

That 'Awful Looking Shooting Star'

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A story without an ending that had been in our files for a long time concerned an incident reported in Vol. 1, No. 6 when Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Hills, who operate a lodge at Green Lake in the Cariboo country of British Columbia, watched an enormous object of glowing red come in for a landing on the lakeshore. As it approached at high speed it looked for one fearful moment as if it would crash into the ranch home of their neighbours, the Gammies. Shirley Hills rushed to call Bert Gammie and heard him give a startled exclamation before he dropped the phone.

As the Gammies were leaving on a trip just at the time we hoped to get the rest of the story, we did not find out what happened that night as their place apparently stood in the path of an onrushing UFO. Nor did we make contact on two later visits. But finally we did catch up with this hospitable couple. In fact, we had a pleasant overnight visit at their beautiful ranch and so had a good chance to hear more about the big red UFO.

As it turned out, however, that was not the story we left with. Although Bert remembered the sighting well enough, trees interfered with his view and eventually the incident took its place among several things that happened in that "invasion" year, 1967. What had left a more vivid impression was an incident that occurred on a June evening in 1964 as he, his mother and his daughter Lynn were returning from the Cariboo city of Kamloops.

While the incident is not as recent as many others, it is of particular interest because of the care taken in observing the object at close quarters and because of what happened later. This is how Bert Gammie described it:

It was about 6:30 in the evening, a glorious evening. The sun was going down but not yet setting and the moon was already up. We were travelling toward our

ranch, the Flying U, along the north shore of Green Lake, when Lynn spoke up and said, "There's a light over Jack's Mountain." This was south of our position across the lake. But I was so relaxed and enjoying the evening, I didn't even look and told her it was probably the evening star.

The conversation didn't continue and we went on driving along when about a mile farther on my daughter said, "That light's moving!" I said, "Oh, it's probably just a shooting star," and again the conversation lapsed until about a mile or so from the ranch and my daughter said in an absolutely terrified tone of voice, "That's the most awful-looking shooting star I've ever seen!" I said, "Is it still there, dear?" and she said, "It's almost overhead!"

I leaned forward and looked up through the windshield and there was this enormous object almost directly overhead, a little to the right. I stopped the car immediately and started to jump out. My daughter almost tore my shirt-sleeve off, shouting, "Don't get out, Dad, don't get out!" So I had to steady her down and said, "If he wants us, he's got us. Besides, they've never hurt anybody, so let's just get out."

She was absolutely terrified. I've heard of people when their legs wouldn't support them, and this was her condition. She had one arm around me and I was holding her on her feet, telling her to watch carefully, that we've got to remember everything we see.

The craft was circular in shape, dull metallic in color, not reflecting the sun even though the sun was still shining. It had a series of exhaust vents along its rear end and was trailing exhaust-type hot gases or hot air, white to blue to red that tapered off into an orange flame color.

We had this vehicle in view for about three minutes or so. It was moving very slowly, I would estimate not in excess of 50 miles an hour, making a whistling noise rather like wings of butterball ducks when they come in to land on a lake in the evening. No doubt you've heard them. It's sort of a broken whistling sound.

(Here Gammie made a swishing sound through his lips, something like that of a stick whipped through the air. It was strikingly similar to the sound made by witnesses in two other cases we have on tape.)

We watched this thing travelling north and suddenly it made an absolute right-angle turn and travelled west. Before it disappeared from sight, it looked cigar-shaped as seen from the side, and there didn't appear to be a dome either on top or bottom.

After it had gone we rushed home to tell the others about our sighting. We had just got over the excitement when the phone rang. It was a friend calling from

Watch Lake Ranch, the home of the Edens. He asked if I had been outside in the last half-hour or so. When I said I had, he asked if I had seen anything. So I asked, "Well, what did you see?" I made him tell me, and he saw exactly what we saw. He thought it was halfway between the two ranches, which would put it three or four miles from his position. But I figured from our sighting that he must have been about 10 miles away, so this will give you some idea of the size of this vehicle.

CUFOR: When your daughter first saw the object, she said it looked like a light. Did you see any light coming from it when it was overhead?

Gammie: No, I did not, perhaps because I was looking almost straight up at it after it approached the car. But Lynn, who had a good look at it as it came toward the car, said there was a bright light in the center of the front part of the object.

That concluded Bert Gammie's account of the incident itself. The aftermath came when, having phoned the RCAF in Vancouver to report his sighting, he was visited soon after by a senior air force officer, whom he knew, and an aide. The pair brought with them a bulky portfolio of photographs which he was asked to study.

To his surprise, Gammie found himself looking at a set of glossy prints of UFOs, many of them showing the craft in fine detail. More than any case we can think of, that small episode showed the extent of official awareness of the problem in Canada.

Asked if any of the vehicles in the photos resembled what he saw, Gammie said some were similar but none fitted the description exactly. After taking notes, the two then prepared to leave. But before doing so the officer told Gammie that if their visit received any publicity the air force would deny they were ever there.'