

UFO

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PORT PACKET, Alexandria, VA - Dec. 5, 1979 CR: F. Whiting

Local prober seeks UFO proofs

By Adrian Higgins

A glimpse at the files of investigator Fred Whiting show the Parkfairfax resident to be no ordinary sleuth. No siree.

Take the case of a 28-year-old truck driver from Winchester, VA called Harry Joe Turner. Turner left his hometown on a late night run to Fredericksburg on August 28 with a delivery of ketchup and mustard. A few miles down the road, the CB crackles and Turner's rig is engulfed in a blinding light and a piercing sound.

The driver's door flies open and Turner is grabbed by something with a "bionic grip." Not even eight rounds from Turner's automatic can fend it off. Turner blacks out but he amazingly awakes at his destination in Fredericksburg, at 3 a.m., four hours later.

Then he remembers being aboard a spacecraft, having met aliens pale and cold to the touch, with numbers written across their forehead. The antennas of his tractor-trailer have been burned away, the odometer shows the vehicles had only traveled 17 miles for what was an 80 mile trip, but somehow enough fuel has been used for a journey of 240 miles.

"Maybe they (Turner's extra-terrestrial captors) have a gasoline shortage themselves,"

joked Whiting, who sees his quest for the truth behind such incidents as anything but a joke.

"I examine accounts and I gather evidence with the hope that the knowledge we can learn from close scrutiny can lead us ultimately to the truth or a truth," explained Whiting. And if that means forking out 30 bucks from his own pocket to buy Turner's frazzled antennas for scientific analysis, so be it. Or cutting short a vacation in the Virgin Islands to make a roundabout trip to Dayton, Oh. to hear an expert on Unidentified Flying Object investigations tagged by the initiated, Ufology.

"I just want to get the facts," said Whiting, a state representative for three tracking groups; the Mutual UFO Network, an international group of UFO investigators, the National Investigation Committee on Aerial Phenomena, and the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization.

Whiting, a press aide on Capitol Hill, began voraciously reading about Ufology after seeing the movie, "Close Encounters of the Third Kind", a title, incidentally, which describes Turner's apparent abduction. After two years of reading, Whiting wanted a more active involvement and

became a field investigator three months ago.

Another case he has investigated involves a 35-year-old woman in Timberville, who claims to have been abducted three times this past summer by extra-terrestrials. But Whiting is wary of her account, which he fears may be fantasized after she read of other abduction reports.

"The things she saw seem to be plucked out of other people's experiences, unlike Harry Joe's, which has a ring of authenticity. I encouraged her to see a psychiatrist," said Whiting, who lives on Martha Custis Drive.

Turner's experience came to light when, a few days after his experience, he borrowed his mother-in-law's car. A jittery Turner, having taken five Valium, was startled by a nearby ambulance siren and he reacting by hitting the accelerator. A 110 miles-per-hour chase, with 10 police cars on his heels, ensued.

Whiting wants Turner to undergo hypnosis, an attempt to find buried memories of the encounter, as the next part of the investigation.

"We'll either establish Harry Joe as a patent liar or a credible person," said the amateur investigator, born and raised in Alexandria.

Whiting, 31, is encouraged in his investigation of Harry Joe Turner by a report that 22 hours before the incident, a policeman in Minnesota suffered a similar experience with bright lights and burnt anten-

nas. "The chronology is interesting," said Whiting, who would like to hear from others who feel they have had a close encounter. His phone number is 998-8670.



CLOSE ENCOUNTERS — UFO investigator Fred Whiting, who lives in Parkfairfax, explains why he spends his spare time probing claims of extra-terrestrial contacts. (Staff photo by Ann Cameron Siegal).



THE NEWS, Sutton, NE - Dec. 6, 1979

UFO Sighted West Of Fairfield

An unidentified flying object was sighted Monday night by two residents of Fairfield, according to a news release from the Clay County Sheriff's office Tuesday morning.

Though the two individuals declined to allow their names to be used for publication locally, the investigating officer said they had no hesitation about their names being given to the UFO Reporting Center in Seattle, Washington.

The UFO Center routinely checks back with any persons who report the sighting of such a craft, and in the phone conversation to report the incident, indicated that Center officials would be calling the two individuals immediately for confirmation and description of the incident.

The investigating officer gave the following account:

An unidentified flying object was spotted just west of the city limits of Fairfield at about 10:25 p.m., Monday by two persons who were driving on Highway 74 west of Fairfield. The driver of the car followed the craft's path briefly, and watched it. The passenger in the car also watched it but became frightened when the realization came of what it was.

They reported the incident at a nearby house, and a call was immediately dispatched to the Sheriff's office. The investigating officer met with the individuals within minutes of the call.

The officer separated the two persons and asked them for individual descriptions of the incident. He also requested that they each draw a picture of the craft they had seen.

The Sheriff's office spokesman stated that both had been very explicit about what they had witnessed, and that the two drawings were remarkably similar, in spite of the fact that these two individuals had not been alone together more than possibly 5 minutes after the object disappeared. Both were very distraught and shaken by their experience, but their reports were very much alike.

Both saw the object hovering above the trees about 3 or four blocks from where they were. (Visibility was good since it was a clear night with a full moon.) When it left, it tilted to one side and went in a westward direction.

It was described as 20 to 30 feet in diameter, a metal gray in color, had larger red lights and smaller white lights on it in an irregular pattern which blinked in no set manner. None of the lights were in any special grouping, and there were no beaming lights.

According to their reports, it was round and thin, no visible glass of any kind; the driver of the car also saw grating on the underneath portion of the UFO. By its appearance, it seemed to have been constructed in section-like pieces.

It hovered approximately 40 to 50 feet off the ground. When it left, there was no sound or odor to indicate any kind of motivation such as motors or jets.

The investigating officer said the two Fairfield residents were frightened by what they had seen and were still in distraught state of mind when he interviewed them. He took them out to where the object had been spotted, and both pinpointed the area where they had seen the UFO.

The officer stated that he intended to return to the scene Tuesday morning for further investigation.

Rutledge releases six-year study

34 UFO sightings in region called 'incredible' by physicist

Dr. Harley Rutledge has announced part of the results of a six-year scientific field study of Unidentified Flying Objects he directed while chairing the physics department at Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau.

During that six-year period, the professor said, he and co-workers had experienced 153 sightings of 174 UFOs. He labelled 34 of the sightings as incredible because the UFOs exhibited physical or behavioral properties beyond known man-made technology.

Rutledge, director of Project Identification, a University-based organization of scientists, engineers, students, and amateur astronomers formed to study UFOs, said that on 32 occasions UFOs seemed to react to him and other Project members. "It's enough to make you think someone is playing a game with us."

Covering a large area of Southeast Missouri, the field study has extended 30 miles north of St. Louis, 80 miles west of the Mississippi River, and into Illinois.

The Project has logged 26 sightings of 37 UFOs near Piedmont, where the study began in April, 1973; 17 sightings of 19 UFOs near Farmington; and 104 sightings of 117 UFOs near the Mississippi River along a 70 mile stretch from Perryville to Sikeston. But 48 sightings of 50 UFOs were from within or near the city limits of Cape Girardeau itself. "Often UFOs have hovered over or near the city," Rutledge said.

In one case a Cape Girardeau girl reported being chased by a small disc flying at treetop level. It temporarily blinded the girl by flashing a bright light down upon her as she reached the door of her home. Two witnesses verified the experience.

Rutledge reports that many of the UFOs were observed in motion and 41 UFOs changed motion by starting, stopping, or changing direction. In some cases hovering lights streaked across the sky in a fraction of a second at low altitude and even under a cloud cover. Rutledge has observed a light make an instantaneous right-angle turn, the light switching off 20 seconds later. "If that

was an object having mass, that kind of turn is impossible," Rutledge emphasized. "But I've seen a lot of things that looked impossible."

Of the 174 UFOs observed by Project members, 88 have been mere balls of light. Five were seen to turn on, 47 turn off, while 36 turned on and off. Six different colors have been observed: 50 off-white, 27 amber, 21 white, 7 red, 5 yellow, and two lights were a green color. Five lights changed color.

Seven craft have been observed, including two discs and a bullet-shaped object. One of the discs was observed in daylight by Rutledge from his office at the University. The bullet-shaped object, also observed in daylight, changed color and vanished.

Contrary to popular representations of UFOs on television and in the movies, only three UFOs observed by Rutledge and his crews made sound.

Eighteen sightings occurred in daylight and 18 more at dusk. These 36 sightings constitute nearly one-fourth the Project totals and under conditions where sunlight would have illuminated any craft in the sky.

"I'm not the only one seeing these things," Rutledge pointed out. During the 153 sightings, 622 persons have been present, representing more than 30 Project members and well over a hundred different persons as spectators. That averages about four persons present per sighting. "How could any UFO study, or single sighting, be better documented than this?" he asks.

Rutledge promises that soon he will release more startling results from Project data to the public. "In the beginning, we formed this organization to seek the truth and present it to the public," Rutledge stated. "At first I was reticent to describe some of our incredible experiences for fear of ridicule. We have been careful not to make unsubstantiated claims."

Archer Man Reports UFO

A 26-year-old Archer man told sheriff's deputies he was chased by "a large, round, bright cream-colored light" in the sky as he drove Wednesday night on State Road 346.

Wilson Robinson said he first saw the unidentified object in the eastern sky and it appeared to "dive" at his vehicle, deputies reported.

Robinson stopped at a friend's house to alert deputies, who arrived at the scene to find "no bright objects other than stars," according to Deputy L.J. Jackson.

However, Robinson said the object hovered in the sky above the house and then took off toward the south at a high rate of speed, disappearing by the time deputies arrived.

SUN, Gainesville, FL - Dec. 21, 1979

NEWS, Springfield, OR Dec. 15, 1979

Youth doesn't believe, but . . .

It's a bird. It's a plane. It's -- what is it, anyway?

Terry Sowards says he saw something Friday night, hovering, then moving slowly across the sky.

The 14-year-old Thurston High student called Springfield police about 7:30 to report a glowing, yellowish light in the sky, heading west.

"It was moving pretty slow," Sowards said. "Then it seemed to stop and start again." Sowards was out for some air near his home at 759 N. 53rd Place when he spotted the object. He called to his friend, Mike Harmon, who also spotted the bright light.

"It seemed to be about 500 feet up," Sowards said. "And it didn't make any noise like a jet or anything. It moved behind the clouds, then seemed to pop out again."

Sowards said he's never seen anything like it, and although he doesn't believe in flying saucers, he admitted that "I really don't know..."

The Springfield police don't know, either, and they don't want to know. No mention of the sighting was made on the police log. Hmmm.

CALLER, Corpus Christi, TX - Dec. 7, 1979

Three more say they spotted UFO

Three more city residents said yesterday they saw a curious light in the sky about 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, but police and Naval Air Station officials said they spotted no unusual objects.

NAS radar division officer Guy Henderson said nothing unusual showed on radar Wednesday evening, though the screen was not monitored every minute.

"I won't say it wasn't on there, but I will say it wasn't there long enough for us to note it," Henderson said.

Three neighbors near the Oak Park area spotted the bright light that stayed in one place, moved erratically, then stopped for a long time before dropping below the horizon Wednesday.

Stella Beener, 4226 Grace, saw the light first, then got neighbors Jim Smith, 1117 Maguey and James Cade of 533 Virginia.

Weather officials at the National Weather Service and NAS said no weather balloons, which could have reflected light from the setting sun and appeared lighted, were in the area at that time.

The three new reports came from people who asked not to be identified. However, Rita Torregino, of 4625 Galway Drive, said the unidentified flying object sounded like something she saw a month ago.

That light sped rapidly across the sky, stayed still for some time, then disappeared, Ms. Torregino said.

TIMES, Melbourne, FL - Dec. 12, 1979

'UFOs' fly friendly South Brevard skies

By MIKE THOMAS
Times Staff Writer

What appeared to be a large unidentified flying object to numerous Brevard residents last Sunday night may have been a flight of eight Piper Tommyhawk light airplanes headed for Vero Beach.

Police departments from Titusville to Palm Bay received reports about the UFO. A spokesman from the flight tower at the

Melbourne Regional Airport said the UFO was the airplanes. He said their strange appearance was due to the lead plane's rotating beacon light and because all the planes flashed their lights whenever flying by an airport. The planes were also flying in a tight formation at a low altitude, about 3,000 feet according to the spokesman.

But Retired Air Force Colonel W.A. Murdoch of Palm Bay said he observed a

"phenomena" that looked like a large blimp about twice the size of the Goodyear models. According to Murdoch, the object was flying approximately 900 feet above the ground at about 15 miles-per-hour.

Murdoch said that he, his wife, six dinner guests and neighbors observed the object for 20 minutes.

"It was one craft," he said. "There was no change in the relationships of the lights

when it changed directions. The lights were proper navigational lights for flying at night."

Murdoch also said the craft was silent and that it was close enough that he and the other witnesses should have been able to hear an engine.

"I'm not saying it's a UFO," he said. "But there's no damn question that it was a phenomena."

Mysterious Flight Lights Up Madison Sheriff's Lines

erator said. There should have been nothing unusual about their formation or altitude and they would definitely be making some noise if there were that many up there," the operator said.

PA38 Tomahawks have a red light on the right wing, a green on the left and a white one on the tail. Hamilton said. They also had a single bright, white nose landing light on tonight. The planes were being ferried just to keep each other in sight, she added.

ing Tanner that the objects were merely helicopters but at 10:15 p.m. Tanner was saying "nobody's sure of anything as far as that goes."

Authorities in Charlottesville and Albemarle County said they heard all this commotion over the police radio but had received no reports from the public about any lights.

The tower at Charlottesville-Albemarle Airport had.

DAILY PROGRESS, Charlottesville, VA - Dec. 9, 1979

certainly wasn't going to tell anyone to go and check it out, because I wouldn't want to go near it if it was from another planet."

A call came in from Jimmy Walker's Shell where someone had counted 17 lights in a "V" formation headed toward Charlottesville. Tanner said.

A friend of his in Madison and a member of the Culpeper Sheriff's Department called, assuring

and had never seen anything like it — both lines to the sheriff's office lit up for 30 minutes. "These calls were coming in, one after another," he said. "I couldn't keep count of 'em, but I'd say it was roughly a dozen (calls)."

The first one came in about 8 p.m. from the Town of Madison, Tanner said.

"They said the lights was too close together to be airplanes and they weren't making a bit of noise."

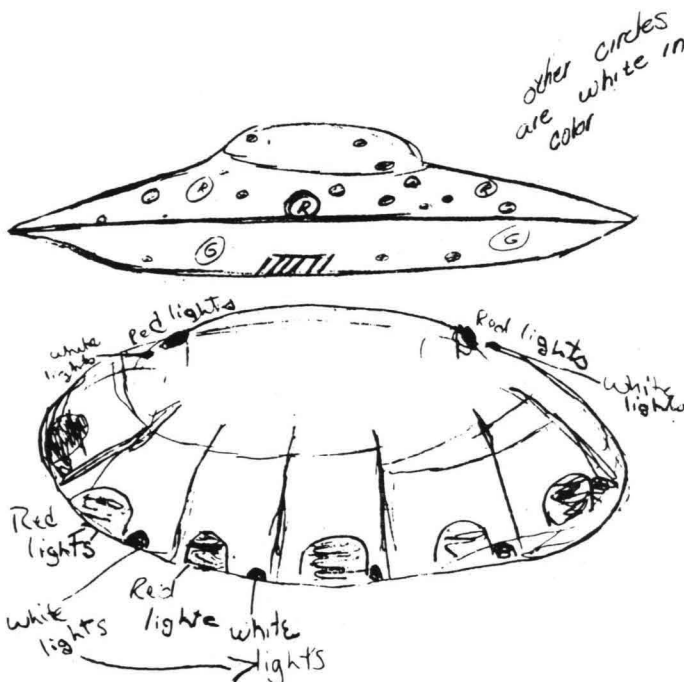
Calls poured in from the Town of Madison, from the northern part of the county and from the southern end of Culpeper County, Tanner said.

"One call said that two of 'em had landed and they wanted me to send someone out there."

"Well, the location was unclear and we've had reports like this before. You can't go out and check everytime a plane goes behind a hill and someone think's it's gone down."

Besides, Tanner added, "I

DAILY TRIBUNE, Hastings, NE - Dec. 14, 1979



UFO sketches

Two Fairfield girls made these drawings for Clay County Sheriff Gary Jones to describe the unidentified flying object they claim to have seen the evening of Dec. 3 while driving into Fairfield from the southwest. The girls reported the sighting to the sheriff's office and then told similar stories and drew somewhat similar sketches for Jones. The girls said the gray metal object was between 20 and 30 feet in diameter and had red, green and white lights. They said the object was no more than 400 yards from them, hovering low above the trees. The UFO Reporting Center at Seattle, Wash., was notified by the sheriff, who said several other persons later reported having seen some object in the sky at about the same time.

GAZETTE, Gastonia, NC - Dec. 9, 1979

The things you see

ALEXIS — Steve Ford says he'll carry a camera with him from now on because, otherwise, how is he going to make people believe that he spotted a UFO?

Ford says he spotted something up in the sky near Iron Station on Rt. 27 near the Lincoln County line at about 7 p.m. Saturday. "It wasn't a plane and it wasn't a helicopter. It was kind of spooky — it just, sort of, hovered."

Fortunately, he was not alone. His family was with him.

He said they watched the starship-shaped craft for about 10 miles before pulling off the road for a closer look. Then, Ford says, his wife got out for a closer look, but the UFO then moved off, taking its low, droning noise with it.

It was Ford's first close encounter of the unidentified kind, one which he says "is still hard to believe." He added his mother once saw a UFO and that he supposed they probably exist. But, convincing people that you've spotted a UFO is like asking them to believe the Pope is Baptist.

"Someone else had to see the thing," Ford was hoping. "Several people pulled their cars over to watch the thing . . . I just wish I had my camera."

DAILY WORLD, Aberdeen, WA - Dec. 14, 1979

Your Nickel's Worth

Something never explained

Editor, The Daily World —

In reply to "Your Nickel's Worth: Do UFO'S exist?", of course they do. While many sightings can be explained away as sightings by cranks, drunks or pranksters, all cannot be disposed of in this matter. Too many sightings by too many people in too many places cannot all be ignored.

I did not see the object of last week nor have I ever seen anything that I could claim to be UFO. But in September of 1965, I did see something that I've never been able to explain to myself. In the sky above San Diego, Calif., I watched a group of what I thought were five stars do what no conventional aircraft could do. They were in a small cluster when I first spotted them. Then one of them moved halfway across the sky. After a few minutes, it returned to the others.

Another moved almost immediately and returned. In a matter of a few minutes, each had moved off and returned. About ten minutes after first noticing this cluster, all five shot off in different directions and disappeared.

On any clear night (strange to Aberdeen) look at all the stars in the sky. Then remember that you can only see a small percentage of the stars in the sky. Since each of these is similar to our own sun, at least some of them must have planets capable of having life forms. Many are older than our sun and probably have planets that have been developing longer than our Earth. We have developed spacecraft to explore our own solar system, so the possibility that another world is exploring us is conceivable to me.

MELVIN A. WOOD
Aberdeen

HERALD, Big Spring, TX - Jan. 23, 1980

Some 'Hangar 18 UFO' street scenes to be filmed in Midland

Some street scenes in the Schick-Sunn Classic Productions' movie, "Hangar 18 UFO," will be filmed in downtown Midland.

The film crew is headquartered in Big Spring and

will shoot most of the big screen movie here.

Filming will likely start as early as Feb. 4. The producers are still signing extras for the movie.

Garth Wilkinson, security and safety manager for Schick-Sunn, petitioned the Midland city council Tuesday for permission to film on Midland's city streets.

A chase scene involving military people and individuals wanting to report a UFO, one of the highlights of the movie, will be filmed in Midland.

Wilkinson indicated the film crew would be busy in Midland two or three days.

CR: T. Adams

Local man shares UFO experiences

For a month in the fall of 1976, Woody Polston tried to make contact with the unknown. Late in October of that year, he believes he succeeded.

The spot Polston chose for his search was the Norris Geyser Basin in north-central Yellowstone National Park. He selected that area because of the stories of strange lights that he had heard from old-timers he knew in his former home, West Yellowstone.

The sun had just set when Polston began flashing "Friends, I love you" in Morse code. His beacon was a portable light plugged into a cigarette lighter of his Mustang. On previous evenings, Polston had repeated the message up to 100 times. But on that particular night, he was interrupted soon after he began.

"You get so scared"

Polston's description of what he saw is brief and incomplete. He explained why. "You get so scared that you're sick, you go crazy, you don't remember too much," he said. But Polston does remember that he saw two distinct objects different from anything he had ever seen before.

"One of them went from the east to the west and the other went north-south, sort of in orbit. They were quite visible because they were so big and they had that aluminum cover that would reflect the sun's rays."

"The first one was a cylindrical

thing, kind of a disc." It was followed by another craft that Polston said was "at least as big as the Safeway store."

"The big one came in and it had a formation of some lights around an edge and over the right-hand side," he said. Polston said he saw an indentation of some kind on the right side of the craft that was "like an entrance or a telescope." He said he cannot remember if the object made any noise.

What happened next is hazy. "I think I looked at it for probably two to three minutes before I fainted," Polston said. He did snap a few pictures before he stumbled back to his Mustang, and "curled up under the steering wheel. That's the last I can remember."

Polston said he spent the next 12 to 13 hours crouched in his car. "I was semi-conscious, but not really. I could feel the car rattling, fluttering from my body pulsations. I know that my teeth chattered so hard that my jaws were sore all the way to the top of my head."

When he regained consciousness, his watch was approximately 10 hours slow. "I wish I had a running account of anything that happened while I was in the car. God I wish I knew."

The next year was tough for Polston. He did not share his experience with many people. Those he did tell were "morbidly curious," he said. "I was afraid to talk about it because every time I



Woody Polston

did, I'd start coming apart." Polston said he had recurring nightmares about his experience. He would wake up from them screaming and crying. He still gets upset if he dwells on the experience, even after three years.

"The thing about it that hurt me more than anything, I think, was I thought I was insane, that I'd gone crazy," but Polston said there has never been any insanity on either side of his family.

Besides his fear of insanity, the local man had other reasons for waiting to share a detailed account of his experience. "I never made a big thing about it because I was afraid to . . . Maybe whatever this intelligence is might not want to be exposed."

"They may have tabulated me"

Polston is a bit concerned about what may have happened to him while he was passed out. "They may have tabulated me so they know where I am all the time . . ." He said that since the experience, he feels that he has not aged. "I've got more hair on my head than I did then. I think I'm being kept for some reason. I feel better now than I did when I was 30," which, he acknowledges reluctantly, was some time ago.

Polston said he became particularly interested in UFOs in 1976 after a friend sent him a book entitled, "Flying Saucers—UFO Reports." But Polston was attempting to probe the secrets of the universe long before he received that book.

Signal Mountain in Grand Teton National Park was the setting for one of Polston's earlier searches. "I came over and spent a week one fall on top of Signal Mountain. I'd go back there by myself and get under a tree. You could feel on those starry nights that you could

Polston returned to the Norris Geyser Basin this summer, but found no trace of whatever it was he saw in 1976.

But around October 10 of this year, while he was jogging in the pre-dawn light, Polston had another mysterious experience. "I was going across the [Safeway] parking lot . . . I don't know what the hell made me look straight up into the air. Maybe they sent me a brain wave of some kind that made me look up . . ." When he did, he saw a distinct light that he said moved so fast that he was sure it could not have been a plane or satellite. "Jeez," he added, "it was so high, I couldn't believe it—right up in the stars." Polston admitted that it could have been anything, but the question—"What is it?"—remains with him.

Polston has his own theories about what he has seen. "I think it's God's angels . . . and could possibly have a lot of answers." While discussing the phenomenon of unidentified flying objects, Polston said, "I don't think a person can really doubt it. If you do, you're naive. I don't think that we should be so naive to think that we're the only beings in the universe that would be capable of movement. That's what you have

Continued next page

'Encounters' thought part of 'huge operation'

As director of counseling and testing at the University of Wyoming, Leo Sprinkle continually talks to students. He also regularly interviews people who have sighted or had "encounters" with UFOs.

Sprinkle estimated that he has received 25 reports of UFO sightings and encounters from all over the world this year. Sprinkle said he was called out of bed Monday night, December 10, by a man in Seattle, Washington, who had just had a close encounter. Sprinkle has also been contacted by people from all over Wyoming (including Cheyenne, Casper, Rock Springs and Newcastle) who have had experiences with UFOs. Some of those people, Sprinkle said, claim they have been taken aboard the UFOs, examined and

released.

"It's hard to keep up with it," said Sprinkle, who believes that the sightings and encounters are part of a "huge operation taking place all over the world." The purpose of the operation, he believes, is to "teach us about the New Age," which he describes as a combination of science and religion.

Sprinkle, a Ph.D. in philosophy, also believes that he has seen UFOs twice. "After the second sighting, I became a believer," he said.

When told about Woody Polston's long reluctance to reveal his sighting, Sprinkle said, "That's a pattern that seems to be prevalent." Sprinkle added that "only one out of 10 people report their sightings."

approximately 200 feet off the

ground in a westerly direction. She claims that a car ahead of her stopped to watch the objects, described as a bright, silvery color.

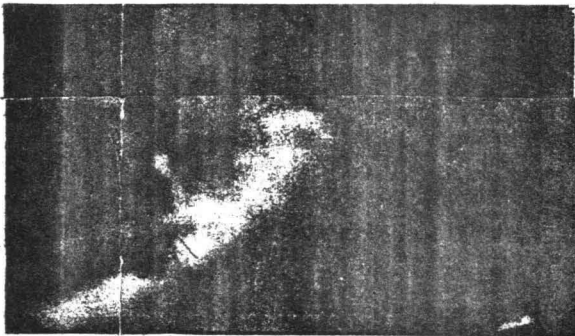
A check with the Clackamas County Sheriff's office revealed that they had no record of a sighting being reported to that office. The Portland Airbase also reported no knowledge of any unusual activity on the evening in

question.

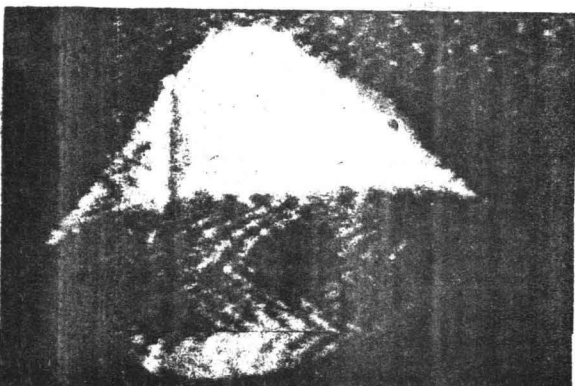
Neither had the official UFO reporting service in Seattle received a report of the sighting.

The Oregon Air Guard office in Salem said, after checking field offices, that no report had come into their offices.

Regardless, the reported sighting is not the first time such activities have been reported in the immediate area. A Molalla man reports



The first object Polston saw was cylindrical, like a disc. Polston said he snapped both UFO pictures just prior to passing out.



Polston said this UFO was at least as big as Safeway.

Are UFOs visiting the Molalla area?

As many as five unidentified flying objects, UFO's, were reported as being seen near Molalla recently by a woman who preferred to remain anonymous, according to a report from the Canby Herald.

According to the report, filtered to the Molalla Pioneer office late last week, the woman was driving on Mulino road when she spotted five diamond shaped objects flying

approximately 200 feet off the ground in a westerly direction. She claims that a car ahead of her stopped to watch the objects, described as a bright, silvery color.

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Regardless, the reported sighting is not the first time such activities have been reported in the immediate area. A Molalla man reports

that he saw "something that must have been a UFO" some years ago west of Liberal. He said the object, witnessed by himself and his father-in-law, was hovering 50 feet above the railroad tracks west of Liberal. He described the object as having a large dome on the top, emitting a greenish light, the bottom of the object was described as flat. "It didn't make a sound, it just hung there and suddenly vanished," he said.

Another such object was sighted flying near Molalla within the past three years, as was a similar object spotted over Canby at about the same time.

Such reports are difficult to trace or verify since those witnessing such phenomena are reluctant to come forth. There have been thousands of similar sightings around the

world but so far no concrete physical evidence has been found that UFO's actually exist.

Photographs have been distributed that, claimants say, show actual UFO's in flight. Many have been proved to be a hoax but there remain hundreds that defy description or analysis.

According to a national UFO research organization, sightings are due to increase during the winter months. The Pioneer asks that anyone witnessing such phenomena please contact the Pioneer at once with data that could possibly be verified.

Anyone seeing anything that might possibly be construed as a UFO should call the UFO reporting center, 1-206-722-3000 in Seattle or the county sheriff's office.

Cascade: What was that in the sky?

by Maureen Kennedy
382-4254

Unidentified flying objects are a nebulous topic. Some people steadfastly believe in their existence. Others smirk at the mere mention of a UFO.

Whether you're a believer or a doubter, the Knapke family's experience last Thursday night is intriguing. The family of four -- Les, Priscilla and children Cathy and Sabina -- was on its way home from Boise when, six or seven miles north of Banks, a 200 to 300-foot object was seen high in the sky.

Priscilla, who was at first reluctant to share the experience, said there were two diamond shaped lights, side by side, in the center of the object. The lights were flashing much like a police car's but faster.

"We saw it about 10-12 minutes," Priscilla said. "It was going east. We stopped the car and about five seconds later it made a fast shoot across the sky and was gone."

Priscilla said that they all complained of a pain in their shoulders and that her and Les' arms felt numb.

"I didn't get feeling back in my fingers until we got to Cougar Mountain," she added.

Calls to the Mountain Home Air Force Base and Arnold Aviation brought no other reports of an unidentified object in the sky Thursday night, but Priscilla's story sure does make one wonder...

UFO sighting reported

By Tom Alex

At least four times Thursday night, Tysa Goodrich, 26, and her sister, Darla, 18, saw a "huge" unidentified flying object near I-235 between Twenty-second Street in West Des Moines and Fifty-sixth Street in Des Moines.

Goodrich of Columbus, Ohio, who has been staying at her parents' home at 5608 Pleasant Drive, described the UFO as two or three times larger than an airplane, diamond shaped with four white lights in the corners.

It was dark and shadowy with no clear definition on the flat bottom surface, she said. Sometimes it barely moved, sometimes it seemed to hover.

"I saw it so many times," she said Friday. "It was crazy."

Tysa said, "I was surprised no one else reported it -- but then, I was shy about doing it too."

A spokesman at the airport tower said there was nothing to indicate anything in that area from 9:45 to 10:45 p.m. that would explain the sighting.

Tysa said she called the television stations first about 10:15 p.m. but did not get an answer. So she called KIOA radio and talked with reporter Bob Singer, who taped what she said and passed it along to his audience.

"I felt real funny about calling the stations," Tysa said. "But I wanted to know if anyone else called. To tell you the truth, I felt like a nut."

Singer said she hesitated to give him her name but he talked her into it. "She sounded a little nervous," Singer said. He said he thought her voice made her sound believable.

The first time Darla and Tysa saw the object was when they drove away from the Sierra 3 Theaters, 1618 Twenty-second St., West Des Moines.

The second time the object went from north to south over the freeway, Tysa said. They pulled over to the side of the freeway west of the Sixty-third street exit and watched it for some time. Tysa said "the longest we saw it was for about two minutes."

They drove onto the Sixty-third Street exit and saw two cars pull over to the side of the road, with the occupants appearing to watch the same thing they had seen.

UFO reported in Menomonie

MENOMONIE -- An unidentified flying object was reportedly seen by three persons Monday night while it hovered about 800 feet above the ground near the 700 block of 19th Avenue East.

David Cobb, 26, of 719 19th Ave. E., and two companions allegedly saw the object just above the trees near his residence at about 8:15 p.m.

Cobb said the object was about 15 feet to 20 feet in diameter and appeared to be spinning at an exceptionally high rate of speed.

He added that it made no noise and was illuminated with orange, purple and greenish colors on the bottom and twin, yellow lights extending out from both sides.

Cobb reportedly thought the object had landed alongside the creek south of his residence. He got a firearm from his residence to investigate, but did not see anything more of the object.

Other UFO sightings reported throughout the area last week are believed to have been meteorites.

LEADER-TELEGRAM, Eau Claire, WI - Jan. 23, 1980 CR: R. Heiden

TRIBUNE, Des Moines, IA
Dec. 21, 1979

At times the object seemed to be very close to the ground, they said. Tysa said that if she held her arm outstretched it would appear about the size of an orange at the end of her hand. "We felt it was so big because it seemed it wasn't far from the trees," she said. "It's hard to explain."

When they returned home they looked in the telephone book under UFOs, Air Force and other headings because they didn't know who to call, said Darla. Finally they began calling the television stations, radio station and then the police.

A police spokesman said a squad car was sent to the area but the officer didn't see anything that looked like the object described by Tysa and Darla.

"After we called the radio station we didn't see it again," said Tysa.

"It made a sound," she said, "like a low rumbling sound. We could even hear it from inside the house. When we heard it I walked back outside and I could see it to the southeast of us."

"I wasn't frightened," Tysa said. "Just fascinated. Darla felt a twinge of fear, but I didn't."

"It was too big for a plane and no way was it a helicopter."

Many Claim Possible UFO Sightings in Area

Several area residents reported sighting an unusual light configuration in the sky on the night of Sunday, December 9.

At present, eight people claim to have seen four or five red lights traveling slowly at a relatively low altitude in a diamond shaped or circular pattern. Of these self-proclaimed witnesses most feel that the lights moved too slowly to have been conventional aircraft.

"They were moving so slowly," said one witness, a West Milford woman. "It wasn't an airplane, it wasn't a helicopter and it wasn't a radio tower. It was nothing but red lights and it really scared me."

More "amazed" than scared were three Riverdale men, one a borough police officer, who watched the unusual lights "go all the way from Slater's Mill to Vancon."

Thomas Fox spotted a quartet of "bright red glows" over Pompton Lakes while driving along the

Newark-Pompton Turnpike. He contacted Riverdale Police Officer John Schaub some time later. Fox had seen Schaub studying the lights at the time of his own sighting.

Both men agreed on what they had seen, Schaub adding that the four lights had eventually been joined by a fifth. Steve Gosses, also of the borough, confirmed the sighting.

Officials of local airports say that nothing out of the ordinary was reported on the night of the alleged sightings. Steve Springer, air traffic controller at Stewart Air Force Base, stated that no UFO reports were made by pilots or base personnel on December 9. Springer adds that the night in question was quite cloudy.

Anyone who saw the strange light pattern on December 9, or at any time before or since, is asked to contact this paper with his or her story.

The identities of all callers will be kept confidential.

By Arnie Hoffman
Regional editor

Not all accept fireball explanation

Objects known as bolides or fireballs streaked across west-central Wisconsin skies early Sunday evening, but at least one Bloomer farmer doesn't easily accept that explanation.

Cameron Burgess, 40, said he was spreading manure on a field near his home west of Marshfield Lake when the sky suddenly lit up. "I was turning the other way, so I didn't see it at first, but when I looked where the light was coming from I saw a tube-like thing about 100 feet long," he said. "It looked like a silo horizontal to the sky."

"It had a white-greenish light coming from the back room," Burgess said he saw the object around 7 p.m.

The Menomonie Police Department said it received a report of a sighting by Freeman Smith. Smith reported seeing an object with orange, red, yellow and blue lights about 7:30 p.m. He told police it was tube-shaped and about 500 feet in the sky. In addition, sheriff's departments at Barron, Rusk, Taylor and Lincoln counties received calls from persons reporting similar sightings.

Others in the area from Menomonie to Thorp saw streaks in the sky and then a "flash," such as from a strobe unit from a camera. Chief Olson and his wife reported seeing what he described as a possible bolide while they were driving on Rudolph Road about 6:45 p.m. He said his wife saw more of it, and she described it as a streak followed by the flashing of a camera bulb.

Others sighted the phenomenon at Thorp and Cadott and also noted it looked like an electronic flash going off. Those sightings were about 5:45 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Bolides or fireballs are described as super meteors with large masses of material able to penetrate the lower atmosphere before being destroyed. They usually enter the atmosphere at low angles, explaining why they were spotted near the horizon.

The brightness of the fireballs varies greatly, but it is increased toward the end of its path and then appears to burn out suddenly. The most significant fireball display in history was on Feb. 9, 1913, when a "meteoric procession" from Canada went east, ending over the Atlantic Ocean. The phenomenon was spotted for a distance of 5,700 miles.

—Strange amber lights sighted in sky over Lodi—

By JEANNE ECHENIQUE

News-Sentinel staff writer

As I pulled into the driveway, I saw them — two large lights in the sky where there had never been lights before. After parking under the carport, I went into the front yard to investigate.

They were still there.

The two large, bright amber lights to the north of my North Lower Sacramento home seemed to be still, yet they weren't in the same place where I had first caught sight of them. There was no accompanying engine noise.

I moved back. I thought perhaps they had something to do with the Happy Holme Company which lies just north of my country homestead. They apparently weren't.

(One of the bright spots in the sky hung higher than the other.)

By 6 p.m. Wednesday evening, the day's rainclouds had lifted to create a high grey cap above Lodi. A quick glance to the west confirmed there was no starshine breaking through the high-flying clouds.

I raced into the house to get my Mother to come see what I was seeing.

While she put on a coat and boots, a neighbor came knocking at the door.

By the time I was in the front yard again — it must have

been five minutes later — the yellow lights had disappeared.

I explained the lights to my two "witnesses" and promptly forgot about them — that is until a call came into the News-Sentinel.

"We were the only one's that called in," asked astonished Charlotte Bowers, of 832 Tilden Dr. "Why, we pulled over and got out of the car to see them."

The story, Mrs. Bowers and her husband Bill had to tell was the same as mine, but it continued where mine left off.

They reported seeing a third light join the first two and above this third one they could see a "hemisphere — like a bubble some 50 to 75 feet wide," said Bowers.

"It sure was weird," said Mrs. Bowers. "It sure wasn't an airplane. The third one had the bubble."

As the Bowers were pulling out of their Tilden Street driveway Wednesday evening at 6 p.m., Mrs. Bowers said her husband commented on a bright star in the sky that he supposed was Venus or Mars.

"I told him it couldn't be — because there was another one just like it," she said.

Bowers described the lights.

"They were golden or amber in color and had an intensity about four or five times of a star," he said. "At the first

sighting they were probably over mid Stockton" and the lights were steady and did not blink on an off as an airplane's lights would.

As they watched, the lights came closer.

"Both were moving in a northerly direction," he said, "perhaps at the speed of an aircraft — or a little slower at about 300 miles per hour."

He felt that because they were moving from the south towards them they had the appearance of moving very slowly.

"One must have been at 10,000 feet and the other at 5,000 feet," he said.

After the Bowers had driven about four blocks, they finally stopped and got out of their car to watch the lights.

"Another one came from the northeast," said Bowers.

"It was lower, only about 1,500 feet high."

"We noticed a hemisphere over this third one," he said. "It looked like a big gigantic bubble — it was greyish in appearance."

Bowers said he thought it was going to make a rendezvous with the lower of the first two bright lights — but it didn't.

"It passed them, did a hairpin turn and followed the other two a little behind," he said.

When the objects passed overhead, Bowers said there was "complete silence."

"They certainly were not moving by a normal means of locomotion," he said.

The Bowers did not watch the objects until they disappeared. "I told him we had to go because the kids were waiting for us," said Mrs. Bowers.

When they drove off, the three lights were moving "towards Sacramento," she said.

What were these amber lights in Wednesday's Lodi sky? We may never know.

A call to the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization in Tucson, Ariz., produced this response from a spokesman — "It probably was a U.F.O. (Unidentified Flying Object)," said volunteer clerk Jerry Schuoz. "But the basic question remains — why, who, what — we can't say where they come from."

The APRO has been gathering data on UFO's since 1952 and investigates reports from around the world.

When the Bowers and I file our sighting reports with the organization, we probably won't hear from them. Field investigators only contact the "extraordinary reports," Schuoz said, for example, the abduction cases.

"Just sighting reports are filed according to year and location," he said.

SUBURBAN TRENDS, Butler, NJ - Jan. 2, 1980

New light witness disputes testimony

By MARILYN F. COWHERD
STAFF WRITER

WEST MILFORD — A new set of witnesses to the strange, and still unexplained lights visible in the night sky on Sunday, Dec. 9 has contacted the Trends with a report that differs somewhat from previous accounts.

Linda Unger of Highview Estates in West Milford maintains that the lights that she, her family and some neighbors observed were "definitely white, not red or yellow."

"We had gone across the street to eat with friends who live diagonally across the street," explained Unger. "We were over there, when our neighbor went to the door and looked out. He suddenly said, 'What in the world is over your house?'"

Everyone joined him at the door and peered outside into the dark sky, she said. Unger describes seeing four or five white lights in a diamond-shaped pattern. "We watched them for awhile," said Unger, "and then the lights began to spread out. They remained in the same spot, but began to rotate."

Unger remembers somebody saying, "They're revolving. It looks like it's a saucer."

The lights remained in a circular, rotating shape for some time, according to Unger. "I think it eventually resumed its diamond shape," she recalls.

After about a half an hour, the lights broke up from their pattern, separated and then moved away in a straight line over the Unger house and onward in a northerly direction.

Unger described the size of the lights as

being comparable to a street light's size, but she was uncertain about the actual size or altitude.

Unger's neighbor, who preferred not to be identified, said he was convinced that the lights came from helicopters flying in formation. He said that the four distinct lights were not equally apart at all times.

"I served in Vietnam, and I recognize those helicopters as ones we called slicks. They used to carry 60 caliber guns on their sides," he said.

The man said that he definitely heard the characteristic chopping sound of helicopter blades. "It was exactly like the sound you hear in the introduction to MASH," he said. "I can tell you emphatically that those were helicopters. They started out over the southwest part of my house, turned south, and then headed back north."

The Unger's nine-year-old daughter was with her parents and became extremely upset, according to her mother. Unger said that this reaction was very unusual for her daughter.

I asked Unger whether her daughter had seen "Close Encounters" and was perhaps reacting to the visibly shaken emotions of the adults, remembering the film. Unger confirmed that her daughter had seen the movie a couple of years ago, but she said that her daughter had not been frightened by the movie.

The observers considered calling the police to report the lights, but hesitated because "we were afraid they'd think we were crazy or something."

She says she heard no helicopter noise.

EVENING TRIBUNE, San Diego, CA - Jan. 26, 1980

YOU AND YOUR PROBLEMS

By RICHMOND
BARBOUR

Q. "My girlfriend and I saw what was either a ghost car or a UFO. It was late at night. We were driving along the 'Carriso Corridor' at the eastern edge of San Diego County.

"For several miles we followed what seemed to be a huge white sedan. We never had seen a car like it. I tried to catch up and get a closer look. It always sped up. We could not get near.

"A greenish light came from the windows. It had very small headlights and taillights. I had to slow up because I knew we were coming to a hairpin curve.

"I expected the other vehicle to crash. But it didn't. It rose into the air. It climbed straight up, to about 500 feet. Then it took off to the north.

"I had to stop my car and walk around a while. I was too nervous to drive. I assure you we had not been drinking. We never smoke pot or take drugs. What we saw was not an hallucination. My girl and I both watched it.

"What could it have been?"



DR. BARBOUR

A. Sorry, but I don't know what you saw.

However I have received other letters about unusual happenings on the Imperial Valley desert this winter.

I have driven along the Carriso Corridor many times. It is a beautiful area.

I assume that at least some of the UFO's people see are real. There seems to be no reason why a small UFO could not go along a road, and then mount to the sky.

Has anyone else seen this vehicle? Or anything resembling it? If so, please write and tell me about it. Thank you.

'Sighting' reported at Beach

By FREDERICK TALBOTT
Ledger-Star Staff Writer

VIRGINIA BEACH — Two families have reported seeing mysterious lights above the trees about 1 a.m. Wednesday in the 2900 block of North Lynnhaven Road.

The sightings are the latest in a series of reports of similar lighted "unidentified flying objects" throughout Tidewater during the past month.

The lights reportedly appeared soon after a series of explosions were heard in the area.

Fire, police and Vepco spokesmen said a tree limb fell on a 34,500-volt power line about the time of the loud noises, but none could explain a sustained series of lights sighted overhead afterwards.

Dawn Coffee and her parents, Mary and John LaMaitre, were awakened at their home at 2908 Cessna Drive about 1 a.m. Wednesday by "booming noises and very bright lights."

"I was in my bedroom, and the room just lit up, first white then blue," said Ms. Coffee, 29. "The light was incredibly bright, and there were two or three booming noises."

"I went to the back door, and it was incredible," she said. "There was what seemed to be a big disc of some sort at treetop level."

"An amber glow was everywhere, and there were blue, red and what seemed like pink lights going around the bottom, sort of in a circular fashion. That's when I called my parents."

Mrs. LaMaitre echoed her daughter's description.

"It was like giant flashlights of varied colors, and they seemed to be going around something we couldn't clearly see," she said.

Ms. Coffee and Mrs. LaMaitre said they watched the lights for several minutes then noticed two police cars and a fire engine arrive on nearby Lynnhaven Road.

"They are bound to have seen what we saw," Ms. Coffee said.

"The lights eventually faded, and then we saw whatever it was off in the distance. There seemed to be two red lights, intermingling and crossing each other."

James Pearce, 16, said he was watching television in his home on Crisfield Road when "this big white then blue light completely lit up my bedroom."

"I looked across the street, and there were blue, red and other colored lights, like little balls up in the air," he said. "They were moving all around up there, and the whole sky seemed an orange color. I was scared half to death."

A fire truck from Station 3 responded to the scene. There they found a large limb had fallen on a major power line blowing fuses in a nearby transformer.

However, personnel at Station 3 were forbidden from discussing the matter with the press. One fireman who answered the station's telephone said, "You have to call our district captain on this one."

When asked why, the fireman said, "We've heard talk of lights and other things over there, and all we know is we're supposed to refer you to the district."

Third Police Precinct Officer R. J. Zeltman confirmed the report of the fallen tree limb.

"I saw a large flash all the way from the Plaza area, and when I arrived, there was a branch up there on fire, Zeltman said. "I called the fire department and then waited there for them." When asked if he saw anything unusual nearby, perhaps above the power line, Zeltman said, "Uh, my job was to keep an eye on the limb, and that's all I looked at."

Vepco Operations Supervisor J. W. Wilson said a repairman was dispatched to the scene at 1:30 a.m. and completed repairs by 2:30 a.m. Fifty customers were without electricity during that time.

"When the fuses go off they sound like a shotgun," Wilson said. "And sometimes there's a bright flash."

"But there is no sustained light," Wilson said.

When asked about the reports of multi-colored lights overhead for several minutes, Wilson said, "That could not have come from our equipment. Our equipment just doesn't react that way, ever."

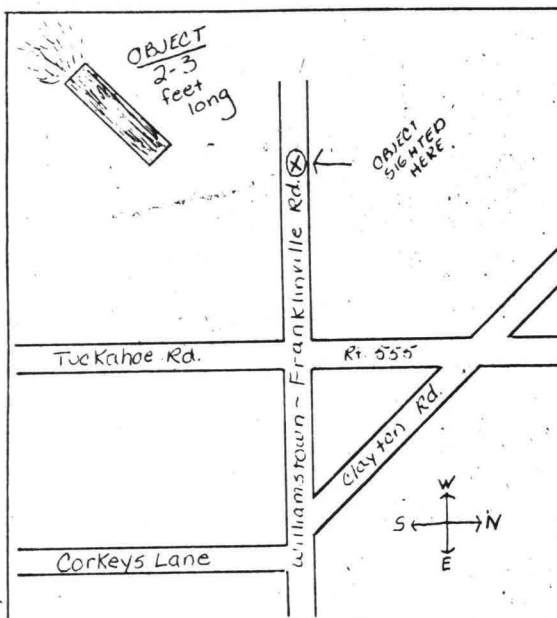
One fire official said the amber glow could have been caused by road flares and the lights could have been the result of flashlights. Atmospheric conditions could have also come into play, he said.

A Federal Aviation Administration official said he had no report of any unusual lights or aircraft in the area.

But if it was the unmentionable, an unidentified object, it couldn't have picked a better neighborhood. Within four blocks are streets bearing the names Saturn, Jupiter, Venus and Mars.

CR: F. Whiting

Local Man Sees Flying Object



Harry Kochman, a local manufacturer and resident of Franklin Twp., witnessed a strange flying object in the sky here last Wednesday night (Jan. 9th) at 5:45 p.m.

Kochman told The Plain Dealer that he was driving home over the Williamstown-Franklinville Rd. when he saw a bright, greenish-blue glow in the sky.

"At first I thought it was an airplane, but then upon further investigation it appeared to be two or three feet long, flying quite low toward Atlantic City, it had what appeared to be white sparks shooting from its tail . . . I saw a couple of airplanes flying in the area and it appeared to have no relationship to any normal aircraft," Kochman said.

The unidentified flying object (UFO) was also seen by a banker in the Marlton area who told The Philadelphia Inquirer that he saw a bright or brilliant flash of green light in the sky at 5:45 p.m. on Jan. 9th.

Pilots flying along the New Jersey coast reportedly saw what they described as the re-entry of a satellite that "seemed to plunge to the ground between Atlantic City and Pomona."

At about the same time, two airplane pilots reported a similar sighting to the New York office of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Both pilots reported seeing a "comet-like" streak in the sky west of Atlantic City near Pomona, N.J. about 40 miles from Marlton.

According to The Inquirer checks with various government agencies, including the FAA, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the North American Air Defense Command (NORAD), shed little light on the cause of the brilliant flash in the sky.

"All we have is the reports from the two pilots," said a spokesman for the FAA office in New York.

"We've checked our records, and there wasn't anything spotted on our radar at that time."

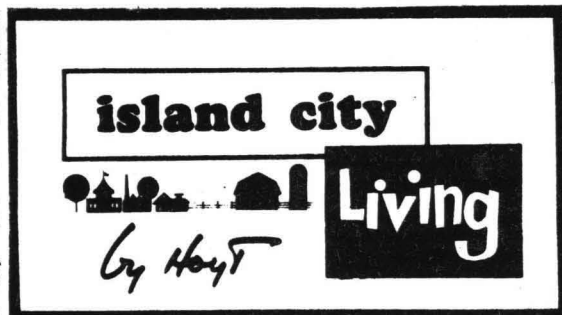
NASA officials in Washington said they had no reports, and they discounted speculation that some debris from an old space flight might have been returning to earth.

At NORAD in Colorado Springs, Colo., where government radar tracking for air defense is coordinated, a spokesman said that checks with radar operated by the defense center indicated that "no man-made object entered the area at that time."

The pilots who reported the sighting, one operating an Eastern Airlines flight and the other a private Learjet, could not be reached for comment.

"They might have seen a flash in the sky or something," said Maj. Robert Tracy of NORAD. "We can't explain it."

ADVOCATE, Cumberland, WI - Jan. 23, 1980 CR: R. Heiden



How do you feel about UFO's? Do you believe . . . even just remotely . . . that such strange and incredible phenomena could actually exist? It seems weird indeed, to even ask such a question . . . but what is your honest answer?

I have always openly doubted their authenticity, but still, somewhere way down deep in my heart . . . or head . . . I guess I must have reserved some very minute willingness to accept and believe some of the reports that have been published if I could have had some personal relationship to one of the episodes.

Considering the fantastic wonders of such everyday miracles as the precise clockwork of sunrise, daylight, sunset, and the darkness of night . . . and the unbelievable combination of our planet tilting back and forth and revolving on its axis as it travels around the sun to produce the unending pattern of seasons . . . and the fact that humans can laugh, love, cry, hate, and see and hear and talk . . . and, well, certainly anything is possible!

What I'm really getting at is a strange and perhaps absurd story that happened in our family . . . particularly to our son Tom (TJ) . . . last Saturday evening. If you promise not to laugh, I'll tell it to you!

Tom left the house about 8:00 on Saturday night to drive into town to meet his friends. Marcia was upstairs in the kitchen and I was sitting downstairs, reading the newspaper.

Approximately a half hour later, Tom came bounding down the outside stairs that lead to the deck around our house, burst through the back door, and began stammering about an experience that had almost caused tears and sobs . . . and he's a 20-year-old young man!

I rushed upstairs because I could hear the desperation in his voice and while his story startled us, it was his extreme fear and obvious physical disturbance that amazed me the most. What he really saw is difficult to explain . . . but certainly there was no doubt that he believed what he thought he saw!

As Tom approached the intersection of County 'H' and Highway 63, he reported that he saw two red lights, about the size and brightness of those normally seen on radio towers. Because they were in such a strange location, and because he had never seen any at that spot before, he became inquisitive and instead of turning on Highway 63, he proceeded east on County 'B'. The lights seemed to react in strange ways, and appeared to remain in one spot. Tom kept losing them, then sighting them, and finally lost them completely. As he was turning around, his car radio became extremely "staticky", his headlights became very, very dim, and almost went completely off, and the engine began to sputter and chug.

For some reason, Tom became frightened and immediately headed for home, discarding his plan to go downtown. Nursing his chugging car west on County 'H', as he approached our home, all of a sudden, as Tom describes it, "A huge yellow ball, round like a basketball, but almost as big as a house . . . really!" flashed down through the sky in front of him. It seemed to come from above his car, and had orange flames streaking from the back of it.

As Tom pulled into our driveway, his car stalled, he jumped out and set a new world record for running up our hill. That's when he bounded down the steps . . . really sincerely afraid . . . and almost unable to explain the strange experience.

What did he really see? I don't know . . . do you? He may have been mistaken . . . but I know he was sincere!

Sunday morning, Tom called both the Barron and Polk County Sheriff's office to ask if anyone had reported a similar experience or "sighting". Their simple answer was, "No, no such report."

Incidentally, when Tom and I went out to check on his car, it ran so smooth that it purred like a kitten . . . but he has had trouble starting it a couple of times since that night.

The whole thing sounds dumb . . . but that's what happened!

UFOs in Village?

Elm Grove Police Department received two calls of sightings of unidentified flying objects last week.

The first call came at 5:45 a.m. Wednesday from a resident on San Fernando Drive. She told police she saw a bright yellowish, orange-white object flashing and sparking in the western sky. She called back a few minutes later to tell police that it had landed across from her home. Police arrived at the scene but could not find anything.

Police received a second call from a resident on Blue-mound Road, who reported seeing a large reddish glow in her window at about 10:30 p.m. Tuesday night. She told police it vanished after a few minutes.

CR: R. Heiden

What's Up?

'We Really Aren't Alone,' Say Several Who Have Reported UFO Sightings

By RANDI HENDERSON
The Baltimore Sun

Baltimore — Since man first turned his gaze heavenward, he has been seeing strange and unexplained things in the skies.

Consider these items of recent interest:

- Early in December, the crew and passengers of a Spanish Air Force jet watched as four fiery balls followed the plane through the sky. There were no other aircraft in the area and no explanation has been offered.

- In August a Minnesota deputy sheriff's car was hit by a brilliantly lighted object, bending the antennae, shattering the windshield and leaving the man unconscious. Both his wristwatch and the electric clock in the car stopped for 14 minutes. Checks of aircraft in the area all were negative.

- Last January a TV documentary cameraman filmed moving reddish-white orbs from a plane 13,000 feet above the New Zealand coastline. Government explanations that the streaking object was Venus were dismissed; Venus had not yet risen when the films were made.

Even before 20th Century technology populated the air with thousands of explainable craft, people had seen lights and objects, often presumed to be vehicles, above.

The writings of the biblical prophet Ezekiel are a good place to start with the recorded history of unidentified flying objects.

"The heavens opened and I saw divine visions," he wrote. "... As I looked a stormwind came from the North, a huge cloud with flashing fire from the midst of which something gleamed like electrum.

"Within it were figures resembling four living creatures that looked like this: Their form was human but each had four faces and four wings and their legs went straight down; the soles of their feet were round. They sparkled with a gleam like burnished bronze.

"... In among the living creatures something like burning coals of fire could be seen; they seemed like torches, moving to and fro among the living creatures. The fire gleamed and from it came forth flashes of lightning."

In ancient Rome, people spoke of "flying shields" in the skies. Sixteenth Century drawings show crowds of people in the streets pointing at dark disc-like objects up above.

In the 19th Century in this country there were numerous incidents of people who said they saw "airships" in the sky, vehicles sometimes populated with human-like personages. (In one case, in Aurora, Texas, in April 1897, an airship is supposed to have crashed and its pilot, identified as "not an inhabitant of this world," died and been buried. Twentieth Century research has revealed no proof of this event.)

The modern history of unidentified flying objects began in June 1947 when Kenneth Arnold, a private pilot flying in Oregon, saw nine strange discs that he described as saucers skipping on water. With this sighting, which received nationwide publicity through the years, the phrase "flying saucer" was born.

Flying saucers and other visions were considered serious enough by the U.S. government in those paranoid postwar years to merit investigation. Project Sign, Project Grudge and Operation Blue Book all were intelligence operations conducted by the Air Force between 1948 and 1969 to study the phenomenon of UFOs.

According to Dr. J. Allen Hynek, recently retired as chairman of the astronomy department at Northwestern University and technical consultant to the Air Force through the duration of Operation Blue Book, the military was interested in two things about UFOs: Are they a threat to U.S. security and do they represent extraterrestrial visitation?

The Air Force's answer to both of these questions was a resounding no. In the late Sixties the government spent more than \$500,000 on what was supposed to be a definitive study providing a definitive answer on UFOs. Under the direction of the late Edward U. Condon at the University of Colorado at Boulder, a report was issued in January, 1969.

"... Careful consideration of the record as it is available to us leads us to conclude that further extensive study of UFOs probably cannot be justified in the expectation that science will be advanced thereby," the Condon report concluded. And the Air Force, glad to be off the hook, some observers said, terminated Operation Blue Book later that year.

But the subject hardly was laid to rest. How could it be when sightings continued unabated, when credible witnesses told stories of whirling saucers and illuminated discs, when law enforcement agencies often corroborated the accounts? Even Operation Blue Book, which Dr. Hynek says frequently hastily identified an unidentified object, was left with 5 percent unexplained cases among the 12,134 it studied.

Gary Oickle, 24; his brother David, 22; Barry Smith, 22, and Ken Cabot, 25, were driving through the Ilchester region of Patapsco State Park in Howard County, Md. It was about 11 p.m. March 22, 1978, a clear, brisk weekday night, and the four friends, who work together in a rock band, were just driving around. They hadn't been drinking or taking any drugs, they said.

They drove through the railroad tunnel beneath a ridge, and saw a little fire still burning. They got out of the car and stood around the fire, warming their hands in the 49-degree night, talking.

Interviewed recently, the young men clearly remembered the details of what they saw that evening, almost two years ago.

Barry and David walked about 50 feet away from the fire. Here is David's account of what he saw next: "I saw this thing rise slowly above a far-away mountain. It was about 300 feet away and had a pulsating, vibrating red light on it."

"It twinkled like a star," Barry added. "It came up and slowly went behind another mountain."

"Barry and I looked at each other," David said. "What could that have been? What does man have that looks like that? We were thinking. But if we hadn't seen what we were to see next, we would have put it out of our minds."

They walked back over to the other two at the fire and mentioned what they had seen. "And then," David said, "above our heads, all of a sudden, comes this big triangle."

They estimated that the triangular object was about 150 feet long on one side and 75 to 100 feet on the other sides. There was a red light on the top and white lights at the points. The triangle's color, difficult to ascertain because of the darkness, was a dull silver.

"It was right there," Gary said emphatically. "There was no doubt about it. We were looking at it. It looked sort of like a wedge of cheese with curved sides."

The object moved very slowly, all four witnesses said, less than 35 miles an hour. At one point it almost stopped and seemed to hover. The path it followed skimmed the treetops along the ridge.

The noise it made was a quiet rustle. "It sounded like a waterfall from a distance," Barry said.

The object did not give off any exterior light but "it had big picture windows," Gary described, "and lights were shining from inside. I could see a shadow of a figure inside and had the impression of a person with earphones."

None of the four was frightened, although David said, "I was waiting for that big beam of light to come out and zap us. Its path made it obvious that it was looking at us; it veered out from the tree line."

"It wasn't frightening," Gary said. "We were overjoyed. We started yelling at it, hoping that it would land."

But the huge triangular object, still skirting the tree line and still moving slowly, gradually passed over the horizon and out of sight.

Though none of the four young men ever had seen anything like this before, the Oickle brothers, who live in Glen Burnie, Md., had been interested in UFOs before the sighting. This previous interest was enough to make the incident suspect to Joe Graziano, a local field investigator

from Aerial Phenomena Research Organization Inc. (APRO) who interviewed them shortly after they saw the UFO.

Graziano, who has never seen a UFO himself but says he has "talked to enough reliable witnesses to believe there's something there," came to the conclusion that there was nothing fabricated in the story.

"They all appear to be intelligent, honest individuals seeking an answer to whatever it was they had seen," he wrote in his report. "No major discrepancies appeared in their testimony, yet the story was not smooth enough to have been rehearsed."

Within and on the fringes of the scientific community rages a fierce controversy about unidentified flying objects. This is no high-minded scientific difference of opinion. Start to talk to people about UFOs and you'll find yourself confronted with name-calling and reputation-slashing and all kinds of mud-slinging of the lowest order.

UFO scholars range from total debunkers to complete believers in extraterrestrial visitors on Earth. Phillip J. Klass, senior avionics editor for *Aviation Week and Space Technology* magazine and author of *UFOs Explained* and *UFOs — Identified*, is one of the debunkers.

"UFOs enable people who are nobodies to become famous celebrities," he said in an interview in his Washington apartment. "Let some disreputable character in Pascagoula, Miss., who was fired from his job concoct a story about abduction and he becomes overnight an international celebrity."

"It's terribly difficult to concoct a story about a UFO," he added sarcastically. "All you have to do is go out and buy a paperback book about UFOs and tell something similar, but change it enough so that you've got a new story."

Whatever truth there is in Klass's dismal evaluation of human character, it is true that there are reams of written material about UFOs on the market. Many, like Klass's books, offer explanations for things that have been perceived as UFOs. And, indeed, there are few ufologists (as serious students of the phenomena often are called) who deny that a large majority of sightings can be explained.

Many are normal astronomical phenomena: The planet Venus, shining brightly in the early morning sky, frequently is mistaken for a UFO. Others may be explained as weather balloons or messenger planes or even as psychological aberrations on the part of the viewer.

But there are many more pages of type devoted to still unexplained visions and visitations. From the late George Adamski, who claimed in the 1950s to have met and traveled with Venusians visiting Earth, to the Pascagoula shipyard workers, who, in 1973, said they had been abducted by three unearthly creatures and examined on board a space ship, the tales of these encounters are legion. From the stories of cattle mutilations in the West to the appearance of mysterious men in black at the scene of UFO sightings, men who seem to know a lot more about what has happened than any human should, the bizarre ramifications abound.

Dozens of investigative organizations have sprung up worldwide in the last three decades to study UFOs. Bookstores and libraries have shelves full of UFO literature, from skeptical surveys like Klass's to purported first-hand accounts of encounters with space beings such as *Flying Saucers Have Landed*, by Desmond Leslie and George Adamski.

Even the files of a serious daily newspaper like the *Baltimore Sun* are filled with reports of UFO sightings, both local and around the world. Often these are short articles that have been buried on inside pages, and it is only when looking at the compendium of clippings that their volume becomes impressive.

It was this kind of volume of UFO reports that helped convince Bruce Maccabee, an optical physicist for the Naval Surface Weapons Laboratory, that the subject merited attention.

"The explanations I was hearing didn't convince me," said Dr. Maccabee, who also is a consultant for the Center for UFO Studies, an organization formed

by Dr. Hynek in 1973, a few years after his work with Operation Blue Book was ended. "I thought you could trust people more than the debunkers said you could. And in certain cases the supposed explanations just didn't fit the physical facts."

Dr. Hynek himself has undergone a transformation through the years in his perception of UFOs. "In 1948 I thought UFOs were sheer nonsense," he said. "It was simply a popular fad that would dry up and blow away."

It has been the "mounting mass of evidence and caliber of witnesses" that has changed his mind, he said. "For years I was a weakening skeptic. No one can accuse me of believing in little green men."

To Madeleine Rodeffer, a Silver Spring (Md.) resident, UFOs are a reality. She has no doubt that extraterrestrial life visits Earth regularly and that hundreds of unidentified objects in the skies are sightseeing spacecraft. "All it takes to realize there's something coming from the sky is good common horse sense," she declares in her blunt way.

She first became interested in the phenomenon in 1963 when she read *Flying Saucers From Mars*, a Britisher's account of an alleged 1954 meeting with visitors from the red planet. "I was very intrigued," she remembers. "I couldn't understand why the press had ignored this."

What especially whetted her interest was a mention of George Adamski, and she read his book and then contacted him at his Mount Palomar (Calif.) home. She met him when she arranged for him to lecture in the Washington area. They became friends.

In February, 1965, Adamski again was visiting the Washington area, this time for a press conference to show films he said he had taken of spacecraft in the sky in Massachusetts, Wisconsin and California. He maintained a telepathic communication with his extraterrestrial friends, he said, and they had advised him that they might be making an appearance at the Rodeffer home. So a loaded movie camera was kept ready.

It was about 3:30 in the cloudy afternoon on February 26, 1965, Adamski and Mrs. Rodeffer were sitting at her dining room table, talking. He had a cold, she remembers, and she had a broken leg in a walking cast she could hobble around in.

"He saw something out the window coming toward us and going back and forth," she said. "We were so excited and happy."

Adamski grabbed the movie camera and started filming, first through the window and then from the front porch. The craft, Mrs. Rodeffer said, "flipped back and forth across the tops of the trees, came in closer and hovered 100 feet above the ground."

And she is more than willing to show the movie, even to skeptics. There is the craft, a dome atop a saucer, looking remarkably similar to photographs that had appeared in the Adamski book more than a decade earlier. "It's evident that they don't change their models all that quickly," Mrs. Rodeffer said.

The object swoops and soars, and then darts in closer. The spherical "landing gear" in the bottom are moving in and out, retracting and protruding. Barely visible in this print of the film are portholes along the rim of the body of the object; they were much clearer in the original film, Mrs. Rodeffer said.

Mrs. Rodeffer has only several seconds of film of the object in her yard. It stayed around for about 10 minutes, she said, but when the film was processed, "they" stole or destroyed most of it. Who are "they"? "Why the phone tappers, of course," Mrs. Rodeffer answered readily.

There is no immediately evident fraud in Madeleine Rodeffer's film. There are no guy wires suspending a model, no obvious discrepancies in perspective. William Sherwood, a project engineer in the optical engineering department of Eastman-Kodak Company, in Rochester, N.Y., did some analysis of the film and doesn't think it's a fraud.

"It could be a fakery," he said, "but I don't know how they could do it. We looked at the film here under microscopes and never found any hint that it was fabricated."

Sherwood also had been a devotee of Adamski, although he says now that he is skeptical about the extraterrestrial contacts Adamski claimed. But he was not the only Kodak official to examine the film and he said that though the opinion was not unanimous, there was a strong consensus that it was not faked.

Bruce Maccabee is more doubtful about the Rodeffer film. "It's tough enough for scientists to believe there's anything new going on out there, much less something like this," he said.

(continued on page 9)

(continued from page 8 -
STAR, Indianapolis, IN -
Jan. 27, 1980)

If, indeed, UFOs are extraterrestrial spacecraft — a big if to get past, but let us speculate — there are several questions that immediately come to mind. How did they get here? What do they want?

The idea of life in the universe elsewhere than on Earth is increasingly palatable to many scientists, but they argue that interstellar tourism is unfeasible because of the huge distances involved.

"The distances, the time, the amount of energy involved going from one stellar system to another are so great," said Dan Zirpoli, director of the planetarium at the Maryland Science Center, "that if you made the journey you wouldn't go frighten some man in an Iowa cornfield and then go away. A UFO that made the effort to come here would have a purpose. If you apply some logic to it, it makes no sense."

Imagine, however, what someone from just a century or even a generation ago would think of modern technological advances. Would not our grandparents have scoffed at the idea of men on the moon and pictures of Mars in much the same way that we scoff at the idea of space visitors? If we consider how fast science has moved forward in such a short time, how can we rule out possible accomplishments of a civilization somewhat advanced of our own?

"There are many things we don't understand," said John Lutz, founder of Odyssey Scientific Research Association, a Baltimore group which investigates UFO sightings. "If we tried to make the theories fit the UFOs instead of making the UFOs fit the theories, we'd be better off."

In the 10 years he has directed Odyssey Lutz has heard about some strange things. He usually gets his reports from people who have called the police or military or airport about sightings. Odyssey has an unlisted telephone number and this has proved an effective measure to screen out crackpots and cranks. (The mailing address for Odyssey is P.O. Box 11282, Baltimore, Md. 21239.)

In 1978 Odyssey investigated 83 UFO calls. Of these, 45 per cent were positively identified as "either helicopters, conventional aircraft flares, weather balloons, kites, Christmas lights, meteors or meteorites, stars, planets, search lights,

clouds and natural weather phenomenon." Another 19 per cent are nocturnal lights: "high altitude nighttime lights that move at a steady pace with no erratic movements. Most nocturnal lights are transcontinental military jet aircraft flights and satellites." The remaining 36 per cent are unidentified.

One of Odyssey's most interesting unexplained cases happened this fall in northern Harford County, Md. A woman, who has refused to be interviewed by the *Baltimore Sun*, was getting into her car in the early morning hours when she saw a mushroom-shaped object hovering over a nearby pasture. It had a red top and a white bottom, and she saw it for at least three minutes. Both her watch and her car clock stopped for a short period of time, a phenomenon often connected with UFO sightings. And she had a 10- or 15-minute period of time that she later could not account for.

Another case Lutz investigated concerned two strange occurrences several years ago in Pikesville, Md. In February, 1975, a dull white triangular shaped light was seen by a number of people. It made an "odd humming noise" and when a State Police helicopter arrived to check it out, the witnesses saw it accelerate rapidly and disappear into the clouds. Though the police did not see it, radar control at Baltimore-Washington International Airport saw a blip on their screen that suddenly was gone.

Charles Kenyon, a heavy equipment operator who lives near New Windsor in a rural area of Frederick County, Md., has always been frightened of thunderstorms. He feels safest in a car or truck, driving around. So on a stormy night in August, 1971, coming back from a carnival with his wife, four of his six children and a niece, when the skies seemed to open up, he kept driving around in his pickup truck instead of going home.

They were on Route 31, headed for New Windsor, Md., when his wife, Eleanor, said, "Hey, look at that plane." They pulled up on the crest of a hill and saw what looked a little like the lights of a plane get brighter and brighter as it got closer. All the children, three of whom are teen-agers, could see it too, through the windows of the pickup's cab.

Kenyon got out of the truck to get a better look at what he described as shaped like "an old-time wash basin." He wasn't frightened, he says in retrospect. "Why should I be scared? If they was smart enough to devise a machine like

that, why should I bother to hide?"

What he saw was a series of lights outlining a distinct oblong shape. He estimated it was about a half a mile up and guessed that it was about 10 feet by 8 feet. On top was a revolving amber light. Underneath were multi-colored lights "so bright that they shimmered." For a split second he heard a whooshing sound, "like when you switch on a vacuum cleaner."

Kenyon saw the UFO top a hill and drop out of sight. He ran back to his truck and drove to nearby Fitzhugh Hill, less than two minutes away, to get a better view. But though the hill offers an unobstructed view of the area for miles and miles, the lights were gone.

The Kenyons drove to the state police barracks in Westminster, and a policeman drove back to the location of the sighting with them. Nothing more was seen. The police verified that no helicopters or planes had been in the area. "I know planes don't fly in storms like that," Kenyon said.

In the weeks and months after they saw the UFO, the Kenyon family made it a point to visit airports in the area, looking for what might have been the object they saw. "But we never saw a plane or anything else with lights anything like what we saw," Kenyon said.

The incident remains clear in the mind of all who saw the object. "But we stopped talking about it," Mrs. Kenyon said. "People looked at us like we were wacko."

There are many ufologists who contend that the government didn't stop investigating UFOs with the termination of Operation Blue Book. "It would be terribly stupid of the government if they were not investigating UFOs," said Dr. Hynek.

Documents recovered by way of the Freedom of Information Act have revealed conflicting testimony and activity by the military and other government agencies, particularly the Central Intelligence Agency. One civilian UFO group, Ground Saucer Watch Inc., has sued the CIA to release UFO-related material, and another, Citizens Against UFO Secrecy, which publishes a newsletter called *Just Causes*, exists solely to investigate government coverup.

The CIA denies any present involvement in UFO investigation. According to Cathy Therson, a press officer for the agency, "There is no organized agency effort to do any research on UFOs," although she conceded the possi-

bility of "a monitoring of some reports when there is a side interest in possible weapons system."

The most intriguing UFO coverup story concerns the dozen humanoids alleged to be in cold storage at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, the center for the defunct Operation Blue Book. The story pops up repeatedly in UFO literature; often the details are changed but the substance is that a body or bodies were recovered from a UFO crash in 1953 in Arizona and that the Air Force has been keeping the evidence frozen ever since in a hangar at the base.

Lt. Col. Leonard Kacher, public affairs officer at Wright-Patterson, laughingly and categorically denies the story. "There is no truth to such reports," he said. "The Air Force has never recovered alien beings or crashed space ships. There are not now or never have been any."

Whether or not the government is covering up UFO investigations, there are strong sentiments among some ufologists that the clout and respectability of the government ought to be put behind UFO research. "We need to study this phenomenon," Dr. Hynek said. "We need to find out what's behind it."

The private UFO-investigating organizations are "well-meaning," Dr. Hynek said but they have difficulty doing a professional job "because of the tremendous barrage of ridicule" they face.

The organizations, which are staffed primarily by volunteers, also are underfunded. It can cost from \$5,000 to \$10,000 to investigate a UFO sighting thoroughly, Dr. Hynek said, and the Center for UFO Studies now has more than 75,000 reports from 133 countries in its computer data banks.

The center is about to embark on a national fund-raising effort, as is a Washington-based group headed by Dr. Maccabee. His project, the Fund for UFO Research (Box 277, Mount Ranier, Md. 20822), is trying to raise enough money so grants can be awarded to private individuals to do UFO research.

A more detailed investigation might bring now hidden facts into the public eye, Dr. Hynek said.

"I'm quite convinced that we are looking at just the tip of the iceberg with UFOs," the astronomer explained. "People do not understand the scope of this thing. And because they do not understand, we are faced with a legion of the bewildered silent. People need courage to come out and say, 'Yeah, damn it, I did see something that I couldn't explain.'"

LEDGER-STAR, Norfolk, VA - Jan. ?, 1980 CR: F. Whiting

UFO-like lights, sounds stir Chesapeake

By JOHN SHERWOOD
Ledger-Star Staff Writer

CHESAPEAKE — Dempsey Miller was driving south on Battlefield Boulevard toward his grandmother's house when he saw it in the sky.

It hovered above him about treetop high, he said. It was large and round and saucer-shaped.

"It came out of nowhere," Miller said of the Jan. 10 incident. "It didn't look like no airplane and it stopped right over top of me. I stopped the car dead. . . It was roaring loud. It scared me to death."

Whatever it was there in the sky above southern Chesapeake near Great Bridge, Miller was not the only one who claims to have seen and heard it.

More than a dozen people say they saw a bright light or heard a loud noise near the intersection of Battlefield Boulevard South and Hillwell Road about the same time Miller reported seeing the strange object in the sky.

And residents along Land of Promise Road say they saw a bright, white light hovering in the sky four days earlier.

They described the object as four or five times larger than a star. When they inspected it with binoculars, they said they could discern small pinpricks of colored lights.

Miller claims the celestial object he saw followed him a short distance to his grandmother's house and back to

his own home, then moved off along Hillwell Road, heading east.

He said a circle of bright, off-white lights on the bottom of the object were too blinding to see any detail. He said there were red, green and blue lights in a circle around the edge, and described the color of the objects as gray or silver.

"It was large enough for a station wagon to go up inside," he said. "I thought it was going to pick my car up."

"I've never seen him get so scared," said his mother, Marguerite Miller, whose daughter, Cindy, was the U.S. winner in the Miss World beauty contest in 1977.

Residents along Hillwell and Battlefield heard a loud noise about 7 p.m. the same night.

Dixie and Wally Peterson of the 1300 block of Hillwell were in the house with a friend, Marlow Hanson when they heard what they thought was a low-flying jet.

"It sounded like a jet," Dixie said, "but it was louder than a normal jet and it sounded like it was going to crash into the house."

Several other residents along Hillwell heard what they thought was a low flying jet. . . too low, they said, and too loud.

Eddie Gray, owner of Gray and Curtings Equipment Co., was working late when he heard what he said sounded

"like an airplane coming in the front door."

There were jets flying that night out of Fentress Airfield, about the time Miller saw the object and the residents heard the noise.

Navy Lt. Paul Hederstrom was in an A-6 Intruder about 7 p.m., practicing "touch and go" landings and takeoffs at Fentress. He said he saw nothing unusual near Battlefield Boulevard and Hillwell Road.

The Federal Aviation Administration reported no unusual sightings on radar that night, and neither did the radar watch at Fentress airfield.

A spokesman for the National UFO Reporting Center in Washington collected the information but added that no reports had been made on other sightings in the area.

The same held true for the Center for UFO Studies in Evanston, Ill.

The only official source confirming any sighting was made by police about 7 p.m., Jan. 6.

Officer B.F. Kornegay Jr. was sent by dispatcher to investigate a UFO sighting in the neighborhood of Land of Promise Road.

The Barnes family of the 1000 block of Land of Promise Road had told police of a large, bright object off to the southwest of their home.

Elizabeth Barnes had also notified her neighbor Robin Redden, a registered nurse.

Both Mrs. Barnes and Mrs. Redden

and several members of their families said they saw the bright object hover in the southwest sky. With binoculars, they said, they thought they could see reddish lights.

Mrs. Redden thought the colored pinpricks of light might have been from the binoculars. Mrs. Barnes saw a reddish tinge when the object seemed to lose some brightness.

Officer Kornegay did not see the object when he arrived in the area, but did see what he described as "a large white light, larger than stars, moving off at an angle south" as he drove southward on Centerville Turnpike.

And Mrs. Annie Lamm, who is 80 and lives along Battlefield Boulevard near where Miller stopped his car, said something happened.

She told her sister-in-law, Mrs. Jessie Warren, that she heard a very loud noise, the dishes shook, the television went awry and a bright light shone in her living room.

Virginia Beach has also had some strange occurrences recently.

Residents of the Princess Anne Plaza area described flashes of light, loud explosions and blue balls of light during the last week of December.

Several residents of Forest Glen Road described the explosions as louder than fireworks, and one resident said the blue light that passed through the neighborhood was larger than a basketball.

Little green thumbs?

Giant vegetables are real, but farmer's story is hard to swallow

San Diego, Calif. — UPI — Every now and then Bill Robinson takes the 10-pound onion out of his freezer and contemplates it.

Behind the gargantuan vegetable lies the strange tale, difficult to believe, of the wonder farmers from outer space.

Even if the explanation is nonsense, there is no denying the reality of the onion, or the photographs Robinson has of cabbages 3 feet wide and collard greens up to 5 feet long.

Robinson is the information officer for the San Diego Police Department. Local reporters generally give him high marks for credibility.

It was while vacationing in Irapuato, Mexico, Robinson said, that he discovered farmer Jose Carmen Garcia, according to a copyright report in San Diego Home and Garden magazine.

Garcia's produce is the wonder of the marketplace in Valle de Santiago, a village 260 miles northwest of Mexico City near Irapuato, he said. Townspeople gather to marvel at his 8-pound onions, cabbages weighing from 44 to 60 pounds and collard greens as big as palm fronds. Housewives swear they are as tender and tasty as normal sized vegetables.

Yet, Garcia, 50, plows his 3-acre plot behind a mule or horse, just like his neighbors, buys the same seed at the village general store, and does not use fertilizer.

A local photographer, Oscar Arredondo, intrigued by a radish the size of a softball, asked Garcia his secret.

Garcia told him that in 1947, as a youth of 17 struggling to make ends meet on the farm inherited from his

father, he met a stranger, who looked and talked like a Mexican peasant.

The stranger said he had been held captive by tall, fair humanoids in a tunnel beneath a nearby volcano. His captors spoke unintelligible gibberish, he said, and lived on outsize vegetables.

He said he had memorized their magic formula, which he sketched on a scrap of paper. He told Garcia to concentrate on the symbols and that after a period of time, the "message" would become clear, then walked away.

Challenged to growoff

After several sleepless nights, Garcia got the revelation — whatever it was — planted the seeds and has produced gigantic vegetables ever since.

Arredondo wrote about Garcia in the Irapuato newspaper, El Alacran, and a Mexico City magazine, Impacto.

An imaginative Agriculture Ministry official took up Garcia's challenge to prove his crop-growing prowess in a growoff against any farmer on neutral soil.

The ministry laid out two 20-acre plots near Camp de Tangasneque in Tampico

State in December, 1978. The competing tract was farmed by a team of ministry experts and local farmers handpicked from a nearby cooperative, using fertilizers.

No samples kept

At harvest time, the results were tallied. Garcia still has the tote sheets, he said, showing the ministry team averaged 30 tons of produce per acre, compared with his 106 tons.

A ministry official thanked Garcia for his time and told him he could sell the produce, disappointing Garcia, who had expected to be summoned to Mexico City to reveal the formula to the government, which did not even keep samples.

"Why isn't the world interested?" Arredondo asked Robinson in the chance sidewalk cafe encounter in Irapuato that put Robinson on Garcia's trail.

Robinson and Arredondo went to the farm north of town where Garcia presented Robinson with the monumental onion. Why didn't the government experts give him recognition?

"Perhaps," he replied, "they took it personally."



FOREIGN NEWS

ADVERTISER, Geelong, Victoria, Australia

Nov. 24, 1979 CR: P. Norman

Group sees rings

The Victorian UFO Research Society is investigating circles found in grass on a farm at Eurack.

Two members of the society yesterday went to the farm to examine the circles and take samples for testing.

Their interest was aroused after publication of a photograph of one of the circles in the Geelong Advertiser on Thursday.

The society's vice-president, Mr. Paul Norman, said the bands of affected grass, measuring 35 cm and almost perfectly circular, were the same width as in a similar circle found at Lelchville, between Cohuna and Gunbower, in northern Victoria, in 1977.

Only 20 km from that grass circle was another, the same size, on an unmade road.

Mr. Norman said another similar circle was found at Creswick, near Ballarat, on Christmas Day, 1977.

Such circles, he said, could be caused by fungus, but these were normally rather ragged in appearance.

Mr. Norman was accompanied yesterday by Mr. Pat Gildea, a member of the UFO research society, who had a geiger counter and instruments for checking magnetism.

They were shown the rings by the

owner of the farm, Mr. Bill Payne, who had mowed the paddock for hay on Thursday.

Mr. Norman said the rings were still plainly visible, but tests with a geiger counter showed nothing. However, further tests will be made on samples taken from the paddock.

Mr. Norman said the society was assisted in its investigations by scientists using a technique for testing what is known as thermoluminescence.

This term refers to the ability of minerals present on soils and rocks to emit visible light when heated. The technique enables scientists to detect whether an area has been subjected to any ionising radiation.

Mr. Norman said tests of a circle found at Tully, in Queensland, had shown a level of radiation slightly above that of the surrounding countryside.

However, testing of a circle near Mildura from which an object had reportedly been seen rising failed to show any sign of radiation.

The result of tests being carried out in Geelong on samples taken from the circles at Eurack is not expected to be known until next week.

NEWS, Pretoria, South Africa - Nov. 29, 1979 CR: J. Brill

UFO over Madrid has Spain buzzing

Own Correspondent

MADRID. — On the same night a Frenchman was reportedly snatched from a car near Paris and carried off in a UFO, a similar object was sighted by hundreds of people over Madrid.

Two local radio stations broadcast eye-witness accounts and police also saw the object, which they described as circular and giving off intense flashes of blue light.

Two police cars were sent to a busy intersection in the city when

the UFO appeared to remain stationary above it for some time. A crowd of spectators gathered.

Radio reporters said the object gave off green, red and white flashes. It was first reported over the Spanish capital at 10.30 pm on Tuesday.

Low frequency radio transmissions were reportedly interrupted for about 30 minutes from 1 am yesterday and State security investigators and Spanish Air Force observers confirmed the presence of the object.

DAILY TELEGRAPH, Sydney, N.S.W., Australia - Feb. 1, 1980

Fleet of UFOs sighted

A whole fleet of unidentified flying objects was spotted last night over Chile, near L'Aquila in southern Italy.

Several dozen witnesses swore they were not suffering from mass hallucination but that the fleet

from AFP: Rome

arrived in neat formation from the south-west.

Some of the UFOs were highly luminous discs, emanating bluish rays, they said.

CR: P. Norman

Evening News, London, England - Dec. 28, 1979

Snapped—the 'baby' that came from outer space

By KEVIN MURPHY

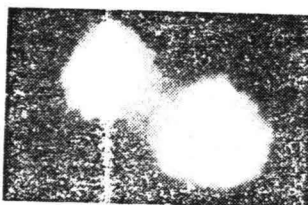
A PRIVATE detective believes he has filmed "a man from outer space."

And UFO experts are excited over the cine film that appears to show "a human embryo-like" object disembarking from a flying saucer and hovering between two "spacecraft."

The film was shot near Adelaide, Australia, by Mr. Jose Duran, who emigrated from Britain six years ago.

According to him, this is what happened.

"A red-and-amber light came into sight from a north-westerly direction. It was travelling very slowly towards the south-east.



Are they alien spacecraft?

"Through binoculars I watched it for a little while, then the light seemed to approach me where I was standing in my garden.

"I filmed it. There was a strange

kind of flashing and, although it was travelling very slowly with no sound, I thought at first it might be a plane.

"To my surprise, when I developed the film I saw something that I hadn't noticed when I was actually filming.

"There was a white-coloured object travelling from an angle. It stopped for a couple of seconds above what I thought was a plane.

"It made a jerking movement above the flashing light, then moved off in a different direction.

"The whole movement on film looks like a large V sign. Moving between the spacecraft was a humanoid, flesh coloured at one end but with the rest of its body covered in a blue shroud.

"Microscopic examination of the

film has shown two more humanoids in and around the spacecraft."

Britain's Contact International organisation has spent months investigating the film.

It believes that two separate balls of light are alien spacecraft.

Research officer for the group, Mr. Derek Mansell, said: "The lights cannot be those of aircraft, and space agencies have confirmed that there was no debris entering the earth's atmosphere at that place and time."

Mr. Mansell said there were several sightings of UFOs in Australia and New Zealand around the time when the film was taken.

A pilot of a light aircraft vanished after reporting a UFO hovering above his plane.

Residents break silence to tell of their close encounter

The night UFOs held a Cambs village spellbound

A Cambridgeshire village broke its silence yesterday to tell of the night it was shocked by a swarm of unidentified flying objects.

For around three hours villagers at Harston and others at neighbouring Hauxton and Foxton, watched a "firework display" of lights dodging around the sky.

But for some the entertainment turned to fear when a massive UFO hovered a low past some homes and a village pub, where the regulars called in the police.

Baffled villagers, including many UFO sceptics, told of:

- Brilliant flashing stationary and moving configurations of coloured lights.

- Massive shapes coasting silently across the sky with illuminated "windows".

- People who hid away indoors rather than face the spectacle and others who drove off the road to avoid being under UFO flight paths.

Only yesterday — almost a week after the incident on November 29 — did the villagers talk and then, only after the events were first described to the "News" by a passing motorist.

White light

Villagers sketched and described what they had seen, often witnessed by other members of their families, but some would not be named for fear of ridicule.

The sightings broadly divide into five main groups:

- A triangular formation of three red lights which split apart.

- A ball of brilliant white light which suddenly appears, drifts and then vanishes.

- A red light which appears to pulse and dashes rapidly about the sky.

- A boomerang shape with various coloured lights, and, according to one account, with a white search-light-type beam.

- A massive object with white lights and illuminated windows described as looking like a "railway coach" and an "airship with windows".

During that evening laboratory technician Mr David Flood, of Westly Lodge Farm Cottages, Six-Mile-Bottom, was driving across the Shepreth railway crossing when his girlfriend spotted what "appeared to be a rather large low-flying aircraft."

The couple stopped for a drink at the Old English Gentleman at Harston to find the majority of the pub standing outside.

Mr Flood said: "What we saw I can only describe as being like a large railway carriage with two lines of brilliant lights visible on its port side."

"Naturally I thought it was some kind of aircraft."

By Paul Markillie

However, it had no wing lights or flashing tail lights. As its port side was visible to us, a red light would have been visible if it was an aircraft. No wings were visible."

The pub's landlord, Mr Michael Bradford said the first lights had appeared in the sky early in the evening and had been commented on and watched by about 15 customers.

He added: "By about 9 pm most of us were outside with our drinks watching them. It was rather like a firework display."

Glow

"Then something with the shape of an airship, dead silent, with a white light at each end and a yellowy glow from what appeared to be a row of windows came across from the back of the pub towards Cambridge."

"It was eerie, as if floating along. Suddenly the whole thing wasn't funny anymore. I thought I ought to do something and so went and telephoned the police, but by the time an officer arrived it had gone."

Mr Bradford said along with other customers he had seen unusual lights in the sky over the Christmas period last year and a number recently before last week's incident.

He added: "I know what I saw, and there were plenty of others who saw it as well. They were not aircraft, and it is not a hoax, but I could not explain to anyone what it was."

Mr Ken Mansfield also said he witnessed something along with his family at their home on the London Road at Harston.

He described an orange glow towards Cambridge followed by a red flash which dulled to show a second orange light, above and to the left of the first, both of which faded away into the distance.

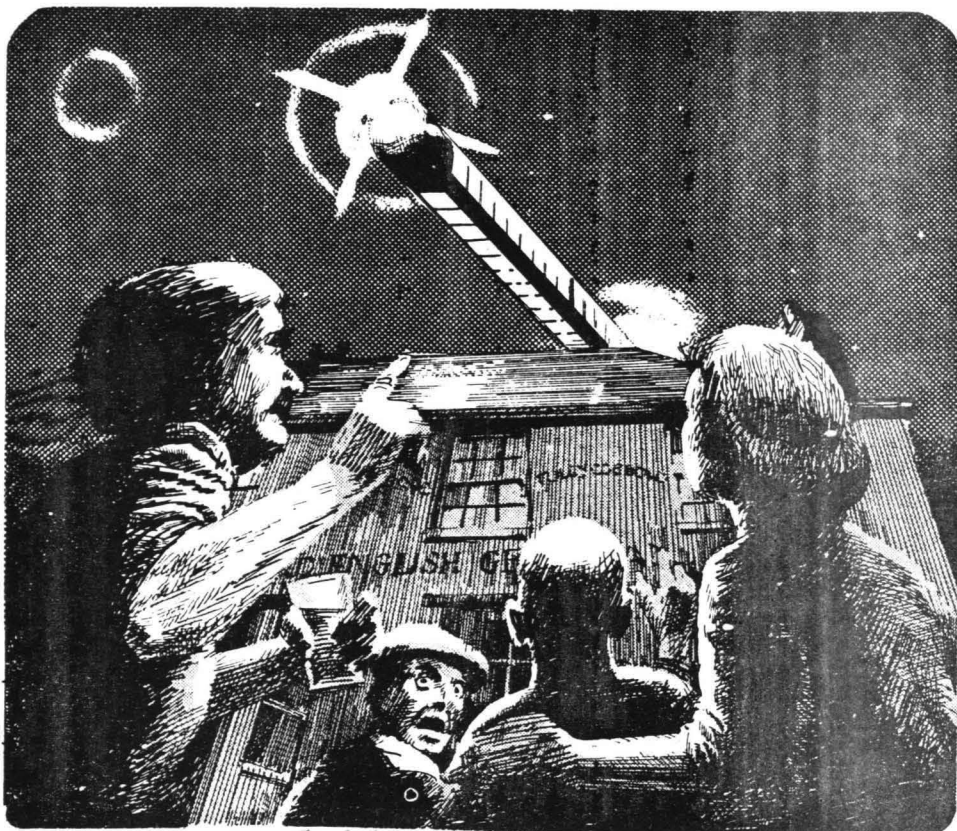
Mr Mansfield said: "I am a sceptic about UFO's, but I do not think those could have possibly been an aircraft. I just do not know what it was, but it would be good to find out."

Difficult

Solicitors' managing clerk, Mr Jeremy Hooper, also observed the odd lights with his family and followed one set with binoculars from the back bedroom window of his home in Hawthorn Way, Hauxton, which looks out towards the Gogs.

He describes various configurations of lights and a "wedge or boomerang shape" moving slowly above rooftops.

Mr Hooper said: "It was alarming and you do feel dubious about saying any-



"News" artist Peter Froste's impression of the scene at Harston on the night of the UFOs.

thing to people about it for fear of ridicule.

"It was strange not to hear any form of aircraft engine noise and it was extremely difficult to gauge its size. It was amazing and I cannot explain it."

Other witnesses in the area described dramatic accounts of similar lights and shapes. A housewife recalled backing away and shielding her eyes from the glare of the "coach-type" object as it passed close to her home.

She said: "It was so unreal I find it hard to believe I saw it. I do not believe in UFO's, but it was so quiet it was not an aircraft. There was no noise."

But she refused to be named, along with a young man who drove out of the way to avoid the flight path of a similar object. He said: "I know what I saw, and that's good enough for me. I could not stand the stick."

A spokesman for Cambridge police said: "A police officer arrived at the pub about a quarter of an hour after we received the call. He could not see anything and went to a hill at Newton to keep observation, but again saw nothing."

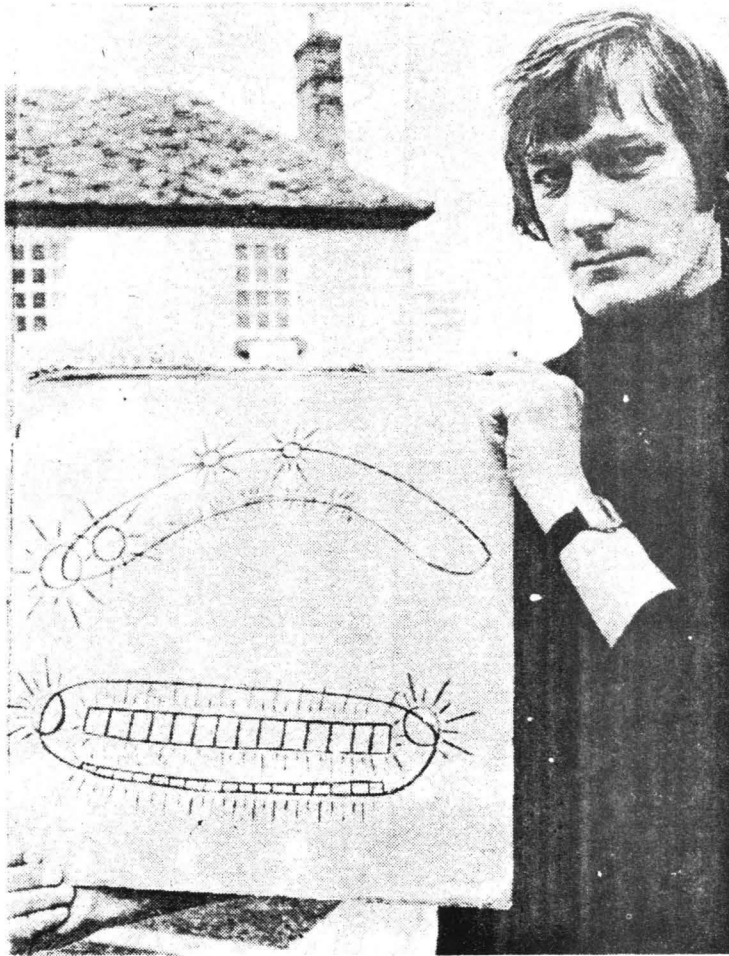
Unexplained

"There was no local flying that night and as far as we are concerned it is unexplained and we cannot take the matter further."

Dr David Dewhurst, the staff astronomer at the Institute of Astronomy, Madingley Road, Cambridge, said there had, in recent months, been a number of reports of unusual lights in the sky in the southern part of Cambridgeshire, although nothing like those made at Harston.

He added: "I have taken them as serious reports of what people have seen, but cannot throw any light on what they might be. It is extremely difficult if you have not seen these things yourself."

The British UFO Research Association, which has been contacted by Mr Bradford, is to send an investigator.



Mr Bradford with sketches of two UFOs he saw flying over the village.

Mystery of the Welsh Triangle

YOU'VE heard of the Bermuda Triangle. Now prepare for the Welsh Triangle. Local sightings of unidentified flying objects — UFOs — have become almost as common as giant sunflowers in the summer in the pages of this and other newspapers, so the proposal of a mysterious corner of West Wales as the home of UFO-inspired happenings is, at the very least, topical.

Peter Paget's *The Welsh Triangle* (Panther £1.25) is a new paperback that really isn't so much about a Bermuda-type triangle but an account of all those sightings reported from Pembrokeshire in 1977 and 1978.

You will probably recall those stories. They started with isolated experiences, given more credibility than most because of the reliability of the witnesses, then grew and grew so that almost everybody in the "triangle" seemed to have some sort of Close Encounter, including a crowd of children and their teacher.

The sightings weren't limited to Pembrokeshire, either. Phil Vaughan and Llew Davies of Bridgend told Peter Paget: "On Tuesday, February 1, 1977 at 7.57 three of us, all adults, watched for about seven minutes a long cigar-shaped object, low on the horizon in a south-east direction. As we watched, it moved across the skyline; twice it stopped then went out of sight."

In November 1976, Mr. Kevin Miely, a security officer of Cwmbran, saw a weird object as he was patrolling a building site.

"It was a clear night and all the stars were out," reported Mr. Miely. "I was just doing the rounds when I noticed this star-like thing hovering over the mountain. It was not like any of the other stars — a lot bigger in fact — and it was flashing red, green and white."

"There was an eerie presence about it — as if it was watching over Cwmbran."

Mr. Glyn Burn and his girlfriend also saw the object. "It appeared to be over Henllys," he said. "There was a strange glow from it and it looked as though it was flashing orange and white. It seemed to have a tail stretching from it but at that stage it did not look as if it was moving."

It disappeared eventually towards Pontypool. A similar object was sighted by Mr. David Awcock, a production foreman at Panteg steelworks.

These incidents are all in Peter Paget's *The Welsh Triangle*, a fascinating book for all its atrocious writing. But surely all those good people around Broad Haven, Pembrokeshire, are mistaken, hallucinating en masse? Isn't Peter Paget merely mixing his belief in UFOs with a good deal of journalistic opportunism? He can't be relied upon to be impartial — and he certainly can't be relied upon to be accurate, calling Wales Cymru — and his conclusions are a little bizarre.

He suggests UFOs are stationed under the sea off the Welsh coast, observing top-secret military activities, and that there is a massive official cover-up operation.

Common sense tells us they're all crazy, all those Pembrokeshire people. Peter Paget, Phil Vaughan and Llew Davies of Bridgend Kevin Miely of Cwmbran, Glyn Burn of Ty Coch, David Awcock at Panteg, and all those before and after who claim to have seen UFOs.

But what if they're right? You might think UFOs a modern phenomenon. Not so. They have been sighted, and reliably recorded, for many years.

Scientific records, since they were first kept, have contained accounts of unexplained objects in the sky, many well before the usual explanations could be given today of high-flying aircraft, weather balloons, secret missiles or satellites.

And Wales has always been a good sighting area. The reports we are getting these days merely echo those of the past.

A good year was 1905. On February 1 the Daily Mail reported a brilliant disc over Wales, which hung motionless for a while before it moved off.

On March 29 a vertical tube of light appeared in the sky over Cardiff "like an iron bar heated to an orange-coloured glow" according to witnesses.

On September 2 an intensely dark object flying at an estimated height of two miles was recorded over Llangollen.

On January 17, 1913, no less a person than the Chief Constable of Glamorgan saw a huge airship leaving a dense smoke trail over Cardiff. In the same month another so-called airship was seen over the Dowlais Valley and another aerial tube, this time with sweeping lights, was seen over many parts of South Wales.

Maybe these UFOs were actually airships: Zeppelins were well established — after all, why else would these objects be described as airships? Maybe they were those new-fangled aeroplanes. Maybe they were tricks of the light. Maybe.

And what do we make of the testimony of a Cardiff man called Lithbridge, who on May 18, 1909 was walking in the hills near Caerphilly? He came across a large cylindrical construction and inside two odd-looking beings apparently dressed in fur coats.

They broke into an alien kind of gabbling when they saw him and the next minute the machine rose in the air and flew away. It had no wings and made little noise and there was a depression in the grass at the spot he pointed to later after telling his story to presumably the first people he could find.

Mr. Lithbridge could have had a brainstorm. We don't know if he was on the way from a pub. He could have been round the twist. But what if he was right?

It isn't generally realised, perhaps, that there are a good many people in the military and scientific worlds who have by now accepted that something like "flying saucers" do exist and that there is life on other planets and that they are visiting us.

In the 1950s, after the first spate of modern-day sightings, the RAF set up a five-year programme of UFO research. They refused to release the findings to the public partly because they would be too controversial and partly because they would have to reveal top-secret information.

But Air Chief Marshal Lord Dowding stated: "The existence of these machines is proved, and I have accepted it absolutely."

And astronomer and author of *The Sirius Mystery* Robert Temple says: "I have certainly never met an astronomer of today who seriously doubted that there must be countless numbers of intelligent civilisations scattered throughout the universe on other planets which are orbiting around stars."

"Any people who still believe human beings are unique as intelligent life in the universe are seriously out of touch with reliable and informed estimates by scientists and astronomers."

Perhaps Robert Temple and all his friends are nutty. Perhaps those among them who also believe in the existence of UFOs are even nuttier. Lord Dowding, too.

But what if they're right? There are those who believe that not only do UFOs exist and visit Planet Earth but that they navigate by ley-lines. Ley-lines?

According to conventional archaeologists, the existence of a grid of energy lines across the countryside is no more than the product of over-worked imagination verging on the lunatic.

But serious research now seems to be on the brink of establishing some sort of energy system that our ancestors knew about and tapped with their standing stones, tumps, stone circles and cromlechs.

The theory of ley-lines was "rediscovered" by Herefordian Alfred Watkins in the 1920s. He found that ancient sites on the map could be linked with a network of perfectly straight lines thus forming miles-long alignments.

Modern ley-hunters say that the ancient sacred sites were chosen because of the "earth energy" to be found there, and that standing stones, like those at Trellech, were as acupuncture needles in the nervous system of the earth.

Where ley-lines cross so-called "nodal points" — the earth-energy is at its greatest.

I spoke not so long ago to someone who had, on instinct followed a suspected UFO from Bristol, over the Severn Bridge and up the by-roads of Gwent and Herefordshire.

Dusk became night and when the UFO stopped and hovered over a hilltop in old Archenfield, that district that was once both Wales and England between the Wye and Black Mountains, the Motorist had not the faintest idea where he was.

He was in countryside he hadn't visited before and when he got out at a point along a narrow track above which the mysterious light in the sky now remained, he found himself parked next to an impressive prehistoric monument, Arthur's Stone, a cromlech that is the crossing-point of many ley-lines.

One of the bits of statistical evidence for the existence of ley lines is the strange fact that there are so many nodal points. Not infrequently up to six alignments on a map cross at precisely the same point.

Like Peter Paget, Stephen Jenkins found Wales an interesting place for the source of stories that fitted in with the theories in his remarkable book, *The Undiscovered Country*: "Trace out the ley-lines, and the nodal points will involve you in a bewildering tangle of strange lights in the

skies above them, vanished Celtic gods, dragons and lake-monsters.

"The remarkable fact," says Mr. Jenkins, "is simply that after you have mechanically traced out a series of alignments which give rise to exact crossing-points (the nodes), those points will time and time again prove to be the sites of tales that will involve data of an order increasingly within the confines of the UFO phenomena."

UFO-spotting has grown so much that Newport has its own group, formed a few weeks back by Mrs. Myfanwy Davies. They get regular reports from members, who have to fill in detailed reports.

Interestingly, one of the most recent sightings comes from Pontllanfraith, near what a browse through the last ten years' UFO-spotting, reveals as a UFO centre.

As well as those Peter Paget records, back in 1970 Mrs. Pamela Morrison saw an upside-down V-shape shining golden object near Pontypool.

In October 1971 Mrs. Ann Baldwin saw a red, cone-shaped object heading towards Twyn Barlwm and at Cwmbran 13-year-old Julie Taylor also saw the red cone, reporting lights on each side, near Twyn Barlwm.

And in January this year various people saw a UFO over Cwmbran, described as a round object shooting bright colours, red, blue, green and silver. The same UFO was recorded at Croesyceiliog.

Those people in Gwent who have reported red cones, golden balls, multi-coloured and shapeless objects, may have been too influenced by science-fiction. They may have witnessed freak optical illusions.

The UFOs may be secret aircraft or man-made contraptions, the shiny underbelly of formations of flying geese of common-or-garden meteors and comets hurtling through the atmosphere.

Mrs. Myfanwy Davies and her growing group of UFO researchers could be wasting their time chasing after weather balloons, tricks of the light and planetary bodies. The reports they regularly get and process are possibly no more than hallucinations, wishful thinking or just the effects of bad eyesight.

But what if they're right?

Strange light seen over Aberdeen

A KINGSWELLS man who saw a strange light or object in the sky over Aberdeen early yesterday discovered later in the day that several of his friends had also seen it.

Mr. Roddy McKenzie (35), Gairhill, Kingswells, an architect with Aberdeen District Council, was looking out of his house at the sun rising when he saw the object low on the horizon and moving upwards at an angle of about 30 degrees.

Last night he said: "I called my wife Rosemary and my two sons, Robin and Malcolm, and they also saw it. At first I thought it was a vapour trail, but it was too clearly defined for that. When it reached its highest point it hung suspended for a few moments and then disappeared. About 30 seconds later the whole thing happened again."

"It was in the direction of Aberdeen and I would estimate that it must have been over the sea. Some of my colleagues at work had seen it from the 11th floor of St Nicholas House."

"The Met Office and Air Traffic Control at Dyce could not explain what it might have been but said they had received other reports of something being seen."

HERALD, Folkestone, England
Dec. 21, 1979

More mystery night sights

ANOTHER UFO may have been spotted flying over Folkestone at the weekend. Two strange lights were seen over the hills at Cheriton in the early hours of Sunday.

The sighting came almost exactly 24 hours after a series of mystery noises and flashing lights were reported over the town.

The Sunday sighting came shortly before 3am as Mr. John Preston and his wife, Jill, were returning to their home in Langdon Road, Cheriton, after an evening out.

"They were very strange, certainly not aircraft lights. They seemed to come together and then gradually they became hazy and vanished as if they had gone into thick cloud," said Mrs. Preston.

"But when we got out of the car and looked at the sky, it was a brilliantly clear night with no cloud about at all."

This week Mr. Andrew Hall of the British UFO Research Association said that he would be interested to hear from anyone who had seen or heard anything unusual over the weekend.

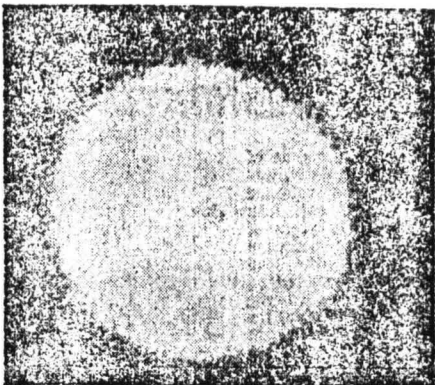
He can be contacted at 22 Tyson Road, Folkestone (telephone 57221).

aircraft southbound for 12 miles." There are many other parts of Mr Ireland's report which are, to say the least, rather suspect. However, I believe the segment I have referred to here should be sufficient to convince thinking people that the "fishing boat" theory and the other guess-work advanced by Mr Ireland should be seriously questioned.

Phenomenon

Dr Maccabee and 19 of his American colleagues, all experts in their various fields, maintain that the object we captured on film on December 31 cannot be identified. It is a bona fide unidentified flying object, and contrary to popular belief, that does not necessarily mean it is a spacecraft. It is a phenomenon and to date science has not been able to provide an answer. Officialdom has always sought to debunk UFO sightings and the witnesses.

However, in spite of this, the phenomenon has not gone away and I believe this latest clumsy attempt at debunking will satisfy only those who prefer to face life with blinkers.



THE UFO filmed from Clarence River by a TV1 cameraman.

statement is at complete variance with the facts.

When I interviewed Captain Powell nine days after the sighting, he told me he had been directed to the bright object by Wellington radar and he confirmed that the light was in the same position as the target showing on the Wellington radar screen.

That interview with Captain Powell is still on tape and confirms the radar-visual sighting, in spite of Mr Ireland's claim to the contrary.

As further proof, I refer Mr Ireland to the log kept by

the radar operators at the Wellington air traffic control centre. Mr Ireland refers to this log throughout his report. However, he fails to mention the following relevant entry for the morning of December 21:

"Time, 0328. Subject, More UFOs !! : SAF BM-CH (Argosy flight, Blenheim to Christchurch) saw a bright red light definitely airborne 2-3000ft higher than the A/C (aircraft). SRE (Wellington radar) also shows an echo to the east of the Argosy by 23. This target was seen both visually by the A/C and on SRE to keep pace with the

A letter to The Dominion

would take far more space than that allowed here to go into a detailed criticism of the report, but as an example of its questionable nature I would like to mention one of those errors.

Confirmation

When Mr Ireland is referring to the December 21 sightings and the radar-visual sighting involving Captain Vern Powell and First Officer Ian Pirie, he makes the following comment: "About the time of this sighting of a light from the aircraft, the Wellington radar was also picking up a return which apparently tracked and kept pace with the aircraft for about 19km. The aircrew did not identify the light to be coming from the position of the 'object' showing on the Wellington radar."

If what Mr Ireland says is true, then one of the strongest radar-visual sightings of the December 21-31 period would appear to be without much substance. However, Mr Ireland's



CAPTAIN Vern Powell, who piloted the Safe Air Argosy from which the UFO was filmed in the December 31, 1978, sightings.

Mr Ireland's report is one of suggestion, supposition and guess-work and contains some glaring errors. I can only hope that these were not made deliberately. It

DSIR 'debunking' of Kaikoura UFO sighting disputed



QUENTIN FOGARTY, Canterbury, Victoria (above), writes to the editor of The Dominion:

Sir, — I have just received a copy of a report put out by W Ireland of the Physics and Engineering Laboratory of the DSIR, which is titled "Unfamiliar Observations of Lights in the Night Sky". The report covers a number of sightings of strange lights in the New Zealand sky from December 20, 1978, to January 10, 1979, with special reference to the sightings on the mornings of December 21 and 31.

As the television reporter involved in the December 31 sightings, I feel that Mr Ireland's report cannot be allowed to pass without some comment.

He claims that the bright object we saw and filmed from the flight deck of a Safe Air Argosy as we climbed out of Christchurch

that morning was "most likely a fishing boat seen under quite normal viewing conditions".

Many of your readers are probably not aware that in January, when the New Zealand Government released its original report into the sightings, I was told by an official government spokesman that we could safely assume that we had filmed Venus, and that there would be no further comment on the matter.

No option

I can only assume that the DSIR scientists involved in that original report consequently discovered that Venus did not rise till after we had finished filming and they were left with no option but to come up with another theory.

No doubt the conclusion by an American optical physicist, Dr Bruce Maccabee, that the light source we filmed that morning could not be explained by conventional scientific means was also a major reason for the New Zealand Government deciding to re-enter the fray.

Incidentally, the DSIR scientists have yet to study the entire UFO footage. The only film they have had to work with is the small segment which was satellite-filmed to New Zealand as part of the original news broadcast.

I know that parts of Mr Ireland's report have been published in various newspapers around New Zealand and my concern is that people may have been left with the impression that everything has been explained satisfactorily. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Dec. 27, 1979

UFO sighting

Several bright dots, high in the sky, shining like spot-lights, were seen by pupils at Spring Park Upper School in what they claim was a genuine "close encounter" with UFOs. The sighting happened in the playground, Hayes Lane, West Wickham, on December 20, and six friends were about to go indoors for a lesson. It was broad daylight and the dots which moved up and down, silently, came right out of the blue.

STRAITS TIMES, Singapore, Malaysia
Jan. 8, 1980

UFO over Tokyo

TOKYO, Mon. — A glinting unidentified flying object appeared over a high-rise hotel in central Tokyo for about 20 minutes this evening, a time-magazine reported. The official of the Tokyo Fire Department said the round object appeared over the Hotel New Otani and disappeared — AFP.

UFO sighting in PE skies

Mystery of

Evening Post, Port Elizabeth, South Africa
Dec. 10, 1979 CR: J. Br111

Two Port Elizabeth people in different parts of the city, claim they saw a blinding flash of white-green light as an unidentified flying object flashed across the sky at about 11 o'clock last night.

Both described the UFO as circular with a bright streak of light trailing behind it.

Mrs Jean Brittain of Walmer, said she could not sleep. She got up to go to the bathroom. As she passed a window covered by lace curtains she saw a glowing, big green ball with a long streak of light behind it, moving along the Beakens Valley.

"I saw it clearly once I had lifted the curtains. I watched for about a minute and then rushed to call my son David, but by the time he arrived it was gone."

Mrs Brittain said it was the first time she had seen anything like it, "but I'd love a repeat performance."

Mr Robert Doak, of Kings Kamma, said his house faced due north.

Just before 11pm, I noticed a flash of light move across the sky from east to north-west.

In front was a reddish, brownish object, followed by the most blinding flash



Mrs JEAN BRITTAIN... would like a repeat performance.

of white-green light I've ever seen," said Mr Doak.

"It seemed to hover for a while, then moved and disappeared northwards — without the blinding light trailing behind."

Mr Doak said he had always ridiculed "such things" but he "had really got a shock" on this occasion.

No light could be thrown on the UFO sighting by H. F. Verwood Airport officials or police spokesmen today.

Bradford Telegraph & Argus, West Yorkshire, England - Jan. 2, 1980 30ft flying saucer seen at Keighley

It was a cold, clear morning as busmen Maurice Hunnab and Neil Slater drove through the deserted streets of Keighley on their way to work.

But their routine journey took a peculiar twist as they entered the town centre at 5 a.m. on New Year's Eve. For they claim that hovering above the roof tops 400 yards ahead was a bizarre, glowing object about 30ft. in diameter.

Maurice stopped his car and the startled men watched in astonishment as the strange, pulsating object moved slowly north-west, maintaining an altitude of 100 to 150ft.

"It was huge and seemed to be giving off a glowing light," said Maurice, of Bolton. Bradford, "I first spotted it hovering over the library as we drove up Cavendish Street but I didn't mention it to Neil at first."

"I thought I was seeing things, so I stopped the car and asked Neil if he could see it as well. He had already noticed it and we sat watching as it moved off slowly toward Skipton."

Many witnesses who claim to have encountered unidentified flying objects have reported that their car engines stalled for no apparent reason, but Maurice says his car engine kept running throughout the experience.

"I used to keep an open mind about UFO's but I firmly believe their existence now, he added."

Mr Trevor Whitaker, regional investigation co-ordinator for the British UFO Research Association, said: "This sounds quite interesting and I will pass on the facts to the Skipton area investigator."



ABOVE: UFO investigators John Thompson (left) and Paul Norman interview Warracknabeal residents Andrew and Mercina Eliades about a UFO they saw.

UFO investigators in area

SENIOR MEMBERS of the Victorian Unidentified Flying Object Research Society visited Warracknabeal on Thursday to investigate sightings by local people.

Society vice-president, Paul Norman and secretary, John Thompson were visiting major country towns in the state investigating sightings of UFO's and generally keeping in touch with society members and contacts.

Paul and John are voluntary members of the society which gets its finance solely from membership fees. The society's membership fluctuates between 400 and 750 people, depending on the publicity on UFO's at the time.

FAIRLY QUIET

Paul explained sightings of UFO's usually came in "waves" or "flaps", when the number of sightings increased. He said it was a fairly quiet time at the moment, as far as sightings were concerned.

Paul and John investigated sightings in Horsham, Stawell and the Gramplains after leaving Warrack.

There has been a spate of UFO sightings in the Wimmera recently, especially in the Gramplains, where a team of UFO investigators have already visited.

Paul and John interviewed Warracknabeal residents, Andrew and Mercina Eliades of The Avenue, about the UFO they saw in the town Sunday week ago.

The Eliades, Mercina's sister Frocina and neighbor Mrs Amy Fry observed a UFO floating around the sky between 9.30 pm and 10 pm from outside their homes.

Andrew described the object as "sort of a big orange light". He said it was very bright and glowing and distinctively round. At one stage it had two little protrusions coming from opposite each other.

Paul and John can be contacted at the Victorian UFO Research Society, P.O. Box 43, Moorabin, Victoria, 3189. Paul can be phoned on 592 2502, and John, 354 1929.

DONEGAL DEMOCRAT, Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal, Ireland - Jan. 4, 1980 CR: T. Adams

U.F.O. SIGHTINGS IN DONEGAL

A number of U.F.O. sightings have been reported in recent weeks in North-West Donegal. At Glenveagh, a night Garda patrol car squad observed yellow and green lights being emitted from a stationary object in the sky. The two Gardai watched the U.F.O. for a short while until it moved off at great speed to the North-East. On the same night Roger Green, a Creeslough student, saw the U.F.O. over Loughmore and Ards. He told the "Democrat" it was moving across the sky very fast, then it stopped suddenly over the lake. There were a number of flashing lights coming from it but no sound of an engine or motor.

Later the object was seen by an off-duty Garda in the Carrigart area. He had a good view of it through binoculars. Again the flashing lights were recorded but no sound of any engine. The last sighting was by a man in Ballycastle who claims that this U.F.O. passed between Rathlin Island and the mainland at 11.55 p.m. on Wednesday 12th December.

Mr. Ronald Carleton, Creeslough, also saw an object just before Christmas in a bog, close to his home. "It was moving over the moorland at a slow speed and I could see nothing but flashing lights, green and yellow ones. There was no noise but when it took off to the North-East there was a high pitched drone".

"There is no doubt in my mind that it was some sort of craft but it was not a plane or helicopter and I have doubts that it was from this world", he writes. "If it did land in Donegal, it may have done so on high ground or even in a lake or under the sea!" Mr. Carleton concluded: "There is always the possibility of alien craft coming to earth to monitor its inhabitants and perhaps even take some specimens of plant, animal and even man! It certainly cannot be ruled out that all of the sightings were more than one craft and that whoever it was did not come to Donegal for the weather!"

DAILY TELEGRAPH,
London, England

Jan. 10, 1980

UFO FOLLOWED ITALIAN JET

The Italian Defence Ministry has declassified an Air Force pilot's report that his F104 was followed for 23 minutes by an unidentified flying object in February 1977. The pilot said the object glowed brighter in the night sky than the moon and stars and stayed 800-900 yards away.

He added: "I alerted the nearest base and was authorised to intercept it (the UFO). When I began to show my intentions, climbing to 12,000 feet, the object kept its distance unchanged, then disappeared."—A.P.

I SAW UFO OVER TOWN SAYS MUM

A RUSHDEN woman has reported she spotted a UFO hovering over the town yesterday.

Mrs Alexandra Smith, of Ashridge Close, told the Evening Telegraph she saw a circular object crossing the sky at 3.30 pm.

"It was round with a circle of flashing lights on top. The base of the machine was black and it was moving from side to side."

Mrs Smith was outside her home with her two children when she saw the UFO. She said it was travelling south, towards Bedford, apparently silently.

A spokesman for RAF Thurleigh and Cardington said no aircraft had flown from there during the day.

He added: "All our air-

craft are conventional. We have nothing that resembles a UFO."

A spokesman from RAF Alconbury, near Cambridge, said it was unlikely anything from the American base could have been mistaken for a UFO.

EVENING TELEGRAPH,
Northamptonshire,
England

Jan. 3, 1980

COLLEGE

He dismissed the suggestion that it was a helicopter because it was stationary for so long. His father, Mr. Humphrey Marlow, also saw it and admitted that it looked strange, he said.

And it was not until hearing of the UFO on Saturday that his father admitted seeing something about three weeks ago, said Nick.

Mr. Marlow had been near Bramshill Police College when he spotted a similar object flying low.

Nick commented: "I'm pretty sure this was a UFO. It was very strange, very bright and slow-moving."

CAMBERLEY NEWS, Surrey, England - Jan. 6, 1980

Riddle of the glowing UFOs

MYSTERY lights of a cigar-shaped UFO have been spotted hovering over Aldershot on two evenings running.

It was first seen hovering above Holly Road at about 5.30 p.m. on Saturday.

Nick Marlow, of Highfield Close, watched it through binoculars for over an hour before reporting it to the police.

Nick (18) said: "It seemed to be cigar shaped and had a reddish glow moving around it which you could only see with binoculars."

"It was definitely not a star - it was too bright. It came lower and then moved slowly away, out of sight."

Although he drove to high points around the town, including the Hog's Back, the object had disappeared.

But it returned the following evening at dusk, when no stars were out, and hovered above Aldershot for nearly two hours.

Shocking facts about animal mutilations

By LANCE BESWICK

Startling new facts about the province-wide cattle mutilations were revealed yesterday by an expert on weird cults who's been working closely with RCMP in an attempt to solve the mystery killings.

The facts unveiled by University of Alberta professor Bill Meilen include:

- The discovery of fractures in many of the animals consistent with injuries caused by being dropped from a height of at least 10 feet;
- Thousands of flies found on the corpses died strangely without apparent reason;
- A 1,500-pound bull with its shoulder bones crushed and wrenched as though it had been picked up by a grab;
- A seven-year-old heifer whose unborn calf had been removed and mutilated WITHOUT the placental bag being broken.

Meilen believes all the evidence points to biopsies being performed by beings using a means of flight "beyond our comprehension".

Meilen has already told RCMP investigators that he knows of no cult capable of the bizarre mutilations.

And he said yesterday: "If there is a group from elsewhere carrying out scientific biopsies on cattle, I wonder if they have any interest in human life. Perhaps there could have been human mutilations in the past."

Meilen, who has researched and

found. Whoever or whatever is doing it may not be observable. If a cult were responsible, it would only be possible to do this sort of thing undercover for so long before being spotted.

Meilen said the breaks found in the animal's legs were pyramid fractures.

"These can only be caused by falling or dropping from a height of about 10 feet," he said.

"I find it fully acceptable that there are methods of flight not common to our culture. Someone has to be able to have a flight capability we don't understand to move a 1,500-pound bull and leave it with its shoulder blades crushed as though they had been picked up by a giant grab."

And he said no explanation could be found for the deaths of the thousands of flies which had been attracted to the mutilated corpses.

"We just don't know why they died," he said.

written dozens of books and plays on the occult and the activities of ancient cults, said that it was significant of all the cattle deaths, both here and in the United States, not one suspect had been arrested.

"No-one's even seen anything," he said. "People use the term UFO, which is a term I would like to avoid — but for that matter, no-one has seen a UFO at the scene either."

"I don't think anybody will ever be

MYSTERY DEEPENS

beings using a means of flight "beyond our comprehension".

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And he said yesterday: "If there is a group from elsewhere carrying out scientific biopsies on cattle, I wonder if they have any interest in human life. Perhaps there could have been human mutilations in the past."

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INVESTIGATION of the mutilations is under way by the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI), which has drawn criticism for attempting to subpoena records from Des Moines public libraries for names of persons who check out books on the occult.

The DCI has attempted to link the names of persons reading such books to the cattle mutilations—which investigators believe may be linked to occult rituals.

The reports of the calf mutilations in Black Hawk County generally coincide with other reports of cattle mutilations which have been filed around the state and country.

Says DCI Director Gerald Shanahan "Mutilations follow a general pattern. The lips, left eye and left ear are usually cut off and the rectal area is usually cut out and sometimes the uterus.

"We have learned that these are sometimes eaten by those involved in cults which participate in devil worship."

In the Black Hawk County case, Anderson noted that he was particularly perplexed by how the animal was killed.

"That was a very healthy male calf and it was a sucking calf, a wild one. It would have taken five men to hold it down in order to cut out its genitals."

Shanahan said that his investigators have learned that the blood of mutilated cattle is sometimes used in initiation rites of motorcycle gangs, some of which have "roots" in Iowa.

AMONG OTHER theories investigators are leaning toward, said Shanahan, are:

- Mutilations tend to occur from between 2 and 4 a.m. and usually involve cattle.

- UFOs are probably not involved. Shanahan said that UFO theories apparently came from a national tabloid

VALLEY COURIER, Alamosa, CO - Oct. 24, 1979 CR: T. Adams

Creature From Deep Gives Man Tall Tale To Relate

DENVER (UPI) — Jerry Cross isn't saying there is a Loch Ness-type monster in the deep waters of a northern Colorado lake, but he knows what he saw last summer was not your run-of-the-mill wild animal.

Cross Thursday said he and his father-in-law, Bill Hoppe, were having good luck fishing on the shores of Lake Katherine in late-August. Suddenly, the fish stopped biting.

Cross, 25, saw what appeared to be a log lying in the water about 30 yards off shore. The men shined two lanterns on the object and "that's when I got scared," Cross said.

Cross, an engineering technician with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, said the light "reflected back off the eyes. One time it reflected red, another time green. The eyes were about 3 to 4 inches in diameter."

Cross said the creature was swimming slowly along the shore with about 1½ feet of its

body protruding from the water. It had a hump sticking another 1½ feet from its back.

"It was about 10 to 15 feet long, but what made it stick out in my mind was the hump on its back," he said. "If I had to associate it with anything else, I'd have to say a camel."

A Colorado Division of Wildlife official said there probably was a logical explanation. He said some officers had suggested the creature might have been a wild animal, but Cross disagreed.

"That was no moose and it was no cow elk," Cross said.

Cross said he and Hoppe, neither of whom "gets scared very easily," followed the creature for several minutes but lost it in the darkness. He said they were so shaken by their experience that they "packed up and moved out that night."

"We were still up about 1 a.m. and I said there was no way I could go to sleep that night," Cross said.

Cross said he anticipated skepticism over his story. But he said he and Hoppe "hadn't drunk anything, nor were we smoking anything, nor had we been eating any wild berries."

The wildlife official said no plans were under way for a search of the lake, which is 120

to 140 feet deep. And he said if there was something in the lake, there probably would be other sightings.

"When you're talking about a 15-to-20-foot-long thing with a hump and a big green eye, it's hard to hide it under a rock," the official said.

COURIER, Waterloo, IA

Dec. 10, 1979 CR: T. Adams

2 calves are found mutilated

By LINDA KETTNER and DAVE AVERY
Courier Staff Writers

One of Gene Anderson's cows had been "battering" out in the pasture for two days.

So he decided to drive out and find out what was wrong.

What he discovered was a bizarre and baffling sight.

Lying dead in the pasture was one of his six-month-old Charolais calves, its genitals expertly carved from its body, a tooth broken out and a right ear chewed off. There was no blood.

Meanwhile, also Saturday morning, Paul Nuebel, who farms about three miles east of Waterloo in Barclay Township (two miles from Anderson) was reporting a similar incident which occurred on his farm.

He, too, found one of his calves dead, its genitals also missing, leaving a "10-inch-hole" in the calf.

According to the Black Hawk County Sheriff's Department, the cattle mutilations are the first in memory in the county, but they are nothing new in Iowa.

They come on the heels of reports of cattle mutilations in four other Iowa counties—Hardin, Polk, Boone and Washington Counties—over the past six months.

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JOURNAL, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

Nov. 26, 1979

Mountie denies little green men mutilated cattle

A university professor's claims that province-wide cattle mutilations are being performed by beings using flying methods "beyond our comprehension" have been dismissed by RCMP.

Since August, 38 cattle have been mutilated in Alberta — with the parts of the body, including sex organs, sliced away.

RCMP Cpl. Lyn Lauber said Sunday that 13 of the mutilations are the work of cults, with about 10 other mutilations performed by copy-cats cashing in on the notoriety of the butchery.

"We're looking for humans doing these things, not UFOs or little green men," said Cpl. Lauber, of the Calgary detachment.

U of A professor Bill Meilen has been quoted as saying "whoever or whatever is doing it may not be observable."

Mr. Meilen is also quoted as saying he believes all the evidence points to biopsies being performed by beings using a means of flight "beyond our comprehension."

The RCMP officer said suggestions that some of the animals sustained massive bone fractures, as though dropped mysteriously from the air, aren't consistent with what has happened in Alberta.

Other suggestions that flies found on the corpses died without any reason, or that a 1,500-pound bull had its shoulder bones crushed as "though picked up by a giant crab," have not happened in any of the Alberta cattle mutilations, said Cpl. Lauber.

"We haven't experienced anything like that in Alberta," said Cpl. Lauber.

"He (Mr. Meilen) may be referring to mutilations in the U. S., but I've never heard of anything like that."

Cpl. Lauber has been working closely with police in the United States, where there have been about 12,000 cattle mutilations reported since 1973.

With the exception of a 450-pound bull found dead with a broken neck near To-field Oct. 1 with its bladder and sex organs removed, none of the mutilated cattle in Alberta have had their bones broken, said Cpl. Lauber.

An autopsy later showed the young bull's neck had been broken when struck by a vehicle, he said.

Cpl. Lauber said a majority of cattle mutilations are done by scavengers, after the animal is dead.

Many cattle died of natural causes such as bloat, blackleg or pneumonia before being mutilated by coyotes or other scavenging animals or birds.

One RCMP officer, with more than five years experience in cattle investigations, said coyotes can bite away the tender parts of an animal in such a way that, without microscopic examination, the cuts can look like knife-work.

He said while coyotes can't bring down a fully-grown animal, if it's dead, they do eat the rectum, ears, tongue and tender underside of the animal.

Reports the calf was mutilated without the placenta being broken are not true, said Cpl. Lauber.

"We haven't figured out what's killing them, but we are looking at a cult, and that means any group of people acting together."

"There are cults here in Alberta, there's no doubt about that, and we assume these mutilations are being done for cult practices — either for voodoo, witchcraft or satanism."

which made a point that human footprints are seldom found near the cattle. (Mutilation cases have been reported in several states.

Shanahan said that the absence of such footprints could be explained by the fact that the cattle may somehow be put in a sling, then onto a truck and carried from one point to another.

Because the DCI has been so absorbed in investigating five suspected murder cases in Iowa in recent days, the investigations of the cattle mutilations have taken a back seat, said Shanahan.

There are no suspects in the cases, and Shanahan also blames the problem of obtaining library records for hampering the investigation.

His department sought such information to see who is reading "cult" type books.

Library officials and the Iowa Civil Liberties Union have objected on grounds that it's an invasion of privacy. The Civil Liberties Union has gone so far as to file suit asking for an injunction against having to deliver the library records to the state agents.

Shanahan said the DCI will not pursue its attempts to get the library records until a court decides on the injunction.

Hunt goes on for hairy giant of forest

By BRYAN GRULEY

Wayne King is a hunter of a different sort.

Unlike deer hunters now hounding the Michigan wilds for their antlered game, King stalks a beast that isn't likely to be seen lashed to the hood of a car.

King's quarry is what the Indians call sasquatch, "hairy giant of the forest." Better known as Bigfoot.

In his basement office that serves as headquarters of the Michigan Bigfoot Information Center, King sits back and smiles confidently, lightly tapping himself on the chest.

"I am the predator," he says. "The sasquatch is my prey."

King makes this point perfectly clear, but on other points, the predator is nearly as enigmatic as his legendary prey.

It has been almost 90 years since the first recorded sighting of a sasquatch in Michigan, but the mystery surrounding the ape-like creature remains.

King, who directs the largest Bigfoot center in America, would have a listener believe differently.

"One guy wrote an article that treated this as if it were some kind of fantasy, a children's thing," he complains. "If this isn't treated on a serious level, I'd rather not be quoted on it."

Indeed, King's seriousness about hunting and killing a sasquatch is one reason why he founded the Bigfoot center with his own money in 1976.

Since then, King has filed hundreds of reports concerning the whereabouts of Bigfoot from around the state and the country, including physical sightings of the creature and footprint associations.

King's warehouse of Bigfoot information includes taped and written depositions in which people attested to having seen what they thought was a sasquatch, huge footprint casts, photos of footprints, fecal samples, hair samples, and notebooks filled with articles about Bigfoot sightings.

King's knowledge of sasquatch physical and behavioral characteristics is considerable.

King describes the sasquatch ("gigantopithecus," according to King) as a large, hairy, anthropoid animal that weighs about 700 to 900 pounds. It walks upright and can accelerate to

"the speed of a deer."

An omnivorous, nocturnal beast, Bigfoot eats both meat and vegetation, and sees better at night than during the day. King says the creature is able to make sounds ranging from a low roar to a deafening scream, and can also mimic other forest animals.

With a gorilla-like brain, Bigfoot can reason for itself, King notes. However, the non-hibernating sasquatch rejects civilization because it is so well adapted to wilderness survival.

"These animals are far from being shy," King adds. "They are curious to a point, almost aggressive."

Tens of thousands of sasquatches roam many nations' wilds, according to King. Its American population resides mostly in the northern states, particularly Minnesota and Michigan.

King estimates that Michigan harbors as many as 500 sasquatches, most of which live in the Upper Peninsula.

But, despite King's vast sasquatch knowledge, he cannot adequately account for why (according to King) no Bigfoot has ever been captured, only a few have been killed, and only one has been killed and publicly displayed.

"They are extremely powerful creatures," King points out. "No one really tries to capture any."

But zoos around the globe house lions, bears, elephants and rhinoceroses — all powerful animals.

The one alleged sasquatch killed and publicly displayed did not tour American museums of science. Rather, it starred in a traveling carnival as the "Minnesota Ice Man" before it and its killer-owner mysteriously disappeared.

King thinks the sparse number of Bigfoot kills and captures is due to peoples' refusal to believe the creature exists.

"It's a predominant attitude in man," says the sasquatch hunter. "We call it negativism. A man says, 'What I don't see, what I can't touch, I won't believe.'"

King also feels that man wouldn't take time to stalk Bigfoot if he had it. He tells the story of a hunter who followed what he thought was a sasquatch trail.

"The guy told me he followed it so far and then turned around and went back," King relates. "I asked him why

and he said, 'The further I went, the more I didn't want to catch up with whatever I was following.'"

Despite his willingness to reveal almost anything concerning Bigfoot, King nevertheless withholds some information that he terms "classified."

For example, King won't disclose what kind of sasquatch bait or what calibre of rifle he brings on a Bigfoot hunt.

King also won't say how many field representatives he has in Michigan.

More significantly, he claims that two sasquatches have consistently inhabited two Michigan areas for almost two years — but he won't say where.

That seems risky in light of King's assertion that the monstrous Bigfoot is not averse to killing people. Sasquatches have reportedly killed eight men, according to King.

But King insists that divulging sasquatch whereabouts can be nearly as dangerous. As evidence, he notes a 1964 Cass County occurrence in which people reported 15 sasquatch sightings in five days.

"It was a frenzy almost to the point of declaring martial law," King says. "There were people all over, in the fields, riding the roads, with guns."

The way King sees it, people hunting sasquatches have to be protected from

themselves.

Ironically, this kind of protection is the basis for King's main objective: to obtain an ordinance legally protecting the sasquatch.

Don't laugh. Skamania County, Washington has had such an ordinance for 10 years.

In Michigan, though, law can protect only scientifically identified animals, according to King. Someone must kill or capture Bigfoot before scientists can identify it.

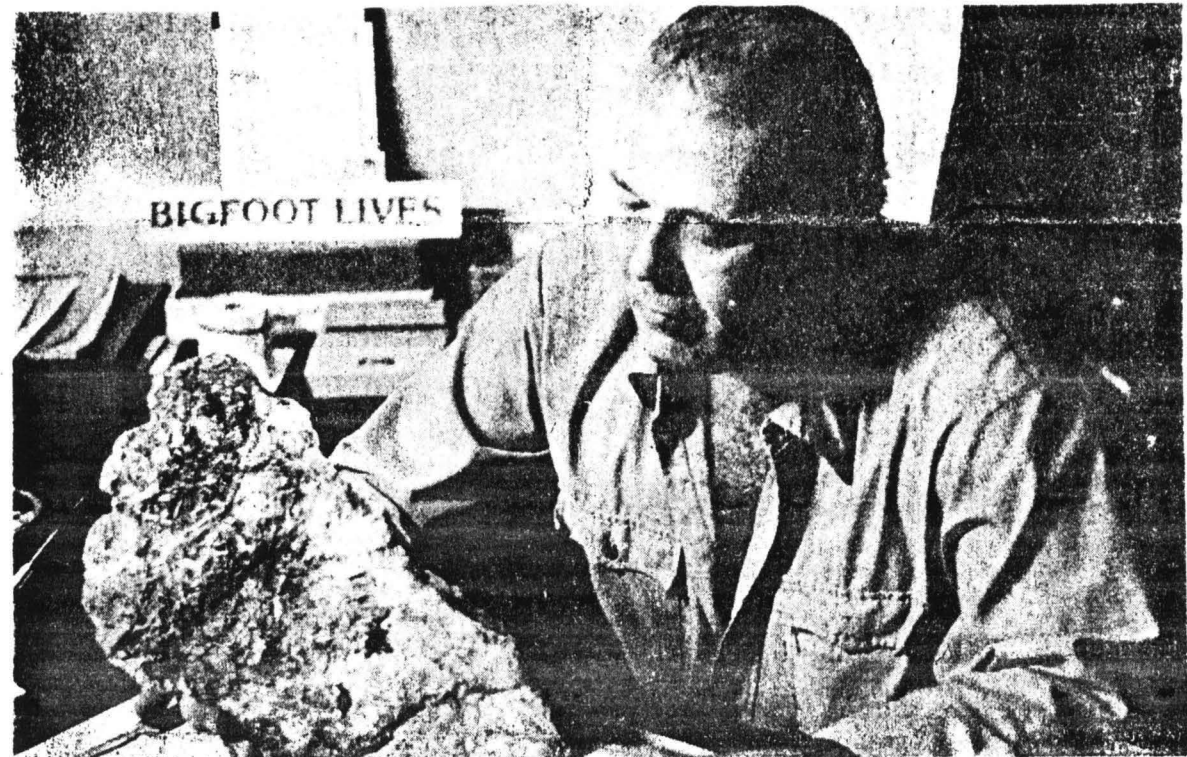
This, then, is King's self-appointed mission: to kill the sasquatch, in order to protect the sasquatch, in order to

protect the people.

With this riddlesome purpose in mind, Wayne King pursues the mythical Bigfoot. In the night forest he crouches, spying the woods for a man-like beast, waiting for the chance to raise rifle and, with a single shot, stun the world.

"Killing Bigfoot would be the biggest thing in mankind's time," the smiling King declares. "The world will be beating a path to my doorstep when they realize I have it encased here."

That — like Bigfoot — remains to be certifiably seen.



Wayne King, Director of the Michigan Bigfoot Information Center, holds a cast of an alleged sasquatch footprint

Do you believe in 'mutes'? They do

By TOM SHARPE

David Perkins and Carl Seawell of Farisita, Colo., say in four years of studying cattle mutilations in the southwest, they have only two plausible explanations left.

The first is extraterrestrials, beings from outer space who drop in now and then to gather some bovine tissue.

The second is a kind of mass psychosis — a collective imagination — which is filling the gap left by the disillusionment with traditional religions.

If the mass psychosis theory is correct, Perkins and Seawell have been pulled in, too. In their years of studying and photographing the supposed mutilations, they've come across several things that they can't explain.

These include clamp marks on the back legs of cattle, signs indicating the animals had been dropped from a short distance, an absence of footprints or blood, reports of lights in the sky, predators which avoid the carcasses, cameras and tape records which don't work right and evidence of drugs in the carcasses.

Perkins describes himself as a freelance writer, and says he has sold one story on mutilations — or "mutes," as he calls them — to *New West*

Magazine. After a couple of years of informal study of these occurrences, he and Seawell formed Animal Mutilations Probe, a non-profit organization devoted to collecting information on mutilations.

Perkins said the peak year for cattle mutilations in the United States was 1975, when thousands were reported in 22 separate states. Perkins said the number has reached only 157 thus far in 1979, but there seems to be an increasing number in western Canada.

Perkins and Seawell say cattle mutilations in this country may seem less frequent because ranchers are increasingly reluctant to report them, police agencies less eager to investigate them and newspaper reporters too cynical to write about them.

Ken Rommel, the former FBI agent who was hired with a special federal grant to investigate the mysterious happenings in northern New Mexico, prefers to keep possible mutilations "low key," Perkins said. "He said he didn't want to cause a panic, like in Colorado in 1975, when people were taking shots at helicopters," Perkins said.

Perkins said he has discounted theories that the animals are butchered by scientists who need tissue for biological experiments or by satanic cultists

who need organs for their ceremonies. Legitimate scientists wouldn't have to resort to such devious means and no cult would have the sophistication required to pull off the mutilations without being detected, he said.

The mass psychosis theory was once espoused by Swiss psychologist Carl Jung to explain the frequent reports of flying saucers, Perkins said. "He said the saucer shapes were symbols of unity, the need that we feel for a wholeness, the collective need for religious salvation," Perkins said.

'Other animals' may hurt testing of calf remains

Preliminary reports on two calves found mutilated in Black Hawk County last weekend show that "other animals got to the calves" before investigators. Gerald Shanahan, director of the state Division of Criminal Investigation, said he was "not very hopeful" about the final reports on the examinations of the calves. The reports are to be released sometime Wednesday by Iowa State University, where they are being tested.

"Apparently the dead animals laid out there most of the night and other animals got to them before we did," Shanahan said.

The animals were taken to Iowa State University Monday for examination to "prove or disprove" whether they had been mutilated, and if so, "what type of instrument was used," he said.

The tests also were to determine the times of death of the two calves. Two separate incidents of calf mutilations were reported to the Black Hawk County Sheriff's Department Saturday morning.

The farmers live about three miles from each other, just east of Waterloo.

Both animals were found with their genitals missing. One calf's right ear and a tooth also were missing. No blood was found around one calf.

A DCI investigation of the incident has taken on statewide interest after reports of animals found dead in a similar manner were reported in Hardin, Polk, Boone and Washington counties over the past six months.

CR: T. Adams
COURIER, Waterloo, IA - Dec. 11, 1979

Giant footprints seen in snow in northeastern Pa. county

Towanda, Pa. — (AP) — Giant footprints in the snow have been reported by loggers and hunters, leading to rumors that "Bigfoot" is abroad in southern Bradford County. But police and game officials are taking a wait-and-see attitude.

"It looked just like human footprints," Dale E. Vester, a Towanda logger, said. "If it was a practical joke, the guy must do it for a living."

The prints turned up for about 100 feet along a road near New Albany, according to Charles Kellogg, then disappeared into the woods near a spring along the road.

Jack Baker, general manager of WTTG radio here, also saw the footprints and said they had five toes and were flat, indicating that the foot had no arch.

The prints measured 17 inches from heel to toe, Baker said, and the distance between them was 4 feet, 9 inches.

Two hunters who first pointed out the prints last Wednesday asked not to be identified, Baker said.

The trail was about a quarter-mile from where he had been working, Vester said.

But the thought of meeting Bigfoot in the woods doesn't dismay him. "I go out there every day. It doesn't bother me. If it's been out there all this time, it certainly hasn't been a problem."

Kellogg also said he wasn't worried about what made the tracks.

"I've been back up there five times already. I'm still going back up there to look around," he said.

Ed Gallew, a state game conservation officer in Bradford County, said the only information he had on the prints came from news reports.

"It was never officially reported to me by anybody," Gallew said, adding that the area of the sighting, near the town of New Albany, is "quite a remote area, really rugged country."

BULLETIN, Philadelphia, PA - Jan. 7, 1980
CR: M. Hall

Did 'mean-looking' animal leave Bigfoot-like prints?

By T. J. RYDER

Of The Register's Des Moines Bureau

MANCHESTER, IA. — An Illinois Central Gulf Railroad engineer said he saw "the meanest animal I've ever laid my eyes on" as he chugged along the tracks in his engine in this area last month.

Cyril O'Brien, 62, said, "I've been traveling these tracks for 38 years now and I've never seen anything like that."

It was the second time Bigfoot-like animal tracks or animals have been spotted in this area in recent weeks.

On Jan. 21 two farmers reported strange tracks in the snow as they surveyed their farmland for areas to plant trees. Delaware County Sheriff Bert Elledge was called and he took photos of the tracks.

He showed the photos to conservation officer Jim Becker, who said he couldn't identify them. The tracks have been lost in new snowfall but Elledge is having the photos enlarged so Becker can get a better look.

The tracks, apparently made by a creature that walks on two feet, measured 9½ inches long and 4½ inches wide.

Elledge, a hunter for many years, said he had never seen tracks like that before, and because they were found in an isolated area, he is curious and suspicious.

Engineer O'Brien, of Waterloo, said he saw the animal at a distance of less than 100 feet. He said as the train

approached the animal looked up and moved backward.

"It was big, much bigger than a dog, and at first I thought it might be a calf," O'Brien said. "It was a beak of a mean-looking thing with long, yellowish hair, a flat face, and short ears. It had no tail."

O'Brien said he then noticed the carcass of what appeared to be a cow where the animal had been standing and believes it was feeding on the carcass.

O'Brien said the animal walked on four legs. He said he radioed three other trainmen in the caboose and they also saw it and agreed it was indeed a strange creature.

Elledge declined to link the tracks and the yellowish creature. The tracks and the sighting were about six miles apart. But he said there appears to be a strange animal in Delaware County and he's concerned that someone might get hurt.

Bigfoot is a legendary hairy creature of the northwest United States that walks upright. Some persons believe it exists and can provide a link between animals and humans.

Sightings of strange, hairy creatures have been reported in western Iowa for more than a year.



REGISTER, Des Moines, IA - Feb. 6, 1980 CR: R. DeGraw

Asteroid Collision Killed Dinosaurs, Theory Says

SAN FRANCISCO (UPI) — A team of scientists is proposing that dinosaurs were wiped out 65 million years ago by a spectacular collision of earth with an asteroid that cast the globe into several years of dusty semi-darkness.

This new hypothesis would explain why 75 per cent of all living species disappeared at the same time. The idea was advanced Friday at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

The most common explanation for the global catastrophe has been that water retreating from the continental shelves caused climatic changes to which the dinosaurs could not adjust.

A recent theory suggests that the climatic changes were caused by a massive invasion into the oceans of fresh water from the Arctic Basin.

But Dale A. Russell, a Canadian paleontologist, told a symposium that no physical evidence exists to support the notion of sharp temperature declines.

The new hypothesis was explained by Luiz W. Alvarez, a Nobel laureate physicist at the University of California. His team has been pondering mysterious deposits of a rare element, iridium, at sites in Denmark, Italy and Spain.

The iridium was laid down in

limestone at the exact time of the dinosaurs' demise, and the iridium concentration was 160 times what might have been expected.

Iridium is a thousand times more abundant in meteorites than in the earth's crust, which suggests the deposits came from an extraterrestrial source.

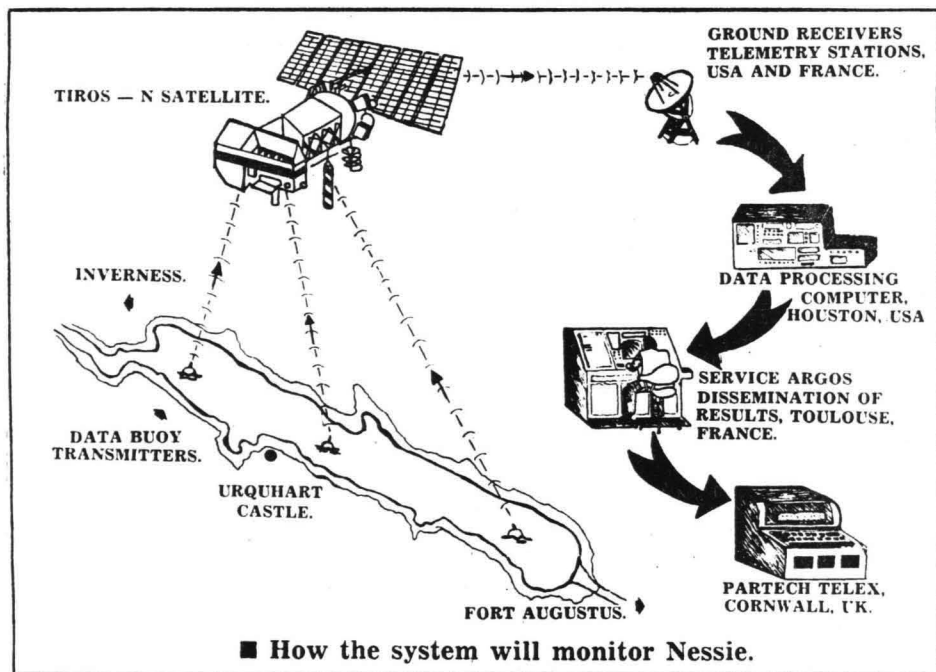
Alvarez proposed that earth was struck by an asteroid six miles in diameter that blasted a crater 100 miles wide with the force of 100 million hydrogen bombs.

Such an explosion would have thrown an enormous quantity of dust into the stratosphere, where, according to the hypothesis, it remained for several years casting the planet into semi-darkness.

Lack of sunlight would have killed plankton in the ocean and plants on land, thus depriving fish and animals of food. Russell concluded from evidence in fossils that 75 per cent of all living species, including the dinosaurs, the most intelligent creatures of the time, became extinct.

ARKANSAS GAZETTE, Little Rock, AR - Jan. 7, 1980

Now Nessie search goes into orbit



AN ENGLISH businessman plans to hunt the Loch Ness Monster ... by satellite.

He is Mr Roger Parker, manager of Partech, a water pollution control and marine research firm, which operates world wide from St Austell in Cornwall.

Mr Parker and his son David (20) who is studying marine environmental science, have spent much leisure time over the last four or five years hunting Nessie with electronic devices developed by his firm.

Now he is planning a further search of the loch for the coming summer.

But instead of shivering out on the water, he will be able to sit comfortably in his office while football sized containers, crammed with sensors suspended in the depths of the loch, collect information and pulse it at pre-determined intervals out to the spacecraft Tiros-N.

The satellite will beam information back to the US space centre at Houston in Texas. From there the information is sent to Toulouse where it is processed by a computer. The spacecraft is part of the French Argos Satellite communication system.

CASKET

And, still in his office, Mr Parker will be able to pick up his phone or dial a telex number and get the information collected by his floating caskets of electronic gadgetry.

The cost depends on the amount of detail in the information required. But Mr Parker reckons that it could vary between £3 a day and £3 an hour.

He said the groundwork for this latest development in his search for the monster had been laid in previous years where he had been able to establish the parameters of the area in which he wanted his sensors to operate.

"You might want to measure light or sounds or strange wave actions," said Mr Parker. "The sensors hang out of a thing about the size of a football. The batteries will run for a year at a time."

COST

The information will be sent to the satellite in pulses of not more than one second's duration. In that time it will receive 32 separate pieces of information gathered in the previous 60min.

Mr Parker said he was working on the transmitters for the operation, which would cost about £2000.

He added: "All that will show above the surface is a tiny stainless steel aerial attached to a small buoy."

And he said he was not worried that someone might steal the buoys.

"We could track them by satellite."

Killer Beast Roams Woods —What Is It? Town Asks

By Robert C. Trussell

A Member of the Staff

Some folks in the Lone Jack area will tell you that they don't let their children go too close to the woods these days.

They tell of a sound like a woman's scream that rises from the woods at night.

Others relate stories of how their dogs were killed and eaten by an unseen creature. They claim they've seen a sleek black beast that by all accounts has no business in Lone Jack or anywhere in Missouri.

Mrs. Sharon Boltz relates this story: "My daughter Debbie saw it first. There was a pond in back and it was just standing there by an evergreen tree. It was just standing there, silent."

Mrs. Boltz said Debbie ran back to the house that sits in a recently finished subdivision to tell her mother what she saw. Then Mrs. Boltz went to see for herself.

"It's coal black. I couldn't believe the tail, so much like a thick black rope," she said. It was standing there like it was waiting to get its picture took. It was sleek and shiny black."

In December and early last month several Lone Jack residents, some of whom live near the Boltz family, lost dogs and cats. The pets' remains were found mangled, with parts of their bodies eaten.

"Roy Austin, he was the first person who missed his dog," Mrs. Boltz says. "Then it went boom, boom, boom ..."

"There for a while they were coming

fast and furious as far as dogs disappearing," Max Pointer said. Pointer lost two house cats. Their remains were found behind his home. "A piece of fur here and there, and that was it."

Mrs. Joan Freeman and her husband, Kenneth Freeman, lost a Peekapoo.

"Whatever got our dog had to have been a cat, the condition he was in," Mrs. Freeman said. "There wasn't anything left except for the head and the fur and the feet. There were even some bones missing. He evidently strayed down to the woods because they found other dogs there."

Larry Pierce, one of the Boltz's neighbors, saw the beast; as did Mrs. Judy Shatas, another neighbor.

"At first I thought it was a cougar from what Sharon Boltz told me about it," Pierce said. The afternoon Mrs. Boltz saw the animal, Pierce looked for tracks.

"Up there by her house, we saw tracks and the tracks we saw were too small," Pierce said. "Later, Judy Shatas called me about 5 o'clock one day and said she saw the cat behind her place. I went out and I could see it sitting there about 150 yards behind her house. Her nephew took a shot at it and it took off. I've never seen anything move that fast in my life."

"I did some studying on it, got hold of some books. From what I can figure, it followed most of the traits of a leopard. A leopard tends to be smaller than a cougar and their favorite meat is dog meat, and that seems to be primarily what it feeds on."

"I wouldn't think it'd weigh more than 45 or 50 pounds. And about 2 feet tall on all fours. He just wasn't big enough to be a cougar."

But state conservation agents say they have no evidence of black panthers in Lone Jack or elsewhere in Missouri.

Agent Ken Barncord went to Lone Jack in early January after the reported sightings. He said he found one 2-inch track frozen in mud, but he was unable to identify it.

"It was not obviously a cat track," Barncord says.

Barncord said the animals may have been killed by a pack of wild dogs or coyotes. He also said that domestic cats, when allowed to live in the wilds, can grow to be abnormally large.

"If it's a house cat, it's the biggest house cat I ever saw," Pierce said.

Bob King, of the Missouri Conservation Department in Jefferson City, said: "We frequently receive reports of large black panthers and our investigations have never turned up any evidence. In the last five or six years there were isolated confirmed sightings of the Puma in the Ozarks."

But King adds that the puma, or mountain lion, although once native to Missouri, has been virtually extinct in the state for more than 50 years.

"You wouldn't believe the razzin' I've got over this," Pierce said. "There's a lot of old-timers around here who tend to ride it high. It's kind of the joke of the neighborhood right now."

"This town is flying with rumors," he continued. "Reports of full grown steers being pulled down."

Barncord said he would need some concrete evidence, an identifiable track. But he added: "I'm not saying they didn't see what they say they saw."

'Big Foot' or hoax ... it's the question



"BIG FOOT?"

Susan Jensen of 4 7th Ave. SE in Oelwein found a footprint in the yard Sunday afternoon and told her husband Richard about it. Jensen told the REGISTER Sunday night he did not know if the footprint was a hoax or not.

Jensen took several plaster molds of the print. A second print about three feet east of the first print was evident too.

Whether or not Oelwein has been visited by a creature similar to "Big Foot" is a question that the Oelwein police are checking into. It may well be a hoax, but it has proved to be a conservation piece.

STAR, Kansas City, MO - Feb. 4, 1980 CR: S. Hicks



By Ken Schmith
Register News Editor

The Way I See It

Fairbank mystery . . .
Officials are still investigating a mystery at the Ed Deuhr farm two miles south and two west of Fairbank.

Deuhr, who publishes the Wapsie Valley Progressive, lives on a farm and raises some hogs and cattle.

They went to bed shortly after midnight on Jan. 16, heard nothing all night, but awoke the next morning to find their yard light was on.

Checking around the farm, they discovered a dead 700-pound steer, lying in the barnyard about 75 yards from the house.

The dead animal, however, had been mutilated, with an ear and the genitals cut off. The blood had apparently been drained from a cut in the animal's neck, but there was no blood around the body.

One of Deuhr's two dogs acted very strangely for a couple of days afterwards, he says, acting as if it were trying to "shake off the effects of a drug," in Deuhr's words.

Any signs around the animal or yard were obliterated by a fresh snowfall that night.

Reports of such mutilations have cropped up around Iowa before, including Black Hawk county, but Deuhr says it sure gives you a strange feeling when it actually happens at your place to one of your steers.

NEWS, Hutchinson, KS
Jan. 22, 1980 CR: S. Hicks

Cattle mutilations found

FLUSH (UPD) — Pottawatomie County authorities said Monday they have no clues in the mutilation killings of two cattle during the weekend. The cattle, owned by Pete Evert, were found Saturday with at least one gunshot wound each. Sheriff's officers said the animals' udders and back portions had been cut off and removed from the scene. The animals, worth \$700 each, were found about two and one-half miles south and one mile west of Flush. Flush is about 10 miles northeast of Manhattan.

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT, Little Rock, AR — Jan. 24, 1980

Scientists review Siberia blast

MOSCOW (AP) — Soviet scientists say a meteorite weighing more than five million tons may have caused a massive explosion 72 years ago so strong that horses were knocked to the ground more than 400 miles away.

A new study of the "Tunguska Mystery" — an explosion in Siberia on June 30, 1908, with an estimated strength of 300 million tons of TNT — indicates the meteorite may have contained traces of both diamond and graphite.

Whatever did explode four miles above the earth leveled trees over a 1,250-square-mile area and presumably killed all living things. For weeks after the explosion, the

night sky glowed with a luminescence visible in Western Europe.

Among other theories that have been advanced for the explosion, scientists have suggested that a comet head blew up on contact with earth air; a collapsed star — a "black hole" — hit Siberia, passed through the Earth and came out through the North Atlantic; or the explosion was a nuclear blast, despite the lack of radioactivity.

But then the question is, who could have been responsible for a nuclear explosion almost four decades before man harnessed nuclear fission?

REGISTER, Des Moines, IA
Jan. 30, 1980

'BIGFOOT'-LIKE TRACKS FOUND IN N.E. IOWA

By T. J. RYDER

Of The Register's Dubuque Bureau

MANCHESTER, IA. — It's north-eastern Iowa's turn for Bigfoot stories.



Strange animal-like tracks were found in the snow in an expanse of heavy timber near here a week ago by two farmers. Delaware County Sheriff Bert Elledge was summoned and he took photographs of the tracks. He plans to show the photos to experts this week in an attempt to identify them.

The farmers, Richard Foust and Merlyn Havertape, had gone to the section of thick timber on a farm they own north of Manchester to locate sites to plant trees when they noted the strange tracks.

"They weren't afraid, but they knew the tracks were something they had never seen before and that's why they called me," Elledge said. "The tracks extended for about 200 feet and we lost them when the snow ran out and we hit grass."

Elledge said the tracks were 9 1/4 inches long and 4 1/4 inches wide. He said the length included six toe prints an inch long. He said the tracks were made by two "feet" of a creature that walked upright like a man with a stride that measured 19 1/4 inches.

Elledge said the tracks were deeper in the snow than the tracks he made and he estimates the creature weighed as much as 250 pounds.

"They definitely are some kind of animal tracks," he said. "No one would go out to a isolated place like that and make tracks. It would make no sense."

Elledge declined to pinpoint the area. He said persons might flock there and someone might get hurt.

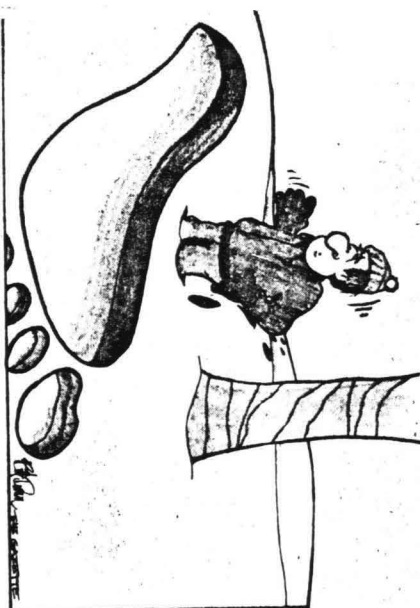
Elledge also is checking out a report that a train crew saw a hairy creature walking upright carrying a calf last week.

Sightings of strange, hairy creatures have been reported in western Iowa for more than a year.

Bigfoot is the legendary hairy creature of the northwest U.S. that walks upright like a man. Some persons believe it exists and can provide the missing link between animals and man.

CR: R. DeGraw

GAZETTE, Cedar Rapids, IA — Feb. 7, 1980
CR: R. DeGraw



By Mary Burke
Gazette Eastern Iowa reporter

MANCHESTER — The "mean-looking devil, eatin' on a dead carcass" sighted east of Manchester about three weeks ago is not "Bigfoot" according to the railroad engineer who spotted it. But the "big feet" photographed north of town a few days later are still a mystery to Delaware County Sheriff Bert Elledge.

Those tracks — 9 1/4 inches long by 4 1/4 inches wide — and indicating an upright walking creature have puzzled Elledge and Jim Becker, a conservation officer from Independence. Elledge said he doesn't believe in "Bigfoot," the 6 to 8-foot tall half-human, half-ape creature reportedly seen in the Pacific Northwest since the 1800s and in western Iowa last year and which some people believe could be a missing link in man's evolution. But Elledge is having the

photos enlarged to help identify the tracks.

Meanwhile, Cyril O'Brien, 62, a locomotive engineer with the Illinois Central Gulf Railroad, expressed a bit of regret at reporting the sighting. "I've had people call asking me about his bulging eyes, they've blown it so far out of proportion," O'Brien said he saw the animal on Jan. 16. It was a foggy day and he was about 200 feet from the animal but he "couldn't have seen its eyes."

"It was a dog-type animal with yellowish fur." Later he added it was "something on the order of a wolf" — only larger, but not as big as a horse. "For 38 years I've been whaling through there" and I've never seen anything like it. "And they say engineers have good eyesight."

O'Brien said he saw the animal on Jan. 16. It was a foggy day and he was about 200 feet from the animal but he "couldn't have seen its eyes."

After receiving O'Brien's report, Sheriff Elledge located a spot, about 4 1/4 miles east of Manchester where weeds had been matted down, as though an animal had been lying there, but said there was no evidence of any carcass. However, he isn't discounting the possibility it was the same animal who left tracks on the Merlyn Havertape farm, five miles north of Manchester.

Elledge, who does quite a bit of hunting, said he'd never seen such tracks before. "There weren't claws, but toes, like you and me. One photo shows six toes as clear as can be."

Manchester's dynamic duo: Devilish creature, Bigfoot

He said the tracks were probably three days old when sighted Jan. 23 by Havertape and a neighbor, Dick Foust, in a heavily wooded area.

By the depth of the track in the snow, Elledge estimated the creature, which he is convinced is animal, not human, weighs more than his 180 pounds. The length of the creature's stride was 19 1/4 inches compared to 14 or 14 1/2 inches for the stride of an average man, Elledge said.

The sheriff said he has been out every morning since the first sighting, trying to locate fresh tracks, but has been unsuccessful so far. He figures the animal is probably holed up some place.

In the meantime he cautioned any private searchers that the only hunting season now open is for rabbits. "We don't want the animal shot or destroyed if it is seen," he said his hunting party would use a hypodermic gun.

Animal mutilations create nightmare for farmers

By James Coates

Chicago Tribune Press Service

DUNKERTON, Ia.—The nightmare began at Gene Anderson's farm late one Saturday night just before Christmas when he heard his prize charolais bull calf "belling real bad like he was in real big pain."

When Anderson investigated, he found the tan 400-pound animal lying on its side with a nine-inch diameter circular hole cut deeply into its underbelly. The reproductive organs were gone. All but a pint of blood had been drained from the carcass, a state veterinarian later found.

When Anderson discovered the animal in his snowy field, there was "absolutely not a drop of blood anywhere on the ground and no sign of human [foot] prints or tire tracks," the farmer recalled.

Anderson said that in his four decades of raising hundreds of head of cattle, he had never seen anything like it. He called the Black Hawk County sheriff.

The sheriff took one look at the mutilated calf and called Jerry Shanahan, director of the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation [DCI].

THE BIZARRE SLAUGHTER that Anderson found has become all too familiar to Iowa's chief law officer.

Shanahan explained that cattle mutilations have swept Iowa from Des Moines to the Illinois line in recent weeks. The Corn Belt, he noted, is now in the middle of a mystery that has befuddled cattlemen from Canada to the Mexican border.

Currently, for example, members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in Calgary say they are investigating 30 cases of animal mutilation. Before that it was Colorado with 175 cases. Now, police say, the activity has centered in eastern Iowa.

The details of nearly every case — whether in Iowa or in Canada — are appallingly similar. Here is Shanahan's description of seven Iowa animal vic-

tims:

"A SHARP INSTRUMENT was used. The left ear was removed from each. The left eye was removed also, and so were the lips and the genitals. . . . The animals [are found] in an area where there are no tracks. Tests often indicate they died from the injuries and that the mutilation was performed while the animal was drugged with a powerful muscle relaxant and all its blood drained."

Only in the Anderson case did anyone hear the animal screaming in pain.

Although Iowa has recorded less than a dozen cases, law officers elsewhere have probed thousands of similar incidents throughout the United States since 1970, said Ken Rommel, who is conducting a nationwide Justice Department investigation of the mystery.

Lawmen differ widely over what is behind the torture slayings. In Iowa authorities suspect cultists practicing witchcraft. Investigators in New Mexico suspect a well-financed organization big enough to fly its own helicopters. Others argue that the mutilation is simply the work of wild animals—Rommel leans in that direction.

SHANAHAN SAID DCI has evidence the Iowa mutilations may be the prelude to human sacrifices by cultists.

Joe Motsinger, a DCI officer, said one man confided to a Cedar Rapids preacher that he had mutilated animals during initiation into a witchcraft coven but bolted when told he must perform a human sacrifice.

Motsinger said he believes he stumbled onto a witch's altar in an abandoned house near one mutilation site. "On the floor was a nine-foot circle with a pentagram in the center and on the walls were an inverted cross, the sign of Jupiter and symbols in ancient language which spell out Satan and hell," Motsinger recalled.

In 1975 a Minnesota investigation pursued and then rejected the theory that a witch's cult was behind a series of mutilations there.

A new federal inquiry was prompted by Sen. Harrison Schmidt [R., N.M.], a Justice Department spokesman said.

SCHMIDT PRESSED for a federal inquiry after he sponsored a public hearing in Albuquerque at which ranchers, lawmen, sociologists, and a number of flying saucer enthusiasts told of their experiences.

There have been about 8,000 cases reported since 1970 and losses have been set above \$2.5 million, Schmidt estimated. The senator said the groups behind the killings "have shown almost unprecedented discipline. There have been no leaks or informants to assist the state and local law enforcement officials in their investigative efforts. . . ."

Schmidt said he first met with former Atty. Gen. Griffin Bell, who "became obviously interested." Bell and FBI Director William Webster ordered the investigation that Rommel is conducting from Santa Fe.

The Santa Fe office passes information to other law officers. For example, Iowa's Shanahan noted that photographs sent from New Mexico showed that cattle there suffered attacks identical—down to minute details—to those recorded in Iowa.

HE EXPLAINED, "We have pictures from New Mexico showing where the lip was cut off at exactly the same place on the mouth—right at the same tooth—as our cases here in Iowa."

There is one big difference so far between the Iowa cases and many of the New Mexico events—the appearance of mysterious aircraft near mutilation sites.

Rommel and many other law officers have expressed displeasure that reports of strange lights drew flying saucer enthusiasts into the ranks of mutilation investigators. The UFO buffs' farout ideas tended to bring ridicule from police officers who, as Rommel put it, "had to do something about a very real

and very dead animal no matter what is behind it."

The lawmen were, therefore, relieved when witnesses generally agreed that the mysterious lights observed in the area of mutilations were helicopters and not flying saucers.

A recent copyrighted report by a Texas investigator, Thomas Adams, outlined mutilation cases from Illinois to Colorado, Kansas to Texas in which helicopters were observed near mutilation sites.

Among the examples:

● In Deaf Smith County, Tex., a rancher named Billy Joe Davis complained that he saw a helicopter with a bright spotlight over his head the night after three of his cows were mutilated.

● In Ebert County, Colo., where mutilation cases were a problem, two girls were chased by a helicopter. The copter was photographed by a bystander.

● In Jersey County, Ill., farmers with mutilation losses observed a "white, unmarked cargo-type helicopter" chasing livestock.

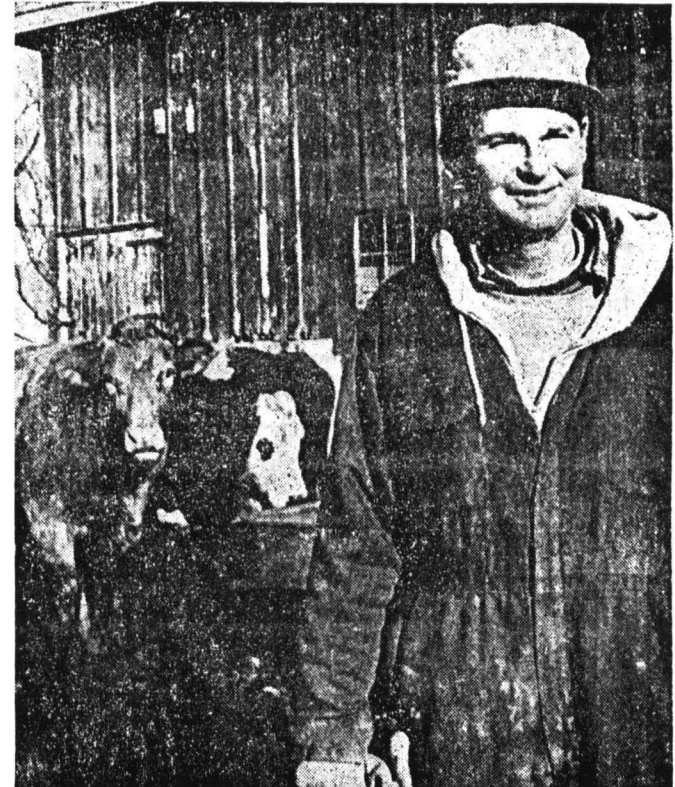
● In Uinta, Wyo., a law officer investigating mutilation cases was chased away from one site by a helicopter.

PERHAPS THE MOST experienced lawman in the matter is Gabe Valdez of the New Mexico State Police, who has personally investigated 30 such incidents.

Valdez called the incidents "classic" because the cutting was done with surgical precision and in each case similar damage inflicted.

Valdez said he suspects the aircraft carry the mutilated animals from where they are killed to another site. He displayed photographs of clamp marks on animals' legs. He also said in one of his cases a 700-pound steer was found in the branches of an apple tree five feet off the ground.

In another case Valdez said there



Farmer Gene Anderson found his prize charolais bull calf dead in a field with "absolutely not a drop of blood anywhere on the ground and no sign of human (foot) prints or tire tracks."

were marks along a country road where the nose of a 1,000-pound cow had been dragged in the dirt.

Valdez said that tests of blood sam-

ples from one of his cases showed large amounts of a powerful tranquilizer and a drug that prevents blood from clotting.

DAILY GLOBE, Atchison, KS - Jan. 21, 1980 CR: S. Hicks

Mutilated Cows Found In County

Evidence of sexual mutilation has been found in two cows found dead recently on farms south of Atchison, Atchison County Sheriff's authorities report.

The animals were found just across a fence from each other, one on Thursday and the other one Saturday. Sheriff's authorities said the animals had apparently been dead several days when found.

One of the cows was found on the James McCoy farm and the other on the Lloyd August farm, both on Route 1, about five miles south of town.

Sheriff's authorities said the length of time the animals had been dead made it difficult to determine an exact cause of death. There apparently were no bullet holes in the animals, authorities said.

Authorities said it appeared the animals' reproductive organs were cut out with a sharp object.

Several similar mutilations of livestock in the area last year, including in the Camp Creek and St. Patrick communities, sheriff's officials said.

TIMES, Kansas City, MO Jan. 28, 1980

'Bigfoot' Observed at Test Site in Nevada

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (AP)—A "reliable" employee at the Nevada Test Site says he saw a large, hairy, man-like creature wandering along a road in the desolate nuclear testing ground, a Department of Energy spokesman said Monday.

An employee of Reynolds Electrical & Engineering Co., one of the prime contractors at the sprawling test site, said he saw the creature about noon last Wednesday while driving along Tropicana Highway.

Dave Jackson, a DOE spokesman, said the unidentified workman, "considered to be a reliable person," was driving along Tropicana Highway, which runs from a camp at the northern end of the test site (about the size of Rhode Island) to a command post near U.S. 95.

He described the creature "as being somewhere between 6 and 7 feet tall, standing erect and walking like a man, with dark hair covering its body," Jackson said.

He said the workman stopped his truck about 30 to 50 yards from the creature and "observed the being cross the highway going in a northeasterly direction toward Yucca Flat. He watched it until it disappeared out into the sagebrush."

Jackson said the man drove directly to the test site command post at Mercury and reported the incident to guards. The security personnel "looked at the area and were not able to find any tracks or other evidence that the beast had been there."

CR: S. Hicks