

1968, Aug. 26
Clock 7:11 AM

blue sheet
+ card

Arizona

688-C

TUCSON DAILY CITIZEN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1968

Gleeson UFO Leaves Traces

By Cecil James
CITIZEN STAFF WRITER

Citizen Photos By Dan Tortorell

The smile was kind and gentle. The strong grey-blue eyes seemed to say, "howdy, stranger." You immediately liked her.

And the pioneer Arizona teacher and rancher — Mrs. Pearl Christiansen, of Gleeson — in her 71st year reported seeing unidentified flying objects (UFOs) to the east of her ranchhouse Aug. 26.

"I was happily excited about the beauty of the thing," she beamed. "I never was afraid. I had no fear — just excited. It was like a full moon, or bigger. Later there were two of them."

In this world of modern, strange phenomena, one wonders why such objects land. Was it (if real) investigating the Army's communications installation at Fort Huachuca? Recharging its power units or repairing some malfunction?

Whether they were flying vehicles or the figment of the imagination, they stayed around for four hours, Mrs. Christiansen declared.

The afternoon was warm recently when Citizen photo-

grapher Dan Tortorell (a UFO buff) and I journeyed to Gleeson in southeastern Arizona to interview Mrs. Christiansen. The trip also took us over mountain trails to the top of Brown's Peak, the site of the UFO landings, which is a mile and a quarter from the ranch house. Strange fires also had scorched parts of the peak — the burning pattern of cactus and grass was erratic — but one student of the UFO mystery does not believe there was any connection between the two events. I think there may be.

And while standing on the 7,200-foot peak, I felt I was walking where the unknown had been. The view of the surrounding mountains and valleys was overwhelming. It is doubtful that the area has changed in centuries.

A native of the Colorado Territory, Mrs. Christiansen moved to Gleeson in 1920 to teach the youngsters of the 81 mining community families. Later she met her late husband and became a ranch wife and part-time teacher.

During the past half-century, the slender woman has

seen many events in the nearly uninhabited country — floods, droughts, rattlesnakes, wildlife and meteorites — but never until this August a UFO.

At 10 minutes to eight on that Monday evening while driving home, Mrs. Christiansen saw a huge silver circular object seated on the south side of Brown's Peak.

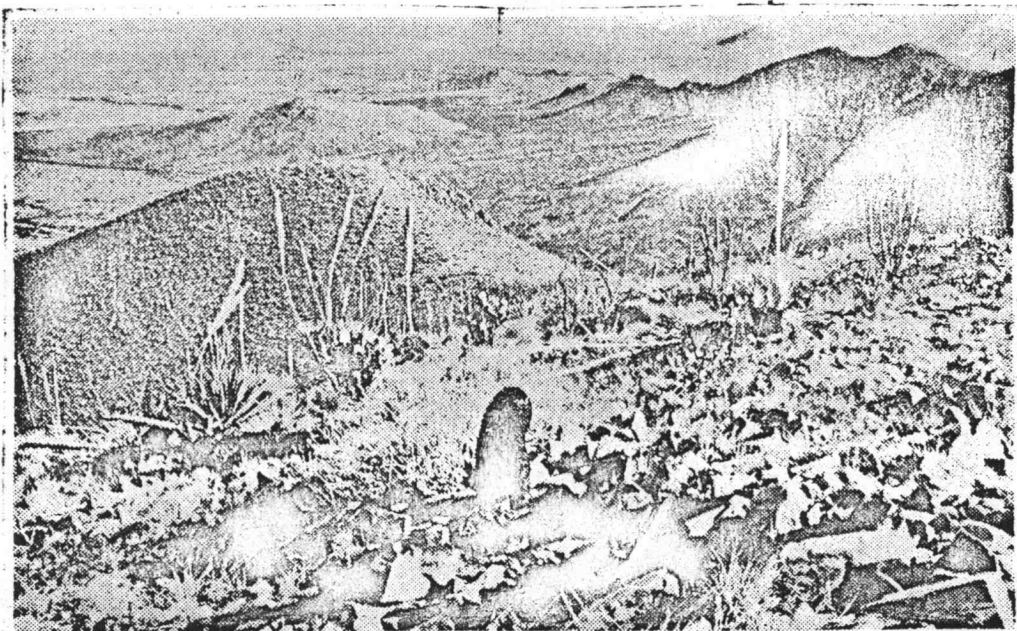
"I had just lowered the chain gate on the road to my house when I saw it," she said. "I drove across the chain, sat in the car for five minutes and wondered what I should do."

"It looked as though there were a train of lights trailing from one side. Should I drive to Tombstone to report it? No ... I thought maybe it would disappear, so I drove on. But it remained. When I went through another gate, I saw a second object — very shiny and gold. It also was stationary and once in a while both would glow simultaneously."

Mrs. Christiansen, sensing a doubt from us, quipped that her eyesight was good "and I



Willard Mayfield, operator of the Gleeson museum, examines a badly burned rock which was among the burned cactus pictured. Forty-eight hours after the unidentified flying objects were seen by Mrs. Pearl Christiansen, Mayfield said the rocks in the area were so hot they couldn't be handled.

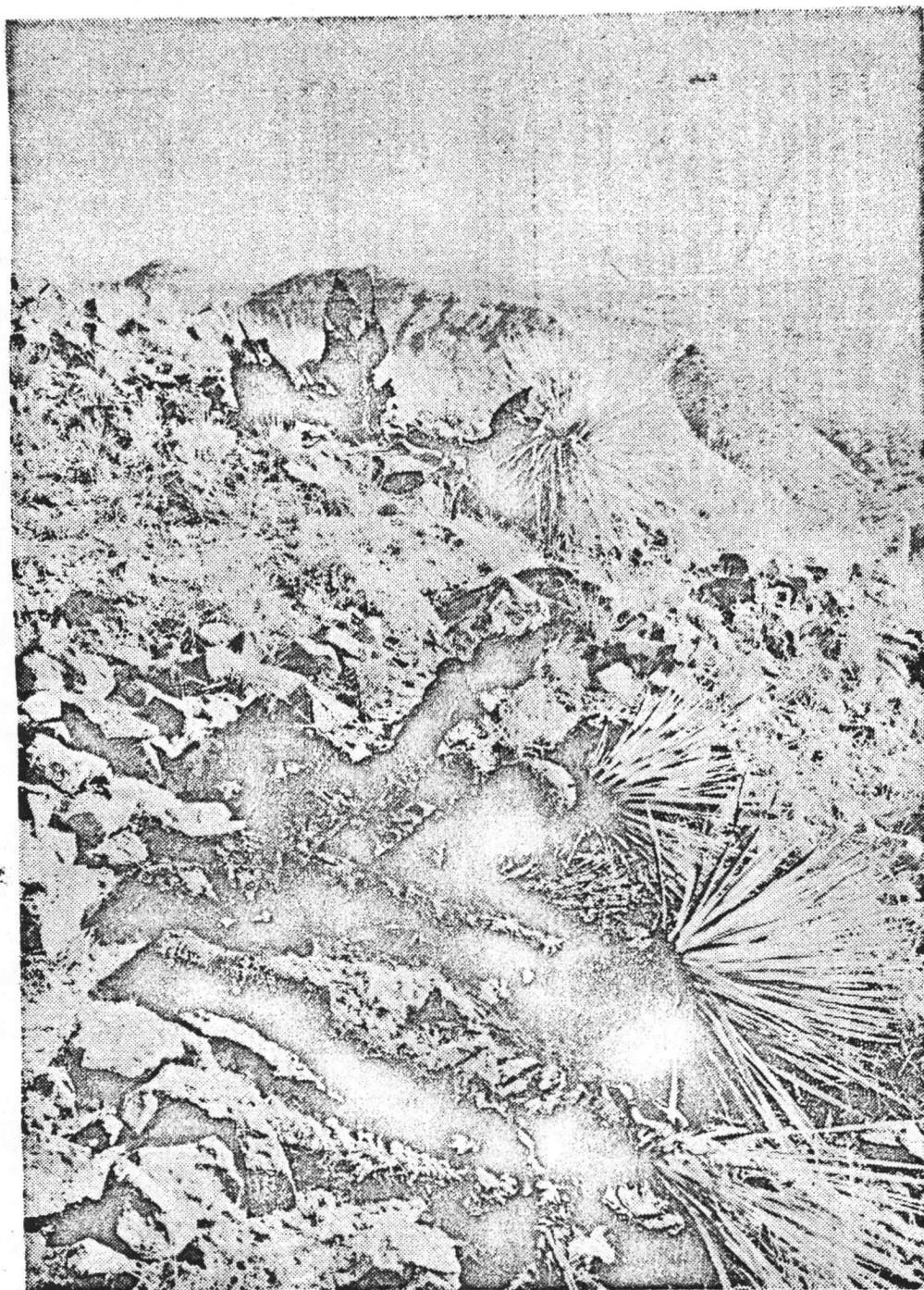


Unburned grass areas between the burned cactus plants makes an unusual scene atop Brown's Peak. Investigators after 48 hours of the UFO sighting said the area still had a "queer, acid-like smell."



'I was happily excited about the beauty of the thing . . . It was like a full moon . . . A train of lights trailing from one side . . . A second object had a bright pink band around its outer edge . . . It hurt my eyes to look . . .





A forty-foot row of cactus plants look like a flamethrower may have hit them all at once. Still, a plant in the center rear hardly was singed by the fire. Far below is the hippie camp near the dirt road.

1968, Aug. 26

NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE ON AERIAL PHENOMENA (NICAP)®

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1536 Connecticut Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20036

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REPORT ON UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT(S)

This form includes questions asked by the United States Air Force and by other Armed Forces' investigating agencies, and additional questions to which answers are needed for full evaluation by NICAP.

After all the information has been fully studied, the conclusion of our Evaluation Panel will be published by NICAP in its regularly issued magazine or in another publication. Please try to answer as many questions as possible. Should you need additional room, please use another sheet of paper. Please print or typewrite. Your assistance is of great value and is genuinely appreciated. Thank you.

1. Name *Mrs. Pearl Christiansen* Place of Employment _____
Address *Gleeson via Elfrida, Ariz.
Star Rt. 3p 85610
also, Tombstone, Ariz. 85638* Occupation *housekeeper - rancher*
Telephone *457-33060* Date of birth *now 72*
Education *Teacher in Pub. Schls.*
Special Training _____
Military Service _____
2. Date of Observation *Mon. evening, Aug. 26th* Time *10:08 PM to mid-night* Time Zone *Rocky M.*
3. Locality of Observation *on top of Brown's Peak near Gleeson, a deserted mine's camp.*
4. How long did you see the object? *4* Hours _____ Minutes _____ Seconds _____
5. Please describe weather conditions and the type of sky; i.e., bright daylight, nighttime, dusk, etc. *clear skies, calm*
6. Position of the Sun or Moon in relation to the object and to you. *dark - 2nd or 3rd evening of new moon which has set in sea*
7. If seen at night, twilight, or dawn, were the stars or moon visible? *Stars*
8. Were there more than one object? *yes, 2* If so, please tell how many, and draw a sketch of what you saw, indicating direction of movement, if any.
9. Please describe the object(s) in detail. For instance, did it (they) appear solid, or only as a source of light; was it revolving, etc.? Please use additional sheets of paper, if necessary: *yes* *no*
10. Was the object(s) brighter than the background of the sky? *of course*
11. If so, compare the brightness with the Sun, Moon, headlights, etc.
12. Did the object(s) - (Please elaborate, if you can give details.)
 - a. Appear to stand still at any time? *yes*
 - b. Suddenly speed up and rush away at any time?
 - c. Break up into parts or explode?
 - d. Give off smoke?
 - e. Leave any visible trail? *yes, as the first or silver one zoomed to a halt it left a trail of dried grass + weeds on fire.*
 - f. Drop anything? *no*
 - g. Change brightness? *yes, the gold one put on outer light*
 - h. Change shape? *no*
 - i. Change color? *yes, the gold one turned to a bright red*
13. Did object(s) at any time pass in front of, or behind of, anything? If so, please elaborate giving distance, size, etc., if possible.
14. Was there any wind? *no* If so, please give direction and speed.
15. Did you observe the object(s) through an optical instrument or other aid, windshield, windowpane, storm window, screening, etc? What? *Field glasses, but watched them easily without aid.*
16. Did the object(s) have any sound? *no* What kind? _____ How loud? _____
17. Please tell if the object(s) was (were) -
 - a. Fuzzy or blurred.
 - b. Like a bright star.
 - c. Sharply outlined.
 - d. Transparent?*one was silver the 2nd one to land on the Peak was gold both solid + round like full moon*
18. Was the object -
 - a. Self-luminous?
 - b. Dull finish?
 - c. Reflecting?
 - d. Transparent?
19. Did the object(s) rise or fall while in motion?
20. Tell the apparent size of the object(s) when compared with the following held at arm's length:
 - a. Pinhead
 - b. Pea
 - c. Dime
 - d. Nickel
 - e. Half dollar
 - f. Silver dollar
 - g. Orange
 - h. Grapefruit
 - i. Larger*One or first was silver or aluminum color, followed by a second round disk that was rich gold + both were perfectly round + maybe the gold one appeared a little larger*

Or, if easier, give apparent size in inches on a ruler held at arm's length.

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After all the information has been fully studied, the conclusion of our Evaluation Panel will be published by NICAP in its regularly issued magazine or in another publication. Please try to answer as many questions as possible. Should you need additional room, please use another sheet of paper. Please print or typewrite. Your assistance is of great value and is genuinely appreciated. Thank you.

1. Name *Mrs Willard Mayfield* Place of Employment *Gleason Museum*
Address *Box 7 Gleason Star Rt* Occupation *curator*
Elfrida Aug 85610 Date of birth *3 May 1914*
Education *Highschool*
Special Training
Military Service
2. Date of Observation *26 Aug 1968* Time *approx 1:30* AM *PM* Time Zone *Mtn Standard*
3. Locality of Observation *Approx two air miles due north of Gleason Ariz*
4. How long did you see the object? _____ Hours *30* Minutes _____ Seconds
5. Please describe weather conditions and the type of sky; i.e., bright daylight, nighttime, dusk, etc. *sky, clear time - dusk*
6. Position of the Sun or Moon in relation to the object and to you. *sun was down - moon not visible*
7. If seen at night, twilight, or dawn, were the stars or moon visible? *no*
8. Were there more than one object? *yes* If so, please tell how many, and draw a sketch of what you saw, indicating direction of movement, if any. *there were three objects they were not moving*
9. Please describe the object(s) in detail. For instance, did it (they) appear solid, or only as a source of light; was it revolving, etc.? Please use additional sheets of paper, if necessary. *they looked like round dimmed headlights but were very intense*
10. Was the object(s) brighter than the background of the sky? *yes*
11. If so, compare the brightness with the Sun, Moon, headlights, etc. *headlights*
12. Did the object(s) — (Please elaborate, if you can give details.)
 - a. Appear to stand still at any time? *yes*
 - b. Suddenly speed up and rush away at any time? *no*
 - c. Break up into parts or explode? *no*
 - d. Give off smoke? *no*
 - e. Leave any visible trail? *no*
 - f. Drop anything? *no*
 - g. Change brightness? *yes*
 - h. Change shape? *no*
 - i. Change color? *yes*
13. Did object(s) at any time pass in front of, or behind of, anything? If so, please elaborate giving distance, size, etc, if possible. *no*
14. Was there any wind? *no* If so, please give direction and speed.
15. Did you observe the object(s) through an optical instrument or other aid, windshield, windowpane, storm window, screening, etc? What? *window glass in door*
16. Did the object(s) have any sound? *no* What kind? How loud?
17. Please tell if the object(s) was (were) —
 - a. Fuzzy or blurred.
 - b. Like a bright star.
 - c. Sharply outlined. *yes*
18. Was the object —
 - a. Self-luminous? *yes*
 - b. Dull finish?
 - c. Reflecting?
 - d. Transparent?
19. Did the object(s) rise or fall while in motion? *I did not see them move*
20. Tell the apparent size of the object(s) when compared with the following held at arm's length:
 - a. Pinhead
 - b. Pea
 - c. Dime *two*
 - d. Nickel *one*
 - e. Half dollar
 - f. Silver dollar
 - g. Orange
 - h. Grapefruit
 - i. Larger

Or, if easier, give apparent size in inches on a ruler held at arm's length.

The larger of the three was sitting to the west of the two smaller objects, I was facing north when I saw them.

21. How did you happen to notice the object(s)? *I stepped outside my house to look around before retiring to bed.*
22. Where were you and what were you doing at the time? *at my home preparing to go to bed.*
23. How did the object(s) disappear from view? *I didn't watch them until they disappeared.*
24. Compare the speed of the object(s) with a piston or jet aircraft at the same apparent altitude. *They didn't move while I watched.*
25. Were there any conventional aircraft in the location at the time or immediately afterwards? If so, please elaborate. *No*

26. Please estimate the distance of the object(s).

27. What was the elevation of the object(s) in the sky? Please mark on this hemisphere sketch?

They were landed on a mountain top. El. 7200 ft

28. Names and addresses of other witnesses, if any.

*Mrs Pearl Christiansen
Tombstone Ariz 85638*

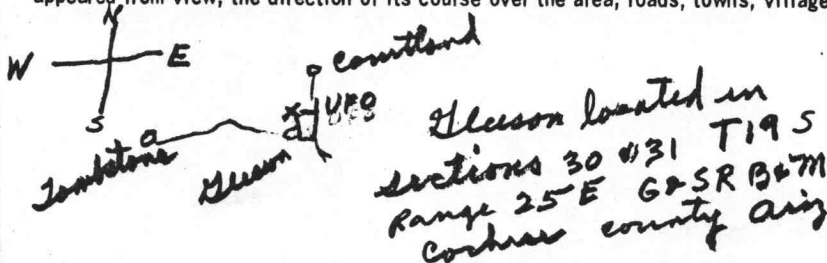
29. What do you think you saw?

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| a. Extraterrestrial device? | e. Satellite? |
| b. UFO? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | f. Hoax? |
| c. Planet or star? | g. Other? (Please specify). |
| d. Aircraft? | |

30. Please describe your feelings and reactions during the sighting. Were you calm, nervous, frightened, apprehensive, awed, etc.? If you wish your answer to this question to remain confidential, please indicate with a check mark. (Use a separate sheet if necessary)

I was curious but I didn't realize at the time that I was seeing a UFO until the following day when I talked with Mrs Pearl Christiansen. If I had known I would have watched longer.

31. Please draw a map of the locality of the observation showing North; your position; the direction from which the object(s) appeared and disappeared from view; the direction of its course over the area; roads, towns, villages, railroads, and other landmarks within a mile.



32. Is there an airport, military, governmental, or research installation in the area? *yes*

33. Have you seen other objects of an unidentified nature? If so, please describe these observations, using a separate sheet of paper.

no

34. Please enclose photographs, motion pictures, news clippings, notes of radio or television programs (include time, station and date, if possible) regarding this or similar observations, or any other background material. We will return the material to you if requested.

35. Were you interrogated by Air Force investigators? By any other federal, state, county, or local officials? If so, please state the name and rank or title of the agent, his office, and details as to where and when the questioning took place.

Deputy Sheriff Earl Lightner Cochise Co. City Marshall Tombstone Brownson
Were you asked or told not to reveal or discuss the incident? If so, were any reasons or official orders mentioned? Please elaborate carefully. *No*

36. We should like permission to quote your name in connection with this report. This action will encourage other responsible citizens to report similar observations to NICAP. However, if you prefer, we will keep your name confidential. Please note your choice by checking the proper statement below. In any case, please fill in all parts of the form, for our own confidential files. Thank you for your cooperation.

You may use my name. (☒)

Please keep my name confidential. (☐)

37. Date of filling out this report

3 Nov 1968

Signature:

Mrs Willard Manfield

1968- AUG. 26

JUN 16 1969

It was in the afternoon of Aug 28/1968 Mrs Pearl Christensen, a retired Army Major and I drove as far as we could and then walked about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to the top of Brown's Peak to view the spot where the UFOs had landed two days before.

The ground was rocky with scattered sotol cactus and grass that was dry.

- There were patches of burned grass and cactus measuring approx 40 feet long and 20 to 30 feet wide alternating with strips of grass & cactus not burned at all. In the burned area the rocks showed signs of intense heat and were still too hot to hold my hands on. There was a peculiar odor about the place. I can't think of any odor I could compare it with.

The burned strips ran east and west in direction



This is a sketch of the mountain facing into the north from Gleason

I am enclosing photographs and newspaper clipping. Please return.

Willard Mayfield

