



3 unhappy years later

Life hasn't been the same since that UFO

(More pictures, Pg. 8)

DELPHOS — It's been almost 3 years since Ronnie Johnson stood paralyzed as an unidentified flying object hovered near his sheep and hog pens. That was 7 pm Nov. 2, 1971.

Life hasn't been the same since for Ronnie or his parents. Mr. and Mrs. Durel Johnson, who also saw the object.

The story has been well-documented in publications ranging from The Salina Journal to the National Enquirer to the Kansas City Magazine, not to mention several UFO and scientific publications.

The Johnsons, in April, 1973, were awarded \$5000 by the National Enquirer



By

Jim

Suber

for the UFO story "that supplied the most scientifically valuable evidence (of extraterrestrial life) in 1972."

With \$5000 extra in the bank (they eventually paid off some farm bills) and the appearances of scientists and journalists lending credence to the story, things seemed to be looking up for a

while. But the story hasn't had a happy ending. Nor has it ended, according to Ronnie.

It was about 7 pm April 27, 1974, when Ronnie burst into the house where his mother and father were finishing supper.

"I told you it was coming back again," Ronnie told his parents. Durel and Erma ran outside.

"It was the same one, or one just like it," Mrs. Johnson said. "It circled the spot where it was before, then circled the house and took off east. It moved fast, fast. They're faster than anything else."

Mrs. Johnson said that before the 1971 sighting, she had been a disbeliever in UFOs.

A numb spot on her thigh, the nervous

For a Delphos family

problems of the entire family, the glowing array — that's meant literally — of evidence in the farmyard, Ronnie's new-found psychic powers and Durel's wristwatch problem have made a believer out of her.

Ronnie's psychic powers cannot be explained by him. It's a feeling he gets and words don't come to describe the feeling when he's asked about it. He knows the UFO will return a 3rd time, but he says he doesn't know how he knows.

"The scientists who were here believe he was examined by whoever was on the thing," Johnson said. "They wanted to

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SALINA JOURNAL

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Circle of mystery

The Johnsons show where UFO hovered, leaving a bare band of earth around weeds in center.

(Journal Photos by Dennis Lundgren)

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(Continued from Page 1)

hypnotize him but we said, 'no.'" Ronnie remembers only being about 75 feet away from the craft when it first came.

Soon after the first visit, the wife of the Johnson's eldest son was killed in a bizarre auto crash at Salina. The son rarely visits the strange circle behind his parents' home.

Just days after the 2nd sighting, Ronnie begged his other sister-in-law not to drive to Salina. She did anyway and was involved in an accident. Fortunately, she wasn't seriously injured.

Ronnie wishes he didn't have those premonitions. And he wishes he didn't have those nightmares from which his parents have often awakened him after he shouts, "They aren't getting away this time."

After the April sighting, the household current would not supply enough power to operate the lights, television and appliances.

DS&O electrical cooperative was called, and men came to put a larger transformer on the line. A new house down the road had just been hooked on to the road lines.

But when the crewmen climbed a ladder to change the transformer, one looked at Durel and asked if the farmstead was the one where the UFO had been sighted.

"I said, 'yes, why?'" Durel said. "And they just looked at each other and shook their heads." They replaced everything on the yard system — even the wooden pole and the nuts and bolts. The family has had sufficient power since.

Touched glowing ring

Mrs. Johnson said the numbness in her leg came when she reached down and rubbed her hand in the glowing, 18-inch wide ring that defined a 9-foot diameter circle left in the earth from the first visit. Her hand, and Durel's, immediately went numb. She brushed her leg frantically and the back of her head. Those areas became numb. Feeling has returned to her head and hand, but the leg stays insensitive to pain.

Several weeks ago, a Minneapolis doctor stuck needles in the thigh and even drew blood, but Mrs. Johnson said she felt nothing.

"I asked him what it was," Johnson said, "and all he would say was that it was just a numb leg."

The nerve pills — Mrs. Johnson's nervousness is described as something "arthritic"; Johnson says he can't sleep unless he takes them; and Ronnie has an inflamed nerve in his stomach — are taken regularly by all 3.

When Mrs. Johnson was hospitalized last month for a general checkup and the disorders, doctors scanned her brain.

sons believe, and a backyard test seems to bear out that conclusion.

Ronnie told reporters that battery-operated radios once quit playing altogether inside the circle. As he moved a transistor about the area, without turning the antenna or adjusting the dials, the sound would fade in certain spots to an inaudible level from a high and hard rock beat.

The livestock haven't been the same since that January in 1971.

Ronnie says his ewes were just ready to lamb when the UFO came. Just 6 months and 50 pounds later, the new lambs gave birth to tiny lambs, none of which lived. The 6-month-old lambs had not been bred.

In the nearby hog pen were about a dozen prize sows. Only 4 have had litters since 1971, and recently Johnson sold the others. He put 3 different boars inside with the sows.

Paralyzed

Ronnie, the sheep, the hogs and a pet dog, "Snowball", all were paralyzed until the UFO left after the first visit, the Johnsons said. The dog, several months later, began bleeding from the head. A Glasco veterinarian put it to sleep for exploratory surgery and found a weed-like, 3½-inch growth in its nostril. "It's not like any weed we have around here," Johnson said as he looked at it through a glass encasing. The growth's barb-like head had been pointed up the nostril.

Since the first sighting, Johnson said, he has been unable to wear a wristwatch more than 2 days. He owns 2 now, and alternates them. A Salina jeweler hasn't been able to find anything wrong with several Johnson discarded before he began alternating them.

UFO buffs put together a report for the 1972 Midwest UFO conference. From what Ronnie told them, the entire surface of the vehicle glowed as brightly as an "arc welder". It is about 10 feet tall, rounded at the top, pushed out in the middle and tapers to a 9-foot diameter at the base.

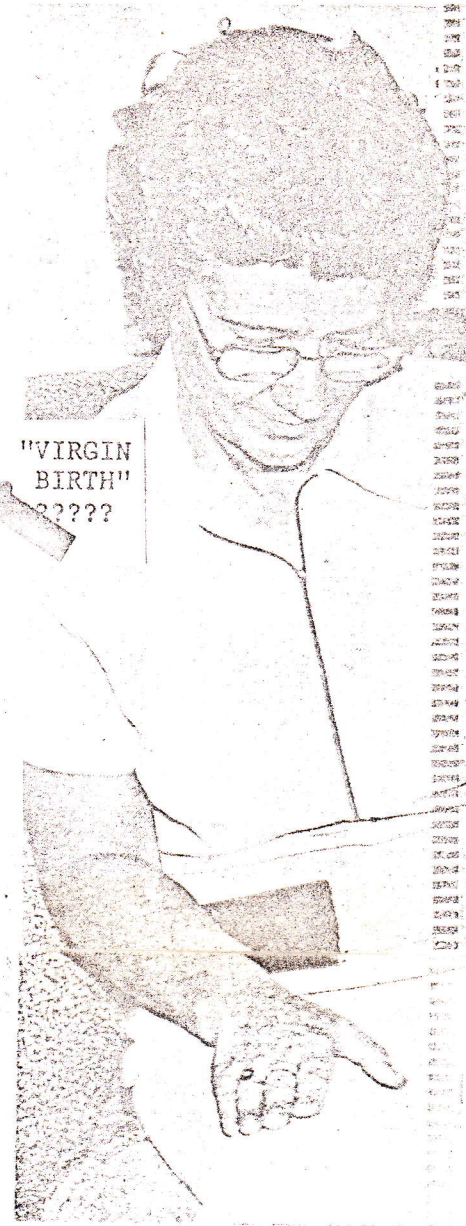
It sounded like an off-balance old fashioned washing machine, Ronnie told investigators.

Perhaps the saddest story of many surrounding the episode is the laughter. Laughter which, the Johnsons say, eventually forced a decision by Ronnie to quit Minneapolis high school.

Ronnie, who plans to be married in a few months, helps his father on the farm and works part-time in surrounding communities.

Scoffed

He said the laughing disbelievers would say things such as, "Seen any of those little green men lately?" Most of those who scoffed and made fun never bothered to visit the farm, where all



"VIRGIN BIRTH" ????

Still numb

Mrs. Johnson rubs her numb thigh with hand that touched glowing earth left by UFO's first visit.

time, he wants to be taken aboard conscious.

Mrs. Johnson said: "I hope it never comes back, but if it does, I want to be on it. I have a right to know why this has happened to us."

It might not be related, but the creature seen last summer at Delphos, dubbed by some "The Wolf Girl", matched descriptions of similar beings spotted near Emporia and in Nebraska, also after UFO sightings.

The creature was described by Ronnie — he says he saw it during a ruttle chase — as having wild, blonde hair, wearing a torn red dress of cloth, about 3 feet tall and as standing with a stoop.

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When Mrs. Johnson was hospitalized last month for a general checkup and the disorders, doctors scanned her brain.

"I could swear that I smelled the same odor as the time they (scientists) were digging in the circle," she said. The odor, which she couldn't link to anything earthly, gave her and her husband severe headaches.

What the scientists — Dr. Allen Hynek, former advisor to the Air Force on UFOs and later severe critic of the military's handling of UFO reports; Ted Phillips, who took soil samples to Northwestern university and Dr. E. J. Zeller, University of Kansas physicist and geologist — did was interview the Johnsons extensively and take core samples of the glowing ring.

Trees glazed

A mineral-like substance was found to go 15 inches deep into the soil. "I call it mildew," Johnson said. The trees surrounding the tiny area have a light glaze on some of the branches facing the circle. Inside the circle, weeds grow out to the band. And outside the band an in a gap in the circle—it's shaped like a lock washer—weeds grow. Young shoots manage to encroach for a while, but once in the band, they wither.

Zeller, in his report, said he found the soil in the band to be "impermeable" to

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Ronnie says the UFO will return. Next



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"When it ran, it got down on all fours and ran away faster than anything human can run," Ronnie said.

The "Wolf Girl" hasn't been seen since. Or at least it hasn't been reported. Ronnie cannot say if the UFO and the creature are related.

But he does say the UFO is coming back.

NOTE that Ronnie not only reports TWO UFO sightings, but also that he has seen "The Wolf Girl" allegedly seen following UFO sightings in Kansas & Nebraska.

