

Possible camp-site for UFO seekers found

GRAND JUNCTION, Colo. (AP) — A group of 20 persons, possibly those who are said to have left Oregon en route to an unidentified flying object to carry them to a "better life" spent several days camping in western Colorado.

Some 20 persons disappeared in Oregon after attending a meeting in Waldport on Sept. 14. A man and a woman said they were from outer space and said they could show people how to transcend to a level above that of humans, possibly going to another planet.

State and local police in Oregon say they are baffled by the disappearances. Some of the persons are said to have given away their possessions and severed family ties.

Dorothy O'Donnell, of Grand Junction, said the group of about 20 persons camped at the Colorado National Monument near here from about Sept. 19 to Sept. 22.

A woman member of the group told of giving away her baby, she said. The group spent the evenings reading what appeared to be a Bible, she said. A card postmarked in Fruita, Colo., was sent to Hilda Eton of Yachats by her son, Dan Staggs, 43, of Springfield.

Eton received the letter Sept. 22, during the period the group of 20 people was seen on the monument. The card, which did not have any picture on it, could have been mailed from the visitor center at the monument, where the group was camped, and still carried a Fruita post mark.

One of the people reported to have been with Staggs was a woman named Charity who had given away her baby.

The postcard to Eton said her son did not plan to contact her again.

A radio station talk show host, Victor Boc, in San Jose, said Monday evening that he had contact with the movement and that a camp had been set up temporarily in Grand Junction but had been moved to southwestern Colorado.

A Pagosa Springs-based investigator for the Durango district attorney, Bill Richardson, said that he had become familiar with a movement that fits the description of the Oregon meetings.

Richardson said that at least one person who had been "extremely successful" in that community had dropped out of sight, apparently to join the movement.

The name of that person has not been released because local law enforcement officials want to be in a position to help any residents should they return to the area in need of help.

A meeting was held in Pagosa Springs six weeks ago by the movement, Richardson said. Literature circulated there appears to be the same as that circulated prior to the meetings in late summer and early fall in Oregon and California.

Similar literature has also been mailed from Nederland, Colo., a small community west of Boulder.

Richardson also said that a woman calling herself Electra has been in Pagosa Springs earlier this year preparing for the arrival of other persons in the movement.

She had since gone to other communities in the West and Midwest, Richardson said.

Oregon officers have said they believed members of the movement had been coming to Colorado from that state. Eton confirmed in an interview that her son had given his house to a girl friend and had left Oregon driving a 1966 blue foreign station wagon.

He did not say that he was leaving and Eton has only received the post card from him.

Victor Boc said that the middle-aged couple that has been conducting the meetings expects to be killed by opponents of the

movement at a meeting such as the one Wednesday.

The couple has reportedly said at the meetings that they would leave the earth as the result of their deaths within a month but would be followed to earth by others like them in 1,000 years.

Persons who have attended the meetings say they have the impressions that believers expect to commit suicide so that they can be reincarnated and taken to a place described as similar to Christian Heaven.

The monument is a park, with a public camp ground.

The group of 20 people observed at the monument was described as composed of "hippie types" by O'Donnell.

"It was like her mind was half shot," O'Donnell said of the young woman who had given away her baby. The young woman wandered into the O'Donnell camp on the monument several times.

Eton said she objected to any group that required its members to

break ties with relatives. She said she wanted the story known so that others would not have to go through the "agonizing" she is going through. She said her son was always trying to find the answer to things.

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