

MINNESOTA MUFON

Newsletter

From the State Director

Here we are at the beginning of a new year! As we approach the end of this millennium, many have thoughts of the myriad of prophecies and predictions that range from an impending sun flare that will do us all in, to something much less catastrophic such as a stock market crash that will bring on economic collapse for half a century! Since none of the doom-and-gloom will turn out to be right, I'm confidently wishing you all a happy and prosperous year ahead!

Budd Hopkins was a speaker at last year's MUFON Symposium in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Always an articulate speaker, his topic was The UFO Phenomenon and the Suicide Cults — and Ideological Study.

Since some of you may have been confronted by a UFO-shy friend and asked about your feelings on the Heaven's Gate fiasco, this brief summary of Budd's ideas might prove useful in the event of a future similar incident.

Budd begins by stating the obvious — that UFO researchers usually admit they don't really know who the UFO occupants are, where they are from, or what they really have in store for us. We do know a bit about alien behaviors however, and the procedures they inflict on human captives.

UFO cult members, on the other hand, have answers to these questions even though few have had actual UFO experiences. They also take the view that life here is so flawed that only aliens can save us. The planet is dying, governments and religious institutions can't be trusted, and much of mankind is morally bankrupt.

The Heaven's gate people maintained that suicide was essential to leave our depraved planet so they could unite with alien beings on a "higher plane." Hopkins makes the point that any of us who might look to aliens as the source of ecological wisdom and spiritual growth are essentially taking a step along the same path as did the Heaven's Gate followers. Those who credit aliens with teaching us not to use atomic weapons or for preventing World War III, but strip fellow human beings of common sense and simple humanity, are not so far from Heaven's Gate. They tend to strip fellow human beings — and themselves — of common sense and simple humanity.

Such anti-humanistic ideas have also come to be "an article of faith" for some within the UFO community. Budd believes that inborn religious impulses, together with the aliens' systematic deception of abductees, works on some to create this paradigm. To demonstrate the irrationality of such beliefs, he recalled an incident that

MINNESOTA MUFON Meetings

Saturday, January 10
and
Saturday, February 14

1:30 – 5:00 PM

Science Museum of MN
Computer Education Center

Firststar Center
5th & Minnesota Sts.
19th Floor
SEE MAP ON COVER!

Requested Speaker Fund
Donation — \$2.00

PARK FREE

Ramp entrance is on
Minnesota St.
Proceed to 5th Level

Because this is a secured building, to gain entrance, you must be at the ramp door between 1:15 and 1:30 PM

The next admittance time will be at the 3:00 PM break.

The building and ramp areas are designated as non-smoking.

Happy New Year to all Beings!

occurred at the MIT Abduction Conference in 1992, when a psychologist made the statement, "I would rather trust an alien than trust the military." There were cries of "Right on!" from some of the audience.

Budd's take on this is that we should trust neither the government for reasons of its many failings and deceptions, nor the aliens for their physical, psychological, and even economic damage to countless innocent people. But, to trust aliens *before* our own imperfect fellow humans? Humans, at least, generally have easily discernible motives.

Hopkins believes that the reason some abductees elevate the UFO occupants to a godlike level of spirituality and goodness is due to the aliens' subtle deceptions. In his presentation he described several examples of screen memories and forced amnesia of the kind we have all heard. More damaging are the repeated messages to young abductees, "We are your real parents. You belong to us. Your

home is with us." For these young people, it becomes an unconscious reality.

Sometimes the deception doesn't work. For instance, as a child abductee, a woman had been told that the aliens were her real parents. She insisted, "No, you're not!" The aliens then shifted ground and said "We're your parents' best friends!"

Hopkins tries to help abductees change their allegiance away from alien families. One extreme case involved working with a girl who rejected human male suitors because she was saving herself for a possible future with an alien lover.

The aliens' attempt to shape the allegiances of abductees presents a major problem to those committed to humanistic values. The situation is made worse when authority figures within the UFO community echo the aliens' cloudy assurances that they are here to help us. Even more destructive is the idea that abductees' feelings of anger are merely emotions which should be overcome. It is

implied that these feelings are the fault of the abductee. If we were more spiritually developed, so goes the argument, we would love the aliens and support what they do. Since we don't know their plans for us, to commit one's heart to them is to issue a blank check. It is an act of faith no less blind than that of the Heaven's Gate cult members who committed suicide.

It is evident that Budd Hopkins, like David Jacobs, views alien intervention as negative.

As always, this is a very condensed and somewhat paraphrased version of Budd Hopkins' message to the Symposium. Readers who wish to know the entire contents of this presentation should obtain a copy of the *MUFON 1997 International Symposium Proceedings* from MUFON, 103 Oldtowne Road, Seguin TX 78155-4099, (210) 379-9216.

Dick Moss

Keep an eye on Fluffy and Fido! **Animal Grab**

by Candy Peterson

We've all heard about the link between UFO's and animal mutilations, particularly cattle. Although we have many thousands of carcasses, only rarely have structured craft been witnessed at the sites.

Many times there are bright, anomalous lights seen in the vicinity, and there are several reports from people who have apparently seen animals and animal parts on board saucer-shaped craft. Most of these reports are retrieved through regressive hypnosis, and we all know how controversial that method has become lately!

I've been searching for information that might be of assistance in Minnesota MUFON's recently launched project for the objective verification (POV) of "alien abductions." While there hasn't been a lot of documentation about "catching 'em in the act" of abducting people, I have found many reports pointing a gnarled

finger of blame about these animal mutilations. This is an unpleasant subject that I was content to think was limited to the Great American West, but now realize that we certainly have had our share close to home.

I found this report in *The World's Greatest UFO Mysteries*, by Nigel Blundell & Roger Boar, Octopus Books, 1983, page 180:

"In Minnesota, top American UFO investigator Dr. J. Allen Hynek was called in after farm animals were found mutilated. There were no human footprints near the bodies, and no signs of attack by predators. Internal organs appeared to have been removed by surgical instruments, and many cows had had their blood sucked out. Dr. Hynek said that 22 cattle were killed during the late 1960's and that curious deaths recurred in 1973 around the towns of Canby, Viking, Warroad and Kimball."

Further information about these mutilations is provided by Raymond E. Fowler in his book, *The Watchers, The Secret Design Behind UFO Abduction*, page 230:

"During the last few months of 1974, the now defunct National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena was suddenly inundated with phone calls and letters. They were in reference to strange mutilations of hogs, sheep, horses, and cattle which seemed to

spread out from Meeker County, Minnesota. Since then, the mutilation have continued in this country and abroad."

During a recent lecture in Eau Claire, abduction researcher John Carpenter relieved a nagging anxiety of mine by stating that there is no credible evidence of alien mutilation of people. That's the good news; the bad news is that aside from livestock parts, the UFO occupants apparently have an interest in acquiring our *pets!*

According to a report in the October 1981 APRO Bulletin, a Waukesha, Wisconsin, couple was awakened by a bright light while they were camping in their van.

"One of the locked van doors suddenly opened and their dog was 'sucked out' of the vehicle." They watched a 60 foot diameter circular craft through one of the van's windows. "About 20 men, each about 6 feet tall and muscular, came out of the craft. One of them had a completely white German Shepherd on a leash. None of the men spoke. Then four little creatures, each about 4 feet tall, emerged from the craft and 'acted like kids, climbing trees and jumping around.'"

(Vol. 29 #9, page 8.)

Nowadays, we consider that a portion of this account is likely to be an implanted or self-generated screen memory of some sort. Nevertheless, the Wisconsin couple didn't have their dog anymore.

Just in case we think it's only an American peculiarity, there was an interesting occurrence during a big wave of important sightings in 1977-78 in New Zealand. A Wiamata Valley farmer heard his dogs barking at three a.m., and took his rifle with him as he investigated. He apparently discovered two 4.5 foot entities "intent on stealing one of his dogs." They were wearing "glittering silver overalls with reddish boots. The farmer shot at, and wounded, one of the crew. The dog was released." The entities split up, one leaving in a UFO, one running into the woods. It was never captured, but was later seen in the bush and on the road. For added strangeness, this farmer was reluctant to "talk at length because he was followed by two men in a car every time he left the valley." (APRO Bulletin Vol. 30 #2, Feb. 1982, page 3.)

There are only half a dozen pages in the MUFON Field Investigator's Handbook dealing with animal mutilation cases, four of which are forms for reporting purposes. We need to be aware that appalling animal mutilations *have* happened here, and may recur at any time. This reflects one side of the dark underbelly of UFO research, particularly field investigation. *How does anyone adequately prepare for such a grisly and bizarre task?*

A look back in time...

The UFOs of 1979

by Craig R. Lang, MN MUFON
Field Investigation Coordinator

One of the most fascinating aspects of UFO research is the sense of depth which the UFO phenomenon appears to exhibit. This was no more apparent than while investigating a series of sightings which reportedly took place during the fall of 1979, in the northern Minneapolis suburbs of New Brighton and Mounds View, and north along the I-35W corridor. This article describes the investigation to date, and summarizes what we know about these sightings.

Silver Lake Road CE1

The mystery began to unfold last year, when a sighting was brought to my attention by Minnesota MUFON's Bob Schultz. The witness was an attendee at the UFO class taught by Bob through New Brighton school community education who wanted to share a story about something she'd seen in 1979. As she was coming out of the Lund's supermarket located at I-694 and Silver Lake Road in New Brighton, she observed what she described as a large "squashed sphere-shaped object" with a lighted rim. It seemed to be hovering over a parking lot a few hundred feet to the north-northeast of where she was standing. She continued to watch it as she got into her car, and then she followed it north-wards along Silver Lake Road for several miles through New Brighton and

Mounds View. Eventually, she came to a red traffic light. While she waited for the light to change, the object suddenly shot off to the north-east. There are other reports which indicate sightings of a similar object seen to the north-northeast of that location occurring during that same time frame. (At present, we're attempting to confirm these reports.)

New Brighton Freeway Object

Since an object as described above in the Silver Lake Road incident should have attracted the attention of other viewers, we continue to try to locate more witnesses. While cross checking with other investigators, we discovered that Asst. State Director Bill McNeff had interviewed a witness regarding just such a sighting. The apparent date and time seem to match that of the Silver Lake Road sighting. For example, on a fall day in 1979, a mother and daughter were driving south on the I-35W freeway in New Brighton, Minnesota. As they approached their exit onto westbound I-694, they were startled to note that traffic had pulled off to watch a large object — a flying saucer — which was hovering just south-east of the intersection. Curious, they too pulled off to watch. The object made several maneuvers in plain view of the many witnesses. Its motion was described as "showing off" to those pulled off to the motorists below, who watched it for several minutes and then continued on their way. (Note: Many drivers must have seen this object and its antics. We are attempting to locate these

other possible witnesses.)

Analysis

These sightings occurred nearly twenty years ago. As might be expected, dates given by the witnesses are fuzzy, but all seem to suggest that the event took place sometime in the autumn of 1979. In addition, both witness accounts describe a roughly similar shaped object, a spheroid with a rim. Both witnesses were reasonably certain as to the time of the sighting. Thus, the two reports in conjunction would suggest that the freeway sighting occurred to the south a few moments before the Silver Lake Road sighting. The object then apparently moved toward the north and was seen by witnesses to the northeast.

Data from several sighting databases, archives of CUFOS, articles in the Minneapolis Tribune, and several other sources all seem to indicate that there was either a wave of sightings, and/or a large multiple witness sighting in this time frame. Several of these seem to corroborate this spheroid/discoid shape craft.

In addition, several of the witnesses described a newspaper article (thought to be in the Minneapolis Tribune) which was published shortly after the sighting. The article stated that an object was tracked from Burnsville through the Minneapolis area, included the area described above, and moved north into the Forest Lake area. Although many witnesses remembered the newspaper account, a check of the microfilmed Minneapolis Tribune

didn't produce an article of this nature during that time period. We are broadening the search to other newspapers, and wider time periods, but the mystery deepens — where is that newspaper account?! (At least one Burnsville event may have already been investigated by other members of Minnesota MUFON at that time - a possibility currently being explored).

Follow-up

Late 1979 appears to have been a period of high UFO sighting activity in Minnesota. This apparent wave includes the famous close-encounter case in which Marshall County deputy Sheriff Val Johnson was confronted by a UFO while on night patrol. The sheriff's squad car was damaged during the encounter, and is now on display in the Marshall county historical society museum in Warren, MN.

Sighting databases contain a large number of other sightings in approximately this time frame, the backdrop against which our sighting of interest occurred. Also, as I write this, we have recently learned of a some possible additional witnesses to what may have been the same event and therefore, may provide even more information.

For those of you who have access to the Internet, investigation reports for the sightings described above are posted on the Minnesota MUFON web site. Check them out, and feel free to provide comments and/or information — interactive participation is welcomed!

I would like to thank the people who have participated or assisted in this effort to date: **Bill McNeff, Bob Engberg, Casey Holt, Candy Peterson, and Bob Schultz** of Minnesota MUFON; **Mark Rodeghier** of the *J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies*; and **Helen White**, editor of the *Dalles Visitor*. As we dig deeper into this mystery, the interest and efforts of these dedicated people will continue to prove invaluable.

Your help is needed and appreciated!

If you observed a UFO in the late 1970s, in the Northern Minneapolis suburbs, or in the I-35W corridor towards Chisago Lakes — or if you know of anyone who has, please contact Minnesota MUFON. In the UFO mystery, the more pieces of the puzzle we find, the more interesting the puzzle becomes — and who knows, maybe someday we'll have the whole picture! *Stay tuned!*



What About Another Roswell Event?

by Candy Peterson

The Internet provides live as well as bulletin board discussions for every possible interest. Recently, there was a straightforward question about the media's coverage of another Roswell-type event posted on the *Investigative Reporter E-list (IRE)*.

"My name is Lisa Fine, I am a college student at the University of Maryland. I am writing a paper on how newspapers and other media handle the coverage of 'supernatural' events. For example, what if another Roswell happened tomorrow? How would you, as editors and reporters, approach the story given the highly skeptical and inexplicable nature of the event? How would the editors handle it? Would you print it? What kinds of questions would occur in an editorial meeting about the story? How would the science editors handle a UFO story or a story about a haunted house?"

What a great question to ask professionals in the business of reporting the news! The subsequent flurry of correspondence reveals the wide range of opinions about UFOs. William P. Barrett, Associate Editor, *Forbes* magazine, wrote, "What makes you think there was a 'Roswell' in the first place?" Several people replied to this with levity — about the town's existence, commercialization, Santa Claus and the Easter bunny — and how easy it is to fool people into believing the silliest things.

One respondent, Joe Campagna, wrote this about another Roswell-type event: "I would treat it as an alleged [sic] sighting, anomolitic [sic], but [print] a report on the back page, or [consider it] a possible hoax until I got the official word from the US Air Force." Dare I ask: with friends like this, who needs enemies? He continues with this comment concerning editorial handling of the story: "Given the frequency of these 'sightings' and the movement of groups who study these events, as well as the industry in books, film, and countertop novelty items associated with the UFO industry... I would refer [sic] the story either in the entertainment section, near an add [sic] for the newest Star Wars Action Figure, or in the section with the human interest stories. I might even place it next to the latest article on drug use." What can be said — the media calls the shots.

"The concept of what is now referred to as 'Roswell' is a figment in an entrepreneurial or conspiratorial mind, dear."

Campagna suggested checking with the staff medical expert and air traffic control, if he "would bother investigating at all." Campagna would get witness reports "if it was a slow news day." He particularly seemed to like the notion of asking witnesses "background questions on their belief or involvement with UFOs in the past." I'm afraid, that in his mind, every reader of this newsletter would be branded with a

Scarlet Letter of shame; "A" for "alien nut-case." To cap it off, Campagna's recommendations for possible to consider include: "Should we just file this and add it to the 'UFO Sightings' file cabinet? Do you think there's a tie-in here with 'new millenia [sic] madness? Did this happen outside 'O'Houlihan's Bar' on 'Free Boilermaker Night'?" Good grief! Do you suppose there really are UFO Sightings file cabinets gradually collecting more than just dust in news rooms across the country?

As if everyone's level of ignorance isn't high enough already, there were also condescending replies to Ms. Fine's inquiry. Christine Cole had this icy response to Lisa's question: "The concept of what is now referred to as 'Roswell' is a figment in an entrepreneurial or conspiratorial mind, dear. And events do not have 'highly skeptical...natures.' It is we who should have highly skeptical natures when dealing with tales of haunted houses, Amityville horrors, and aliens tortured by cabals of secret government agencies. If this is a legitimate question, and not a prank, I am compelled to wonder if your career choice is the correct one."

Reporter Shelly Thomson couldn't dismiss Cole's snide response! She countered, "...Should witness testimony that disagrees with authoritative statements be dismissed? Perhaps we don't need to go through tedious exercises to discover witness names and then waste time talking to them. The official press release is right here in our hands."

There is hope for our side of the story. Phillip W. Browne, Crime and Punishment department of the *Ventura County Star* wrote, "If another Roswell happened tomorrow somewhere in Southern California, I would be among the first on the scene, as any cop reporter would...with the rapid response of televised media today, they'd probably have news 'copters over the site even before the military arrived, offering more proof. I would approach this story like any other news story, obviously hammering the military and other government agencies for an explanation. If we're talking about simple sightings, where there's not physical proof, I would approach it more skeptically (kind of like what they did with the lights over Phoenix.)"

Chris Horn wrote to Lisa with insight, "Judging from the sheer number of responses that your query has generated, you have asked an uncomfortable question, which are sometimes the best kind to ask if you're a journalist." Michael Ravnitzky replied reasonably, "To answer the original question, it is important to require confirmation for any claims proportional to the strangeness of the claim. But we shouldn't wait for proof before asking: What if it is true? Then what?" Various polling data shows that a substantial number of Americans believe we have likely seen visited by ETs, and that the government isn't telling us all it knows about them. We can hope the professional purveyors of our news will become better informed before another Roswell-type event!

Lisa Fine summarizes, "I wrote to the members of IRE, because you are a group who presumably takes interest in issues about responsible reporting, and could speak to how one might cover an issue that requires both skepticism and an open mind. I was offended by Christine's response, but the responses from folks who offered thoughtful and thought-provoking responses, put it in perspective. Thanks again."

I hope young Lisa Fine and others continue to pose these kinds of probing questions to journalists. We have a long way to go to overcome the prejudices against ufology. At least in some professional news reporters' and editors' minds, we are still associated with addle-brained alcoholics, money-grubbing charlatans, and the hopelessly naive. So far, our side has been at a continual disadvantage by being censored out of the mainstream media. But the Internet is already changing the balance of power in information distribution. We should do what we can to ensure responsible reporting of dependable ufological data, so maybe people — even investigative news professionals — will begin to see a more accurate depiction of those of us associated with and interested in this complex subject. We might actually begin to get enough resources and clear-thinkers to discover some answers.

Caught in the 'Net

Noting that government and military officials, business people and journalists all around the world are online, author Charles Swett envisions "Psychological

Operations" campaigns in which US propaganda could be rapidly disseminated to a wide audience. He stated, "*The US might be able to employ the Internet offensively to help achieve unconventional warfare objectives.*" [No kidding...]

And according to disgraced Justice department official Webb Hubbell, President Clinton was "intrigued by UFOs and wanted to know if they really existed." Hubbell maintains that finding out the answer was one of his top priorities. Supposedly, Clinton wanted Hubbell to discover the answer two important questions: "One, who killed JFK. And two, are there UFOs."

Hubbell's big regret was that he was unable to find answers to either question before he he to resign — he pleaded guilty to bilking law clients of \$482,000.

Contributed by Kathi Hilton



The Conscious Universe,

by Dean Radin, PhD

Radin's work, in company with Robert Jahn's *Margins of Reality*, may turn out to be one of the truly definitive works on the PSI phenomenon for some time to come. It builds a compelling case for PSI based purely upon scientific evidence.

Radin cites evidence aggregated from experiments performed by researchers over many years. The author carefully scrutinizes these studies for experiment quality and objectivity of the researcher. The results clearly indicate that the PSI phenomenon exists, and that

it has objectively measurable properties. The author combines the works of various PSI experiments together for an overall "meta-analysis" of the phenomenon. He then subjects these results to a series of rigorous mathematical tests and finds a solid "hit" rate of about five to ten percent above that expected by chance. He finds the probability of the results being explainable by chance alone to be extremely remote - often on the order of one chance in millions — or even billions.

Radin goes on to examine some of the undertakings by Robert Jahn and Brenda Dunne, and others, as well as his work. He examines the experiments with random event generators (REGs) and explores the implications of their findings. From this he suggests that consciousness in some way seems to be associated with an increase in overall order in the surrounding world.

Finally, Radin examines potential explanations for PSI phenomena in the context of various scientific disciplines, such as complexity theory, quantum mechanics, neurology, etc. He concludes that a comprehensive theory of PSI will probably be beyond any given discipline, but might be an extension of several of them combined. He cites the work of David Bohm, Jack Sarfatti, and others as steps in the right direction. He concludes that in the end, a complete theory of PSI will stretch our understanding of physical principles far beyond what it is today.

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Joe and I Ate UFO Pancakes *by Harold (Bud) Meier*

Reprinted from The Dalles Visitor, Volume 27, Summer, 1995, Helen White, Editor

Those of us fortunate enough to have attended the November Minnesota MUFON meeting heard Asst. State Director Bill McNeff's presentation which summarized the 20 most significant UFO cases he had investigated. Among those cited was the case of Joe Simonton of Eagle River, Wisconsin, who, in 1961, was purported not only to have had a CE4, but even sampled "pancakes" whipped up by the visiting beings! Bud Meier's following article details this interesting incident.

In 1961, as director of the top-rated, never-a-boring moment KSTP-TV news operation in Minneapolis/St. Paul, I didn't need much prompting when the AP newsprinter clattered out a fascinating account of Joseph (Joe) Simonton and his marvelous UFO experience. According to the story, Joe welcomed a flying saucer to the yard of his rural homestead near Eagle River, making a hospitable trade of a gallon or so of the family's drinking water to three handsomely bronze humanoid for four irregular, overdone wafers destined to live forever in UFOlogy as planet Earth's first "space pancakes."

When we picked up the story at KSTP, almost automatically I dialed Dr. J. Allen Hynek, professor of astrophysics at Northwestern University, who was also head of the university's Dearborn Observatory and chief investigator for the U.S. Aero-Space Intelligence Center at Wright-Patterson Field in Ohio. We often called him when we heard of UFO sightings around our five state area.

The sighting had occurred on April 18 but we did not get the story on the AP wires until several days later. By then Hynek had already gone to Eagle River to in-

vestigate and he vouched for Simonton's story as something clearly more than hoax or fantasy. That was enough for us. Hastily saddling a KSTP station wagon with electro-photographic recording equipment, I set out with radio reporter, Phil Schrader and photographer Ken Espy, on an almost 250 mile, mostly overnight drive to Rhinelander, closest neighbor to Eagle River.

At Rhinelander

In squeaky clean Rhinelander that morning the talk was still all about Simonton. The lively resort hub was aware of the potential tourism value of the tale, so we had instant access to several stalwart residents whose vivid recollections reinforced Joe's story.

Maynard Borgo, an Eagle River insurance agent of the time, had become a seeing believer; six members of the Tony Lorbetsky family, living half-way between Eagle River and Rhinelander, had witnessed a flashing disc pass overhead with only the slightest trace of a waggle "as though some intelligent beings were at the controls." Also, the head of the Rhinelander Wisconsin Employment Security office reported an

unimpeded view of what he called a "flying saucer."

...Wire service descriptions...had called Simonton "a middle-age handyman." He was really a skilled plumber/jack-of-all-trades and much more: a trusted special deputy of Vilas County Sheriff John Schroeder, a helpful neighbor and frequent Santa Claus at area Christmas parties.

When I asked the sheriff about Joe's credibility, he reached for his clipboard and riffled through a well-thumbed sheaf of UFO reports, all dealing with glittering objects like the one described by Simonton. "These are (reports from) all good, honest people, and Joe Simonton is as good and honest as any of them."

[When we interviewed Joe] his rock-solid story remained the same:

- How he was alone at home (his wife was in Chicago) and had got up from an early lunch to clear away the dishes from the table. It was a clear, unusually warm day.
- How he then watched the noiseless descent into the door-yard of an immense silvery disc, "which looked like two large soup plates put together," about 30 ft across and 12 ft high. The disc did not

land but remained suspended several feet above ground.

▪ How from the apparently seamless top of the metallic craft a hatch opened and Joe saw three men. "These men were dressed in black two piece suits which looked like jersey material and it was about 1/2 inch thick, no buttons or zippers or anything. The jacket was like a turtle neck and the suit fit not too tightly and not too loose. I couldn't see their feet as they were below the hatch. Their cap fit real tight and came down almost to their ears and eye brows...they were either real smooth shaven or they had no hair at all. They were about five feet tall and about 120 pounds and looked like (someone of) Italian descent. Very nice looking fellows about 25 to 30 years old. Each one very well built in proportion to his size. The man that asked for water had a narrow white stripe down the sides of his trousers and by that I suppose he was the officer on the saucer."

▪ How Joe had been able to glimpse inside the object. It was "bright, really beautiful...the color of wrought iron, a sort of dull black." Inside he saw three control boards. One man was at one of them and "he didn't even look at me." Neither did a second man who seemed to be cooking at a "grill shaped thing." A third man was looking at Joe and holding up a jug "and made a motion like he wanted a drink."

"Well I didn't know what to say or do so I just took the jug and went to the basement and filled it with water...I tried to think what I should do while I was down in the basement for the water. But I didn't come up with an answer. So, I thought, well, they wanted

water so I'll take it up to them and see what happens."

So I handed the water up to the one man that had given me the jug. He took the jug of water and as he did, I balanced myself with my left hand on the side of the flying saucer. There was not any radioactivity for my hand is okay. Then I stepped back a few steps and the man that took the water, gave me a salute with the back of his hand. In return I gave him our salute."

Then he and the man engaged in some wordless banter, a pantomimic dicking and the man handed Joe four cardboard-like hunks of pastry which Joe optimistically called "pancakes," about the size of U.S. dollars." During my interview with Joe he gave me a part of one of them. Nibbling on a corner of it I found nothing alarming about it nor did I suffer any ill effects, although I agreed with Joe that it tasted very much like cardboard.

▪ How the visitor went inside the craft and closed the hatch and Joe could hear it click shut. "At one the saucer started to rise upward to about 20 feet straight up. Then it tilted to about 45 degrees upward and blasted off at a very high speed. In about two or three seconds it was out of sight." (It sounded like a large generator or electric motor). "It didn't change its sound while it raised up to take off. Now when it blasted off there was not any sign of fire, smoke, vapor or odor that I could see or smell.

But something happened to Joe's chickens. After the craft soared off, perhaps 20 of the... flock lay strewn around his yard dead. Joe attributed their demise to some

kind of emission from the UFO. Later by phone Dr. Hynek confirmed that "government investigators" had taken several of the deceased birds with them, but KSTP was never able to get any further information about them.

Later Developments

Back in St. Paul I took part of my pancake to a food-testing laboratory at the University of Minnesota Agricultural Campus. There, amidst much laughter, an assay was run, with findings similar to those received by Dr. Hynek from a federal laboratory: indications of a common grain (not unlike hard durum wheat) with some kind of fat and a dash of NaCl, or common table salt.

Much later the medical laboratory at Wright-Patterson Field reported on its analysis of a bit of the Simonton pancake: low protein flour, traces of sugar, salt and dry milk solids, plus hydrogenated cooking oil. Dr. Hynek's nonchalant reply to all of that was "How do we know that they don't have Aunt Jemima pancake mix on Mars?" Simonton accurately pointed out that "all the commercial mixes I tested for comparison all raised way up but the cakes handed me were truly as flat as pancakes (unlike our mixes). There was obviously no baking powder in them."

About this time another person stepped into the story. He was retired Vilas Country District Judge Frank Carter, a good friend of Joe's and an admirer of Major Donald Keyhoe, an early figure in Ufology, head of NICAP, an independent investigative organization and author of the book *Flying Saucers are Real*.

At first the judge didn't believe the story and, Joe said, "probably figuring that if I was a fake, I wouldn't have the courage to let anyone analyze it. So I let him send the pancake to Keyhoe." But Keyhoe notified Carter and Simonton that he was returning the pancake untested because he required "evidence of a more concrete nature." To which, Simonton snorted that he had already consumed part of another cake and "nothing can be more concrete than that I ate it."

But the pancake never found its way back to Eagle River and when there was no further word from the Major, Judge Carter shot off a blistering 10-page indictment, accusing him of being a turncoat and working for the government. He and Simonton "heard by the grapevine" that the missing cake wound up in a private testing laboratory in New York. As for Joe, no one ever took up his offer to submit to a lie detector test. In the years after his sighting, he gave an occasional lecture in places like Waukegan, LaCrosse or Appleton, Wisconsin and would always stop long enough to answer the questions of the fatuous, the skeptical and the believers. To all he was polite and to all who would see, he appeared to be a man supremely confident of what he had truly seen and done, one who knew that his singular story had consequences that far transcended Joe Simonton and his community in Vilas County.

In 1961 the local chamber of commerce named him "Man of the Year" and he remained firmly in his place of trust and affection among local townspeople. Later the same year he published a small pamphlet describing his experi-

ences which he sold for a dollar to a steady influx of curious but uninvited visitors.

I kept in touch with Joe for several years, always giving him the benefit of the doubt on his story. My pre-Simonton skepticism has been long overtaken by events. He died in 1972 but each week it seems, some new eye-openers occur to make his story more believable. Dr. Hynek, the first person of any real competence to question Joe after his encounter said, "Joe is a solid citizen of good repute who in no sense seems to be perpetuating a hoax."

The KSTP Documentary

After reporting the immediate news aspects of the Simonton Story, we at KSTP produced a 30 minute television documentary of it that was aired several weeks later in Wisconsin. The show and its subject remained so popular throughout 1961 that we repeated it several times, always with strong advance promotion and gaining a larger audience. A friend who worked as an engineer at Honeywell Aerospace told me that the topic had a large and sympathetic audience there, and for years after we received inquiries about the encounter. The only copy of the documentary kinescope has been lost, but I have never given up the search for it.

Bud Meier is angling editor of the Stillwater Evening Gazette's "Weekender" recreation supplement and is a founding member of Muskies, Inc. He attended Kenyon College and studied journalism at the U of M and after 12 years at KSTP, served as corporate publicist for Hoerner Waldorf, 3M, Carlson and

other companies for more than thirty years. While officially retired, in addition to his outdoor column, he freelances magazine articles and publicity assignments for corporations.

Continued from page 7



The Conscious Universe

The book is lengthy, and in places the reading can be rather dry. Unfortunately, Dr. Radin's professed openness does not seem to extend to other areas of anomaly research, i.e., UFOlogy. He takes at least one solid swipe at UFO research, saying that it relies on anecdotal and unreproducible data. In short, UFO sightings can not be recreated in the laboratory. While this is true, there are ways of compensating for such problems to still conduct meaningful research. UFO researchers should consider Radin's statement as a challenge, compensate for any shortcomings, and move on.

The book is heavily footnoted and, as far as I could tell, Dr. Radin seems to have done his homework magnificently. I recommend the book, if for no other reason than for its detail and thoroughness. It treats the PSI phenomenon with a scientific rigor which is long overdue.

Reviewed by Craig R. Lang

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The MINNESOTA MUFON Newsletter is
a bi-monthly publication. Annual
subscription rate is \$12.00.

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Field Investigator Update by Craig R. Lang

Recently, several interested folks have asked me questions such as "What does a field investigator do?" and, "How much time does it take to do a field investigation?" First and foremost, it is a "people" job. Interviewing and human relations skills are critical to accurately establish the facts of the case and maintain the good will of the witnesses and the community.

The very simplest sighting cases can take from a few minutes to an hour. These incidents are readily apparent to the investigator that the witness observed a mundane object such as a star or airplane. A few well placed questions and consultation with a good PC-based star charting program can tell you if the witness is seeing some natural or manmade object. If this is *not* the case, then further follow up is necessary.

A typical straightforward sighting investigation and report takes several hours, spent over a few weeks. Once it appears that a probable UFO sighting has occurred, the investigator arranges an interview with the witness and, if possible, visits the location where the sighting occurred. If the situation warrants, photographs of key aspects of the sighting area are also very useful. Depending on the location, the field visit and preparation can take a few hours.

The core of the investigation is the interview of the witness(es). The investigator takes detailed notes and, if the witness is willing, also tape records the conversation. The witness and investigator also fill out the appropriate MUFON sighting forms with essential data of the sighting such as maps, drawings, descriptions, etc. The procedure typically takes a couple of hours. For more complicated cases, "digesting" the resulting data might take several hours.

The investigator also needs to follow up on other pertinent information, i.e., weather conditions, additional witnesses, etc.. Simple cases may not require a follow-up, but many hours of detective work may be necessary for complicated cases. Finally, when all the data is in, the investigator writes up a field report to MUFON (forms and procedures covered in the manual). Armed with a word processor and reasonable writing skills, this operation only takes an hour or two. The completed report is then given to the State Director for transmittal to MUFON.

The next F.I. class is tentatively planned to meet on **Wednesdays, Jan 14, 21 and 28.** We'll be discussing the details of field investigation and reporting, and start preparing for the MUFON field investigator's exam. If you feel that you have the time and the objectivity to become a field investigator, contact me by phone ,612-560-1532, or by e-mail at crlang@mm.com, or sign the interest sheet at the monthly MUFON meetings. You'll also need to join MUFON as a field investigator trainee and purchase the field investigators manual at a cost of \$25.00.

UFO Field investigation is a fascinating activity, full of challenges and surprises. For those who seriously take up the study of UFO sightings and close encounters, there will never be a dull moment.

Happy Investigating...!

farewell to Chuck Penson, who's leaving us for the warmth of Tucson! Thanks for all your help, Chuck!

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