

The following article was published in the Albuquerque Journal, March 27, 1994

# SAUCER SLIDE SHOW

A 17-minute tape of a shiny silver disk, zooming around New Mexico's sky, makes a believer of a Midway video producer.

Story by Leslie Linthicum, photo by Richard Pipes

MIDWAY--In the front of the darkened projection room, video producer Jose Escamilla has pulled a chair close to the TV monitor and is fingering the controls. Escamilla yanks at his Hard Rock Cafe baseball hat and swipes at the sweat trickling down his temples.

Now pay close attention, in case this turns out to be history.

Max Littell, one of the founders of the International UFO Museum, sits nearby in a comfortable chair, wearing a suit and twisting a candy wrapper in his fingers.

A happy tourist in wrinkled bermudas and a three-day growth of beard stands against a wall, muttering, "Wow. Oh, that's cool."

What holds their attention is a videotape of something resembling a fuzzy pingpong ball bouncing around the screen while, every few seconds, grayish blobs scoot by.

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Escamilla is tapping his feet and pulling at his cap. He slows the tape and runs it frame by frame. What looked like a blob now looks like a silver disc. It shoots through the frame in approximately 1/30th of a second. "Could be birds. Could be a plane," Escamilla says. "But I don't think so. This stuff is hauling way too fast."



A frame of Escamilla's tape shows a fuzzy, silver disk-shaped object.

Littell nods and wraps the candy wrapper around a finger. The tourist says, "Wow." A museum greeter sounds like she has found religion. "I believe," she says. "I believe."

While skeptics scoff and naysayers point to the possibility of weather balloons, secret military aircraft and all the other debunking standards, Escamilla believes this footage, shot with his brother's RCA video camera at the family compound in the town of Midway outside Roswell, shows undeniable evidence of unidentified flying objects. Escamilla slows his tape again, sweats some more and allows himself to believe he holds evidence of another "Roswell Incident." Forget for a moment that day in July 1947 when that famous something crashed near Corona and somehow whipped the town of Roswell, some 65 miles away, into national notoriety. Remember, instead, the name Midway, in case this turns out to be history.

The town gets its name because it sits about halfway between Roswell and Dexter. If it were named based on achievement rather than its proximity to its neighbors, it might be called Flat or Dairy. It is vegetable and dairy farming country, a rural stretch in the road where Jose Escamilla was raised and where he decided to return and try to build Ultimate Dinosaur Productions Inc., a film production business, when earth quakes and high living costs drove him from Los Angeles.

On March 5, Escamilla was at his sister Becky's house in Roswell, in the middle of editing a promotional video, when she called from Midway. She and brother Manuel were selling some things at a swap meet on the family property when they looked up and saw objects swarming around in the blue sky.

Escamilla rushed over, turned on the video camera and pointed it at the sky.

He taped for about 17 minutes. Then he analyzed the tape frame by frame and discovered something like an alien airshow--dozens of saucers, disks and domes zipping past his viewfinder.

The tape has captured the attention of the producers of a television show and of the local gang of UFO aficionados that has grown up in the wake of the 1947 crash.

"There's definitely an object there. There's little things flying around," says John Price, owner and operator of Roswell's UFO Enigma Museum.

"Oh, yes," agrees Littell, "I think he saw something."

But there have been a number of videotapes purporting to show spaceships hovering over Earth. It is too early to tell, they say, whether Escamilla has anything worthy of working up a sweat.

A copy of the tape has been sent to the producers of a Fox Network special [sic] called "Sightings," the same company that produced the short-lived series [sic], "Encounters." Escamilla also plans to send a copy to the Mutual UFO Network, or MUFON, in Seguin, Texas.

The "Sightings" people will clean up the tape frame by frame, enlarge the picture and, Escamilla hopes, reveal the flying objects in much greater detail. The folks at MUFON will analyze the objects and try to identify them. If they can't, they'll label them UFOs.

Even with all that analysis, says Littell, "You never know if you've got something authentic or not." Midway sits about two miles off the runway at the Roswell Industrial Air Center. Airport manager Dennis Ybarra scans the airport flight log for March 5 and finds a two-engine turboprop and a German Air Force two-engine Challenger were in the air at about 2 p.m. when Escamilla began taping. The airport doesn't have radar and the workers in the tower reported seeing nothing unusual during that time.

"I can tell you," Ybarra says, "that we don't schedule UFO flights."

There are few places in the world where reported sightings of spaceships from other planets are met with such ho-hum. And there is nowhere else in the world with two UFO museums on Main Street. So it isn't unusual to hear someone telling, not in hushed tones, about seeing UFOs, knowing someone who saw UFOs, or knowing someone who has found little gray alien bodies strewn beside a crashed spaceship.

Becky Escamilla is in the International UFO Museum, leaning against a wall covered with photographs of reported UFOs and information about the alleged coverup of the 1947 "Roswell Incident."

"I've been seeing them since I was a kid," she says. "Bright lights with others moving around them."

Becky Escamilla, now 30, had her first encounter with what she calls a UFO when she was 8. A bright light shined into her bedroom and she watched it dancing around the sky. About a year ago, she began seeing UFOs much more frequently.

"When they first appeared, they were there every night," she says. "They'd be there three, four, five hours a night for weeks. After awhile it was, like, common." On March 5, she says, the difference was the number of objects she saw and that they appeared in broad daylight.

"Whoever they were," she says, "they wanted to be seen and they wanted to be captured on tape."

The tape, Escamilla says, is becoming a hot property.

With he Showtime Network movie "Roswell" due out soon, and a General Accounting Office inquiry into questions of a government coverup of the "Roswell Incident," it isn't untimely to have things that look like flying saucers on tape, especially if you are a video producer.

Now comes the time for the direct question Jose, Becky--is this a hoax? Or are you simply out of your minds? Listen closely to the answers, in case this turns out to be history.

"If we were going to have doctored it," says Escamilla, "we would have doctored something good."

In fact, Escamilla has handy a promo he did for a local TV station. His Macintosh computer has superimposed neat little flying saucers over the Roswell landscape. It looks nothing like the jumpy, blurry Midway footage. A tape, purporting to capture alien spaceships, he says, "is not going to help my career."

The Escamillas haven't told many people other than those involved in UFO research about the tape. The whole episode, they say, is a little embarrassing.

"Becky has told me many times about this, and I thought she was wacko," Escamilla says. Until he stood on the dusty side of the road, across from the Midway Assembly of God, and saw it for himself, Escamilla says, he was no believer.

Now, he says, "there's something up there. I just don't know what it is."

We thank Sarah McDonald for bringing this article to the producer's attention.

## CALENDAR

- Note! **NM MUFON meetings** are now held the third Thursday of each month at Arts-In-Transition at 525 Central NE in Albuquerque. Membership is voluntary, and members will contribute \$1 each per meeting. Non-members contribute \$2. This will cover rental costs. Call 293-9543 for information.
- April NM MUFON Meeting: Thursday, April 21 at 7 p.m. Our speaker will be **Karl T. Plock** on *"Roswell In Perspective - Interim Report."*
- April 26 **Richard Rowlette will speak** on "The UFO/Earth Change Connection" at Arts-In-Transition, 525 Central NW, Albuquerque at 7 p.m. Cost is \$5. Don't miss this one!
- May NM MUFON Meeting: Thursday, May 19, at 7 p.m. at Arts-In-Transition. There will be an **open discussion** about UFOs, sightings and opinions. *Be there!*
- June 3-5, Whole Life Expo in Albuquerque at the Albuquerque Convention Center, 401 2nd St. NW. There will be 150 speakers, including Charles Thomas Cayce, Ken Carey, Thomas Banyacya (Hopi prophecy), Timothy Leary, and Budd Hopkins! For a free catalog of events call (800) 332-0099.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Do you miss reading *Richard's Ruminations*??? NM MUFON State Director Richard Rowlette and Carolyn Duce-Ashe are writing *The View From Hermit's Peak*, a new monthly newsletter on alternative investigations into the UFO enigma. It's \$14 for 12 issues, from Richmar Group, PO Box 14956, Albuquerque, NM 87191.

Gail Stahlin, NM MUFON member and Field Inves-

tigator, had **surgury** recently and came through fine. *Best wishes to her*!

- Peter Limone, NM MUFON Chief Investigator, and NM MUFON member Chris Board travelled to Roswell on March 26 to visit the two UFO museums there and to hear **Donald Schmitt** and **Kevin Randle** speak on their new book. Peter got a signed copy. While there, they also met and spoke to Phil Klass.
- According to an article in the Albuquerque Tribune there are two new cases of **Hantavirus** in New Mexico. A physician was quoted who warned that another epidemic may be on the way!
- Brighter news: The Taos News, March 24, 1994 reported "Hum study revived." University of New Mexico researchers began the second phase of the study in March. Among other things, they will be surveying Taos residents "to learn who perceives the mysterious sound." Bilingual surveys were mailed, and they "are poised to launch a through scientific investigation..." They are interested in learning "how the ear processes low-frequency sounds." They have \$37,000 in seed money for this phase of the study and will use new equipment and software fabricated by the UNM Department of mechanical engineering for the study. The team is scheduled to go to Taos this month (April). Watch out for the snow! (Taos Ski Valley closed with +100" of snow still on the ground this year.)

## FROM OUT OF THE BLUE!

### Dear Carolyn:

Don't remember when my subscription ran out, (*it hasn't quite-ed.*) but you have the records so apply this check where it fits. I'm sure it's late.

You and Debby are doing a great service and I want you to know that I appreciate your efforts.

I wish the meetings were held in a less unsavory part of town, so that I wouldn't be afraid to drive there.

Thanks, Hazel Stoner, Albuquerque



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Belavi Facelitt Massage Therapeutic Massage Chair Massage Group Presentations Dear Debby:

Thought that you might have missed the "Update" in the *Air and Space* magazine of April/May.

Looks like someone is also interested. Anything I find I'll send along...

Regards,

Vince Cressman, Pasadena, California

### UPDATE

#### **Bodies of Evidence?**

The General Accounting Office has been called in to investigate a possible coverup of the circumstances of a mysterious 1947 crash near Roswell. New Mexico ("Aliens in the Basement," August/September 1992). At the time, the Army Air Forces said the crash remains were from a downed weather balloon. The investigation was initiated after Representative Steven Schiff of New Mexico complained to the GAO that the defense department had been uncooperative when he inquired about the incident on behalf of Roswellbased constituents.

from *Air and Space*, April/May 1994 page 16

Dear Carolyn,

Thanks for your recent note... I'm pleased that you and Jim are making progress back to good health. Please be careful out there.

I wonder if Ed is hiding in shame? That whole story caught the interest of so many people, and then fizzled out just as quickly. One should never make predictions. To say that it happened, but not in public is not enough. He was the one who stated quite clearly that it would be a public event. He can't say that this was the only part that didn't come true and expect to maintain his credibility. "Sorry Ed, you blew it." Even if something comes out later, his prediction has some serious holes in it. But, no one can't say he didn't make things interesting for awhile.

Will you ask Debby Stark to forward a copy of the number 12 issue of the *NM MUFON News*? Mine never arrived and I want to maintain a complete set at the Ohio State University Library. This is where most of my material ultimately goes. Tom Adams, the fella who did the Stigma periodical and the reports on black helicopters and cattle mutilations, is very interested in the Clovis, New Mexico crash story if you can ever get someone down that way. We'll probably have nothing more on it beyond what was published in the last issue of our *Notebook*. Our informant, as far as I can tell, has told us all he knows and the MORA member who developed the story is currently inactive...

Tell Beckie [Minshall] that the Hilliard, Ohio landing story of 1967, which was mentioned both in an old NICAP Bulletin and in Ray Fowler's book *The Watchers*, was a hoax. I am 99.99% sure. Last night Irena and I went to the OSU library and put the nail in the coffin, so to speak. Boy, did that feel good. We got results for once. Perish the thought that I am turning into another Phil Klass. But...the little sucker (not Phil - the kid in Hilliard) lied.

Keep in touch. Bill Jones

(For information on Mid-Ohio Research Associates publications, send a SASE to Mr. Jones at 3130 S. Dorchster Rd, Upper Arlington, OH 43221.)

## The UFO/Earth Change Connection

A Talk by Richard Rowlette on the Pattern of Environmental Warnings and Scenes of Future Events coming from UFO contacts and abuctions

April 26, 1994, 7 p.m.

at Arts in Transition 525 Central Ave. NE Albuquerque

\$5.00

Call 293-9543 to reserve a seat.

## UFOs - A GRASSROOTS MOVEMENT Beckie Minshall Addresses NM MUFON

Beckie Minshall, UFO researcher from Ohio, was the speaker at our regular MUFON meeting on March 17, 1994. She recently moved to Albuquerque and is a new member of NM MUFON.

"I love talking about UFOs," said Beckie after being introduced by Richard Rowlette. She gave a brief outline of her initiation into ufology—a UFO sighting she had in Columbus in 1966. "It was a rather benign experience that nevertheless changed my life."

Soon after that experience she was in a bookstore looking at *The Edge of Reality* by J. Allen Hynek and Jacques Vallee. A card fell from the book. The card said, "Bill Jones." He was the associate director of an investigatory group at Batelle. Beckie joined the group and has been a ufologist ever since.

Then in 1990 she and Bill Jones started their own group, Mid Ohio Research Associates (MORA). They purposely left the word "UFO" out of their group's name. "It's helpful not to mention UFOs when you go on an investigation," says Beckie. [That's probably true. It's been my experience that showing a MUFON card doesn't always impress people favorably or get them talking...-ed.]

MORA has done a lot of important research. It was instrumental in locating additional witnesses in the Coyne helicopter case. They researched the alleged Aztec, NM crash (and Steinman's book). They found gross misrepresentations and questionable data. This research is an example of how dedicated ufologists can take something that's published and dig into it to see if it's true.

Another example of this kind of research was when they took a statement made by Bill Cooper about a biologist named Guillermo Mendoza who "worked with EBE." Their research eventually proved successful: they found Mendoza, read his very technical papers on protozoa and the human hand, and had considerable correspondence with him. (He denied working on anything "alien," however). But the research was successful in that it proved Mendoza existed. They sent this information on to Jacques Vallee, who had also been trying to locate the biologist.

Sharing information is an important issue at MORA and Beckie invites us to all work together in MUFON and in ufology in general. "I don't take a proprietary stance on my work. I'm willing to share anything with anybody," she confides. Cooperation with other researchers in important. At MORA they send out their publication, the *Ohio UFO Notebook*, in trade to many nationally known researchers. "If anything, we try to *over-cooperate* with people," she added. "And it helped put MORA on the map...

"I want answers. We won't get them if we hoard our research."

Beckie then spoke about some of the conspiracy material advanced by Bill Cooper, Bill Moore, John Lear, and Bill English. Their material is often outrageous and is never documented, but it can sometimes be researched (as she did with Cooper's claims about Mendoza).

When she looked into the Kennedy assassination theories she eventually got to know Jim Marrs, author of *Crossfire*. She and Bill Jones introduced Jim to Ed Dames (who she met at TREAT IV), president of PSI TECH, and that meeting resulted in hours of interviews and an upcoming book on PSI TECH called *Psi Spies: The True Story of America's Psychic Warfare Program*, due to be out this year.

What did she learn about the Kennedy assassination? 1. It was not proven that there was a UFO connection. 2. But the mentality is there to support a coverup of the assassination and UFOs. 3. The CIA and FBI were almost certainly involved in the Kennedy assassination.

What did she learn about Ed Dames and PSI TECH? "What Ed Dames says about remote viewing is true... What he is up to [re: UFOs, Martins in New Mexico, etc.] I don't know!"

Beckie spoke briefly about the Hudson Valley sightings and the UFO flights over the SAC bases that caused Pentagon red alerts in 1975. These were both instances that were ignored or suppressed by our government.

She expressed dismay about the Budd Hopkins/ Linda Cortile case. "It looks like he's holding up the investigation because he wants to write a book and make money," she said sadly.

Gulf Breeze is another case she is skeptical about, especially Ed Walters and the photographs. But "something is going on there." When MUFON backed the case early on, "it was probably a mistake but some who have criticized Gulf Breeze or MUFON's handling of it have been drummed out of MUFON." This is an unfortunate situation and Beckie cautions us to avoid taking hasty stances and be willing to admit mistakes when new evidence comes to light.

"The ufological movement isn't just organizations, it's you and me... We shouldn't let a few do all the work. Animal mutilation cases should be sent to Linda Howe. Crash retrieval cases can be sent to Leonard Stringfield." *[Both these researchers, like all the others, depend on and are grateful to local foot soldiers like us-ed.]*  "We've all got to pitch in and help. There are cases begging to be re-investigated out here." (An example would be the alleged UFO crash near Grants, NM, researched by Tom Adams of Texas.)

"Develop discernment, don't believe everything you read or hear."

Is there a conspiracy to keep UFOs secret? "Yes, but it's not been proven by conspiracy material like Cooper's, Lear's and the others. This material is completely unsubstantiated, *but it doesn't mean there isn't a government coverup.*"

There was a lively Q&A period following Beckie's talk in which she expertly and thoughtfully revealed her broad knowledge and understanding of the UFO phenomenon, its history and the current situation. She mentioned possibly giving a workshop on UFOs and related topics sometime in the future. I hope she does. She's an excellent speaker with lots of facts and real enthusiasm for her favorite subject, UFOs.—Carolyn Duce-Ashe

### Book Review: Ancient Identities

by Richard L. Thompson

Reviewed by Carolyn Duce-Ashe

Ancient Identities, subtitled "Ancient Insights Into Modern UFO Phenomena," is the ONE book you should read this year (it's not readily available so you'll probably have to order it).

Now, having made such an unqualified recommendation, I will give you two reasons why I consider this book so important.

First, Part I of the book presents the author's meticulous and scholarly research in the worldwide UFO phenomenon.

This overview is a veritable encyclopedia of information on the subject, including science and how it relates to unidentified things, close encounters of various kinds, the role of the government, the many aspects of abductions, and a section on contactees, channels and communication.

Though there are many useful books available which trace UFO history, what makes Thompson's overview valuable is that it contains many new ideas and facts (not previously published, to my knowledge) and asks new questions of known data. Also important is his reasonable inclusion of psychic events and how they fit into the study of UFOs.

The second reason I recommend this book is for the originality of Part II: Vedic parallels to UFO phenomena.

The ancient historical and religious writings (Vedic literature) from India (some more than 4000

years old) are relatively unknown in the West but, as Thompson shows, these writings describe many factors found in UFO lore: UFO-like vehicles (vimāna), existence of other worlds, humanoids, the idea of soul, otherworldly human origins and contact with non-humans.

If you're a fan of Jacques Vallee, as I am, you've probably read his *Passport To Magonia* which compares UFOs to the Western belief in the fairy folk, fairy abductions and crossbreeding, succubi and incubi (forced sex with evil spirits), and religious visions and miracles. Thompson also discusses these Western traditions and compares them to their Eastern counterparts. There are clear correlations between them.

Further, ideas such as time dilation and parallel realms turn out to have been reported worldwide in both Eastern and Western literature throughout history as well as in modern UFO-encounter scenarios. I believe this time/space aspect is an important point which all those interested in UFOs should not overlook. Time/space considerations are not just "new age" doublespeak but are the key to quantum physics and the new science.

The author goes on to compare the negative element in UFO cases, i.e., cattle mutilations, mysterious helicopters, direct attacks on humans, MIBs, etc. to the plots in the Vedic accounts--the *Rāmāyana* and the *Mahābhārata*. Again, there are correlations. To complete the book Thompson brings OBEs, physical and psychic aftereffects of abductees, NDEs and the idea of "recycling of souls" into the discussion and shows how these anomalous activities pertain to both the Vedic and UFO questions.

Finally, he states that the evolution of consciousness is what is at stake and compares it to the role of Māyā in Vedic thought.

If all this weren't enough for you (in 414 pages) the author also includes several informative appendices, an impressive bibliography, notes and index bringing the book to a total of 492 pages.

Bravo to Richard L. Thompson for a masterly job and to all of you if you decide to read it.



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The aliens had planned their take over of the human life and the Earth for decades, centuries, even eons. They waited until the conjunction of the planets and the stars boded well, until the stock market had steadied, and until the Nielsens guaranteed them the best time slot. They placed their mock-up flying saucer (which made them snicker) on the surface in a backwater (or back desert) area of the most powerful country on the planet, an area known for its small, multigeneration farmers and well-meaning, Los Angeles-escapee crystal gazers. They called the media and then, using a secret passage, they flowed out of the saucer. Many of them were disguised as cultural icons and familiar faces, but most were the typical gray, which lead the savvy local population (tired of the strain on their precious water resources and rising land prices) to a solution for the problems the new invasion could present. They offered food, and asked the one question that the invaders were not prepared to answer! The following was sent to NM MUFON News by Santa Fe's Victoria Alexander in the Fall of 1993. She got it from Chuck Walker of Port Washington, New York, and we present it here, not quite sure what to make of it...!

## TOP TEN LIST

Ed Dames of Psi Tech, the psychic remote viewing company, has claimed UFOs will make a shocking show of force or demonstration in Northern New Mexico by August 1993. Since Augut is rapidly coming to a close, here are the Top Ten Reasons Why the Alien's failed to make a big display in New Mexico this August...

- 10) The Skiing was better on Mars.
- 9) They didn't want to get that Taos buzzing in their ears.
- 8) They forgot.
- 7) Traffic was murder getting out of the Hamptons.
- 6) They went on a last minute Crop Circle binge.
- 5) Ed, they were only fooling.
- 4) Daddy Alien said "NO".
- 3) Ed was referring to Illegal Aliens from Haiti but Bill Clinton kept them out.
- 2) Victoria Alexander threatened them too.
- 1) Nobody goes to New Mexico in August!

BONUS! A few spare excuses if they do show up but strangely no photos or video are taken of the UFOs.

- 8) A large rainstorm had just occurred and all the cameras were packed up (Hey, it worked for Dr. Steven Greer).
- 7) Film is so damn expensive!
- 6) Shit! I was never any good with cameras!
- 5) Sure, I've been peparing for ten years for this but it all happened so fastl!
- 4) Chuck Walker's puppet got in front of the lens.
- 3) Phil Klass swore they were only weather balloons.
- 2) What? You don't believe me???!!!
- 1) Wow! They don't show up n film...

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