

A Marshall County Deputy's vchicle was damaged when it had an encounter with something no one seems to be sure of. At about 1:30 a.m. Monday. August 27, Marshall County Deputy Val Johnson was traveling west from Stephen on County Highway 5. When he approached the intersection to Highway 220, he saw what he says appeared to be a light plane in trouble. As he turned onto Highway 220 and headed south. he said the light became very bright and accelerand directly toward him. He then mbers the sound of glass - breaking, but he has no memory of anything else from that time until he called into Warren for assistance. According to Marshall County Sheriff Dennis Brekke, assistance was rushed to the scene, where it was found that his car was damaged, and Officer Johnson seemed to be in a daze. He complained of pain in his cycs from the bright light. He was rushed by Stephen ambulance to the Warren Hospital, where his cycs were treated and covered by Dr. Pinsonneault. The following day, Officer Johnson was taken to an cyc specialist in Grand Forks, where it was diagnosed there was no permanent cyc damage. Johnson also suffered a bruise to his forchead.

Sheriff Brekke reported that upon checking the car, it was found that Officer Johnson's wrist watch and the clock in the car were synchronized and were both 14 minutes slow. According to Officer Johnson's story and the call for help, and in correlation with his check-in calls during the evening, there are about 20 minutes that are unaccounted for.

Area press representatives listened to the statement of Officer Johnson and also heard the recording of the tape from the Marshall County Sheriff's Office during the evening.

> "We've had something here and we don't really know what it is," said Sheriss Dennis Brekke. "I'm not reporting that we believe in flying saucers or don't believe in flying saucers."

Hendry said he ruled out the possibility of a low-flying aircraft because of those reports and other reasons — including the burns to Johnson's eyes, the unexplained reason the timepieces slopped and the velocity behind the force which bent the antennas.

"This case has some clues," Hendry said. "The damage to the car, the burns on his eyes and the clocks are all unusual clues.

"The burns show the brightness of the light. And the antennas show the velocity at which whatever hit them was moving. Otherwise, the springs would have bent and the antennas wouldn't have. Whatever hit them must have been traveling extremely fast to bend the antennas without moving the springs." Hendry said his office receives about 1,000 reports of UFOs a year. About 90 percent of them "fall through'' immediately. Most of his investigations are done by telephone.

Brekke said his department had checked the area with geiger counters but found nothing unusual.

"I have rolled many possibilities around in my head," Johnson said. "It was something I've never seen before and never want to see again. It was somewhat aggressive and cerlainly didn't want me to be there. I'm not that much worse for it. I've gone through a little discomfor! is all.

"I knew where I was and I knew I was upright, but I was unsure of what in the world happened."

Officer Johnson has been with

He said he only wanted to report the facts of the incident collected by his department, even though many things couldn't be explained.

"What he's (Johnson) seen, he's seen. None of us are trained to explain things we're not used to seeing."

Al Hendry, chief investigator at the Center for UFO Studies in Evanston, Ill., came to Warren Tuesday morning to investigate the report.

"It's rare for me to come out and investigate a report. But something like this where you have the car which could be measured and photographed will provide some concrete evidence. It's certainly as good a case as I've seen in ; the past year."

Both Brekke and Deputy Everett Doolittle said the only reason they let news of the event out was because Johnson was taken to the hospital by ambulance and several people had heard rumors.

"To be perfectly honest, if the only people who knew about it were in our department, we wouldn't have told anybody except the UFO reporting service," Doolittle said.

"But since this information got out in rumors, we wanted to put out the facts we have and let the people draw their own conclusions. We certainly can't explain it. All we can do is tell people what we know. You wouldn't believe some of the stories that were going around.

the Marshall County Sheriff's Department for the past 21/1 years. He stated that he is not sure yet exactly what happened to him or why.

Sheriff Dennis Brekke investigated the accident and said that the Deputy's car had traveled 854 rom where first impact had occurred and the headlight had been broken. For some reason, Deputy Johnson had then applied the brakes, causing the car to skid to a stop upright on the highway. Damage to the car was estimated at about \$250.

He said he had contacted five Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) organizations in the area — including Grand Forks Air Force Base — and all of them told him they saw nothing on radar and had no evidence of any aircraft activity in the area.

It is the third "direct runin" between a vehicle and a UFO Hendry has investigated in approximately a year.

The investigator said he planned to go to the site of happened, it happened." the impact and run some tests to find if there was a strong magnetic field which

"We just have to hope that we don't come off sounding like we're all nuts. I know Val, and if he said it