investigation and had reported his independent findings to MUFON.

Anyway, I do agree with your editorial, but don't know just how to effect reforms, except to suggest that every investigator or team should make it plain that they are not the only ones doing UFO investigating and to let the witness himself have a say in the extent to which he wishes to talk to others. I do know of several cases in which the specialized investigators APRO has could be very helpful and where we would be loath to concede exclusive contact rights to the first person to have contacted the witness.

Best regards, Jim Harder

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*Jim*

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