



Three UFO Sightings

(Two In Lincoln County)

Presented to Lincoln County Historical
Society

By

Richard (Bill) Thorp

Lifetime Member and Former Vice President of Lincoln
County Historical Society

UFO Sighting Summer of 1953

I have seen not one but three UFOs in my life. The first was in the summer of 1953. I had just graduated from Artesia High School in Artesia, New Mexico and had gotten a job with Carper Drilling Company as a roustabout. Although I graduated from AHS, I lived in Loco Hills, a small village 25 miles to the East of Artesia. Loco Hills had only an elementary school and so every school morning since 1946 I had gotten up and at 7:35AM caught the bus to school. Loco Hills was 99.9% oilfield related with the only businesses not oil field related being the small post office, café, and grocery store and two part-time churches. Roustabouts are considered the most versatile of all oil field workers. A roughneck works on the floor of a drilling rig where he knows everything about drilling on a rotary rig but that is about all the expertise they have. A roustabout knows not only some about rotary rigs but also drilling with a cable tool. He also is an expert with a shovel, or cement, or dirt, or pipe or anything to do with maintenance in the oilfield.

I had been a roustabout since I was 16 with a small company by the name of “Glenn Booker Well Services” who hired me only when there was an oil well to work on. Primarily they only did rods and tubing. I also worked for “Old Man Unangth,” an old timer who pumped a lease about 8 miles east of Loco Hills. Mr. Unangth not only pumped a lease, but he did everything else. He had a pulling unit and he ran it, he was one-man lease wonder! But when he did rods and tubing he had to have help, it's usually a three-man job but could be done with two and he always contacted me (before I went to work for Carper).

After I started college, he at some point hired my younger brother Don. Then one day a pipe fell out of the elevators and hit Don, knocking him into the stem pipe sticking up out of the floor; almost killed Don; end of Don's work of Mr. Unangth, don't blame him.

Mr. Unangth seemed to like us. He had a son that was everyone's All-American. His name was Alton – he was a tall gangly redhead with a protruding Adam's apple and was about 4 years older than me. He was president of his school class. Leader of his scout group, president of his church youth group, and an Eagle Scout, truly an all-American boy. He died at age 18 years with leukemia. Everyone in Loco Hills felt a tremendous loss when Alton died, of course no one like Mr. and Mrs. Unangth did, as he was their only child. Anyway Mr. Unangth liked us, perhaps because in some small way we reminded him of Alton. A real compliment!

I bring this up (working for Mr. Unangth) to let people know I was not a neophyte in the oilfield. The pressure on neophytes can sometimes be overwhelming in the form of teasing sometimes to the extreme, I can even call it bullying! Beginning workers, (neophytes) really have it rough in the oil field. Perhaps, I missed some of it working for Carper because I wasn't a beginner. I was, however, the youngest roustabout; I was 18 and a new hand and that meant that all of the others (drillers and roustabout's) were my seniors and got to harass me freely and I just had to grin and bear it. The “initiation” lasted until you “proved yourself” which usually lasted about a month

Anyway, I should probably get back to the UFO.

We were doing a rod and tubing job on a well over on the Caprock about 8 miles south of Maljamar. I had tailed the rods, chained out the tubing, reset the pump and were going back in the hole with the rods. It was a hot summer day in July in the sandhills of Eastern New Mexico, between 3 and 5 PM

The driller stopped the machine and suggested we get a drink, a refreshing idea to everyone; the driller, the senior roustabout, and a young kid who had worked double hard on rods and tubing (“Busy proving himself”).

We stepped off the floor and walked the short distance (30 to 40 feet) to the truck where the water container was. After a quick drink of water we walked back to the floor and I then realized I had left my gloves on the side of the pickup where the water was.

I returned to the truck, picked up the paraffin covered gloves, and turned back toward the east sky and there it was! Coming out of the southeastern sky at an unbelievable rate of speed was a small dish shaped object. If you were to take a small straight pen and hold it at arm's length, the head of the pen would be about the size of the flying object I saw. The disk was shiny and bright but strangely appeared to be tumbling end over end in the sky. It was alternating from shiny bright to less bright over and over again. It did this until it went out of sight in the northeastern sky. I first saw it in the southeastern sky and it disappeared in the northeastern sky in probably less than six seconds!

I didn't say anything because I didn't have time; I just stood there for six seconds with my mouth open. To this day over 62 years later I can recall it clearly and distinctly!

I feel sure the object was not “tumbling” thru the atmosphere, that seems to be a horrible way to travel: I feel the tumbling affect was the result of some sort of unknown propulsion. I also know that it was not a satellite because Sputnik the first Russian satellite was not launched until years later. This was in July 1953. Everyone was aware that flying saucers might exist because of the Roswell incident, which happened just a few years before in 1947.

When I get back to the floor, I never told the other two about what I had seen. The reason? It was late in the day, I was tired, and I didn't want to be ridiculed by the others when I had nothing to show for my story.

UFO Sighting in Nogal, NM 2000

My second incident with the UFO occurred in the year 2000. It was completely different from the first and much more dramatic. It took place on the front deck of our home in Nogal, New Mexico. Instead of being a “tumbling disc”, traveling at an unbelievable rate of speed and an unknown but great distance, this incident was much closer, perhaps as close as 1000 feet. It traveled at a fantastic rate of speed but much slower than the first. I had time to look, to analyze, to calibrate. But perhaps the best thing about the second sighting was that I had a witness! This thing passed directly over our house, my wife Beverly was standing beside me and she witnessed everything that I'm going to relate. That becomes important because as a Western man I can certainly embellish a tale and increase its height into a tall tale. Not so with Beverly; she will not, and cannot embellish a story, indeed she cannot tell a lie about anything! In 58 years of life of with Bev, I cannot relate a single embellishment of any color, even white!

It was summertime of 2000. I did not write down the date and don't believe the date to be relevant. I also don't believe the year or time to be relevant. The time was 10:35 PM plus or minus a minute or two. We just watched the Albuquerque local news which ends at 10:30 PM. We went downstairs and were headed for our bedroom, I had deterred through our sliding glass doors onto our front deck in order to do my nightly “business” which is simply to pee off the deck. “Peeing” off the front deck has two great benefits for me; (1) a feeling of “freedom.” I have no human neighbors; only deer, elk, fox, bear and all the critters of God. If you live in a neighborhood with other folks then urination is restricted to a porcelain commode inside the house; the restriction is removed when there is no neighborhood and I am free to urinate whenever and wherever (within reason) I desire. (2) Every time I urinate outside, I have saved 3 gallons of water; in the thirsty southwest, the most viable of minerals (if water is a mineral).

As I stood on the edge of the front deck, I was enthralled by beauty of New Mexico's summer night; it was an unusual but fairly common night. It was a new moon with absolutely no moonlight. It was not dark because the sky was completely cloudless and since our house is at an elevation of 7,300' the stars were shining and added enough light to silhouette every mountain range and landmark for 20 miles.

I was admiring the black silhouette of the Carrizo mountains. This is a laccolith; Swedish word meaning “lake of lava” formed when a large body of magma (lava) pushes up from the earth's interior but never breaks the surface (erupts). The surface eventually wears away exposing the igneous rocks. Most of the mountains in Lincoln County (but not all) are laccoliths. The Capitan mountains are perfect examples of laccolithic mountains. Laccoliths are extremely rocky mountains which are unusual in New Mexico because they run East and West and almost all mountains in New Mexico tend to run North and South. Our home is on the last northern ridge of the Sierra Blanca or Sacramento Mountains (North/South). The Carrizo Mountains are a single ridge with about six peaks. The most prominent peak is Carrizo Peak with an elevation of 9,656'.

Between our house and Carrizo Peak there is nothing but a wide valley approximately 18 miles wide. Carrizo Peak is almost due north of our house (about 3° off). The small village of Ruidoso lies on a straight line 20 miles south of our house. I have tried to set up the country geography to help you get a better picture in your mind of the flight of the vehicle that flew over our house.

As I stood admiring the silhouette of the Carrizo Mountains, suddenly coming up from behind the main peak (Carrizo Peak) there appeared three lights, the lights appeared to clear the peak by perhaps 500 feet. By the space between the lights and the brightness of the lights, I knew it was not a plane from Holloman Air Force Base located in nearby Alamogordo, NM. I immediately called Bev who was just a few yards away in the living room, she came immediately.

We stood together and watched the object as it approached us with an incredible speed. In just a few seconds another light appeared. The most notable light was one in the middle of the craft. It was an incredibly intense white light located equally spaced between the two green lights each located to the side (considerable distance). The fourth light that appeared was red which was placed at a distance behind the bright white and equal distance between the two greens.

Bev and I stood up with open mouths as it headed straight for our house. It was like our house was a beacon and it had to fly over it to maintain its course. As it passed over, we strained to see it every second. We didn't look to the right or to the left, we just kept bending our head and neck straight back until it went out of sight directly over our house.

As soon as it was out of sight (over the house) we both turned and ran to the back deck that was upstairs on the opposite south side of the house. We have never moved that fast before, literally running to the other side of the house as to not miss anything since we knew we would never see anything like this again in our lifetime. As we reached the back deck, it was still in sight and was very low heading directly toward the soft glow of lights given off by the quaint mountain village of Ruidoso. You couldn't see any of the lights of Ruidoso, just a soft glow in the sky. My immediate thought was "I don't even know what that was – but we will read about it in the Ruidoso paper." I thought people in town would bound to have seen it – it was going to fly directly over town.

As it approached our house a fifth light had emerged; it was another intense white light, located in the very back. As it approached we could also make out the shape. We could do this because of the many stars out that night. You might think the lights might have been from multiple aircraft, no – the stars were so bright that as the craft went over the house, the stars disappeared and reappeared in a definite pattern that gave us a distinct shape.

It was diamond shaped! I believe it was an equilateral shaped diamond (all sides equal). The intense white light was on the front point of the diamond. The back point also had an intense white light. The two green lights were on the side points and the red light was located in the very middle of the diamond on the underside.

All this was easily discernible as it flew directly over the house at a very low altitude. I can only guess at its altitude and I say it was at a minimum 500'. and a maximum of 1000' and I would favor the 500'. Our house is at an elevation of 7,300' above sea level.

I first saw the lights as they appeared coming over Carrizo Peak. They came right over the highest point which is 9,656' and they skimmed it (500' to 1000'). When we saw it the second time as it passed over Ruidoso it was flying much lower (horizon, lights, and Monjeau Peak). Monjeau Peak is another landmark located about 10 miles to our south. It lies about 1 mile to the west of the North/South line made by Carrizo Peak, our home, and Ruidoso. Monjeau was easily silhouetted by the stars and the UFO was approximately flying 1,500' under Monjeau's top.

It apparently began to descend as it passed over Carrizo Peak (9,656') and as it passed over Ruidoso (also 7,300') was flying at approximately 8000'. I believe that by the time it passed over our house it already descended to about 8000' (700' above our house).

I think in one of the previous paragraphs I didn't do justice when it flew over our house. It was one of the most exciting events of our lives, particularly because it was so close. It was so close it filled the sky and blocked out all but the peripheral stars to the left and right of the huge diamond shaped object. There were no visible stars because this huge object in the night sky completely blocked them out. That's why we never looked right or left but just bent our heads back until it passed directly over our house! It appeared to take up the entire night sky.

It was a huge flying object, not to be estimated in feet! At its widest point when the widest sides of the diamond passed, I would estimate the width to be between a $\frac{1}{4}$ mile to $\frac{1}{2}$ mile; and I favor the $\frac{1}{2}$ mile. Since it was (appeared to be) an equilateral diamond this would also make it between a $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ mile in length. It was absolutely huge.

Now get ready, I've saved the best part for last! Here's the kicker! Here's a proof that it is not of this planet. Here is an object (giant flying platform) that might be up to a $\frac{1}{2}$ mile wide and long; it might've been as close as 500' and believe it or not – it was almost perfectly silent!

There is no jet noise, nor any sign of a jet wash, no movement of air; no sonic boom. There was one faint sound, if you listened extremely closely there was a very faint "hum". It was like someone in the next room using an electric toothbrush. An electric "hum"! Could it be responsible for the objects propulsion or responsible for the five intense lights? The propulsion – either silent or electric hum, I think the hum; propulsion unknown of our earth.

The speed? We saw the object in sight for probably 35 seconds from Carrizo Peak clear past the dim lights of Ruidoso. Bev and I figured that it covered about 50 miles, not fast enough for space travel, but faster than anything known on earth! Perhaps it slowed for observation as it appeared to us that our house was some kind of beacon. Our home with the front deck is made of probably 80% materials from old Walker Army Air Force Base.

We have another house on our property which is 95% and a masonry barn that is 98% made with materials from WAAFB (Walker Army Air Force Base). This is where the original flying saucer and alien bodies were taken in the 1947 Roswell incident. Could these materials in our house and barn possibly have a “fingerprint” that possibly attracted the spacecraft? Could those bodies and saucer materials found in 1947 somehow left some kind of identifiable landmark for future space travelers to “home” into. Or was it just coincidence?

The crash of the “saucer” at Corona has certainly made the city of Roswell famous. It was recovered by Maj. Jesse Marcel who was the intelligence officer for Walker Army Air Force Base (WAAFB). He knew it (the wreckage and bodies) were not of this world and openly said so. Maj. Marcel was not just an intelligence officer, but before coming to Roswell was a faculty member of the Army Air Force intelligence school! He knew his stuff! Then this brilliant man was made to look like a buffoon when General Ramey declared the debris to be from a weather balloon. Maj. Marcel never got over this betrayal by the Army Air Force.

Maj. Marcel had a son, appropriately named Jesse Marcel, Jr., who was 11 years old when the crash occurred (mid-June 1947). Jesse Sr. took several boxes of debris home to show Jesse Jr. and his wife. Jesse Jr. never forgot the debris he saw and never forgot the humiliation that his dad felt. Jesse Marcel, Jr. spent the rest of his life trying to exonerate the putdown of his dad by General Ramey. Along the way he became a medical Dr. (MD) and wrote a book. The book is about (1) UFOs, (2) his dad, and (3) the physics of space travel. I have about 50 volumes about UFOs and ET; there are two that are much better than the rest; The Roswell Legacy by Jesse Marcel, Jr. published 2009. It should be your top read.

Jesse Marcel Sr. is now deceased and is buried in Houma Louisiana. Jesse Jr. has several children, two of which have taken up the cause to exonerate their grand-fathers humiliation from the “weather balloon incident”. A daughter (granddaughter) Denise Marcel is a well-known UFO speaker and author. A son (grandson) appropriately named Jesse Marcel III is also a well-known UFO expert. Three generations of the same family trying to exonerate Jesse Marcel Sr. If there is an award anywhere in the galaxy for UFO sticktoitness, this family should win it!

The second book is the best one ever written and it will answer most of UFO questions. Its title is The Day After Roswell written by Col. Philip Corsco. Credentials are important for any author and please check his credentials, they are absolutely impeccable just as are Jesse Marcel Jr's.

Bev and I thought that we would read about the craft and lights in the next Ruidoso Paper and we were a little surprised when there was zero mention of it – nobody in Ruidoso saw it. Then as I thought of it, I wasn't surprised. It was probably only over the town for two to three seconds and with all the light pollution nobody would have seen it unless they happen to look up at exactly the correct moment.

We have talked to one other person who did see the craft. A young lady who lives in a direct line 2 miles south of us; she is able to describe it in the exact shape and lights just as we did. Her name is Jan Houser. She had stepped out in the starlight at the same time as I to do to take care of the same business. She told her story one night at a party; independent of Bev and I.

Bev and I were never frightened, we were so excited and amazed and wished we had seen it longer. For the rest of the summer we longed for it to return; we spent time almost every night on our front deck surveying that 20 miles expanse between us and Carrizo Peak anxiously waiting for its return. Alas and alack; it never returned.

The “Phoenix Lights” in Nogal

My third incidence with a UFO occurred on May 11th at 9:15 PM (+ or – 3 minutes) in the year 2015. This was yesterday and I'm writing this down while it's fresh so I won't forget details. Unlike my 1953 experience (62 years ago), this one occurred probably over a minute or two, it was very close and was much more dramatic than the “tumbling disc” of 1953. Although dramatic, it fell far short of the 2000 year sighting that Bev and I had. But then, how could you possibly be more dramatic than standing on your front porch and have a huge flying platform (spaceship) pass directly over your house at a very low altitude with only a small electrical hum?

Bev and I had been in Las Vegas, NV where we had met our youngest daughter Bonnabeth. We had left Vegas that morning and were only 5 miles from home. We were driving on Highway 37 and were about 2 miles north of the small village of Nogal. This is in the valley and we had not started up the hill to our house, the hill starts just as you pass through the village. We were doing the standard 55 mph and were being followed closely by a vehicle with bright lights.

I was driving, very alertly, eyes ahead to the payment and both shoulders watching for the movement of deer or other critters that might step out into the edge of the headlights. Beverly was sitting in the front passenger seat, perched like a little prairie dog, watching the highway and shoulders every bit alert as me. Bonnabeth was in the backseat right behind Bev.

Bev was the first to see it. Very excitedly she yelled out “WHAT IS THAT” as she leaned forward in her seat pointing through the windshield. I didn't know where to look so I looked up through the windshield (unglued my eyes from the payment) and there they were! Looking through the upper right portion of the windshield I could see six bright brilliant, large lights. They appear to be in a somewhat straight-line and I think that they were in pairs with a slight separation between each pair.

They weren't just lights but very distinctly they were amber colored lights, exactly like the caution lights on a stoplight between the green before it turns red. The line formed by the light was a little irregular and dipped to the left approximately 15°.

I assumed these were the lights Bev had seen first, but found out later they were not. Bev had seen a single large amber light high in the sky but in the eastern sky (left side of the highway). The six Amber lights appeared just a split second after Bev saw the first light. As Bonnabeth was sitting in the backseat on the right (west) side of the car. She also saw the six lights that suddenly appeared. The six lights were close, probably within 500' to 1000' above the ground. Bonnabeth immediately rolled down her window and stuck her head clear out the window raising up from her seat to get the best look possible.

We were all three focused on the six lights. The first light (I had not seen) had disappeared just before the six had appeared. I was looking frantically for a safe place on the shoulder to pull over. I would've stopped on the highway if it not for the vehicle following so close behind me. I finally found a place wide enough, it was a rough stop as weeds, dirt, and rocks were hitting the bottom of the car, but I applied the brakes and got us stopped almost instantly. I was hoping the vehicle behind us would also pull over and assumed he would also get a better look. It didn't stop but pulled by me and continued toward the town of Nogal. He was probably just watching our taillights since he was following so close. I don't think he ever saw the six lights. What a loss! He was so close to such a wonderful phenomenon and missed it entirely!

We stared intently at the formation of the six Amber lights, Bev and I looking through the upper portion of the windshield and Bonnabeth with her head and shoulders out the back window. I thought it was very unusual that the lights never broke their formation; they never moved! They were very large and very bright and demanded all of your attention like lights at a baseball park. They were perfectly round and perfectly distinct from one another.

There was no diffusion of light rays that you see when lights are in the distance. Imagine when you are driving down the highway and see a stoplight in the distance. The light is very diffused, the closer you get, less diffused, finally you pull up to the stoplight and there is no diffusion, the green, the amber, and the red are all little circles of color setting across the street from you. These were all perfect circles of amber lights but each one appearing very separate and well defined with very sharp clear features. They were not little or large lights but absolutely enormous lights. Judging from the height (500' – 1000') and their distance in front of us (again, perhaps 500' – 1000'). I can only give an estimate of their size. As unreasonable as it sounds, I estimate the size of each light as 15 – 20 yards in diameter! I estimate the diameter of the entire object is a minimum of 1/2 mile to the size of 1 mile not out of the question. We all three stared with total amazement for perhaps about 20 to 30 seconds. Again, they never moved, they never changed intensity or color – nothing. Then as though they were all controlled by the same switch – they went off!

As suddenly as they had appeared in the night sky they all instantly went off exactly at the same time. There was no back glow or residue glow, the sky was just empty and black where this huge object had just appeared was abruptly just gone! The lights issued no visible beam and it appeared to be facing outward and not down toward the ground surface. If I had to make a judgment; I would say there were not observation lights but the cabin lights of the craft.

There was no moon, a few stars, no clouds; we all just sat there in silence in a stunned silence at what we had seen. We were all hoping they would reappear. After a minute or so we pulled back on the blacktop and started home again – then they reappeared. This time in the eastern sky on the left side of the highway – but instead of six there were only two and they weren't moving, the two were visible for only about 4 seconds then they went out.

About 20 seconds later the light came on again, this time much further east and this time only one large amber light, again it was visible and not moving; after 3 to 4 seconds it went out. I assume that the original set of six were now moving east; but since the lights were two and then one, I now believe we were looking at multiple sightings of multiple craft.

We arrived at the top of the hill, we live at an altitude of 7300', we hesitated for a few moments because we can see in all directions from there. Alas -- no more lights.

Our adrenaline was still pumping as we pulled into the garage and went into the house. What we had seen was a once-in-a-lifetime experience and it would be a couple of hours before we could calm down enough to sleep. Still very much excited we settled down enough to compare notes on what we'd seen. It was then that I found out a "key sighting" that I completely missed, but both Bev and Bonna had seen and had agreed on 100%. I missed it during that minute or so that I took my eyes off the craft to find a place to pull over on the shoulder. Bev and Bonnabeth were both astounded that the six lights had gone from a horizontal configuration to a vertical configuration and then back to horizontal as their final configuration. I had missed this entirely. Since we had never seen the lights move; I wanted to hear how this was accomplished. I asked them if the lights rotated like the wings of an airplane as it banked? Or did the six horizontal lights go out and instantly reappeared as vertical lights. They both agreed that choice #2 (out – then reappeared). I for some reason feel that the fact that the lights never moved is significant. I also feel that the fact that when they went off at the same time instantly is significant (one craft!)

From Bonnabeth's view (who had her head out the window) we learned that there was absolutely no sound, no jet, no propulsion, not even the slight hum that Bev and I had heard in 2000.

Bonnabeth was quite shaken (frightened) by the experience and she is not one to frighten easily. Bonnabeth is tough as nails and has the mental strength of 3 people, but she felt the object appeared threatening towards us. Bev was not frightened but felt that it (the craft) was in her words "ominous" and "unfriendly!" Bonnabeth was so frightened that hours later when we calmed down enough to go to bed and "try" to sleep she went to each of our exterior doors and propped a chair against each one. I couldn't help but be a little amused at this because if these "beings" have the technology to travel from planet to planet, they probably can overcome the technology of small wooden chairs propped up against doors. She also got an interior door closed that we had not been able to close for years due to the wood swelling from rains. I had to get in the room from the inside to force the door back open again.

I had Bonnabeth pull up photos of the famous "Phoenix Lights" of March 1997. Bonna has one of those famous little phones that you can do or ask almost anything of. She pulled up about 10 photos and wow! The Phoenix Lights are all this unusual same amber color. It didn't take her long before she even found one grouping of six, they look extremely similar to what we saw. I know that lights are the most common UFO experience, there have been literally thousands of them over the planet. A great many of them are explained away as natural phenomena.

These were so close and so intense – no way were they any kind of natural phenomena. The lights were not fragments of the Borealis that broke off and were carried south by the polar vortex. They were not reflections of my own headlights on ice crystals forming on cumulative cumulonimbus clouds because of El Niño. They were not caused by the ionization of static electricity given off by Shirley McClain combing her hair in a New Mexico windstorm. Of the thousands (multi-thousands) of UFO light sightings, perhaps 60% are explained away as natural phenomena. Another 32% are explained away as lights from an airplane or satellite.

The other explanation for the “UFO light phenomenon” is that it is “secret military research.” When UFOs come up someone always reminds me that we live less than 100 miles from both Holloman Air Force Base and White Sands Missile Range. Holloman is a jet fighter base. White Sands an Army Research base (missiles only?). Although I don't believe the lights were military research, I can't count it out (chance = .5%). My answer to the military question comes into two path parts.

- (1) we have been seeing UFO lights since the late 1950s and early 1960s. It doesn't seem reasonable that the military has been doing secret research for 60 years without developing “something.” Our military is more much more adept.
- (2) Holloman, plus White Sands missile Range plus the northern ranges of Fort Bliss represent the biggest contiguous chunk of government military land in the United States, perhaps the biggest in the world. With thousands and thousands of square miles to do research on – what the hell are they doing over Nogal?

On the Tuesday morning before I started this manuscript, Bev and I had an early morning call from a good friend, Matthew Midgett. Matt is a fairly new arrival to Lincoln County. He arrived here only 5 years ago from Hollywood by way of San Diego. He purchased a small ranch about 1 1/2 miles south of us. He has renamed it "Followed Dream Ranch." Matt is extremely civic minded and he jumped in to the "sparkling clear" waters of Lincoln County as a volunteer with both feet!

He is a military re-enactor (1860 – 80's Calvary) and along with his beautiful bay mare "Belle" appears in most Lincoln County parades, and in all reenactments. He has been on many volunteer boards including Fort Stanton Inc., search and rescue crews, and paws for pets, etc.. I believe Matt's credentials are, like his appearance and manners, absolutely impeccable. He is also one of perhaps two dozen people I've told the flying platform sighting of 2000

Matt had called that day for two reasons, the first was to give me the name of a book he had he thought I would be interested in the THE FBI/ CIA UFO CONNECTION by Bruce Maccabee, PhD. Naturally I was interested in the book; but his second reason blew me away. Matt had seen the amber lights! But it wasn't "our" amber lights, it was different lights because instead of Monday, it was either Friday or Saturday lights, Matt couldn't remember which.

Matt's Ranch is located in a small basin, surrounded by low hills and I don't believe that there is an artificial light visible anywhere (except his own house) from Matt's place. There is absolutely no light pollution; everything in the night sky becomes immediately visible to anyone who bothers to look at it. Matt prefers to feed his horses (in addition to Belle, he has two other horses that I believe are all rescue horses) late in the evening between 9PM and 10PM.. His barn and stables are located about 70 yards from his house. About 9:30PM Matt started down the path he follows to go feed and on the way down he spotted new lights in the eastern sky.

His best indications of distance were that he thought it might be over Fort Stanton, perhaps 6 or 7 miles as a crow flies. He described it as amber colored! This was very exciting because it confirms the presence of the craft by someone other than the Thorp family. It was also exciting because he was able to add a new dimension to my sightings! The new dimension was that as Matt watched it move over Fort Stanton it suddenly divided from one light into two amber lights. I keep throwing the "amber" in because I think that's very important, most lights appear white in the night sky.

On Thursday morning of May 14th, Bev received a phone call from Mattie Breiger who lives in Loma Grande. This is less than a mile from Matt and about 2 1/2 miles from us. She called because she was excited because the night before on May 13th she had gone out on her deck (it faces east) and saw these same strange and unusual lights. Upon questioning by Bev, she recalled the lights as amber colored! She called to her husband Emmitt Breiger who also came to see them.

This was all fantastic, two more witnesses had seen these extraordinary brilliant lights. We now had three other eyewitnesses who had seen them, but another dimension was added that Matt saw them on Friday or Saturday, we saw them on Monday, and Mattie and Emmett saw them on Wednesday. I was thrilled to know there was now proof that the lights were in the Nogal/Capitan area for the better part of the week! I'm sure there are many other people in the area that saw them. But nobody came forward to the Ruidoso or Lincoln County Newspaper. They were afraid of ridicule as I had been in my 1953 sighting.

The highest concentration of UFO believers in the United States is undoubtedly in Phoenix, Arizona. Everybody who knows anything about UFOs knows about the "Phoenix Lights". These lights appeared over Phoenix and stayed for many hours. These lights were observed to be moving back and forth and up and down.

This remarkable sighting of lights was witnessed by thousands of residents, not only seeing, but photographed and videoed by hundreds. When I mentioned the "Phoenix Lights" to my eldest daughter, Jamie Norman, she quickly went to her computer and googled about them for me. For a comparison of the "Phoenix Lights" to the "Nogal Lights" let me go over some of the information generated from the many hours of photographs and witness testimony.

It occurred on the early evening of March 13, 1997 and went into the early hours of March 14th.

Although it was called the "Phoenix Lights" it was first observed in southern Nevada and moved southward along a 300mile corridor, it was seen and tracked by many observers along this corridor. When it got to Phoenix – it seemed to have reached its destination, there it slowed, hesitated and spent hours over the city, which at that time (1997) was the sixth largest in United States. Thus the greatest concentration of believers. It finally disappeared (lights out again) in the early morning of morning hours of March 14.

Lights - the lights of the craft were described by the many witnesses as white, bluish white, yellow and amber with the color amber being the most common. The number of lights varied and frequently changed while witnesses watched. The most common number appear to be six but the number varied between one to ten. There is a video which shows lights leaving the craft and lights appearing off to the side and joining the craft. Sometimes lights on the craft would "go off" and then 'come back on.'" Sometimes a light would appear to split and become two lights!

Shape – witnesses reported three different shapes, the two most common were disk, followed by triangle, followed by diamond. Recall that diamond is what Bev and I saw in 2000, and also remember that a diamond is composed of two back-to-back triangles.

Craft Color – the craft sometimes would drop to an estimated height of 500' and witnesses could describe its underside structure and color. They describe the color is blue like the color of a shotgun barrel!

Sound – this is the one characteristic that all witnesses were unanimous on. There was “No Sound”! Complete silence! In 2000 when the huge diamond flew directly over our house at an estimated 500 – 1000', we heard a very faint sound, like an electric toothbrush being used in the next room. Had it been perhaps 500' higher or if our house had any noise pollution such as the city noise pollution we might not have heard it and we would have described it as completely silent. I believe the absence of sound is the number one factor in establishing this vehicle (craft – spaceship) as not being of this earth. We have no forms (and haven't even thought of any) of propulsion without sound.

Size – witness had a really hard time with size. Most just use words like large huge gigantic of those that used an actual measurement, the most common was “1 mile wide.” This also seems to me to be “unearthly.”

There you have it! The Phoenix Light! To me they are indisputable proof of extraterrestrials. They are a parallel to the lights that were seen in Lincoln County between May 7 and May 14, 2015. The only difference being our lights did not move while they were on, the Phoenix lights also are almost a perfect parallel to the diamond platform that flew (silently – almost) over our house in 2000. It perfectly matched everything except the light pattern.

I expect my family and friends to believe this manuscript of what we saw. I do not expect them to become excited about it. It's hard to get excited talking about lights and flying platforms. People who are not in my family or friends I don't expect to believe it at all; because like most people in the world seeing is believing and if they don't see it, they don't believe it. Just don't tell me that I saw an airplane. I'm 81 years old and I know what an airplane looks like! I also know what one sounds like! In my old age I can even tell a prop job from a jet! Wow!!