

# UFO

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ROUTE 1 - BOX 220

PLUMERVILLE, ARKANSAS 72127 U.S.A.

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DECEMBER 1977 NUMBER 101

DISPATCH, St. Paul, MN

- Oct. 13, 1977

## Flying saucers' spotted

Two bus drivers in Forest Lake District 831 think they may have sighted a "flying saucer."

But both of them are saying little about the matter.

"IF WE STARTED talking about it too much," one of the drivers said, "people will think we are nuts." He consented to an interview "only if my name is kept out of the papers."

The driver said he saw the mysterious, saucer-like object in the sky Sept. 30 while driving a bus (with several student passengers) in the vicinity of Big Marine Lake in northeast Washington County.

"I didn't learn until I returned to the bus garage later in the day that another driver had seen the same thing," he said. "We disagreed about color. I thought it was white. The other guy said it was pink."

The other driver, at the time, was about 20 miles west of Big Marine Lake, close to Coon Lake in Anoka County, he reported.

Otherwise, the drivers offered identical descriptions of an object that hovered in the sky and followed the movements of the bus.

"IT STAYED PRETTY much in front of my bus and above it, maybe 2,000 feet high," the interviewed driver said. "When I stopped, it stopped. I must have watched it for seven or eight minutes. Then it disappeared, in a flash."

He told of consciously avoiding mention of the object to the bus passengers to determine if they would notice it on their own.

"Some of them did see it," he added. "But nobody was scared. We just laughed it off."

When he told other drivers of the sighting, he was advised to report it to the local police.

"But I'm not going to do that," he said. "What can the police do about a flying saucer? Nothing."

## UFO reported by area resident

A Mason City woman who refused to give her name told police she saw an unidentified flying object late Monday.

Police received the call at 10:33 p.m. The woman said she sighted the UFO near the 800 block of 15th SE.

She described it as "... definitely triangular in shape and making a loud buzzing noise," police said. She also reported that the object changed colors, from white to red to green. The object did not "flash," according to the police report, but slowly changed colors.

The woman also told police the object was moving slowly when she first spotted it, then appeared to hover for a short time and then moved rapidly to the west.

According to sources at Ozark Air Lines, a DC-9 jet left the Mason City Municipal Airport at 10:33 p.m. Monday.

Deputy Police Chief Duane Jewell said Tuesday that the UFO sighting probably could be credited to the airplane, which was westbound en route to Sioux City.

The Des Moines Weather Bureau, contacted by police after the sighting was called in, reported an object on radar in the Mason City area.

At 10:46 p.m. the bureau reported the "blip" still was on its screen, in the Algonia area, and still was westbound, according to police.

Weather bureau workers told local police the object could have been an airplane, but they usually do not pick up aircraft because their radar is not tuned to them.

At least one other area resident spotted a UFO Monday night. Barry Schrag told his wife, Cindy, that he had spotted a UFO near Northwood as he was returning home to Carpenter from work about 9:30 p.m.

Mrs. Schrag said her husband described the object as bright with flashing lights.

"He said at first he thought it was an airplane," she said. "But then, after a minute or two, the lights just vanished. He said it was moving too fast to be a plane."

Schrag reportedly was headed east when he saw the object flying west toward Mason City.

The only other scheduled flight of an aircraft from the Mason City airport Monday night was an Ozark plane which departed at 8:07.

According to the Cerro Gordo County Sheriff's office and the UFO Information Center in Chicago, no other UFO sightings were reported in North Iowa Monday night.

Surrounding counties also reported no UFO sightings Monday, according to the sheriff's department in each county.

There have been about three UFO reports in the past month, according to local officials.

GLOBE-GAZETTE,  
Mason City, IA  
Oct. 18, 1977

DAILY JOURNAL, Waseca, MN - Oct. 14, 1977

## UFO spotted near Waseca Thursday

An unidentified flying object was reportedly seen five miles northwest of Waseca on a county road at approximately 11 p.m. Thursday.

The UFO was described as being round with another round protrusion on one side. According to one of two Waseca residents who reportedly saw the UFO there were three lights on the object, one red, one green and one white. The lights did not move.

A section of the object was described as "blurry white" while the majority of the object was believed to be a metallic color.

The UFO was reported to be approximately 30 feet above the ground and heading in a southeasterly direction toward Waseca.

The persons sighting the object said that the UFO made a vibrating motion. Upon the sighting, they rolled open the car window and heard a "quivering" sound.

The UFO was reported to be hovering over the vehicle as though watching it.

Approximately one week ago, a Morristown woman who works at a nursing home in Faribault reported to Faribault police that "a beam of light" followed her to work.

When she arrived at work, she called the police. A police officer who answered the call reportedly watched it with the woman for approximately 15 minutes.

DAILY REGISTER, Oelwein, IA - Oct. 18, 1977

## UFO sightings here, Mason City

The Oelwein police force was star-gazing Monday night, but it wasn't because they had been dipping into any brew.

Oelwein officers spent about 15 to 20 minutes watching an unidentified flying object (UFO) in the sky east of town. Officers received the report about 2:30 a.m. and rushed to the east side of town.

There they found a small object in the sky, approximately 500 to 1,000 feet in the air. The object had small white, green, red and purple lights which were flashing.

The officers notified Buchanan County authorities who also drove to the Stanley area and also observed the flying object. Officers said it hovered in the same place, with the only motion being a spiraling up and down movement.

Officers said suddenly the object sped away.

Earlier Monday night in Mason City, police officers there were notified by a woman of an object which was hovering over the city. Officers there also observed the object, which reportedly changed colors several times before speeding away to the west.

That occurred about 10:30 p.m. Monday.

Mason city authorities notified the National Weather Service of the sight. In Des Moines, the National Weather Service said Tuesday it detected a flying object in the area, but it evaluated the radar blip as an airplane.

# Motorist Thinks He Saw UFO

PAGE ONE by Julie Ladwig

Mystic — Donald Ross, a Groton real estate agent, thinks the area might have had some unexpected visitors Monday night.

Traveling east on Interstate 95 at 10:25 p.m. near the Allyn Street exit, Ross says he spotted two round blue lights in the sky over Mystic.

One diagonally above the other, the objects radiated an aquamarine light that traveled at a steady speed across the horizon.

Ross, a pilot who has logged more than a million miles in the air, says they didn't look like flying craft he's ever seen. He thinks the fast-traveling lights were Unidentified Flying Objects.

"I've talked to other pilots who've seen unexplainable things in the sky, and this kind of sighting isn't unusual. But it is a shock to see them so close to home," he observes.

The lights were quite a distance off when Ross first saw them. As they approached, a blue beam seemed to radiate from them to the ground. The objects disappeared over the horizon as he watched.

There was no interruption of their trajectory as they sped over Mystic, Ross says.

George Ruhr, manager at Trumbull Airport, says no known flying craft emanate a blue light. Planes have green, red and white lights, he explains.

Ruhr says the Trumbull control tower received no report of the lights. No craft that would give off a blue light was given permission to fly out of Trumbull Monday, he adds.

Groton and Stonington police say they had no reports of UFO spottings Monday.

COMPASS COMMENT, Mystic, CT - Oct. 21, 1977  
CR: B. Greenwood

# Several Report Seeing UFO

<sup>UFO</sup> Mystic — Groton real estate agent Donald Ross wasn't the only local resident who spotted some strange objects over Mystic

last week. Additional calls to The Compass indicated something unusual was in the sky around 10:30 p.m. October 17, and callers share Ross' belief the two fast-moving blue lights were Unidentified Flying Objects.

Christopher Dunklee, 13, of Pawcatuck was so impressed with the phenomenon that he made a pen-and-ink sketch of the lights.

"We thought he was crazy when he told us about them, but I guess he really did see them," Julie Dunklee, his mother, says.

The sight so frightened the boy that he locked himself in his grandmother's garage until the blue lights disappeared over the horizon.

A nurse living in Fieldcrest claims to have seen the lights on her way home at about the same time and a North Stonington woman reported she viewed the lights that evening and has seen them on and off for about three weeks.

Unusual sightings may be reported to the UFO Reporting Service at (206) 722-3000.

COMPASS COMMENT,  
Mystic, CT  
Oct. 28, 1977  
CR: B. Greenwood

UPPER DES MOINES,  
Algona, IA  
Oct. 30, 1977

## Say Something Flies Over Area At 450 M.P.H.

Algona was mentioned in connection with a report of a sighting of an unidentified flying object by a Mason City woman at Mason City Sunday about 10:30 p.m.

The woman, who asked that authorities not identify her, said she saw a triangular shaped flying object which made a buzzing noise, changed colors and maneuvered about in the air while she watched.

➤ The Des Moines airport was contacted and their radar scans revealed an object in the sky southwest of Mason City and later in the Algona area. It was estimated that the object near Algona was moving at about 450 miles per hour.

Several area residents reported UFO sightings here about a year ago. There were none Sunday night.

HERALD, Ottawa, KS  
Oct. 24, 1977

## Orange UFO Reported

WAVERLY—A 62-year-old woman reported seeing an Unidentified Flying Object here early Saturday morning.

"I have never seen anything like that in my life and I hope I never see it again," commented Joyce Shaw who lives with her 89-year-old mother a few blocks from the downtown Waverly area.

She explained that shortly after midnight Saturday, she was embroidering Christmas presents when her dog started barking. She got the feeling someone was watching her so she went to her bedroom.

"There was no wind then but my curtains were really blowing," she stated. Looking out one of her bedroom windows, she saw a dim light and turned her lights out.

She saw a light that appeared to be a flashlight going back and forth near her neighbor's house. Then a bright light flashed into her bedroom window, one so bright it hurt her eyes.

When she got the nerve to peek out the window again, she saw a round object at about tree level over a neighbor's house. It was a dark orange color and appeared lighted from the bottom. It disappeared to the west.

"I didn't report it," she explained, "Because you know what people think of you. I did hear on the television that a woman from Wichita reported seeing something later Saturday morning. I bet it was the same thing."

She added that she is still shook up from the sight. And her elderly mother mother is mad that she wasn't awakened to see it, too.

FLEMING COUNTY GAZETTE, Flemingsburg, KY - Oct. 20, 1977

## It's A Bird, It's A Plane, It's Shaped Like

# A HOTDOG

"I saw something I never want to see again," 15 year old Greg Hughes screamed to his brother, Jackie, recently at their farm at Fairview.

Greg first saw "something" around 5:15 a.m. October 10 as he was driving the cows back to the barn for milking.

"I rode my horse into the woods and saw an orange object about eight to ten feet above the ground. First, I thought it was a airplane. It came toward me and got brighter and larger, and made noises like sirens

wailing.

"It was shaped like a hotdog and about eight feet long," Hughes said.

"My horse nayed and the cows bawled. I ran one-third of a mile back to the barn to tell my brother what I saw. When I turned around at the barn, I couldn't see the object any where," he said,

According to Jackie Hughes, there were no burn marks on the ground where the apparent UFO (unidentified flying object) hovered.

"The cows were so spooked that they nearly beat the horse and me back to the barn.

"It's kind of funny, but the cows come home on their own now," Greg said.



# UFO Sighting Changed Stevens' Life

*I often stop and wonder if you're better off when you see something like that, to keep your mouth shut.*

— William L. Stevens Jr.

**By Bob Lindsey**

At 3:30 on a dark but clear June morning, Patrolman Billy Stevens headed his Richmond police car north on Meadowbridge Road, just inside the city.

As he approached the Ladies Mile Road intersection, he noticed green and yellow lights in the air over the State Fairgrounds not far up the road and remembered that a carnival had set up there several days earlier.

But there was something strange about the lights, and when he drove past the city limits into the county to investigate, he saw it: an object shrouded in mist, encircled with lights and shaped like a blimp.

Stevens chased it, and his life hasn't been the same since that morning 11 years ago, June 24, 1966.

**WHATEVER IT WAS**, it was hovering about 200 feet over Richmond-Henrico Turnpike, near the service entrance to the fairgrounds, Stevens said.

"At the time I saw it, I picked my mike up. I went toward it and put my red light on, and my spotlight. My spotlight hit it and it was in its own cloud like a fog or a mist. It turned immediately, and when it did, it put the back toward me. It was shaped exactly like a dirigible, but it didn't have a gondola or anything under it.

"It took off and followed the road. It stayed

right over the top of the road and I'm under it. It was right over top of the trees. At the time I saw it I [asked the dispatcher] to notify Byrd Field and get radar on, I got something.

"I look down at my speedometer. I'm running 50, it's running 50. I'm running 60, it's running 60.

"So we kept it up. It was just like it wanted me to follow him."

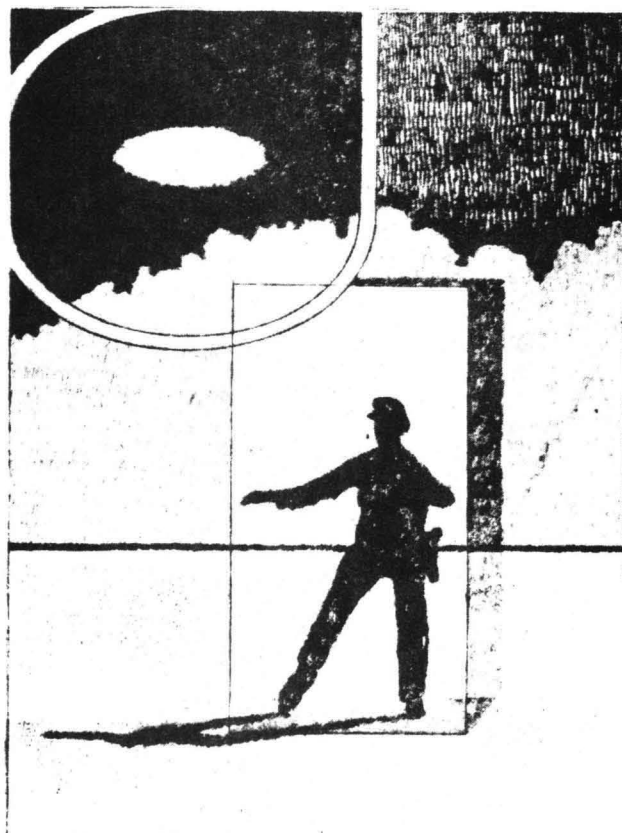
**THE CHASE LASTED** about five miles, and it was the last one for Patrolman Stevens. Several months later he was taken off the street and assigned to the police lockup, a demotion, as Stevens saw it. And someone asked him if he saw any little green men with horns.

He had nothing but his word that he saw something, and it turned out that Byrd Field's radar didn't pick up anything.

Stevens' chase made national news at the time. He was visited by an Air Force representative and was questioned by the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP), a private group.

Theories abounded. The UFO was, a California caller said, a lifeboat from a mother ship sent by a highly advanced civilization from a planet in another solar system. The planet was friendly toward earth and would help it win a war with a hostile planet in still another solar system. The war would start in 20 years.

Stevens never called it a flying saucer, he said, but wondered if the thing weren't an experimental craft being tested by the govern-



Staff Illustration by Martin Rhode

**Drawing Symbolizes Policeman's Sighting**

*Continued on Page 14, Col. 1*

TIMES DISPATCH, Richmond, VA - Oct. 27, 1977

*Continued From First Page*

ment. The Air Force suggested it may have been swamp gas.

**MANY, SAID STEVENS**, questioned his credibility, but about a month after the chase, some help showed up.

While the chase was on, Henrico police were notified.

About an hour after the original sighting, two county policemen on Wilkinson Road, several miles from where the object Stevens was chasing disappeared, saw something they could not identify. They refused to give their names but said in a newspaper report at the time that they saw a bright point of light that moved through the sky, stopped, moved again and frequently changed directions.

"It appeared to be operating at a level lower than the 300-foot-tall radio transmission towers on Wilkinson Road, the officers said. One said the object projected a beam like an aircraft landing light.

Stevens pursued the object along the Richmond-Henrico Turnpike, running northeastward toward Hanover County. The turnpike eventually changes to Meadowbridge Road.

"I WASN'T SCARED until it was all over with," he recalled. "All of a sudden, it looked like I had to catch up with that damn thing. Tell me why; I don't know.

"It never made a sound. It just stayed up in the air in front of me." The chase escalated to 100 miles an hour as it moved through the Ellerson Farms area in Hanover County. At the intersection of Meadowbridge and Atlee Road, Stevens ran a stop sign.

"This thing was still moving along comfortably in the air. I was just so intense about trying to find out about this thing, you know, what it was and why it was playing this cat and mouse game, you know, tag. I came through the intersection about 100 miles an hour and by the grace of God nothing was coming. It never dawned on me that I'd run this stop sign until after it was all over with."

The UFO generally stayed about 200 feet overhead, and with his spotlight Stevens could see "a dull, gray ship." There were no markings on it. It was "100, maybe 200 feet long and 35 feet high," he said.

At a cemetery on Meadowbridge, beyond its intersection with Shady Grove Road, the object "just picked up and went out of sight and left me. When it left me it went from a hundred miles an hour to thou... well, it had to be thousands of miles an hour. In seconds it was out of sight."

**TODAY STEVENS** is a police dispatcher, but he wants to be a policeman, and he thinks he would be if it weren't for the UFO.

"Sometimes I think my best bet would have been to turn the car back, come on back to Richmond and forget the whole thing. Because people still don't want to believe it; they want to joke about it, and it's nothing to joke about.

"I can't convince you what's up there. But I'll tell you this: If you see what I have seen, then you will believe it... I had read articles on it before I saw it... I wasn't a UFO buff but now I am because I've seen it.

"And I know what I saw."



T-D Photo

**W.L. Stevens Jr. Where UFO Vanished**

## UFO groups investigate sightings here

Area UFO societies are investigating reported sightings of an orange "egg-shaped" object which hovered over a Brimfield home and then disappeared into the night sky Sunday.

Alvin Branham of 2145 Tallmadge Rd. said a frightened couple came to his door about 8:30 p.m. Sunday and asked him to come outside. He said he and his wife ran out to discover the large object circling the house.

He said the object circled for a few minutes in about a quarter-mile radius, then moved to the southeast where it appeared to stop and discharge three smaller objects. While Branham and the man went inside to call the sheriff's office, their wives remained outside and saw two more of the smaller objects drop from the mysterious vehicle which then "disappeared."

Branham said the man, reportedly a Ravenna area teacher, told him he first saw the object in a field on the south side of Tallmadge Road.

The man told Branham he believed it to be a drilling rig, but then it "took off" and rose above the car. The couple reportedly stopped their car and the object stopped above it, Branham said.

Seeing lights in the nearby Branham home, the couple rushed there for help.

"At first I wondered what kind of party this guy had come from. Then I saw it, too," Branham said.

Portage County sheriff's deputies reportedly found nothing when they went to the scene.

RECORD-COURIER, Ravenna, OH - Nov. 14, 1977 CR: A. Candusso

## She doesn't know what, but it wasn't a plane

They're at it again. Who are they? Well, that's tough to say, since they haven't been seen much.

But somebody saw one of those round, lighted vehicles they travel in again over the weekend.

Science has a rather clinical name for them ... Unidentified Flying Objects.

"It definitely was not a plane ... it was not a plane," Cheryl Clapp of Mill road said about four times over the phone to the Chronicle on Monday.

She's not quite ready to say what it was, but she remembers pretty vividly what she saw Sunday night. And she doesn't think it was a pre-Halloween prank.

"I was driving along Mill road ... at about 6 o'clock I drive along it a lot since I live there," she said, "and it is always very dark since there

aren't many streetlights.

"So these bright lights really caught my attention. I have no idea how big it was, but it was round and it had red and white flashing lights around it."

Cheryl says she knows she is not the only one who saw the object, which she estimated was off the road a distance of "about three houses," because the car in front of her stopped to view it also.

"And there was also a car coming the other way that stopped," she says.

"I rolled down my window to look at it and to see if it was making any noise, but I couldn't hear a thing."

The object, she says, was right above the tree line, but she could not tell exactly how big it was.

"Then it seemed to disappear right below the trees," she says, "and the other cars took off. I wasn't going to stay there by myself, so I took off too. I wanted to ask the people ahead of me about it but they wouldn't stop. I gave them my high beams and everything."

So far, Cheryl thinks she's the only one who has told anyone else about it. She went first to the Hamilton police, who said they would send a cruiser out to check the area.

"I wondered if anybody else reported it to them, but I guess they didn't," she says.

And she also spoke with area UFO expert Raymond Fowler of Wenham, who says she may have had what he terms a "close encounter."

"It's possible that she saw one of these new advertising planes which have recently been built," he says.

"They're quite spectacular and they can move in funny directions ... they just look really weird, so they've been causing a lot of reports."

"But if the plane wasn't in the vicinity, and she thinks she was within 500 feet of it, I'll probably try to get some more information from her ... maybe visit the site."

Fowler, whose interest in UFO's goes back to 1947 and the first widely publicized sighting at Mt. Ranier is now director for the Mutual UFO Network in Massachusetts.

He said he has had very few reports which interest other authorities, since they are mostly interested in daytime sightings or the so-called "close encounters."

"It's been a pretty dull year," he says.

Cheryl Clapp is convinced at least for the moment, however, that her experience may have livened up the dull year.

She's willing to believe it was a plane if she hears that one was in the immediate area.

CHRONICLE, Ipswich, MA  
Nov. 3, 1977  
CR: B. Greenwood

SUN, Las Vegas, NV - Nov. 17, 1977

## UFO 'Hovering' Above

Ed Dula, 30, a Strip hotel maintenance man, was en route from Zion National Park to Las Vegas when he sighted two saucer-shaped objects hovering on the horizon near Interstate 15.

"They were round and saucer shaped, but we never got close enough to make out more than that," said Dula. He was returning home from a three-day weekend camping trip with his wife, Cheryl, 31, twins Debbie and Deron, 12, and a 15-month-old son.

The sighting occurred shortly after the family left St.

George, Utah, about 6 p.m. Sunday. Sandra Simms, 30, Las Vegas, and her 12-year-old son reported a similar experience in the same area and at the same time.

"We saw them when we first left St. George and headed back toward Las Vegas about 6 p.m. They were on the horizon above the mountains. I knew they couldn't be airplanes because they were hovering," said Dula, a man who has lived in Las Vegas all his life.

"Sometimes they dropped so low you could see the mountains behind them. We could see red and white lights.

## I-15 Sighted By LV Family

We could make out the image. It was round and saucer shaped."

"It seemed like they were over the highway (Interstate 15) sometimes to the right or left and they would move higher in the sky. They moved too fast for helicopters. We watched them for about 15 minutes and then I had a flat tire and couldn't keep up."

"It just gives you a cold chill. I couldn't figure out what it was. You could follow the light and see them clearly. They

moved with quick motions and moved around too quickly for a plane or helicopter."

"After watching it there was no way to explain it." Mrs. Simms reported a similar sighting earlier this week and described it as an "eerie feeling" and said she felt "compelled to watch." Mrs. Simms said she and her son observed the two unidentified flying objects for more than an hour when they were returning to Las Vegas after attending a birthday party for her 90-year-old Mormon grandmother in Pleasant Grove, Utah.



# UFO or prank?

By SANDY BRADLEY

Alvin and Kim Branham knew their imaginations hadn't created that huge orange object circling their Brimfield home Sunday night.

Others saw it too.

A frightened couple saw the object rise from a field and stop over their car, and they rushed to the Branhams' Tallmadge Road home for help. A family on Hanover Drive in Brimfield later reported seeing the strange object in the sky. An amateur astronomer reported seeing a bright light in the sky, a light which "winked out" before his eyes.

What did they see? A visitor from outer space? Or a plastic balloon sent aloft by pranksters?

One person who is trying to find out is A. E. "Mark" Candusso of Cuyahoga Falls, co-chairman of the Flying Saucer Investigating Committee of Akron. Candusso, who has been investigating reports of unidentified flying objects since 1961, acknowledges that the majority of objects turn out to be explainable earthly things, from aircraft to the work of pranksters.

The prankster theory is being explored in this case. Candusso said he has information that someone was launching plastic dry-cleaning bags, inflated with candles mounted inside, Sunday night in the Brimfield area.

That would explain the mysterious lighted object rising from the field. It would explain the bright smaller objects falling from it, if the bag had started to burn and disintegrate.

It would not explain the object "as tall as a 30-story building" which the Branhams saw circling their home. It would not explain the distant light in the sky seen through an astronomer's telescope.

Candusso said Branham seemed "very stable; a good observer." After 16 years in the UFO business, he's learned to spot the cranks and the jokers. He doesn't believe Branham is one of them. And he doesn't know how a plastic balloon could resemble an object as tall as a 30-story building to a stable observer.

Yet, he can't discount the prankster theory.

"I'm not strictly ignoring the negative side," he said.

That, in fact, is what he said has been the problem in investigations of the UFO phenomenon. People won't look at all the possible theories. Scientists, especially, are quick to discount any theories about space explorers from distant galaxies. UFOlogy, as it has come to be called, has remained more the concern of the philosopher than the scientist.

We contacted three area scientists, two of them professional astronomers, in our quest for a scientific explanation of the UFO phenomenon. We found none.

One said he was too busy with the "hard sciences" to worry about UFOs, although he admitted reliable reports of UFO sightings could be valuable to the scientific community.

Another said he really hadn't thought about it at all. All said they had no professional opinion on the subject.

Candusso said his organization, which currently has about 20 members, includes "not one scientist."

"Scientists are not as objective sometimes as they should be. Most of them are busy with their own work and they don't want to take the time. If they don't want to take the time, it's easy to take the simple way out by explaining them as weather balloons, aircraft and the like," he said.

To the police officers who usually receive the first reports of UFO sightings, it means just one more notation on the growing list of UFO reports.

Even those officers who will admit to the possibility of extraterrestrial space explorers are skeptical of UFO reports. They have heard so many, and so many have been pranks. And when the reports have seemed sincere, there was simply nothing there when the officers arrived to investigate.

Although the current issue of Newsweek reports that some 15 million Americans have seen UFOs at one time or another, many persons who see the strange objects remain as unidentified as the objects themselves.

So it was with the couple who knocked on the Branhams' door Sunday night. He is a school teacher. Like many who have seen UFOs, he feared the ridicule and harrassment that have fallen on some who have reported the sightings.

Through the years, a number of people have attempted to get the UFO phenomenon taken seriously. A nationwide organization, the Midwest UFO Network (MUFON), of which Candusso is a state assistant director, lobbies for government investigations of UFO sightings.

A short-lived investigation in 1966 was spurred by then Michigan Congressman Gerald Ford. And according to Newsweek, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is launching a new program at the urging of President Jimmy Carter, who when Governor of Georgia in 1973, reported two UFO sightings himself.

While nobody is about to say officially that those mysterious objects which come and hover over houses and cars and then disappear into the night could belong to life forms out there somewhere, the federal government has, in a way, acknowledged such a belief.

The Voyager spacecraft launched this autumn and now headed for the far edges of the galaxy is equipped with recordings of earth sounds, pictures and mathematical

## Akron group probes Brimfield sighting

symbols. Voyager is expected to leave the galaxy in the 1980's, carrying with it the sounds of wind and rushing water and greetings in 60 languages.

Who knows but what some day in the distant future that strange looking craft drifting quietly through space won't frighten some poor souls on some other planet?

And who is to say that out there in that vastness which we have only begun to understand there isn't somebody who had the idea first?

RECORD-COURIER, Ravenna, OH  
Nov. 19, 1977  
CR: A. Candusso

## UFO 'Caught'?

### HB Boys May Have Photos

LAGUNA BEACH DAILY PILOT, Costa Mesa, CA - Nov. 11, 1977

Kenneth Lee Flinchum and his buddy Dan Arriola may have a color photograph of an Unidentified Flying Object hovering over Huntington Beach and then again they may not.

They don't know for sure but they vow that they know what they saw — and stalked — for several blocks Wednesday night, snapping pictures along the way.

They won't know about the photos until they're developed.

"We'll take the film to either the K-Mart or the Fotomat. Probably the Fotomat," says Kenny, 14, of 720 Owen Ave., Huntington Beach.

He and Dan, 11, of 723 Owen Ave., were hanging around about 7:40 p.m. when they spotted what they describe as a glowing white, disc-like UFO hovering above the neighborhood.

"We followed it for at least a few blocks. We heard a weird humming sound," Kenny recalled.

Several other neighborhood residents say they heard the weird noise too.

"Then after we followed it for awhile it shot straight up. We went to our left and then we saw a whole bunch of them in formation. They were in a circle."

He described the aerial phenomenon as about the size of a car, but really pretty small, perhaps something like a compact UFO model.

"It was like it was really high up there," the boy explained.

Did the UFO, which sounds slightly similar to two witnessed early this year by five Huntington Beach police officers, resemble anything Kenny and Dan had ever seen before?

"Noway!" Kenny declares.

He volunteered to draw a sketch of the UFO they tracked and photographed, but as far as a photo the general viewing public and other experts will just have to wait a few days.

Either for K-Mart or the Fotomat.

# UN diplomats hear pitch for UFO probe

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Prime Minister Eric Gairy of Grenada opened the first U.N. debate on UFOs, then led the diplomats to the movies Monday night to see "Close Encounters of the Third Kind."

"This is the fulfillment of my very high expectation ... The world is looking on," the leader of the 12-by 21-mile island in the Caribbean told the General Assembly's special political committee made up of delegates from all 149 U.N. members.

Gairy told a reporter of his own close encounter "2½ years ago, when I was driving home at 2 or 3 in the morning."

"It was a big object, a brilliant light, golden bright, moving at tremendous speed," he continued. "It was off at a distance. I couldn't tell how far. It lasted perhaps three minutes. I'm not the only one. Other people on Grenada have seen them."

His speech to the political committee was brief, and then he and his party went off to dinner and an evening with Hollywood's latest foray into the world of unidentified flying objects.

The film's distributors provided 300 free tickets for U.N. diplomats in advance of the debate. The tickets were distributed through the Grenada delegation. The Grenadians also handed out 300 free copies of a paperback book on UFOs.

The solidly built, bespectacled Gairy, who intersperses religious thoughts in his UFO speeches, began his campaign two years ago. In an address to the General Assembly then, he called for a U.N. investigation of psychic phenomena. Last year, in another assembly speech, he proposed that UFOs be studied also.

Gairy is not the only head of government to have reported a UFO sighting. President Carter says he saw one in Georgia in 1973. But Gairy is the only national leader who has made UFOs a key concern of his country's foreign policy.

Gairy has accused some nations — which he does not identify publicly — of stifling information they have collected about UFO sightings.

He has submitted a resolution to the assembly calling for creation of a U.N. agency to conduct UFO research and to coordinate the findings of individual nations. The United States, for one, opposes the idea, and Gairy says he is willing to settle for a temporary study committee.

The Grenadan also proposes that the United Nations declare 1978 the International Year of Unidentified Flying Objects and that the United Nations and Grenada jointly issue postage stamps commemorating great moments in UFO research.

DAILY JOURNAL, Stevens Point, WI - Nov. 29, 1977 CR: G. Friedrich

# Carter advice to leader — see UFO film

WASHINGTON (Reuter) — President Carter, who once thought he might have encountered a flying saucer, recommended that another government leader fascinated by such phenomena should see a new movie about them.

His advice Tuesday went to Prime Minister Eric Gairy of Grenada who, he recalled, has made two speeches about unidentified flying objects to the United Nations and is preparing to deliver a third.

The President, receiving credentials from Grenada's new ambassador, Franklyn Dollard, said Gairy should see "Close Encounters of the Third Kind," a recently released Columbia Pictures film about UFOs.

The film is being obtained by the White House for screening for the President and his family.

In 1969, Mr. Carter filed a report with the National Investigating Committee on Aerial Phenomena telling how he had seen a bright, moon-shaped object hover and then move back and forth near him while he was waiting to make an outdoor speech in Leary, Ga.

GLOBE-DEMOCRAT, St. Louis, MO - Nov. 24, 1977 CR: N. Short

# UFO reportedly tampered with ship

LISBON (Reuter) — An unidentified flying object upset a Portuguese trawler's electrical system recently setting off its alarm sirens, the official news agency ANOP reported Wednesday.

It said the UFO, emitting a glaring light, hovered above the 300-ton Pardelhas off South West Africa (Namibia) for eight minutes, then departed at high speed.

GLOBE-DEMOCRAT, St. Louis, MO - Nov. 26, 1977 CR: N. Short

# ARKANSAS GAZETTE, Little Rock, AR - Dec. 14, 1977

Franklin O. Dollard, Grenada's ambassador to the United Nations, told members of the General Assembly that understanding UFO's was vital to "our attempts to solve the social and economic problems of the world."

POST-DISPATCH, St. Louis, MO  
Nov. 27, 1977 CR: R. Nelke

# Saucer Strike?

Last time we checked, and that was just a couple of weeks ago, Chester, Ill., was still there—nestled along the Mississippi River about 75 miles south of St. Louis. But an upcoming *Official UFO* magazine article—"Saucers Loot And Burn Chester, Illinois: Story Suppressed By Officials"—says Chester was devastated on Aug. 2. It was a night of terror, according to the article, when an entire "fleet of alien invaders" attacked "the village," when an alien figure appeared on all television screens and when Sheriff Luke Grisholm "got Chanute Air Force base to send in a jet fighter to battle the saucers."

But people in Chester don't remember Aug. 2 quite that way. Chief of Police Harold Howie—Chester has no sheriff—says he knows nothing about UFOs. And Mayor Stanley Macieiski (the mayor is "Uhlen Moulton" in the story) can't figure out what he is covering up—not one fire was reported in Chester that day. With only 5,300 residents, Chester is small enough that major damage could not be hidden.

*Official UFO's* editor said his staff had tried to "check out" the story, and the article's preface says the magazine had "been flooded with reports" from Chester all relating to the same incident. Well, *Official UFO* has its story, but we prefer to trust our eyes and the words of the folks we know in Chester. Mark Twain had the right comment for this kind of story: Reports of Chester's death are greatly exaggerated.

SUSQUEHANNA TIMES, Marietta/Mount Joy, PA  
Dec. 7, 1977 CR: R. Barry

# UFO's!



According to a Mount Joy man, who asked not to be identified, a captured UFO is hidden in Washington, D.C., in the basement of a government building. Two alien beings are also being kept on ice, the source says.

The man said his father, who runs an electronics company, has seen films of the alien craft being flown by Air Force test pilots, and has heard a top secret tape recording of president Carter (who publicly asked the Air Force to reopen their UFO investigation recently) discussing the flying saucer. The government is hushing up the affair to avoid public panic, according to our source.

The craft was found in the American western desert, he said, with the alien creatures inside. They are now frozen and under study in Washington. No one knows if they are dead or in some other state of existence.

The space craft is made of metals far superior to our own. It has a fan-like drive mechanism on the under side, the source said.

The informant stated that "If they were to attack us, we'd be totally wiped out. Their technology is far ahead of ours." He did not know from what planet, star, or dimension the craft came, however, and could not

guess the chances of an imminent invasion.



# Chester, Ill., Stands—Despite

## Report Of UFO Blitzkrieg

Special to the Post Dispatch

CHESTER, Ill., Dec. 1 — Good news, earthlings: Chester may have been spared by those creatures from outer space after all.

That was the somewhat less-than-shocking conclusion arrived at yesterday by a representative of Official UFO magazine after he toured this placid Mississippi River town, of 5,310 residents about 80 miles southeast of St. Louis.

Bob Nesoff, a New Jersey journalist assigned by the magazine to check on Chester's condition, admitted to "a hell of a lot of inconsistencies" in his findings and those reported in a recent issue of the magazine.

The biggest inconsistency seems

to be that no homes or businesses were burned out and looted by extraterrestrial invaders last Aug. 2, as the magazine had reported.

Nesoff said that unless he found some evidence of destruction, the magazine might have to retract its story.

Or maybe not.

Chester Mayor Stanley A. Macieiski said he had talked yesterday with the editor of the New York-based magazine. And the editor, Macieiski said put forth the theory that maybe Chester was blitzed and rebuilt, all in a flash, and that the 5,300 residents of the city had somehow been mesmerized through a weird, outerspace memory lapse.

"I wish I'd known they were going to rebuild the city," the mayor chuckled. "I would've made some changes. There are some cracks in City Hall I would've liked fixed."

Nesoff said the article, filled with eyewitness quotes from Chester's sheriff, had been written by a Chester resident. The resident does not wish to be identified because he fears ridicule, Nesoff said.

Maybe that fear is well founded. For instance, Chester has a police chief, not a sheriff.

And the magazine printed a photograph, purportedly taken in the middle of the UFO attack, of a policeman wearing a topcoat.

"You know dadgum well that on Aug. 2 in Southern Illinois, nobody wears a topcoat," Mayor Macieiski said. "Unless maybe the UFOers cooled it down so he needed a topcoat."

Even so, the mayor said, Chester's sudden notoriety has him "tickled pink."

"We enjoy every bit of publicity we get here," he said. "Just spell our name right and locate us in Illinois."

POST-DISPATCH, St. Louis, MO -  
Dec. 1, 1977 CR: R. Nelke

# CIA is sued over UFO 'cover-up'

By STEVE DUNLEAVY

The CIA refused to release vital files concerning UFOs because it feared disclosure would endanger national security, one of the city's best-known criminal lawyers charged today.

Henry Rothblatt, who for a time was counsel to four of The Watergate burglars, is now suing the agency under the Freedom of Information Act in an attempt to force it to reveal what it knows about UFOs.

Rothblatt and his associate, Peter Gersten, claim the CIA has undertaken an ongoing conspiracy to cover up information on UFOs compiled as far back as 1952.

### 'PRETTY OUTRAGEOUS'

"It's pretty outrageous," Rothblatt told The Post, "where suddenly we have to believe that we, the public, are not entitled to the truth."

Rothblatt added: "We have documented evidence that the CIA collects and stores facts about UFOs which appears to be contrary to their public position—which is that UFOs are not worth investigating."

"We further believe we have documented evidence that proves the CIA has an ongoing investigation, and has covered it up."

"And we believe that classified documents, that they tell us are confidential, are being steadfastly kept from the public because they use the excuse that it is in the interests of national security."

Watergate burglars Bernard Barker, Frank Sturgis, Eugenio Martinez and Virgilio Gonzalez fired Rothblatt as defense lawyer during their trial seven months after the 1972 break-in when they suddenly chose to plead guilty—and Rothblatt refused to go along. He later claimed their pleas had been bought by White House promises of clemency and cash.

Rothblatt and Gersten are representing Harvey Brody, a photographer from Far Rockaway, who is also an executive of Ground Saucer Watch Inc., a nonprofit organization of scientists and enthusiasts based in Arizona which has committed Robertson Panel, compiled in itself to UFO phenomena.

A suit has been filed in Federal Court in Brooklyn, demanding that full exposure of certain files be made.

Key to the dispute are two reports — one known as the Robertson Panel, compiled in 1952 — and the other centered around a particularly stunning UFO sighting filmed in 1957.

The two were not declassified and released for public consumption until 1975, and Rothblatt and Gersten have produced documents indicating the CIA only released portions.

Ground Saucer Watch Inc., originally asked for the complete files as part of its ongoing study into UFO phenomena.

However, in a series of correspondence with Ground Saucer Watch, the CIA acknowledged—as recently as 1976 — there had been deletions made in the material, the group says.

And a letter signed by Gene F. Wilson, information and privacy coordinator of the CIA and dated March 1976, acknowledged that three reports involving the 1957 sighting were not released at all.

The CIA, a body that refuses to acknowledge any formal study of UFOs, wrote that these documents "cannot be released in accordance with the provisions of subsection (b) (1) of the Freedom of Information Act."

That subsection specifically deals with secrecy on the grounds that to do otherwise might endanger national security.

POST, New York, NY - Dec. 1, 1977 CR: T. Bloecher

The CIA letter does invite Ground Saucer Watch to appeal the decision through the Information Review Committee of the CIA.

"Well," said Rothblatt, "we don't feel that is good enough. We have gone further than that. We have taken the whole thing to court to let a little fresh air in."

Dale Peterson, a spokesman for the CIA, said: "We know about the 'it but in all cases like this, if it is before the courts, we have no further comment."

## U.N. Draws Line On Flying Saucers

UNITED NATIONS, Dec. 7 (UPI) — The United Nations was a bit reluctant to spend \$16,000 studying flying saucers, but it was willing to go on thinking about them for a bit. That was good enough yesterday for the gentleman from Grenada.

Thus ended — at least for this year — the debate over whether the United Nations should go into the business of keeping track of unidentified flying objects around the world.

The idea came from the tiny Caribbean nation of Grenada — specifically, from its prime minister, Sir Eric Gairy, who thinks UFOs such as flying saucers could pose a threat to earthlings.

Grenada's proposal that \$16,000 in U.N. funds go into the project never got beyond the General Assembly's Special Political Committee.

The committee suggested it would be best to pass along the Grenadan proposal to the other U.N. members.

Grenadan U.N. delegate Wellington Friday said \$16,000 really wasn't all that much money, but he was willing to buy the committee's action as a consensus.

Grenada, Friday said, was flexible — and anyway, the little nation already had achieved what it wanted, a chance "to arouse the awareness of member states" to UFOs.

POST-DISPATCH, St. Louis, MO  
Dec. 7, 1977 CR: R. Nelke

# UFOs often sighted in area skies

By DAVID VENDITTA  
Era Staff Writer

George Zenner looked into the Bradford sky on the night of July 7, 1947 and made history.

Zenner said he was walking along East Main Street at 8:50 p.m. when he was startled by the appearance of a flat and shiny object, like a dinner plate, traveling in a spinning motion across the sky "at the height of two telephone poles."

Standing between Fisher Avenue and Oxford Street, the man watched as the soundless object cruised in the direction of the Dresser plant, then shot off in a burst of speed toward Bolivar Run, where it disappeared from view.

Zenner, an observer with the U.S. Army during World War II, became the first to report an unidentified flying object in the Bradford area.

His bizarre tale appeared on the front page of The Era the next day, under the bold headline, "'Flying saucer' passes over East Bradford." Also on the front page was a story detailing similar sightings in Massachusetts and Vermont.

By the time of Zenner's report, UFO's had become a national madness, cropping up in 33 states within weeks of June 24, 1947, when an Idaho pilot flying over Mt. Rainier reported seeing nine shiny, pulsating objects weaving over the Cascade Mountains.

Since that initial U.S. sighting, more than 15 million Americans have claimed some kind of "close encounter" with phenomena that, at least for the moment, could not be explained.

And yes, the Bradford area has its mysteries that even the

experts have not been able to solve.

—On the night of last July 21-22, numerous persons who included three local policemen reportedly saw two brightly lit objects streaming low across the city sky to Oak Hill Cemetery, and a triangular object with white and red lights was seen airborne over Limestone, N.Y.

—Within the past two years, possibly in fall 1976, a local couple may have had a "close encounter of the second kind" when they reportedly saw a UFO while traveling on Bolivar Drive. The object turned a light beam on their car, stalling it.

As the unconfirmed story goes, at about the same time three women driving from Jamestown, N.Y., spotted a bright object flying in the vicinity of Limestone, toward Bolivar

Run, and an Air Force veteran in Limestone witnessed what may have been the same object.

—The Center for UFO Studies in Illinois could find no explanation for a round craft ringed with blue lights that a Wilcox woman reported seeing from her home last May. The glowing object hovered, then rose vertically at a high rate of speed and disappeared.

Several days before that sighting, a half-dozen county residents witnessed a brilliant object that hurtled through an early morning sky and disintegrated in a shower of sparks near Rew. The Missile was later identified as an exploding meteoroid.

—Last March, a deputy game warden who lives just south of Clearfield said he was awakened one night by a humming sound and that he saw a

metallic, tear-drop shaped object, glowing underneath, hovering at tree-top level. Three pictures he took with an Instamatic didn't come out.

These incidents, though they give no evidence of (gasp!) missions to Earth by cosmic explorers from some "other world," at the very least belong to that curious realm of the weird.

UFO reports may be simply hoaxes, or they could be actual sightings of what are called known phenomena, such as stars or planets, aircraft, weather balloons, or reflections of light created by unusual conditions in the atmosphere.

But UFOlogists argue that no sightings should be pushed aside without some consideration, and there's a curiosity to

(Continued on Page 12)

## UFOs often sighted in area skies

*became co-director with Robert Cowell,*

(Continued From Page One)

find out exactly what those things in the sky are.

A UFO is, after all, merely something in the sky that is not immediately identifiable. A weather balloon can be a UFO until someone who knows says it's a weather balloon. A bizarre light is a UFO and remains one unless an expert identifies it as something else.

In Pennsylvania, the job of investigating UFO's to determine what they are belongs to a Bradford woman, Joan Jeffers of Maplewood Avenue. To her, there's more "up there" than most people think.

"People just don't look at the sky all that often," Mrs. Jeffers says, pointing out that there have been no local sightings recently. "We have had some good sightings in the Kittanning area. So far they are unknown phenomena."

After beginning her career as a registered nurse in 1953, she went on to graduate last year from the University of Pittsburgh, where she studied psychology, anthropology and theatre. Her graduate work focuses on cultural studies

relating to the UFO phenomenon.

Mrs. Jeffers, who is also an investigator of psychic phenomena, joined the Irwin-based Pennsylvania Center for UFO Research as an investigator in 1974. Last year she succeeded a veteran Vietnam helicopter pilot as its director.

Although she had always been an avid reader of material on unusual phenomena, Mrs. Jeffers says she reserved judgment on UFO's until 1967, when she claims to have witnessed her first UFO.

She was living on Interstate Parkway at the time. Looking up on one September night, she says, she watched a round object overhead descend to about the size of a basketball, then disappear. Two friends with her also saw the object.

A few days later, standing at her kitchen window, she claims to have seen a bright, sparkling object — glowing from the inside — come down on a hill and turn orange as it landed. She estimated its diameter at about 300 feet, and says numerous others witnessed the event.

Mrs. Jeffers now is quick to criticize exobiologist and popular writer Carl Sagan, who claims that the notion of visits by extraterrestrials is far-fetched.

Sagan said in his early 1970's book, "The Cosmic Connection," that the vast distances extraterrestrials would have to

travel to reach Earth are prohibitive. He also said Earth is an uninteresting planet because its technological expertise is only decades old.

"Sagan has never looked at the evidence," Mrs. Jeffers says. "Astronomers have seen UFO's and astronomers ought to be able to identify anything that's celestial. Besides, he overlooks the possibility that 'they' can manipulate time and use it for travel."

She goes on, "People who say they've been abducted say they've been asked questions about time. Perhaps 'they' are trying to teach us a property of time that we're not aware of. We use time, of course, only to order events."

Her Pennsylvania UFO center investigates sightings, analyzes the reports and shares the data with other research organizations. It also tries to promote public education and awareness of the phenomena and makes evidence available for scientific research elsewhere.

The center works with local and state police units throughout the state and provides a CB and amateur radio network for the reporting and investigation of sightings. It is associated with the Center for UFO Studies and Mutual UFO Network.

An investigation of a sighting would include interviews with characteristically amazed eyewitnesses, a review of the site and checks with police and government agencies. Any photos taken are examined and sometimes computer-enhanced to weed out hoaxes.

"You've got to be as open-minded as you can be," says Mrs. Jeffers. "There is no scientific base for determining where UFO's come from. They might be from a parallel dimension."

One problem investigators have to deal with is the conspiracy of silence that surrounds UFO sightings, the fear of ridicule that may keep an observer from reporting an event.

Mrs. Jeffers cites a 1953 government study that concluded, in effect, that UFO's are not a threat to the national security, but reports of them are. She says the government has harassed observers and the lives of some have been ruined.

"For too long," she claims, "it was the witness who was investigated, not the account."

She concedes, though, that the ridicule factor also has worked in favor of UFO investigators by keeping to a minimum the number of reports that are actually hoaxes.

The UFO center director recognizes that a rash of sightings often come after UFO's have been brought to public attention as a result of TV programs and other media type. "Maybe people have a need to believe in something like this."

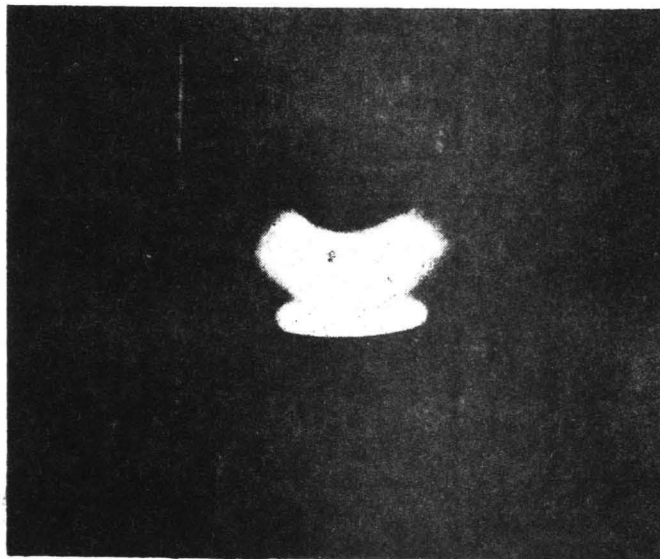
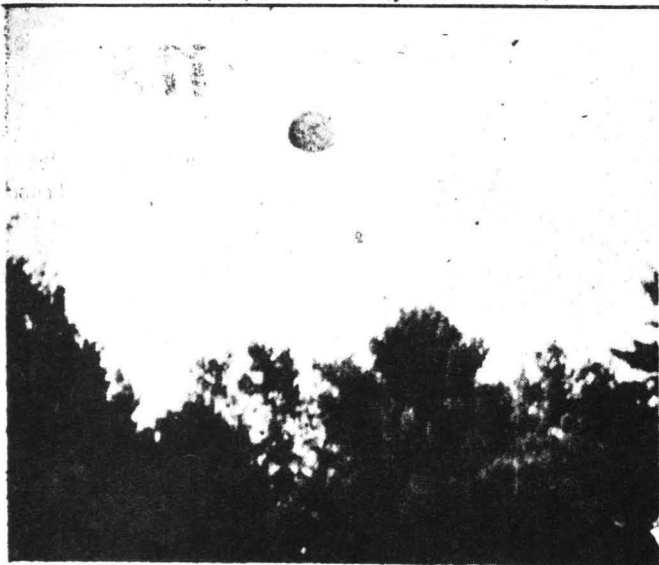
UFO observers, though, do have an extraordinary ability to remember the details of what they've seen, due to the unusual nature of the event, says Mrs. Jeffers. And those who claim close UFO encounters experience increased psychic perceptions.

She believes in the eventual solution to the question of the UFO phenomenon. Someday, she says, the unproved existence of intelligent extraterrestrials which visit Earth will be confirmed.

"The implications and the possible consequences of that are frightening," Mrs. Jeffers ponders. "Hopefully, the government knows the answer and is preparing to reduce the consequences."

ERA, Bradford, PA  
Dec. 8, 1977  
CR: J. Jeffers





**IDENTIFYING UFO'S** — Both of the above photographs — and their negatives — have been subjected to several sophisticated computer analyses by Ground Saucer Watch, based in Phoenix, Ariz. The equipment and procedures were developed by

NASA for analysis of satellite photos and space exploration vehicle photos. The photo at right was taken last spring near DuBois and was one of a series of shots. It is a hoax, probably a lamp on a post photographed using time exposure. The object in the photo

at left is not a cookie or a Frisbee, but remains unexplained. It appeared near Timber Lake in New England. Most of the "old" UFO photos have been subjected to scientific analysis. Many have been shown to be photos of some unidentifiable flying craft, and

many others have proved to be hoaxes, such as hubcaps, "perkpie" hats and elaborate models. Computer analysis of photos is one of the latest tools adapted for use in the study of the UFO phenomenon.

WHITE COUNTY RECORD, Judsonia, AR — Dec. 15, 1977

## Judsonians See UFO

By W.E. Orr

They call them "Unidentified Flying Objects" now — not "flying saucers". That fits what Herbert and Janis Robbins saw at 9:15 o'clock Friday night. So far as the Robbins are concerned, it was definitely "unidentified" and it wasn't exactly a "saucer".

"I don't know what it was," Herbert will tell you. "I just know I never saw anything like it before in my life."

Janis was lying down on their divan, and was looking out the patio door which extends almost the full length of the room. The Robbins' home is on the old Searcy-Judsonia road about two miles north of Oakdale Nursing Home. It is on a little hill, and there is a good view from the door, which faces north. She saw a light in the sky — a very bright light. At first she didn't think too much about it. Airplanes from the Jacksonville Air Base come over almost every night. She looked again — and she knew in a second that it wasn't a plane. It was moving too slowly. It had barely changed position since she had first seen it.

She called Herbert and they went outside. The object was still there, moving to the southwest from the northeast. The Robbins describe it as triangular in shape, with the light at its brightest on the three tips of the triangle. In fact, the lights were intense enough at the corners to blend together, giving shape to the whole object.

It was cold Friday night. Herbert had come outside without a shirt on. He went back inside to get a shirt and when he came out again the triangle could still be seen. He estimates that the object was visible for three to five minutes. It did not make any sound.

Janis went to the telephone, and called the Searcy radio station. She thought that it might be possible for the station to pick it up on the radar. She was told that by the time the equipment warmed up for use that the object would be gone.

Herbert thinks that "the thing was as big as a large airplane." He is certain, however, that it wasn't a plane because it was moving so slowly. Too, he discounts the possibility that it was a weather balloon.

"I've seen weather balloons," he says. "That wasn't what it was at all."

So — the Robbins class it as "unidentified". They just know that there was something up there, the like of which they had never seen before.

Although mysterious flying objects have been reported sighted in the sky for centuries, modern flying saucer interest began on January 7, 1948, when Captain Thomas Mantell crashed his plane while in pursuit of a gigantic object that crossed Kentucky that afternoon. Since that time thousands of sightings have been reported.

Those who are not convinced explain them as meteors, birds, various forms of known aircraft, the planet Venus and other possibilities. Those who believe in the reality of the saucers go all the way in their explanations from top-secret aircraft, owned by the United States or some foreign power, to visitors from outer space. The United States government has made investigations. So have hundreds of organizations and individuals. There has never been any solution.

The Robbins don't have any either. They just know that they saw something.

## NASA Rejects Request For UFO Probe, Says It Would Be 'Wasteful'

WASHINGTON (AP) — The National Aeronautics and Space Administration has rejected a White House request to reopen a government probe into unidentified flying objects, saying it would be "wasteful and probably unproductive."

But NASA said it stands ready to analyze any "bona fide physical evidence from credible sources" — evidence that it said has never been found.

The rejection was made in a letter sent last week by NASA Administrator Robert Frosch to Dr. Frank Press, President Carter's science adviser. Dr. Press said he accepted NASA's conclusions and did not plan to pursue the matter further.

### Study Ended

In 1969, the Air Force closed the government's formal UFO investigation, called Project Blue Book. After 22 years of study and considerable expense, the Air Force concluded that, in the absence of significant findings, continuation of the project was unwarranted.

In a letter to Frosch last July, Dr. Press asked that NASA become the government's focal point in a "national revival" of interest in reports of UFO sightings. He recommended that the agency establish a small panel of inquiry.

Dr. Press said there was an upsurge in letters received by his office asking about UFOs, especially from young people. He said his staff was too small to answer them and assigned the job to NASA.

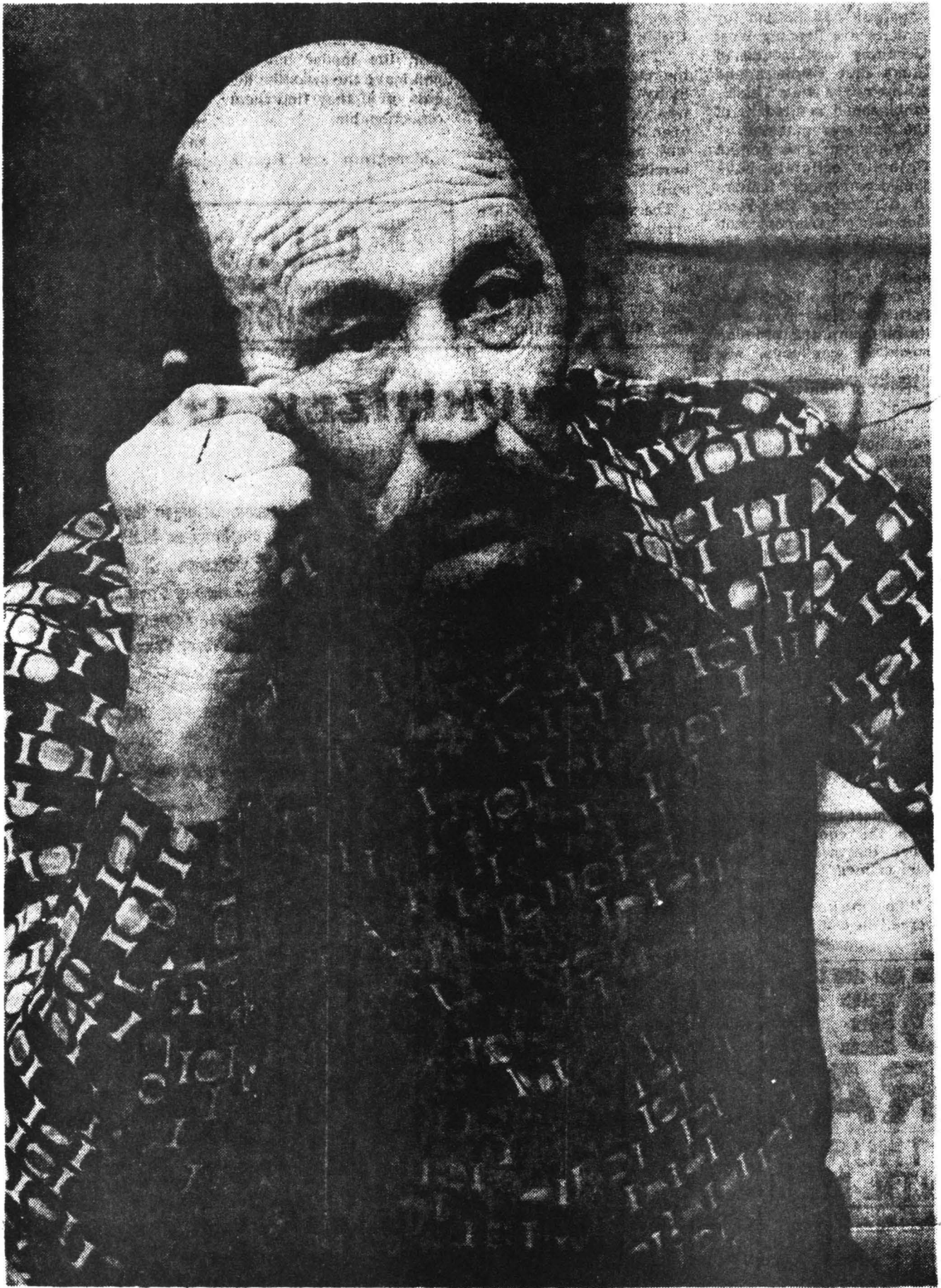
Many of the recent letters, averaging two or three a day, have

been prompted by the new UFO movie "Close Encounters of the Third Kind." Several demand that Mr. Carter make good on a campaign promise that if there were any secrets about UFOs he would flush them out.

Mr. Carter reported in 1973, while governor of Georgia, that several years earlier he had seen a UFO in the form of a "glowing light" in the night sky. "I don't laugh at people anymore when they say they have seen UFOs because I've seen one myself," Mr. Carter was quoted as saying.

Frosch wrote Dr. Press that a NASA technical committee had rejected the project.

ARKANSAS GAZETTE,  
Little Rock, AR  
Dec. 28, 1977



Staff photo by Mike Ramsey

### *Pondering his close encounter*

**Charles Hickson** gained national attention in 1973 when he claimed that he and a companion were abducted by alien creatures in Pascagoula. The alleged incident took place on Oct. 11, by a pier in the old Shampeter Shipyard. **Hickson**, currently working as a welding foreman at Ingalls Shipyard, is now certain that the "creatures" who abducted him were robots, sent from another planet. **Hickson** intends to publish a book on the incident sometime next year.



# Close encounters: Hickson remembers

STEPHEN M. DeSANTÉ  
Herald Staff Writer

**T**o Charles Hickson, close encounters of the third kind are more than a movie title. They were — and are — a living reality.

Four years ago, Hickson and a companion claimed they were abducted by three alien creatures and taken inside a flying saucer. The abduction allegedly took place at the old Shaupeater Shipyards in Pascagoula, where Hickson and his companion, Calvin Parker, had gone fishing for the evening.

The "Pascagoula Incident" gained nationwide attention, with Hickson and Parker eventually appearing on the Dick Cavett and Mike Douglas Shows. The fact that both men were "serious" and "scared to death" when they reported the incident to the Jackson County Sheriff's office — and the fact that they later passed lie detector tests — greatly added to the believability of their story.

The memories of the alleged abduction incident are still vivid to Hickson. But the shock and fear from it has faded from his mind. "It took seven months for me to really recover," Hickson said in an interview last week. "I just couldn't eat or sleep right, and I was always uncomfortable outdoors. Always looking up, expecting them (the aliens) to come back. Then my fears just seemed to recede. It just doesn't bother me anymore."

According to Hickson, his friend Calvin Parker has not fared so well. "Calvin has never really recovered, his nerves are still bad," Hickson sadly recounted. "He tries to close himself off from everything. I don't think he will ever be the same."

As Hickson tells it, the two men's encounter with the aliens occurred just before nightfall on Oct. 11, 1973. "It was dusk-dark, there was still just enough light to see," Hickson recounted. "We were sitting on the pier (in the Shaupeater Shipyard) fishing when we heard a hissing sound behind us. We turned around and there was the ship about 10 feet behind us. It must have come straight down. It didn't land, it just hovered a few feet above the ground."

Hickson said the craft's hull had a metallic coloration, and two bright blue lights were shining in the front of the craft — and seemed to move as though they were revolving or rotating.

As the ship hovered, Hickson said a hatch of some sort opened and three creatures floated out toward Hickson and Parker. "We couldn't move, it just wasn't possible," Hickson said. "We were scared to death!"

He described the creatures as being about five feet tall, with grayish wrinkled skin and claw-like hands. "I'm pretty sure now that they were robots," Hickson said. "They didn't seem to be breathing. And I got an impression, a feeling, that they were being controlled by someone outside of the ship. They just seemed to be doing their job, what they were ordered to do."

The three creatures — robots or not — were able to float the two unwilling men into the craft without touching them, according to Hickson. He said he and Parker were floated into the apparent center compartment of the craft, where they were examined with a camera-like device.

"We were floating in a leaning position," Hickson recounted, "and something that looked like an old headlight from an antique car came out of the wall and floated around us. It started at my head, and I guess it worked its way around my feet and up my back to my head again. I couldn't see it all the time. The front of it looked just like a big pupil."

After the device had examined them, Hickson said he and Parker were floated out of the craft and the aliens promptly departed. Neither of the men were wearing a watch when the alleged incident took place, but Hickson estimated they spent from 30 to 90 minutes in the craft. He didn't know if the craft had remained in the shipyard during that time span.

Currently employed as a welding foreman at Ingalls Shipyard, Hickson lives in Gautier with his wife and five children. A native of Jones County, he moved to Gautier in 1968 to work at the shipyards in Pascagoula.

Hickson said his alleged encounter with the aliens always provokes conversation at work, but never negative comments. "You would be surprised how many people have seen UFOs," he said. "Everybody wants to talk about them. No one has ever shown any ill-feelings towards me."

According to Hickson, his abduction hasn't really affected his lifestyle. "I still work in the shipyard to support my family. But it has given me a chance to meet interesting people and travel quite a bit."

One of those interesting people is Betty Hill, another famous UFO abductee. Hickson met her in 1974, and they have since become close friends. After comparing notes with Mrs. Hill, Hickson is certain he was not abducted by the same beings who detained Mrs. Hill and her late husband. "The characteristics (of the creatures) just aren't the same," Hickson commented. "And I'm sure my abductors were robots, unlike Betty's."

Hickson's religious beliefs have been altered by his alleged encounter with the aliens. "I think those beings were from God, same as we are," he commented. "They are controlled by God the same as we are. It really has changed my thinking, knowing that there are other worlds. I don't believe in Hell anymore. I think now we are reincarnated until we reach a state of perfection."

Not everyone on Earth has accepted Hickson's and Parker's accounts of the abduction as the gospel truth. Philip J. Klass, a senior editor for *Aviation Week and Space Technology* magazine, has raised several key objections to Hickson's story in his book, *UFOs Explained*.

Klass says the abduction site in the Shaupeater Shipyard is barely 50 feet away from busy U.S. 90 and the East Pascagoula River bridge. He also expresses doubts as to the validity of the lie detector tests Hickson and Parker took, and charges that Hickson was fired from Ingalls' Shipyard in 1972 for "conduct unbecoming a supervisor." Klass also notes that Hickson had filed for bankruptcy on July 6, 1973, because of "hopelessly high personal debts."

Hickson, in replying to Klass, said most of the charges were "untrue." Hickson said he has threatened Klass with a libel suit to forestall similar charges in the future. But Hickson did try to explain in detail why no one apparently saw the flying saucer from crowded U.S. 90, probably the weakest link in his story.

"At that time of year," Hickson said, "There were high weeds and bushes around the pier. I think that's what hid the ship. And the railings on the bridge and along 90 probably blocked the sight of passing motorists too."

Hickson also tried to explain why the bridge tender on duty the night of the alleged abduction didn't see the alien craft, despite the fact that his office had a direct view of the pier area.

"I've crossed the (East River) bridge a number of times since the abduction, and every time I've passed the bridge tender's office he's been sitting facing away from the pier," Hickson said. "I believe he was facing the wrong way when the saucer came down. So of course he didn't see anything."

Hickson plans to publish a book on his encounter sometime early next year, entitled *The Pascagoula UFO*. He has hinted that the book will contain some heretofore undisclosed information on the abduction, obtained through hypnosis. Specifically, Hickson broadly hinted that the alien creatures had communicated with him and Parker while they were in the alien craft. Previously, the two men had maintained that the creatures didn't communicate with them in any way.

Hickson also hopes to move back to his farm in Jones County sometime next year. But first, he intends to catch a movie that is opening this week along the Gulf Coast. The movie? *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*.



# FOREIGN NEWS

THE JAPAN TIMES, Sept. 21, 1977  
CR: Y. Matsumura

## UFOs 'Sighted' Over Tel Aviv

TEL AVIV (Kyodo-Reuter) — The Israeli news agency Itim said it had received numerous reports of flying objects appearing over the Tel Aviv area on Monday evening.

Radio Israel also said many other phone calls were received with similar reports.

The objects were described as reddish or yellow balls, varying in size from a tennis ball to a football, mainly stationary, in pairs or fours, with some moving away slowly.

WESTERN INDEPENDENT  
Plymouth, England  
Oct. 16, 1977

## HEAVENS!

**FORMER RAF Padre and pilot Ernest May has called in defence experts after seeing a 'shapeless, flaming mass' in the sky near Chard. He believes the object could have been radiated from another planet.**

IT'S A  
FUNNY  
OLD  
WORLD



A FARMER couldn't believe his eyes when he saw a flying saucer land in broad daylight.

"A man and a woman — both naked — jumped out of the machine," he told police at Tout, France. "They made love in the field three times then climbed back on the machine and took off. I tried to get near but a blast threw me off my feet."

Grinning gendarmes filed the report under: "Unsolved UFO sightings."

NEWS OF THE WORLD, London, England  
Sept. 25, 1977 CR: C. Rolfe

## UFOs Invade Spanish Town

HUESCA, Spain (AFP) — A rush of sightings of flying saucers has been reported over the last few days in the Huesca area.

On Saturday three luminous unidentified flying objects (UFOs) with strange characteristics were reported, and Monday a number of people said they had seen a group of four flying saucers.

A teacher from the art institute in Huesca said that one saucer came to rest above his house at night, emitting a brilliant light that left him paralyzed with terror.

Some people claim that a flying saucer base has been established in the Pyrenees of the Huesca region, and mountain dwellers have launched several expeditions in an attempt to find the base.

DAILY NEWS, Mainichi, Japan - Sept. 29, 1977 CR: Y. Matsumura

## In search of Martians...

TWO intrepid explorers ventured into deepest Pembrokeshire at the weekend in search of UFOs and wandering "monster men" in silver suits.

There should have been more than the two of them. But no-one else turned up for the special "UFO spotting weekend" promoted by the Wales Tourist Board.

As a result, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Marshall, retired, from Humberside, were rather outnumbered by the journalists spotting the spotters.

The couple didn't spot any flying saucers or Martians but they thoroughly enjoyed their "holiday with a difference."

Mr. Randall Pugh, South Wales co-ordinator for the British Unidentified Flying Objects Research Association, said, "There have been about 100 sightings in Pembrokeshire since the early 1970s."

"Either all the people involved are hallucinating, drunk or naturally deranged or they are sensible people and we have a

phenomenon that must be properly investigated."

The faceless "monster men" reported walking round at night have scared animals, drivers and farmers' wives before "disappearing into thin air."

Mr. Pugh said, "I've seen two UFOs. One was a 15ft tall silver coloured object shaped like a huge jelly and the other was a long tube with a red pulsating light."

"The time has definitely come for people to seriously accept that something very very strange is happening."

EAST ANGLICAN DAILY TIMES  
England - Oct. 3, 1977

## Mysterious UFO does a tour of Wiltshire

BARBARA Kitchen thought it was a firework...

It hovered above 16-year-old Melanie Howes' head.

And Mrs Joan Warner saw it flash across Ramsbury Avenue, in Penhill, Swindon.

Then Karen Upchurch, 15, saw it shooting through Lynham.

The mystery UFO has been turning up all over the place.

Since a herdsman first saw a flying saucer heading for Marlborough, hundreds of reports of sightings have been made.

Melanie Howes, of Highridge Close, Purton, says that the UFO hovered above her as she walked home from a youth club last week.

Melanie, a graphics design student at The College, said "I was absolutely terrified, and I haven't been out of the house in the evenings since."

"I was walking home in pitch dark when a brilliant light suddenly lit up the sky above me."

"I couldn't see clearly what it was—the light was dazzling—but it was a very large object and it was about 60 feet above me."

"A beam of light shone from the UFO on to me. It was making a buzzing noise. "I was frightened and ran into the doorway of a house."

"After a short time it moved away. Within seconds it was gone."

Mrs Barbara Kitchen, of Kingsmead, Lechlade, also saw it the same night.

"I thought it was a firework and I was expecting a bang."

"There was a long streak of white, then it turned green."

"I could see it for two or three seconds."

The next night the UFO was seen in three different places.

Mrs Joan Warner, of Ramsbury Avenue, Penhill, confirms yesterday's report by 11-year-old Simon Matthews, of Tuners Lane, Crudwell.

She said: "At about 6.45 p.m. my daughter, future daughter-in-law and myself were turning the corner of Ramsbury Avenue, to go up Minety Road when we saw the UFO pass across the road."

At the same time Darrin King, 14, of Sherston Avenue, Penhill, spotted it.

He was at a friend's house in Cypress Grove, Pinehurst.

"It was about 6.45."

"I looked up and saw a strange flash of light."

"It was a red dot surrounded by a brilliant green light. It lasted about three seconds."

Karen Upchurch, 15, of St. Mary's Close, Bradenstoke, reckons she saw it over Lynham.

"I couldn't sleep, so at about 12.30 I got up and was looking out of the window."

"I saw a white glow, with a line down it, and a red thing just shot out from it."

GAZETTE, Devizes, Wiltshire, England  
Oct. 20, 1977

## Case of the early morning UFO's

EARLY morning workers at a city firm have spotted some unidentified flying objects in the sky.

The shift-men, on their way to the Christian Salvessen plant at Woodston, Peterborough, saw what looked like large travelling lights over the Stanground area of the city yesterday.

So they are to compile a report to send to Contact International — the UFO organisation in this country.

"There was something very suspicious about the lights," said gatehouseman Mr Edward Dovaston. "They were big lights in the sky travelling in different directions very slowly."

"They were just white lights, there were no navigational lights at all, and then they just seemed to disappear into the distance."

The other workers who spotted the unusual sights were fellow gatehouseman Larry Martin, cold store supervisor Bill McKenzie and driver Tom Broderick.

1977  
14, Oct. - Oct.  
EVENING TELEGRAPH, Peterborough, England



# Reports of UFOs in two States

Unidentified flying object (UFOs) have been reported in two States in the past three days.

A UFO was seen by eight Brighton people over the Elsternwick area late on Sunday night.

Mr. Malcolm Mathias, a geography lecturer, watched the object for almost half an hour from an Education Department hostel in Moule Avenue, Brighton.

Mr. Mathias, a supervisor at the hostel, said his wife first noticed it at 11.45 p.m. on Sunday.

In Western Australia, two UFO's were seen again at Meekatharra, 752 kilometres north-east of Perth, this time by four Westrail workers.

The men, including the assistant station manager, Mr. Cliff Hughes, said the silver objects hovered above the 1.10 a.m. train in the rail yards before disappearing.

On Sunday 12 adults and children saw two silver and red flying saucers above the Meekatharra golf course, and on Monday night another group of people saw three saucer objects land about three kilometres north of Mount Magnet.

Mr. Mathias said the Elsternwick UFO first appeared as a bright light — much brighter than any star.

It seemed to be about 12 kilometres away and then suddenly advanced to within about five kilometres.

He saw flashes of color — reds, greens, yellows, oranges, and one blue.

## Bright lights

"It was so bright that it almost hurt to look at it at times," he said.

Through the 600 mm telephoto lens of a camera, he saw the reds and greens appear to come from below the object while the oranges and yellows came from above.

The top of the cigar shaped object was brightly lit.

"It's certainly not something I'm familiar with," Mr. Mathias said. "The only possibility that's left is a UFO."

The object had left about 12.15 am as cloud began moving in.

Mr. Mathias said he could see a faint light through the cloud and then it suddenly disappeared.

Mr. Mathias' attempts to photograph the object were unsuccessful. Color prints of his exposures showed only a bright light. But the photographs indicated that the object was moving.

Three hostel residents have confirmed his observations.

## UFO shock for women

PERTH. — Two Meekatharra women were still distressed yesterday after they and eight other people had seen UFOs hovering near their homes at the weekend.

Mr Victor Trace, a chef in the town, 640 km north-east of Perth, said they had watched silver and red objects for about seven minutes.

"We all stood and watched and when it was all over, none of us could believe what we had seen," he said.

Mr Trace said that he, his wife, Angela, and son, Craig, 8, had seen a saucer-shaped silver object with a dome on top about 2.30 p.m. on Sunday.

They were then joined by their other five children, a neighbor, Mrs Thelma Kingswood, and Geoffrey Miller, 12.

Mr Trace said: "It was impossible to say how far away it was. It looked to be about the size of a dinner plate.

"It was very bright on top. We had to shield our eyes to look at it.

"It was swinging and appeared to be wobbling at the same time.

"Then a most amazing thing happened.

"A bright red object came out of the side of the silver one.

"The two were then side by side.

"We simply could not believe our eyes. I don't believe in these things.

"We were all in a state of panic. I had a camera in the house and never thought to get it.

"Suddenly, the red object shot upwards and out of sight at enormous speed.

"That left the silver one.

"Then it disappeared in the same way as the red one."

WEST AUSTRALIAN, Perth, W.A., Australia - Oct. 21, 1977

## Saucers, dust... or stardust?

From CYRIL AYRIS

MEEKATHARRA: I believe there are three possible explanations for the reported sightings of unidentified flying objects here last Sunday.

They may have been flying saucers — and after talking to the men who saw them it is difficult not to accept this theory.

They may have been something picked up by a willy-willy and surrounded by white dust, which is prevalent in the area.

And people who say they saw the objects may have made up the whole story.

I have spent two days and two nights here and at Mt Magnet peering at the stars and interviewing the people who saw the objects.

After talking to them, and to prominent townspeople who know them, there is no doubt in my mind that they saw something very strange.

Police Sgt Tom Carlson and Mrs Pat Howden, a JP, both know Victor Trace who saw the objects on Sunday and say that he would not have made up the story.

This brings one to the second theory—a willy-willy.

Sgt Carlson says that this is the only explanation he can offer and that willy-willies frequently pick up objects as big as corrugated iron sheets and carry them through the air.

Victor Trace says there was a white "vapour" around an object when it first appeared above a rocky outcrop near his house.

Several abandoned goldmines near Mr Trace's house are coated with white talc-like dust, which would be picked up by a willy-willy.

But Mrs Thelma Kingswood, who has lived in the town for 20 years and also saw the objects on Sunday, says she has seen hundreds of willy-willies and they are nothing like the objects.

The flying saucer theory is interesting and you will have to believe in such things to accept it.

When I found Mr

Trace yesterday he took time off from answering telephone calls from the Eastern States, London, and New York to give a detailed description of what he saw.

He said that when the object first appeared above the rocky outcrop 50 metres from his house white vapours rolled down the rocks towards him and his family.

Then the object rose and became clear in outline and colour.

It was circular and made of a smooth silver substance and had domes on the top and bottom.

As he watched, a red object came away from its side as though the silver object was a "mother ship."

# AND NOW ... A BOOM IN FLYING SAUCERS

By JEREMY  
LEWIS

UFO sightings in Mid-Kent have rocketed this autumn.

Enterprising UFO watchdogs have been checking up to five reports a week in an area that extends from Dartford to Herne Bay.

## BUSY

Until September, they were recording just two or three sightings a month.

But the threat of invasion from outer space is as remote as ever... there are no common factors to any of the 16 UFO sightings in the last three weeks.

"We've never known it as busy as this," said Jim Castle, a Rainham central heating engineer who is a member of the British UFO Research Association.

"We have interviewed the 16 people who claim to have seen objects, and completed question-

naires are being sent to our London headquarters.

"Then they will be placed on file at an observatory in Sussex."

"Now we have to check another seven recent sightings."

The latest UFO report came from two patients

at Medway Hospital.

They both claim to have seen a cigar-shaped object, with metal panels and riveting clearly visible. According to the patients, one section of the object was coloured red.

Other recent sightings include a white fuzzy

object with two black holes; twin lights beaming downwards from the sky; and a flare which turns into a metal box.

"A lot of these claims can be put down to helicopters and aircraft," said Mr Castle. "But there must be other explanations for some of these other sightings."

## LIGHTS

A large proportion of claims come from night drivers.

"A driver at Snodland had parked his car, and saw two beams of light on a hill. But when he switched on his engine and turned on his headlamps, the lights went out and disappeared."

## UFO witnessed in northern Japan

TOKYO (Reuter) — A number of people, including a domestic airline pilot, in northern Japan said Wednesday that they saw an unidentified flying object.

The director of the Tokyo Astronomical Observatory, Prof. Yoshihide Kozai, said the object could be a falling man-made satellite.

Masahiro Yoshida, 30, of Hakodate in Hokkaido, said the brightness of the flying object was two times that of the brightest star, while university student Shin Kasahara in Sendai, north of here, said it was as bright as the Venus.

Captain Seiji Masaki of the Toa Domestic Airlines, who was flying a DC-9 north of Sendai, reported four or five "fireballs" fell plumb into the Pacific.

TOKYO (AP) — Many persons reported seeing the object flying from northwest to southeast at around 5:30 p.m. (0830 GMT).

Kyodo News Service reported telephone callers jammed switchboards of the observatories with reports and requests for information.

EVENING NEWS, Asahi, Japan - Oct. 27, 1977 CR: Y. Matsumura

## Thousands Spot UFO Over Japan

A mysterious flying object was spotted in the eastern skies over Japan Wednesday evening.

The bright orange object was spotted moving slowly southeast from the northwest for about 20 minutes from about 5:20 p.m. in the Tohoku Region and later in Hokkaido.

A Japan Air Lines pilot said he saw four or five "balls of fire" plunge into the Pacific off the Sanriku coast of northern Honshu on his flight from Kushiro, Hokkaido, to Tokyo.

Telephone switch boards of meteorological and astronomical observatories and police stations in eastern Japan were overwhelmed with calls from eyewitnesses.

The object crossed over the Sea of Japan from the direction of Siberia splitting into pieces about 300 kilometers off Ibaraki Prefecture, according to an amateur astronomer.

While some academic astronomers suspected the flying object was an artificial satellite, others thought it to be a shooting star.

THE JAPAN TIMES, Oct. 27, 1977 CR: Y. Matsumura

GAZETTE, Devizes, Wiltshire, England  
Nov. 10, 1977

# UFO puts drivers in a spin

BY JUPITER... it's enough to put anyone in a spin. That mysterious UFO has been sighted again — this time on the Marlborough Downs.

Two taxi drivers from Devizes have sighted a grey or silver object hovering around.

But before either could get a close look — it vanished.

The UFO whizzed into view when Nigel Marston was driving from Devizes to Marlborough.

He saw it hovering over Alton Hill, near Pewsey.

At first he thought it was an aircraft but it suddenly travelled upwards disappearing without trace.

Now he's convinced it wasn't an aircraft — or anything else identifiable.

Later George Strong was driving near Bromham when he saw the UFO hovering.

He stopped his car for a clear look — but the UFO tilted onto one side and disappeared.

He said it was an oval shape with hole or shadow in the centre.

He's certain it was no plane because it was of

such an unusual shape.

He said: "I don't know what it was — but it was something very strange."

"I never knew what to think of UFO reports but now I'm sure there's something to it."

The shape was clear enough in Mr Strong's mind for him to sketch the object.

The taxi drivers' sightings came after a number of reports of unidentifiable objects in Wiltshire.

AD SCENE, Canterbury, Kent,  
England - Nov. 4, 1977  
CR: C. Rolfe

## UFO's In Kent

Last week we received a phone call from a very excited lady who claimed she had just spotted an unidentified flying object at Sandwich. Unfortunately she didn't have time to give us all the details as her coins ran out and she didn't call back. However we thought this might be an interesting subject for a Reader's Letters page sometime within the next few weeks, so if you have ever sighted a UFO send us full details in a letter addressed to the Editor and we'll publish the most exciting reports we receive. Please make sure you include the location and time of the sighting, and of course, your name and address.



# SAUCER SCARE

TWO Capel women ran for cover after spotting a flying object in the early hours of Friday morning. Mrs. Sheila Penrose, of Old Dover Road, Capel, and her mother-in-law, Mrs. Betty Morgan-John, were walking shortly after midnight when they spotted the unidentified flying object. "It had a round shape with a flat top — brilliant white, shaped like a saucer," said Mrs. Penrose.

"It hovered over the Vallant Sailor pub, and then suddenly it seemed to be coming towards us. It was moving quite slowly, but it wasn't very nice. We turned and ran home and then we watched it again. It seemed as if it had seen us. It was very weird."

No other sightings of the UFO, also described as "a huge white mushroom," have been reported to police or coastguards.

# UFO had a large audience

A strange orange glowing object has been seen passing across the sky over Crawley.

All the sightings have been at night, so any suggestions that this UFO is the sun can be discounted.

Mr Roger Harrison, who works in the sales office of Silentbloc, described what he saw as he drove along the Horsham to Crawley road last Thursday.

"It was just before 11 pm when I saw a bright orange object, about the size of the sun with the top third chopped off, only 200 feet above the ground.

"It seemed to be above the industrial part of the town. I knew I wasn't seeing things, but it was a really weird experience."

Two other people telephoned the Observer to describe the same phenomenon. One teenage girl saw it from

her Broadfield home, and another woman saw it from Bewbush.

One possible explanation is that the UFO was a hunter's moon, which caught the sun's reflecting glow and was partially covered by cloud.

CRAWLEY & DISTRICT  
OBSERVER, Sussex,  
England - Nov. 11,  
1977

# 'UFO was basin shape'

MORE evidence came to light this week about the UFO spotted over south east Kent by two women at Capel. Mrs. Leila Ward of 20 Radnor Park Crescent, Folkestone, wrote to the Gazette to say she had seen the UFO on October 25.

It was described in the Gazette last week by Mrs. Penrose and Mrs. Morgan-John, of Capel.

Mrs. Ward writes:

"Shortly after 1 a.m. I was awakened by a vivid flash. This was the reflection of the object in a mirror.

Soon after that it came into view from my upstairs window and my impression tallies with that of your correspondents.

It was the shape of a pudding basin right way up.

Their description of a mushroom with a flat top could also be accurate if the object had turned over between the time they saw it and I did.

The object moved slowly from the Radnor Park area towards the sea.

After about an hour I could no longer see it for it moved downward and disappeared from my view behind some houses.

This route would be consistent with the sighting at Capel.

The afternoon before had been unnaturally humid and when I saw the object I remembered that unusual weather and so supposed that I was seeing some sort of eclipse of the moon.

Being in my own bedroom I felt no alarm but marvelled at the spectacle.

I understand that in the TV programme John Craven's Newsround recently there was an account of a mushroom-shaped object being observed by schoolchildren in Wales and every child gave the same description and drew it.

DAILY RECORD, Glasgow, Scotland - Nov. 3, 1977

# A SPACESHIP OVER CONDORRAT?

I WAS delighted to read about the number of people who claimed a UFO sighting. It served to silence ten workmates and a number of relations to whom I reported a similar sight. All of them questioned my sanity at the time.

My wife and myself saw on Saturday, October 22, at 9.20 p.m., an intensely bright light which seemed to assume a bell shape, moving east to west at a height of about two hundred feet above Condorrat.

The object was noiseless and moving perhaps as slowly as thirty miles per hour. The spectacle was so awesome that my wife ran into the house in fright.—Matthew McGahan, Cumbernauld.



## Scientists baffled by 7 explosions

REGISTER, Des Moines, IA -  
Nov. 25, 1977 CR: K. Conlon

### Mutilated sow found in Nebraska

HASTINGS, NEB. (AP) — The Adams County Sheriff's office is investigating the discovery of a mutilated sow in a field about six miles north of Juniata along the paved Alda Road. Area farmers and others who have seen the animal generally agree that the cuts on the 400-pound pig could not have been the work of other animals.

Times-Pest News Service  
(Los Angeles Times)

WASHINGTON — Seven large explosions in the air over the Atlantic off the East Coast have created "quite a mystery," a Columbia University atmospheric scientist said Friday. Two occurred Dec. 2 and five occurred Thursday morning.

Only nuclear blasts have made a larger reading on the air pressure measuring instruments at the University's Lamont Laboratory in Palisades, N.Y., according to Dr. William Donn, chief of the laboratory's atmospheric sciences department.

After ruling out a number of possibilities, Donn speculated that each blast was caused by detonation of

50 to 100 tons of dynamite above the surface about 50 miles out to sea. He said the explosions occurred at two or three locations.

Windows and crockery have been reported broken in South Carolina and along the coast from Cape May, N.J., to Connecticut, the scientist said.

Donn's department has several government contracts for acoustical research, including some to monitor the sonic booms of the Concorde airliner and military aircraft and rockets. He said he could find no civilian or military government agency to explain the mystery.

"What caused them is quite a mystery," he added. "They were the strongest we've picked up on our equipment, except for nuclear blasts, and those are at another frequency."

"Maybe they are encounters of a fourth kind," he joked, referring to a current science fiction movie.

The Pentagon's Navy public information desk said Friday it had not heard about the explosions.

Donn said the circumstances surrounding the blasts made it difficult to determine the cause.

But he said no earthquake waves were detected by the Lamont seismic station, although some wiggles were caused by the impact of the atmospheric shocks. Also, no large sea waves were reported afterwards, as a surface or undersea explosion would have caused.

Donn said the first blast occurred at about 10 a.m. Dec. 2 and was felt in South Carolina. The second occurred at 2:45 p.m. CST the same day and was felt in New Jersey and Connecticut, he said.

Last Thursday, Dec. 15, five more blasts occurred between 7:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. CST and were felt only in South Carolina, Donn said.

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT, Little Rock, AR - Dec. 17, 1977

DAILY HERALD, Gulfport-Biloxi, MS - Dec. 19, 1977 CR: D. Titler

### Loud boom on Coast unexplained

Local Coast agencies received numerous calls about 8:15 p.m. Sunday regarding a loud boom in the area of Interstate 10 and Lorraine Road north of Gulfport.

Air Traffic Control Tower Assistant Chief Wendell Cavalier reported a full crew on board atop the six-story tower at Gulfport-Biloxi Regional Airport at the time of the reported noise but said they could see nothing relating to the incident.

Said Cavalier: "It was an extremely clear night and we could see the air space above the intersection but nothing

in the nature of the reported noise was detected."

He added the crew did see "very clearly" two meteorites entering the Earth's atmosphere about that time of night.

Col. Ken Combs, commander, Air National Guard Permanent Training Site at Gulfport, said the noise source did not emanate from his agency since ANG is not hosting out-of-state units at present and will not schedule any flights through the airport until Jan. 15.

## High-altitude explosions in U.S. puzzle scientists

PALISADES, N.Y. (AP) — High-altitude explosions, some equal in force to a 100-ton dynamite blast, have been shattering windows and scaring residents from Connecticut to South Carolina. The explosions have scientists baffled.

William Donn, who conducts acoustical research at Columbia University's Lamont Laboratory here, said his air pressure equipment has detected seven separate explosions. Two blasts on Dec. 2 and five more last Thursday made readings on air pressure instruments, he said.

He said the explosions were much too violent to have been caused by supersonic aircraft.

A Pentagon spokesman said defense officials had no knowledge of the booms and knew of no military tests that could have caused them.

"It's amazing that something like this could happen without anybody knowing about it," Donn said.

The explosions occurred about 50 miles offshore and were too high to disturb ocean wave patterns, he said. Seismic equipment at the laboratory registered no earth movements at the time of the booms.

"What I heard was one loud boom, and the house sort of shook," said Joseph Manger, a police officer in Barnegat Township, N.J., of the Dec. 2 incident.

Donn said people on the South Carolina shore, where one of Thursday's explosions was felt, told him the boom shook their homes and in some cases broke windows.

Donn said employees at the Oyster Creek nuclear power plant in southern New Jersey heard the Dec. 2 explosion. "They thought it was an earthquake," he said.

The exact locations of the explosions remain as mysterious as their cause, Donn said. Simultaneous readings from separate locations would be needed to pinpoint the location but no other research facility in the nation has atmospheric instruments as sensitive as those at Lamont, he said.

Although vibrations from the explosions were felt primarily along the shore, residents from some inland areas felt them, said Donn. "I got a call from a lady who lives 25 miles west of the George Washington Bridge (between Manhattan and New Jersey) who heard it," he said.

### Calf mutilation incident probed

Black Hawk County sheriff's deputies Thursday were investigating the mutilation of a new born calf on a farm northeast of Waterloo.

Deputies said the nose and jaw were cut off and a one-foot square patch of hide was removed from the Angus bull calf.

The mutilated calf was found in a lane leading to a pasture Wednesday morning on the farm operated by Mrs. Polly Mills and her son, Steven, at 5714 N. Elk Run Road.

Mrs. Mills said the calf was apparently born there during the night and deputies said it might have been stillborn.

Mrs. Mills said she heard nothing unusual outside during the night. "It's a frightening thing," she said.

Deputies said they also found two puncture wounds in one of the calf's rear hoofs.

COURIER, Waterloo, IA - Oct. 27, 1977 CR: T. Adams



## 'Something' (Maybe) Lurks in the Depths Of a Quebec Lake

Priest Among Those Sighting  
A 'Monster,' but Skeptics  
See Logs Floating About.

By NICK THOMAS

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

ST. ELEUTHERE, Quebec—Not much happens around here. There are quite a few deer and moose. Unemployment is high. The nearest movie house is across the border in Maine. The taverns get a lot of trade, especially in winter.

But there is... The Beast ("La Bete" to the French-speaking Quebecois).

Actually, "Ponik" is what the natives call the creature, using shorthand for Lac (Lake) Pohenegamook, the 5½-mile-long body of water in whose depths the monster resides. Or does it?

Louis Fournier thinks so. He has seen it seven times. "It was black and about 50 feet long, slowly rising and sinking as it turned large circles near the edge of the lake," he says, recalling his first sighting. "It had three small humps, and moved very fast. It seemed to be chasing something, and then it disappeared. Whatever it was, it sure wasn't a fish."

Father Plante, a local parish priest, now retired, is sick and tired of describing what he saw one summer day in 1958 ("People are always distorting what I say"), but this is what he says he saw: "A black object some 20 to 25 feet long, about 1,000 yards across the lake. I saw it for about a minute. Others with me said it was probably a log. But a log just doesn't move that fast and then disappear."

### The Doubters

Renaud Thibeault, who owns a grocery store only yards from the lake, says that he and 15 friends saw the beast just this summer. However, a number of natives doubt that Lac Pohenegamook has something to rival Scotland's Loch Ness. Paul Trepanier, a lifelong resident of Estcourt, one of three villages along the lake, argues bluntly that the only inhabitants of the lake are fish.

"Sometimes deer and moose swim across the lake," he says, "but you'd have to be drunk to think they look like monsters."

Rene Beaudoin, assistant director of a summer camp at the lake, offers this theory: "There are two small rivers flowing into one end of the lake and another small stream at the other end. This causes strange currents that result in a wash, much like that from a motorboat." People, he says, think the monster is creating the wash. "When people claim to have seen it on top of the water, it's probably just a log caught up in the current," he adds.

As with Loch Ness, the reports of Ponik sightings have produced a series of increasingly technological efforts to confirm or disprove the creature's existence. Local residents have shot at it, chased it in boats, and even—according to some—put down huge hooks baited with calves.

### A Harpoon Attempt

They had no success. Nor did the Quebec Department of Tourism, Fish and Game, which sent out a team of biologists to try to harpoon the beast. A number of weekend amateur divers came to the lake this past summer. So did Bob Murray, a commercial diver from Toronto.

Mr. Murray and two colleagues brought a truckload of fancy equipment and spent three weeks here, at a total expense of more than \$10,000. They didn't get conclusive evidence, but Mr. Murray says, "Our sonar picked up a large object about 25 feet in length," tantalizing enough so that he is planning to come back next summer.

"There is something there," says Mr. Murray firmly.

WALL STREET JOURNAL, San Francisco, CA - Nov. 12, 1977

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT, Little Rock, AR - Dec. 23, 1977

# Scientist claims garbage causes blasts near coast

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP) — Those mysterious booms high in the sky off the Atlantic Coast could be caused by exploding gas bubbling up from underwater garbage dumps, one scientist says.

That is one theory. Others speculate that they are sonic booms or come from outer space.

New explosions were heard Wednesday night by several residents along the New Jersey coastline.

"My whole house shook," said Ted Weeks, a fisherman at Barnegat Light. "Almost immediately the second report followed, but not near as loud. It was very distinct. The whole of Long Beach Island, I'm sure, heard it. You had to be dead not to have heard it."

Two similar but stronger blasts startled residents from Connecticut to South Carolina on Dec. 2.

Scientists at Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty

Geophysical Observatory in Palisades, N.Y., said its instruments recorded those booms and five more on Dec. 15.

The equipment did not register Wednesday's reported blasts.

The explosions have been accompanied by reports of lights in the sky, sometimes a luminous glow.

Dr. Edward Chiburif, assistant director of the Weston Observatory of Boston College, said he suspects the sounds are sonic booms.

Dr. William Donn, head of atmospheric sciences at the Lamont-Doherty Observatory, said he was sure they are not sonic booms.

Ocean County, N.J., civil defense authorities said they had confidential information the blasts occurred in outer space. Federal officials discounted the outer space theory.

The garbage gas theory is

Dr. Stanley Klemetson's. He is an environmental engineering researcher and associate professor of civil engineering at Colorado State University.

He said it is likely that a build-up of sludge deposits on the ocean bottom from dumping of treated wastes and garbage has produced anaerobic gases such as hydrogen and methane.

"As these gases accumulate beneath the sludge, sufficient quantity can collect to break through the layer and rise to the surface of the ocean," he said.

If warmer than the surrounding air, the gas will rise into the atmosphere, he said.

"Natural static electricity caused by wind friction is sufficient to set off the explosions," Klemetson said.

Klemetson noted that the blasts have been occurring over the general area where refuse from large coastal cities such as New York is dumped.

POST-DISPATCH, St. Louis, MO - Dec. 22, 1977 CR: R. Nelke

## New Jersey Areas Again Report Mysterious Atmospheric Booms

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J., Dec. 22 (AP) — Another series of mysterious atmospheric booms has been felt along the New Jersey coast, authorities say.

Police departments in South Jersey from Bayville to Tuckerton, including all of Long Beach Island, reported slight tremors and the sound of explosions shortly before 7 p.m. yesterday.

"I felt the tremor or a shake and a loud clap or bang," said state Marine Police Patrolman Alston Allen at the Ship Bottom station.

A policeman in nearby Surf City reported that, he "felt just a rumble, a boom-boom, like a truck going by — but it wasn't. It's funny, some people hear it and some don't."

A similar phenomenon was reported on Dec. 2 when coastal residents from Connecticut to South Carolina felt shaking. William Donn, an acoustical scientist at Columbia University in New York, said his instruments recorded two

sonic explosions that day and five more Dec. 15. The strongest was equal in force to the detonation of 100 tons of dynamite, he said.

Donn and other scientists at Columbia theorize that secret experiments by a federal agency may have caused the disturbances, described tentatively as massive, high-altitude explosions.

Irwin Goldstein, the Federal Aviation Administration's duty officer at New York's Kennedy International Airport, said there were no reports of sonic booms from jet aircraft preceding yesterday's occurrence. He said air traffic controllers reported no military missions off the New Jersey coast.

"What, is Jersey shaking again?" one FAA official asked.

A spokesman at the Air National Guard fighter-interceptor detachment near Atlantic City said at least two supersonic S-106 aircraft were in the air at the time but were flying near the Virginia coast.

Most people emphatically say the monster shouldn't be exploited to promote tourism. But Lionel Charest, owner of a country store and mayor of the three towns around the lake, takes an ambiguous tack. "Until it's proven one way or the other, we shouldn't do anything to make people think there is a monster," he says.

However, Mr. Charest admits he would like to see more tourists. For that to happen, he says, "We need three things: Improved hotel accommodation, better fish and camping sites and..." Pressed for the third requirement, the mayor responds only with a wink and a smile.

On one thing, most local people seem to agree: They want nothing to do with efforts to commercialize Ponik. A number of store owners refuse to stock monster-emblazoned T-shirts and coffee mugs offered by a novelty distributor. In a recent parade here, a monster-like float ran a poor third behind entries from a gas station and an old folks' home.

The exception is "Ponik beer," put out by a major brewery. It is just bock beer retitled, but it was the hit of the 300-year anniversary that occasioned the parade.

## Sedro-Woolley's Sasquatch Saga:

# On the trail of Bigfoot

by Midge Howard

Eatonville is known as the U.F.O. Capital of the World and Wenatchee, of course, is the Apple Capital of the World, but Sedro-Woolley's soon going to be on the map as the Sasquatch Capital of the World.

No, Bigfoot hasn't yet been sighted on Metcalf Street, but if Dennis Gates has his way, the world will soon know that Sedro-Woolley has the latest up-to-date information on the elusive Sasquatch.

Gates, who lives on the Fruitdale Road, and his two British Columbia partners have the Bigfoot-Sasquatch Clipping Reproductions Service, Inc., the largest accumulation of research data in the world. There subject, of course, is the Sasquatch, or Big Foot as he is also known because of his enormous size and the huge footprints he leaves behind.

For the past four years Gates has clipped every newspaper in North America for stories about Sasquatch sightings. He and his partners, with over 20 years' experience apiece, look into the report of each sighting to authenticate it, oftentimes traveling to investigate the site and evidence themselves.

Gates said Sasquatch was deeply engrained in Indian religious beliefs long before the white man came to North America. And in Europe, artists' conceptions of a hairy man-like thing stalking Northern Europe date back to the 14th and 15th Centuries.

"If this thing is indeed here it would appear that it is the largest, fastest, strongest animal in North America," Gates said. Sasquatch is big, seven feet tall or more, and is barrel-like in build, as thick from front to back as from side to side.

He's a nocturnal creature, omnivorous and seems to go out of his way to avoid human contact.

Several years ago a southern Washington police department sent hair samples to the FBI lab and the report came back stating that the samples could not be classified but appeared to be primate, with a high amount of body oils. If the samples were from the dark, hairy

Sasquatch, the high oil content would account for the rancid odor usually smelled at Sasquatch sightings.

Gates asserts that Sasquatch is not human; it's another animal out in the woods. He said there were three other upright apes, besides homo sapiens, that were supposed to have been extinct between a half million and two million years ago, all half again as large as man. Sasquatch, he says, is one of these species.

It has a larger brain than man, but because of its size and strength has never had to compete in its environment and has, therefore, never developed that brain. Primitive man had much more competition and had to develop abstract thinking. There is no evidence, however, that Sasquatch uses its brain for other than hunting food and shelter.

Gates said reports of Sasquatch sightings often mention the animal having thrown an object, but never reports that it wraps its thumb around it, indicating Sasquatch has not learned to use his opposing thumb. His throw is never overhand and is always arcing, indicating that it hasn't developed hand-eye coordination to throw in a straight line.

In fact, other than that it walks erect on 2 legs, there are no similar characteristics between Sasquatch and man.

Gates estimates that the Sasquatch population numbers between 2,000 and 5,000 in the 200,000 square miles of Pacific Northwest wilderness from California to the Arctic Circle and from the Pacific Ocean to the Rockies. In that area, less than two per cent of the land is occupied by civilized man, Gates said. "There could be anything out there. And in the woods, you're in his element and he avoids you."

Gates adds that it was not until 1902 that the mountain gorilla was discovered; not until 1937 that the kumoda dragon, supposedly extinct 30 million years ago, was found in the South Pacific; not until five years ago was an entire race of human beings so far back in the Stone Age that they did not have the use of fire discovered on a remote island in the Philippines.

So sightings of a large, monster-like creature roaming the North Woods aren't so far-fetched after all. One particular sighting, caught on movie film 10 years ago, has not yet been disproven. Gates said the film, shot at Bluff Creek, California, in October of 1967, has been analyzed ever since by scientists all over the world and none have been able to determine that the creature in it is a fake. Russians have studied the biomechanics (locomotion) of the creature in the film and have stated that while they don't know what it is, it's definitely not a man in a monkey suit.

Sasquatches have been seen locally near Anacortes, Deception Pass, Whistle Lake and on the North Cross Highway. Gates said an Anacortes man wrote to one of his partners stating that on Dec. 13, 1969, his daughter's fiancé saw a 5-foot tall dark, hairy animal walk erect across the road. Jack Miggs of LaConner is reported to have seen 17-inch barefoot tracks circling Whistle Lake in mid-December, 1969.

A Sasquatch has been sighted on the highway over the North Cascades, and big footprints have been since painted on the roadway where a sign once stood: "Sasquatch Crossing." The sign was stolen.

Gates has been interested in Sasquatch ever since he was a child and has been doing nothing but researching the creature for the past four years. He has read extensively on zoology, anthropology and primatology and says that while he doesn't have a Ph.D. behind his name, "I know what I'm talking about."

His knowledge has led him to maintain that a reported Sasquatch sighting off the Mount Baker Highway is a fake. Gates said the Seattle man who claims to have filmed the creature some 600 feet off the highway had earlier been asking about the habits of Sasquatch, then just happened to have stopped his car at the right spot and was able to film the discovery with a rented Super 8 movie camera.

Hoaxes are something a Sasquatch hunter has to put up with. While they show a growing interest in the creature, they also

plant doubt in the minds of the public. "The strangest thing about this whole business," Gates said, "is people will argue against this without any research. They automatically reject it."

Gates neither automatically rejects sighting reports, of which he has a file of over 3,000, nor does he automatically accept them. He and his two partners travel extensively to authenticate the sightings, but he himself has never met Sasquatch face to face.

And the fact that so many of the sightings investigated turn out to be hoaxes doesn't discourage him, either. Gates says that if there is no Sasquatch, whoever's been hoaxing North, South and Central America has to be at least 500 years old.

"I'm about 98 per cent sure this thing is out there," he said. "For the other 2 per cent, I suppose I'm just about like everybody else. I'd have to see it." But, he adds, "I've never seen a crocodile, but that doesn't mean they don't exist."

Meanwhile, Gates is continuing his campaign to convince the unconvinced that Sasquatch does exist. His clipping service has subscribers from all over the world and his corporation is sanctioned by the State of Washington as a non-profit research corporation.

With these resources and experience, Gates says he's in the position to make Sedro-Woolley the Bigfoot-Sasquatch Capital of the World. Sedro-Woolley's right in the heart of Bigfoot country and Gates says anyone wishing information on the creature need only write to "Bigfoot, 98284" and he'll get in touch and answer any questions.

He tells skeptics: "My opinion on this is before you start laughing, will you put your 10 or 15 years of intensive research in? And then laugh if you can. I'm not a monster hunter, but there's too damn much evidence to ignore."

His one desire "I just wish to God I could see one someday to convince myself I'm not nuts."



# North, South American Indians From Vanished Continent, Theorist Says

By WILLIAM HINES

*Chicago Sun-Times*

WASHINGTON — A retired space scientist who contends that the Book of Ezekiel in the Bible contains an account of a "close encounter of the third kind" has developed a new theory on the origin of the Indian tribes of North and South America.

According to Sepp Blumrich of Laguna Beach, Cal., America's aborigines came not from Asia via a "land bridge" from Siberia to Alaska — the accepted theory — but from a now-vanished continent in the mid-Pacific via what are now the Andean highlands of Peru.

Blumrich's theory is laid out in a book nearing publication in his native Germany. He says it is fully consistent with the Indian tribal legends, written literature from the earliest days of the Spanish conquest, and current "continental drift" theories based on the new science of plate tectonics.

In a telephone interview Blumrich laid out the following scenario for the origin of America's Indians:

Up to about 80,000 years ago, a large continent populated by a wide variety of ethnic types and dominated by a technologically advanced civilization governed by high ethical standards existed in the Pacific south of Hawaii, stretching thousands of miles from Easter Island west almost to New Zealand. The existing mountainous Polynesian islands were apparently the tallest peaks of this land mass.

South America did not exist as a continent. Instead, there was a large island, corresponding to today's Andean highlands, with its sea level at about today's 13,000-foot contour. The Bolivian town of Tiahuanaco was a convenient ocean harbor.

When, for unexplained reasons that may have had to do with continental drift, the big mid-Pacific continent started sinking and its inhabitants began to flee in all directions.

Blumrich thinks some may have gone to what is now Japan, becoming the mysterious, Caucasian-like aboriginal Ainu, others may have gone to Taiwan to become that island's non-Chinese native stock, and still others may have become the original Hawaiians, Melanesians, Micronesians and the Maori of New Zealand, but this, he acknowledges, is conjecture.

He is less tentative about those who fled the sinking continent by going east. There, he says, made landfall on the big island that later became Indian Peru. As the

South American landmass continued to rise — even as the mid-Pacific continent had sunk — and grow, the population spread out to fill the new land.

## Route for Indians

It is Blumrich's contention that the Indians of North America as well as the Aztec and Mayan civilizations of Mexico and Central America came to their eventual homelands by this route. Tribal histories of the Hopi and other North American Indians support this view, Blumrich says.

The old, high civilization of the ancient continent did not survive the disruption that caused the dispersion of its people, Blumrich says. But, he goes on, some remnants of the ruling classes and their influence did show up in the new lands to the east. Some of them may have reached their destination as most travelers today would — by air — because. Blumrich insists, this ancient civilization had "the power of flight." By this he means powered aircraft, Blumrich says.

This handful of supermen continued to give the newly resettled refugees ethical guidance and eventually became enshrined in Indian legend as the supernatural Viracocha of Inca legend and the Kachina of the Hopi culture. But in their time, Blumrich insists, these were actual human beings.

White Bear, a Hopi from whom Blumrich says he learned the Hopi traditions, emphasized that among his people "you shall not kill another human being" is the uppermost rule of life. The rule was a hand-me-down from the old Kachina, who now exist only in legend and as doll-like figurines that serve as household gods representing spiritual forces in nature.

The vanished land in the west is enshrined in Hopi legend and also exists in the traditions of other Indian tribes, Blumrich says. He rejects the notion that this is just another version of Atlantis, explaining that the Hopis have an Atlantis legend too — a story about a "land in the east."

## Atlantis Theory

Atlantis, a now-discredited idea, was supposed to have been a continent in the Atlantic that sank overnight about 10,000 years ago. The Greek philosopher Plato popularized the Atlantis legend, which some archeologists now relate to the documented destruction of a Mediterranean island, Thira or Sanorini, by a volcanic explosion that may also have dealt a death blow to the civilization of ancient Crete.

The mid-Pacific continent disappeared long before Atlantis is supposed to have vanished, Blumrich insists. He gives credence to the Hopis' traditional dating of the disaster "80 so-o-mody" ago. "So-o-mody," Blumrich says, is a Hopi term corresponding to our "millennium."

Traditional scientists are likely to take both the Hopi legend and Blumrich's hypothesis with a large grain of salt. The notion runs into trouble on the timescale of continental drift.

At the speed with which the tectonic plates move, 80 so-o-mody is hardly the blink of an eye. Things do happen on a vast and cataclysmic scale, according to plate tectonic theory, but they are millions of years — not just a few score millennia — in the making.

## Gaining Support

Blumrich brushes these objections aside, contending that while the mid-Pacific-continent theory would have had no supporters a few years ago, it is beginning to gain a little respectability. At any rate, a new

Atlantis-type legend based on a vanished continent even more remote in space and time, is likely to make popular reading for a German audience.

It may even click in the United States, if an English translation is published here. Four years ago Blumrich, then at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Marshall Space Flight Center in Alabama, wooed his former compatriots with his Ezekiel theory and went on to clean up with a paperback American version called "The Spaceships of Ezekiel."

This flier in pop science gained him enough Deutsche-mark and dollar royalties, Blumrich says, to enable him to retire on the affluent southern California coast not far from former President Richard M. Nixon's home.

According to Blumrich, the "visions of God" recorded by the prophet in the opening chapter of the Book of Ezekiel (written in the Sixth Century B.C.) were really an account of the landing of a spaceship. In terms made popular by the newest space opera, Ezekiel was telling about a close encounter of the third kind.

"And I looked," the prophet writes in Ezekiel, "And behold a whirlwind came out of the north, a great cloud, and a fire infolding itself, and a brightness about it, and out of the midst thereof as the color of amber, out of the midst of the fire."

In the fifth verse, Ezekiel records that "also out of the midst thereof came the likeness of four living creatures. And this was their appearance: They had the likeness of a man."

# Bigfoot and the National Guard

Washington

If the legendary Bigfoot is ever captured, federal scientists are recommending that the National Guard be called out.

"I don't believe there are any of the things around to be discovered in the first place," Keith Schreiner, associate director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, said yesterday.

"Obviously, if a Bigfoot really were found we could use emergency provisions of the Endangered Species Act to protect it immediately," he said.

Normally, a new "creature" must be formally described and named in a scientific publication and information must be collected on its habits, location and population to bring it under federal protection.

The wildlife service noted new species are discovered frequently: "After all, the gorilla and the giant panda were only legends until the late 19th century when their actual existence was first confirmed by scientists."

So far, Bigfoot, or Sasquatch as it is also called, is known only from tales by Indians and travelers, mostly in the Pacific Northwest, who have described the creature as hairy, taller than a man, and swift to elude pursuers.

The secretary of Interior, in an emergency, can declare a species endangered but this would protect it only from the perils of such federal projects as highways.

It would not prevent owners of the property where the animal was located from killing it, capturing it, or exhibiting it like King Kong.

"Some officials doubt whether any state or federal action short of calling out the National Guard could keep order in the area within the first few hours or days of the creature's discovery.

"This would be necessary until a team of scientists could do the necessary things to ensure the creature's survival."

United Press

# Mysterious Blasts Alarm Residents On N.J. Shore; Source Unknown

TOMS RIVER, N.J. (UPI) — A series of loud, mysterious "explosions" Wednesday night alarmed residents along the New Jersey shore for the third time this month.

Sonic boom has been ruled out for the blasts that have rumbled over the coastal area and that have been heard as far away as on Long Island's south shore.

The latest blast was heard at 7 p.m. Wednesday in a 15-mile area of Long Beach Island and as far as five miles inland. Hundreds of puzzled residents called their local police to report the sound, and nearly everyone was talking about the mystery.

Civil defense officials checked with government agencies and ruled out sonic booms and explosions set off by offshore oil exploration rigs.

Norman Diamond, operations officer for the county civil defense office, said the best theory seemed to be the sounds were caused by either meteor showers or thunderclaps.

"It must be something up there in the sky because we can get no answers from any agencies down here on the ground," Diamond said. "I wish we could come up with an answer for the public. We have absolutely no explanation for it."

Officials at the Coast Guard station at Barnegat Light described the sounds as an explosion, followed by a rumble, and then another explosion.

Shirley Lamson, a policeman's wife who lives in Beach Haven one block from the ocean, said she heard the sound but felt no vibration from the blast.

"It sounded like it came from the ocean," she said. "I was sitting facing the ocean in the kitchen. It went 'whoom.'"

On December 2, there were two similar incidents, but the Federal Aviation Administration, the Civil Aeronautics Board and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission have been unable to offer any explanation for the blasts.

## Light Reported

Earlier Wednesday, several residents of Toms River reported hearing a loud explosion and seeing a bright light in the sky. The fireball was sighted at 2 a.m., about 18 hours before the second incident.

ARKANSAS GAZETTE,  
Little Rock, AR  
Dec. 23, 1977

Paper Unknown (SD) - Dec. 1, 1977 CR: T. Church

# Bigfoot disrupting work schedule of Little

LITTLE EAGLE (AP) — Gary Alexander is a busier man these days now that he hosts persons hunting Bigfoot in the Little Eagle area.

"It's getting so I can't get any work done around here," said the owner of the Little Eagle Trading Post.

The trading post has become information headquarters for those researching sightings of the still uncaptured creature.

Little Eagle started receiving national attention when stories of sightings of Bigfoot appeared in

newspapers and on radio and television several weeks ago. Since then, several national magazines and other media outlets have carried stories about the possibility of finding Bigfoot in the state.

Alexander has been one of the major people involved in the story simply because he knows the territory and has a plaster cast which he says is of the creature's footprint.

The latest sightings, in which three creatures were reported in a single incident, will spur a rash of phone calls.

One day this week, Alexander received 33 calls by midafternoon. He called it a typical day.

"There's only one bunch coming in tomorrow — some television show from Chicago," Alexander reported on Tuesday. "I wish they would either find the thing or run him out of the country."

Alexander has had a chance to pick up some extra cash from the incident, including offers involving his cast of Bigfoot's pawprint.

"Some outfit out of Fargo (N.D.)

# Eagle trading post owner

tried to get me to trace mine on paper so they could use it to make Bigfoot T-shirts."

He has also refused to oblige a New York man who offered \$50 for a copy of his footcast.

"I've heard that Verdell (police officer Verdell Veo) and I have each made at least \$10,000 by exploiting the monster," Alexander said. "I ask them who's supposed to be paying us all that money."

Not that some businesses in the area haven't taken advantage of the publicity.

A nearby restaurant sells Sasquatch stew and a Bigfoot sandwich. Or, for the hungry hunter there's a "bigfoot breakfast."

Another restaurant offers footlong hot dogs called "bigfoot specials" to any news reporter searching for the creature.