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<sup>138</sup>  
'It took control of the truck'...

# UFO terrorizes residents near Gravel Switch Sunday night

By ANDREW GRUNDY, JR.  
Enterprise News Editor

An unidentified flying object (UFO) terrorized residents near Gravel Switch Sunday night, July 18.

"People ain't gonna believe us, but we saw it," says Mrs. Judy Taylor, one of 17 people who witnessed the UFO.

"It was just round looking like a hornet's nest with red and blue and green lights on it," she describes.

The people who saw the UFO, all from different walks of life, swear that it was no airplane, balloon, star, meteor, searchlight, or other man-made object.

The UFO even chased a truck in which rode a frightened Charlie and Doris Gilpin, both from Boyle County.

They were the first to encounter the strange UFO. The Gilpins were driving on Highway 68 in Marion County, returning from church. The time was about 10 p.m.

"We were headed down the road," recalls Gilpin, "and we looked up above and saw something hovering over the road. And I said, 'I want to see what this is.' So we went on down, and got scared and stopped the truck. And about the time we stopped, this thing started toward us—this object; I don't know what it was. And I tried to back up, and the thing took control of the truck. The truck commenced swaying all over the road, and I finally got it turned around. And it seemed like something had ahold of the truck where we couldn't take off. And we went up the road about a quarter of a mile, and it just headed over the truck right up through there. And it seemed like something was holding us up all the time. I looked down and the speedometer said 70 or 80 but yet we wasn't getting nowhere fast. And this morning—Monday morning—I went back to the same place and it took two minutes, where it took 15 or 20 minutes to get there before when this object was over us. It seemed like this object was holding us back all the time, but when we turned into the drive, it turned us loose and it seemed like we was just a flying."

The Gilpins had turned into the first

available driveway, one belonging to Mrs. Taylor's sister.

Doris Gilpin recounts what happened next. "When I got out of the truck and ran toward the house to get up on the porch of the house, the object had gotten up over the top of the house then. And it was so close to the ground that I could hear the humming sound of it and I could feel the breeze, you know, the air coming off of it..."

The object remained in that area near Gravel Switch from about 10 p.m. until 1 a.m., witnesses say.

The UFO repeatedly zoomed and floated around the sky, once chasing Mrs. Judy Taylor, who came by her sister's home where the Gilpins had taken refuge from the saucer to deliver her nephew from church. When Mrs. Taylor left—she says she waited until she thought the object was gone—the UFO followed along beside the car for a distance.

"It seemed to kind of be watching for something," says one witness.

Mrs. Taylor's son, Jackie, actually saw some doors open underneath the craft. He says that the doors slid open as if someone or something inside wanted to peer out.

"My husband tried to tell me it was a searchlight," recalls Mrs. Taylor. "But I mean to tell you it wasn't no searchlight."

Mrs. Taylor says another witness near Danville saw the UFO hover over Boyle County High for sometime before the Gravel Switch sightings and then shoot off toward Marion County.

"The last time we saw the thing was about fifteen after one," recalls Mrs. Taylor.

Some of the witnesses reported the sighting to the Marion County Sheriff's Department. Apparently concerned about possible radiation from the UFO, the sheriff's department instructed them to go see a doctor. The local doctor reportedly advised them not to come unless they were deathly sick.

A reading of the truck over which the UFO hovered revealed that there was no radiation. The reading was done with a local geiger counter.

Tampa Neighbor  
Tampa, Florida  
July 22, 1976



byline:  
Harry Straight

## Did the Chariot of the Gods make a pit stop here?

It came out of the east in the dead silence, late in the evening of June 25, a fireball of dazzling orange light, high above the pasture land and new plowed earth, heading straight for the rented trailer of Warren and Mary Coons.

"It was so bright it hurt my eyes," the Plant City housewife says. "I fumbled around in the darkness, looking for my camera, trying to decide whether to use a flash or not. When I turned on the bedroom light, the thing stopped and then shot off in the direction it had come from."

Five days later around 9 p.m. on June 30, Michael Lafferty and William P. Parrott were driving east from Wimauma on Route 674. They turned north on Carlton Lake Road near Lafferty's home and had gone about 200 yards when they saw a large black, retangular shaped object loom across their path.

"We were about 150 feet from it. It was about four feet off the ground, seven or eight feet tall and about 18 feet long. I thought it was a van but after 30 seconds it just disappeared! Like a magic trick, no noise, no lights, just gone!" Lafferty recalls.

Between the Plant City sighting and the Wimauma report, in the space of five short days, at least five other Hillsborough County residents have reported sighting Unidentified Flying Objects.

Did the Chariot of the Gods make a pit stop in Hillsborough County?

Mary Coons, who first sighted the bright orange fireball, doesn't know what it was. But she and her husband were convinced they had seen something. And Warren Coons, a 46-year-old orange picking forman was determined to let others know what had happened. A few days later, the headline in the local paper read "Cork Couple Spots UFO."

Coons said he was watching the 11 o'clock news when he heard his dog and small pony making a ruckus. It was then his wife first looked out the

Continued on following page.

Lebanon, Kentucky  
Enterprise  
July 22, 1976

Dallas, Texas  
Dallas Times Herald  
July 22, 1976  
AF study CR: Tom Adams

## UFO investigator doubts sightings

HOUSTON (AP) — Harrie Stewart, who once investigated sightings of unidentified flying objects, says he doesn't believe any of those reported to the Air Force involved vehicles from outer space.

Stewart, a retired Air Force lieutenant colonel, said in an interview he checked into hundreds of reports of UFOs, "and I never found a one case I couldn't explain."

Most sightings have been attributed to meteors, aircraft, weather balloons, hoaxes, hallucinations and unreliable reports, he said.

Now an anthropology instructor at the University of Houston, Stewart, 55, said the public shouldn't expect any startling revelations to come out of the Air Force Project Blue Book, a classified study of UFO incidents.

The 140,000 pages of hitherto top secret and restricted information concerning the UFOs has been released to the National Archives.

Stewart said, "People see something they cannot identify, so they try to give us some type of explanation, usually a mystical one. If the concept of flying saucers hadn't come along, we would have come up with some other type of modern explanation."

Even trained observers can be fooled, he said, and that includes pilots, astronomers and policemen.

Stewart was flying in Arizona once when he saw several strange objects in front of him. He kept flying and soon saw a crowded highway below him. Stewart said he knew then that the heating of the air had bent the light rays, much like a mirage, so the cars appeared to be in front of him.

He said many of the sightings remain unexplained because investigators arrived at the scene too late to recreate the atmospheric conditions.

Stewart predicted the release of the Air Force Blue Book will prompt another rash of UFO sightings.

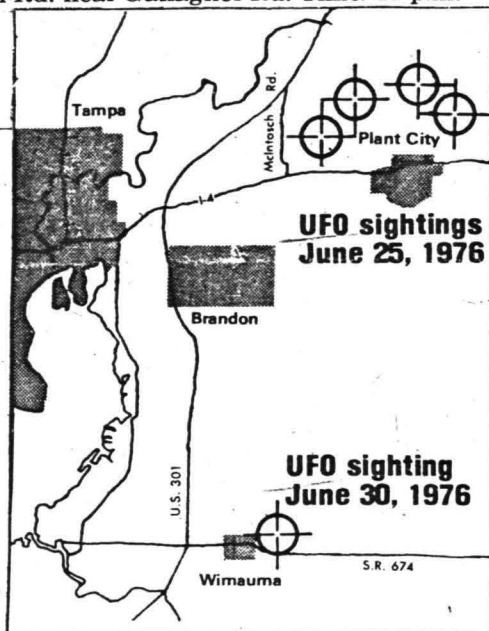
"Once people are convinced that vehicles from other planets may exist, you can't convince them otherwise," he said.

Tampa Neighbor  
Tampa, Florida  
July 22, 1976

Continued from last page:

window and saw the light hovering over the field. When Coons' story hit the hometown paper, other reports filtered in.

Warren Routt Jr., a neighbor of Coons who lives on Griffin Rd. said he and his father spotted a "big ball of fire" above a clump of trees while driving west on Griffin Rd. near Gallagher Rd. Time: 11 p.m.



Neighbor photos/art—Harry Straight

W.E. High, a Thonotosassa man taking about 45 youngsters on a hayride that same night reported a UFO sighting on Bruton Rd. "It stood out like the sun in the middle of the night," High said. "It dimmed, then brightened, formed a cylindrical shape and faded rapidly into the horizon 'like a star.'"

Sarah Chapman reported she saw something but thinks it was probably a hot-air balloon.

Ray Butler of Plant City wrote this account of a sighting on June 28. He and his wife were at the Filmland Drive-in in Lakeland where they report seeing an object very similar to the one earlier observed by Coons.

"We had seen a 'comet' or falling star, and my wife commented then, that she had never seen a falling star quite like that one. They usually burn out but this one fell behind the trees and continued to burn brighter as it descended.

"It was about 20 or 30 minutes later we saw this orange brilliant light below the trees and beyond; and quite a distance to the right of the position of the descending light. We sat and watched the bright light ascend slowly above the trees and suddenly speed away into the night; to the east with spurts of fire at regular intervals three times in rapid flight horizontally we saw the object fire with additional brilliance."

San Francisco, Calif.  
Examiner  
July 30, 1976

### 14 see a flying saucer

WINSTED, Conn. — Local officials today were at a loss to explain the reported sighting of a small flying saucer yesterday by 14 persons hiking on Blueberry Mountain in Connecticut. Police said they did not investigate the sighting — the only one they have received in years — but relayed the report to UFO Central in Evanston, Ill., an agency that gathers information on UFO sightings. The sighting was reported by a counselor, and 13 campers at Camp Delaware, a private summer camp in the Winchester section of Winsted, in the northwest corner of the state.

The sighting in Wimauma was a bit different.

"We didn't see any lights—just this black thing half on the road and half on the grass," Lafferty told the Neighbor.

"It scared me half to death. I turned to Mr. Parrott and asked him if he saw anything. I didn't want to say anything at first. I figured if he didn't see it he'd think I was crazy," the 28 year-old dairy hand said.

But Parrott confirmed Lafferty's story. "I told Mike (Lafferty) what I saw, a long black thing. It just disappeared right in front of us. We went back over our route to see if the thing could have been a reflection of some kind. We didn't find anything."

Both Lafferty and Parrott, 26, are employed by a dairy owned by State Senator Julian Lane. When Lafferty first saw the object he thought someone was trying to steal the Senator's cows.

"I called the sheriff and they sent a guy out. He checked with MacDill AFB to see if they had anything flying but the Air Force said the skies were clear."

"That sheriff's deputy sure didn't want to believe us," Lafferty says.

A neighbor of Lafferty's who was out of town at the time reported his two dogs that were left in the house were "in a rage" when he returned.

"Even the cattle around here were spooked for about a week," Lafferty says.

Both Parrott and Lafferty said they have been kidded by fellow workers but most believe the UFO sighting.

It hasn't been that easy for Mary Coons, the one who first saw the blinding orange light. Her eyes still hurt, she says, but the disbelievers, the skeptics, the wise guys and the jokers—they've hurt her even more.

"I've been accused of smoking pot, growing it even, and being drunk, too. My husband and I don't smoke or drink, so that lets that out. A friend of mine down the road said she saw something. But she claims it was a helicopter with a search light. I've seen helicopters, they weren't anything like this. Besides, this thing didn't make any noise at all."

"You know, some—a few—believe you. Some just doubt and some, why they could see little green men feed cheese to the dog and still not believe it."

Sebring, Florida  
Sebring News July 1, 1976

## UFO sighting claimed by Sebring pair

Although the Fourth of July is Sunday, Karen Fennel of Sebring and Steve Rushing of Winter Haven got an early jump on local residents at 11:05 p.m. June 25, when they reported to city police that they had seen a strange sight in the sky over Lake Jackson and Southgate Shopping Center.

Miss Fennel told Sgt. Jim Moore that she was sure they'd seen an unidentified flying object.

"It was cigar-shaped with a silver tail, traveling from north to south over Lake Jackson," she reported. "The object suddenly stopped and turned into an orange pulsating light. After several more seconds it disappeared."

## UFO: Mystery and intrigue

Discussions of unidentified flying objects are as intense today as ever if one holds membership in pertinent organizations.

One group, whose interest in the subject has not waned, is the Columbus-based Civil Commission on Aerial Phenomena (CCAP).

The group of professional persons was organized in 1958 to examine UFO sightings scientifically.

Such organizations are not unusual. An example is the Center for UFO Studies at Northwestern University which is restricted to experts and is international in membership.

Actually, one might spark a debate by noting there are, indeed, scientific experts in the field of UFO phenomenon.

J. Allen Hynek, a professor of astronomy and former newspaper columnist, heads what he terms a clearinghouse for UFO information.

Ohio clearinghouse is CCAP which has investigated hundreds of UFO sightings and is searching doggedly for answers.

Members of this group have sufficient scientific curiosity to examine data presented them about UFO's. They encourage people to report sightings.

CCAP Director Warren Nicholson notes scientists are taking a serious look at the UFO phenomena. His group is sponsoring a lecture by a nuclear physicist, Stanton T. Friedman, at Brookhaven High School. The speaker is an UFO researcher.

Interest in UFOs probably reached its peak in 1973 when there was a steady stream of reported sightings. Reports of UFOs varied.

Several described alleged UFOs as resembling "overturned soup plates" while a number spotted "cigar-shaped" objects. Still others saw flying amber colored saucers.

Some of the sighted objects were confused with planets and others were the result of atmospheric phenomena.

Pranksters got into the act and caused some hysteria.

As late as 1975, Professor Hynek lent creditability by suggesting the things piloting UFOs may be as afraid of us as we are of them. He explained why scientists are interested by adding:

"What makes them (UFOs) so interesting is they can't be explained away. They keep coming even after people say it is impossible for them to exist."

It appears almost everyone enjoys a good mystery and challenge.

COLUMBUS DISPATCH, Columbus, Ohio

## Seeing is believing

## Boys on camping trip report sighting UFO

While earthlings viewed the surface of planet Mars the past weeks—some Martian residents may have reciprocated by scanning a portion of Hancock County. Five campers in the Patesville area recounted the following story, Monday, July 26:

Jimmy Hooper (13), Max Hooper (12), Joe Hooper (8), Mike Braswell (13), and Gary Januchowski (14), decided to camp out Sunday night in a wooded area about a mile from the (Jim) Hooper home on Route 1, Reynolds Station, which is situated a mile and a half south of Patesville. They reported they chose a small valley in a 200 acre forest as their campsite and arrived there about 8 p.m.

They found an open area some 30 yards in diameter and built a large fire to cook their evening meal. The supper was finished some time later, the fire was banked and all had gone to bed. Ten large hickory trees, estimated to be fifty feet tall, ringed the camping area. The boys

declared there was no moon, and no light was visible in any direction. The stars were out and shone brightly so they started looking for various constellations—Orion the Hunter in particular. The youngest, Joe Hooper, observed at least two "shooting stars," which cut white trails across the night sky.

Around 11 p.m. one of the boys glimpsed a bright, glowing bell-shaped object traveling at fantastic speed in an east-to-west direction. He (They) estimated its altitude at 450 to 550 feet. He (They) called the attention of the other campers to the object they (he) had sighted. From five to eight minutes later, the "craft" was seen again, going in the opposite direction from west-to-east. After a time lapse of equal duration, the object made still a third pass over the camping area. By the third time, every one of the boys had seen the object at least once. They agreed that it was a glowing, golden color, that it maintained

an altitude of 450-500 feet and traveled at incredible speed. They described it as emitting "sparkles" from the rear as it traversed the sky. It was in a flat trajectory, almost horizontal in flight, rather than an arc, as most meteorites follow when falling. All the boys admitted they were frightened at the sight of the bell-shaped object. One of the older ones said they seriously considered breaking camp and going home. The youngest said he was so scared after the third appearance he burrowed under his sleeping bag so he wouldn't see it if it came back.

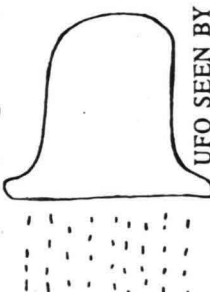
One of the older campers said he remembered reading the account of the two men who were ostensibly captured and taken inside a "flying saucer" several months ago. They turned to discussing the Summer Olympics to take their minds off the incident and eventually went to sleep.

They returned to the Hooper home on Monday morning at 10:30. They recounted the story to their parents, who encouraged them to contact the Clarion. In the course of the Monday interview, Mike Braswell recalled that he and Natalie Rosenblatt had sighted an identical object at Windward Heights four nights before, Wednesday, July 21. Its direction was toward the country club, a westerly course.

The group remembered later that all the insect noises (crickets, Katydid, etc.) in the camping area ceased as the object passed overhead.

Gary Januchowski's mother, Pat, on Tuesday morning, declared that their family had observed such an object as the boys reported for the past 18 months. She said they had spotted it three times, and the description given matched the one her family members gave.

The Januchowski home is also near Patesville.



UFO SEEN BY Max Hooper.

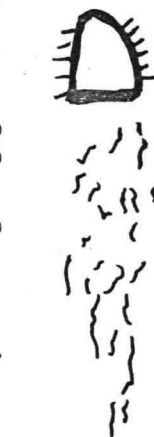


Image drawn by Joe Hooper.



Jim Hooper sighted the above.



What Gary Januchowski saw.



Observed by Mike Braswell.

Santa Paula, Calif.  
Daily Chronicle  
July 9, 1976

Hancock County  
Clarion  
Hawesville, Kentucky  
July 29, 1976

# Huge animal prowls MH

By JOEL GROVES  
Gazette Staff Reporter

MOUNT HOLLY—Everyone thought the children on Oakland Street in Catawba Heights had an over active imagination when they said they saw a huge, black animal lurking in the woods near their homes.

But Roger Hoffman of 6 Oakland St. became a believer Friday night when he saw a "seven foot tall, black hairy animal" in the woods across from his residence.

Hoffman chased it, shot at it, and reported the incident to the Gaston County Police.

"My husband saw it while he was sitting on the front steps," Mrs. Jane Hoffman said. "He was just sitting there and all of a sudden he yelled, 'There's that thing.' He ran inside and got his rifle and shot at it seven times." Hoffman, himself, could not be reached today.

Gaston County Officer J.M. Brendle, who investigated the incident, said he found the whole neighborhood upset when he arrived shortly after 7:30 p.m. Friday.

"I could tell Mr. Hoffman was upset about something," Brendle said. "I think he saw something that scared him."

Mrs. Brenda Rudisill, a neighbor of Hoffman, said she saw the animal and that it looked like "something big and black."

"It chased us through the woods

last week," said Mrs. Rudisill's 7-year-old son, Brian.

"We were playing in the woods and it jumped out from behind a tree and scared us," said Brian's brother, Scott, 9.

Hoffman told police that the animal seemed to walk on its hind legs like man but dropped to all fours when it jumped across a small waterfall along a creek.

Claude Wilson, another resident, said that he and Hoffman tracked the animal all the way to the Catawba River, about two miles through the woods from their homes.

"It made a funny sound and from the sounds of it, I don't want any part of it," he said. "It sounded kind of like a bear but it whined like a hurt dog or something."

There are scattered paw prints remaining along the creek bank. The four-toed tracks are larger than those of a dog and deeper in the soil, indicating the animal that left the tracks is heavy.

Saturday afternoon Wilson and others searched the area for signs of the creature but without success. A State wildlife officer was called out and he was quoted by the others as saying the tracks were not made by a bear.

"I'm going out early in the morning and look for it again," said Wilson Saturday night. "Once we find out what it is, all of us will sleep better in this neighborhood."

## Sight flying object high over high rise

### HIGHLANDS

Describing it more like a kite with red and white lights than a UFO, Ptl. Fred Dickelman reported an unusual sighting over this community early Sunday morning.

Dickelman and Sgt. Thomas Sutton were on routine patrol on Shore dr. just after midnight Saturday and noticed a group of women standing in the parking lot of the Anchorage apartments looking up. When they stopped to investigate, several of the women pointed out an object in the sky that gently moving back and forth and lighted by what appeared to be a

red light circled by a white one. The officers watched the object for several minutes, then Dickelman shone the spotlight of the patrol car on it. The officer reported he picked up a faint reflection with the light, indicating the object was not several miles high.

On closer inspection, Dickelman said it appeared the object was wedge or arrow-head shaped, and looked about the size of a child's kite. The swaying was towards the right, over Shore dr. the skeptical policeman continued, and could have been caused by the wind which was gusting to 20 miles an hour that night.

The officers then got in the patrol car and drove directly beneath the object and Dickelman reported it was light in color, continued moving in what appeared to be a well-regulated pattern, then got higher, moved away and disappeared. The object was seen for about an hour and he speculated it could have been a kite being flown from Eastpointe, Ocean blvd., but declined to speculate on the strange lighting on it.

A check with officials at the condominium showed there were no apparent kite-flyers at the high rise that night, and speculation continues as to the identity of the UFO.

COURIER  
MIDDLETOWN, NJ  
W - 13,000  
JUL 29 1976

Gastonia Gazette  
Gastonia, North Carolina  
Sunday, Aug. 1, 1976  
CR: George Fawcett

## UFO sighting is reported in Gastonia

"When I told my son what I had seen, he said he was going to call the men in the white coats to come for me," a caller told The Gazette this morning.

The unidentified caller wanted to know if anyone had reported sighting a UFO (unidentified flying object) early Sunday morning. Because of her son's reaction when she told him what she had seen, she wouldn't give her name and address.

She described the object as a glowing gold disc, hovering in the sky over South Gastonia about 12:15 a.m. Sunday. She said the UFO was approximately 12-15 feet in diameter. Trailing about 25 feet behind it was a bluish-green star-shaped object which was approximately two feet wide.

"I'd feel much better if just one other person reported seeing the same thing," she said. "But I know what I saw. It was there because I saw it twice and then zip, it vanished."

Neither the Gastonia City Police nor the Flight Service Station of the Federal Aviation Administration, located in Hickory, received any reports about a sighting Sunday.

Note: Creature sighted →  
only (about) 10 miles east of  
UFO sighting → during same  
general time period.

Gastonia Gazette  
Gastonia, N.C.  
July 26, 1976, Mon.  
CR: George Fawcett

## Bright Objects in Sky Maybe Not All Fireworks

Fireworks weren't the only flashy aerial displays in Wisconsin during the holiday weekend, according to the UFO Education Center — Midwest Headquarters in Appleton.

According to the center, the sightings were at:

- Appleton about 6:45 p.m. Monday. A youth reported seeing a silver football shaped object north of the city. Other UFO sightings were reported near Appleton at 1 a.m. and 3 a.m. Monday.
- Port Washington about 10:30 p.m. Sunday and again two hours later. The objects were described as large balls of light traveling from north to south.
- Weyauwega, about 10:40 p.m. Sunday, where large orange balls of light were sighted.
- Just outside of Menasha,

Milwaukee, Wisc.  
Milwaukee  
Sentinel  
Tues., July 6, 1976

# Hiker's report of 'strange people' draws attention of national UFO investigator

**GEORGETOWN**  
A Virginia man's report that he saw Unidentified Flying Objects and a band of strange, gypsy-like people while lost near Echo Lake last week has drawn national attention, Clear Creek County Sheriff Gene Kiefer said Tuesday.

Kiefer said that, after the lost hiker's story was picked up by the wire services, he has been receiving inquiries from all over the country. Included was one from Len Stringfield of Cincinnati OH, an investigator for the privately financed Center for UFO Studies in Evanston IL.

The hiker was Michael Lusignan, 38, a patent examiner from Arlington VA, who was reported missing a week ago Wednesday and was not found by rescuers until Sunday morning.

When rescued, Lusignan said he had seen two rectangular objects float down from the clouds Wednesday evening as he was

making a bed of pine boughs. Thinking the objects might be helicopters coming to rescue him, Lusignan approached them and encountered about 15 men, women and children, dressed like gypsies or American Indians and whispering in an unintelligible language.

**Square UFOs Not Unusual**  
In a telephone interview with the Clear Creek Courant Wednesday, Stringfield said it is not unusual for people who claim to have seen UFOs to describe the vehicle as square or rectangular rather than saucer-shaped.

Stringfield said, however, that he is particularly interested in Lusignan's experience because of the unusual garb the hiker described and because of the unintelligible whispering.

Usually, the investigator noted, people who see "humanoids" describe them as between three and five feet tall, with wide-set eyes, tight suits and the power to

communicate through telepathy. Stringfield said that, after reading about Lusignan's case in the Ohio papers and contacting Kiefer, he tried to reach Lusignan himself at his Virginia home, where he is recovering from exposure suffered during six days in the wilderness near Mount Evans, southwest of Idaho Springs.

Stringfield said he talked with Lusignan's wife, but was told by her that her husband might not be able to cooperate with the investigator, at least until next week when he "was fully recovered."

Stringfield said he hopes Lusignan does call back, because his case "is analagous to other sightings."

**Other Reports Wanted**  
Before he left Colorado, Lusignan had told reporters that he just might have been dreaming, but Stringfield is eager to "talk to the man himself," to ferret out more details.

While waiting to talk to Lusignan, Stringfield said he hopes to discover if there were any independent sightings of the rectangular objects the hiker allegedly saw.

"There's some credence to many of the humanoid encounters reported," said Stringfield, who has been researching UFOs for 26 years and says he "is very serious about it."

"But it helps if there are independent people who spot UFOs to back up the description of the humanoid encounter."

Stringfield said that he has reports on over 1,000 such encounters with extra-terrestrial beings. Only a small percentage of people reporting, he added, are playing a hoax or hallucinating.

**Credible People, Incredible Things**  
"There are a greater number of very credible people," said the investigator, "reporting very incredible things."

It is a testament to the observers' veracity, he added, that they have to be dug out—they don't seek publicity.

"Sometimes it takes months to get them to talk."

Project Bluebook, a federally funded study of UFOs, ended in 1969 after the Colorado-based Condon Committee "concluded that UFOs posed no serious threat to the United States and ended their research," Stringfield said.

"They're probably leaving it up to us and to NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) satellites," he explained, but he noted that UFO sightings are "on the increase," particularly in the western portion of the United States where Colorado has a high percentage of reports.

Stringfield added that the heaviest reports of UFOs occurred in 1973.

Stringfield is also an investigator, public relations director, and member of the board of directors of the Mutual UFO network, an international organization headquartered in Seguin TX.

Both of his organizations, he claims, are scientifically oriented, with "scientific, sane, sensible, and sincere members."

In his own opinion, Stringfield said, he is "quite certain that, unquestionably, UFOs exist."

"I mean the real ones," he explained. "Not just an unidentified object, but an alien craft."

"They are intelligently controlled," he asserted, "and not manufactured on earth."

—PATRICIA ROUNDS

Georgetown  
Clear Creek  
Courant  
Colorado  
June 18, 1976

Plant City, Florida  
Plant City Courier  
July 7, 1976

## More UFO Sightings Are Reported

River Falls, Wisconsin  
Journal  
Thursday, May 6, 1976

**By CONLERUM**  
**City Editor**  
Are alien beings from outer space taking a close look at our planet to determine whether intelligent life exists here?  
Could we be the objects of a special "Bicentennial" Surveillance conducted by the descendants of extraterrestrial "gods" who some believe put our ancestors here long ago?  
Or could little green men from Mars be lurking in our atmosphere, contemplating retaliation for our planned invasion of their world with two research space ships on July 4?  
At any rate, SOMETHING

mysterious to a number of local residents has been occurring in the skies over Plant City and it has left some of them shuddering in fright and wonder.  
Several area residents have revealed that they, too, saw an Unidentified Flying Object on the night of June 25 following a report in last Wednesday's Courier that Warren and Mary Coons of Cork saw a blinding fireball near their trailer home that night.  
Warren Rount Jr., a neighbor of the Coons on Griffin Rd., and his father saw a large, bright orange object hovering in the sky about 11 p.m. June 25.

Rount and his father, who lives in Winter Haven, spotted a "big ball of fire" above a clump of trees while driving west on Griffin Rd. near Gallagher Rd.  
The UFO hovered for about 30 seconds and then, as the Rounts tried to follow in their car, it sped off into space, flaring with a burst of light every five seconds until it disappeared. The elder Rount was reportedly still shaken from the incident when he arrived in Winter Haven.  
"I still have some headaches," Mrs. Coons said Tuesday. She had complained that the object and her husband saw near their

trailer almost two weeks ago was so bright it hurt her eyes. The 'spaceship' darted off into the night at a high rate of speed when Mrs. Coons turned on a bedroom light to look for a camera.  
A Thonotosassa man taking about 45 youngsters on a hayride that same night told friends they also saw the UFO while traveling on Bruton Rd.  
W. E. High said he stopped and turned his lights off when the object appeared. A bright, fiery ball that "stood out like the sun in the middle of the night" hung in the sky for about three

minutes. It dimmed, then brightened and, forming a cylindrical shape, departed rapidly and faded into the horizon like a star.  
The phenomenon was also observed by Sarah Chapman of Knights-Griffin Rd., who doesn't believe in UFO's and thinks it probably was a hot-air balloon.  
Mrs. Wilma Long of Antioch said her 15-year-old son Robert viewed a disc-like, domed object through his telescope in March. "It could have been an outer space ship," Mrs. Long said Tuesday. "It was real fast. In three of four seconds it was gone."

UFO's scouting Pierce county again for a landing sight? Police Officer George Wheeler of Elmwood reported seeing a UFO near there on April 22. He said it shut off the effect of his police radio for a while, and he suffered from shock of the sighting. This writer looked out a house window the same night and saw something bright and blinking in the sky. Thought it was an airplane for a while, but it stayed in one place for a while, blinking and then after a while it was gone. But like most folks I'm not about to report a UFO. A woman in town described seeing something that same night that set her wondering. One of these days we may find our problems with the communist nations are nothing compared to little men from outer space.

Classified study released

# Startling revelations on UFOs doubted

BY MARK HECKMANN  
Chronicle Staff

A former U.S. Air Force officer who investigated reports of UFOs (unidentified flying objects) says the public should not expect any startling revelations to come out of the Air Force's Project Blue Book, a classified study of the UFO phenomenon.

The 140,000 pages of hitherto top-secret and restricted information, resulting from investigations of UFO sightings from 1948 to 1969, were released to the National Archives July 9.

The Archives began making the files, which take up 42 cubic feet of space, available to researchers July 12.

But Harrie Stewart, a retired lieutenant colonel, said he doesn't think any of the sightings reported to the Air Force involve a vehicle from another planet.

And he said that if the Air Force had confirmed such a sighting, it would be "too big a news story for anyone to cover up." He also said, "Most of the more interesting cases already have leaked out in one way or the other."

Stewart, 55, an anthropology instructor at the University of Houston, worked for the Air Force's Office of Special Investigation (OSI) from 1949 to 1956. During that time, he investigated hundreds of reports of alleged UFO sightings, he said.

All OSI reports were forwarded to Project Blue Book, he said. During part of his time with OSI, he was stationed at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, then the headquarters for Project Blue Book, where he had access to all reports on UFO sightings.

"I never found one case (that I investigated) I couldn't explain," Stewart said. However, he said, if investigators didn't have sufficient evidence to prove their findings, they had to mark the sighting as unexplained.

Of the more than 12,000 sightings reported to Project Blue Book, 700 are still listed as unidentified. He said none have ever been proven to be extraterrestrial vehicles.

Most have been attributed to meteors, aircraft, weather balloons, hoaxes, hallucinations and unreliable reports.

"People see something they cannot

identify," so they try to give it some type of explanation, usually a mystical one, he said.

He said the term flying saucers "fits with our present stage of civilization much better than flying dragons do."

He said, "If the concept of flying saucers hadn't come along, we would have come up with some other type of modern explanation."

Stewart said he can easily understand why so many UFOs have been reported. "Anybody can see them. I've run into the same phenomena myself, but I was in the position to investigate it and find out what it really was."

Usually, "the person doesn't understand what he has seen," he said. He said that applies to pilots, astronomers, policemen and other trained observers as well as to laymen.

He said most of the unusual sightings he investigated involved atmospheric or electrical phenomena (such as Saint Elmo's fire).

He said he was flying in Arizona once when he saw several strange objects apparently flying right in front of him. He said he kept flying and soon saw a crowded highway below him.

He then knew that the heating of the air had bent the light rays, much like a mirage, so that the cars appeared to be in front of him.

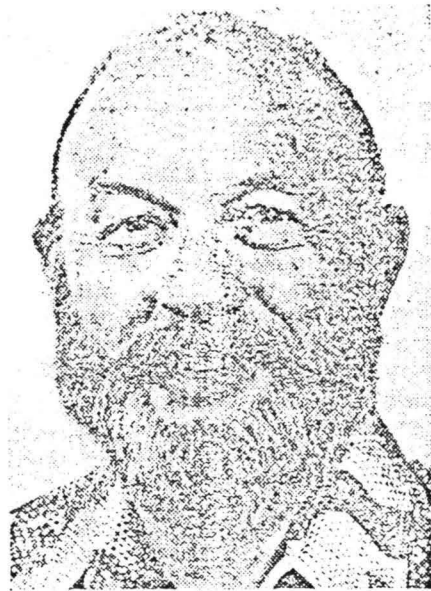
Stewart said many of the sightings went unexplained because the investigator got to the scene too late to recreate the atmospheric conditions.

He said he believes the Air Force delayed releasing the Project Blue Book files, "because, like other federal agencies, rather than embarrass themselves with the unexplained cases, they continued to sit on it."

The Air Force discontinued the project in 1969, saying it could no longer be justified "either on the ground of national security or in the interest of science."

Stewart said he believes "there never was any reason that those files couldn't have been released at any time." He predicted that the release of the files would prompt another rash of UFO sightings.

He said, "Once people are convinced that vehicles from other planets do exist, you can't convince them otherwise."



Harrie Stewart of Houston, a former Air Force investigator of unidentified flying objects, says no one has ever proved the existence of extraterrestrial vehicles.

News-Record  
Gillette, Wyoming  
July 19, 1976

**UFO A  
spotted**

Several Gillette residents observed what appeared to be a flying saucer late last night near the Recreation Center.

Two girls first saw the white oval flying object about 11:19 p.m. in the sky over the Recreation Center.

The girls were Dawn Schafer of 920 E. Sixth St. and Darlene Renee Harrod of 907 E. Fourth St.

Police were told the unidentified object was gliding silently in a northeasterly direction while picking up speed and then growing dim and then bright.

The UFO changed shapes and speed, changing direction while going over the Campbell County High School.

Mrs. Shirley Schafer of 920 E. Sixth St. was called outside to observe the UFO and saw the object over her back porch flying silently at a low altitude.

The two girls stated the object changed shapes from oval to saucer-shaped to triangular.

They said the object grew dim as it slowed down and brightened when accelerating.

The group watched the UFO until it disappeared to the northeast.

## Bright, Blinking Lights In Sky Here

## Cause Possible UFO Sighting Reports

Reported sighting of a brightly lighted Unidentified Flying Object (UFO) by a number of Westside residents caused a flurry of excitement at Tulsa Federal Aviation Administration offices Thursday night.

Vernon Caldwell, FFA official, said numerous reports of the UFO sighting were telephoned his office by residents about 9:30 p.m. Officials later indicated the object was a large 'blimp' which traveled over the Tulsa area

Thursday towing an advertising sign for an automobile dealer.

Initial reports to the FFA came from two excited residents in the Valley Drive and Franklin Street area who said the UFO, with a circular pattern of blinking lights, hovered over the area, then moved off toward River City Park.

Caldwell notified the Sand Springs Police Department about 9:45 p.m. and asked for assistance in checking out the reported sighting. Officers dispatched to the area found nothing.

One woman told a Leader-Times reporter that she was in a car in the area with five other women returning from a meeting and saw the vehicle which had a series of bright, blinking lights. She said it appeared to stall a moment, then turned abruptly in a circular move and rapidly traveled toward the southeast. The woman said she continued on to her residence and got a pair of field glasses, but could not see the UFO due to heavy trees in the area.

Times

Sand Springs, Oklahoma July 27, 1976

# Reporting UFOs Is Frustrating Event

Okeene Record  
Okeene, Oklahoma  
July 29, 1976

The night of July 4th, one of our citizens was in a state of complete frustration. She saw a UFO.

Now seeing UFO's is not all that an emotional experience. What followed later caused the frustration.

## KNICK KNACKS By Jeanne Gernert

There were these huge black "hoops" sailing placidly beneath the moon. The moon had a distinct ring around it that night, and the two huge rings were not figments of anyone's imagination. There were no flashing lights or other characteristics usually reported with UFO sightings, but because one ring followed another in the course of a

minute or two, there left no doubt that "something" was up there. Seven people actually saw the second ring when it was pointed out to them.

Now most people would say, "Oh, there's a UFO" and let it go at that. But Helen Bouse, our public-minded citizen, felt that she should report the sighting to the proper authorities to help verify other reportings. Therein lies the frustration.

Helen tried to report the incident. It was 10:30 at night during a holiday week end. By midnight, Helen had not found anyone who would listen to her, much less take the facts as a bona fide report.

She called metropolitan radio stations and newspapers. All but one apparently were closed for the night and phones were not answered.

One person who did answer the phone at The Daily Oklahoman, Kevin Donovan, told her he was going home and advised her to call again at 8:00 a.m. the next morning, even after she tried to convince him hers was not a "crank" call.

"Where do you call, when you have a strange reporting late at night?" Helen asked. "It is an eerie feeling that sometime a person might really have something important—maybe a crisis—and no one would listen." The next morning Helen

did find someone at KWTU who would talk to her, and who was interested. She also learned later there is a radar section at Vance AFB that is manned 24 hours a day. Had she known, this probably would have been the source to call in the first place.

Whatever the UFOs were doing up there, the night of July 4th, those in command must have been most interested in seeing us earthlings blow ourselves up! It should have been a beautiful sight from the light of the moon.

CAPE MAY COUNTY  
GAZETTE  
CAPE MAY COURT  
HOUSE, NJ  
JUL 21 1976

## UFO's in Cape

The fifth annual weeklong conference of the 20th Century Unidentified Flying Object (UFO) Bureau, with headquarters in Collingswood, N.J., will convene at the Christian Admiral Hotel in Cape May from July 24 through 30. The conference will deal with "extra terrestrial intelligence" or flying saucers, etc. The nightly sessions will start at 8 p.m. and will be conducted by Robert D. Barry, director of the bureau.

Hanford, Calif.  
Sentinel  
July 10, 1976

# Lemoore Women Claim UFO Sighting

By KATHY FREEMAN  
Sentinel Staff Writer

Two Lemoore women recently revealed that they had personally seen an unidentified object—last February and were afraid to report it to the authorities.

The two women, who asked not to be identified, said they were driving back from a business trip from Los Angeles to Lemoore on Houston Avenue on Feb. 12 at 7:30 p.m. when they first noticed an unusual flying object in the sky.

"It was like a bright airplane light off to the left as we were driving west past 11th Ave.," said the driver of the car. "It wasn't going anywhere, it was just hovering. We commented that it must be a helicopter since it was staying in one place."

The passenger in the car said they slowed down to watch the object as there were no other vehicles on the dark stretch of road, and as they did, a beam of light shot out of it, lighting up the sky, and then the object exploded.

"There was this explosion and then the light mushroomed into a large cloud which just kept getting larger and larger over the city of Lemoore," the passenger said. "At that point the cloud started shrinking and began coming towards us, and then this cloud or fog came towards the side of the car and stayed beside us and followed us along the road."

Both women described the cloud as "clinging like fog," and said they were so frightened they began speeding towards Lemoore.

"By this time I had the accelerator to the floor," said the driver. "We must have been going 90 or 100 mph, but it stayed right with us."

"I kept saying, 'Go faster, go faster,'" said the passenger. "As we were reaching Lemoore, a car came the other way and we watched as the cloud disappeared in its headlights. We were so frightened. I called up the police station when we got home to see if they had reports of anything unusual, but they didn't, and I didn't want to report it because they would think we were crazy."

According to Robert Wilson, public affairs officer at Lemoore NAS no reports of anything unusual were logged by air personnel on the night of Feb. 12.

"We have a daily log kept by air traffic control," he said. "If they should see anything that would be unexpected or unusual, that would go in the log."

While the Lemoore police department also said they had received no reports of UFO's, the two women's account of their frightening experience eerily coincides with another Lemoore woman's story of what happened to her on the same road about five years ago.

The woman, also not wishing to be identified, said she was

near the slough on Houston near 11th Avenue, going towards Lemoore at 11 p.m. on a February evening when suddenly she saw "a white thing, like a smoke screen on the side of the road."

She said the cloud or fog came right across the road and then she felt a bump in the road as she was driving.

"I was scared half out of my mind," she said. "It felt like I hit a rabbit or something in the road, so I stopped and got out and looked around. The white thing looked like cellophane paper, you could see through it, and it floated out around the car and went across the road into a field."

She said she had "never run into anything like that in her life," and that she was so upset by the experience by the time she got home that she was crying. She told her husband about it, and her family went out to look for the cloud but couldn't find it.

"But it left little white dust marks on my car and some sort of scratches, so they knew I had seen something," she said.

She said she didn't want to report it to the police, since she was frightened and thought they would not take her seriously.

While most local police authorities said they usually refer UFO reports to National phenomenon research organizations such as the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization in Tucson, Ariz., Tulare County UFO in-

vestigator Joseph Martin said he is interested in receiving any local reports of UFO activity.

Martin said Kings County is a "dead area" for UFO activity, since the only thing to attract UFO activity is the Lemoore Naval Air Station.

But, occasionally, UFO experiences do occur, such as the one last week around midnight in which a Kings County deputy and a deputy in reserve noticed "a large orange ball with a tail on it" hovering over Hanford, but as they tried to call other police units in the area to notify them of it, it slowly disappeared ...

Centralia, Washington  
July 7, 1976  
Chronicle

# Barking dog alerts woman to strange object in the sky

Several residents of the Independence area, aroused from bed early Tuesday by a barking dog, saw a strange object in the sky which eventually disappeared to the west.

Mrs. Neil Benfield said she was awakened from a sound sleep about 3 a.m. Tuesday by one of her three dogs. The one "seemed to be having a fit," she said, while the other two were quiet.

She waited for a while before climbing out of bed, hoping the noise would pass, but finally decided to investigate. "When I went out," she said in a telephone in-

terview, "something attracted me to look at the sky."

She saw an object which seemed to be a star. "It caught my eye because it had a different color," she said, "and then it moved."

Mrs. Benfield figures the craft, whatever it was, gave off some sound which was audible to her dog, causing it to bark.

She watched the object for 10 minutes. The light seemed to have a pulsating effect and seemed to change colors, from red to blue to green.

She compared the light to the reflections which can be observed from a cut diamond as it is rotated in front of a light.

The object definitely was not a helicopter, an airplane nor the Goodyear blimp, she said, likening it to a giant star.

After viewing the light for 10 minutes, she went back inside and told her husband, who was not interested, and debated whether to telephone her neighbors at that early hour.

She finally did, awakening Dan Johnson and Mrs. John (Jean) Williams.

Johnson, reached Tuesday by telephone, said the object was mostly red in appearance, moving first up and down and then left to right.

Whenever it moved, he said the red color changed somewhat blue. The object was round, he said, and seemed to be over the area of the Black Hills. He could not be certain, however, how far the object was.

Johnson viewed the object through binoculars, he said, but was not able to distinguish any detail, other than the colors, the fact it was round and "really bright."

Johnson added, however, that he saw an object similar to the one viewed Tuesday morning while he was at Camp Pendleton in 1968 as a Marine.

He was attached to the Delta Company under the 28th Marine Corps, he said, when an elongated craft, brightly lighted, visited their camp.

"It looked silver like an aircraft," he said, "and the red and blue lights." Johnson said the craft was "really close" and made a weird humming sound.

Johnson, and many others in his company at that time, could see the shell of the craft, he said, which was visible for five or six minutes.

Their first thought, he related, was that it was an aircraft. A call to operations headquarters confirmed that no aircraft were in the area, however. The men were advised to forget about it.

Johnson said when the vehicle left, it moved upward abruptly and accelerated rapidly out of sight within a few seconds.

The object sighted Tuesday morning, he said, appeared to move downward as it left, indicating it moved westward over the horizon in level flight or was descending.

Enterprise  
Lebanon, Kentucky  
July 29, 1976



Lightning never strikes in the same place, but maybe flying saucers do.

The same bunch of Gravel Switch residents, along with some new witnesses, saw the UFO again Sunday night about midnight.

One of them, Mrs. Judy Taylor, says the UFO has been seen "several times" since the first sighting a week ago Sunday night.

Why the UFO is staying around the Gravel Switch area so much is not known, but Mrs. Taylor believes it is looking for something.

A woman from Stanford who saw the UFO near Stanford earlier this year has visited Mr. and Mrs. Charles Gilpin, of Boyle County, the first two to ever see the Gravel Switch saucer.

The woman reportedly wanted the couple to undergo some special tests given by some trained professionals. However, the Gilpins wouldn't do it. Also, a Lexington TV station has asked the Gilpins to appear on the air and talk of their experience with the UFO, but they also declined that offer.

If the UFO reappears and you, dear reader, happen to see it, call the Enterprise so that pictures can be taken of it so everyone will be able to see what this strange thing looks like.

Osceola Sun Kissimmee, Florida

Monday, July 12, 1976

## UFO reports tied to plane

Several sightings of unidentified flying objects have been reported recently but the cause is a night advertising plane, according to the Kissimmee Police Department.

The advertising service began in the area about three months ago, according to Johnny Williams, operator of Aerial Advertising Inc., which is based in Kissimmee.

One call to the police department was verified by officers as the advertising plane because they had seen it also, according to a KPD spokesman.

Williams said his plane has a 440 square foot grid underneath with a computerized light program. The moving sign can be seen about 10 miles away while the plane travels at 45 mph at an altitude of 1,500 feet.

Officials at Herndon Airport in Orlando have also received several calls about UFOs which have been identified as William's plane, he said.

Berlin, Wisconsin Berlin Journal

Thursday, July 15, 1976

## UFO Sighted Near Pine River

A UFO was sighted Thursday evening, July 8, at 9:30 p.m. near Pine River by Heidi Stotzheim, who lives at the foot of the hill south of Pine River. She was outside near Little Silver Creek when she noticed the UFO flying toward the Edwin Jewell farm over the cornfield on land owned by the DNR.

The red lights then headed toward Poy Sippi over the trees. The red head

lights started to lower so Heidi started running towards Rileys (the former Palen farm home). As the UFO came down lower, Heidi threw herself on the ground. She heard no sound from the UFO as it headed towards Jewells again. Heidi phoned her mother who called Jim Wrage. He had been outside and had noticed what he thought was a cloud but it was the wrong color for a cloud at that time of night.

He went over to Heidi's house and they watched the object which took over 10 minutes to disappear.

It is reported that an authority on UFO's spotted five flying at Little Silver Lake the same evening. Other people from this area have seen unidentified flying objects several times recently.

# FOREIGN

AUSTRALIA  
CANADA

CANADA  
ENGLAND

ENGLAND  
AUSTRALIA

- 1) City and country of incident: Mendoza, Argentina
- 2) Date of incident: February 22, 1976
- 3) Name of paper and date of clip: El diario - February 23, 1976
- 4) City and country of newspaper: La Plata, Buenos Aires Province, Argentina

## A UFO OVER THE SKY OF MENDOZA PROVINCE

Mendoza (C) - The appearance of a strange fireball that crossed the skies of this province in the early hours of yesterday, and which was observed by thousands, did nothing but revive the old but up to now inscrutable mystery of the UFOs.

According to the testimony of those who had the opportunity of seeing the alleged strange visitor, it hardly is a man-made artifact -a space capsule, for instance- because it flew very low, because of its particular luminosity, of the W-E direction which satellites do not follow to take advantage of the E-W rotation of the earth, and because of the swiftness of its flight.

In any case the unusual presence is rising the most controverted opinions among the numerous witnesses.

It was first seen at Tupungato, at 01.30 am as an oval emitting orange light and a slight wake of the same color. At that time more than 3,000 persons were present at the "Nicolás Vila" amphitheatre where the vintage queen for that department would be elected, when the phenomenon appeared from the S-W from the mountainous horizon. The strange object crossed swiftly at some 10,000m height and its flight followed the terrestrial curvature behind the stage. It disappeared in less than a minute towards the N-E. A photographer of the paper "Mendoza", Alfredo Yazon, tried to photograph it but the interference of the stage lights prevented it.

A member of the municipal vintage commission -who wished to remain anonymous- stated that the previous night at the same time the same object was seen by those attending the queen's dance in Tupungato.

A few minutes later, the audience of the vintage party being held at Las Heras department also saw the UFO. Las Heras lies 77 km N-E of Tupungato near the capital of the province of Mendoza.

CR: Jane Thomas

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Original Clipping

# Un OVNI sobre el cielo mendocino

MENDOZA, (C). — La aparición de un extraño bóido que surcó el cielo de esta provincia en la madrugada de ayer, y que fue observado por millares de personas, no hizo más que reactualizar el viejo como hasta ahora insondable tema de los platos voladores, o mejor dicho el OVNI (Objeto Volador No Identificado).

Según el testimonio de quienes tuvieron la oportunidad de ver al presunto extraño visitante difícilmente se trate de un ingenio humano —una cápsula espacial, por ejemplo—, por la baja altura en que se desplazaba, su particular luminosidad, la dirección este-este que los satélites no siguen para aprovechar el movimiento rotacional terrestre de este-este y la rapidez de su vuelo.

De todos modos, la insólita presencia está dando lugar a las más controvertidas opiniones entre las numerosas personas

que vieron el raro desplazamiento del misterioso objeto.

En Tupungato se lo observó por primera vez a las 01.30 en forma de óvalo que despedía una luz anaranjada y una leve estela del mismo color, a esa hora, más de 3.000 personas se encontraban reunidas en el anfiteatro "Nicolás Vila" en las estribaciones serranas, donde se elegiría la reina de la vendimia del departamento, cuando el fenómeno apareció desde el suroeste desde el horizonte de montañas. El extraño objeto pasó velozmente a unos 10.000 metros de altura y siguiendo en su vuelo recio la curvatura terrestre, detrás del escenario donde se desarrollaba el espectáculo artístico.

En su rápido traslado, en menos de un minuto desapareció en el horizonte hacia el noroeste, un fotógrafo del diario

"Mendoza" Alfredo Yazon, que cubría periódicamente la fiesta vendimial, trató de captar la presencia, pero la interferencia de las luces del escenario que se interponían impidió su objetivo.

Un miembro de la comisión municipal de la vendimia — que no quiso suministrar su nombre— indicó que la noche anterior, a la misma hora, fue observado el mismo objeto por quienes asistían al baile de las reinas en las villa cabecera de Tupungato.

Unos minutos más tarde, el público que asistía en el departamento de Las Heras a la fiesta vendimial local, también observó el paso del OVNI. Las Heras se encuentra a 77 kilómetros al noroeste de Tupungato, en el cordón urbano de la ciudad capital, denominado "Gran Mendoza".

EL DIARIO  
LA PLATA - B. A. AIRES  
23 FEB 1976

- 1) City and country of incident: Carmen de Patagones, Buenos Aires Province, Argentina
- 2) Date of incident: July 4, 1976
- 3) Name of paper and date of clip: La Nación - July 8, 1976
- 4) City and country of newspaper: Buenos Aires, Argentina

#### ACCOUNT OF A UFO SEEN IN THE SOUTH

Bahía Blanca - A UFO was seen last Sunday night near Carmen de Patagones, capital city of the same district in the Buenos Aires province. It should be remembered that during the last years, similar appearances have been observed in that region, for which reason, although the main witness was frightened by the unusual presence, he could give a detailed account, which was corroborated by relatives and a worker who answered to his call and who, without previous knowledge of what had happened, could still observe the precise movements of a flying saucer.

The UFO appeared in a camp located at a place called La Querencia, by national highway #3, 35 km from Patagones. There, Carlos Negri, 26, was working at 8pm with a tractor. From there he saw a light which -so he thought- would be 200m away and advanced towards him. He thought it was the flashlight of another worker who was coming to take over from him, but suddenly the light turned into a blinding flash. Shortly thereafter, Negri could perceive the outline of a disc similar to a saucer -he said- 5 to 10m diameter, with a dome in the middle. The UFO moved slowly near the ground within a yellowish light which at times turned intensely bright.

The machine then placed itself silently over the tractor, in view of which Negri, frightened, turned to go home, where he told the above to his in-laws and a worker, who could see the UFO which, after following Negri, performed violent manoeuvres and for a few seconds remained stationary in the air in the far end of the field.

Its light, as is usual in this kind of observations, had changed and was then light blue. Finally the UFO flew west close over the roof of the house.

Original Clipping

LA RAZON  
BUENOS AIRES  
26 JUN 1976

**CUATRO OVNI**  
BILBAO, España (AFP) — Varios habitantes de la localidad vasca de Valmaseda afirmaron haber visto anoche cuatro platillos voladores que surcaban el cielo. Precisaron que los OVNI (Objetos Voladores No Identificados) tenían la forma de un disco y lanzaban una luz blanca muy fuerte. Pasaron rápidamente y se alejaron en dirección NSO. En el pasado mes de noviembre, otras personas habían visto también en Valmaseda un OVNI que permaneció inmóvil durante 4 horas en el cielo.

## Relato sobre un OVNI visto en el Sur

BAHIA BLANCA. — Un OVNI —Objeto Volador No Identificado— fue visto el domingo último, por la noche, cerca de Carmen de Patagones, ciudad cabecera del distrito bonaerense del mismo nombre. Durante los últimos años —re-cuérdase— en esa región han sido observadas apariciones semejantes, razón por la cual, si bien el principal testigo de este episodio se vio amedrentado por la insólita presencia, pudo dar testimonio detallado de lo acontencido, manifestaciones que corroboraron parientes y un peón, que acudieron a su llamado y que, sin previo conocimiento de lo sucedido, alcanzaron a divisar las precisas evoluciones de un platillo volante.

El OVNI apareció en un establecimiento de campo ubicado a 35 kilómetros de Patagones, al borde de la ruta nacional número 3, en el paraje denominado Querencia. Allí se encontraba, a las 20, Carlos Negri, argentino, de 26 años, trabajando con un tractor en la arada de su parcela.

La Nación  
Buenos Aires,  
Argentina  
July 8, 1976

Original Clipping

- 1) City and Country of Incident: Bilbao, Spain (at Valmaseda)
- 2) Date of incident: June 5, 1976
- 3) Name of paper and date of clip: La Razón - June 6, 1976
- 4) City and Country of paper: Buenos Aires, Argentina

#### FOUR UFOs

Bilbao, Spain (AFP) - Several residents of the basque town of Valmaseda reported having seen last night four UFOs in the sky. They added that the UFOs had the shape of a disc and emitted a very strong white light. They passed overhead swiftly towards NSW. Last November others had also seen a UFO in Valmaseda which remained stationary in the sky for 4 hours.

- 1) City and country of incident: -
- 2) Date of incident: -
- 3) Name of paper and date of clip: Clarín - July 15, 1976
- 4) City and country of newspaper: Buenos Aires, Argentina

### DO WE STAND BEFORE A NEW UFO WAVE?

This month of July seems to be destined to revide the always controverted but no less disquieting presence of UFOs in space. Since some days ago, in difference places of the earth, repeated observations are being reported, which are conveyed by the cables of the news agencies. Thus, last week and over South American territory, there were several observations, the most recent of them yesterday in the Viedma airport, capital of Rio Negro province.

#### \* Chronology

Following hereunder is a chronology of the recent sightings of UFOs, the frequency of which would lead us to presume an imminent "wave" like the one registered ten years ago.

July 4: Four persons that were that day staying in a ranch in "Querencia", 35 km from the city of Carmen de Patagones, saw a very luminous disc performing strange manoeuvres in the dark sky. Main witness is Mr. Juan Negri, owner of the camp.

July 10: Cables from France Presse and ANSA agencies -respectively- report the sighting, the same day, made at Trujillo, Perú, and the suburb of Teresópolis, 80 km from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Sightings were recorded during the week, all of them coincident in the description of the luminous saucers.

DO WE STAND... (cont'd)

2.

#### \* In Rio Negro

July 14: Yesterday four members of the technical team of the National Meteorological Service -depending from the Air Force- sighted two UFOs in the still dark sky of the early morning hours, over the Governor Castello airport, 5 km from the capital of the province of Rio Negro, Viedma. For two hours - until 7am when the first morning lights neutralized the brilliancy emitted by the UFOs- they could clearly observe them in their swift evolutions. From the control tower of the airport and with field glasses, these men observed the unusual show which, they stated, they cannot rationally explain in spite of their condition of technicians used to aerial phenomena.

The names of yesterday's witnesses are being kept secret until the authorities from which they depend authorize their publication.

*Original Clipping*

Buenos Aires, July 16, 1976  
Translations: Jane Thomas

## *CLARIN JULIO 15, 1976* **¿Ante una nueva oleada de OVNI?**

El presente mes de julio parece destinado a reavivar la siempre controvertida, pero no menos inquietante, presencia de los OVNI en el espacio terrestre. Desde hace unos días, en distintos puntos de nuestra planeta se vienen reiterando las observaciones, de las que traen ecos los cables de las agencias noticiosas. Así, en la última semana y ya sobre territorio sudamericano hubo varios avistajes, el más reciente de los cuales se produjo ayer, en el aeropuerto de Viedma, capital de la provincia de Rio Negro.

#### **♦ Cronología**

La siguiente, es una cronología de estas re-

cientes apariciones de Objetos Voladores No Identificados, cuya frecuencia haría presumir la inminencia de una "oleada" como la que se registró hace una década.

4 de julio: Cuatro personas que se encontraban ese día en un establecimiento rural, en el paraje "Querencia", a 35 kilómetros de la ciudad bonaerense de Carmen de Patagones, vieron un disco volador de gran luminosidad, describir extrañas maniobras sobre el cielo oscuro. Principal testigo es el señor Juan Negri, propietario del campo.

10 de julio: Cables de la agencia France Presse y ANSA —respectivamente— dieron cuenta del

avistaje, el mismo día, registrado en la localidad de Trujillo, Perú y el suburbio de Teresópolis, a 80 kilómetros de Rio de Janeiro. En el Brasil los avistajes se repitieron durante la semana, todos coincidentes en la descripción de los platillos luminosos.

#### **♦ En Rio Negro**

14 de julio: Ayer fueron cuatro integrantes del equipo técnico del Servicio Meteorológico Nacional —dependiente de la Fuerza Aérea Argentina— los que avistaron a dos OVNI en el cielo todavía oscuro del amanecer, sobre el aeropuerto Gobernador Castello, distante 5 kilómetros de la capital rione-

grina de Viedma. Durante dos horas —hasta las 7 de la mañana, cuando las primeras luces del día neutralizaron el brillo despedido por los OVNI— pudieron observarlos nitidamente en sus evoluciones a fantástica velocidad. Desde la torre de control de la estación aérea y con largavistas, estos hombres presenciaron el inusual espectáculo que, según afirmaron, no pueden explicar racionalmente, a pesar de su condición de técnicos habituados a los fenómenos celestes.

Los nombres de los testigos del episodio de ayer son reservados, hasta tanto la autoridad de quienes dependen autorizan su difusión.

# FARMER'S DISCOVERY Visitors from the cosmos?

By JONATHAN GROSS  
Staff Writer

MADOC — Researchers from the first Canadian UFO Study Centre in Toronto have concluded that there was a large amount of UFO activity here recently.

"We're thoroughly convinced that UFOs have landed in this area," said Tom Grey, a veteran UFO investigator who headed a weekend research team which probed three large divots on a farm here, 20 miles north of Belleville.

The discovery was made by local farmer Reg Trotter, who can find no explanation for it.

"I was clearing my fields and I came across these three holes," he said. "I just don't understand it."

Trotter's find was reported in the Madoc newspaper, and the report brought the UFO group to investigate.

The farmer's confusion was well justified; it looked as if the Jolly Green Giant had taken a few nine-iron shots on the property.

The sod was found just a few feet from the mini-craters. The dedicated squad of star trackers immediately concluded from this that a craft using tripod landing gear had lifted the sod during takeoff.

They also noticed that several rocks within the holes were noticeably scratched and several twigs and pieces of bark were burned, but only on one side.

Trotter told them there was no machinery on his

property capable of making such marks, and the absence of scorching around the mini-craters ruled out fire or lightning.

The group took soil samples, checked magnetic fields within the divots and made a thorough search of the area.

All material gathered at the scene will be analyzed in Toronto and resulting data filed away at the centre. The observations are used to establish possible consistencies between various UFO sightings throughout Ontario.

One theory about UFO landings sightings is that extra-terrestrial travellers are attracted to areas where there are large amounts of

power, either electrical or nuclear.

This concurs with recent reports of sightings at power plants, nuclear installations and military institutions. Trotter's claim is given additional weight by the fact that the area which includes his farm is known for deposits of magnetite and uranium, two power-producing elements.

Madoc has been a virtual hotbed of UFO sightings, and several residents have been questioned after reporting sightings or landings in their vicinity.

Pauline Dudgeon, of Cooper, said her first sighting came last December, when she spotted "a large, disc-like object with lights, seeming to rotate around its periphery" over Highway 45.

She said the object had a very bright pulsating red light on top. She watched it for about 20 minutes, and later complained of trouble with her eyes.

She saw the UFO several times afterward, and her eye condition worsened to the point of requiring medical attention.

The UFO centre is keeping a log of such sightings, and is interested in hearing from anyone who has had seen UFOs. The UFO hotline in Toronto is 284-0427.

See photo on following page

## UFO SIGHTINGS IN SWEDEN THE MONTHS OF JUNE AND JULY 1976

- 1) City and country of incident: Bergsby - SWEDEN
- 2) Date of incident: June 7, 1976
- 3) Name of paper and date of clip: Arbetarbladet, June 8, 1976
- 4) City and country of newspaper: Gävle, Sweden

### SKY PHENOMENON IN BERGBY! A FLYING SAUCER?

Was it a flying saucer or a similiar space object? That's what an 18 years old girl from Bergby and her boy friend ask, after last night's strange experience.

At about 00.15 the night to Monday they both saw a heavy shining object, from a window in the city of Bergby with sight over E4. The object seemed to be in the same direction as a storing building across the E4 and over the forest behind it.

The right end of the object seemed to grow thinner. Along the side of the object they thought they could see windows that looked smaller the closer they came to the thinner end.

The male observer saw the object a couple of seconds before the girl. Altogether they estimate the sighting to have lasted about half a minute. Then the strong white light changed to red as the object vanished.

It didn't seem to fly away, just disappeared, the girl says. Her boy friend thinks that the object sank to the ground.

Did anybody else in the area see the phenomenon the night to Monday?

CR: Borgny Tingstedt

Original clipping

## Himlafenomenen i Bergby Ett flygande tefat?

Var det ett flygande tefat eller något annat liknande rymdföremål?

Det frågar sig en 18-årig Bergbyflicka och hennes pojkvän efter att natten till annandag pingst ha haft en ganska märklig upplevelse.

Ungefär 00.15 natten till måndagen såg de båda från ett fönster i Bergby

centrum med utsikt över E4 ett ovalt starkt lysande föremål. Det föreföll ligga i samma riktning som en siloanläggning på andra sidan E4 och över skogsbrynet bakom den.

Föremålets högra del syntes avsmalnande. Utefter hela föremålets synbara sida tyckte sig båda se fönster som mins-

kade ju närmare den avsmalnande delen de kom.

Den manlige betraktaren såg föremålet några sekunder före flickan. Sammanlagt bedömer de båda att de klart såg föremålet ungefär en halv minut. Därefter avtog det starka vitaktiga skenet och övergick i rött sam-

tidigt som hela föremålet tonades bort.

Det såg inte ut som det flög iväg, bara försvarin, säger flickan. Hennes pojkvän anser att föremålet sänkte sig mot marken.

Såg någon annan i området det här fenomenet natten till måndagen?

Arbetarbladet

Gävle  
ca 33.000 ex 6/vecka

1976 -06- 08

AB Pressurklipp

102 20 Stockholm 12 Tel. 08/520320

- 1) City and country of incident: Bergeforsen - SWEDEN
- 2) Date of incident: June 10, 1976
- 3) Name of paper and date of clip: Sundsvalls Tidning, June 11, 1976
- 4) City and country of newspaper: Sundsvall, Sweden

#### FLYING SAUCER IN BERGEFORSEN?

Three unidentified flying objects, that sent out an heavy light, were seen by several persons at about 21.00 Thursday night in the sky north of Bergeforsen. The three objects came down from a dark cloud and moved forward and sideways. The intensive light pulsated and changed colors from time to time.

Among them who saw the objects were the flight commander att Härjedalen Fjeld Flight, K.G. Backlund and Pertti Niemenen.

- Me and my buddy were inspecting some bridges at Bergeforsen, when I of a coincidence looked up and saw three shining object that in formation dropped down from a dark cloud in the air north of Bergeforsen.-The shining objects moved forward and sideways without a sound and at one occasion one of the stood on high edge and you could clearly see the ellipse shape.

I ran away to a kiosk and phoned the airport to make working meteorologe aware of it. I also wanted to know the exact cloud height, which showed to be 9000 feet. From the airport they could see nothing. No planes were on their way to Midlanda Airport for the moment. The objects could be seen a couple of minutes. Besides us there were some other people at the place. The shining objects then rose and disappeared in the cloud.

- 1) City and country of incident: Borsökna - SWEDEN
- 2) Date of incident: July 4, 1976
- 3) Name of paper and date of clip: Eskilstuna-Kuriren, July 7, 1976
- 4) City and country of newspaper: Eskilstuna, Sweden

#### WHAT WAS IT THAT WAS SEEN IN THE SKY?

A strange sky phenomenon was seen by mrs Anna-Lisa Skog and her family and guests at the summerplace in Borsökna Sunday evening.

# Flygande tefat i Bergeforsen?

Original clipping

Tre oidentifierade flygande föremål som utstrålade ett intensivt ljus, uppmärksammades av flera personer vid 21-tiden på torsdagskvällen i lufrummet norr om Bergeforsen. De tre föremålen sänkte sig ur en mörk molnbank och rörde sig framåt och i sidled. Det intensiva ljuset pulserade och skiftade färg emellanåt.

Bland de som uppmärksammade föremålen var flygchefen på Härjedalens Fjällflyg, KG Backlund och Pertti Niemenen.

- Jag och min kompis höll på med att inspektera en del bryggor vid Bergeforsen, då jag av en händelse tittade uppåt och fick då se tre intensivt lysande föremål som i formation liksom droppade ner ur en mörk molnbank i lufrummet norr om Bergeforsen. De lysande föremålen rörde sig ljudlöst framåt och i sidled och vid ett tillfälle ställde sig ett av dem på högkant och då

kunde man tydligt se elipsformen.

Jag stack iväg till en kiosk i närheten och ringde till flygplatsen för att göra tjänstgörande meteorolog uppmärksam på saken. Dessutom ville jag veta den exakta molnhöjden som visade sig vara runt 3 000 meter. Från flyget kunde

man dock inget se. Inga flygplan var heller på ingående till Midlanda vid tillfället. Föremålen kunde ses ett par minuter. Förutom vi själva fanns på platsen ytterligare några personer. De lysande föremålen höjde sig så småningom och försvann in i molnbanken.

SUNDSVALLS TIDNING

(BR 59)

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ca 36.000 ex

1976 -06- 1 1

AB Pressurklipp

102 20 Stockholm 12 Tel. 08/52.03.20



UFO researcher Harry Tokarz studies one of the three roughly circular divots on Trotter's property. The compass in the divot gives an idea of its size.

Toronto, Ontario, Canada  
Toronto Sun  
June 7, 1976  
CR: Gene Duplantier  
See article on  
previous page.

CR: Borgny Tingstedt, UFORC Swedish Representative



● Frank Searle's first monster success . . . taken on October 21, 1972.

# Seven year hunt for Ness monster

By  
Blair  
Jenkins

**SEVEN YEARS IN SEARCH OF THE MONSTER**—I am none the wiser. He spends exactly 3½ pages in telling his readers about his life before encountering the loch, with precious little information about his motive for starting his long waterside vigil.

The text stutters from start to finish. Chapter one kicks off with: "For many hundreds of years there have been reports of strange creatures being seen breaking the surface of that huge, dark stretch of water known as Loch Ness."

In case the reader hasn't got the message, it conveniently crops up again 14 pages later in a mid-page paragraph: "For many hundreds of years there have been reports of large, strange animals being seen breaking the surface of this huge, dark stretch of water." Did anyone actually read through the book before it went into print?

Yes, apparently. For in other chapters the annals of Nessie-hunting are well chronicled. By far the best parts of the book are those dealing impassively with the various theories proffered over the years from scientific quarters and others to explain exactly what, if anything, lurks beneath the murky waters of Loch Ness.

We have G. K. Chesterton's lucid observation as far back as 1936 that "Men have been hung on less evidence than there is for the existence of the Loch Ness Monster."

But Mr Searle is not satisfied that we are all taking as much interest in his efforts as we should. On more than one occasion he suggests that the scientific community should "get up from their comfortable chairs," presumably to charter a boat and fishing tackle with which to conduct conclusive research on the loch.

Alternatively, Mr Searle has a better idea. "If some organisation came along and offered to sponsor me to the tune of about £4000 for a period of one year, I'd find the offer very hard to resist."

"And I'm sure that I could produce one of the beasts without too much effort. How I would do it must remain a secret." Is there anybody listening out there?

## Inference

Mr Searle's inference throughout his book seems to be that he is about the only reliable authority on Nessie(s). Other people's searches are dismissed as "publicity stunts," "a gimmick" or a "big non-event." And, of course, "the attitude of science towards anything unusual these days is absolutely pathetic."

Mr Searle is keen to point out that he is not living as a recluse. He may have left the rat-race, but only to switch to another track event — the Nessie-race.

Nor is he beyond a nudge and a wink. "This attractive 23-year-old Aussie arrived at my site. She saw my picture, newspaper cuttings, etc. I told her all I knew about Loch Ness and she was fascinated. Then she simply said: 'I've got a month's holiday. Can I stay with you?'"

"Well! What man turns down offers like that? And anyway she made good coffee. So she went and collected her gear and moved in."

He later adds: "That became a big joke over the years. Girls would come along and tell me they could make good coffee. Well, I suppose there are 'perks' to every job. And I wasn't complaining."

From time to time he mentions more girls "coming to stay"; usually they are students keen to help him in the search.

The contents of the book remind one of Herman Hesse's tirade against "zealous scribbling" in his novel "The Glass Bead Game": "In quality, content and phraseology, all this

material bore the mark of mass goods rapidly . . . turned out."

Having said that, it must be conceded that Mr Searle's photographs are indeed "astonishing," even convincing up to a point.

The book closes with a pallid specially composed in Frank's honour by Daphne Kirkpatrick, a schoolteacher. I cannot resist the temptation to quote:

"A quiet voice, a quiet man,

Who writes his letters and reads when he can,

And talks with a smile about the plan

To carry the monster off to Japan,

He patiently waits for that special day

When the news will echo to Grantown-on-Spey.

'Yes! — Frank's brought one of them into the bay.

We always knew he would' —they'll say."

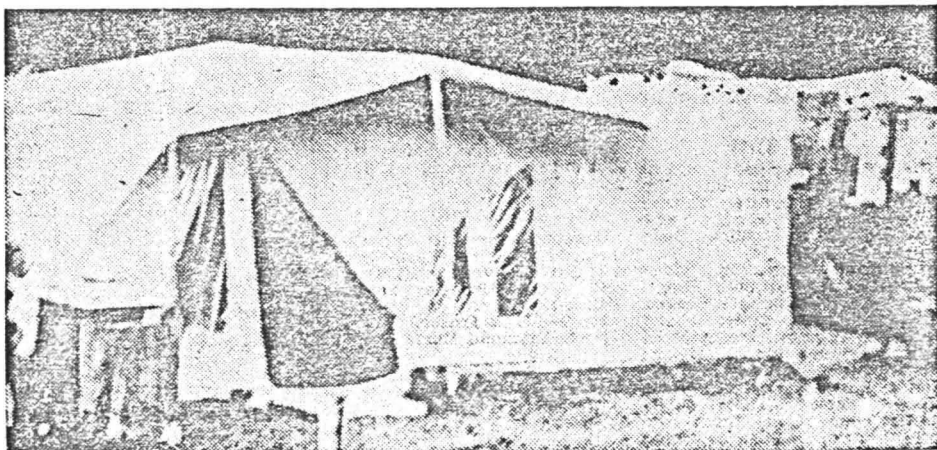
Coronet, who publish the book in paperback at 60p, obviously trust in their author. The jacket bears the confident claim "Non-fiction."

## Believer

He is a firm believer, and is at pains to point out that he is not of an impressionable or gullible nature. After all, he spent 18 years as a regular soldier, during which time he visited more than twenty countries and saw "many strange things." And he has even shot alligators.

In 1969, Mr Searle left his job in London as manager-supervisor with a big firm of fruiterers. "The rat-race was drawing me in. I had no close relatives. What was to stop me?" What, indeed. But why Loch Ness?

After reading Mr Searle's new book — "NESSIE—



● The tent from which Frank Searle operated his Loch Ness vigil.

**Evening Express**

ABERDEEN

SCOTLAND

Date 19 JUL 1976

**The Press and Journal**

ABERDEEN

SCOTLAND

Date 14 JUL 1976

Two tell of day Nessie

family appeared near boat

TWO Inverness motor mechanics who were repairing a boat on Loch Ness claimed yesterday they had been surrounded by "monsters".

The Press and Journal they had watched "in fear and amazement" as five large humps weaved around their delicate craft for a full 15 minutes.

"It was like getting caught in the centre of a school of whales," said Mr Ian Dunn (29), 154 Oldtown Road, Inverness, his hands trembling as he spoke. "We were so afraid they might overturn the boat that we put on life jackets. We were frightened — but we were fascinated. It was just fantastic."

Mr Dunn, service manager at an Inverness garage, and a colleague, Mr Billy Kennedy (20), 14 Crown Avenue, Inverness, had just repaired the gears of a friend's boat and were testing the vessel

NOTE

YOUR CLIPPINGS of newspaper items are very welcome. We apologise here for being generally unable to acknowledge these items as the pressure of work on our tiny staff and on our postage resources is too great. However, please do not be deterred by this seeming lack of courtesy. We really do appreciate anything you care to send.

# Nessie's Hunters Try Once Again

By Gerald S. Snyder

FROM INVERNESS, SCOTLAND

EVERY 15 seconds, almost around the clock and all summer long, a 16mm. camera and a 100-watt strobe light strung 40 feet beneath the murky water of nearby Urquhart Bay are set to click and flash automatically in an effort that could, if successful, turn the narrow, peat-stained loch called Ness into one of the great wonders of the world. If only, say the believers, the loch's "creature" or "creatures" would appear. If only *Nessiteras rhompteryx*, alias Nessie, alias *an Niseag* (the name "Ness" in Gaelic), would come into range. If only it would show its head or neck, or any part of its purportedly broad body, other cameras fixed on the underwater scene could produce pictures as well. And the ages-old mystery—Is there a Loch Ness Monster?—would be solved.

This 1976 expedition is the fifth Nessie hunt in six years. It's also the most ambitious, with more equipment, more money, more time, and more serious-minded Nessie chasers than ever before descending

Gerald S. Snyder, an American free lance, is in Britain writing a book on the Loch Ness Monster.

upon the famous fresh-water lake. The scientists in charge hope to produce solid photographic evidence that there really is a "monster" in the loch's dark depths.

The local press refers to Dr. Robert H. Rines of Boston, leader of the 1976 expedition, as the "world's most famous monster hunter." Rines says he has no doubt that some strange, unknown-to-science creatures do inhabit the 24-mile-long lake. For in 1972 and 1975 he and his colleagues at Boston's Academy of Applied Science came up with photographs and sonar readings that indicated the existence of some strange moving things—a series of small animate objects and several larger objects—in the loch. The best photograph, taken at 4:32 a.m. on June 20, 1975, showed what appeared to be, according to the Nessie believers, "the upper torso, neck, and head of a living creature."

## Nothing but Gas Bubbles?

Zoologists at London's Natural History Museum noted that the "head" and "neck" were disconnected. They speculated that the "creature" might be attributable to "the presence of a large number of small gas bubbles such as are found in the air sacs of the larvae of phantom midges which are known to occur in large swarms."

Other scientists, however, have been sufficiently impressed to encourage further exploration. Dr. George R. Zug, for one, curator of the Division of Reptiles and Amphibians at Washington's Smithsonian Institution, has said he believes the data indicate the presence of large creatures in Loch Ness but are not sufficient to identify them. More research is needed, he has said, adding that the stigma of "crackpot" should be removed "from any scientist or group of scientists who wish to investigate the biological and limnological phenomena in Loch Ness."

Sightings of Nessie go back to A.D. 565, when, tradition says, Saint Columba ordered the monster "not to eat a swimmer." Since 1933, when the building of a new road on the north shore gave drivers-by an almost uninterrupted view over the loch, thousands of men, women, and children have reported "sightings." They've described the creature as having one, two, three, or four prominent humps, or sometimes as many as eight. The monster's

length has varied from 20 to 100 feet. Generally Nessie's color has been described as blackish gray or darkish brown. Nessie has looked "like an upturned boat" to many, "like a giant eel" to others. Or "like a motorboat with two piles of luggage." Or "like the rear end of a duck swimming in a pond." Or "like a living creature, but not a porpoise or, a whale or a big seal."

One early sighter said he saw Nessie walk across a road. He described the monster's skin as a "terrible, dark, elephant gray, of a loathsome texture, reminiscent of a snail." Another said he glimpsed "full 15 feet of its head and neck on three occasions." Another spied "six-inch-long projections" sticking from its head—which would agree with the interpretation of a 1975 Academy of Applied Science photograph showing "horns" on the "head."

## Wanted: 'Definitive' Pictures

Numerous colorful tales have been told about the monster. One man was in a boat when he noticed something protruding from the water. He testified later:

"So strange an animal was it, that I remember crying out, 'It's alive!' One has heard such yarns about the monster and cocked a speculative eye at the teller that I wished as never before that I had a camera in my hands. Failing that I did the next best thing, and on the white dodger-boat in front of me made sketches of the animal full face and profile, for the thing was turning its head from side to side, for all the world like a bird will on a lawn between its pecks. I was unable to get a clear view of the monster's features, but we were close enough to realize that its head rose some 8 or 9 feet out of the water, while the trunk of the neck was fully 12 inches thick. . . . When the captain came up he said, 'Have you seen anything?' 'Yes, sir,' I answered, 'a sea serpent!'"

This year the New York Times has joined the hunt—as the expedition's cosponsor, along with the Academy of Applied Science, of which Rines, a lawyer and educator, is president.

"Everybody knows there's something in the loch," Rines says. "The question is, What are these big things we seem to be tracking with sonar and are getting underwater pictures of?" Rines has dreams of what the objects might be, but, he says, "We have to dismiss that and just take the hard data and let others interpret them."

He is here, on his search for "definitive pictures," with a number of people who have pioneered in underwater technology. They include Dr. Harold E. Edgerton, professor emeritus at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology who in 1931 invented the stroboscope, the basis for present-day strobe-flash photography; Charles W. Wyckoff, credited with obtaining high-speed photographs of nuclear explosions for scientific analysis; and Martin Klein, an electrical engineer and expert in sonar and oceanography who has worked with numerous deep-diving research submersibles.

## 'Bait' Is Contemplated

What makes the team so optimistic this year is that its more advanced cameras are expected to produce photographs of much better quality than those of previous expeditions. Moreover, computer analysis has shown that the place they have chosen for their search is where most reported sightings occurred. It's the place, too, where in past experiments the elapsed-time camera was periodically bumped and swirled by "a large, unidentified, moving object," the Nessie hunters say.

Still, this camera is just "bait," designed to attract the monster for other, more sophisticated cameras. The entire photographic

package consists of six underwater cameras—three 35mm. cameras, the 16mm., a Polaroid SX-70, and a television camera. The cameras are arranged in three separate units to give stereoscopic views of whatever may come into range. Sitting in front of a shore-based television monitor, an operator viewing the area lighted by the automatic strobe can press buttons to trigger the still cameras and other lights.

"When the operator sees a creature on the television monitor," explains an expedition-issued statement on the equipment, assuming matter-of-factly that there indeed are "creatures" in the loch, "he will immediately speed up the video tape recorder, and at the correct times press the buttons to take 35mm. or Polaroid pictures."

Besides taking pictures, thousands upon thousands of them (so far, the first 18,000 frames, shot in June, have shown nothing), the monster's hunters are conducting a sonar search of the loch bottom to detect skeletal remains of possible creatures. If debris suggesting skeletons is detected, an underwater camera will be lowered and then the bones will be retrieved, either by divers or—in water deeper than 200 feet—by a research submersible. Infrared detectors capable of detecting body-temperature differences in any creatures also are being used, in the belief that a surfacing creature will show a skin temperature different from that in the water.

The hunters are determined to stick it out. Says Wyckoff: "We might have to change our technique as we go along. If we don't see anything on TV, we're then going to have to kind of watch what we do, see if maybe the incandescent lights are bothering them [the creatures]. Maybe we might have to turn them off."

And if after a month or so nothing has been found, will they move the cameras? "Not necessarily," says Wyckoff. "We may bring in some other kind of bait. We may try to bring a lot of fish in, something that might look like a school of fish, anything to get them to come up. Of course, any research project has to go along this line: You have to change your plan as you go along. You can't have a rigid plan. All we know is that this is a fairly good area, and we have had good success in the past."

## Nessie's an Industry Too

Invernessians, meanwhile, are enjoying, as always, every moment of the fuss made over Nessie. Almost to a citizen they believe in her. There are "Nessie" postcards for sale everywhere. You can buy Nessie figurines in brass, glass, clay, plastic, or pottery. There's Nessie shaped from red-striped sugar candy. There are pictures and posters of Nessie—Nessie wearing the Glengarry, Nessie throwing the caber, Nessie playing the pipes. There are Nessie T-shirts, Nessie pens and pencils, and Nessie pocket knives. For entertainment a local motel, the Muirtown, is offering a "monster" evening of Scottish music, singing, comedy, dancing, and "piping at its best."

For 6-year-old Jennifer Innes, 11-year-old Fraser Coull, and 14-year-old Neil McNaughton, winners of a contest to draw Nessie's picture, there was a specially made "Nessie" cake baked by a head chef, a chance to pose with Rines, and a three-hour sail down the loch to look for Nessie with the binoculars each winner received.

"Wouldn't it be fun if the monster turned out to be something like the children have drawn?" quipped Rines as the Nessie contest winners set off down the loch on the boat Jacobite Lady.

Rines himself is determined to have his expedition viewed as a serious scientific investigation, "not a circus," as he told an opening-day press conference. After three weekly progress reports, the expedition leaders announced that they were ending them—because there was no progress to report. But, the leaders emphasized, the expedition will continue.

"We want to get the kind of evidence that even an unskilled individual can look at and say, 'Hey, that's an animal,'" Rines said. "We're going to solve this thing. And if we do, all we will be doing is getting verification of what a lot of honest people have said they have seen. We're going to keep right at it. We're going to come back, and back, and back, until we find out."

# Is It Bigfoot, Or Can It Be Just a Hoax?

By **BOYCE RENSBERGER**

Special to The New York Times

**THE DALLES, Ore.**—Within the vast forest wilderness of the Pacific Northwest there may live a species of shy, furry manlike creatures, perhaps relict and declining survivors from a time before modern man evolved.

And then again there may not.

A remarkable body of evidence has been gathered over the last few years that points either to the reality of a species of large primates known as Bigfoot or Sasquatch that walks on two legs or to a long series of hallucinations and extraordinary hoaxes executed with anatomical and ecological expertise and with unusual restraint.

The evidence has persuaded at least one physical anthropologist of international standing that the Sasquatch phenomenon of footprints and sightings is real and in need of further study.

There is even speculation that a presumably

## Ex-Professional Hunter

And yet, at a time when increasing sums of money are being spent by reputable scientists to investigate Loch Ness, America's own "monster," with at least as much suggestive evidence behind it, is pursued by little more than weekend amateurs, riflemen vowing to bring one back dead, an assortment of eccentric or unreliable individuals and obvious perpetrators of fraud.

One of the few exceptions is Peter Byrne, a 50-year-old former professional hunter in Nepal, who switched from tiger shooting and yeti hunting to tiger conservation and Bigfoot hunting.

He operates the modest Bigfoot Information Center here in The Dalles, a small town in the heart of Bigfoot country, and he describes himself as the "only man alive who has made a profession out of this extraordinary search."

He has been doing it for five years, supported by admission fees to a small exhibit here and by small donations from various sources, including the Academy of Applied Sciences, which is also the chief sponsor of the current Loch Ness expedition.

The center receives reports of Sasquatch sightings or of 16-inch footprints from all over the Northwest and investigates each report using a network of volunteers.

## 94 Credible Sightings

Most are eventually discounted as insubstantial or faked, but a handful hold up and are given high credibility. So far Mr. Byrne, though he has never seen a Bigfoot himself, has collected the details of 94 reported sightings that seem believable. There are many more reports of tracks.

An example was that of Jack Cochran, a logger from nearby



Above: a logger's rendering of the creature he said he saw in an Oregon forest.

Parksdale, who on May 12, 1974, was working with a crew in the Hood River National Forest. Mr. Cochran, who operates a crane that picks up logs, was taking a break in the cab of the crane and happened to look across the clearing. Fifty yards away he says he saw "this big hairy thing" standing silently.

"A chill went up my back," Mr. Cochran recalled.

When he determined that it was not one of his co-workers, Mr. Cochran, a hunter and amateur artist who sketches wildlife, studied the creature. He said it was covered with thick black hair and stood about six and a half feet tall and had massive shoulders. He immediately assumed it to be a Bigfoot and not any of the other forest animals that he knew well.

## Walked Away Gracefully

Then it walked away "gracefully, like an athlete," and disappeared over a hill into the trees.

The next day, May 13, at about the same time, 10 A.M., the same loggers were again taking a break. Mr. Cochran sat in his crane and kept his eyes on the forest but saw nothing unusual. His two companions, however, said that they walked into the woods for a little shade and were startled to see a big creature rise up out of the bushes and stride quickly away on two legs. One of the two men, Fermin Osborne, gave chase and even picked up some rocks to throw.

Later investigators from the Bigfoot Information Center conducted a thorough search of the area. They found the creature's track—indistinct impressions of a soft but heavy foot leading from the edge of the clearing off across some wooded hills.

Paralleling them for part of the way were deep boot prints and even holes in the ground where rocks had been removed.

As in virtually all Sasquatch reports, the creature does nothing spectacular. It does not charge or roar or act ferocious in any way. In report after report the animal simply walks

along or watches people until it senses it has been seen, and then it walks away.

## So Tame a Story

Many people have said that hallucinations or hoaxes would be unlikely to yield so tame and dull a story.

Another group of sightings took place within a two-square-mile area just outside The Dalles. In 1967 four people said they saw a Bigfoot. The following year another four people reported another sighting. In 1969 there was no report. In 1970 two people saw one. And in 1971 there were four sightings by a total of nine people. Again the creature was said to be simply standing or walking. Eventually it, or they, simply walked away.

Tame or not, could a population of seven-foot-tall humanoids be living in the United States and remain unknown to science?

To those who have not seen the immense, uninhabited and almost impenetrable forests that cover the mountains of the Pacific Northwest and British Columbia, it may seem hard to believe that there are thousands of square miles of wilderness where hardly anyone ever goes.

## Reports Date From 1840

Sasquatch reports, which date from 1840, all come from a large but well-defined area that includes the mountains of southern British Columbia and the Cascade ranges of Western Washington, Western Oregon and Northern California.

The area covers about 125,000 square miles and could easily hide thousands of Sasquatches, particularly if one assumes, as the evidence suggests, that they are nomadic. If the Bigfoot is only a fantasy, it is strange that with one or two obviously faked exceptions, no reports have come from other parts of the country, not even from other wilderness areas in the West that are similar to the Cascade Mountains.

Still, skeptics argue, naturalists have explored the entire world and have surely catalogued all of the larger animals. But in fact new species are still

being discovered. Within the last century Westerners learned for the first time of the pygmy hippopotamus, the Okapi, the Komodo lizard, the giant Panda, two species of large monkey, the pygmy chimpanzee and the mountain gorilla.

## Indian Legends

Bigfoot believers say that the creature should not be considered unknown. Most of the Indian tribes in the area have legends and stories about such creatures; Sasquatch is one tribe's name for the creature but there are many others.

Scattered reports of giant manlike footprints or of actual sightings also occurred in the early writings of white settlers and down through the years. There are scores of reports from the last decade, when people like Mr. Byrne started soliciting them.

While newspaper accounts frequently make it appear that a Bigfoot report involves only a single, large blurry footprint, the more typical discovery is of a long track of footprints that can sometimes be followed for miles. Where the ground is soft the prints are sometimes detailed enough that anatomists can analyze the structure of the foot that made the print.

Dr. John Napier, a British anthropologist who is a specialist in the anatomy of ape and human feet, has for 20 years studied yeti and Sasquatch footprints, many of which have been photographed or cast in plaster of Paris.

## Bears Too Small

Although it is often said that bears made the prints, the bears of the Pacific Northwest are too small to make a print more than half the size ascribed to the Sasquatch.

What about a hoaxer who carves big feet, straps them on his boots and tramps off through the woods? Dr. Napier says this would be easy to spot for the fake foot would not flex or conform to the ground the way a real striding foot does. Given the depth of some of the prints, he calculates it would require the hoaxer to carry

New York, N.Y.  
New York Times  
June 30, 1976

something like 500 pounds of extra weight. Someone going to all that trouble, it is felt, would be unlikely to put tracks in remote forests where they might never be discovered.

In Dr. Napier's view one of the most persuasive sets of footprints was found in 1969 near Bossburg, Wash. The half-mile-long track contained 1,089 prints, and the right prints appear to have been made by a crippled foot. At one point whatever made the prints stepped easily over a 43-inch-high fence.

## Look Very Human

In the deformed print Dr. Napier can see not only obviously abnormal outlines but also shifts in weight distribution from one part of the foot to another, all of which suggest that the creature suffered a crushing injury of the foot in youth. The prints look very human, Dr. Napier says, except that they are 17½ inches long and 7 inches wide.

"It is very difficult to conceive of a hoaxer so subtle, so knowledgeable and so sick who would deliberately fake a footprint of this nature," Dr. Napier wrote in his book "Bigfoot." "I suppose it is possible, but it is so unlikely that I am prepared to discount it."

After examining the Bossburg tracks and many others, Dr. Napier concludes that "they are not the footprints of modern man" but "could conceivably be the footprints of unknown members of the human family."

One of the most controversial pieces of evidence is an 18-second film that shows a

Continued on  
following page.

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furry creature striding along a creekbed in a California forest and then disappearing into the trees. It has been examined by various experts, and no one can conclusively prove that it is either a fake or authentic. Mr. Byrne has declared other film fakes, but he says of this one that he is 95 percent certain it is real.

Something Needs Explaining.

After examining all the evidence for and against the Sasquatch, Dr. Napier, who thinks the film is phony, concludes: "I am convinced that the Sasquatch exists, but whether it is all that it is cracked up to be is another matter altogether. There must be something in northwest America that needs explaining, and that something leaves manlike footprints."

It has been argued by some that there is not enough food to support a creature of Bigfoot's size in the typical coniferous forests of the Northwest. While there are not nearly as many edible plants as, for example, in the gorilla's tropical habitat, the woods do support bears of considerable size.

While some Sasquatch believers feel that the only way to convince the world of the creature's existence is to shoot one and bring back its corpse, Peter Byrne abhors such thoughts.

"There probably aren't all that many to begin with," he said. "I think that with a decent effort we could get photographic proof. They should be protected."

One recent evening Mr. Byrne took his cameras, two volunteer investigators and a visitor and drove out of The Dalles and onto logging roads that wind through the Hood River National Forest, a region where Sasquatches have been sighted.

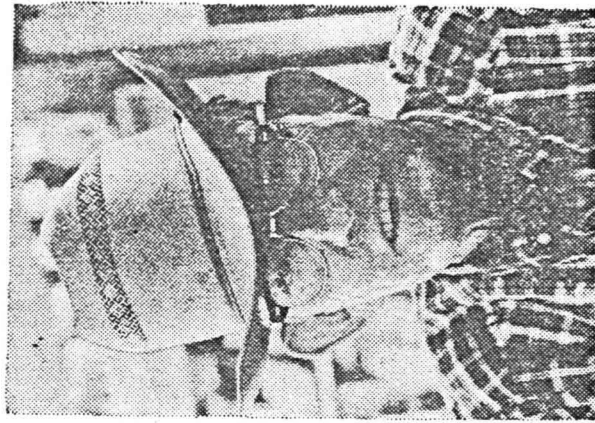
At a high clearing Mr. Byrne set up a night observation device, on loan from the Army. With only starlight to illuminate the landscape, its battery-powered light amplifiers project almost the equivalent of a daylight scene onto a small viewing screen. After a few turns scanning the distance and waiting for a Bigfoot that might have been drawn out of curiosity, everyone crawled into sleeping bags for the night. No Sasquatch came.

When Mr. Byrne got back to his office, the telephone answering device had recorded a call from a man in Seattle who said he had seen a Bigfoot on May 17.



The New York Times/June 30, 1976

# The tourists are still coming to Fouke



Willie Smith in 1971

The tourists can buy a variety of Fouke Monster souvenirs, including ashtrays, key chains, bumper stickers and copy prints of the monster's footprint.

Bobby Ford, whose encounter with the monster started the whole thing, moved away several years ago, Smith said, but Smith didn't know where. The house in which Ford lived, an old one predating the turn of the century, has since been torn down. Three mobile homes now sit on the lot, Smith said.

Smith said he does not mind the few tourists that still come to his filling station and cafe. "I let 'em come and talk to me," he said. "I ain't got nothing else to do no way." — STEELE HAYS

feet," he said. Smith said he had seen the monster several times himself.

Asked what the monster sounded like, Smith said that its usual sound resembled the call of an owl, a low w-h-o-o. "But he don't always sound the same," Smith said. "When he's riled up, like when some dogs are after him, he's pretty rough. He makes a racket like a mountain lion chewing a goat's head."

Smith said the monster must be "pretty smart — smarter than most of the people around here. He's got to be smart to have 400 people looking for him and not be seen," he said.

A number of scientists came to the area after the first sightings. Several denounced the monster as a hoax. Now, Smith said, the researchers only come around "once in a great while."

"The research department (he was unsure which one) told me they're the same as the ones in California," Smith said about the monster. "They're 350 of them all over North America," he said.

Smith is retired now, but his son runs the service station and the Boggy Creek Cafe, which the elder Smith also owns. The tourists still come to Fouke, although not in the numbers in which they came before.

"We have visitors every day," Smith said. "They come from New York, Wisconsin and all over the country. In fact, some of 'em just left, some people from Leesville, La. We get an average of about 12 a day," he said.

## Update

Progress reports on people and events that have been in the news.

film was released and did surprisingly well, tourists began flocking to Fouke, and enterprising residents did their best to capitalize on the boom. Some people offered tours of the house where Ford reportedly had been attacked.

Reached at his service station several days ago, Smith, now 70, said that Fouke hasn't changed much, despite the publicity.

Asked about the monster, Smith replied with the calm assurance of a man who probably has told the story to thousands of tourists. "Yeah, they saw him again last December," he said. "Two boys out hunting, A.C. and Harmony Jones, they saw him."

Smith was not surprised by the most recent sighting. He said that residents of the area have been seeing the monster or monsters for many years. "My sister saw him when she was only 10 years old and she's 78 now," he said.

Smith said that three different monsters have been seen, all of the same appearance, but different in size. "They've seen 'em 7 feet, 6 feet and 3

In May 1971, Bobby Ford, 25, of Fouke (Miller County) was treated at a Texarkana hospital for several scratches and symptoms of shock after he reported being attacked by a "large, hairy creature" at his home.

Ford said that he was sitting in his house late one Saturday night, when he heard his wife scream and he looked up and saw a large paw with claws sticking through a window. Ford and several other men chased the thing away, but it returned several hours later and attacked him on the back porch of the house, he said. He was so frightened as he tried to escape the animal that he ran through a closed screen door.

The news story of Ford's encounter with the "monster" went out on the Associated Press wire and suddenly, the sleepy little town of Fouke (1970 population of 506) was on the map.

Ford since has moved away, but for those who stayed, life would never be the same.

W. M. "Willie" Smith owned a service station in town. Soon after the story broke, people began showing up at Smith's station and asking about the "monster." As the "monster's" tracks were found and more sightings followed, more tourists came to look for the creature, which soon was named the "Fouke Monster." Smith's business continued to improve as did the business of other local merchants.

Later that year, a Texarkana man, Charles B. Pierce, began making a movie about the "monster," and Smith played the part of himself in the film, "The Legend of Boggy Creek." After the

New York, N.Y.  
New York Times  
June 30, 1976

Morning Star  
Rockford, Ill.  
July 6, 1976

Bigfoot country is the mountainous area of the Pacific Northwest shown on map, with information center at The Dalles.

## 17-inch tracks found— It speaks softly, carries a big foot

DIXON — Is Big Foot, the huge, legendary man-like creature whose existence never has been documented, visiting the Lowell Park area near here?

That's a question being asked by some Dixon area residents after 17-inch-long footprints were discovered Monday at the edge of the Rock River, a short distance north of the heavily-timbered 200-acre park, two miles north of Dixon.

The two clearly-defined footprints were of flatish feet, with five toes of nearly equal length. One print was of the right foot; the other a left footprint and the stride between the two prints was 40 inches. There also were several heelprints.

The prints measured 8¾ inches wide at the ball of the foot.

An unidentified fisherman, who was in the park early in the morning, said he found "park benches were thrown around and big footprints all around them."

By afternoon, however, the only big tracks that could be found were upstream from the park in a deserted area. The prints ended at the riverbank.

Lou Gerdes, who has a cottage nearby, at first said, "maybe I did it. I have the biggest feet around here."

But when Gerdes feet were measured, they turned out to be only 11 inches long, six inches short of the Big Foot tracks.

Dixon Police Officer Howard Kendell, who has been on duty in Lowell Park since April 16, said he had not seen any sign of any creature resembling Big Foot.

# Life in/on the Loch: Living With a Monster

By Paul Richard

To communicate with Mars, converse with spirits,

To report the behaviour of the sea monster, Describe the horoscope....

.....all these are usual

Pastimes and drugs, and features of the press:

And always will be, some of them especially

When there is distress of nations and perplexity

Whether on the shores of Asia, or in the Edgware Road.—T.S. Eliot

NETHER FOYERS, LOCH NESS—It was almost midnight when we saw it, a movement inexplicable, a wave? a wake? a ripple? on the cold and murky waters of sinister Loch Ness. There is surely something lurking here. How else explain the sightings? While standing on these stony shores excellent witnesses have seen monsters great and wee, demons and magicians, kings and saints and fools.

The Bureau of Basic Research/Paul Richard Loch Ness Expedition recently explored the very highland glen where 1,400 years ago St. Columba of Iona told a roaring Loch Ness Monster not to eat a swimming monk ("at the voice of the Saint the monster was terrified and fled more quickly than if it had been pulled with ropes"). Though the bureau's staff of three was only modestly equipped (with a number of sharp pencils, a rented car and a Good Food Guide to Britain), it managed to log sightings of:

- A restaurant that moves. Its sign says "Monster Burger Bar (Salads, Teas)," and it is sometimes seen rolling on the lochside road north of Drumnadrochit.

- The empty house above the graveyard where 75 years ago Aleister Crowley, the mountain-climber, poet, sensualist and magician, undid the seven seals of his book of Sacred Magick and summoned up the demons that drove his staff to drink.

- The empty metal can that's sat on all day, every day, by redoubtable Frank Searle, the "Monster Hunter Extraordinary" who, while speaking to his visitors, keeps one eye on the Loch, watching for the "animals" that he knows are there.

- The "Hand Held Thermal Scanning Viewer" used by the Academy of Applied Science/New York Times Loch Ness Expedition. Generously provided by the Magnavox Corporation, it's a neat piece of equipment. In the skilled hands of George Newton, the MIT professor, it has proved itself at night, when aimed into the barn, a first-rate mouse-spotting machine.

- The Keep Scotland Tidy poster displayed in Inverness that says: "Look For Nessie, But Don't Be Messy."

The monsters, it is clear, are damnably elusive. "They have yet to give to science," observes the Laird of Ardkinglas, "so much as a scale, a bone, a turd, a flipper print." But monsters have been sighted here, oh, lots and

lots of times. St. Columba spoke to one in 565; Robert Rines of Boston "observed a 20-foot-long hump" on June 23, 1971; 196 additional sightings were officially accepted by the Loch Ness Investigation Bureau between 1963 and 1972.

The 975-foot-deep Loch is 24 miles long, and it is estimated to contain 263 million cubic feet of water the color of strong tea. The monsters clearly have space in which to hide.

Serious monster-hunters know their work requires patience. Frank Searle, for example, spends dawn to dusk each day peering at the Loch. He's been at it seven years. "For the first few months I was reluctant to take my eyes off the water, to go in and prepare a meal. But I soon got the message about that. One has to eat, sleep and carry out other little chores." Frank Searle will acknowledge that since he began watching he's loosened up a lot. Nowadays he takes two hours off each week to do "essential shopping."

Frank Searle will tell you, gruffly, that he has been rewarded amply for his perseverance. In seven years he's seen the monster more than two dozen times.

For instance. On the morning of June 12, 1975, he was strolling on the shore when he heard a "splashing" and observed "two of the strangest little creatures I've ever seen! They were about two feet in length, dark gray in color, something like the skin of a baby elephant, small heads with black protruding eyes, long necks and plump bodies. They had snake-like tails, and on each side of the body two stump-like appendages. Certainly not legs."

"I soldiered 19 years," he says, "in the Near, the Far, the Middle East." He has a military bearing. His face is tanned, his arms tattooed, his monster speech rehearsed. There is a herd of them, he thinks; they probably eat fish; they do not come ashore. "Our game keepers and water bailiffs, they're like your Indians. They would have seen the spoor." For five years on Loch Ness he lived in a small tent, but then the County Council told him to move on. He is bitter about that.

His "Loch Ness Information Center" is a flimsy unfloored hut filled with yellowed clippings and large black buzzing flies. He sits beside the center on his metal seat. He has a tripod, an old camera, that's about all. Frank Searle, it is clear, runs a low-cost, low-technology, monster-hunting operation.

He does not speak with warmth of the American monster-hunters encamped across the Loch.

"This Mr. Rines of Boston and his so-called Academy have disappointed everyone," charges Searle. "Their famous underwater photos show almost nothing. And what is the Academy of Applied Science? That I'd like to know. I sent this Rines a letter c/o his Academy, Boston, U.S.A. The same day it came back, marked 'Insufficient Address,' I received a card from California that had been addressed only to 'Frank Searle on Loch Ness.'"

Warming to his subject, Searle spoke with scorn of money and commercialism, of the American corporations that have given Rines equipment, of the coverage in the press and of the "fortune" being spent on the Academy's expedition. "Mark my words," he said, "the message is getting through."

Frank Searle sleeps these days in a tiny wooden trailer. Robert Rines has rented roomy Tychat Cottage with its private, curving drive, its rose bushes and garden, and its smashing hillside view.

"Frank Searle," says Robert Rines, "is a very dedicated man. I just wish people could take him a little more seriously."

In 1974, Rines' Academy of Applied

Washington, D.C.  
Post  
August 1, 1976

Science reported total assets of \$14,589.12. It has no paid employees.

Robert Rines is known as Dr. Rines on the basis of a Ph.D. that he was granted in 1972 by the National Chiao Tung University on the island of Taiwan.

The 1976 Academy expedition is expected to cost more than \$75,000. Rines says his "associates" include The New York Times, NBC, Magnavox, MIT, Raytheon, Polaroid, Kline Associates and "several universities."

Rines is searching for the monsters, "the animals," he calls them, with infrared equipment, sophisticated side-scan sonar, underwater cameras, strobe lights and TV.

The Malaran, a 33-foot cabin cruiser he has chartered, is docked at Temple Pier. A couple of Mute Swans (it is said that they are mute until they sense their death, and then they sing their swan songs) are paddling beside it. They have seven cygnets. Rines speaks softly, his eyes are light, his charm disarming. He says his expedition is "permanent. We'll remain here at Loch Ness until we get results. It might take us years."

On Aug. 29, 1975, Robert Rines placed a transatlantic call to Nicholas Witchell, the British author of a book about the monsters in Loch Ness.

"After a short pause," writes Witchell, "Bob Rines came on the line to announce news that meant the search for the 'Monster' of Loch Ness was finally over. 'Nick,' his voice came clearly and steadily over the thousands of miles, 'we've got it, we've hit the jackpot. We have detailed close-up color photographs of the head, neck and body of one of the animals.'"

The photographs Rines published—they showed what might have been some bubbles and what might have been a fin—did not convince everyone.

Now, almost a year later, Rines and his Academy are searching once again. "We're going to stick it out until we get something definitive," says Rines. "We're here for the long haul."

In December 1975, Rines and his associate, Sir Peter Scott, the noted British naturalist, decided that for purposes of drafting protective legislation, the monsters in the Loch be given a proper scientific name.

Their suggestion was the subject of an article in *Nature*, the British scientific journal. *Nessiteras rhombopteryx* was the name that they suggested: The first word combines Ness and "teras," which is Greek for marvel; the second term mates "rhombo" (which suggests the diamond shape of the creature's flippers) with "pteryx," which is Greek for wing or fin.

No sooner had the magazine appeared on the newsstands, than a writer to The London Times pointed out that *Nessiteras rhombopteryx* was an anagram of elegance. Its letters, rearranged, would spell: Monster hoax by Sir Peter S.

"The anagram is an accident, nothing more," snapped Rines. "The consternation is that the press will always go for that misleading garbage."

Serious monster-hunters often have been bedeviled by hoaxes, jokes and cynics. On Dec. 21, 1933, the press announced that M.A. Wetherall, a Fellow of the Royal Zoological Society, had found footprints of the monster. "It is a four-fingered beast," said Wetherall. "I should judge it to be a very powerful soft-footed animal about 20 feet long... The spoor I found is only a few hours old, clearly demonstrating that the animal is in the neighborhood."

Continued on  
following page.

# Loch Ness Expedition, Switching Tactics, to Try Sonar Gear to Find Monster

By ROBERT B. SEMPLE Jr.

Special to The New York Times

DRUMNADROCHIT, Scotland, July 7—After many weeks of fruitless searching, the scientists here have switched their emphasis from underwater photography to sonar research in an effort to explain the legendary phenomenon known as the Loch Ness monster.

Most of the complex photographic equipment that preoccupied members of the Academy of Applied Science and New York Times Loch Ness expedition in the early stages has been taken out of the water. The effort now is to obtain a more precise "fix" on animal life in the loch. Then the cameras will go back in.

"This is a temporary phenomenon," says Dr. Harold E. Edgerton, professor emeritus at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a member of the team. "The ultimate objective is still to get a picture. But we haven't had much luck with the cameras, so we're moving to sound systems to try to locate the animals."

## Unexplained Movements

In recent days, printouts from a sonar scanner situated inside the team's lakeside equipment shed have recorded many unexplained movements by objects that create a strong signal and move to within 50 to 80 yards of the expedition's floating research platform, a square barge several hundred feet from the shore.

These sonar "pictures" have had two effects. One is to keep up the morale of the team, whose frustrations have been many and whose daily routine, except for an impromptu July 4 celebration, has been at once arduous and unproductive.

"All this sonar work has been a big boost," says Robert H. Rines, leader of the expedition who plans to continue the search through the summer.

The other has been to persuade the team to change its tactics. Until a few days ago, the team continued to hope that its complex battery of underwater cameras—including sev-

eral 35-millimeter stereo cameras, an underwater Polaroid SX-70, and a television camera linked to a viewing monitor inside the shed—would produce results.

## Little on the Screen

A simpler rig yielded pictures in 1972 and 1975 that, while fuzzy and grainy, showed what appeared to be a large creature's diamond-shaped flipper and a head, body and elongated neck. Those pictures, gathered by other teams led by Dr. Rines, persuaded him to make the trip this summer.

But so far little has appeared on the television screen. Of 46,000 frames produced by the various cameras, including one known as "Old Faithful"—a 16-millimeter elapsed-time camera developed by Dr. Edgerton—only three have shown anything.

"Two of them showed trout or salmon," says Charles W. Wyckoff, a former student of Dr. Edgerton and a pioneer in high-speed photography. "The other one showed what looked like an eel. For a few days, the most exciting thing that happened around here was the debate on whether it was in fact an eel."

One explanation offered by the team is that sea life may have been frightened rather than attracted by the underwater cameras and powerful strobe lights that illuminated the murky water.

## 'Trace' on the Paper

Dr. Edgerton had originally thought that the rig would act as "bait." That view received some reinforcement on June 30, when Mr. Wyckoff's wife, who was watching the sonar scanner, saw a large "trace" on the paper. The trace moved within 80 yards of the floating platform, paused for several minutes, then moved away. No boats were in the area at the time.

Since the "monster" will not come to the platform, the scientists have decided to move

the platform to the "monster." The platform was towed out another 80 yards, and the time-elapsed camera, which takes a picture every 22 seconds, was turned on.

"Actually, we are still operating on hunches," says Dr. Edgerton. "When one thing doesn't work, we'll try another."

There are two parts to the sonar operation. One is Dr. Edgerton's "fixed" sonar, which sits a few feet offshore and beams impulses toward the floating research platform and beyond. It is this system that produced the suggestive "tracings" in recent days. The other is on the expedition's 33-foot cabin cruiser, the Malaran, which has been "trolling" with a side-scan sonar "fish" devel-

oped by Klein Associates of Salem, N.H. This operation, run by Dr. Christopher McGowan, a zoologist with the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto, has been enlivened by the arrival of Martin Klein, a sonar expert and the company's president, and Charlie Finkelstein, an associate and diver.

Their hope has been to find bones or fossil formations that can be explored later by divers or deep-water cameras. Mr. Klein says he has located one interesting formation at a depth of about 350 feet, and, as a by-product, has discovered what appears to be a series of man-made stone circles lying in about 35 feet of water near the northern end of the loch. Dr. Rines thinks these may have archeological significance. They resemble stone cairns found in the hills that are thought to be products of earlier civilizations.

Other developments have kept the team busy despite the absence of spectacular results. The camera equipment has been shifted from the Hunter, a narrow 23-foot boat, to the much roomier platform, which was constructed by Tony Gerlings, a local resident, and is now anchored about 400 feet offshore.

Meanwhile, George C. Newton Jr., a professor of electrical engineering at M.I.T., arrived with infra-red equipment borrowed from the Magnavox Corporation. He will test the equipment and, if it works, hopes to install permanent infra-red devices to monitor the lake's surface at night.

Another expedition, sponsored by the National Geographic Society, has arrived with sophisticated photographic, sonar and diving equipment. The society's operating base is a trawler called the Corsair that is anchored near the Rines expedition's platform.

"We regard them as colleagues rather than competitors," says Dr. Edgerton. And Mr. Rines said that the two teams planned to exchange information.

The society's team, not surprisingly, includes several men who have known Dr. Edgerton and Mr. Wyckoff for years. Their backgrounds and some of their equipment are more or less interchangeable.

Among the newcomers with the National Geographic team is Sam Raymond, president of Benthos Corporation, which donated the two stereo cameras to the Rines expedition, and an expert on deep-sea photography.

An accomplished clarinet player, Mr. Raymond provided part of the musical accompaniment for an impromptu fife-and-drum march July 4 by members of both teams. And some nights he sits on the Corsair playing a few sweet and mournful solos, as if to summon the creature that has so far eluded the expedition's undiscouraged monster-seekers.

New York Times July 13, 1976

## Continued from last page:

The London Times immediately responded to the news: "Owing largely to the encouragement of The Times, an expedition has set out at once for Loch Ness...The expedition will include speedboats, divers, film companies, geologists, archeologists, zoologists, palaeontologists, seaplanes, gillies, expert shots, fishermen, whale hunters, cheese fanciers, bootboys and Stinkerbelle, the well-known fairy...Two geologists were bitten yesterday, one by a diplodocus, and the other by Seacale, the Admiral's borzoi."

(Wetherall's monster footprints were soon disqualified. Seems they had been made by someone who had armed himself with a Victorian hippopotamus-foot umbrella stand.)

It is evening on the Loch now, and the silver Celtic twilight bathes the Temple Pier. The Academy has posted signs that say "Private, Strictly Private, No Admittance," but the bureau's investigators, now traveling incognito, dare to venture on. A man is on the pier, a bottle of malt whiskey clasped firmly in his hand. Two bureau staffers, the political operative and the informed local source, both of whom are female, strike up a conversation and are asked to share a drink. The man is Capt. Jim Buchanan, a diver-sailor-biologist who owns the Malaran and describes himself as "an oyster freak." Capt. Jim now shows his guests the Academy's equipment, the underwater side-scan sonar, cathode ray tubes, cables and a bright red rubber wet suit. The conversation turns to monsters. Capt. Jim says he threw a potato at a 25-foot-long basking shark in Loch Fyne. He hit it in the nose. He explains why oyster farming failed in Loch Melfort. He says that diving in Loch Ness is like diving in consommé.

An amazing orange moon appears over the hill. Asked about the monsters inhabiting Loch Ness, he says, "Come on, and I will show you." Two odd photos are produced. Both of

them are gray. Both show a sonar screen with blips. "There was something there," says Capt. Jim. "It might have been two somethings. One of them was 45 feet long, the other was somewhat smaller. They behaved like flying saucers, zipping here and there. We watched them 80 minutes. After 40 I grew bored."

On seven separate occasions Frank Searle has taken pictures of the creatures in Loch Ness. He is not the first to capture the elusive beast on film. In April 1934, R.K. Wilson, a London gynecologist, took the famous "surgeon's photograph" of what appears to be the creature's head and neck. Other photographs of humps and bumps were made by Lachlan Stuart in 1951 and by P.A. Macnab in 1955.

All these photographs, like those shown by Capt. Jim, share a certain something. We have seen that imprecision, that grainy, fuzzy look before. We have seen it in the pictures that prove that flying saucers fly and that there was a gunman concealed in the bushes on the grassy knoll in Dallas.

The Bureau of Basic Research/Paul Richard Loch Ness Expedition did not sight the monster, though a sighting was reported while we were on the scene. Seems three sailors on a yacht had seen it in the Loch only days before. They had not told the world. They feared no one would believe them. Their boat, they explained, was named the Gin and Tonic.

Is there, is there really, a monster in Loch Ness?

In Scotland it's considered rude to even ask the question. Kelpies, water horses and other loathesome things once were quite as common there as they are today in children's stories, horror movies, heroic myths and dreams. Where would St. George have been if he had not had a dragon? Monsters are essential. They surely outweigh villains. What would Hercules, Ulysses or Superman be doing without monsters to defeat?

It sometimes seems that Watergate was more than just a tale of political corruption. The story seemed to have within it a narrative momentum, a sense of ancient dread, that carried it along. No sooner had the President departed from his office, than the monster-hungry country turned with relief to Jaws.

Washington, D.C.  
Post  
August 1, 1976

## Strange

## Cattle

## Mutilation

(ZNS) -- A report out of Albuquerque, New Mexico, is once again suggesting a link between those bizarre cattle mutilations and the presence of U.F.O.'s.

Abnormal levels of radiation have reportedly been found at the site where a cow was mutilated in Northern New Mexico last month.

Investigators claim to have discovered tripod-like tracks near the carcass, and a scientific consultant with radio station K-M-Y-R in Albuquerque states that the radiation levels in some of those tracks are twice the normal background level.

The incident began on June 13 when Manuel Gomez, a rancher in Dulce, reported that he discovered one of his cows mutilated in the middle of a pasture -- with its udder and anus removed "with a sharp instrument."

Gomez returned the following day with state police and a county livestock inspector, only to find additional parts of the animal apparently also surgically removed. A subsequent investigation of the area reportedly revealed triangular tracks in a tripod formation near the carcass; witnesses report that no other tracks, including human footprints or tire tracks, could be identified.

The state police also discovered a "sticky substance" -- yellow in color -- on some shrubbery in the immediate area near the tripod tracks, adding that some of the shrubs appeared to be scorched and dying.

Wild predators reportedly would not approach the remains of the cow for at least 72 hours after the discovery. A calf the cow had been nursing is missing.

In the meantime, there have been at least eight reports of U.F.O. sightings near Dulce in recent weeks, the first one occurring the same evening the cow was discovered mutilated.

State police report that the yellow "sticky substance" is currently being analyzed.

Newhall, California  
Signal & Saugus  
Enterprise  
July 19, 1976

# New creature sightings are reported

By THOMAS BEAM  
Tribune Staff Writer

After a lull of more than five months, two more sightings of large humanoid creatures in the Great Falls area have been reported to Cascade County authorities within the last nine days.

The latest sighting occurred at 5:30 a.m. Wednesday. A woman, en route to her place of employment in Great Falls from her residence in Ulm, reported she saw a large, hair-covered creature standing on the shoulder of Interstate 15 five miles west of Great Falls.

Cascade County Sheriff Capt. Keith Wolverton, who is investigating the sighting, said the woman got a clear look at the creature in the early daylight as she passed by it at a distance of about 20 feet.

"The woman was driving 55 miles per

hour at the time but slowed immediately after passing the creature and stopped a short distance away," Wolverton said.

"The woman said the creature was standing still as she passed it but that when she stopped her vehicle, it began walking along the shoulder of the interstate towards the west.

"She observed this creature for nearly four minutes before continuing to drive to Great Falls," he said.

Wolverton said the woman, who apparently was the only motorist in the area at that time, described the creature as being between seven and eight feet tall, covered with dark brown to black hair and "very wide at the shoulders."

Wolverton and other deputies checked the area for evidence such as tracks and

took a soil sample from one depression in the ground but said they were unable to locate any clear marks along the side of the highway or in the borrow pit because of the hard-packed ground.

According to Wolverton, the sighting was in the same area where Leonard Hegele, 29, Helena, spotted and pursued a creature of similar description Feb. 22.

Hegele, his wife and their two children were driving on Interstate 15 on that date when they saw a creature walking along a knoll parallel to the highway about 10 a.m.

Hegele said he chased the creature on foot but broke off pursuit when it turned around and faced him at a distance of approximately 700 feet.

According to Wolverton, the second sighting within the past 9 days occurred

July 21 when four Great Falls men reported seeing two creatures east of Rainbow Dam on the south side of the Missouri River.

Wolverton said the sighting took place about 10:30 p.m. and that the men said the two creatures were walking along a hill toward the river when they were seen at a distance of approximately 100 yards.

"One man drove to this office to report the sighting while the other three drove to the Malmstrom AFB main gate to report it," he said.

"The men never really got a good look at the two because it was almost completely dark at the time but they are sure they saw two very large objects walking towards the river."

Wolverton said he and another deputy

checked the area that night and during daylight the following day but were unable to find any evidence.

"We consider both these reports authentic and are investigating each one," he said. "We also are interested in any other reports, either past or present, from people who may have seen something suspicious but have not reported it for some reason.

"Every scrap of information we can get will help this investigation."

The latest two sightings are the fifth and sixth reported in the Great Falls and Helena area since December, 1975.

Other sightings were reported Dec. 26 near Vaughn; Feb. 21 near Ulm, Feb. 22 west of Great Falls on Interstate 15, and April 4 four miles northeast of Helena.

Great Falls, Montana

Great Falls Tribune

Saturday, July 31, 1976

CR: Mark A. Hall

Rockford, Ill. July 15, 1976

Morning Star

# Dixon park stroll by Bigfoot doubted

DIXON — Speculation continues here as to whether Bigfoot, the legendary ape-man, made a visit over the Bicentennial weekend to Lowell Park.

Dwyane Norvell, Kirkland, a member of the North American Wildlife Research Association, has said he "questions" whether 17-inch-long footprints found July 5 in the park were made by Bigfoot.

"But I'm not ruling out the possibility," Norvell added.

It was the second trip Norvell had made to Dixon to check out Bigfoot evidence. Norvell said it is "my job" as an association

member to investigate Bigfoot rumors in his area, and share information with other members.

Norvell said he found two incomplete footprints, showing toes of both left and right feet, on his July 5 visit. He dug up the footprints, which were in river mud near the Lowell Park shelter.

The tracks measure 8½ inches across.

Sunday Norvell came to Dixon to view a plaster case made of other tracks found along the Rock River north of the park.

Norvell said he was less impressed with the authenticity of the tracks after viewing

the cast, because the track seemed shallower than the "monster's" size would warrant. The print also lacked the normal depression between the ball of the foot and the toes.

In the meantime, a rumor surfaced that the tracks were made by a prankster, who sawed himself some plywood feet with toes, and strapped them on for an early morning stroll in Lowell Park. The park, two miles north of Dixon along the Rock River, contains 200 acres of timber.

But the prankster, if such he is, has made himself as scarce as Bigfoot since the

Bicentennial week-end.

Norvell said that among Bigfoot rumors, "the majority are hoaxes."

But Norvell is inclined to believe there is a creature behind the legend, after finding 15-inch-long footprints in an out-of-the-way spot in northern California mountains. Norvell went there in 1973 with the express purpose of looking for Bigfoot tracks.

The Kirkland man also investigated a sighting in Louisiana, Mo., where a fisherman known for honesty "definitely saw something."

Numerous sightings have occurred along

the Mississippi, but none in Illinois so far, Norvell said.

Another factor that caused Norvell to question the Lowell Park footprints was that several were found in one place, "Multiple footprints are very rare," he said.

"The only time they'll leave a footprint is where they have no alternative."

Norvell added that the Lowell Park area is "the type of terrain it hangs out in, in the Pacific northwest. But I'd have to question it if I didn't find more footprints elsewhere in the area."