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LOCAL

March 14, 2005

Meteor video could fetch paycheck

By JONELALECCIA
Mail Tribune

A Talent woman whose children videotaped a flaming object in the sky Saturday figures it could be riches from heaven.

Seppie Greico, 39, fielded several calls Sunday from regional television producers eager to buy scarce footage of what scientists say was probably a meteor that streaked across the Northwest skies.

"Ain't nobody else got video of it," said Greico, who added that network representatives were offering "hundreds of dollars" for her video.

"This thing was seen all the way to Canada," she said.

Greico's 13-year-old son, Jimmy Georgeson, was practicing skateboard jumps Saturday evening for his sister, Karly Greico, 11, and cousin, Bree Larson, 14. Larson was videotaping Jimmy's stunts at around 7:45 p.m., when a ball of fire shot across the heavens.

"It lit up, like, a lot of the sky," said Larson. "It was turquoise. It was really scary."

The kids ran into the house, where they discovered they'd captured the fiery object on film. Greico called KOB1-TV, the NBC affiliate in Medford, and station personnel recorded the image from her television and put it on the air.

Since then, Greico's phone has been ringing with calls from others seeking access to her tape.

Indeed, Dan Tilkin, a representative for the ABC affiliate in Portland, said his station was interested in verifying Greico's footage with meteor experts for possible use.

"It's a real quick shot," he said. "It looks like a green blob. It looks like a street light, which is why it was kind of suspicious."

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If the video proved to be genuine, Tilkin said the station might pay handsomely for it.

"We start around a hundred bucks," he said. "It can be more if they drive a hard bargain. It depends on how badly my boss wants it."

Video of the likely meteor would still be valuable, even a couple days after the object startled viewers from Seattle to Southern Oregon, Tilkin said.

"Everyone's still talking about it," he said.

Greico, who runs a used bed store in Phoenix, said she hasn't settled on a price for the video. She said extra money would come in handy.

"Maybe God sent it to help me," she said.

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