



# Woman recalls UFO

By BILL CASE  
Aviation Writer

A pioneer Wise County woman now almost 92 says an unidentified flying object did crash in Aurora, Texas, April 13, 1897, and the body of the UFO pilot was recovered and buried in the Aurora Cemetery.

"I was only about 15 at the time and had all but forgotten the incident until it appeared in the papers recently," Mrs. Mary Evans, now living in Newark west of Aurora, told The Times Herald in an exclusive interview Tuesday.

"We were living in Aurora at the time but my mother and father wouldn't let me go with them when they went up to the crash site at Judge Proctor's well.

"When they returned home they told me how the airship had exploded. The pilot was torn up and killed in the crash. The men of the town who gathered

ered his remains said he was a 'small man' and buried him that same day in Aurora Cemetery."

Mrs. Evans, widely known as "Grandma Evans" by residents of the rolling Wise County valley in which Aurora, Rhone and Newark are located closely together, is still active. She lives in her own home across the street from relatives and is an alert and avid fan of daytime television soap operas.

"That crash certainly caused a lot of excitement," she said. "Many people were frightened. They didn't know what to expect. That was years before we had any regular airplanes or other kinds of airships."

Mrs. Evans' statement is the first tangible evidence by a living resident of the area backing up a newspaper story filed April 20, 1897 by H. E. Hayden, an Aurora newspaper correspondent and cotton buyer, which was pub-

lished in both Dallas and Fort Worth papers.

In his story 76 years ago Hayden wrote: "The remains of the pilot were gathered together. It was determined he was not an inhabitant of this world and he was given a Christian burial in Aurora Cemetery."

Over the years Hayden's story was debunked and branded by both the press and the public as a hoax. Reporters from The Times Herald and investigators from UFO private investigative organizations who began checking Hayden's report with the aid of scientific metal detection equipment, radiation meters and other devices three months ago have recovered unidentifiable pieces of strange metal at the well site.

"We have sent at least seven different types of unusual metal to the laboratories of one of America's largest aircraft manufacturers for complete

See WOMAN on Page 3

Mrs Mary Evans . . .

. . . she remembers UFO

# METROPOLITAN

## THE DALLAS TIMES HERALD

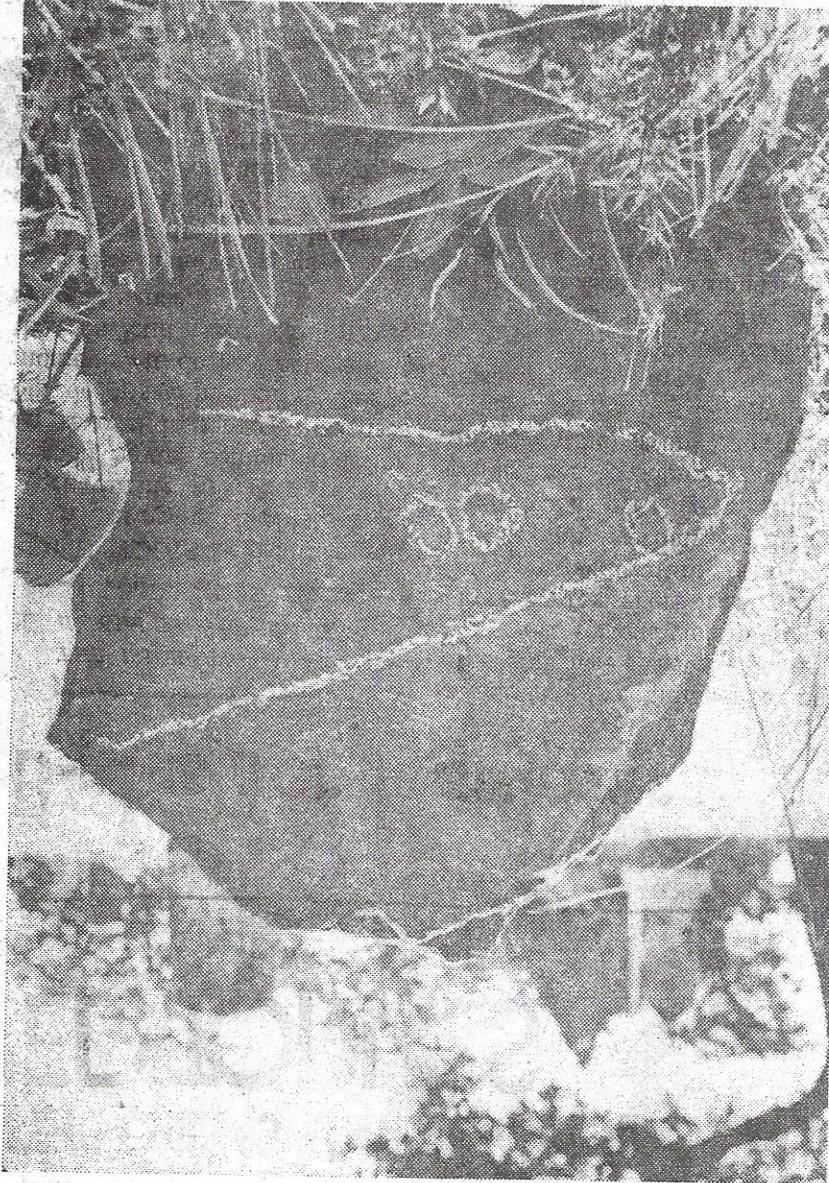
Editorials

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Wednesday, May 30, 1973

CHALK OUTLINES a rough carving on a grave headstone indicated the shape of a legendary spaccraft that supposedly crashed in 1897 at Aurora, Wise County. At least two elderly residents of Aurora recall the occurrence and the burial of the pilot's dismembered body beneath a gnarled oak in the cemetery.

—Staff Photo by Bill Cope



"We now are awaiting scientific evaluation of the metal samples and expect a report by next Monday," he added. "There seems virtually no doubt of a genuine UFO crash at the site. And if we get on the well site. And if we get doubt of a genuine UFO crash at the site. And if we get on the well site. And if we get

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Continued From Page 1

WOMAN \*

# Discovery of Evidence Surrounding 1897 UFO Crash Baffles Scientists

By OKSANA SENCZYSZAK

An abandoned cemetery in Aurora, Tex., is the site of one of the most intensive UFO investigations ever. An alien spaceman is believed to have been buried there when his unidentified flying object crashed in 1897.

Today, 76 years later, a group of UFO investigators have found what they say may be pieces of the demolished aircraft.

The unknown space vehicle crashed into a rural windmill and exploded on April 19, 1897—six years before the first air flight made by man.

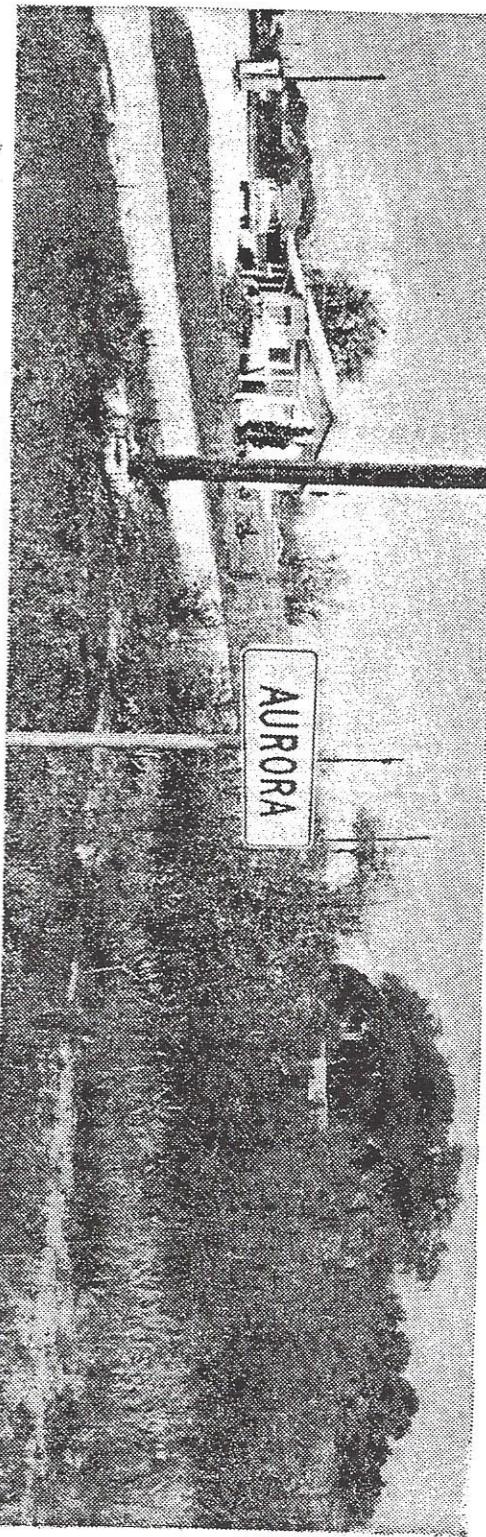
Scientists who studied the metal fragments from the crash site revealed that they are an aluminum alloy "unknown in the U.S. until about 1910 and not produced on this earth until early in the 20th century."

TAKING PART in the investigation are the International UFO Bureau, the National Investigative Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP) and the Midwest UFO Network (MUFON). Hayden Hewes, director of the International UFO Bureau, explained: "According to reports at the time, the airship was scattered over several acres by the explosion which followed its crashing into the windmill." The windmill, however, was blown to pieces. However, enough remains were gathered to determine it was not an inhabitant of this world.

"The body was given a Christian burial in the Aurora Cemetery."



SIGNPOST announces arrival to Aurora, Tex., where UFO is believed to have crashed in 1897.



"We were living in Aurora at the time, but my mother and father wouldn't let me go with them when they went up to the crash site at Judge Proctor's well.

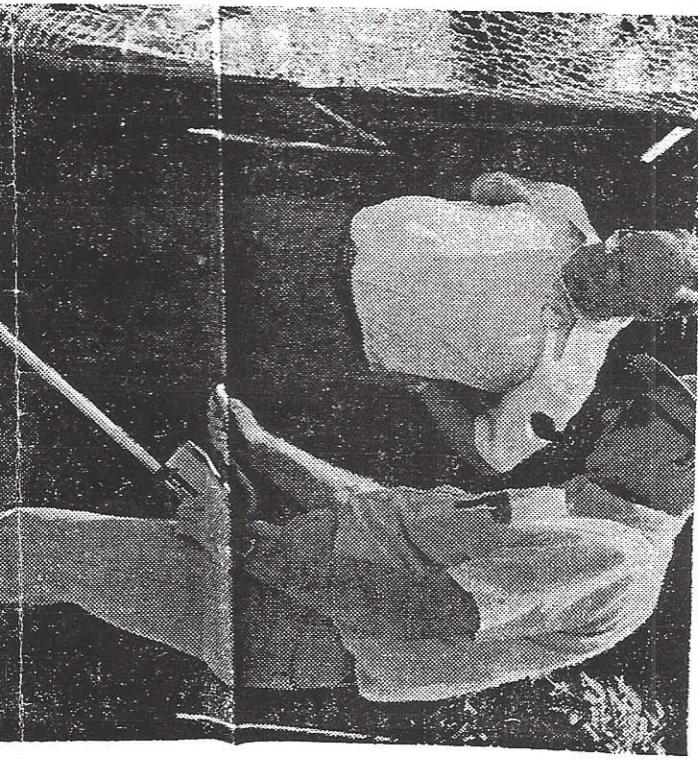
"When they returned home, they told me how the airship had exploded. The pilot was torn up and killed in the crash. The men of the town who gathered his remains said he was a 'small man' and buried him that same day in Aurora Cemetery.

"THAT CRASH certainly caused a lot of excitement," added Mrs. Evans. "Many people were frightened. They didn't know what to expect. That was years before we had ... ... ... ... ... other kinds of airships."

But Mrs. Elta Pegusas, a novelist and local historian living in Newark, and some men sitting around a campfire, did not agree. She said the story was a hoax.

"It was cooked up by a newspaperman named R. Hayden and some men sitting around a campfire."

Mrs. Mary Evans and other community residents who called the crash "a hoax" and wanted to prevent further



Aerial in the Aurora Cemetery.

BUT THE AURORA Cemetery has long since been abandoned, and most of its gravestones have been broken or stolen.

When UFO investigators announced they were going to try to find the spot where the purported spaceman was buried and then dig it up, a court order was obtained to prevent their entry.

The order was sought by members of the Aurora Cemetery Association

wanted to prevent further disturbance of the graves.

As a result, armed police have been posted before the entrance of the cemetery to prevent anyone—especially UFO in-

vestigators—from entering.

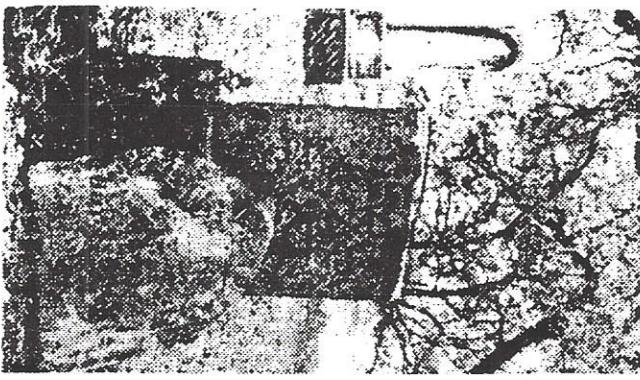
BUT EVEN WITHOUT digging up the graveyard, Hayden Hewes and other investigators have come up with quite a bit of evidence to prove that the crash was indeed real.

According to newspaper reports at the time, the craft—which had been spotted in the vicinity several times—swooped low over the rural home of Judge J.S. Proctor. It struck the windmill in his yard and blew up.

The 1967 newspaper account also noted that papers found on the pilot's body appeared to be some sort of log of his travels. They were written in an unknown language which could not be deciphered. No one knows what became of these invaluable records.

UFO INVESTIGATORS have combed the Aurora countryside, seeking elderly people who have witnessed, in their childhood, events surrounding the crash.

Among the hundreds of persons they spoke with was Mrs. Mary Evans, 92. "I was only about 15 at the time," she told them, "and had all but forgotten the incident until it appeared in the papers recently.



CEMETERY where spaceman may be buried.

and some men men sitting around a general store," she said. "In fact, there never was a windmill on the Judge Proctor residence."

According to Brawley Oates, who now owns the land where the crash occurred, a windmill once exist on the property.

"In 1945, my nephew, a friend and I sealed off the old well where the windmill stood," he said. "We even dug out the windmill's wooden corner posts, which were still in the ground."

THE MEN WHO cleaned up the site 28 years ago may have also thrown out some valuable clues to the spacecraft—namely, metal fragments from the demolished vehicle.

"We cleaned out a large amount of metal and just threw it aside in the dirt," said Oates. "It was the same stuff the investigators are now

analyzing.

Mrs. Oates told UFO investigators that in the years she and her family have lived on the property, "nothing not even weeds, will grow in the areas where the mysterious metal was found."

With all this new evidence, there is a good chance UFO officials will be given a special permit to dig up the alien spaceman as they had intended.

According to Dr. J. Allen Hynek,

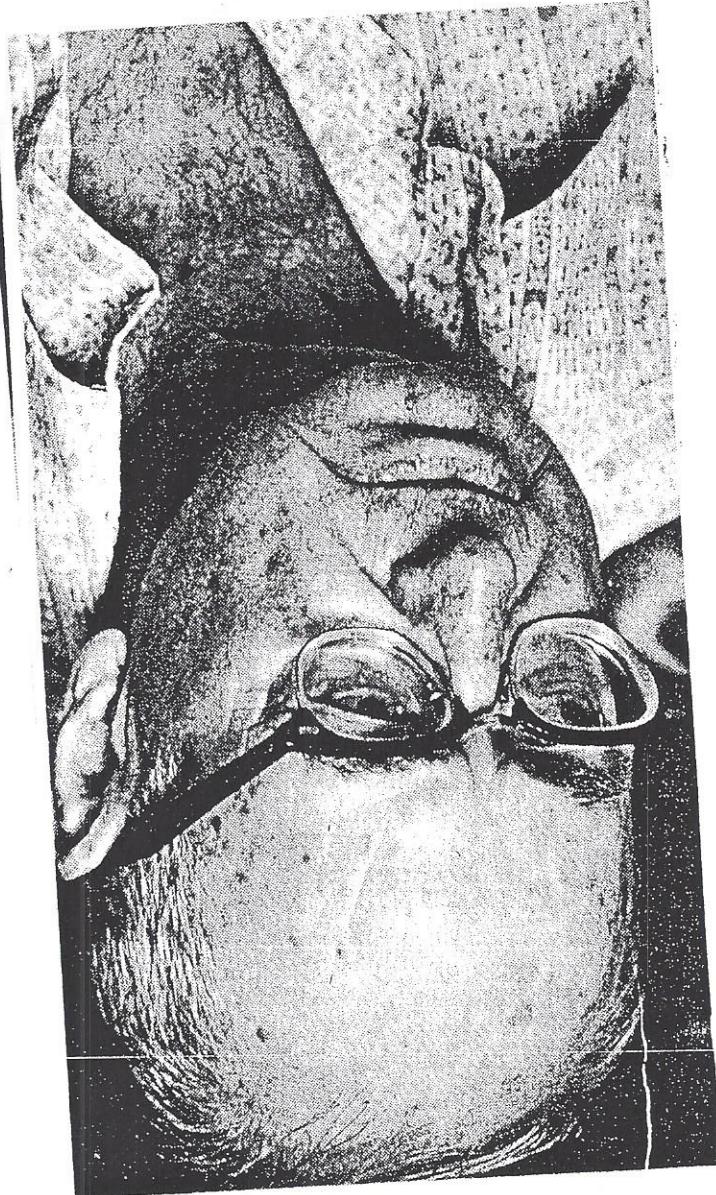
chief consultant of MUFON, "This most recent evidence highly suggests that the actual crash of an aerial object did indeed occur."

"IN VIEW OF BOTH the identification of the metal and the testimony of some of the members of the most respected pioneer families in the area who have given details of the reported crash, the likelihood that this is a hoax seems more and more improbable."



DETECTOR is used to find UFO metal.

True Believer



Brawley Dates, owner of farm where UFO may have crashed, believes the story is true. (Staff Photo by Steve Sisney.)

## **Answers**

# METROPOLITAN

## THE DALLAS TIMES HERALD

4-B \*\*\* Fri., July 13, 1973, DALLAS TIMES HERALD

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Fri., July 13, 1973

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Andrus noted that most people of Chinese descent had developed an attitude and sense of what time "through some one else's is what they were seeing. But, said it 20-20 hindsight, we know today there was both. "We're these thousands of people merely seeing hallucinations," he asked rhetorically. "People who say there's nothing new under the sun are exactly right. We're seeing the same things today (the most recent, [last] occurred during the first three days in August, 1965). People saw them." One thing has changed, however. Andrus, said that is the shape of the UFO's, said Andrus.

Townspeople have become an-  
Based on evidence collected  
thus far and investigations and  
work done by investigators  
Times Herald aviation writer  
Bill Case, Andrus is close to  
being convinced it did.  
“No in-depth story of a re-  
ported crash site has been  
done before now,” he said.  
“The work done here by Case  
and (MUFON member) Earl  
Watts shows there was proba-  
bly some sort of crash. Case  
himself has made 27 trips, 26  
more than some folks have  
made under similar circum-  
stances.”

Andrus admits the Aurora  
Cemetery Association is “justifi-  
ably angry” over what has  
happened since the high-pub-  
licized investigations began.  
He added a personal appeal  
that MUFTI investigators be  
allowed to conduct a “strictly  
private” examination of the  
gravesite in hopes of ending  
the investigation.

Further evidence Andrus  
considers persuasive is found  
in “the thousands of reports  
across the United States in  
1897” of UFO’s.

“Texas was literally loaded  
down with sightings at that  
time,” he said, “what we call  
today a ‘lull’, meaning a suc-  
cessive period of sightings over a

Continued from Page I

gered over the slighter's at  
of the UFO pilot has been pin-  
trated to the area by the re-  
pointed through use of a metal  
detector which registered the  
posed grave of the "space pi-  
lot", also has been stolen and  
found at the supposed crash  
site.

The Aurora Cemetery Assoc.  
ciation has refused to allow  
a herd of elephants stampedede  
out of the grave, through it."

# Ufologist asks probe of grave

4-B \*\*\* July 13, 1973, DALLAS TIMES HERALD

# METROPOLITAN

## THE DALLAS TIMES HERALD

Editorials

B

Thurs., May 31, 1973

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Extra effort has been placed on the investigation of metal detectors and "puzzling" and unusual craft company scientists say they find sample of metal. Gray said from the belief readings as they receive the same detection remote grave in the country cemetery MUFOON investigators have located a Using metal detectors reporters and

Christian burial in Aurora Cemetery," it said.

"It was determined not to be an inhabited part of this world and was given a following the crash.

Scattered by the men of the community dismembered body of the pilot was

crashed and the pilot's body recovered. case where a UFO is said to have crashed because this is the only known crash investigation of the reported UFO. Extra effort has been placed on the investigation of metal detectors and "puzzling" and unusual craft company scientists say they find belief readings as they receive the same detection remote grave in the country cemetery MUFOON investigators have located a Using metal detectors reporters and

Christian burial in Aurora Cemetery," it said.

A preliminary report on this collection of all known metals.

The 1977 newspaper report said the body of the reported UFO pilot, "which to base a request to examine the would then have settled evidence on definitely unusual by the scientists we least one of the metals is considered Thursday. "It the results indicate at spokesman told The Times Herald that the circumsances is possible under the unique properties," a spokesman said in a preliminary report. "We are showing unique properties," a spokesman said the sample also was

shiny, non-magnetic and tests thus far back run-through in a computer bank during spectroscopic tests and a feed-

giving this a complete run-down, he said.

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"One of the ever different pieces said

"one of the nation's largest

reports to one of the nation's largest

research facilities said

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uation of the metals from as many

Gray said his reports will be sent to

be done.",

proves to be a rather strange beast,

"This sample may require much

time to be a scientist," he said.

Dr. Gray emphasized he did not mean his comments to indicate the

sample was of earthly or extraterrestrial

"This sample may require much

time to be a scientist," he said.

Most alloys which contain iron are

iron.",

Gray said, "It is also shiny and malleable, instead of dull and brittle like

"But it lacks properties common to

with some other trace elements.

Gray said his reports will be sent to

but is not magnetic," he explained.

"However, the most intriguing thing

is that it is made up primarily of iron,

however, this sample is the most interesting thing

about it is to be about 25 per cent zinc,

first analysis shows it to be about

75 per cent iron, and 25 per cent zinc,

NTSU department of biological samples

Gray said Dr. David Redden of the

Brarwley Dates farm home in Aurora,

North Texas State University faculty

physicist Dr. Tom Gray of the

Physics Department of the

University of North Texas, April 19, 1977

had found one out of four pieces

being tested in his laboratory, "pu-

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as puzzling, unusual

Staff Writer  
By BILL CASE

Two of three laboratories testing

metals near a well,

metals to recover four pieces of differ-

ent materials near a well.

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## At Site Of UFO Crash

# Odessa Recovers Mystery Metal!

By JERRI OSBORN

American Staff Writer

Curiosity and a love for prospecting took Jack Hansen to Aurora Northeast of Dallas in Wise County.

He returned to Odessa with a mysterious metal and a "wait and see" attitude about the legend behind it.

Hansen says he neither believes nor disbelieves the legend that says the metal pieces are fragments of an airship that crashed in Aurora in 1897.

The few pieces Hansen found are kept in a small plastic box. He plans to keep them until someone determines the exact composition of the metal.

"It says right here that it is 75 per cent iron," Hansen says, pointing out an article in an astrology newspaper — July's issue but already well worn from handling and folding.

"I don't know," Hansen said when asked why the metal wasn't heavy like iron. "The scientists don't understand it either."

Dr. Tom Gray of North Texas State University terms the pieces of metal "unusual." They are not magnetic as iron is. They are shiny rather than dull like iron and soft instead of brittle.

Hansen, a coin collector, handles the metal like a precious stone. Unlike a precious stone, the metal isn't pretty or even impressive. It has striations that look like a piece of scratched tin adhered to a piece of rock, but it is not rock or tin. It is as light as aluminum but it is not.

dug out the corner posts of the wood mill years ago.

"He had cleaned out the well and said he gave a huge amount of metal he found there to the scrap metal drive during World War II," Hansen said. That means, if it turns out there was a "ship," Hansen said, "then some of our planes had some alien metal in them."

The legend says the pilot of the flying object was blown to pieces on impact.

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There are two graves that are being considered as the possible burial site of the remains.

"One is marked with just a stone," Hansen said. He took pictures of both sites. "The stone they had on the other one was stolen sometime this summer," he continued.

UFO officials wanted to find the grave and dig it up earlier this summer. A court order, sought by some citizens of Aurora who feel the whole thing is a hoax, prevented the UFO personnel from entering the cemetery

Hansen says a court order is now being sought by the UFO bureau to open the graves.

"It would be a simple matter to cover the graves back up if they turned out to be wrong," Hansen maintains.

But some people are just "stubborn," according to Hansen, referring to Aurora residents that continue to block the exhumation.

Hansen admits he has taken

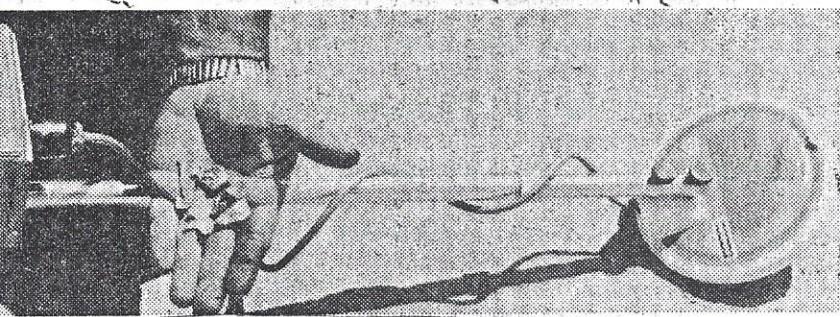
Oates' word for it when it comes to the fact that the metal he now possesses is the same as

the metal the UFO people took with them this summer and the same that Oates threw away so long ago.

And he says he doesn't believe all he's read about the metal or the legend or events surrounding it.

He was excited when he found the metal, though. "It was sort of like finding gold," he said comparing his feelings.

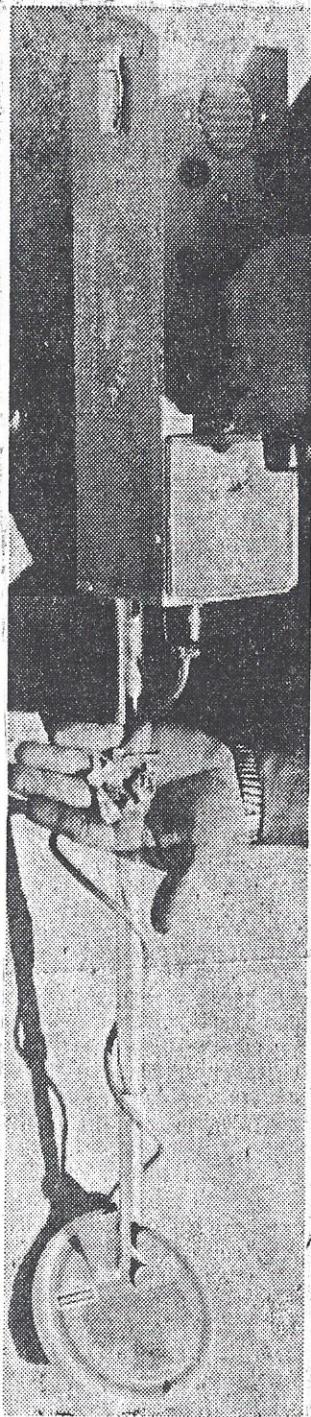
No, he won't sell the metal at any price. Not yet.



"stone," Hanssen said. He took pictures of both sites. "The stone they had on the other one covered the graves back up if they turned out to be wrong," Hanssen mumbled.

But some people are just "stubborm," according to Aurora Hasseen, referring to Aurora residents that continue to block the exhumation.

Hanssen admits he has taken steps to the fact that the metal comes to the fact that the metal is a hoax, preventing the Aurora who feel the whole thing is now possessed is the same





# Alleged UFO site

MAY 18 1973

## Placed off limits

By BILL CASE  
Aviation Writer

The owner of property in Aurora, Wise County, where a UFO reportedly crashed into a windmill and exploded April 19, 1897, resulting in the pilot's death, put the property "off limits" Friday to all but official UFO investigators.

Mrs. Brawley Oates, who has lived 26 years on the farm where a scientific treasure hunter found unidentifiable metal fragments Thursday, said hundreds of amateurs have visited the area and dug it up.

She said she expects more persons on Saturday and Sunday after the latest publicity. "If there is any evidence a UFO crashed there we want to protect the metal until it can be analyzed by qualified laboratory," she said. "Because witnesses have been breaking things up, including some of the metal they found, we are closing the site to only scientific UFO investigators until they can complete their work with special equipment."

Oates said Friday he would restrict the search to those who have spent weeks working on the site.

Brawley Oates, 65, owner of the well site property where the UFO reportedly crashed 76 years ago, said additional bits of the unknown metal were recovered Friday by a relative, N. Kelley of Corpus Christi, a 25-year veteran treasure hunter and professional lost-metal locator, used a deep-probe metal detector to locate about a dozen pieces of thin light-weight metal.

"I've never seen any metal like this. It isn't aluminum, steel, iron or any alloy I know," he said.

Hayden Hewes, director of the International UFO Bureau in Oklahoma City, was to conduct the search Saturday for more of the mysterious metal fragments.

Hewes and his organization have been combing the area since March and also are trying to locate the grave of the pilot reportedly buried in the Aurora Cemetery.

Oates said Friday he would restrict the search to those who have spent weeks working on the site.

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