

Manager's log
Thursday, April the 16th 2020

Well, yesterday I was just finishing lunch around one o'clock nice afternoon and I heard this jet come flying. It was the regular route they come over Bald Hill and they make that dip and come in to go through Mill Creek gap there. They usually do that. And so I heard it come through and figured well I'm not going to get out in the backyard and see if I can see it. It'd be long gone. And then I heard another one. I thought wow, there goes another one. And as I was walking, make my way to the backyard. heard another one go by. This time I got out to where I can see Mill Creek gap. There goes the fourth one. Only this one wasn't going through the gap, it was on the opposite side. On then further side of the hill. I thought Wow, that's different.

I said myself, Well, there's tomorrow's Managers Log. Sometime back in the either the late 1980s or the early 1990s, there was a lot more jet traffic come through the valley. Usually they'll come over Bald Hill and come down and go through Mill Creek gap. And I found out later that that route was established as a training route back when they had prop planes back in World War Two. That's when that was set, that route was established, because that terrain is very similar to that in Germany. And since then, now we get the Jets come through there.

Well back then, like I say, either the late 80s or the early 90s. There were jets that were coming through the valley and they're coming from the south end and they went towards Bald Hill. So they'd come down and dipped into the valley and jetted on out. That was very strange. And they were very loud. And people were complaining that the windows are rattling and people were frightened by that. And so I got on the phone to find where those jets are coming from?

So what I did is I start calling, I called the Coast Guard over on the coast. And of course, they didn't know. So I asked him, Well, who should I call so they gave me a number to call and I call an the air force base that was nearby and they had no flights going out and they suggested another phone number. And so I kept calling around calling around different Air Force bases until I finally found out where they're coming from. And all this time I was recording all this. Back in the days when we record things on reel to reel tapes. Then you take the razor blade and the edit tape and you splice all the things out that you don't want and splice together everything back together again.

So that's what I did. I did this recording of all the phone calls I was making. And the person that I was talking with, of course, I told him I was recording this from a radio station, making a report and making a story following leads, trying to find out where these jets come from. I called it the Great Jet Chase. And I found out they were coming from Southern California, Edwards Air Force Base.

I talked with some person there and they got me in touch with their commander. I told him what was happening. They're coming from the south and they're coming through the valley at low altitude and going up over Bald Hill . And he says, What coming from the south? I said, yes. He says that they're not supposed to. That's not the route. That's a very dangerous maneuver. And I said, Well, yeah, I people were frightened. Babies are crying, dogs didn't know what to do. What the heck's going on?

A council member at the time had gone to Nevada to make an official complaint about jets flying back, flying across the valley. And that's how we found out that was a route that was established back in World War Two and hasn't been changed. So that's somewhere in a studio somewhere in the station. There's a cassette tape that says The Great Jet Chase probably has the year on it, too. And that is the recording of the telephone conversations I had with various Air Force personnel and commanders finding out where are these jets all coming from, and those jets that were coming from the south end of

the valley, up over bald Hill. They're coming from Edwards Air Force Base in Southern California. So that's that story. And that's a memory of that time. So thanks for listening. Stay safe, stay healthy.