

NOVEMBER 8, 1978 – GREENFIELD INDIANA

From the newspaper *News of Indianapolis, Indiana* – November 15, 1978: “Was It UFO Or Helicopter?” by Mike Davis Staff Reporter.

“Greenfield, Ind. – What produced those slow-moving, flashing lights in the early evening sky in Central Indiana last week? A state trooper says they were from a group of Army helicopters, flying east to west along 1-70. Another report indicates they were from a flight of experimental aircraft. But Cathy Wilfong and Cindy Bridges, two young women from Northeast Hancock County, are sure the lights were from an unidentified flying object, one they say they observed closely for 12 minutes and which left a 40-foot impression in a soybean field near their homes.

The experience, which scared both women. has not sparked more than a brief investigation by the Hancock County Sheriff's Department, mainly because helicopters were reported by State Police and other sheriff's departments. It has however, attracted the interest of the Center for UFO Study in Evanston, Ill. An investigator for the center, Allan Hendry, visited the Wilfong farm last weekend to collect soil samples and take specimens of the. soybean plants, which appear to be blown over. Mrs. Wilfong said he told her they receive 30 to 50 reports of UFO sightings each week – but the Hancock County report is only the second this year at could produce "tangible physical evidence. The first indication of trouble, Mrs. Wilfong says, came around 7 p.m. last Wednesday when electricity went

off in her home. She reset the circuit breaker, only to have the lights go out again minutes later. That happened four or five times before the lights finally stayed on, about 7:30 p.m. Later, when she and her sister decided to start a fire in the fireplace, Mrs. Bridges went to get some wood. She got in a camper to back it up... and saw bright lights in a bean field near their barn. "I thought at first an airplane had crashed - it was so big," she said. "But then I realized there was no sound, and I saw that it was a UFO. I started honking the horn for Cathy to come out, and yelling 'UFO, UFO!'" When her sister did come out, the object seemed to move toward her and both women went back in the house and shut off all the lights. "By that time, it had gone around to the back of the barn, moving real slow, with no noise. Eventually, it headed out toward the west," Mrs. Wilfong said. In all, they estimated they could see the lights for 40 minutes more. "We were horrified," Mrs. Wilfong said. "We called everyone we knew, but nobody would listen. Something that close – that huge – It's just unbelievable," she said. During his four to five-hour investigation last weekend, Hendry estimated the wing-like object was 140 feet long. A sketch by Mrs. Bridges shows it to be inverted, like a saucer turned over, with lights on the corner and a circular feature in the center. The impression left in the beans, Hendry told the women, is similar to "saucer nests" reported in Australia and elsewhere, and would indicate the UFO never did touch the ground. Skeptical law enforcement personnel have said the impression could also have been caused by the downblast from a helicopter's rotors, and one even asked the women how long it took them to flatten out the area like that. But Mrs. Wilfong said the beans are not uprooted at all, and the stems are

intertwined and matted together. She also is certain they would have heard noises had the craft been a helicopter.

"We see helicopters out here all the time... they fly along the power lines," she said. "You can always hear them coming before you ever see them. But there just wasn't any noise this time," she said. "If we hadn't gone outside, we wouldn't have known anything was there."

Spokesmen at National Guard and Army Reserve helicopter fields, near Shelbyville and McCordsville, can't confirm any of their aircraft were flying in that area. "It's possible... we do have a lot of flying on Wednesday nights," said flight instructor Paul Miller. But after a check of the records, he said it wasn't likely any National Guard helicopters were near Greenfield that night. Though she has received no confirmation from any official sources, Mrs. Wilfong said she still wanted to publicize the incident so others would know she had seen something she couldn't explain. "Maybe others saw the same thing, or maybe someone has found a 'saucer nest' and didn't know what it was. If so, and if they come forward and say something about it, then that makes it worthwhile."

UFO center investigators told the women last weekend it is unlikely the object they saw will ever return, but they say they're still taking no chances. "I keep the drapes pinned shut on the \Vest windows anyway," Mrs. Wilfong said. "I was too petrified by the whole experience. If it comes back, I want to be the first one to see it... not have it out there seeing me!"



*Cathy Wilfong (left) and Cindy Bridges
near impression left in field (photo by Mike Davis)*

Reliability evaluation:

TRUE

