

UFO

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NEWS-ITEM, Shamokin, PA - Nov. 29, 1977

UFO's sighted over Mount Carmel area

MOUNT CARMEL — Sightings of mysterious UFO's (Unidentified Flying Objects) are being reported in the Mount Carmel area.

A Mount Carmel woman, who asked not to be identified, said today she and her husband were driving home from Shamokin at about 9:00 p.m. Nov. 11 when their attention was attracted to an unusually bright light in the sky. At the time, she said, they were traveling along Route 61 between Kulpmont and Green Ridge.

"I wasn't able to judge how high it was in the sky but the line of vision from our car was just above the tops of the houses along the south side of the highway," the woman said. "At first we thought it was just a bright star, and my husband insisted that it was, but I was sure there was some kind of a tail extending from the object. It was stationary when we first saw it and then suddenly it took off. That was when my husband agreed it couldn't have been a star.

"We watched it all the way home. Rays of light were shooting out in all directions from the object. When we got home, we went across the street and could still see it. The rays shot out, then faded, and then came back again. They were extremely bright. Then, as we watched, the object disappeared and, along with it, a smaller object near it, which we thought was a star.

"We saw it again the next night and five or six more times since then. The object, whatever it is, was

also seen several times by two residents of our neighborhood, across the street from us, and by a friend of mine who lives in another part of town. She (the friend) saw it on Nov. 12 and the both of us sat in the car and watched it in the sky over her house when I drove her home on the night of Nov. 17."

The UFO reportedly has been sighted over different parts of Mount Carmel. The friend, also unidentified, said she saw the object in the sky over the southeastern section of the community late last Saturday night. She described it as looking like an upside-down umbrella outlined all around by bright lights.

Two brilliantly lighted objects were again observed last night, apparently maneuvering high in the sky over the eastern section of Mount Carmel. One observer, watching through high-power binoculars, reported seeing the objects close together at first, each outlined in red and green lights. As they began to separate, the watcher said, one of the objects appeared to spin, sending off a greater circumference of colored lights, veering off in one direction and the other object in another direction as both faded from sight.

The observer concurred with the previously reported description of the upside-down umbrella, agreeing that the spinning of the one object, as it apparently took off, gave an effect of that kind.

BANNER, North Charleston, SC - Dec. 7, 1977

UFO Sighting Baffles Officials, Concerns AF

BY VAL STIEGLITZ
AND
GEORGE SPAIN

Air Force officials have expressed bewilderment at photographs of an unidentified flying object (UFO) handed to them by a North Charleston resident, who claims to have seen the bizarre object hovering over a Dorchester Road electrical tower while tremors shook the Charleston area Friday.

The photographs, taken by William Herrmann in front of his trailer off Dorchester Road, have been "forwarded through informational channels," according to Air Force spokesman Capt. "Sky" King.

King said he met Herrmann at the Charleston Air Force Base security gate Saturday night, December 3.

The tremors which struck the area last Friday remain unexplained. Seismographic readings indicate that the ground shook, but not due to an earthquake. King discounts the possibility that they were caused by a sonic boom. "That's the strange thing," he said. "Nothing showed up on radar."

Coastal New Jersey experienced tremors similar to those hitting Charleston late Friday. "It doesn't sound like the Air Force to cause sonic booms or whatever in Charleston and hours later in the day off the Jersey coast," King said.

Herrmann claims he was sleeping when violent tremors woke him up at 9:30 a.m. Friday morning. "I ran to the window," he said. "There's an electrical tower about half-a-mile away from my trailer. There it was, hovering above it."

Herrmann said he has spotted a strange object in the sky three times since November 12. The first time was at night. The second time, November 27, he claims to have seen hat-shaped object above the same tower, and photographed it at dusk. He said the object hovered for a moment, then flew toward the fairgrounds on Dorchester Road. "I followed it in my car," Herrmann said. "Then it just lifted up into the clouds and vanished."

The Banner has a copy of the photographs Herrmann took during this sighting. They are dark and unprintable. A hat-shaped object tilting towards the clouds, however, is clearly visible.

Radio station WQSN received three reports of a UFO in the North area Friday, according to reporter Robert Miller.

"I don't know what the tremors and noises were and I'm as concerned as everyone else," King concluded. "If there is something 'up there' I'd like to know what it is too."

Thing seen in sky in July now classified as UFO

A saucer-like object sighted moving through the Fort Worth skies in July has been classified as a UFO "because we can't find any other explanation for it," Larry Sessions, the director of the Noble Planetarium at the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History, said Saturday.

"Up until this time, it has not been identified," he said. "I can't think of anything natural that it could have been."

Sessions said he confirmed that no planes or helicopters were in the air at the time the sighting was reported by six or seven Fort Worth residents July 22.

He said he has been in touch with the National Center for UFO Studies at Evanston, Ill., concerning the sighting.

The museum gets many calls about possible UFOs, Sessions said, most of which can be explained naturally, such as cloud formations, birds, planets or meteors.

Sessions last week told the Abilene Astronomical Society that he believes "very certainly" that life exists elsewhere in the universe.

"I don't believe there is life of any intelligence in our solar system but among the 100 to 200 billion stars in the Milky Way galaxy there are many that could have earth-like planets in their systems," he said.

However, Sessions wonders that if extraterrestrial beings are trying to contact earth, "why don't they just land in some conspicuous place? If they don't want us to know about them, they're doing a very sloppy job."

He said the new film "Close Encounters," which deals with the arrival of beings from outer space, will generate even more UFO reports, but that the interest in the subject will be good for scientific study in the long run.

STAR-TELEGRAM, Ft. Worth, TX

Dec. 4, 1977

Elysburg woman, daughter sight UFO

By Darlene Williams
Elysburg Bureau Chief

ELYSBURG — "I used to believe that people who said they saw UFO's were crazy, but I sure don't now," stated an Elysburg woman as she told of her scary and exciting experience on viewing "something funny" in the sky Friday evening near Elysburg.

The Elysburg woman and her daughter who told the News-Item of their thrilling observation, asked not to be identified because they didn't want to be kidded and called "crazy" as they had thought of other people who told of seeing UFO's.

The woman and her daughter were traveling towards Elysburg Friday evening around 5:45 near the Valley Gun Club when the mother noticed two large bright lights in the sky to the left of the car. "I thought at first it was an airplane but at second glance it was too low, was not moving, and the lights did not blink as they do on airplanes," she related.

At first she joked with her daughter that "maybe its a UFO?" Her daughter then looked at the object and thought it looked funny for a plane since it "was too long and it wasn't moving." At that moment "it" dashed across in front of their car, about 40 feet in the sky, so fast it was "like a big blur," they related.

Parked auto

The object then seemed to curve a little and was then located on the other side of their car with two white lights at each end and a large bluish-green light underneath. They turned onto East Center Street and parked the car near the Ned Clark residence to get a better view.

As they observed the object from outside their car it seemed to hover low, off to the right of the Clark house. The shape then appeared as an upside-down umbrella, "like the one the woman mention in The News-Item," they related.

As they watched it, the two white lights seemed to come together and move straight up in the sky very fast and then off at an angle higher into the sky. At the same time the large bluish-green light separated from the other two white lights and moved in another direction very fast at a slight angle towards the mountains near Catawissa. It stopped for a while and then disappeared over the mountains, they said.

Flashing circle

They watched the other white lights which appeared to join and become one large light in the sky with a flashing circle and haze around it. They observed "it" for half an hour and the lights appeared as a "very bright star" far away. They kept watching it through binoculars when they reached home and it seemed to move only at a very slow pace.

Shamokin man says he has seen UFO's

SHAMOKIN — After having read a News-Item article earlier this week about reported sightings of UFO's (Unidentified Flying Objects) over the Mount Carmel area, a Shamokin man today joined the ranks of those saying they have seen mysterious moving lights in the night skies.

"There is some activity out there. What it is, I really don't know," was the telephoned comment of the most recent observer who, like the others, insisted on remaining anonymous for fear of ridicule. "Those women in Mount Carmel who reported UFO sightings during the past several weeks weren't seeing things. I've seen them, too."

The caller went on to relate his own UFO experiences, particularly several which he said occurred in August of this year. He said he is employed at an industrial plant near Mount Carmel and one night while he and a fellow worker, a Mount Carmel man, were on "break," they had a clear view of a "blue and green thing" flying low toward them, approaching through what he called the Locust Gap cut (a gap in the mountain), and disappearing on the other side of the plant.

"Both of us agreed that if we told

anyone about what we saw they'd call us glue sniffers, so we called two other fellows out of the plant and the four of us watched the thing in the sky. It was flying at a fairly low altitude. It lit up the sky.

"A funny thing about it was that I was just telling the fellow on break with me about an experience I had only two nights before that, a Saturday night while I was on a weekend trip to Elk Ridge, Md. I was telling him about this unidentified thing I had seen there, flying at low altitude with two lights that looked like greenish blue eyes shining down. I was just telling him about this at the plant when the very same thing came through the Gap cut, flying toward us."

The man said he has been interested in UFO's for some time and observes them through field glasses and a 50-power telescope, admitting, however, that even with the aid of glasses he has been able to discern no details of the flying objects, but the vari-colored lights and general shapes.

The caller said he, personally, is convinced the UFO's are some sort of devices the United States is developing and experimenting with. He speculated that the ones being seen in this area could conceivably be sent up from an installation such as the one at Indiantown Gap. "But I don't know and apparently neither does anyone else know. They could be foreign for all we know. They might even be some kind of weather satellites, but I doubt it.

"And there are different kinds. At work, back in August, we saw the same one or similar ones two nights in a row. I saw one that looked like a bluish Christmas tree, flying from Big Mountain toward Locust Gap from west to east. The next night I saw one flying from east to west. That one was all in red. Three or four weeks ago I was driving along the Excelsior road and I saw one for a while, but lost it in the tree line.

"I saw one flying southwest toward the Glen Burn Colliery at low altitude. Every now and then there are new ones. More recently, I've watched some that are high and appear to be the shape of a football with bright lights at both ends. I've watched them over the Natalie and Bear Gap areas. On almost any clear night you can see a number of them in the sky."

"It was really exciting and scary at the same time," the mother related. "It sure had my adrenalin flowing." "I'll never call anyone crazy again for telling their story about seeing UFO's," the mother stated.

Never believer

"I was never a believer in UFO's," the daughter related. "I could take it or leave it" referring to reading and seeing television programs concerning UFO's and the legitimacy of such sightings. She now has a different opinion.

The News-Item went to the woman's home to view for herself the object they had described. It did appear to be a very large distinguishable bright light or star in the sky. It was easy to spot as the other stars were not as bright and vivid.

Was it really a UFO? It certainly couldn't be identified by those who viewed it, and it was flying. One observer said "I just hope it's our government doing experiments, but I wish they would tell us so I could sleep better."

Another sighting

A Kulpmont woman also reported to The News-Item Friday that her son was driving home Thursday evening when he noticed pink and green flashing lights.

The woman said she also saw green and pink lights coming from the object after being informed of the sighting by her son.

The woman said she and her son watched the object for about 20 minutes. It appeared brighter at times and moved "little by little," the woman observed.

"It was even there when we went back into the house," she concluded.

UFO Movie Stirs Colo. Memories

By DANA PARSONS
Denver Post Staff Writer

Long box-office lines will begin forming later this month for "Close Encounters of the Third Kind," Hollywood's version of what happens when outer space creatures make personal contact with earthlings.

The movie is certain to heat up the 30-year-old argument over UFOs in the United States, and probably will convince more persons than ever that something or somebody really is Up There.

THE TOPIC was never hotter than during 1967 and 1968 in Colorado when a team of about 35 scientists and psychologists, most of them from the University of Colorado, labored over what was to be the most extensive study ever undertaken of UFOs.

They called it the Colorado Project, and it had the earmarks of a scientists' dream, a chance to work on something that could have turned up the discovery of the century.

Instead, it produced hard feelings, became a near-nightmarish experience for its renowned director and, in the end, probably didn't change anyone's mind about one of the most tantalizing questions of modern times.

THE AIR FORCE pumped \$500,000 into the Colorado Project, and when director Edward U. Condon concluded in his summary of the 1,465-page report that further study of UFOs wasn't worth it, UFO supporters suffered a major setback.

In one respect, the report had a significant impact. The Air Force in 1969 ended its monitoring of UFO reports, which had dated to 1947. Thus, the public was left without an official governmental agency to which it could report sightings.

Many persons no doubt assumed UFO study had ended.

NOW, THE CARTER administration has asked the National Aeronautics and Space Administration whether UFOs deserve another look. NASA is expected to make its recommendations within two months.

Being named leader of the Colorado Project was an accolade for Condon, then a brilliant 64-year-old physicist with a reputation for being fiercely independent and immune to government influence.

But as Kay Shapley, his friend for 20 years and personal secretary throughout the project, recalled in an interview last week: "It was a horrendous experience for Dr. Condon."

Why? "Out of that came lots of mail from total believers (in UFOs), but also from schizophrenics and mental cases who thought little green men had poured things into their heads. We deliberately kept from saying anything about that

aspect because this was a scientific report."

NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS at the time told only of the criticisms from the outside and of Condon's firing of two staff members for what he called incompetence.

But for Condon, who died in 1974, the project had become taxing at an early stage, Mrs. Shapley said.

"It was a terrible drain. I was very close to him, and I knew as soon as he realized there was no way he could prove it (the existence of UFOs), it became a real chore to get on with it."

CONDON'S INNATE scientific skepticism made him insist on physical proof, Mrs. Shapley said. Unlike others who think that the sheer numbers of unexplained events prove the existence of alien beings, Condon didn't.

David Saunders was a professor of psychology at the University of Colorado and worked on the project for 15 months before being fired. Reports indicated he was fired for releasing findings before Condon approved.

"I don't like to relive those days," Saunders said in an interview. "I take the position that there very likely is a phenomenon that we loosely call UFOs that deserves to be better understood."

As for his memories of Condon, Saunders, now a psychologist for a consulting firm in Princeton, N.J., said: "Suffice it to say I was seriously considering bringing a libel suit against the man, and wrote a book instead." The book, "UFOs, Yes", criticized the Condon report.

MARTIN ALTSCHULER was on the astrophysics faculty at CU while on the Condon team. Now an associate professor of computer science with the State University of New York at Buffalo, Altschuler defended Condon's conclusion.

"I think his report was really the best that could have been done. There was no solid evidence of any kind that would have stood up to any test."

Like Condon, Altschuler doesn't have much patience for those who advance theories that UFOs are piloted by extraterrestrials.

"The public is being led around by a carrot on a great big stick, and led to believe there might be something there, when there really isn't."

RECALLING HIS work with Condon on the project evokes "tremendous memories," Altschuler said. "I look back on it very fondly, despite all the hubbub. It's the kind of thing that doesn't come along too often. I wouldn't do it again, though. It was a once-in-a-lifetime thing, but there was no scientific payoff to it."

Of course, UFOs have their supporters. One of the strongest is R. Leo Sprinkle, director of counseling and testing at the University of Wyoming. He has given psychological tests to a number of persons who claim to have seen UFOs, including one to a Nebraska state trooper for the Condon report.

His conclusions: "Most of these people are normal, yet they have had unusual sightings." He told the Condon group the trooper believed he was telling the truth when he said he saw a saucer-like object that glowed brilliantly and had oval portals around it. The committee finding was that it wasn't convinced the incident happened.

SPRINKLE, who said he has seen two UFOs, has a personal opinion on extraterrestrials: "It seems the evidence is sufficient to indicate the Earth is being surveyed by spacecraft and the spacecraft are piloted or controlled by intelligent beings. I don't know the origin or purpose, but I can speculate that we are being conditioned to the idea that we are not alone. . . ."

It also is possible the aliens are conditioning earthlings to realize that science and religion can't explain everything, meaning that flying saucers are governed by "other laws with which we are not familiar," Sprinkle said.

Sprinkle added: "The more I encounter these cases, the more I see these are not neurotic or psychotic reactions which might account for the stories."

NOW IN ITS 26th year, the Aerial Phenomenon Research Organization, headed by Jim and Coral Lorenzen of Tucson, Ariz., monitors UFO sightings.

Mrs. Lorenzen said encounters of the fourth kind are increasing. The fourth kind involves abductions—cases in which people report they are taken aboard spacecraft. There have been about 25 such reports in recent years, she said.

Encounters of the first kind are sightings. Those of the second kind include physical evidence of the extraterrestrial vehicles or creatures.

IRONICALLY, Mrs. Lorenzen, who has spent 25 years trying to convince people of the existence of UFOs, is worried about the new movie.

"According to everything I've heard and read about it, the movie portrays the occupants as benevolent beings. I'm afraid that people will be put out on the road looking for UFOs, they might get close and try to approach and there might be injuries."

Mrs. Lorenzen said she wasn't especially critical of the Condon report, only Condon's conclusion that further study would be wasteful.

DAILY REVIEW, Mayward, CA

Jan. 10, 1978

ANYONE SEE IT?

I was wondering if anyone saw a bright, shiny-pinkish red light that looked like a flare on the night of Thursday the 5th in the sky? It was around 7 p.m. that night, and the thing seemed to bounce around in the hills near south Hayward.

ROSEBUD
Hayward

DAILY REVIEW, Mayward, CA

Jan. 13, 1978

WE SAW IT TOO

To Rosebud: Yes, my husband and I both saw that light in the sky over the hills in Hayward. But we did not notice that it was moving at all. We were in the car and not able to get out and take a stand-still look at it. We were at the corner of Center and Gem in Castro Valley. We didn't get a chance to observe it closely, but we did see it.

A.E.N.
Castro Valley

Mystery lights in Piedmont area trouble observers

Ron Bender
Staff Writer

PIEDMONT — "Something from outer space? I'm not saying that. I'm saying it's an unidentified flying object, something unexplainable."

Duane Holsworth used to be skeptical about people who saw strange things in the sky. But he and other people in the Piedmont area periodically see lights at night for which nobody is able to come up with a logical explanation.

"We've seen 'em 25 or 30 times since we lived out here. We (he and his wife Gloria) started marking dates and times we saw them," said Holsworth, looking out the sliding glass door from which he can oversee miles of the Piedmont area from his ridgetop home.

And now Holsworth has evidence of the lights — three color slides of a UFO taken by a friend while the two were deer hunting.

"We were in the Big Elk burn northwest of Piedmont, about 4:15 a.m. on the first of November. When we saw the first one over the fire trail I said I wish we had a camera.

"Well, (his friend) said he had his camera along, and then we saw one to the north. From the time we took the first picture to the last we sat and watched it for a good 10 minutes. It was in the same spot, stationary, until it took off," said Holsworth.

Two slides show the full moon in the background, and a brilliant, almost kidney-shaped object in the foreground, dazzling white in the center and changing to yellowish, then orange on the edges.

Holsworth said the third slide was taken when the object was moving away through a cloud bank. It shows an indistinct, jagged bright light.

Holsworth offered the slides to the Rapid City Journal for publication, but technical and reproduction problems prevented their use.

"The guy with me didn't even want to talk about it. After we saw that first one he didn't say 10 words until we got into the burn," said Holsworth.

"I said, 'you work out at the air base. Are those landing lights?' He said, 'no way, they're the wrong color. B-52s have a different color landing lights.'"

Holsworth didn't see another one until early last week when he saw a light in the valley which he first thought was the headlights of a car on Skyline Drive. But after 10 minutes the light suddenly flashed across the valley and disappeared.

Holsworth said when he first started seeing the lights last winter he didn't say much about them, partially to avoid being laughed at.

But he mentioned the lights to his neighbors once, and the woman turned to her husband and said, "See, I'm not the only one who's seen them."

Since then other residents of the area have reported seeing the lights, or recalled seeing strange things in years past.

"One fellow saw one in 1960-70 when he first moved to Piedmont. He was driving and at first he thought it was a train. But when he got to Piedmont he realized it wasn't a train. He rolled down his window and couldn't hear anything."

Holsworth lives fewer than 10 miles from Ellsworth Air Force Base and is familiar with both the sounds and lights of airplanes.

"B-52s can be way over there and you can hear them," he said.

He said several residents have contacted Ellsworth personnel about sightings. They were asked to relate any information they had about the sighting, but were told nothing in return.

The Air Force officially "closed the books on the UFO business" some years ago, said the Ellsworth information office.

Maj. Art Jungwirth said it is Air Force policy to refer callers to local law enforcement authorities or to local universities.

The Air Force's Project Bluebook, which investigated unidentified flying objects in the 1950s and 1960s, concluded that there was no hard evidence that UFOs were anything but conventional phenomena misunderstood.

But if those lights are conventional phenomena, Holsworth and other Piedmont area residents would like to know the explanation.

"It seems like they kind of hang along the valleys," said Holsworth.

"My brother-in-law and sister were here from North Dakota about the first of October.

"One night we were sitting here showing home movies on the wall, and talking about it. Right then one went past over there. We watched it a couple of minutes, then it floated on down out of sight.

"I used to laugh at people who talked about these things. I became a believer in the summer of 1964, saw my first one in Montana.

"We were going to a little town to play for a dance, and there was a light in the valley beside us. We figured it was a helicopter, but one guy rolled down his window and there was no sound.

"Then we speeded up to about 100 and it stayed right with us, and all of a sudden took off in a streak.

"That's when I decided there was something out there other than man-made."

UFOs were on the public's mind much more during the 1950s than today. Clippings from the Rapid City Journal's files show many "flying saucer" sightings were reported in western South Dakota as well as the entire United States.

Even law enforcement officers got into the act, chasing lights after receiving reports. The Rapid City Journal even formed a department in 1952 to take phone calls and do research on the mysterious objects.

And, according to people who study UFOs, the nation can expect a flurry of reports in the next several months, prompted by the new science fiction movie, "Close Encounters of the Third Kind," about extraterrestrial creatures visiting Earth. Part of the film was shot at Devils Tower in northeastern Wyoming.

But Holsworth and others don't need any prompting from a movie.

"There's more people admitting they've seen the lights. There's definitely something out there that's unexplainable, and I sure wish I knew what it was."

Area couple observes UFO near Frackville

MOUNT CARMEL — A Mount Carmel couple, who wish to remain anonymous, gave their story of a Unidentified Flying Object (UFO) sighting Saturday night along Route 81, two miles from Frackville.

The woman said she and her husband were returning from Scranton when their automobile ran out of gas. The couple sat in the car for about an hour attempting to "hitch" a ride back to Mount Carmel when the UFO was sighted.

"I happened to be looking in the sky when I saw what appeared to be a star, but brighter. All of a sudden, it started to move in the sky and change shapes and colors. It got smaller, then bigger, and the colors were reddish and then back to bright white."

She added, "It didn't phase us at first, but it started to come towards us. But when cars passed, it seemed to stop and just stay in position. We thought it was a shooting star at first, but it went back up and moved in circles."

The woman said a motorist happened to come along and saw the same object, but didn't want to "stick around." He said he saw enough and would not even get out of his truck, the woman claimed.

After obtaining a ride to a diner in Frackville, the couple met a friend who drove them back to the car with a can of gasoline.

While placing gasoline in the stalled vehicle, the couple and their friend again saw the object and decided to leave the car stranded and obtained a ride back to Mount Carmel with their friend.

While the object was in front of the vehicle at first, it moved to the left of the auto on the return trip to Mount Carmel. The friend also saw the object, she noted.

"I didn't sleep since Saturday," the excited woman ended.

NEWS-ITEM, Shamokin, PA - Dec. 12, 1977

WORLD-HERALD, Omaha, NE - Dec. 11, 1977

Mystery Flaming Object "Definitely Not Meteorite"

Council Bluffs, Iowa — The flaming object that reportedly struck the earth just north of Council Bluffs Saturday night "definitely was not a meteorite," Bluffs amateur astronomer Robert Allen said Monday.

Allen said he is sending a sample of the object to the Iowa State University metallurgical laboratory for analysis.

Allen theorized the object which landed in a molten form and spread to an area about four feet in diameter and three inches thick, may have been "a piece of space junk" that re-entered the atmosphere.

"There are plenty of missile casings and parts of satellites floating around out there," Allen said.

The possibility of a hoax was

all but ruled out by Allen, who said there would be great difficulty in heating the substance to its molten state.

Two witnesses told authorities they saw the object land in an area about a half-mile east of N. 16th Street near Big Lake Park about 7:30 p.m. Saturday.

"Meteorites do not hit the earth in a molten state," Allen said.

Assistant Fire Chief Jack Moore said the object remained too hot to handle for about an hour after firemen arrived.

Moore said the material was very hard, noting that when he attempted to polish a fragment with a grinder wheel, the wheel wore away rapidly.

Allen said he anticipated a report back from the laboratory sometime after Christmas.

CR: M. Hall

'Somebody's up there'

. . . but who is it?

By JOHN WOESTENDIEK
Leader staff writer

IRVINE—They call it "the thing."

Hundreds of residents of the foothills of Estill and Madison Counties have seen it over the last five years. Some talk about it, some don't. Some joke about it, some don't.

For some it is fun: When the saucer-shaped light made regular appearances — up until about three months ago — sometimes as many as 50 people would bring lawn chairs and beer to a hilltop in Panola to await its nightly showing.

For some, it is not: There is the story of a minister who was driving with his daughter west on U.S. 52 from Irvine. As he topped a hill, a blindingly bright object appeared above his car. It followed the car for more than five miles. The daughter, who went into hysterics, had to be treated at a hospital for shock.

For all, it is a thing of wonder.

"It's a weird-acting thing," says Ronald Aldridge, 35, of Route 2. "It'll come across the sky and just sit there — sometimes an hour, sometimes longer."

Aldridge, who works for a manufacturing company, said the object most commonly appeared on clear summer nights, shortly after nightfall. "It's hard to believe," he said. "At first, I didn't believe. Now I think somebody's up there. I don't know if it's observing us or what."

Aldridge lives on a hill. When the object was appearing regularly, he said, he would invite his neighbors over for a barbecue and "saucer watch."

The object is described as saucer-shaped. Estimates of its size vary from 50 to 200 feet in diameter. It is red, but its shade varies, sometimes turning to brilliant white, and is surrounded by a yellow haze.

It makes no sound as it travels. It has been seen to appear at different points in the sky without actually moving from one to the other.

It has vanished in mid-air. The few who have seen it up close say it seems to have windows. Sometimes it travels at a steady pace, while at other times it hovers and darts.

J.C. Mahr, an Eastern Kentucky University professor of astronomy and physics said, "I myself saw it every so often over my back fence. I know there's something out there."

In a letter to Northwestern University astronomist J. Allen Hynek, Mahr wrote: "There is, as indicated, an inexhaustible supply of witnesses and stories in the area ... It does seem that this monster is almost as well localized as the one in Loch Ness, and much easier to observe."

Mahr, who taught a non-credit course this year devoted to the study of the object, says it is likely there is more than one. Several people have reported seeing a "squad" of them — three or four.

"Once you have established the probability of other civilizations, the question of UFOs has to come out," Mahr said. "I think I accept this (the existence of other

civilizations) with the majority of astronomers. I'm not saying they are connected (UFOs and other civilizations), but they could be connected. That's the easiest explanation, but that doesn't mean it's right."

Mahr said the first reports of the object came about five years ago. The last time he saw it was in July. The last reports came in September.

Mahr's UFO class, held from February to April, saw the object three times in four trips. The class concluded the object travelled about 200 mph with a spherical light it calculated at 1 to 2 kilowatts of luminous energy.

"It's the deepest, brightest red I've ever seen," said Mahr. "To construct a bright, deep red like that is a trial in itself. We can't do it."

Dave Cox, manager of radio station WIRV in Irvine, took Mahr's course; he said he has seen the object about 25 times. Four of those times, he estimates, he was only about 30 yards away.

"It appeared like the whole object was glowing. From where I was it looked about 35 to 70 feet in diameter and saucer-shaped. Once it got real bright, as bright as you've ever seen. Everyone who has ever seen it will admit it's not like anything they've ever seen."

On a taped interview with Mahr on WIRV in which the audience phoned in questions, one woman, Edna Hunt, of Route 2, said the object was continuously appearing above her home.

"We took a shotgun out once and shot straight up in the air. The thing got real red and then the lights just instantly went out," she said.

In recent months, sightings of the object have tapered off. That could be because the object has stopped appearing. Or it could be because the residents are no longer looking. The novelty has worn off.

"It got to the point where it became a joke," said Phyllis Thomas, also of Route 2. "It got to be an everynight affair. We'd say, 'Let's look and see if our friend's out there.'"

"I guess the newness kind of wore off," she added. "People watched them so much, they kind of got tired of them."

Said Mahr, "I've sorta gotten that way myself. It's just so much repetition. The people in Estill County don't bother to go out anymore because they've seen it." Mahr said he would not get excited if he saw it again "unless it landed on my front lawn."

In addition, it could be that many of those who have had encounters with the object are not talking. Ridicule often faces those who go public with their experiences.

"That's the sort of thing that disturbs me," Mahr said. "It's a hell of a world if you can't say what you've seen without being run out of town."

AMERICAN, Ellsworth, ME - Jan. 12, 1978
CR: B. Greenwood

At least three residents of Surry claim they saw an unidentified flying object on Wednesday, Dec. 28. The flying craft hovered over Surry Bay that night, they say. One witness had a chance to observe it for ten or fifteen seconds, through his binoculars before it moved away. It is said to have appeared as a white globe in the sky. Through the binoculars, it could be seen to have red, yellow, and green lights around it. In addition, two shafts of light that appeared to be twin beams were directed downward. The user of the binoculars says it must have been less than a mile high or it would have been beyond the scope of his binoculars. One of the Surry witnesses says that a Bluehill acquaintance reports sighting the same thing, with the same colored lights, over the Bluehill fairground.

Ashby Woman Has Encounter Of 'First Kind'

By LEAH LAMSON

ASHBY — It all began one night in November on the way to Bible Study. Mrs. Robert Loughlin had a "close encounter of the first kind."

Mrs. Loughlin was driving down Richardson Road with her two friends and daughter. "We were heading towards Fitchburg and on the Fitchburg Reservoir sat a big red light. It was real close to the road and was making a noise."

"It looked round and it stayed there at least 10 minutes before we decided to leave. It was still there when we left for church. After that I have been looking at the skies every night after dusk until 10:30 p.m."

The Ashby woman lives with her husband and four children atop a hill on Richardson Road, a "perfect location for UFO sightings," she claims.

The Loughlin home, near the Fitchburg and Ashby Reservoir, seems to be a magnet for the saucer-shaped objects.

But, according to Mrs. Loughlin, not all of the strange crafts are round.

"Some of them are oblong-shaped too," she said. "The lights are always changing colors so we know they're not airplanes. They start flashing white then turn yellow, green and red."

Barring only inclement weather, the Loughlins make a nightly trek out to their pasture where they have seen as many as 14 UFO's in one night. Sometimes accompanied by neighbors and friends, the Loughlins have made a habit of UFO-watching since Nov. 3, missing just a few nights.

On an average night there are usually six or seven of the mysterious objects "cruising around up there", according to Mrs. Loughlin.

She has never captured one on film, but uses binoculars to distinguish between a "flying saucer" and other aircraft.

The prime time for catching a glimpse or a prolonged stare, at a UFO is between 5:30 and 10:30 p.m., Mrs. Loughlin said.

"When the stars are gone, you don't see anymore of them," she explained. "They just seem to sit there in the sky. I don't know if they use the stars for cover or if they're regenerating."

Mrs. Loughlin believes the water might be what attracts such a large flock, or it may be the high power station in Ashburnham.

"They always seem to head in the general direction of the radio station tower," she said.

But the pilots of the UFO's don't seem interested in ear-things, Mrs. Loughlin said. "We see so many of them but they never come within reach."

The celestial crafts are silent most of the time, but when they make noises they sound like "five or six airplanes coming over us, but they stay in one place."

GOVERNMENT TO INVESTIGATE UFO'S—NEWSWEEK UFO FOLLOWS KANSAS COUPLE

By V. L. T.

A UFO followed a Parsons, Kansas, couple approximately 30 miles the night of January 25, 1977, as they were driving to their home from Pittsburg, Kansas.

"I had never believed in UFO's until then," declared Clyde V. Basey. "I scoffed at reports of them. But not anymore. I'm convinced there's something out there we don't know about."

Basey and his wife noticed the UFO at the south edge of Pittsburg as they approached the junction of US69 and US160. When they turned west on US160 towards Parsons, the UFO began following them.

Basey, a well-known Parsons businessman, described the UFO with these words: "It was a perfect white light. There wasn't a tinge of color, and there weren't any markings on it."

Basey said that he was driving the speed limit, and the object kept up with him. "When I speeded up, it also did. If I slowed down, it did too. I varied my speed from 25 or 30 miles an hour to up to 70, to see what the object would do. It varied its speed to match mine."

The Parsons man said the UFO traveled low, flying parallel to the highway. "It followed us to Parsons. Then it picked up speed, growing smaller and smaller as it left us, until finally it disappeared."

The couple was so convinced they had seen a UFO that upon reaching Parsons they immediately notified the Parsons police department and the Labette County Sheriff's office. It turned out they were not the only persons who had observed the mysterious object.

"I listened to the police scanner as soon as I got home," said Basey. "The dispatcher in Columbus (near Pittsburg) reported that authorities there had received several calls about the UFO."

When Basey was asked if there was any possibility the object had been Venus or another planet, he said flatly, "No. Its size to the human eye varied; when it came close it was bigger, when it moved away, it grew smaller. It was not a star."

The route traveled by Mr. and Mrs. Basey was through a large coal strip mining area. The mines have long ceased operating, and in recent years there have been many sightings of UFOs in this vicinity.

Many UFO enthusiasts believe UFOs somehow obtain energy from the area, while others claim they land there due to the remoteness of the area.

The nine-year resident of Ashby keeps a daily log on the days and times of UFO sightings. She has also written to well-known UFO captive Betty Hill, of Portsmouth, N.H. but hasn't received any reply yet concerning a "close encounter of the Third Kind."

Mrs. Loughlin said she is never afraid to chase down the objects because "they always stay right around the tops of the trees."

She has had no "close encounters of the second kind" — physical evidence of a UFO landing — but did have one strange experience.

"There was one that looked like a helicopter with five or six big lights, but it didn't make the noise a helicopter would," she said. "It went right into the hill and then we heard a big bang. We went up there but we couldn't find anything."

"I think someone ought to check the reservoir to see what's on the bottom," she concluded.

UFO is spotted over Harrison

Is it a bird, plane, Santa? It's...

By HERB BROCK

While Mitchell Bruce Walters was driving home from his job in Lexington early last Friday morning, he looked up in the sky and saw something round and glowing.

It wasn't a full moon. Nor was it Santa and his eight tiny reindeer flying a test pattern.

Walters believes it was an Unidentified Flying Object (UFO) he spotted way up in the sky at about 3 a.m. He was returning to his home on Dividing Ridge Pike from work at IBM in Lexington.

He informed his father, Mitchell Walters, who had been asleep at his home nearby on the Coppage Pike.

Father and son Walters then set up an observation point at the corner of Coppage and Dividing Ridge. There, they used binoculars and the naked eye to watch the UFO.

"It was way up, high in the sky," said the elder Walters, who watched it for a half hour. "From where we were standing, it was about the size of the palm of my hand, and appeared to be hanging way high up over the high school (in Cynthiana)."

Walters said the UFO was round in shape with blue-green, red and amber lights spinning slowly around in a counter-clockwise motion. In addition, there was a bright glow around it, making it look at first like a star, he said.

When Walters saw it, the UFO was high up and stationary. But earlier, the object appeared to be a lot closer to earth, according to his daughter-in-law, Mollie Walters.

"It was real low and real big to begin with," said Mrs. Walters, who watched it for an hour and a half. "But then it moved, like a flash, and zoomed way up in the sky."

Mrs. Walters noted that the UFO not only spun but also vibrated in a "springy motion."

The Walterses called the Cynthiana city police, who referred them to Lexington airport authorities. Nothing other than a helicopter and jet had registered on monitors covering the skies over that part of Harrison County, Mrs. Walters said.

This wasn't the first UFO either Mitchell Walters or his daughter-in-law had spotted.

"Less than a year ago, we spotted one," said Mrs. Walters, who acknowledged that it probably was the same one reported by Kenny Ray Leach, Alberta Pike, in mid-April, 1977.

That publicized UFO was described by Leach as having four bright lights, evenly spaced in a straight line. He said the lights were of no discernable color and the object was noiseless.

About "10 or 12 years ago," the elder Walters said, "I saw one over Lexington. It was cigar-shaped, kinda brown and scorched looking. And it was a bright, sunny day when I saw it."

Didn't spot green men

Junction Citian sees UFO near city

By HAROLD TAYLOR

On a cold, early winter night last week, there was a UFO—unidentified flying object—checking out things in the Junction City area.

That's the word of a witness who saw the thing as he was traveling east on I-70 maybe 10 or 12 miles east of Junction City, in the vicinity of the roadside parks east of McDowell Creek.

He is willing to talk about what he saw, but didn't want to disclose his name publicly because "I've always kind of laughed at these reports, and never figured that I'd be talking about one that I saw."

"I've never seen anything like it before. There were some trees between me and this object, which was fairly close to the highway."

"What I was attracted to was a intense penetrating light. I counted three or four convex-shaped lens-like portholes, liked a fixed 'blister' bulging out from the object. Each was perhaps two feet in diameter."

"I thought at first it was moving along with me, but then it appeared it was not. It was perhaps 50 yards off the highway."

"It was a dark and kind of damp night, and about 7:45 p.m. I could not see the shape of an object, except that it was dark and not silver, perhaps gray, green, brown or black, and I got perhaps 50 yards from it."

"As I came up to it and went on past, the car's operation was not affected by it. It probably was stationary. As I passed and looked back, I could see no lights, and apparently there were lights on only one side, or it had gone. I was tempted to turn around and go back, but you can't make a turn across the interstate, legally, so I didn't."

"It appeared to be on or close to the ground, but perhaps a little off the ground. I saw no maneuvering, no smoke and no movement around it."

"I saw no 'little green men,' or anything else of that nature. The lights were extremely bright, so bright that I could hardly look at them. They were sort of orange-pink, or orange-red, and luminous. I heard nothing."

"I'm still turning this over in my mind; what the hell did I see. I don't really feel that it was from outer space. I think it could have been an earth machine of some type. I feel like our people here could put something like that together. After all, we've made a lot of unbelievable machines here on earth."

"I've been back through that area since that night and I've tried to spot where I saw the thing, although I have not been able to pinpoint it. It was off the right side of the highway as I traveled east, and on higher ground somewhat above the highway."

"But just don't use my name; I just don't want people wondering about me seeing things."

Mystery metal falls from sky

Assistant Fire Chief Jack Moore was puzzling Saturday night over a piece of metal. Was it ore? Or nickle? Or copper?

"I really don't know what it is," Moore said of the "souvenir" he picked up after an 8 p.m. call to the Fire Department took him to the Big Lake Park area.

Moore said Kenny Drake, 1723 Second Ave., and Randy James, 1218 N. 22nd St., reported they had seen "something red fall out of the sky to the southeast, hit the ground and explode in flames."

When he arrived on the scene, Moore said, he found a grassy area about four by six feet on a levee off Big Lake to be covered by a mass of molten metal. "It was running, boiling, down the edges of the levee. The center of it was way too hot to touch."

The ground beneath the mass was burned, Moore said.

CHECKS WITH Eppley Airfield and Offutt Air Force Base contributed nothing to the mystery. Offutt officials "didn't seem terribly interested," said Moore.

The assistant chief said he was able to pick up a border, distaff chunk of the metal from the main mass. "I have the pieces in my office. You can't break it and you can't bend it. I know it's metal, period. It's got me beat."

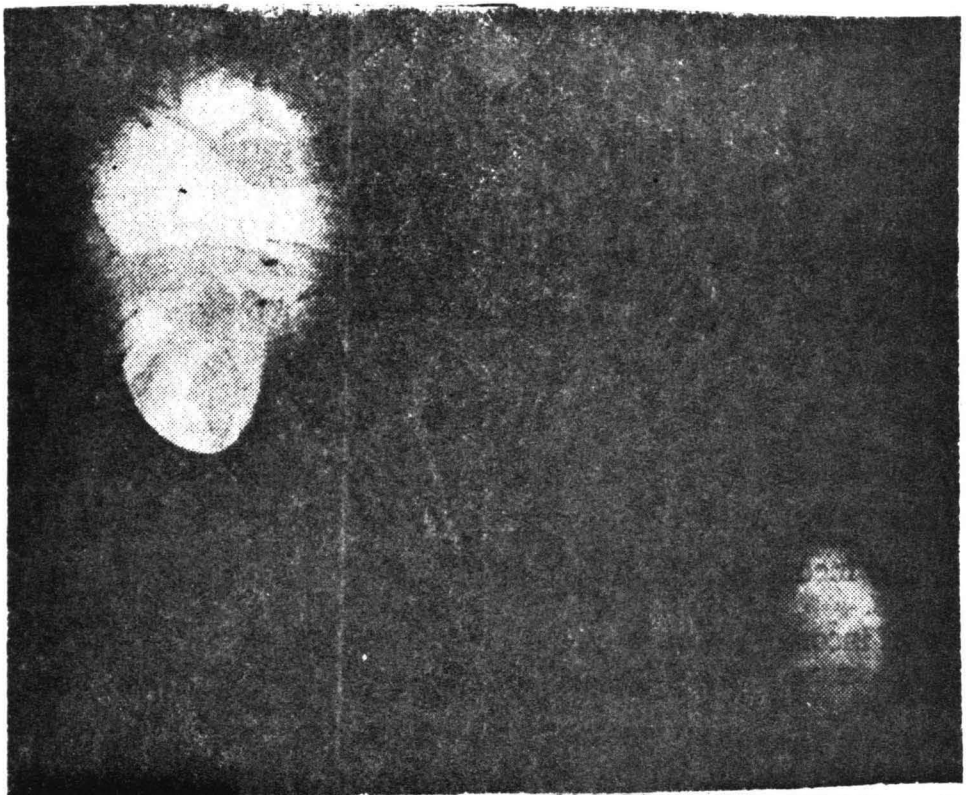
Asked if he believed the reports that "something just fell out of the sky," Moore said "I have no reason not to believe them. I questioned them closely and the police questioned them closely. They didn't hesitate in their story."

NONPAREIL,
Council Bluffs, IA
Dec. 18, 1977

JOURNAL, Rapid City, SD
Dec. 20, 1977

Unexplained light in Black Hills sky

These photographs represent the unexplained light spotted early in November by Duane Holsworth of Piedmont and Bill Carr of Black Hawk. Carr took the photos about 4:15 a.m. on color slide film, rephotographed the slides with a slide copier and offered the film to the Rapid City Journal for publication. Holsworth described his sightings of lights in the Piedmont area over the past several years in a Rapid City Journal story Dec. 13. The photos show the brilliantly lighted oval object stationary in the sky, with the moon in the background. Holsworth said that since the story about his sightings was published, he has heard from other area residents who have spotted unidentified lights in the sky.



Family in Fitzwilliam Sights UFO; 'Lights Were Sparkling, Very Bright'

By KATHLEEN OLIVER
Sentinel Staff Writer

FITZWILLIAM — Members of a Fitzwilliam family believe they have had a "close encounter of the first kind" or have at least witnessed something very unusual in the eastern sky above their home on Hemlock Drive.

Robin Brow, 15, and a student at Monadnock Regional High School in Swanzey, spoke Wednesday night for her father, Frederick Brow, her mother and her 14-year-old sister, all of whom said they have observed a UFO on two separate occasions during the past six weeks.

The second sighting occurred last night just before 6 p.m., according to Miss Brow, who said the whole family watched a "spinning, rounded triangular shape, with red, green and white lights, for about two hours."

She said her father spotted the UFO first, and called the family out.

"It was directly east, and very far away; but the lights were very bright," Miss Brow said.

"It remained almost stationary for the first 30 minutes, except for the spinning. After that, it seemed to move up and away, a little at a time.

"When it turned just right, you could make out the shape in outline form. The lights were sparkling, very bright, much brighter than the stars."

She said she watched the object for two hours, with about a 15-minute interruption when she called two radio stations, The Sentinel and a UFO reporting center in Seattle, WASH.

"There were five or six aircraft in the area during that time, but much lower than the object," Miss Brow said.

When the family went back inside, the object could still be seen, she said.

SENTINEL, Keene, NH — Dec. 29, 1977 CR: B. Greenwood

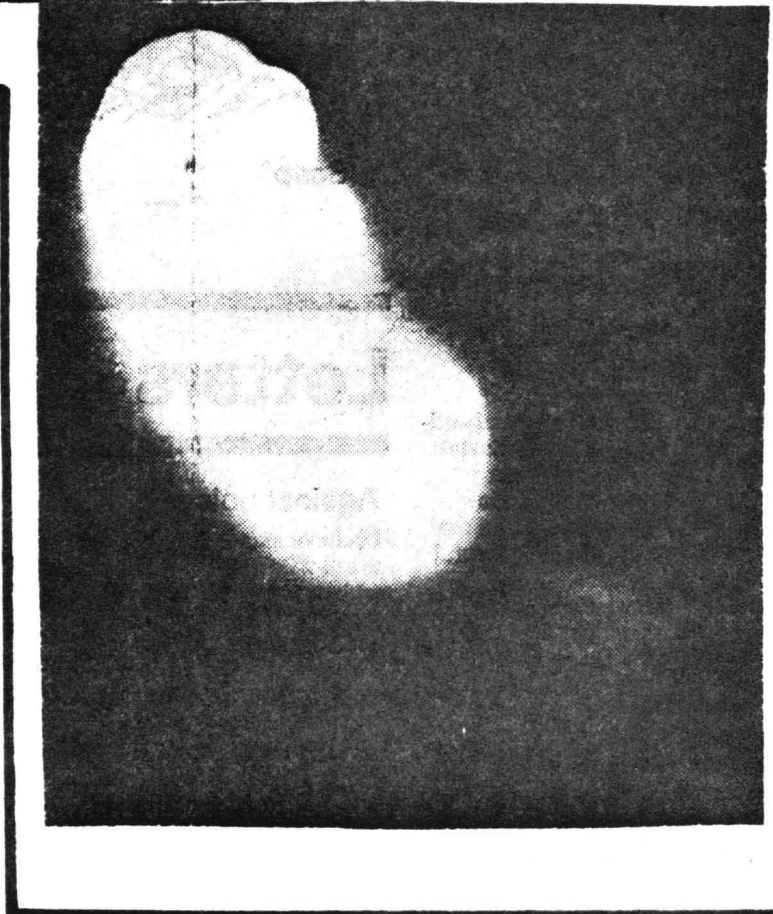
This is the second time in six weeks the family has seen a UFO, according to Miss Brow. They are concerned because they believe the sightings merit some kind of investigation and they haven't received any response to a call made after the first sighting.

"I saw whatever it was the first time, and called my father and sister out. It was directly east, above Scott Pond, just like this one," she said.

She said her father thought "it was the headlights of a plane.

"The lights turned blue, and then the thing shot up at a really fast rate of speed. It leveled off and passed over the top of our house. We heard a very slight whining kind of noise, and then it was gone."

She said the shape of the first object was similar to the one the family observed Wednesday night, but that the lights were blue and "reddish-white" and the shape was "more triangular."



"We aren't science fiction nuts. None of us has seen (the current science fiction movie) 'Close Encounters of the Third Kind,'" she said.

"I did a freshman term paper on UFOs two years ago, but I never expected to see one. I don't know what it is, but we all think someone ought to do something about it."

The UFO reporting center in Seattle, Wash. could not be contacted for comment this morning.

Dec. 30, 1977

UFO buff says government has withheld facts

By BILL PARKS

HAYWARD — In the film "Close Encounters of the Third Kind," a persistent believer in UFOs overcomes a government coverup to witness a meeting between mankind and aliens from outer space.

Although Stanton Friedman, Hayward-based UFO expert and former nuclear physicist, thinks the film is inaccurate, he says the coverup is real.

Friedman says the government has much more UFO information than has been released, and he is trying to get his hands on it.

For example, Friedman says, he received four reports of military-related sightings last month alone on one of his cross-country speaking tours.

Friedman says he thinks the "Close Encounters" film may be encouraging people to report UFO sightings they have been keeping secret, either because of military security restrictions or because of fear of ridicule.

"It's like looking for pieces of a puzzle," Friedman said. "These are examples of more than 80 such reports I've heard."

In the most spectacular incident reported to Friedman recently, a former U.S. Air Force security specialist told Friedman he heard radio broadcasts from a Cuban jet fighter pilot who had just seen his partner's jet disintegrate while trying to shoot down an unidentified flying object in 1967.

The specialist told Friedman that: Cuban radar reported a "bogey" approaching from the northeast. Two MIG 21s were dispatched when the bogey entered Cuban air space at about 30,000 feet at about the speed of sound.

When the jets got within three miles of the UFO, the pilot of the lead plane described it as a bright metallic sphere with no visible markings.

When attempts at radio contact failed, Cuban Air Defense ordered the lead jet to arm his missiles and destroy the UFO. Seconds after the pilot reported his missiles armed and his radar "locked on," his wing man radioed hysterically that his leader's jet had disintegrated without smoke or flame.

The specialist told Friedman tapes of the conversation were sent to National Security Agency (NSA) headquarters, and orders were received to list the incident as an aircraft loss due to equipment malfunction.

In a second incident, an F-4 was sent up from Shahroki Air Force Base in Iran to investigate a brilliant light in the sky in September 1976.

According to the account:

The jet lost all instrumentation and communications as it approached the object and turned back. A second F-4 was launched. Its pilot reported a large object pulsing with blue, green, red and orange lights.

As the second jet approached, a smaller light emerged from the large light and headed toward the jet at a high rate of speed. The pilot attempted to fire a missile, but his control panel went dead. He turned his plane back toward the base, and saw the smaller light return to the large light.

Then, a third light emerged and headed toward the ground.

A U.S. government report describing the incident was obtained after a lengthy bureaucratic struggle by Charles Huffer, a math teacher at Berlin American High School in West Germany.

Huffer used provisions of recent freedom of information legislation to obtain the document.

Other reports received by Friedman last month included:

- A Navy ship which fired on a UFO off the East Coast during the 1950s. Four Skyraider jets sent after it didn't come back. The ship was then quarantined for two months before returning to port.

- A report that Air Force jets were dispatched to chase UFOs "routinely" for a time at a base in Southern California.

Friedman, who worked 14 years on government-sponsored projects, has devoted the last seven years to studying, writing and speaking about UFOs.

He has lectured on UFOs at over 350 colleges and universities in 47 states and four Canadian provinces.

Friedman has appeared on various radio and TV shows, including the CBS Morning News, and with Tom Snyder, Steve Allen, David Susskind, Jim Dunbar and others.

He cited recent UFO studies begun by the United Nations and the French government as evidence of increasing interest in the scientific study of UFOs.

More Valleyites claim UFO sighting

By SUSAN SCHWARTZ

A dozen Valley residents claim they saw the same unidentified flying object reported by a Shelton woman in Friday's Evening Sentinel.

Mrs. Nancy Stillwell of 41 Falmouth Drive, Shelton, said she had received 12 telephone calls from persons who verified her account of sighting a UFO with bright lights hovering over Nells Rock Road between 6:30 and 6:45 p.m. Wednesday.

"Two of them said they saw it before 6 a.m. Wednesday," Mrs. Stillwell said. "One guy called and claimed he and a friend had seen it at 9:30 p.m. in Ansonia. A woman in Seymour said she saw it at 7 p.m."

"I only got one crank call—from a little kid who said, 'There's a UFO outside your bathroom window.' I hung up on him."

She did not hang up, however, on the Shelton Chief of Police, who telephoned her Sunday.

Mrs. Stillwell had originally reported her sighting to the Shelton police station. The officer who took the call told her there had been no other sightings, and

CR: B. Greenwood

when she began to ask another question, he "hung up" on her, she said.

"Sunday the Chief of Police wanted to know if his man had been discourteous," Mrs. Stillwell said. "I said, 'No.' He was disinterested, not discourteous."

A call to the "UFO Education Center" in Appleton, Wis., had improved her morale, she said.

"They told me the government has been hiding all kinds of information," she said. "And they promised to send me some background material."

Almost everyone who has called her about her experience asked one question which The Sentinel did not ask: "Have you seen 'Strange Encounters of the Third Kind'?"

The film, now playing in Orange, concerns mass sightings of UFOs, which turn out to be spaceships bearing friendly aliens, and the attempts of the government to discredit the sightings.

Mrs. Stillwell's account of the UFO in Shelton had certain similarities to some of the spacecraft in the film.

"No, I didn't see it," she said. "I didn't see 'Star Wars' either."

"I don't like science-fiction movies," she concluded. "They scare me."

Friedman said he would guarantee complete anonymity to anyone willing to discuss UFO sightings or contacts.

He said persons may contact him by calling 471-0160.

Friedman said he would like to use information from informants to obtain government documents for in-depth studies of UFO sightings.

He said "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" probably will increase public interest in UFOs, although he thinks the movie has some serious flaws.

"It's being sold as being close to reality, but it's not," he said. "It's about 20 percent legitimate and 80 percent overdone."

He said the film had a "narrow-minded" view of how aliens would behave, and called the idea that they would attempt to communicate with earthlings through a musical note system "stupefying."

"If they have the technology to get here, all they'd have to do is run our broadcasts through a computer to learn the language," he said.

Friedman said he expects a public "backlash" when people discover the movie is not as close to reality as it claims to be.

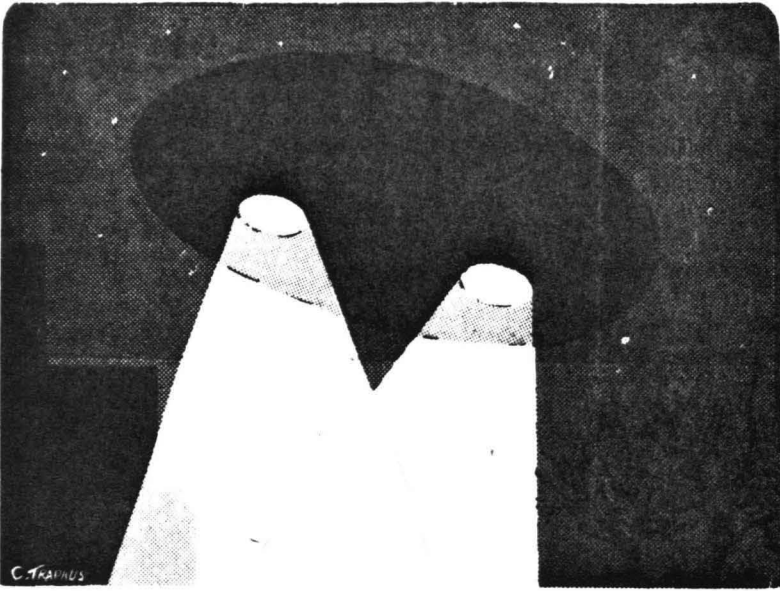
"People will say they're not going to be bitten by the UFO bug again, and the noisy negativists will be heard."

In a campaign to counteract the "noisy negativists," Friedman has issued a 42-point rebuttal to an article by Ronald Schiller, "Three UFOs — How Real Were They?" which ran in last month's "Reader's Digest."

He also issued a lengthy response to a July article in "New Scientist" magazine by Ian Ridpath which was the basis of a United Press International dispatch.

Friedman disagrees with the logic and conclusions in the articles, both of which challenge the validity of several well-publicized UFO sightings.

"I think it is time for the professionals who have looked at the data to come out of the closet — to stop being apologist ufologists," he said. "I can safely say that the world is very interested in hearing what a scientist has to say about UFOs."



Area 'encounter' defies explanation

By STACEY BURLING
Dispatch Writer

She's been laughed at, harassed and ridiculed, but the 18-year-old Davenport woman knows what she saw on that crisp, clear night last October.

She declines to be identified for fear of jeopardizing future employment opportunities.

What she saw, she says, was a pair of bright "headlights" flashing from an oval object moving silently through the skies over Walcott, Iowa, where she worked as a security guard.

GLIDING TOWARD HER as she manned a watchtower at the town's French and Hecht plant, the disc obscured a flashing red beacon light on a grain elevator.

Her radio and walkie-talkie stopped working, and cows and crickets in a nearby field stood silent.

A light-sensitive mercury vapor lamp about 100 yards away from the woman went dark.

A television in a nearby farm house went blank, she learned later. "At first I wasn't sure what it was, and I just sort of stood there and watched it," she said.

She thought it was a helicopter until she realized it made no noise. Terrified, she stood frozen outside the guardhouse and watched. Then she went in search of other witnesses. When she returned, the object was gone.

NOW, THREE MONTHS later, her sighting remains a mystery, according to Hazelton, Iowa UFO investigator Ralph DeGraw.

A celestial object — like a star or planet — would not have blocked out the flashing red light, he says.

The silent movement through the skies is unexplainable, as is the absence of any running lights, he says.

The television, relatively new, was on the same circuit as several lights in the home. The lights stayed on.

BUT THE WOMAN says few people have believed her story. "They look at me like I'm nuts," she says. "It's like somebody telling you that they'd seen a green elephant."

Her boss told her to report the incident to police, but she says the Davenport policeman in charge and three other officers "laughed hysterically" when she told her story.

They did, however, call the Center for UFO Studies in Evanston, which connected her with DeGraw.

Despite the widespread disbelief, she's still convinced the sighting was not a mistake.

"I know what I saw," she says. "I'm not blind."

THE DAVENPORT WOMAN is one of hundreds of Illinois and Iowa residents for whom "close encounters" with UFOs, as popularized in a current film, are more than fantasies.

Fifty-four percent of Americans believe in UFOs, according to a Gallup Poll, and 11 percent claim to have seen them.

During a five-year period ending April 1977 there were 4,026 U.S. sightings reported to the Center for UFO Study. Illinois residents reported 169 UFO sightings during that same period, 54 of which were unexplainable, DeGraw said.

Four of those Illinois reports contained descriptions of occupants seen with the UFOs.

Iowans reported 68 UFOs, only nine of which were unexplainable.

DeGraw says those figures, however, do not give an accurate picture of how many UFOs actually are sighted in his state.

"I really would say that Iowa is second to none as far as sightings

made," he says — but Iowans may be more reluctant to report sightings than people in other states.

DeGraw says that, for almost any state, one can estimate there are 10 unreported UFO sightings for every one reported.

According to the Evanston Center, which has the largest file of UFO sightings in the country, more people in Pennsylvania and California see UFOs than in any other states in the country. During the five-year period, Pennsylvanians reported 554 UFO sightings to the center. Eighty-eight of those were unexplainable, low-altitude sightings, and 33 people reported seeing occupants.

Californians reported 384 sightings, including 89 unexplained and 15 containing occupants.

THE FACT THAT THESE two states consistently have more reports than others baffles officials at another national reporting center, Phenomena Research in Seattle. Southern California does have many military establishments and offices connected with the space program, but Pennsylvania remains a mystery. "We just can't figure that out at all," a center employee said.

UFO sightings tend to be more common in the Eastern half of the country than in the West, DeGraw says, attributing the larger number of reports to the dense population.

There also seems to be a concentration of UFO sightings near large bodies of water, including the Mississippi River, he says. Hilly and desolate areas also seem to attract the UFOs.

THE MODERN ERA OF UFO reporting began in 1947, when private pilot Kenneth Arnold of Boise, Idaho saw nine disc-like objects while flying over Mount Ranier in Washington, DeGraw says.

Since then hundreds of people have reported UFOs, many of the descriptions providing the basis for those seen in the movie "Close Encounters of the Third Kind."

A Seattle UFO expert said he was "very impressed" with the UFOs seen in that movie because they "duplicated" the experience of many people who had seen real UFOs.

SCIENTISTS AND UFO buffs are expecting a new wave of UFO reports in the wake of the movie. The Center for UFO Studies already is seeing an "enormous" increase in calls and letters about UFO sightings from all over the country and even Canada.

The Center is receiving 10 to 15 reports of UFOs a day, compared to three to five before the movie's release, center administrator Estelle Postol says. Many people are reporting old sightings, possibly because they didn't know where to report before or were afraid of ridicule.

"What the movie has done is put the subject in a more serious vein," Postol says.

The center's director, Dr. J. Allen Hynek, head of the astronomy department at Northwestern University, was a technical advisor to the movie.

Phenomena Research, however, has not seen an increase in calls, and officials there are surprised. "It's been extremely quiet over the whole country," an official there said. "We have been expecting this to happen (a rash of new reports), but we have seen no activity at all."

CR: S. Hicks 'A Flying Red Light' Chases Group Into Town

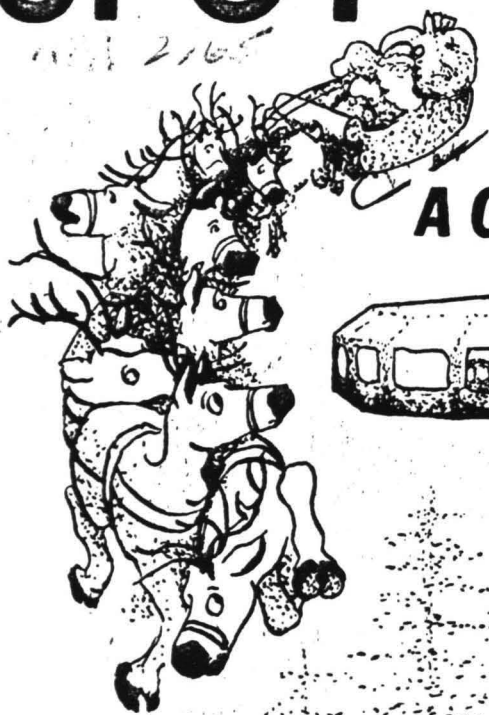
Being chased by a flying red light brought five Russell young people to the Police Department here Friday night. They stopped to report to officers that the light followed them at about hill-top height as they drove south on US 281 Highway into Russell.

The Police Department referred the matter to the sheriff's office, figuring that whatever it was—it probably happened in the county. But that department wasn't impressed. Sheriff's dispatcher Doyle Miller said at noon today that if anything was done about the flying light, officers didn't leave a message for him or make out a report.

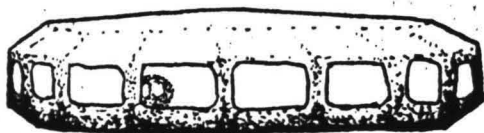
DAILY NEWS, Russell, KS - Jan. 28, 1978

UFO?

POST-RECORD, Camas, WA - Jan. 11, 1978



A Camas Encounter of the First Kind



By KEN O'TOOLE
Post-Record Editor

Nowadays they call the sighting of a UFO a Close Encounter of the First Kind. At least two sober, reliable adult witnesses are certain that the elliptical saucer-like object they saw low in the sky over Camas on Christmas Eve had nothing to do with Santa and his reindeer.

Both said they would prefer to think it was something other than some kind of interplanetary spacecraft, but that, frankly, it didn't look like anything they'd ever seen before.

One witness said she and her children were riding in their car just past the Minit Mart on SE Everett Road, about 7:30 p.m., when they first sighted the object "over the city of Camas." The woman remarked jokingly to her children, "Aren't you scared? You know, they could come and get you..."

The object appeared to be a "flat, round shape, saucer-shaped... moving like a helicopter... as low as one, as slow moving. There was a light on top of it, as though on a tall pole. And there were windows that went around and around (counterclockwise), in a sequence of six lighted windows, then six unlighted windows."

The woman said one of her children felt there has been "some lines — like wires — from the pole (on top) to the tips of the (object's) extremities."

"I'm assuming," she added, "that it could have been a dirigible, but why did it go (rotate) around? There's got to be a lot of other people who saw this, too."

One other adult witness also conceded that she had seen the object that night about the same time. She had been riding in a car traveling the same route into Camas.

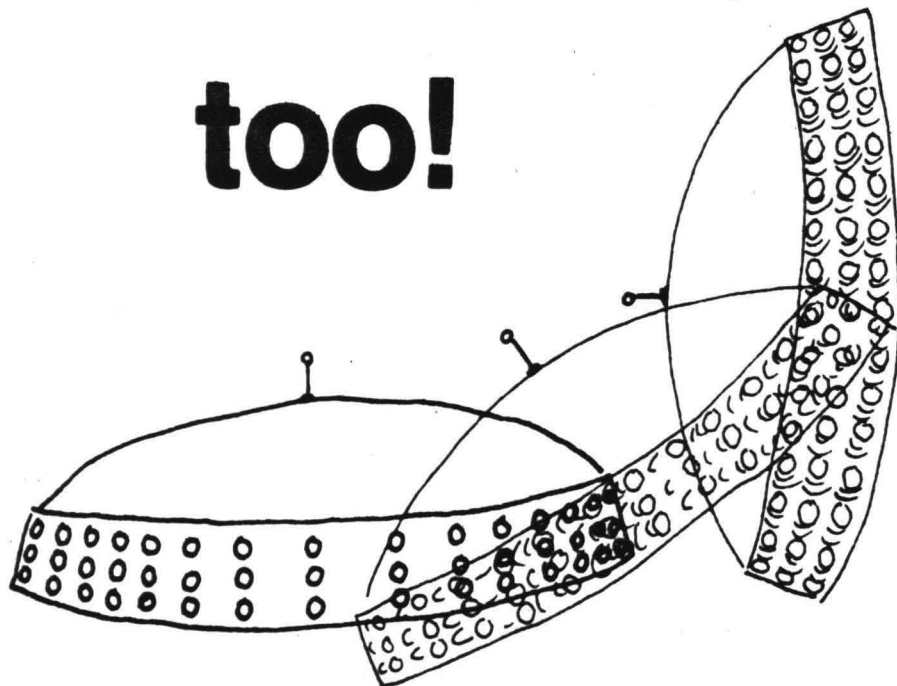
However, she felt the object, described as "just a streak of light," could have perhaps been a light plane flying around with lights rotating from the wings. I thought it could have been a Goodyear blimp, but I think it traveled too fast for a blimp."

After traveling over Camas, the object reportedly headed off across the Columbia River toward Portland.

Others may have seen the object, but the Camas Police Department log shows no one calling the department that night to report a sighting. One officer speculated that the thus-far UFO might have been a kind of plane used by an advertising company in Portland.

POST-RECORD, Camas, WA - Jan. 25, 1978

She saw it, too!



BARBARA SIEWELL of Springfield, Ore., made a sketch similar to this, demonstrating what she and her two girls saw in the sky over Camas Christmas Eve. The family was on its way to visit relatives in the area. —POST Sketch

UFO hovering over Camas

Remember the story in the Jan. 11 POST about the two adult witnesses who saw something they felt might have been an Unidentified Flying Object hovering over Camas about 7:30 on Christmas Eve?

Someone else saw the same thing at the same time.

Barbara Siewell of Springfield wrote in a letter to The POST, "I'm a little frightened to write this and I suppose I should have told someone sooner, but my family and I saw something 'weird' on Christmas Eve as we were en route to Washougal.

"We were just to the west of Camas, before you get to the exit. I saw a few lights in the air to the northeast, but I thought it might be house lights on a hill, not being familiar with the Camas skyline."

Then she added, "But as we continued on, the lights seemed to come directly in our direction, but moving along the road toward Washougal, too. Then it got real low just over the highway, just directly between Washougal and the river."

"I told my girls and my husband to look at the UFO, and immediately my husband told us we were imaging things. But both girls and I saw it."

She went on, "It was directly over the highway just ahead of us (and) just sort of hung there and then turned on end. Then it flattened out and went toward Camas at a slow pace, then changed directions and went (very fast) to the Portland area."

Camas police, as noted in the previous story, said no one reported such a sighting to the department, and aviation officials speculated the "UFO" might have been a kind of advertising plane.

Still...

Area Residents Describe 'Encounters' With UFOs

By Randall Burns

"...like a helicopter with a rotating beam with lights alternating from red to yellow to blue to green, but according to radar it wasn't there..."

"...half the size of a Volkswagen, and in the twilight, it looked like it might be a gray metallic color. With a constant beeping sound..."

"...it came out of nowhere over the trees, just a dazzling array of colors with a central spotlight which seemed to sweep over the ground..."

"...the craft hovered so close to the runway that the crew could actually make out moving forms inside..."

The above statements are descriptions of Unidentified Flying Objects by individuals who actually witnessed sightings. All of these were reported to authorities and with the exception of one, were investigated.

The first comments come from a Fort Smith law enforcement official who was supervising officer the night the following bizarre events occurred.

"One of my officers was out on routine patrol when he spotted several persons in a cemetery on State Line Road. Upon a closer check, he saw the people all had telescopes and were watching something in the sky.

"When he approached the people and asked them to leave, that it was unlawful to be in a cemetery at that time of night, they refused, saying they couldn't watch the lights in the sky as well from some other point. The officer then looked through the telescope and afterwards, called me, the supervising officer.

"It was around midnight when I arrived. On my way out there, I noticed several hundred people along the way watching the skies. I again told the people it was unlawful to be there and they insisted I look through the telescope at what they were watching.

"At first I couldn't really make out what I saw but I looked again. At first I thought it was a helicopter with a rotating beam. The lights seemed to alternate colors from red to yellow to blue to green. But the more I looked the more I doubted it was a helicopter..."

"When the radar was checked, it came back that nothing had been there...nothing at all. I didn't buy that because I saw it, but the one sure thing I learned...when it comes to reporting a possible UFO sighting, the only thing you get is being called a nut."

The second sighting was from two newspaper people who had just gotten off work at approximately 1 a.m. It was their custom to go for a ride before going home and while driving on the outskirts of Fort Smith, the following happened...

"We were out past Steep Hill Cemetery when the VW we were driving just stopped dead in its tracks. The lights, radio, everything went off, the who electrical system went out momentarily.

"Then we heard a strange beeping noise coming from over some trees and saw a small light. The light kept getting nearer until finally it stopped directly above the VW. We couldn't tell the actual size of the craft but it appeared to be about half the size of the bug (VW) and was a metallic gray color with a constant beeping sound.

"We just sat there looking up at it and it appeared to be looking back and then just as suddenly as it had come, it took off again very rapidly. After it was gone, the car started and everything was back to normal."

Later it was explained to the two witnesses by a UFO expert, that the craft was possibly and unmanned probe from a larger ship.

This third occurrence was in Alma and concerned a mother and her children driving home at approximately 10 p.m. when they spotted strange lights coming over the top of the trees.

"Then it came over the top of the trees, a dazzling array of multi-colored lights with a central spotlight which seemed to sweep over the ground.

"It stayed for just a moment, then was gone back over the trees."

At an Air Force base on the East coast, personnel were called into a conference room after witnessing the following phenomenon and instructed they had not seen what they thought they had.

"It was around midnight and flight line crews were just changing shifts when an object resembling two bowls placed together with a saucer between them, darted down to the runway while crew members watched in amazement.

"There were different colored lights and the craft, appearing larger than an automobile, was so close the flight line crew could actually make out moving forms inside."

"It continued to hover around the runway and the flight line was closed immediately.

But when jet engines were revved up, the craft took off with jets following, but the craft was much faster, leaving the jets far behind."

After all these people witnessed this, personnel were still instructed to keep silent and not repeat what they had seen...or what they thought they had seen.

One common denominator in all these sightings with the exception of the "probe," is these craft had multi-colored lights. It has been explained one cause of this is the gases from the exhaust systems and their effect on the lights of the craft.

It should be stated these reports are real and the person or persons making these reports were telling what they saw or what they thought they saw. All are reputable citizens of the Van Buren area.

One of the UFOs took off at a 45 degree angle and rose to a 4,000 foot altitude while the other UFO played cat and mouse with the helicopter pilot at a 1,800 foot altitude. These sightings occurred at 11 pm

The UFO sightings were investigated by George D. Fawcett of Lincolnton, Wayne LaPorte of Matthews, David Oldham of Greensboro and Henry Morton of Wadesboro.

Fawcett, who serves as the N.C. state director for the Mutual UFO Network, Inc. reported that these UFO sightings are some of the most important encounters during 1977.

MUFON Reports 'Snoopy Sightings' Was Real UFO

CR: G. Fawcett

Reports by a team of four field investigators of the Mutual UFO Network, Inc. have found that the December 27 "Snoopy" Police helicopter UFO encounters and the simultaneous radar trackings of the same objects by Douglas Airport are genuine observations of unidentified flying objects over the Tar Heel State.

Intensive investigations by field representatives of the International UFO organization with headquarters in Sequin, Texas, have discounted planes, satellites, balloons, meteors, radar anomalies, atmospheric effects, etc.

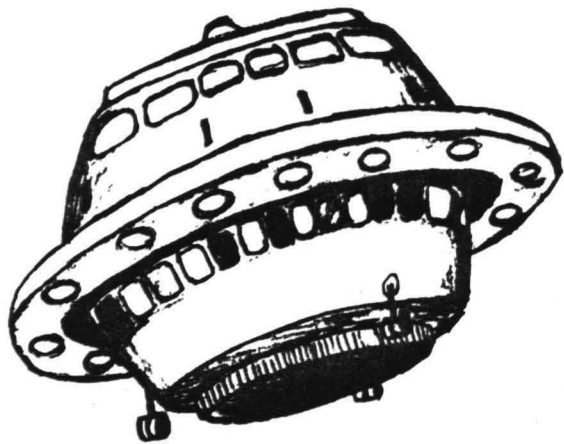
The UFOs first identified as plastic laundry bags with birthday candles, were seen for seven minutes and have good "hard returns" on the radar screens for nine minutes.

The parachute-shaped UFOs with "bright lights" on their undersides were seen by Charlotte police pilot Ronald Arey, his spotter officer Howard Dellinger, radar trackers Ray Bader and Tom Carmody and a WRPL radio announcer Eric Moore.

The UFOs were estimated to be 18 feet in diameter and were maneuvering at 230 miles per hour. Full cooperation was received from the Charlotte police, from Federal Aviation agency, officials and other agencies. Phone calls concerning the encounters were received from Texas, Illinois, New York, Maryland and Florida.

Other observations of UFOs in late 1977 and early 1978 were reported from Matthews, Crouse, Elm City, Wrightsville, Long Beach and Lincolnton, in N.C. Overseas sightings were reported from France, Brazil, England, Australia, and Japan.

Persons desiring to report either old or new UFO sightings, confidential or otherwise may write to Fawcett at 602 Battleground Road, Lincolnton, N.C. 28092.





Shooters spot UFO 'globe'

FOUR men say they saw an unidentified flying object land in the Black Range, south of Horsham, in the Wimmera, at the weekend.

The four said last night they clearly saw the object drop slowly from the sky to about 400 metres from them while they were spotlight shooting on Saturday night.

The object was like a round red globe, said Peter Hallam, 19, a shearer.

"I swung the spotlight towards the south, the end of the Black Range, and saw what looked like a huge globe in the sky, not much higher than the horizon," he said.

"It appeared to have a long pole-like object on top and another object on top of the pole.

"It was surrounded by such a bright haze that none of us could bear to watch it for any length of time."

The object had disappeared by the time the men drove to where it appeared to have landed.

SUN, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

Oct. 24, 1977

A 'flying saucer?'

A Leitchfield family is mystified by a large circular burn patch which has appeared in a paddock on their dairy farm.

Mrs. Yvonne Church said her husband found the mark on their property, which is about 200 kilometres north-west of Melbourne, on Sunday morning.

"Tom finished harvesting the paddock at about 8 pm on Saturday, and there was nothing there then," she said.

"But when he put the cows back on Sunday, it was there."

Mrs. Church said the ground inside the 7 metre circle was scorched and had a thin covering of ash.

"I reckon something landed there for sure," she said.

"I don't know what it was, but I would have liked to see it. It could have been flying saucer."

Mrs. Church said the discovery had not worried her. "I guess it's just one of those things. We may never know what caused it."

Monash University has taken soil samples from the burnt patch for testing.

AGE, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia - Dec. 5, 1977

SOUTHERN EVENING ECHO
Southampton, England
Jan. 4, 1978

Flying Saucer spotted twice

TWO independent witnesses—one in the New Forest and the other near Winchester—reported seeing an Unidentified Flying Object yesterday.

Just after tea-time Brian and Susan Stovold, of Bower Avenue, Liphbury, were driving through the Forest when they saw something hovering a few hundred feet above the road near Fordingbridge.

"It was saucer shaped," said Mrs. Stovold, "a bit like a tank with protrusions on the front. There were red and white lights flashing on it."

Air Steward Mike Miles was cruising in his car past Badger's Farm ad-

miring the hilltop view of Winchester when he made his sighting.

Mr. Miles (28), of Lyndhurst Close, Harestock, Winchester, said: "I saw the UFO at about 34,000ft."

"It had a silver dome on top and underneath it was orange and spherical shaped. I'd say it was about the size of a jumbo jet, just over 300ft. long."

Mr. Miles, who works on jumbos added: "I'd never seen anything like it before."

SUN, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia - Dec. 5, 1977

UFOs have town sizzling

LEITCHVILLE, a little town 50 km north-west of Echuca, seems to be attracting a pretty strange breed of tourist . . .

. . . such as little green men, perhaps.

Leitchville has been subjected to some unusual phenomena lately, such as UFO sightings, weird lights in the sky and mysterious burnt patches in fields.

Yesterday morning, farmer Tom Church found a circular burnt patch in a paddock on his dairy farm. The circle was about nine metres across with a 45-cm-wide burnt outer ring.

"There were patches in the ring that were burnt black and looked like they were made by jet engines or something," Tom's son, Ken, 17, said.

By GARY TIPPET

Ken said his father went to the paddock, about 1.2 km from the house at 9 a.m. yesterday.

"He came back so fast he forgot what he went down there for," he said.

"We all raced down to have a look. There's no doubt in my mind that it was made by a UFO."

Ken said there had been several reports of UFO sightings in the district recently. He found a smaller circle, about 1.2 metres in diameter, on the farm a few weeks ago.

SUN, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
Dec. 6, 1977



• Mr Norman

UFO site 'one of the best'

UFO investigator Paul Norman believes the possible landing site in Leitchville is the most interesting he has seen in 25 years.

"It is very similar to some of the best landing sites seen in other countries," Mr Norman, 61, said from the Leitchville Hotel.

The "landing" circle — which looks similar to burnt grass — is about eight metres across and is only 50mm short of being a perfect circle.

Mr Norman has collected grass and dirt samples for analysis in Melbourne. He will stay in the area for several days interviewing local residents because it has turned out to be a "hot spot" for UFO activity.

A retired engineer, Mr Norman is an investigator for the Victorian UFO Research Society. An American, he has lived in Australia for 15 years.

He said last night: "I don't think this will turn out to be a hoax, but we have to wait for analysis and that could take some time."

Coast dwellers keeping a wary eye on the heavens

Telegraph's Sunshine Coast reporter, Lynne Laidlaw, says there has been an outbreak of UFO spottings in the Mooloolah Valley, 20 km west of Caloundra.

It all began last week when a retired farmer saw a spaceship near his home on two occasions.

First time he and his family were alone, but on the second sighting they had visitors with them.

Since the word got out a lot of other people in the area have been spotting strange things in the sky.

A UFO emitting a bright light is said to have come from the direction of Caloundra and hovered over the hills between Mooloolah and Eudla. One observer said it seemed to have colored lights moving in a circular pattern.

After hovering for several minutes, it sped back towards the sea with its lights dimmed like those of a plane.

Of course, UFO sightings go back a long way — three shepherds spotted one about this time of year 1,977 years ago.

TELEGRAPH, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia
Dec. 15, 1977

Twinkle, twinkle, little UFO

The Star Bureau

LONDON — A mother of three, Mrs Susan Stovold, was singing "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star" to three-year-old Dominic in the family car when she happened to look up into the clear night sky.

There — hovering at about 300 m — was what looked like a huge, twinkling flying saucer.

"I was absolutely flabbergasted," said Mrs Stovold, whose husband was driving in the New Forest in Hampshire.

The UFO had red and blue lights flashing around the rim.

Mr Stovold said the object remained above them for about 10 minutes until "it began to glide away."

In north England four men have told police a faceless monster lurched towards them as they were driving down a lane at Kirkby.

Police said they were treating the incident seriously.

STAR, Johannesburg, South Africa — Jan. 5, 1978 CR: J. Brill

UFO over Lanarkshire?



● Eamonn, Brendan, and James . . . plane-spotting

LIKE A GIANT PLATE, SAY BOYS

THREE Lanarkshire schoolboys claim they have seen a flying saucer over the village of Cleland.

Eamonn O'Neill (11), Brendan Delaney (9), and James Mimnaugh (9), were playing in Aberlady Street, near their homes in the early evening when they spotted the object.

Eamonn said: "We were watching planes which pass over Cleland on the flight path between Glasgow and Edinburgh.

"Then I noticed this white thing hovering about 100ft. above the rooftops. I thought it must be a helicopter then I realised it didn't make a sound.

GIANT PLATE

"It looked like a giant plate turned upside down, with another one on top. There were two white lights on its underside and a small red light on top. It cast a large shadow.

"We followed it for a bit but it disappeared into the hills."

Eamonn's father, Mr Teddy O'Neill, said: "There is no doubt in my mind that there was something there. I'm not easily impressed, but this was certainly something far from ordinary. Eamonn's description covers it exactly.

"I know UFO's have become a bit of a joke to most people, but I think reports of such sightings should be taken seriously."

EVENING TIMES, Glasgow, Scotland Dec. 14, 1977

Unidentified flying banana . . .

TIMES, Bournemouth, England — Jan. 14, 1978 — CR: D. Rolls

Twelve-year-old Alan Smith had a strange tale to tell us when he phoned us on Tuesday afternoon. He'd just seen a UFO from the bathroom window of his home in Hood Crescent, Wallisdown.

He saw "two lights beaming for about five seconds" from a banana-shaped craft which started to move quite slowly — and then vanished.

He reckons he watched it for about a minute, but when he ran out into the street for a better look it had gone. "I can't really believe it — I don't know what it was, but I knew it wasn't a plane. I just stood there and gazed at it."

One thing for sure. He had plenty to tell his friends at Kingsleigh School the next morning.

. . . or plate?

AND another UFO sighting, from Southbourne: Three excited ladies telephoned on Friday to say they watched a dazzlingly bright disc — they described it as being like an aluminium plate — hovering in the sky that afternoon.

They were convinced the object was really small and quite close to them. Suddenly it moved off at a tremendous speed — and vanished.

Fearing ridicule, they asked for their names not to be revealed . . . but are interested to know if anybody else saw this "mini-UFO".

EPSON & EWELL ADVERTISER, Surrey, England — Dec. 29, 1977

Did you see her UFO?

A STRANGE, bright, golden light has been seen hovering above Sutton.

Mrs Jane Holmes was on her way home to St James' Road with her two sons when she saw a large bright light hovering out towards Rose Hill roundabout.

"It was before lighting up time and I was just on the corner of Church Street and West Street, when I saw this very bright yellow light," she said.

"It certainly wasn't a star and bigger than a shooting star or a satellite. It was completely still.

"Then suddenly it started to move and went off upwards with incredible speed until it was just a red dot."

Mrs Holmes is anxious to find out if anyone else saw it.

Her four year old son, Dugald, first thought it was a star and then told his mother it was "God's house."

NEW U.F.O. WAS PLANE — EXPERT

EVENING COURIER, Halifax, England — Jan. 6, 1978

A MYSTERIOUS bright light seen moving through the Halifax skies was almost certainly an aircraft, it was revealed today.

The UFO was spotted by neighbours in Mixenden just after 5 pm yesterday.

Mrs Jean Bentley, of 9, Ash Tree Road, Mixenden, said she was walking in Sunnybank Road, Mixenden, when she saw it.

"It was round and yellow and travelling very slowly," she said. "It was as big as a star and shone like a star, but it was not."

She and Miss Stella Johnson, aged 26, and her sister, 12-year-old Ellen, of 11, Ash Tree Road, watched the object for nearly 10 minutes.

It was moving, from Mixenden, towards Mount Tabor and eventually disappeared behind trees.

Miss Stella Johnson, who has reported UFOs to the "Evening Courier" before, said the sighting was the second in two days.

On Wednesday she saw an object like a white light appear

to move towards Mixenden Reservoir.

She said she used a telescope to study last night's UFO, but could not make out what it was.

A similar sighting was reported to police last night by Mr Roger Walsh, of 7, Whitehill Crescent, Illingworth, Halifax.

But Calderdale UFO expert Mr Trevor Whitaker said the same object had been watched by his wife through binoculars.

At first only the bright light could be seen, but then the light went out revealing a small, red, flashing light which could only come from an aircraft.

Mr Whitaker said a YES helicopter had been operating in this district in recent weeks, and this might be the explanation.

But a more puzzling sighting had occurred about half an hour later, at 5.40 pm. A youth standing in the Boulevards, Halifax, saw a bright light directly above him. It descended, rose again and then disappeared.

Mr Whitaker said this phenomenon was as yet unexplained.

VISIT BY SPACEMEN TO OUTBACK IN STAR TREK

At about 11 pm on June 22 last year, gold prospector Albert Smith noticed three lights in the sky.

Silently and slowly they moved down toward him and then nestled in a clump of trees near his camp.

By John Dux

He saw figures emerge amid dazzling lights.

Thus began the most incredible two days in the life of 47-year-old Albert . . . the two days in which he claims he was visited by people from another world at his lonely camp on the Bulloo River in far southwest Queensland.

Smith is not Albert's real name. But that's what we said we would call him when he agreed reluctantly to an interview last week.

He claims he spoke to the visitors, watched them play games with what appeared to be lightning balls, saw them disappear and then reappear and stood spellbound as the intergalactic travellers created instantaneous rain.

Last week Albert recalled his meeting with the 35 men and women from a place they called Begua.

He said: "It was in near freezing weather yet the women were wearing summer-type clothing.

Suits

"The men were dressed in what looked like grey businessmen's suits.

"They all appeared very human but their skin was a blue-grey color.

"Their craft were about 50 metres high, each with five supporting legs.

"The leader said his name was Behnar. When I touched him it felt like I was touching very soft rubber.

"When I asked them questions they seemed to know what I was going to say before I said it.

"And I think they only permitted me to ask what they wanted me to.

"I'm sure they had control of my mind for those two days.

"I think their powers were almost limitless." Albert said the aliens could speak English but only in whispered tones.

"They appeared to be able to communicate with their hands as well.

"Only a few of them stayed near the camp. The rest went down to the river.

"One woman told me she was 490 years old. She looked it too; like a mummy from some sort of Egyptian tomb.

"At one stage they all started to play a game with hundreds of these balls which seemed to throw out lightning.

"These people could leap 60 metres in one jump.

"When they left the only thing that remained was a very heavy smell of kerosene. There were no marks or objects left to prove their existence.

Pouring

"Just before they finally disappeared the leader told me he was going to make rain. A short time later it suddenly started to pour.

"It was eight days before the rain stopped.

"I wanted to see their craft taking off but again I think they controlled me.

"I was lying in bed and could not get up. It seemed like I had 200 kilograms of lead in my legs."

The June visit was the fourth experience Albert has had with visitors from outer space since he began prospecting in the area five years ago.

In the winter of 1973 he saw a fleet of 16 spacecraft hover over the area and then move away.

In May the following year he approached a cigar-shaped craft hovering above the ground.

He saw men in the cockpit and a woman at one of the windows. It sped away in what appeared to be a flash of light.

Proof

And in June 1976 another brilliantly illuminated craft appeared.

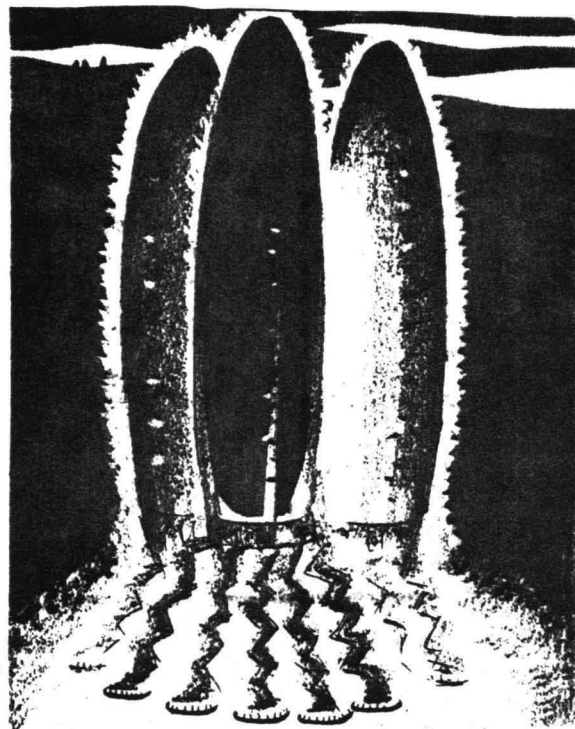
Albert said: "I have not yet approached the authorities about this.

"A lot of other things happened which I don't want to talk about at this stage.

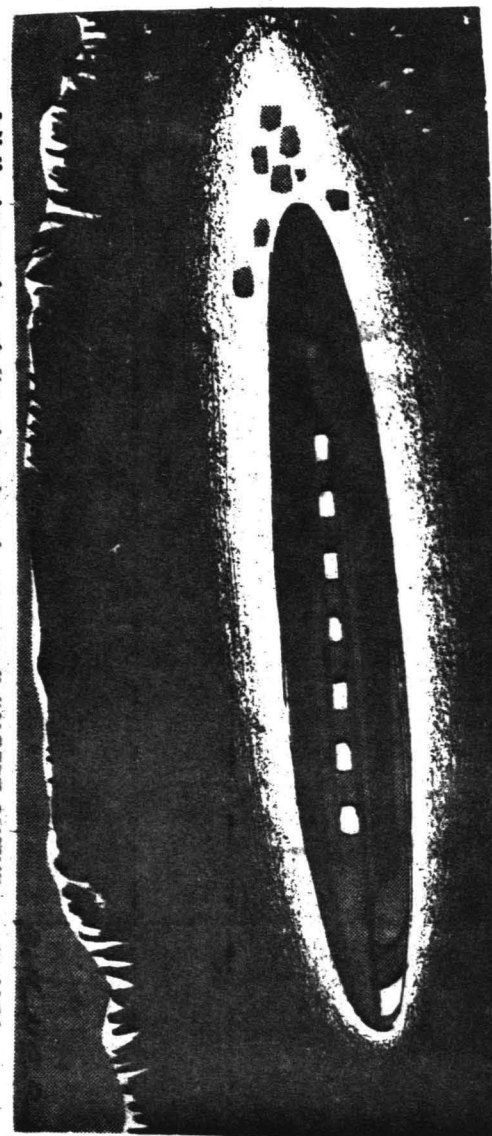
"No one will believe me until I get proof and that's what I intend to get as soon as I possibly can.

"I will be going back to the area in late February but this time I will have a camera. I have begun to document all these experiences.

"I am very scared and frightened about going back but they did not harm me the first time. I hope they won't if they visit me again."



Artist's impression of what "ALBERT SMITH" described as the landing of the three craft from Begua last June.



Artist's impression of the cigar-shaped space craft "ALBERT SMITH" saw in 1974.

SUNDAY SUN, Brisbane, Australia - Jan. 8, 1978
CR: J. Brill



EXAMINER, Blue Springs, MO - Dec. 21, 1977 CR: S. Hicks
Near School Buildings

Mystery Surrounds Calf's Slaughter

By BOB PICKENS
Of The Examiner

The macabre mutilation of a six-month-old calf within sight of Blue Spring High School and Junior High School buildings has led the calf's owner to suspect the slaughter was done for cult or 'extraterrestrial' purposes.

Smooth cuts along the right rib cage of the animal had been made by a very sharp instrument. That in itself did not seem too strange to Paul Collier, the calf's owner, but the same type of smooth slices visible where the animal's right ear and tail had been removed indicated to Collier that the calf was killed for reasons other than for a side of beef.

In addition to the missing tail and ear, the calf's liver had been removed. No other internal organs were taken from the carcass.

The clincher, Collier said, was that no blood was found at or near the site of the slaughter. Collier believed that swollen veins on the calf's neck might indicate that the calf had been drained of blood through the jugular vein.

There was no sign of human presence where Collier found the carcass. No tire tracks or footprints were visible on the ground, which had been trampled by the other half dozen calves the Collier family keeps as pets. The cattle are kept on a leased tract of land between Vesper Road and the Illinois Central Railroad tracks that pass between the junior high school and high school campuses. The pasture is about 250 feet west of the Blue Springs city limits.

Collier discovered the carcass early last week after a neighbor told him one of his calves had died. When he inspected the carcass he found the cuts "so slick you couldn't believe it."

He contacted the Jackson County Sheriff's Department to inquire about action that should be taken and was informed that the county would not investigate the matter until he filed a report.

As of Monday no report on the slaughter had been received by the sheriff's department.

When Collier showed the carcass to The Examiner Friday, the cuts were dried and shriveled from the bones. Animals had been feeding on the calf's hindquarters making it difficult to distinguish the tail incisions. It was apparent, however, that the slice along the rib cage had been clean and smooth because of the evenness of the bones jutting from the hide.

"It gives me the creeps," Collier said. He described himself as a "God-fearing man" with no reason to harbor a fear, but he admitted the event had brought an element of horror into his

family's life.

If the Collier case is actually an animal mutilation, it is not the first instance in Jackson County.

In late November 1975, the body of a cow owned by William A. Reader, Oak Grove, was found in a gully near his residence on Hillside School Road. The cow, in its fifth month of gestation, had had the udder removed by a sharp cutting instrument and the unborn calf had been removed.

As in last week's mutilation, there was no trace of blood. A veterinarian surmised the cow might have been strangled because a rope was tied around the cow's neck and to a nearby tree.

Reader said in a telephone interview Monday that the cow had "a few blood vessels busted on the neck." The incisions made on the cow were "as smooth as could be," he added.

The incident has remained unsolved, Reader said, although a newspaper report of the incident quoted a sheriff's department spokesman as saying investigators were "keeping a close eye on the situation." It was believed that whoever took part in the slaughter knew the lay of the land because it took place in a secluded section of their property.

There was speculation at that time that "devil worshippers" had perpetrated the mutilation. A month before the Reader incident several Oak Grove teen-agers reported being harassed by such people. A sheriff's department investigation of the youths' claims resulted in insufficient evidence to substantiate the allegations.

Other cattle mutilation incidents have been reported to authorities in other counties, most recently in Cass County when several cows were reported mutilated about a year ago. The Cass County mutilations were similar to the Reader incident.

A spokesman for the Cass County Sheriff's Department said that those cattle were never positively determined to have been mutilated.

"We've never had a definite case," said the spokesman, adding that newspaper and television accounts of the incident had been "blown out of proportion."

A spokesman for the Lafayette County Sheriff's department also said that past reports of mutilations in that county were unconfirmed.

Past incidents have little meaning to Paul Collier, however. He is more concerned with the safety of his small herd and more important, effects of the slaughter on his family.

"I just don't have any answer for it," he commented.

PRESS, Pittsburgh, PA
Jan. 8, 1978 CR: J. Jeffers

Phenomena Group Explores Mystery Blasts

DOVER, N.J. (UPI) — A group dedicated to investigating unexplained phenomena has appealed to residents in five East Coast states to come forward with their accounts of mysterious atmospheric blasts reported in recent weeks.

The group, Vestigia, has devoted much of its time in the past to researching reports of atmospheric phenomena, sightings of "Big Foot" and UFOs, and parapsychological phenomena.

William Wagner, one of the group's coordinators, said Vestigia is working with Dr. T.J. Visvanathan, a geophysicist at the University of South Carolina and Dr. William Donn, an acoustical researcher at Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Geological Observatory in Palisades, N.Y., to come up with an explanation for the mysterious blasts.

Wagner said the group is requesting information from anyone who may have experienced the rumblings or flashes of light along the Eastern Seaboard in the past two months.

The blasts were reportedly concentrated about 30 miles offshore from Toms River, N.J., on Dec. 2, 21, and 22, and off the South Carolina Coast on Dec. 10 and Jan. 5.

Vestigia is composed of scientists, engineers and laymen who investigate natural unexplained phenomena.

The group has some theories and several leads to follow.

Wagner said a phenomenon known as "piezoelectricity" may be the cause. He defined this as "the ability of certain minerals, like quartz, to generate an electrical charge when put under stress or strains."

NEWS-REGISTER, McMinnville, OR
Jan. 18, 1978

Bigfoot sighted, man says

Bigfoot has been sighted north of Newberg, according to Thomas Martin, Route 3 Box 137, No. 5, Sherwood.

Martin called state police Sunday and reported seeing a creature for two nights in the Rex Hill area. He described the potential Bigfoot as 6 feet tall, 350 to 450 pounds in weight, flat face, square teeth and with 3½ to 4 inch hair all over his body.

A state trooper could not find the animal Monday, although Martin said it had been there an hour earlier. There were no footprints.

Bigfoot Lurking Near Crowley?

DAILY SUN, Hudson, MA

Jan. 4, 1978 CR: B. Greenwood

Nessie search chasing after an illusion?

by CYNTHIA J. GRAVES
Staff Writer

MARLBORO — In spite of his expedition's much-publicized failure to capture the Loch Ness monster on film in 1976, Charles Wyckoff is still convinced there is a large, strange beast - a couple of dozen, in fact - in the famous Scottish lake.

Wyckoff, a photographer, was part of the Dr. Robert Rines - Wyckoff group which was given a \$30,000 grant by the New York Times 18 months ago to determine whether "Nessie" exists.

Referring to that trip, Wyckoff told the Marlboro Newcomers' Club Tuesday night that he could not really explain the absence of the creature. But, he noted that in 1976, the British Isles suffered its worst drought in 250 years and that salmon (which he indicated might be food for the beasts) were also missing that year.

Nevertheless, Wyckoff stated it was his opinion there is a colony of 20 - 30 "monsters" in Loch Ness. He distributed material which stated the creatures must be "present in sufficient numbers to assure reproduction and to withstand attrition from disease and other natural causes."

Other data described by Wyckoff show these creatures to be 20 to 30 - feet long with 7 to 8 - foot necks that make up about one - third of their bodies. As a result of one slide, he described their bodies as cylindrical in shape with a diameter of about eight feet. He added that some people who have claimed a sighting say the heads are horned, other not.

During the hour - long slide presentation to the Newcomers Tuesday, Wyckoff focused most of his discourse on the less - funded but more successful trip taken in 1975.

In June that year, film equipment modified by Wyckoff (who heads Applied Photo Sciences, Inc. in Needham), as well as sonar apparatus, picked up a large object or objects that several reputable scientists have said they believe are animated.

One of the slides, all of which are extremely hazy due to an inherent lack of visibility in Loch Ness, show something that looks like an aquatic animal.

The second of the two best slides (cameras were limited to objects within 10 to 20 feet) is a close - up, but it is impossible for the untutored eye to identify it as being part of any kind of animal.

Nevertheless, Wyckoff states several notable scientists have conceded it might depict the head of a large life form because of the "bilateral symmetry" shown.

In this case, that phrase refers to a significant repetition of certain protuberances. For example, there are two pairs of "horns" on either side of the "head." This kind of exact duplication is not likely in inanimate forms, Wyckoff asserts.

Most of the slides shown by Wyckoff as evidence, need expert testimony to lend them credibility as evidence of the existence of a Loch Ness monster or monsters, and the Spring 1976 issue of MIT's Technology Review includes the comments of nearly a dozen scientists expert in this area.

CROWLEY -- Reports of sightings of a strange creature, supposedly a Bigfoot, leaped from Riceville to Crowley yesterday when a Crowley youth told police he saw an ape-like creature catching minnows in a stream yesterday morning.

A Crowley newspaper reported Sunday that four people reported strange foot prints or night sightings of a large creature near the Bayou Queue De Tortue.

Noval Duval, his daughter and a neighbor, George Kutch, told Crowley reporters of seeing four-toed, man-like footprints around the Duval house near Riceville. The footprints measured 13½ inches in length and 7½ inches in width. The creature had a stride of 32 to 36 inches.

A hunter near Bayou Que De Tortue, Mike Richard, reported seeing "something" at least three times recently while hunting raccoons at night.

Richard said whatever it was was tall and stood up and looked at them.

"It seemed like it was black," Richard said. He said it growled at them once and another time he saw it leap over a six-foot fence around a cattle enclosure.

Yesterday, 14-year-old Martin Francis of Crowley said he was walking by a stream near his house in Crowley and saw something that looked like "a big ape" eating minnows. He said he saw the creature at around 10 a.m.

Francis said he threw rocks at the creature that was bending over fishing because "it looked real mean from the back." He did not see the creature's face, but said it had no hair on its behind or on the bottoms of its feet.

Francis said he was "just walking around" when he saw the creature.

"I was scared." The creature was tall and had brown hair and big shoulders, he said.

Crowley police officer Elwood Gantt said he checked out Francis's story. The boy told him the creature hopped away on one leg after the boy threw stones at it. Gantt said he looked at the muddy tracks the boy pointed out.

"All we saw were two prints, both were made by the right foot," Gantt said.

Gantt said the boy told him the last he saw of the creature it was hopping away down the stream on one foot.

Gantt said that since the story came out in the Crowley paper on Sunday, he expects police in the area will be getting many more reports of Bigfoot sightings.



BIGFOOT? — A footprint in the mud may or may not have been made by a Bigfoot creature sighted yesterday near Crowley.

Footprints seen near Riceville last week measured 13½ inches long. This looked more like a size 9. (Photos by Paula Latiolais)

These incorporate the joint statement of the chairman, vice chairman and executive director of the New England Aquarium in Boston, which states in part:

"The 1975 photographs certainly support the belief that a large aquatic animal inhabits Loch Ness. Although the identity of the creature is not distinguishable, in retrospect these photographs reconfirm the animate image you obtained in 1972, which was reinforced with computer - enhancement techniques."

And, at the other end of the spectrum, it also includes the comments of five senior zoologists and palaeontologists with the Natural History Museum in London, England. Their preliminary remarks begin:

"We have no grounds for doubting the authenticity of the photographs, nor do we doubt the integrity of the investigators, but we have no means of eliminating the possibility that a hoax has been perpetrated by a party unknown to the photographic team."

Bigfoot may have gone to Siberia

MOSCOW (AP) — Soviet scientists said they have gathered evidence pointing to the existence in Siberia of a dark, shaggy-haired, shrill-voiced wild man resembling in some ways the legendary Snowman of the Himalayas or Bigfoot of the Pacific Northwest.

The Soviet news agency Tass said specialists at the Institute of Language, Literature and History in Soviet Yakutia have been evaluating the testimony of Siberians who claim they encountered the man-like creature, called Chuchunaa.

The name means "fugitive" or "outcast" in one of the dialects of Yakutia, a vast expanse of forest, mountains and frozen tundra in Northeast Siberia.

The Tass story said the last "trustworthy" sighting of the wild man was in the 1950s on the Adychi River.

"That fact leads some scientists to the thought that the last Chuchunaa has died out," Tass said. "But might he have retreated still deeper into the (forest) to a point which is not reached even by hunters and geologists?"

The Himalayan Snowman also is known as the Abominable Snowman. Large tracks in the snow are ascribed to such a creature. Some scientists think that, if he exists, he may be a form of unclassified ape.

In the American Northwest, there also have been reports of a huge creature known as a Sasquatch, or Bigfoot, which has been described by various people who claim to have seen it as looking like a bear or an ape.

The Tass story said "there is a lot of testimony of witnesses who ran into the wild man" in Yakutia's Verkhoyansk region, about 400 miles north of the city of Yakutsk.

"The old-timers of highland villages of the Verkhoyansk region warn guests who come from afar: 'Don't go alone in darkness. Be careful in the mountains. Don't go to the river—Chuchunaa might appear,'" the account said.

According to the witnesses, Tass said, Chuchunaa was described as tall and thin, standing about 6 feet 6 inches, with long arms hanging below his knees.

"He feeds on raw meat and wears a reindeer skin," the story said. "He cannot speak, but only utters shrill screams."

The creature was in the habit of sneaking up to people's dwellings and stealing food, Tass said. Upon seeing a hunter or reindeer breeder, he would run away in most instances but sometimes would start fighting.

"Reindeer breeders, hunters, mushroom and berry collectors ran into him most frequently at dawn or late in the evening," the account said.

Other details provided by witnesses described Chuchunaa as barefooted, shaggy-haired, "with a face as big as that of a human being, only very dark. His small forehead protruded above the eyes, like a peaked cap."

Tass said that "he ran away from people very quickly, leaping."

Tass quoted a senior staff member of the Yakutia institute, Semyon Nikolayev, as saying, "Almost all witnesses speak about Chuchunaa as a reality, without the fantastic details so usual for legends."

"Descriptions given by many witnesses coincide too much in details of the appearance, manners and behavior of Chuchunaa," Nikolayev said.

The scientist offered this hypothesis as a possible explanation for the creature's existence:

"At some period, when on Yakutia's territory some groups of the ancient population were ousted by others, part of the aborigines left for areas with difficult access (from the outside). A suitable place for them, in this case, would have been the upper reaches of the Yana and Indigirka rivers and their tributaries."

shop and didn't hear the sounds. He figures it "was probably just a sonic boom," although he said it had been five or six years since the area was last rocked by a sonic boom.

A spokesman at a nearby U.S. Coast Guard Station said no aircraft appeared on the station's radar screens when the booms were heard. Military spokesmen at six naval stations and air force bases denied having any aircraft over the affected area that day.

"It is not a normal occurrence,"

Mystery Booms Heard Also In Nova Scotia

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP) — The mysterious atmospheric booms that have rocked the Atlantic states have been recorded on the coast of Nova Scotia on some of the same days, researchers report.

"This information indicates that the sound source is not as localized as was initially suspected," said Richard Golob, director of the Center for Short-Lived Phenomena here.

The center says that three times, Dec. 15 and 22 and on Jan. 18 — the strange explosions occurred hours apart off the southern coast of Nova Scotia and in Charleston, S.C.

The Cambridge researchers who noticed the link are not sure how to explain it.

"Perhaps if it is a moving sound source, it has a range far beyond the mid- and southern Atlantic coast. It could be the same source, but in different locations. It might be moving up or down the coast," Golob said.

Each area has experienced booms not heard in the other. The last Nova Scotia blast was last Friday, but Charleston did not have one that day.

The Defense Department has commissioned the Naval Research Laboratory to study the phenomena, which began in early December, and report its conclusions in March.

The Center for Short-Lived Phenomena is a private research organization that reports such natural and man-made events as earthquakes, oil spills and unusual bird migrations.

STAR, Kansas City, MO
Feb. 9, 1978 CR: S. Hicks

Supersonic Spy Plane May Have Caused Blasts

PORT LAVACA, Texas (AP)—Air Force officials say they believe a high-flying supersonic SR-71 spy plane caused the two powerful, mysterious booms that rocked four counties along the Texas coast last week. The blasts, which authorities said shook buildings and rattled windows, occurred about noon Friday.

An Air Force spokesman at Bergstrom Air Force Base in Austin said a Strategic Air Command SR-71, which travels more than three times the speed of sound at more than 85,000 feet, was on a training mission in the area at the time of the booms.

STAR, Kansas City, MO - Feb. 7, 1978 CR: S. Hicks

Texans Hear Mysterious Booms

PORT LAVACA, Texas (AP)—Atmospheric booms similar to the ones that have plagued the East Coast since late last year have been heard along the Texas coast.

Authorities acknowledge that booms were recorded about noon Friday, when residents in Matagorda, Victoria, Goliad and Calhoun counties along the coast grabbed telephones, calling police and neighbors to find out what had happened. One startled fisherman called it a "hellacious big noise."

Mayor K.A. Wallis of Port Lavaca said he was working in a noisy printing

shop and didn't hear the sounds. He figures it "was probably just a sonic boom," although he said it had been five or six years since the area was last rocked by a sonic boom.

conceded Lt. Cmdr. John School at Chase Field in nearby Beeville.

Bob James, chief meteorologist for the National Weather Service, couldn't explain how the noise spread over a four-county area at the same moment.

"I don't know what it was," he said. "My first thought was it might have been some type of explosion but it would have reverberated longer."

James discounted weather phenomena. "There's no way. There is nothing in the weather that could have caused that," he said.

POST-DISPATCH, St. Louis, MO Feb. 5, 1978 CR: D. Schroth

Probers Lend Ear To Mystery Booms

By PETER J. SAMPSON

TOMS RIVER, N.J. (UPI) — It started with a big bang on a mild day in early December.

It was reported twice that day by residents along the New Jersey coast, as well as scientists, policemen and other officials from South Carolina to Boston.

The first mysterious rumble thundered along the eastern seaboard about 9:35 a.m. and the second about 3:50 p.m. on Dec. 2. Windows and dishes rattled from New Jersey to South Carolina. The needle on a sensitive air pressure sensor at Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Geological Observatory in Palisades, N.Y., jumped off the paper.

The unexplained phenomenon was reported at least nine more times in the next five weeks. The booms were heard sometimes off the Carolina coast, sometimes off New Jersey and South Carolina, yet all much weaker than the first blast.

"I live on the beach and on several occasions I was awakened when my windows started rattling. The vibrations seemed to come in three 10-to-15-minute intervals like a series of waves," said Gale Fendley, a reporter for WCBF-TV in Charleston.

Others heard loud booms or thunder-

claps, some accompanied by a flash of light or fireball. Six people in Toms River, N.J., said their smoke detectors activated seconds before they heard a blast.

The White House ordered a group of federal agencies to investigate the explosions. The Defense, Interior and Commerce departments, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Coast Guard said they had no idea what was causing the blasts.

The Navy Research Laboratory was told to complete a report by March.

Dr. William Donn, an acoustical researcher at the Columbia observatory, said the booms were high in the atmosphere and recorded at many seismic stations, including the University of South Carolina, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's station in North Carolina, Con Edison's station near Peekskill, N.Y., and six stations operated by the Weston Observatory of Boston College.

On Dec. 2, Donn said, the needle on his microbarograph "jumped off scale."

"None of them were as widespread as the single occurrence on Dec. 2. Both the morning and afternoon were very large on our instruments and it was felt over the entire metropolitan area from southern New Jersey up to Boston. None of the others had quite that huge exposure."

Donn discounted theories that earthquakes, sonic booms or sludge dumped offshore were causing the blasts.

He described his readings as "high-frequency acoustic waves. But they're sub-audible, ranging between one and 10 cycles per second and of much higher frequency than what we get from nuclear explosions at a distance."

He said he was giving his records to the Navy.

"They've requested that I don't talk about it with anyone else," Donn said. "I think it's a man-made phenomena. I think I can make a pretty good guess at what's going on, but I don't want to talk about it because I could be wrong. It gets headlines and the wrong people get upset about it at the moment."

"Many people have seen flashes in the sky, balls of light and then heard booms, and this takes it out of the realm of ordinary airplane sonic booms. It doesn't take it out of the realm of some kind of testing or something," he said.

Although Donn would not elaborate, he has theorized it was possibly "some secret experiment" that competing military agencies did not want revealed.

Meanwhile, Vestigia, a year-old volunteer group with about 150 members, is working on a theory that earth tremors, or some kind of "crustal adjustment along the continental shelf," is interacting with other natural activity to produce the reported events.

William Wagner, one of the group's coordinators, asked East Coast residents to write or phone their accounts of the blasts.

"We've received nearly 200 letters and about as many calls from as far south as Florida and north to Vermont," Wagner said.

In South Carolina, Drayton Cooper, another WCBF-TV reporter in Charleston, took a personal interest after hearing several of the booms.

Cooper said he was almost convinced that military weapons testing and supersonic flights from the Beaufort, S.C., Marine Corps air station were responsible for the booms and vibrations felt in the Charleston area after mid-December.

"We've reported them on Dec. 15, 20, 21, 22, 23, and Jan. 3, 4, 5, and 6. They almost all begin after 8 a.m. and are sometimes heard several times a day, but never on weekends. They cease on Friday, and resume on Monday."

The Air Force says it normally doesn't fly out of the base on weekends. It has confirmed planes flew off the Carolina coast on many of the days in question.

ARKANSAS GAZETTE, Little Rock, AR - Jan. 30, 1978

Unexplained Signals From Stars Are Recorded by Astronomers

Chicago Tribune

Unexplained radio signals from 12 stars have been recorded by a team of astronomers searching for intelligent messages from space.

"It is very exciting but at this point we don't know what they mean," Patrick Palmer, professor of astronomy and astrophysics at the University of Chicago, said.

"They look more like artificial signals than natural ones. They probably are something that can be explained such as a statistical error or radio interference."

"But I feel we still have to keep an eye on these stars because one never knows if they are messages from other worlds."

Palmer and Benjamin Zuckerman from the University of Maryland have spent four years scanning the heavens with the radio telescope 300 feet in diameter at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory at Green Bank, W. Va.

Called project Ozma II, their program is the most ambitious of its kind to search for extraterrestrial life. More than 680 nearby stars were scanned for interstellar communications.

The scientists tuned the giant antenna to the 21-centimeter radio wave length, which is the radiation wave length of hydrogen. Because hydrogen is the

universe's most abundant element, many scientists believe it would be the most logical medium for radio messages between distant worlds.

The 12 signals came in the form of strong bursts in the 21-cm. radio wave lengths. There is a normal background of weak radio waves in this frequency that is emitted from stars and vast clouds of interstellar hydrogen.

But the signals picked up on the Green Bank antenna were "peculiar" bursts that have never before been detected.

The bursts were so short that the scientists were unable to record enough information to decode the signals if they had been sent by another civilization.

Furthermore, in all but one case the radio signals were not repeated. Some astronomers argue that if the signal is not repeated from the same source, then it probably is an error.

The one repeat signal came from Barnard's star, the third-closest star to our sun, located seven light years away.

The first signal from Barnard came in the 21-cm. frequency, but the second one, which occurred a short time later, was in a slightly lower frequency, Palmer said.

The fact there were no repeat signals from the other 11 stars does not bother Palmer.

"That really doesn't mean

much," he said. "They [intelligent beings] may be sending out signals to one area of the universe and then change to another to try and cover as much area as possible. They may not get around to sending another signal in our direction for decades."

Because this is the first time that such unexplained radio signals have been received from distant stars, other radio telescopes have been alerted to monitor the 12 stars.

The last time astronomers became excited about receiving a possible message from outer space was in 1973 when Russian scientists said they had picked up a radio signal that was beaming a well-regulated pattern.

It turned out that the radio signal was coming from an American spy satellite that was keeping track of the troubled Middle East.

It is quite possible that there are extraterrestrial beings who have achieved near-infinite lifetimes through genetic and biological engineering, and for them 1,000 years doesn't matter, he said.

Palmer, like most other scientists, believes that there are intelligent beings populating other worlds.

"Searching for them is very important because someday someone will find them," he said.

Mystery 'Booms' In Atlantic Skies Spur Investigation

By JAMES COATES

Chicago Tribune

WASHINGTON — At 10 a.m. December 2 the winter calm along South Carolina's tourist-free beaches was shattered by a blast so loud scientists say it would take 100 tons of dynamite to duplicate.

At 3:45 p.m. a few hundred miles north on the New Jersey shore a similar clap came out of the blue Atlantic skies, toppling knickknacks from shelves and causing needles on earthquake meters 50 miles inland to jump wildly.

There was no earthquake. An airline pilot told federal officials he saw a flash of green light in the afternoon sky. Today they call December 2, 1977, the day of the "sky quakes" and wait for the investigation ordered by President Carter to tell them what is happening.

Mr. Carter became alarmed two weeks later when more than seven of the shockingly loud noises were reported at places along the Atlantic Seaboard from New Jersey to Charleston, S.C.

Since then people as far north as the Arctic tip of Canada's Nova Scotia province have shared Mr. Carter's concern. Mrs. Nattie Perry, director of Nova Scotia's government-financed South Shore Environmental Protection Association, said in a telephone interview that all 1,050 residents of the seashore hamlet of Barrington have heard the "mystery booms."

Investigators Dispatched

Mr. Carter has dispatched Navy investigators all along the Atlantic Seaboard to study the cause of the blasts that Mrs. Perry said are so frequent in Nova Scotia that residents are "near panic."

Mr. Carter sent his investigators out after first sending an urgent message to every government and military agency asking if any secret project were causing the noise. When all reports came back negative, he ordered the Navy to conduct a 60-day investigation.

Since January 18 there have been no reports of blasts in the United States, but residents on the southwest coast of Nova Scotia have been plagued by almost daily blasts, according to Canadian news reports and investigators.

At the Pentagon, Cdr. Ron Black said the Navy will not comment on possible causes of the mysterious happenings.

A top Defense Department official said he had checked with military insiders because he was personally skeptical of public denials that the sea quakes were caused by secret government experiments.

'Really Leveling'

"I managed to convince myself that they are really leveling when they say we don't know what is going on," the official said.

Witnesses describe a variety of phenomena, but they agree that there is sound offshore, sometimes shatteringly loud blasts, sometimes thunder-like growling noises. On some occasions they reported seeing flashing lights in the sky, which are usually described as green.

There is stronger evidence of the blasts than human reports, scientists say. Along the Atlantic Coast from Massachusetts to Charleston, geologists with seismographs have registered the sounds.

These scientific readings provided much of the impetus for concern at top federal levels, government officials said. Because blasts such as that of December 2 registered on the seismograph at the University of South Carolina, experts were able to rule out the possibility that the noise was caused by sonic booms from supersonic aircraft.

Scientists at the university, as well as other seismologists at Lamont-Doherty Observatory at Palisades, N.Y., have explained to Navy investigators that their machines established that the blasts occurred in the atmosphere more than 50 miles from shore.

The experts also reported that the loudest blasts have the intensity of a 50- to 100-ton dynamite explosion, much louder than the severest sonic boom at that distance.

While the Navy is keeping its findings secret until at least early March when its report is due, other investigators were able to supply some details.

Especially active in private inquiries into the blasts has been the National Investigation Committee for Aerial Phenomena at Kensington, Md. The group acts as a clearinghouse for reports of unidentified flying objects and other mysterious happenings in the sky.

David Squires, an executive for the prestigious Smithsonian Institution's Scientific Event Alert Network, described the Committee's past investigations as "very responsible with no bias for or against UFOs." Squires said the group was formed after the Air Force stopped its UFO investigations and halted the long-standing practice of accepting sighting reports from citizens.

Ernest Jahn, a former Air

Booms Return To S. Carolina

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) — Four more mysterious booms of the type heard up and down the East Coast in recent months echoed through the Charleston area Tuesday morning.

A resident of James Island south of the city, Mrs. George Johnson, reported her house shook and her dogs began to bark.

Frank Hunt, news director of WCIV-TV north of Charleston, said the third in the series of booms was the strongest, lasting about four seconds and rocking the station building.

Hunt said the first boom came at 8 a.m. and the fourth about 15 minutes later.

The loud, unexplained noises have been reported since December by residents of coastal areas in New Jersey, Connecticut and South Carolina.

The first boom at Charleston was felt December 2. They have occurred sporadically, mostly in the early morning, with the last report coming in mid-January.

No official explanation for the phenomenon has been advanced, but a seismologist at Baptist College at Charleston, Joyce Bagwell, says her equipment indicates they are acoustical vibrations.

An investigation ordered by President Carter is under way.

Force flier who is heading the Committee's investigation of the sea quakes, said the group has found scores of witnesses.

Jahn said scientists at the Lamont-Doherty Geological Observatory at New York had determined by thorough readings that the noise was moving through the atmosphere. Scientists determined that for an aircraft to register a sonic boom of that intensity, Jahn said, "the airplane would have to be of immense size, bigger than a battleship."

In addition to the reports from Canada and the United States, the Committee has received one report from England. A Committee member with the British Auxiliary Coast Guard at Lands End, reported flashes in the sky and a ground tremor at 9:30 a.m. December 2. The time did not correspond, however, to similar occurrences in the United States.