

UFO

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BULLETIN, Bend, OR — May 29, 1981 CR: L. Whitehurst

UFO turns up on beach

NEWPORT (UPI) — A possible unidentified flying object that police found along the beach in the early morning darkness today has apparently disappeared.

Police Chief Larry Spencer said a citizen reported the object about 2:30 a.m. today along the beach north of the north Yaquina Bay jetty. The citizen said the object was 20-feet by six-feet long and "glowed" when kicked.

Spencer said two officers subsequently arrived at the scene, could not identify the object, but

reporting no "glowing" from it. He said officers could not determine whether the object was metal or wood.

The chief said when an officer later returned to investigate the object in daylight, it was gone. Spencer said it may have been washed out to sea.

The Oregon State University Marine Science Center in Newport was assisting the police department in the investigation, Spencer said.

HERALD, Denison, TX — May 21, 1981 CR: P. Guttilla

Second UFO Sighted East Of Telephone

TELEPHONE — Two visitors in a home east of Telephone saw an unidentified flying object in the early-morning sky today.

Wayne and Mattie Magness of Fairfield, Calif. had arrived at Dallas-Fort Worth Airport Wednesday at 8:30 p.m. Royce and Jean Magness of Telephone picked them up. The men are brothers, and their wives are sisters.

After they were in bed, the visitors saw the flying object about a half-mile east of the Magness home which is two miles east of Telephone on Highway 273. It was after midnight this morning.

Jean Magness said she heard her sister and brother-in-law talking excitedly after midnight, but she didn't know why.

Mattie Magness told her later they thought their hosts

were asleep and didn't want to disturb them. The visitors hadn't seen the Herald's Sunday story about a UFO sighting near Denison, but Jean Magness said Royce Magness' description of the object they saw was very much like the drawing in the Sunday Herald.

"He said it was an oval circle with six lines from the center and a blue light on each line. He said there was a smaller one behind, and my sister saw three, one in between. The large one was real bright, and the smaller one was pale, they told me," Jean Magness said.

According to the California couple, the UFO was motionless in the sky, and it was still there when they went to sleep.

Jean Magness said another sister at Savoy had talked to Margaret Lankford of Ector, her sister-in-law, who works at Texas Instruments and she saw the UFO last week. According to the report, that UFO moved close above the car in which Mrs. Lankford was riding.

Mrs. Magness reported the UFO sighting to the Fannin County Sheriff's Department this morning, but she was told that there hadn't been any other calls about UFO sightings.

Asked if she'd ever seen a UFO herself, Jean Magness said, "I never have, but I really believe there is something."

Local Fishermen Sight UFO?

One night recently two of our local fishermen reported the sighting of what they consider to be an unidentified flying object. Both are uncertain as to what this object actually was, but agree it was neither a conventional airplane or a falling star.

They first spotted this "UFO" about 10 p.m., several miles northwest of the city. They had just left their fishing hole where they had spent the past three hours and were on their way home. Driving south toward Highway 6 the two saw in the western horizon what appeared to be a larger and brighter than usual star. However, after further observation, they realized that it was slowly moving to the south and was definitely much larger and brighter than other stars in the sky. The object continued to move slowly in a southerly direction until at a precise moment when it almost stopped and went straight up at a very high rate of speed.

After it had reached this higher altitude it resumed its slower pace to the south for about five minutes. At this point it abruptly changed course and headed straight east. The fishermen, too, turned east at the next intersection and followed it again for several minutes. While on its easterly route it suddenly accelerated and again at a very high rate of speed almost instantly disappeared from view. Both agreed that although at times it appeared to travel at speeds equivalent to

jets, it had no blinking lights and was capable of unbelievable velocity.

As far as the two are concerned it was an unidentified flying object. They feel that it was either a far advanced aircraft man has been keeping under wraps or something that somebody else has which is far superior to what we today consider conventional air transportation.

SENTINEL, Friend, NE

May 7, 1981

ENTERPRISE SUN & NEWS, Simi Valley, CA — June 19, 1981

UFO sighting reported

A Frisbee-like flying saucer was spotted Thursday night above Simi Valley and Moorpark. It was sighted by a woman here at about the same time it was seen by a Moorpark resident.

The UFO spotters' descriptions of the object almost were identical.

Alexander Street resident Linda Aguilar spotted the flying saucer at 9:45 p.m., about five minutes before Linda Reyes of Moorpark saw it.

Reyes lives in a mobile home on Fruitvale Street and was sitting outside with her 1-year-old and 2-year-old children, Angela and Johnny, when an object with yellow and orange lights was sighted "moving up and down."

Reyes said, "I saw this round object spinning fast, with orange and yellow lights. It scared me a

lot so I put the kids in the house and called the East Valley Sheriff's Station."

The sheriff's deputies laughed at her in disbelief, Reyes said, and gave her a UFO research center's telephone number in the Seattle, Wash., area.

Deputies said the sheriff's station received at least two calls about the unknown craft, which observers said appeared to be moving toward Thousand Oaks.

Aguilar said the flying saucer seemed to be over the Simi Drive-In theater.

The object was traveling in a circle, the local resident said, and at a low altitude.

Aguilar estimated it to be about the size of an airplane and "round, like a Frisbee." She, too, said it was spinning and lighted.

"I've never seen anything like it," said Aguilar.

After calling her children outside to watch the UFO, Aguilar telephoned Simi Valley police and was given the Seattle research center's phone number.

A spokesman at the research center, where UFO sightings are investigated and evaluated, said local residents who sight a flying saucer are invited to telephone the center at 1-206-722-3000.

TIMES, Shreveport, LA — May 19, 1981

Marks on grass set science fiction scene for Spilker Street residents

By MELINDA SHELTON
Of The Times Staff

Strange night noises and unexplained marks on the grass led some residents on Spilker Street to believe that an extraterrestrial visit could have occurred.

For Mr. and Mrs. Bill Baxley and their neighbors, Monday was almost a day out of a science fiction movie.

The eerie saga began in the early morning hours Monday. A neighbor, Jeanette Young, heard her dog barking wildly in the back yard.

She peered out the window into the darkness, trying to see what was upsetting her dog. Out near a horse pen and garden area, she could see a small animal shape moving slowly. Her dog yelped, as if in pain.

Her husband, Glen, went outside to investigate but could find nothing unusual.

Monday morning, the Baxleys discovered strange black markings on one side of their yard. Mrs. Young, who lives next door, also saw the markings.

"We came out and found it this morning," Mrs. Baxley said, looking at a circle-shape marked with grayish patches. "Except this morning it was black as soot and greasy." By late afternoon the patches had faded to

gray and were drying to a powder state.

Mrs. Young, curious about the shape of the markings and the dark color, contacted The Times. "I know you'll think I'm crazy," she said, "but it looks like exhaust, you know, like from an engine. But it's in a circle shape. It looks like something burned the grass when it took off."

"We know it wasn't there yesterday, but today it is. It had to be done through the night."

The Baxleys agreed that the spots were similar to those left by exhaust pipes. But, they insisted, their gates were locked all night.

The Times investigated the story because of its location and recent reports of UFO sightings. Two people in the Bert Kouns Highway area called in reports of strange lights and flying objects seen last week.

At the Baxley home, the markings were in a clearly defined circle with three or four other marks inside the center of the circle. The colors were a dulling gray.

"This morning the stuff was just like oil, but it had no odor. It's the strangest thing," said Mrs. Baxley.

Another neighbor, Doris Moreno, said two weeks ago the same thing had happened in her yard. "The spots were in a circle on a hill just like these spots," she said. After contac-

ting environmental and horticulture experts, she said, no definite explanation was given. "And the heavy spots are still there, even after all this rain," she said.

Strange, unexplained noises in the night, a circle of spots, black, gummy material that turned gray and powdery — it was a mystery to the Spilker Street residents.

Samples of the grass was collected, and The Times turned to Dr. Joe White, horticulturist with the LSU Cooperative Extension Service.

One glance at the grass produced an answer: slime mold, an organism that will grow on plants but does not damage the cell structure or growth of the plant. White said it is common in the area, and due to the extreme amounts of moisture, can appear overnight.

Reaction to the identification produced laughter from Mrs. Baxley.

"It was just so odd," she said. "Two houses done the same way in the same shape. With all the racket going on during the night, and the reports in the area, we just kind of tied it in with UFOs."

Her husband summed it up another way. "If it was a UFO, it would have been a pretty good pilot to get in under that big pine tree without breaking a limb."

Mystery Light In Area Skies

A two-hour search Friday night turned up no trace of a crashed aircraft in this area, according to Nemaha County Sheriff Gary Boan, despite various reports from people from around the area.

Boan said one report described an object which was red, then white, then red again as if the object were on fire. Among those reporting to the sheriff's office were OPPD plant personnel in Nebraska City and the Peru police department.

NEMAHA CO. HERALD, Auburn, NE
April 28, 1981

UFO buffs claim close encounters

RON FRANCK
Special to the Star-Tribune

LARAMIE — A number of participants at a UFO conference here claim they saw unidentified flying objects Sunday morning while on an Albany County ranch where the owner claims numerous contacts with alien beings.

The reported sightings seem an appropriate climax to the three-day conference which concluded Sunday on the University of Wyoming campus — but there was doubt whether the reported aerial activity resulted from an attempt to contact aliens by telepathy Saturday night.

That attempt sought to transfer mental energy from conference participants to a psychic in Czechoslovakia — and from there, to the beings thought by many to pilot UFOs. The Earthlings, however, failed to lure any aliens into a close encounter of any kind and several people accepted an invitation to visit the Pat McGuire ranch about 35 miles northeast of Laramie.

McGUIRE HAS CLAIMED numerous contacts with UFOs at his ranch including one incident — which he later recalled under hypnosis — in which he was taken aboard a spacecraft and given instructions by aliens to dig a well on his ranch.

The well now produces several thousand gallons of pure water daily. Previous attempts by professional engineers had reportedly been unsuccessful in locating water on the ranch.

Arriving at the McGuire ranch around 2 a.m. Sunday, the group began scanning the skies. Several apparent UFOs — described as red and green flashing lights with a constant smaller white light on top — were sighted by some of the participants, but others said they saw nothing.

The objects were reported at several locations in the sky, but were estimated to be at least 20 miles distant.

Henry Blair, one of the participants who said he saw the objects, theorized the sudden appearance at the ranch of an unusually large number of people may have prevented the UFOs from coming nearer.

BUT WHETHER THEY SAW the objects or not, the UFO enthusiasts agree they would like to have another conference next year in Laramie.

Dr. Leo Sprinkle, UW professor and UFO investigator, who acted as conference coordinator, termed the conference "successful, exciting and fun."

"At least two aspects of this gathering are significant," he said. "The people attending were pleased with the opportunity to discuss their experiences and, by talking with others, they gained confidence that their own experiences were real."

"We know this is beneficial from the individual standpoint," he said. "What we don't yet know is whether this will lead to more organized efforts from the technical or scientific standpoint. It remains to be seen if this will lead to a permanent organization, a permanent gathering place for people who have had contacts or other experiences with UFOs."

SPRINKLE SAID THAT although information compiled at the conference will

be shared with other UFO investigative organizations, he isn't sure to what extent such information will be used.

"We are at a new phase in the UFO phenomenon," he said.

The first phase was to treat UFOs as a fantasy, he explained, and people who claimed to have witnessed UFOs were ridiculed. Later, he said, as UFOs came to be looked upon as an unexplainable mystery, attention turned to the characteristics of witnesses — their psychological and moral traits and their reliability.

After several years of compiling detailed background information on witnesses agreeing to cooperate with researchers, Sprinkle said, it is now felt that people claiming to have had contact with UFOs are generally intelligent, honest, of basically good moral character, and usually reliable.

"What we have," he said, "are normal witnesses reporting abnormal experiences."

SPRINKLE SAID CERTAIN patterns seem to be emerging from experiences

described by "contactees" claiming to have been abducted by aliens.

In many cases, the aliens are said to have predicted catastrophic events on Earth in the near future — including earthquakes, increased volcanic activity and wars.

On the other hand, the aliens are described as being extremely willing to help people on Earth learn how to avoid or overcome such catastrophes.

"It's as if they view us as living in an exciting but dangerous age," he said. "They seem to be telling us that while we have achieved more and more technical control, we have not yet achieved the same levels of moral and spiritual control. It's as if they are trying to warn us."

Sprinkle said Wyoming, and specifically the southeastern part of the state, seems to be the site of recently increasing UFO activity.

"It could be because of the well at Pat McGuire's ranch," he said. "It may very well be that the 'Ufolks' intended the well to serve as an indication they are attempting to help us."

UFO sighted near Grays

What is was nobody knows.

An unidentified flying object hovering at pine tree-top level was reportedly spied about 9 o'clock last Wednesday night (May 13) near Grays.

The Guardian got a long-distance phone call from a prominent Hampton Countian whose niece and two other Grays area residents said they saw it and described it to him.

Spied at someplace between Beaver Dam Baptist Church and Grays, the "thing" was described by those who saw it as an "inverted saucer shaped craft with no visible wings or propellers, with red lights glowing."

The caller said two UFO witnesses gave the same description -- It was silent and first was seen up high in the sky. The unidentified woman motorist reported as she was driving along the highway toward Grays the "thing" dropped down as low as tree-top level and hovered briefly, then spinning up and away again. The witness who asked that her name not be used because she did not want to receive crank calls further related that a man living nearby was dumping trash at a Green Box and he described the object similarly. Further, another witness apparently saw the UFO, stopped his pick-up truck, got out in the road to watch it, as if frightened and in shock from what he saw, then sped off.

The lady-driver said it was a scary experience.

Deputy Sheriff Earl Youmans on Thursday told The Guardian he had not heard of any other reports from Yemassee-Early Branch section of UFO sightings. However, he recalled a similar report from a highway patrolman and others of the area approximately a year and a half ago caused quite a stir.

By JOHN WILDMAN
OF THE NEWS STAFF

The strange aircraft, like a big silver hamburger bun, hovered over pine trees 75 feet off the ground about two blocks away as Johnnie Whitlow drove her car toward her home on Knollwood Circle.

Yellow light streamed from three square windows.

"I slowed down... it really scared me," said Mrs. Whitlow, who sighted the unidentified flying object March 11 at 8:45 p.m.

She hurriedly drove the quarter-mile to her home, picked up her husband, Stephen, a camera and binoculars, and drove back to the wooded area.

"It was gone," said Mrs. Whitlow, 38, who works for Ryan Homes and is president of the Newell Community Organization.

"It was the size of about two cars," she said Wednesday, "and it had a clear rim around the middle. And I hadn't been drinking."

Mrs. Whitlow's story is among hundreds in the files of George Fawcett, 52, of Lincoln.

He has studied Unidentified Flying Objects for 38 years, teaches a UFO course at Gaston College and is working on his second book on the subject.

And this weekend, he will be among 11 experts who will talk at a state UFO conference in Winston-Salem.

"There have been reports from 16 communities in the state already this year," Fawcett said, including one from Mount Airy, in which a farmer contends he saw a 4-foot-tall creature with a large cranium and large wrap-around eyes.

Sightings around Lake Norman have been numerous over the past two years, he said.

"People have seen UFOs coming out of the lake and flying around utility lines," he said. "Since UFOs have shown an affinity to nuclear stations and atomic plants, my theory is that someone is observing work at the McGuire Nuclear Plant."

The study of UFOs has come a long way, Fawcett said, from the days when people called him "a kook, crackpot and communist spy."

Fawcett said he began studying UFOs as a Boy Scout in 1943, four years before the U.S. Air Force gave sanction to the concept of UFOs.

"I kept scrapbooks during World War II," Fawcett said. "Our bomber pilots in Japan and

Germany reported seeing crafts that they thought were secret weapons of the enemies. They called them foo fighters."

Now, 57 percent of Americans believe there are UFOs, Fawcett said, referring to a 1979 Gallup Poll.

Since 1947, Fawcett said, there have been 65,000 UFO sightings in 133 countries. In 3,000 of those cases, he said, the UFOs landed.

This weekend, the state chapter of the worldwide Mutual UFO Network Inc. will host its fifth annual conference at the Nature Science Center in Winston-Salem.

Registration, for a \$2 fee, will be from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday. The program will run from 12:30 to 9:30 p.m. Saturday and from 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday.

NEWS, Greenville, SC - (Date Unknown)

The Association for Spiritual Development and Research at Salem, a non-profit religious group, is sponsoring the First Annual Mid-South UFO Witness Weekend Aug. 7-9.

A spokesman for the association — who identified himself in a tel-

phone interview as "Art" (he gave no last name) — indicated the group is quite serious about the weekend session.

In fact, Dr. J. Allen Hynek, who was for some 20 years a consultant to the U. S. Air Force in its "Project Bluebook" program to catalogue UFO sightings, is to appear on the program.

Hynek, a professor emeritus of astronomy at Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill., is director of the Center for UFO Studies at Evanston, and is considered an authority on such matters.

Hynek and others are to be at the UFO Witness Weekend, organizers of the session said, to "explain, calm and reassure" those who believe they have seen or experienced

UFO's "that you are not alone, and these things are also happening to others all over the world."

Art told *The Sun* that the weekend is "a very serious project," for people who "were afraid to say, 'Hey, look this happened to me.'" "We're not saying there is or there isn't" such a phenomenon, Art said.

A flyer (pardon the pun) describing the weekend promises conferees that they'll "be in a friendly, receptive atmosphere co-mingling with people just as anxious as you to find answers to the incredible, enigmatic mystery surrounding Unidentified Flying Objects."

The flyer continues: "Whether you've seen a daylight disc or nocturnal light or have in fact had a Close Encounter of the First, Second or Third Kind, you will find a receptive ear at the UFO Witness Weekend."

Close encounters of the first kind are those in which persons have witnessed a UFO, the second kind are those in which something has been disturbed by the UFO, and the third kind is described as "an actual meeting" with a UFO.

The seminar is limited to no more than 100 participants, and officials of the Association for Spiritual Development and Research think the seminar will quickly fill up.

"Absolutely no press or media will be invited or allowed at those meetings" to be held at Horseshoe Bend near Salem, "so if you're not afraid to tell your story ... plan to be with us in August," the flyer concludes.

PUTNAM CO. SENTINEL, Ottawa, OH
April 29, 1981

UFO's Are Reported at Ottoville

UFO sightings are becoming established as one of the sure signs of spring. Why more sightings occur in the spring than in any other season has never been explained but remains a reoccurring phenomenon. Two weeks ago several young men, at around 10:00 on a Friday night, reported seeing glowing lights moving in the sky near the Van Wert-Putnam County line southwest of Ottoville. The lights hovered then appeared to move straight up and down unlike conventional aircraft.

Last Saturday at 3:54 a.m., a couple living near Ottoville on Road 26-M called the sheriff's office to report that they were awakened by their dog which was barking excitedly. Looking out a window they saw a bright light hovering over a near-by woods. The UFO stayed in the area for awhile and moved in a manner similar to the one described by the young men earlier.

UFO plots are not alien to believers

By Brian E. Albrecht

Former flying saucer captive Betty Hill of New Hampshire brought "Junior," a life-sized mannequin head showing what her gray, earless, noseless and hairless alien captors supposedly looked like.

Laura Mundo of Michigan brought extra copies of her treatise, "Sex and the UFO," warning of the dangers of intimate relations with extraterrestrial visitors, and a coming worldwide cataclysm signified by increased sunspot activity.

Wayne Laporte of North Carolina brought his scale model of a UFO mother ship, complete with miniature crewmen consisting of alien humanoids, hominids ("Bigfoots"), robots, captured humans, interbreeds (half-alien, half-human) and superadvanced beings known as angels by Earthlings.

Different people from different backgrounds, all united in the unwavering belief that unidentified flying objects (UFOs), piloted by aliens from outer space, are an unquestionable reality.

They, and 60 to 70 other people, came to the Marriott Inn, 4277 W. 150th St., for a weekend (June 6-7) of lectures titled "UFOhio '81," sponsored by the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization (APRO), based in Arizona, and the Cleveland UFOlogy Project (CUP).

APRO, established in 1952, boasts of more than 3,000 members in 50 countries.

Its director, Jim Lorenzen, opened the conference by noting that the assembled lecturers and guests had gathered for an exchange of UFO information, with the objective of "seeing if we can make some sense out of it."

Based on the 11 lectures given that weekend, and a rough consensus of beliefs held by those in attendance, the following scenario emerged:

Earth has been visited periodically by UFOs and outer space aliens throughout mankind's history. Following World War II, a proliferation of crashed-UFO reports (concealed from the public by the government) indicated that land bases were being established for support of observation craft sent aloft to conduct more intensive studies of Earth.

These studies have taken various forms, including geological and biological research and a subtle program of capture and indoctrination designed to convert Earth people of various nationalities into "cosmic citizens" of the universe.

As Lorenzen told it, the big question is not what UFOs are, but why they're here.

Lorenzen cautioned against assuming that their motives are good; that they are here, as some suggest, as saviors of humanity, ready to pull our collective chestnuts from the nuclear fire.

"If wrong, we can be lulled into a mood of false security," Lorenzen said, "and sit waiting for angelic intervention while all humanity goes down the drain."

Beyond the basic UFO scenario, the field of ufology breaks down into a variety of beliefs and theories, each generally requiring the suspension of disbelief in the absence of irrefutable proof.

To Laura Gilbert of California, a firsthand UFO encounter is all the proof needed.

She confessed that until her first UFO sighting in 1975, "I thought anyone who believed in this needed psychiatric help."

Now, she and her husband, Don — a retired carpenter who, though not as ardent in his belief in UFOs as his wife, does admit to having seen "some pretty strange things in the sky" — rarely miss a UFO conference or lecture.

"We're retired now, so we save up our money and this (the APRO event) is what we spend it on," he explained. "Every time my wife hears about one of these,

you'd better believe we're going to be there. From the moment she saw her first UFO, she's been a very devout believer.

"You have to have a pretty strong belief to spend the kind of money that we do on this," he added with a smile.

Belief in UFOs and extraterrestrial beings dates to ancient mankind, according to Earl Neff, CUP chairman. His presentation at the conference included examples of art and architecture depicting early space visitations, at sites ranging from India to Bolivia.

Dr. Peter Van Arsdales, professor of anthropology at the University of Denver, outlined a spectrum of attitudes on UFOs:

The *prejudiced*, who totally reject the possibility of UFOs; *party liners*, who believe that a natural or psychological explanation for UFOs is in order; *skeptics*, who'll believe it when they see it; *believers*, and *contactees*, who not only believe, but want to become a part of it.

This last aspect of ufology was vividly represented in the story told by Betty Hill of the experiences of her and her late husband aboard a flying saucer in 1965.

Hill said she and her husband were abducted from their car, taken aboard the alien craft and subjected to an intensive physical examination.

She recalled that at one point, the alien examiner rushed in from another room where her husband was being tested, wanting to know why his (false) teeth came out and hers did not.

Though conditioned with amnesia before her release, Hill said subsequent hypnosis enabled her to recall incidents of that night, plus details of a "star map" she was shown, which diagrammed the aliens' various trade routes and expeditions.

Hill offered no theories on why she and her husband were abducted. Dr. Leo Sprinkle suggested that the "UFOs" (aliens) are trying to infuse selected "US-folks" with a greater sense of "cosmic consciousness."

Since her abduction, Hill said, she has witnessed numerous other UFO landings and flights. Her reports vied for attention with tales of glowing lights and twilight visitations swapped by conference attendees throughout the weekend.

Their accounts of astral spacecraft ranged from pilotless drones and glowing cylinders to massive mother ships and entire UFO squadrons.

To Robert F. Creegan, a professor of philosophy at State University of New York, the number of believers is limited because of the suspicion with which mankind historically has approached things it cannot fully explain.

He foresees the temporary alien occupation of entire communities (though they won't know it due to induced amnesia), further conflict between skeptics and believers and stronger evidence in support of alien visitors on Earth.

"We (the believers) shall overcome," Creegan added, "but not all at once."

Stanton T. Friedman, an atomic physicist, said that were it not for government coverups and media skepticism, belief in UFOs would be as common as belief in gravity.

Citing a 1978 Gallup poll showing that 57% of those queried believed UFOs are real, Friedman said the assumption that most people are non-believers is "a popular myth."

During his presentation, "UFO, the Cosmic Watergate," Friedman told his audience, "It's time to stop being apologist-ufologists. You're with the cream of the crop, not at the bottom of the barrel."

Friedman asserted that the government knows UFOs are real; it just doesn't want you to know.

Why? Not because, as is commonly thought, people would panic in a repeat of the 1938 scare prompted by the radio broadcast of "War of the Worlds," Friedman said.

According to Friedman, one reason for the Cosmic Watergate is that the government hasn't yet learned how to operate the UFOs in its possession, and if word leaked out, "there would be an immediate push by the younger and space-oriented generation for an earthling orientation in place of the terribly destructive and widespread nationalistic approach which so characterizes Earth."

"And," Friedman added, "I know of no government that wants its citizens to owe their primary allegiance to the planet, instead of to that individual nationalistic government."

Among examples of alleged government UFO coverups, author William Moore pointed to the "Roswell Incident." This involved the supposed crash in 1947 of an alien flying saucer in New Mexico, and the subsequent government whitewash of the whole affair.

U.S. military forces were said to have transported the wrecked saucer (and its crew of six to eight dead aliens) to a secret laboratory at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton for further study.

Moore described the "Roswell Incident" as "the nearest thing we have seen to the perfect UFO case," largely because of the number of witnesses (70) whose testimony, he said, confirms this story.

Lt. Col. Lawrence Coyne (U.S. Army Reserve) told the conference of his 1973 encounter with a UFO while piloting a helicopter from Columbus to Cleveland. He said that as he neared Mansfield, his chopper was overtaken by a gray metallic object with red, flashing lights.

After briefly bringing the helicopter under its control, despite Coyne's best efforts to land, the UFO vanished as suddenly as it had appeared.

Coyne said when he reported the incident, the first reaction he received was, "What kind of whisky have you been drinking?"

Coyne said his crew met with the same response. "You don't know how alone four grown men can suddenly feel," he said. "It's a very awkward situation — the sudden realization that you are in the minority."

The skepticism was bewildering to Coyne, who believes "that particular evening was the closest I've come to dying."

His belief in UFOs has remained unshaken. Coyne said he has met others in highly respected positions who share that belief, but will not openly say so for fear of ridicule.

"Because of this, a lot of good information, important to UFO research, will not surface," he said.

TIMES, Burlington, NJ - June 14, 1981

newsbreak

UFO sighting: A caller reported yesterday that he and a companion sighted a UFO near the Route 295 overpass in Westampton. He described the object as a whitish gray disc that moved the distance of about two blocks "in the wink of an eye," changing directions at the same time. According to his report, the sighting was made around 11 a.m. We noted a Goodyear blimp was overhead in the late morning, but the caller was emphatic that what he saw was no blimp.

Researchers claim evidence of UFOs

By MIKE DAUPLAISE
Of the Press-Gazette

William Moore uses government documents and interviews in his investigation of unidentified flying objects.

Col. Wendelle Stevens, on the other hand, relies on the largest collection in the world of photographs of objects regarded as UFOs and interviews in his study.

They are two of the national and international UFO authorities attending the 18th Annual National UFO Conference at Howard Johnson's Motor Lodge in De Pere today.

"I can provide a lot of evidence (on the existence of UFOs), but only you can accept it as proof," Moore said Friday.

"I regard myself as an enlightened skeptic," he said. "I want to see evidence. Until then it (the sighting report) is worthless."

Moore is co-author books entitled "The Philadelphia Experiment" and "The Roswell Incident".

In "Roswell" he explores the possibility of the U.S. government possessing the wreckage of a UFO said to have crashed in Roswell, N.M., on July 2, 1947.

"I've talked to 70 people about the Roswell incident," Moore said, "and 24 of them were witnesses to either the recovery of the wreckage or the sighting."

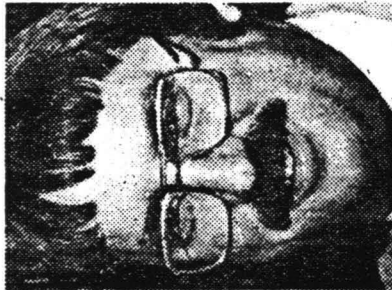
Moore has what he said is an originally top-secret memorandum to the controller of telecommunications in



Col. Wendelle Stevens

the Canadian Department of Transport, dated November 21, 1950.

A copy of the document states that inquiries made through the Canadian Embassy staff in Washington



William Moore

revealed that "(A) the (UFO) matter is the most highly classified subject in the United States Government, rating higher even than the H-bomb."

"(B) Flying saucers exist."

(C) Their method of operation is unknown but a concentrated effort is being made by a small group and (D), the entire matter is considered by the U.S. authorities to be of tremendous significance.

"The evidence is highly convincing," Moore commented. "The Army publicly admitted to possessing the wreckage of a crashed saucer in newspapers, then they said they had made a mistake and that the wreckage was from a weather balloon."

Moore believes the government still has the wreckage of the craft. He hasn't been able to pin it down, though he said some people have told him it may be in storage at a military base in

West Virginia.

Stevens, a retired Air Force officer, has written "Contact From the Pleiades" and "UFO Contact from Reticulum".

Stevens uses one man as the source for each of his books. A Swiss man who says he was taken aboard a saucer is the basis for "Pleiades" while a man in Charleston, S.C., provides the basis for "Reticulum".

The terms Pleiades and Reticulum were chosen for the titles, Stevens explains, because the beings said to have contacted the men reportedly said they came from the parts of the universe referred to by those names.

Pleiades, according to Stevens, is a stellar group lo-

cated about 530 light years away, while Reticulum is a mere 37 light years away. A light year is about six trillion miles.

Stevens said he has difficulty getting people to relate their experiences to him because of a law which prohibits release of information which may endanger the security of the country.

Stevens said the Swiss man has had contacts with the aliens since January of 1975 and that the American has contacted aliens since November 1977.

Local ufologist and conference organizer Ron Spanbauer has scheduled two public sessions for today. The first starts at 2 p.m., while the evening session starts at 7 p.m.

PRESS-GAZETTE, Green Bay, WI
June 27, 1981 CR: R. Heiden

No giggles heard as UFO buffs talk



Don
Langenkamp

Of the Press-Gazette

PRESS-GAZETTE, Green Bay, WI - June 28, 1981 CR: R. Heiden

"You hear a lot more questions than answers at a national UFO convention, such as the one held at De Pere's Howard Johnson Motor Lodge Saturday."

That's only logical, because the answers can come only from alien visitors to our planet. And as far as I know, no aliens came forth to shed any light on the subject.

But I'm not about to make light of ufology — or middle ufology — which is what the biggies in the UFO field call their calling. I'm in no position to do that because I've never seen an unidentified flying object.

I don't want to see one, either. Because after talking to a number of convention visitors from a dozen or so states, I discovered that a saucer sighting is a gripping thing. Since I've got enough problems handling life on this planet, I really don't need more problems with beings from outer space.

Still, that didn't quell my curiosity about the people who are really into this field. And that's what led me to visit the local organizer for this annual convention, Ron Spanbauer, on Friday night and drew me back for Saturday morning's informal session.

Spanbauer perhaps put it better than anyone when I asked him what happens to someone who sees a UFO. That, incidentally, includes quite a few people; there are 75,000 sightings on the books.

"It forever changes your life," says Spanbauer, 34. "It's almost sad. It's hard to keep yourself in check."

Everyone kept themselves in check Saturday morning. No one smirked, giggled or shook his or her head in disbelief. This is very serious business for people who spend sizable amounts of money to travel to these conventions.

Some of them say they've seen UFOs. Others haven't, but not because they haven't tried. Still others are merely curious about it, such as one man from Upper Michigan who said, "I just want to separate the wheat from the chaff. But I've read a lot of books and there must be something to all of this."

The most substantial revelation Saturday morning was the playing of a tape recording supposedly containing alien voices. OK, laugh. But there weren't any laughs in that room.

The tape was played by Col. Wendelle Stevens, a UFO authority who has been immersed in this strange business for over 30 years. It was obtained from a Japanese Buddhist monk, who claims to have been abducted by aliens on several occasions.

The voice was guttural and unintelligible, but no one in that room scoffed at Stevens' statement that it was indeed an alien voice. This was choice stuff, the type of thing these people had traveled so far to hear.

They had come to listen to the leading authorities, to talk with one another, and to feel a togetherness they seldom experience.

And I got to thinking, being a believer must be a lonely thing. These people obviously are very serious about this. Spanbauer said they refuse to call it a hobby, because that would demean it.

They are generally bookish, well-spoken and above-average in intelligence. While many readily admit that their field draws a fair number of genuine wackos, they do their best to keep them at arm's length.

"I got a letter from some guy in Brazil who claimed he was put on this planet 32 years ago," says Spanbauer. "He wanted me to send him an airplane ticket so he could come to the convention. I wrote him back and told him to get in touch with his alien buddies and they could fly him up here."

James W. Moseley, co-founder of the National UFO Conference, was anxious to define middle ufology as perhaps the most responsible segment of believers.

"We're in between the skeptics and the true believers," he said. "There are various spectrums of belief. We feel we're speaking the truth, but we don't have the final answers."

These people would like more answers. They are, perhaps, pioneers in a field founded before its time. In the next century, close encounters may be so common that they won't even raise any eyebrows.

In the meantime, though, I'm fairly content to be blissfully ignorant. But if all these aliens can teach us how to get along better on our little planet, I'm all for having them land and stick around awhile.

From Space Or The Devil?

THE STATE, Columbia, SC - June 28, 1981 CR: W. Jones

Bill Herrmann Believes Close Encounters Satanic Delusions

By DAVID TOMLIN
Associated Press

CHARLESTON — People who know Bill Herrmann swear he's neither a lunatic nor a liar. So what are we to make of the bizarre stories he tells?

On March 18, 1978, Herrmann says he was carried on a tubular beam of blue-green light into a flying saucer, examined by aliens from another star system and then dropped off, terrified, in a field several miles from his home.

More than a year later, he says he obeyed a telepathic summons from the same humanoid creatures and met the saucer for another trip up the blue-green beam and into space.

In fact, much of the past four years of Herrmann's life has been a crazy quilt of UFO sightings, telepathic writings in a mysterious script, strange phone calls and, he says, even a visit by the aliens to his home.

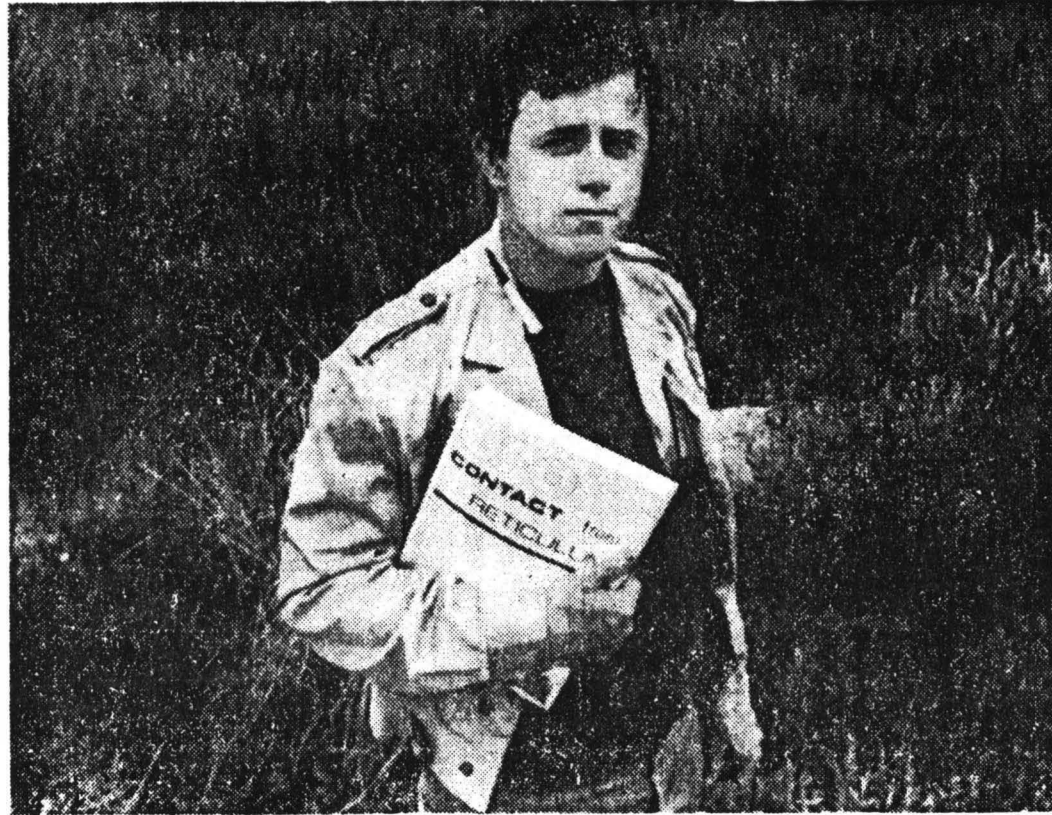
UFO chroniclers have interviewed Herrmann repeatedly and examined his evidence, which includes drawings of the inside of a flying saucer and many photographs of purported UFOs.

Herrmann has even been hypnotized several times to help him remember details of his story and to confirm that he believes it himself.

One private UFO researcher is about to print a book at his own expense with Herrmann's accounts of all these weird happenings and the researcher's assessments of them. Another investigator calls it "one of the best UFO cases we have."

Herrmann, 30, is a quiet, boyish diesel technician and truck driver who professes to have believed until 1977 that UFOs were "hogwash."

"To this day, I've never heard him offer unusual ideas in any other field," says Jody Willis, Herrmann's employer and long-time friend and fellow churchman. "He's just a good member of



Associated Press

Bill Herrmann stands in field where he claims he had an encounter with a UFO.

the church, his family and the community, very responsible."

But Herrmann says he has had to struggle through the past few years to hang onto his marriage and his emotional stability.

"My wife put up with more than anyone would put up with," he says. "It's hard to live with

someone whose idea of 'good night' is to go out and sit in the car with a pair of binoculars and wait for something to arrive."

The arrivals began in late 1977 with a widely reported rash of UFO sightings and media reports which Herrmann says he believed at the time were really secret military exercises.

But on March 18, 1978, Herrmann says he was watching a slick metal disc, about 60 feet in diameter, as it maneuvered near his home northwest of Charleston. It dropped abruptly from the sky.

"Suddenly it was right in front of me," he says. "I fell backward. The next thing I knew, there was light all around me, green and blue, and I felt myself being tugged upward."

In what seemed only a moment, Herrmann found himself sitting miles away in an open field in a diminishing circle of orange light, as the spacecraft skittered away in the triangular pattern Herrmann was told later was designed to avoid damage from earth radar.

"I couldn't remember anything," he says. "I didn't know where I was. A terrible fear came over me, and I stood there weeping for what seemed like a long time. I felt dirty. I felt like . . . I can't describe it. I felt like I had been around something I shouldn't have been around."

But later under hypnosis, Herrmann recalled an examining table, flashing lights and creatures who looked like human fetuses, with enlarged heads and eyes, spongy white skin and who wore rust colored jumpsuits. They stood about 4.5 feet high.

"I really don't think he's knowingly making these things up," says James Lorenzen of Aerial Phenomena Research Organization of Tucson, Ariz., which has been collecting such tales for nearly 30 years.

"During one of the hypnosis sessions, he really broke up, just from the fear and terror of the experience he was reliving," Lorenzen says. "It didn't look like acting to me."

Herrmann, a fundamentalist Baptist, now is persuaded that all UFO experiences are Satanic delusions.

"Bill has had a real experience," Lorenzen says. "I'm afraid that when he couldn't get any real help from us in understanding it, his minister was there with some answers he was comfortable with."

Herrmann says the last UFO he saw following him several months ago whizzed straight up out of sight when he renounced it in God's name. He says he hopes the aliens are out of his life for good.

But they were part of it at one time.

On April 21, 1979, he says a pair of aliens materialized briefly in his home in a blue-green haze and left behind a metal bar with peculiar markings on it. They told him it was a gift of "understanding and respect."

And on May 16, he says he saw the spacecraft again from his home and received a telepathic message that he was to meet it at a nearby industrial site.

On this trip, Herrmann says he was dropped off in the same place he was taken aboard.

A truly scientific study of UFOs

Globe-Democrat paved the way for research into strange objects in sky over southeast Missouri

By CHARLES J. OSWALD
Globe-Democrat Staff Writer

CAPE GIRARDEAU, Mo., — On the night of Feb. 21, 1973, the late Clearwater High School basketball coach, Reg Bone, and five players were returning to Piedmont, Mo., from a basketball tournament at Dexter when they experienced a close encounter of the third kind with a brightly lit UFO.

The sighting was made by Bone and the five high school students on a lonely road between Ellsinore and Piedmont when a bright light followed their car and then hovered over a field about 100 yards from the startled coach and boys.

From their vantage point, Bone and his players managed to clearly distinguish four intense amber, green and white lights coming from the strange craft.

Without a sound, the object rose straight up in the air and disappeared over a hill at a high rate of speed. There was no sound, turbulence or heat emanating from the object.

That's the night "the lights went on" in

Missouri and during the last eight years, the lights have continued to be seen by residents of southeast Missouri on a regular basis.

The strange phenomenon triggered the scientific curiosity of Dr. Harley D. Rutledge, chairman of the physics department at Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau who, assisted by a grant from The Globe-Democrat, began a seven year research quest into the origin and nature of UFOs seen flitting over the Ozark mountains.

Rutledge, with his knowledge of physics and his expertise at using various types of electronic surveillance equipment, set up what is believed to be one of the first truly scientific studies of UFOs conducted in the U.S.

His research resulted in hundreds of sightings and actual photographs of the "strange lights," that have piqued the interest of the scientific community and the general public.

During his research, he interviewed scores of persons who had first hand encounters—some of them frightening—with UFOs.

For example, about the same time coach Bone and the basketball players got their first glimpse of a UFO, Miss Jean Coleman and Miss Cathy Leach reported seeing a disc-shaped red glowing object surface from the depths of Clearwater Lake and silently soar over a mountain top.

Ken Johnson and his family were driving up the switchback road leading to their home directly above the lake when they saw a brightly lit object hovering about 800 feet above the water.

"It was about an eighth of a mile from the dam when it disappeared in mid-air like somebody turned off a light bulb," he said.

DOZENS OF WITNESSES, including fishermen and law enforcement officials, interviewed separately by a Globe-Democrat reporter at the time of the early sightings gave similar descriptions of the UFOs which they described as bright, white or amber lights, that suddenly and mysteriously blinked off.

In April, 1973, two experienced pilots chased a glowing disc-shaped object over Farmington, Mo., before it suddenly outdistanced them with a tremendous burst of speed.

The pilots, Kenneth Pingel and Marvin Coyer, said they were returning to Farmington about 10:30 p.m. when they first noticed a strange light off the left wing of the single engine Piper Cherokee.

"The object seemed to give off heat waves like the kind you see on highways during a hot day," Pingel said. Yet, the strange craft made no noise despite its tremendous power and ability to make seemingly impossible maneuvers in the sky.

Cautious, even skeptical, Rutledge assembled a team of student scientific researchers and began a systematic study of the UFOs using telescopes, sophisticated camera equipment, techronic spectrum analyzers to measure electromagnetic disturbances, equipment to detect radio frequency emissions and infrared film to detect heat emissions.

The results of his seven-year probe can be found in "Project Identification," a 263-page book published by Prentice Hall which hits the book stands this month.

Sitting in his office in the physics department at Southeast Missouri State University, Rutledge remains puzzled by some of his findings.

"One thing is certain," he said, "there is an intelligence behind UFOs equal to man or better. We're trying to bring perspective to the UFO phenomenon."

Rutledge has concluded that their can only be three possible explanations for the strange craft.

One is the extra-terrestrial theory that concludes the crafts are from another planet guided by alien creatures with super cerebral powers which for some reason or another, are studying earthlings.

The second is that UFOs are a paranormal or supernatural phenomenon. Perhaps entering and leaving the earth's time-space continuity at will.

The third theory is what Rutledge refers to as the religious interpretation.

That somehow, UFOs are some form of signal from God or the evil forces battling with God that a significant, earth-shattering event is about to take place that will change the history of mankind forever.

IN THE BIBLICAL BOOK Luke, chapter 21, verses 25 through 28, Jesus says:

"And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring. Men's hearts failing from fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth; for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh."

A fourth theory, while not commonly subscribed to, is that UFOs are actually man-made experimental craft developed through drastically new concepts of harnessing energy and conquering the natural law of gravity.

Rutledge says his research discovered that UFOs can accelerate and travel at great speeds, the equivalent of 10,560 feet per second squared or covering a one mile stretch of sky at 7,200 miles an hour from a dead stop!

Rutledge based his calculations on the actual sighting of a strange orange, red and green-colored UFO which he and pilot Drake Kambitch observed from the cabin of a Cessna 150 while flying at an altitude of 2,000 feet near the Clark Mountain area of Piedmont.

"Suddenly as we flew toward the light, it shot straight up. In my 10X binoculars, I could make out red and green as well as the original orange in the streak," Rutledge writes.

"...At the speed of 7,200 miles per hour, there should have been a terrific sonic boom," Rutledge said. Yet, neither he nor Kambitch heard a sound as the UFO almost instantly disappeared from sight.

The G-force, or gravitational force, of such a rapid acceleration would crush a 100-pound human being under an incredible force of 33,000 pounds—nearly 16.5 tons—leading Rutledge to believe that UFOs he has seen are not experimental aircraft developed by the U.S. government or any other earthbound government for that matter.

ONE OF THE PECULIAR things, Rutledge and his trained observers noted, was the strange "interaction" between UFOs and the UFO watchers.

At times, Rutledge and the observers said they felt the presence of UFOs when none were immediately visible. A second or so later, a "pseudostar" (as Rutledge refers to them) would blink on somewhere in a cluster of heavenly bodies.

At other times, Rutledge said researchers felt they were being observed, perhaps even listened to by whatever it is inside the UFO.

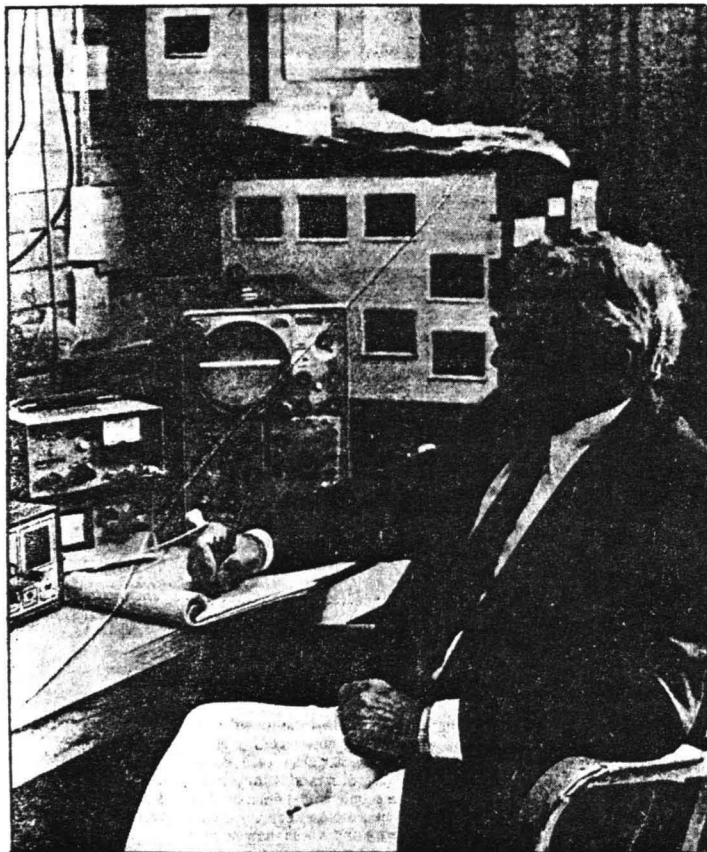
There were even successful uses of mind projection or telepathy by some of the researchers that appeared to cause the UFOs to move in projected patterns.

Rutledge has classified three types of commonly appearing UFOs—the familiar disc-shaped objects long the favorite of science fiction writers, the bullet-shaped rocketlike projectile and the pseudostar or ball of light.

"One can only guess at the propulsion system. Again, one suggestion is electromagnetic radiation in the form of microwaves," Rutledge writes, noting that "many of the physical and physiological effects of UFOs reported by thousands of persons since World War II strongly suggest the presence of microwaves in the range of 300 to 3000 megahertz or higher."

Another possibility is that UFOs have harnessed force fields, perhaps gravitational or using the earth's magnetic force fields, he contends.

Alan Holt, astrophysicist training supervisor with NASA, has proposed an extension of radiation-gravitational field interaction. In what he calls the Field Resonance Propulsion System theory, he predicts tunneling through space-time; that is, the spacecraft could jump from this moment on earth to some place in space and time. It sounds a bit like the 'space-warp' so dear to science-fiction writers, and to a few 'UFO-ologists,'" Rutledge writes.



Dr. Harley D. Rutledge, UFO investigator and head of the physics department at Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau.

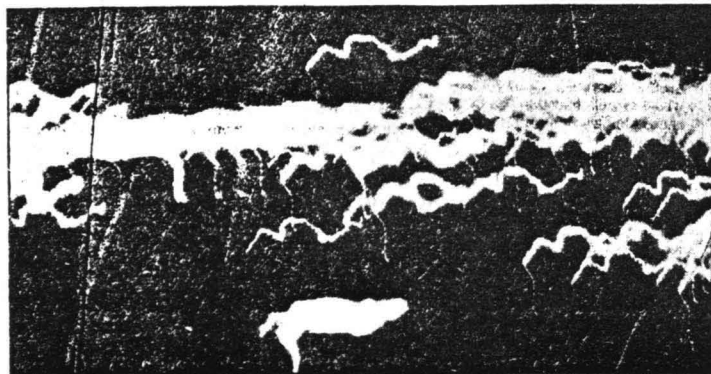


Photo copyrighted by H.D. Rutledge

Famous photograph of mysterious lights as they glided silently over the Farmington, Mo., airport in May of 1973.



Buzzing triangle puzzles drivers

POLICE are keeping an open mind as they strive to unravel the mystery of a UFO encounter.

The object — a flying machine believed to be triangular in shape — swooped out of the night sky at 12.30 am on Sunday.

It appeared, at first, as a "brilliant star" to Mrs Karen Speers and husband, Jim, driving along London Road, Stretton.

Mrs Speers, of 29, Gloucester Close, Woolston, got her husband to stop the car by the Hydro Hotel, Appleton — and they then watched the airborne "visitor" hovering over homes in the area for about two minutes.

"I wound the window down, and there was the sound of a machine. It was a constant sound, but did not resemble that of a helicopter," said Mrs Speers.

"It was triangular in shape and about the size of a two-seater aircraft — but it was certainly not a plane."

"It hovered for a couple of minutes at a height of about 60 ft and I could see lights inside. Then it suddenly shot off at a fast speed over Appleton Park, coming even closer to the ground."

"I looked back towards Stretton and saw that a number of motorists had stopped their vehicles, obviously watching this strange object."

A police spokesman at Stockton Heath said reports suggested the object moved "in a peculiar way."

Inquiries were being made with air-traffic controllers in an attempt to identify the object.

UFO 'flightpath' rumours grow after sighting

SPECULATION that Hayes and Keston could be on a regular "UFO flightpath" grew this week, after the latest "strange sighting" quoted by local school-girls.

The sighting — described as "weird, strange and frightening" — was shortly after nightfall on May 6 at Keston Ponds.

Joanne Baron, 16, and Caroline Johnston, 15, were walking ahead of two friends beside the lower pond when

Caroline suddenly spotted a strange object.

She told the Kentish Times: "It had neither animal nor human qualities and was moving slowly towards us across the water."

"It seemed to be wearing a long, pointed hat of dark material, and may have been covered by a dark cloak. Round the lower half of its body was a circle of small lights."

Joanne, from Bromley, added: "The nearest thing to compare it with would be a postergeist that had illuminated the lower half of its body."

"The effect it gave was that of a clown walking on stilts."

As it continued to move forward, the girls ran off to find their friends but when they looked again, the object had disappeared.

Mr Timothy Good, Bromley Borough's leading expert on 'UFOs' told the Times the sighting was in an "interesting category" more akin to a "yeti" type of creature than to a flying saucer.

'METEOROLOGICAL'

Mr Ian Cheshire, regional manager of Seismograph, the geophysical survey company based half a mile from Keston ponds, sug-

gested a "meteorological" explanation to the sighting.

The incident comes almost exactly 14 years after the last UFO — a "sphere of light" — was seen over the ponds in May 1967, coinciding with an even more spectacular one seen by Mr Paul Devereux and others just down the road at Bromley College of Technology.

Mr Devereux has since written a book on strange phenomena.

He has a theory that UFOs are often seen near keys — ancient landmarks like standing stones or the site of old churches.

He suggests that Keston — with the hilltop earthwork known as Caesar's Camp in the grounds of Holwood House — could be "ufocal" in other words, could attract UFOs.

The village, the theory goes, could be on a veritable "UFO alley" on a much-travelled flightpath over South-East England!

EVENING TRIBUNE, Welland, Ontario, Canada - May 21, 1981

Flying saucers or ad gimmicks in Welland skies?

WELLAND (staff) — After viewing "The Howling", Staff Sgt. Peter said "I thought the whole city was loony, I wanted to pack up and leave town." On night duty Victoria Day evening the telephones were

ringing off the hook from people reporting a UFO sighted over Welland. Even though Sgt. Peter said he doesn't believe in flying saucers he was a little leary about so many calls. Shortly after Sergeant Steve

Talosi arrived at the station and said he witnessed a large cigar-shaped balloon with revolving lights that was obviously an advertising promotion for a Niagara Falls bar called "The Bakery". Sgt. Talosi said he was close enough to the balloon to read the inscription on the side — "The Bakery. The one with the phones."

Dominic Agostino, 22, came into the Tribune office Tuesday afternoon to report his sightings of a UFO, which he claimed had no sign on it.

On the evening before he said he and a few friends saw the saucer at close distance and did not see any sign. The lights

were revolving "just like a saucer" and he said there was no aircraft pulling it and no sound came from the mysterious object.

"I think it was a saucer. It was a full moon and you know how the saying goes. Things like this are likely to happen on a full moon."

From a half a mile away, Sgt. Peter said the blimp really looked authentic. He said, during a telephone conversation yesterday morning, that when Mr. Agostino and his friends arrived at the police station they were really excited. Although, they have good intentions, he said, they more or less confirmed the sighting everyone else

witnessed.

"Some people were stopping their cars and looking at it. We're surprised there were no accidents," he said.

Sgt. Peter added that it was quite a promotional gimmick and timed perfectly, "right after the fireworks."

Sgt. Peter said he doesn't usually make investigative checks on UFO's unless there are a number of them. Most of the time the sightings are during the fall season, he recalled.

As far as Mr. Agostino is concerned, he said, "three times I saw things I couldn't explain. But I wasn't by myself and I know I'm not crazy."

AUSTRALASIAN EXPRESS, (City Unknown), Australia
May 19, 1981 CR: R. Collins

Airforce probe UFO's

CANBERRA — The Federal Government is spending thousands of dollars a year trying to track down non-existent invaders from outer space.

A network of RAAF officers around the country investigates and reports on every sighting of an unidentified flying object despite official acknowledgement nearly 20 years ago that flying saucers do not exist.

Since then, RAAF intelligence officers have reported annually to the Government that there is still no evidence that UFO's are visiting us.

Yet each year the defence budget includes provision for the part-time employment of at least 14 RAAF officers and one senior RAAF intelligence officer to report the same findings.

It is 20 years since the US Air Force closed down a similar program.

In 1963, the then Minister for Air, Mr Osborne, told Parliament there was no evi-

dence that UFOs sighted over Australia represented visitors from outer space.

The bulk of the sightings could be traced to aircraft, meteorological balloons or Venus.

Since 1963, the RAAF has been able to refine its investigations to such a degree that it can now explain 97 per cent of all sightings.

The unexplained 3 per cent is largely attributed to hoaxes.

RECORD, Roodeport, South Africa - May 8, 1981 CR: J. Brill

UFO's hover over city

RECENT sightings of UFO's (unidentified flying objects) were fairly common not only on the West Rand but also on the whole Witwatersrand.

Roodeport residents reported sightings to the RECORD but did not wish to be named. If they realised how many others had seen the same thing they probably would have been more enthusiastic. Mrs Pat Jilings of Horizon didn't mind her story told. She saw a UFO near the Magaliesberg-Hekpoort road intersection.

Mrs Jilings described the UFO as silver and dome-

shaped. She said it hovered a few thousand metres up and then moved towards Tarlton at a fantastic speed. Within almost the same period Mrs Anne Rosenberg, who also didn't mind being named because she was so certain of what she'd seen and because she had witnesses to testify, saw a UFO in Blairgowrie.

Mrs Rosenberg said: "We all saw it. My brother Howard (19), son Kim and his friends. It resembled a soccer ball in size and seemed to be very low, almost touched the tree tops although in reality it must have been very far away

because I have heard that these things are supposed to be enormous."

"It caught my attention because it was reflecting such bright light. First I would say it was the colour of an electric light bulb, but then the colours seemed to change, merging and glimmering from orange through to bluey green."

"At first it went very slowly, seeming to be almost floating and there was no sound whatsoever. It went up, down, then in a straight line for a few metres until it suddenly shot off in the direction of President Ridge."

KENT EVENING POST, Maidstone, England
June 2, 1981

UFO with red flashing light

CAN anyone explain what Valerie Bennett and her husband, John, saw in the summer sky yesterday afternoon?

The couple were in the garden of their home in Lambsfrith Grove, Hempstead, when they saw an object shaped like an oblong balloon travelling through the sky.

It was metallic with a red flashing light.

Although there has

been a lot of helicopter activity in the area, they are convinced it was not an aircraft.

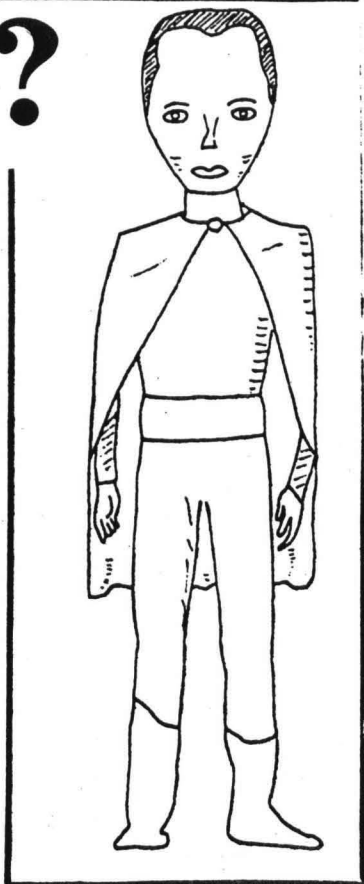
Mrs Bennett said: "It was faster than a helicopter but only about one third the size."

"There was no noise — that's what was really uncanny. It was only there for a few seconds before it went behind the trees. It seemed to follow the motorway."

Gillingham police said they had had no reports of any unidentified flying objects.

BOOKS PAGE

Is anybody there?



TERROR in the House of Dolls. A drawing of what Carol claims she saw at Gateshead.

CLOSE encounters are a subject regularly in the news. How true are the sightings, the lights and the noises? RUPERT RADCLIFFE-GENGE reports.

so bizarre the human mind is incapable of thinking it?

Presenting this evidence in her latest book **★** author and self-confessed UFO sceptic Jenny Randles offers no pat answers and makes the often overlooked point that one has to look at not only the report but also the witnesses.

Ms. Randles says this sort of case is "a major challenge; but it presents one with an enthralling chase towards the limits of human credibility."

Such challenges would never have been investigated had it not been for Idaho businessman Kenneth Arnold, who was using his private plane in June 1947 to search for a missing aircraft which was never found.

He saw a series of discs which he described to newsmen on landing as "like saucers skipping over water." The flying saucer craze had taken off and over the next few months a wave of sightings were reported.

Burning

This was hardly the first experience of something strange in the sky—The Bible contains passages of weird aerial happenings and in 1067 a sphere of fire was seen to descend into the sea off the Northumbria coast, burning trees and grass as it passed over land—but it did lead to the United States Air Force to study odd events.

Project Sign was destined as a short term study to see if UFOs were a military threat from a foreign power. Sign staff decided they were not but the staff could offer no opinion on what the inexplicable cases were.

A year later USAF's Project Grudge came into being; its aim, according to Capt. Edward Ruppelt, to "get rid of the UFOs." Grudge was being pitted against what the authorities saw as a nuisance.

It didn't work and Grudge had to grudgingly admit some 23 per cent. of the cases they investigated they could not explain either. Grudge virtually ceased operating but there was no stopping the flood of sighting reports.

Capt. Ruppelt was ordered in to shape up the remnants. The name was changed and over the next 18 years the most famous UFO study to date, Project Blue Book, built up a massive data bank on the unknown. The unknown remained unexplained, though, and Blue Book was closed in 1968.

Some people were unhappy at the project's limited role and success. One man, who would eventually become the most powerful man in the world, was so disgruntled he ensured there would be a government commission into the phenomena—Congressman Gerald Ford.

CAROL was restless, suffering from toothache that August night two years ago. At 2 a.m. she got up to make a cup of coffee. What was allegedly to happen to her would become known as The Terror in the House of Dolls.

This is Carol's story. Steve, her 24-year-old husband, was on night-shift and but for their three-year-old daughter Nicola, Carol was alone in their Gateshead home. Bringing back the coffee to her bedroom she saw a red light shining through the curtains.

She drew them aside and peered into the damp and misty air. A flattened bell shape with a mass of red, orange and white lights was hovering above a house. All but one light went out and the object rose into the sky to disappear.

Minutes later she was shocked by a low rumbling sound. Terrified, she saw an 18-inch version of the bell shape followed by a swarm of tiny specks of light move to the centre of the room. The swarm descended.

Carol was petrified. She tingled and felt a pressure on her. She became numb. She heard a loud buzzing noise—and then the swarm lifted, joined the disc and both went out into the hallway.

Carol leapt from her bed, in fear for Nicola. Her daughter was safe but when husband Steve returned from work he found his wife crying in terror.

Over the next three weeks 22-year-old Carol was to be unwell with pains in her face and a rash on her neck. Her doctor gave her tranquillisers and sleeping tablets and said she was hallucinating.

On September 3 the climax to her "visions" came. Steve was again on nightshift and she was spending the night with her mother, who lived a mere 100 yards away.

Alone in the spare room the tingling returned. At 4 a.m. she was paralysed with it and could move nothing save her head. In the corner of the room she saw the disc again.

Then, she says, she noticed them; a group of 12, some kneeling, some standing, about two-and-a-half feet tall with pale, feminine faces, white clothing and belts and boots.

One had a cloak—it brushed her but she felt nothing—and said through unmoving lips: "She is just like any other earthly." Apart from this, claims Carol, she heard only strange clicking noises. She turned her head and all vanished. She was free.

In the coming weeks there was a catalogue of incidents. Nearly everyone in the family is said to have felt the sensation and even their dog was affected by the buzzing noise.

These incidents are still happening to the family, so they are afforded anonymity but what had Carol experienced? Was it all hallucinations, as her doctor believed or had an alien force projected images into her room or mind? Or is there some more fantastic explanation, something

UFO riddle of 'great white bright light'

JUST a couple of weeks after two Bromley schoolgirls saw "lights" at Keston, Mrs. Ponds — reported last week in the "Kentish Times" — a Bromley woman has seen an inexplicable "white light."

Mrs. Ponds, of 15, East Carlton Road, Keston, who knew nothing of the "lights" at Keston, went out one evening in the early hours of the morning to collect her 10-year-old son and 10-year-old daughter. She said: "I looked to my left and saw a great, white, bright light. It seemed like a cluster of lights, but it came over as one big light."

It was just above the house and looked square.

'Young galactic playboys' battle UFO research body'

DF ADVERTISER, (City Unknown), New Zealand
May 26, 1981 CR: R. Collins

Review, said, 'Apparently he was still complaining about it on his death bed.'

DIACONIS

Mr Bowen told this episode to the second international London congress of the British Unidentified Flying Object Research Association as an example of how extra-terrestrial visitors tend to confirm the diagnosis of Douglas Adams, author of the Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy.

Mr Adams believes that there are rich young galactic playboys in interstellar sports cars who enjoy buzzing and tantalizing earthenmen.

But 'visions' of this sort troubled the 180 delegates who are anxious to give their subject scientific respectability.

leaving the motorist not only mystified but furious. He was so baffled that he had to tell somebody, Mr Charles Bowen, editor of the British Flying Saucer

Review, said, 'Apparently he was still complaining about it on his death bed.'

They were concerned, for instance, that in 1982 one of their junior's, the American George Adamski, reported meeting a spokesman who 'indicated by signs that he came from Venus.'

9

On a North Yorkshire hillside something stirred...

UFO lands on a farm!

A DALES farmer today told of how he stood watching a UFO yards away in his field. Clark Stones' wife and a friend also saw the hovering alien craft.

The shiney silver disc hovered above the remote field for ten minutes as they looked on, but when one of them walked towards it, it shot straight up into the sky. Mr Stones, 46, of Pepper Hall Farm, Arkengarthdale, said:

"It just seemed to be minding its own business, and we were not really frightened at the time."

He was looking round his farm yesterday morning about 10 o'clock with his wife when he saw an object about 150 yards

away in the corner of his field.

Mr Stones thought at first it was a large fertiliser bag as it was not moving.

He was with his wife Greta and friend Stan Watson from Stockton,

By RED WILLIAMS

NORTHERN DESPATCH, Darlington, England

May 29, 1981

who had been milking the cows. He and Mr Watson walked towards the object through the back yard.

"It appeared to be oval, about two feet across and six inches deep and seemed to have tags on the bottom. It was solid, had no windows and was moving five yards backwards and forwards about two feet off the ground. It seemed as if it was trying to get through the fence and come towards us but it was moving very slowly," said Mr Stones.

Outer space

The farmer asked Mr Watson to go and have a closer look while he watched from the gully.

Mr Watson started to walk towards the object but when he got about 50 yards away it lifted five or six feet into the air and moved 20 yards across the field.

It then moved straight up into the air almost vertically at about five to ten miles per hour.

"Stan is a scientific type and works for ICI and he always tries to find a logical explanation for these things. But he was as sure as I was and my wife that this was a UFO."

Mr Stones is convinced it was a visitor from outer space. He said there had been a sighting of an object near Skipton earlier this week.

North Yorkshire police appealed today for anyone who sees this object to report immediately on Northallerton 3131.

A spokesman said they are treating Mr Stones' report very seriously.

NEWS, Birkenhead, England - June 12, 1981

Large UFO sighted

A UFO, reported to be "a hell of a size", was sighted over Thingwall in the early hours of Thursday morning.

It was spotted between 2.30 and 3 am by a couple who said it appeared to be as big as a football held at arm's length and was travelling towards Liverpool.

The sighting was then reported to Mr. Alan Bell, of Upton, a member of the Merseyside Investigatory Group into Aerial Phenomena, who said that the same sighting had been reported by people in Birkenhead and Liverpool.

The group has since been in touch with Liverpool and Manchester airport staff, who said it could not have been a meteorological object and reported nothing picked up on radar.

Mr. Bell explained that the area is not a unusual sighting place for UFOs, but added that this could be because many people feel embarrassed or frightened to report them.

BURNLEY EVENING STAR, Lancashire, England
June 23, 1981

Couple see 'strange objects' in the sky

A BRIERFIELD couple and three neighbours watched two strange objects in the sky for over an hour on Sunday night.

Richard Rowley and his wife, Janet, of King Street, were in their car heading for home when they spotted the two dome-shaped UFOs at tree-top height.

"One was large and the other was like a small dot and they were alongside us right down into Brierfield" said Mrs Rowley. "It was

just after midnight and when we got home we called out the neighbours and stood watching the objects hovering for ages. They were still there when we went to bed at 1.15 am.

"One was like a very bright star but they were too low down to be stars. There was no sound or flashing lights."

Mrs Rowley said she had an open mind about UFOs and would not like to guess what the objects were.

"It was very strange. I am glad other people saw them as well," she added.

Group chasing UFO report

A STRANGE light which rocketed across the Tauranga skyline last Monday could have been travelling faster than 2100 kilometres an hour.

The object's speed was estimated by members of the Tauranga UFO investigation group after discussions with people who saw the light.

The object is now being regarded as a unidentified flying object by the group

according to a group spokesman Mr Harvey Cooke.

Information gathered by the group also suggests that the lighted object descended slightly while flying near Te Puke.

Mr Cooke said the drop indicated the object was being "intelligently controlled".

Sighted for periods varying between five and nine seconds, the light appeared to have travelled

over Tauranga between 6.05 a.m. and 6.08 a.m.

Mr Cooke said the object flew over Mt Te Aroha before travelling across Pahoia, Omokoroa, the Tauranga Harbour and

Matakana Island.

The route had been compiled from reported sightings which had been investigated by the group.

The group would continue investigating the object and hoped to receive more information from the public, Mr Cooke said.

BAY OF PLENTY TIMES, Tauranga, New Zealand

June 2, 1981 CR: R. Collyns

'Light in the sky' poses puzzle

PRISON officers George Wood and Jim Bottomley may have had a captivating encounter with a UFO in Weeton at dusk.

But both men have their feet firmly on the ground and stressed: "We don't believe in UFOs."

Mr Wood, of Somerville Avenue, Staining, explained that he and Mr Bottomley, of Warbreck Road, Blackpool, were driving home from Kirkham Open Prison at 9.20 on Monday night when the sighting happened.

The object was, they said, hovering 200 to 300ft above cottages in Chain Lane, Weeton. Mr Wood described it as an oval object about the size of a dustbin lid, possibly made from aluminium.

He said: "It was still, so we stopped the car for just a second and it was away over the fields towards Weeton Camp. There was no smoke or anything like that and it didn't seem to be attached to anything."

"I don't believe in UFOs or anything like that but there must be some explanation for it."

Said Mr Bottomley: "It was certainly something totally different from anything I've seen. I just can't explain it."

A Kirkham police spokesman said there had been no other reported sightings.

EVENING GAZETTE, Blackpool, England - May 21, 1981

Woman Times

INTO THE UNKNOWN

MALCOLM ROBINSON appears to be a very normal person, leading the normal life of a young husband and father.

But every second of his spare time is devoted to a subject that has gripped him for many years—the paranormal.

Things that go bump in the night, U.F.O.s, eerie myths and legends—none hold any fears for this 24-year-old from Tullibody.

For the past four years, when not at work or caring for his wife Rosemary or five-months-old daughter Karen, his every spare minute has been spent in a detailed and nationwide research into the strange world of unexplained phenomena.

Covering hundreds of miles every year, he has visited locations from the North of Scotland to the South of Wales to build up an impressive dossier from which he eventually hopes to write a book.

Man who studies strange tales of the unexpected

By MALCOLM REID

Heat

"It all began when I was about 13," explained Malcolm. "The mother of one of my friends was very interested in faith healing and used to go regularly to meetings."

"I was totally sceptical. One day, to try and change my mind, she took me along to a meeting. I suffered from asthma at the time. I remember the faith healer putting his hands above my head and immediately I felt a strong heat, just like an electric fire, radiating down on me from his hands."

"From that day my asthma problem began to clear. Today I don't suffer at all."

That incident sparked off a fascination for the unknown.

"I am no longer a sceptic," he maintains. "After all my years of deep study, I have come to the conclusion that

there is definitely something going on out there".

"Ninety-five per cent of all happenings can be given a satisfactory explanation. But for the other five per cent, no rational explanation can possibly be found, so it definitely warrants serious research."

A bottle sorter in the United Glass plant at Alloa, his company frequently gives him special leave. His wife has often accompanied him, though since the arrival of their baby daughter, she has been less in evidence.

To back up his research, Malcolm has built up a library of more than 1000 books on the paranormal.

Without doubt his favourite phenomena is the U.F.O., and his travels in connection with this have taken him to Broadhaven in South Wales.

"I met a woman who owns a hotel there," recalled Malcolm. "One night she was awakened by a tremendous pulsating

glow shining through her bedroom curtains.

"When she looked out she saw in a field at the back of the hotel two tall, thin figures who were sticking glowing rods into the ground."

"She screamed in fright and the two figures turned to look at her. Then they kind of floated across the field back to where their craft was waiting and took off."

"The incident was also witnessed by two other hotel guests."

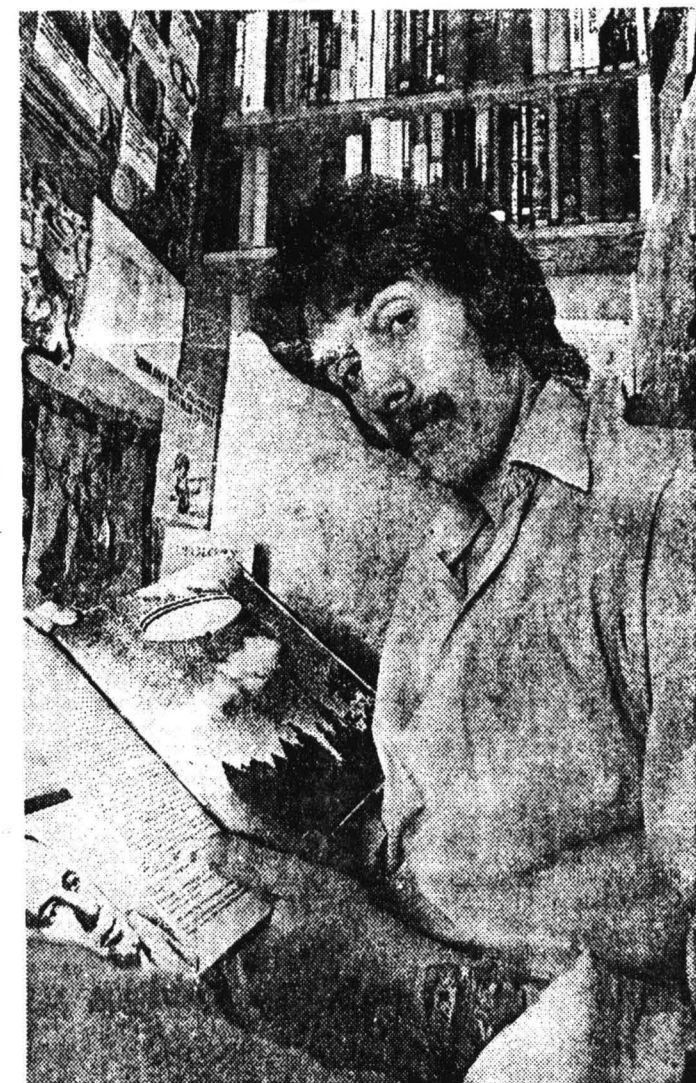
He has also met Bob Taylor, a forestry worker near Livingston, who came across a craft in some woods one day. "Two protrusions from the side of the craft reached out like robot's arms and grabbed at his trousers," relates Malcolm.

Marks

"At that he passed out and the last thing he remembers is an overpowering smell and a swishing noise. When he woke up the craft was gone, and his dog, who was with him throughout the whole thing, was barking furiously."

"There were a series of marks on the ground where the craft had been and I have seen and examined those marks."

Malcolm's day starts with a scour through the newspapers for any reports of unexplained phenomena. These are carefully filed and arrangements made, if possible, to visit the scene.



MALCOLM ROBINSON ... is convinced the Loch Ness monster exists.

EVENING TIMES, Glasgow, Scotland - June 1, 1981

6 Five per cent. of happenings cannot be rationally explained 9

China reports increasing number of UFO sightings

by Bo Lin

China Features

According to China's traditional calendar, 1980 was the Year of the Monkey. But, for the newly-established China UFO Research Organization (CURO) it was the Year of the Unidentified Flying Object.

"UFO sightings reached a new peak in China in 1980," CURO chairman Cha Leping said recently in the central China city of Wuhan, as he looked over the 77 reports of UFOs from January through November.

"We don't reject the idea that they come from outer space," he said. "We just have to study these things with an open and scientific mind."

CURO was officially formed in May 1980 from an informal liaison center for UFO fans at Wuhan University, which has recorded 208 sightings over the last few years.

CURO is now a member of the Chinese Society for the Study of the Future, set up to research into unexplained phenomena. It has branches and 400 members throughout China. Cha Leping, 25, the chairman, is a student at the space-physics faculty at Wuhan University.

Some of the sightings reported to CURO in 1980 make incredible reading. Like the report of a group of machinery workers who were on a night prawn-fishing expedition at Dagang, the north China coastal oil field.

Intense heat

According to one of the machinists, 31-year-old Hong Changgui, the UFO appeared about 3 a.m. on October 5, 1980. It was cone-shaped, he said, flying at about 3,000 feet and apparently not very large. But, gazing up at the strange object, he felt an intense heat on his face.

"It was like standing under a stove," he recalled. "It gave off a very bright light, something like a welding arc. It was bright red at the center and blue-green at the edges, except for the trailing edge which showed a white light."

"The whole incident lasted about ten seconds as it flew overhead with a whistling sound."

Another member of the group, 46-year-old Jin Guomin, said: "Frankly, I was scared. We didn't know what it was and it made such a terrible noise. But my young son started calling to it 'UFO!'

UFO!' as it went overhead."

A month later, on November 5, Li Renpei and Li Laijun, office workers at a textile mill in Jinghai county, near the big port city of Tianjin, were also up and about in the early hours of the morning. They spotted a dish-like object, emitting a green light and flying on an irregular course.

Within a few seconds, it disappeared in the eastern sky, but it reappeared about seven minutes later and flew west. It held this course for another few seconds and then veered east again until it disappeared once more.

Less than a week later, on November 11, three students at Wuhan University sighted a UFO over the eastern outskirts of Wuhan at about 10 o'clock in the evening.

According to the report the students gave to CURO, the UFO was carrying two yellow lights and two white lights. The white lights were dazzling at times. They said: "The shape was like a dish, with the middle part protruding a little. We estimated it was about 3,000 feet above the ground and we had it in view for about 15 minutes. It flew slowly in a northeastern direction and then made a turn right above us to take a south-west course."

Perhaps, the most solid "proof" of the presence of a UFO over China is the picture taken by two students of the Beijing Mining Institute in August while they were camping out in the mountainous county of Changping, on the outskirts of the capital, Beijing (Peking).

The students, Xin Sheng and Bi Jiang, said in their report to CURO: "At about 4 o'clock on the morning of August 24, we were watching the stars when we saw an object emitting a white light emerging from behind a mountain to the east of us."

"At first it was partly hidden by the mountain and looked like an incomplete moon. But from its irregular movement, we decided it was a UFO. We climbed to the top of a big rock to get a better view of it and we watched it for about half an hour."

"As it moved away from us, it appeared like a tight cluster of three stars. At other times, it came towards us and then floated away again. During the whole sighting, it made no noise."

Their photograph was carried in the Beijing Evening News.

Not all of China's UFO

sightings in recent years have been uneventful. According to the newly-collated records of CURO, at least one visitation caused death and injury.

It happened on the evening of July 7, 1977, when more than 3,000 people were watching an open-air showing of the Romanian film "Alarm in the Danube Delta" at a playground in Zhangpu county, Fujian province, east China.

About 8.30, a section of the audience spotted two mysterious objects hurtling towards them out of the night sky, flying so low they nearly touched the ground. The objects—there are conflicting reports about their shape—were giving off a strong orange light and flying only a few feet apart. They made no noise.

Panic caused

Panic spread like wildfire, and in the scramble two children were trampled to death and 300 people were hurt. Within a few seconds, the UFOs had streaked overhead and disappeared.

Later, the local Public Security Bureau ran the film under the same atmospheric conditions but nothing abnormal occurred.

The CURO file seems to show a strong link between sightings in China and sightings in other parts of the world.

On October 23, 1978, a group of Chinese air force pilots, watching a film out of doors in Gansu province, northwest China, spotted a massive luminous object in the sky. They watched it for two or three minutes as it flew overhead at an altitude of about 21,000 feet. The pilots said it was rectangular and carrying very bright lights.

The incident has been reported in the Weekly World News, Florida, but a new development is the apparent link between this UFO and the one reported to have knocked down an Australian plane only two days earlier, on October 21.

In the Australian incident, a small single-engined aircraft was flying over the Bass Strait, south Australia, when the pilot radioed to the ground station that a rectangular object, giving off a green light, was flying above him. The object was very large, he said, and carrying four lights.

Six minutes after his first

radio report, communication between the pilot and the ground were cut off. Later searches by the Australian Navy and air force failed to find the plane or the pilot.

Inhabitants of King Island, near the strait, also said they saw the object which they said was very large and flying very fast. They also reported the green light.

Cha Leping, the CURO chairman, said: "There seems to be some link between the UFO the Australian pilot saw and the one that appeared over Gansu province two days later. The descriptions tally—very large, rectangular and emitting a strong light."

Link suggested

In another sighting that strongly suggests a link with phenomena in other parts of the world, Fan Da, a farm official in Guangxi, south China, saw a silvery object on November 11, 1979. It was flying at high speed and apparently spraying some liquid or dust.

A day earlier, a UFO matching the description of the one over Guangxi was reported to have forced a Spanish jetliner to make an emergency landing.

In a recent article, Cha Leping has placed descriptions of the UFOs in three categories.

He said 80 percent of them appeared to be like a dish, a ball, a ring or egg-shaped, shining with a silvery light during the day and glowing orange or red at night. Several cases of UFOs trailing smoke have been reported.

In the second category Cha Leping lists large rectangular objects—rarely seen—and in the third, UFOs that appear as spiral nebula, with a bright core and many small points of light around it.

One UFO, which brought in 22 reports from Shanghai and the Chinese provinces of Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Anhui, Jiangxi and Fujian, has been identified with some confidence as a big meteorite.

It entered the atmosphere over east China at about 10.45 p.m. on August 26, 1980, as a ball of fire and at an altitude of about 60 kilometers.

It broke up into several fiery pieces, followed by a burning cloud of smaller debris. Two observatories tracked its 1,000-kilometer descent over the Taiwan Straits and estimate it must have weighed at least 1,000 tons on entry.

UFOs

The Government is trying to hide the facts, says flying saucer expert

FLYING saucer expert Sidney Thorpe doesn't care if friends and neighbours think he's nuts.

'Many people think I'm crackers, but I don't mind.'

'They don't have to believe me when I say to them the evidence for UFOs is too weighty to be dismissed.'

Mr. Thorpe, who founded the Torbay Astronomical Research Society nearly 20 years ago, has some strange stories to tell that would make any hard line sceptic uneasy.

From a shed in the back garden of his home in Maidenway Road, Paignton, Mr. Thorpe, 73, spends his spare moments star-gazing through his telescope.

He's constantly on the look out for any bright lights in the sky that could be flying saucers.

Although he's had two 'good' UFO sightings, he's never made contact with the seven foot giants or little green men.

And he says if he did ever make contact, he's not sure if he would like

to go for a ride in a flying saucer.

'If I thought they were the friendly type I'd probably go with them.'

'But if I did happen to be that close to a craft I wouldn't have any choice if they wanted to take me away with them.'

Mr. Thorpe says there are more than just one type of people from outer space visiting our planet.

'There have been reports of giants and small people here, but I believe these people take on hu-

man form so that we're not so frightened when we see them.'

'And the flying saucers we see are only scout ships, sent out from the mother craft to have a look around.'

Mr. Thorpe also points out that the foreign civilisations coming here must be thousands of years ahead of us in technological understanding.

He says it will only be a few more years before

scientists openly admit the existence of UFOs:

'They're gradually coming around to believing in these visits from outer space, but still the Government here is trying to hide it up.'

'Whether they think an awareness of the existence of UFOs would make people panic, I don't know.'

Apart from space ships, Mr. Thorpe is a believer in the occult.

'For me the two are linked together in a very strange way.'

Last week he had a weird dream in which he saw clearly the words CAN CHIDHILL written before him.

'I can't explain it at all. It means nothing to me.'

'Sometimes I see different faces of people in my dreams. Perhaps they are spirit faces. I don't know.'

The things they see

EVERY time a member of Mr. Thorpe's society sees what is thought to be a UFO, he fills in a UFO sighting report form.

Here are extracts from some of these forms, although the people concerned wish to remain anonymous.

But what do you think of the tales they have to tell? Is it make believe or are there rational explanations behind the phenomena?

Flashing lights

ONE of Mr. Thorpe's members says he watched a circular shaped object flying in the sky for two minutes while he stood waiting for a taxi in the doorway of his home.

He explained: 'It was moving from east to west and was surrounded by multi-coloured lights which moved in a circular anti-clockwise direction, flashing on and off.'

'It had various colours and there was no sound of an engine. It's brightness varied with the multi-coloured lights flashing on and off.'

'I called my wife and son who watched with me as it travelled away into the distance.'

'It was certainly not an aeroplane or a helicopter or any other object I'm familiar with.'

by Sharon Collins

Circular shape

A HOUSEWIFE told of her strange sighting last summer from her kitchen window.

She noticed a circular shaped craft with six projections as she walked into the kitchen from the garden.

'I saw a bright object in the sky, through the kitchen window. It was stationary at first and then it moved west keeping the same height. It had the brightness of a car headlamp.'

'It hovered there for two minutes and then moved eastward back to its original position, where it hovered for another two minutes over some trees about two miles away.'

'Then it moved further east, but descending this time, slightly lower than the trees. It was visible for another minute, but then it seemed to blink out.'

appeared to be flashing on and off and moving in an anti-clockwise direction.

'As we were watching it the object grew to twice its original size, particularly the white centre part.'

'Then a cloud drifted over it from the west and when this passed over the object was still there.'

'But when a second cloud drifted over from the same direction, it was gone.'

Red and blue belt

TWO sisters and their neighbour were chatting in the street one day when one of them noticed a white round object in the sky.

It was stationary with a red belt around the front part and a blue belt around the back.

'Both these colours

Changing colour

A WOMAN who got up at six in the morning because her dogs were restless saw a strange object.

'I saw what appeared to be a large stationary star, but then I noticed it was moving and twisting within itself.'

'It repeatedly changed colour, from white to orange and then to red.'

'It came slowly across the early morning sky, quite soundless and far up.'

'It travelled at a steady speed and at times showed a type of vapour trail. I watched it for about three minutes.'

'It was neither a plane, helicopter, satellite, nor meteor.'

But no noise

A HUSBAND called out to his wife from the garden to come and see a space ship.

It was a circular object with a ring of lights at the bottom.

'The craft was spinning very fast while moving over our heads then it disappeared behind some trees.'

'There was no noise at all, which we thought to be very strange because of the speed it was going.'

'Also a helicopter had gone over a few minutes before and the noise of that could be heard inside the house above the television.'

'We watched the bright lights for about five seconds.'

SILENT bright lights moving across the sky caught Mr. Thorpe's eye in 1966 and 1978.

And he talks about these two incidents as his 'good' sightings from his Paignton home.

He's convinced that on both occasions it was UFOs he saw in the sky.

But why not a plane or a shooting star? I asked him:

'You don't get planes standing still in the sky making no noise at all, do you?'

'And shooting stars burn themselves out as they enter the earth's atmosphere: they don't keep on moving as these objects did.'

At 10 p.m. one summer night in his garden, as it was getting dark, Mr. Thorpe was star-gazing when he saw a revolving coloured light:

'It was the size of a dustbin and was hovering at about 1,000 feet above my next door neighbour's garden. I was looking at it for a good two or three minutes.'

It was like a yacht

sailing in the sky . . .

'It began moving at a steady pace, making no noise. It was just like a yacht sailing along swiftly.'

'Suddenly it burst out into a silver flare and whoosh, it was gone. A second later all that was left was a tiny speck in the sky.'

This was Mr. Thorpe's first and closest encounter with a flying saucer.

His second UFO

sighting came 12 years later, also as he was star-gazing in his garden, just after midnight.

'This time I remember I was looking at the Cassiopea constellation and before I had time to catch my breath, two bright lights came flashing across the sky.'

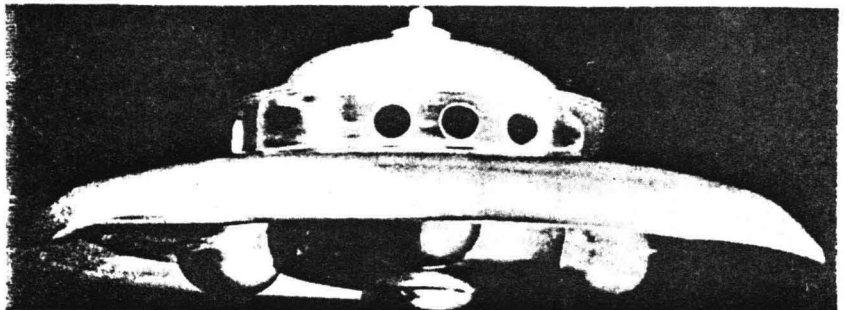
'One light tailed off to the north and the other to the south. They were about the size of elec-

tric lights and were about 20,000 feet up.

'They were gone so quickly I didn't even have time to turn my telescope around to follow them.'

'There's no other explanation, it must have been a space ship.'

Most sightings, says Mr. Thorpe, take place in the early hours of the morning, when there are few people around.



The woman who met the aliens

A LIEN beings choose themselves who THEY want to make contact with.

'It doesn't matter how hard we may try to contact them,' said Mr. Thorpe.

'A very distraught lady in her twenties came to my house one day and asked me if I was the person who ran the UFO society.'

'She had something she said she must tell me and so I invited her in and sat back to listen to her story.'

'She had kept her strange experience pent up inside for seven years and had been unable to tell anyone.'

'A light appeared in the sky as she was in her garden hanging out washing.'

'There was no noise and it was coming towards her. It stopped at the end of her garden and she told me she could see

men with human form looking down at her from inside the saucer.'

'The next thing she knew, tiny silver bubbles were being poured over her body from the space craft and the next second she was mysteriously taken up into the body of the saucer.'

'She remembered sitting on a table which was bitterly cold and thoughts were pouring into her mind from the aliens. No words were spoken.'

'They wanted to give her a medical examination but she said it would hurt her. She doesn't remember if in fact she was examined, or not.'

'A control room inside the ship had port holes around it and suddenly from this room, a very ugly man appeared. She told me she was terrified at this point.'

'Then two of the men carried her down her garden path and left her out-

side her back door and disappeared.

'She called her husband who had been watching television, but the men had gone.'

Mr. Thorpe claims that after her experience, the lady, who lives just outside Torbay had poltergeists in her house.

'There's the connection again with the occult,' said Mr. Thorpe.

'She was petrified at first and was terribly nervous after her experience. She's not the type of person to make things like that up and that's why I believe her.'

TRANSLATIONS

CREDIT: Luis R. Gonzalez Manso

- 1) City and country of incident: Ayamonte (Huelva), Spain
- 2) Date of incident: July 31, 1980
- 3) Name of paper and date of clip: EL CORREO DE ANADALUCIA, August 1, 1980
- 4) City and country of newspaper: Sevilla, Spain

Carmelo Villar Sonsa who lives in Ayamonte was the subject of a strange story. "I was coming from Ayamonte to Canela on my motorcycle. It was about a quarter past one in the early morning. The sky was absolutely clear. On my right and over the top of a building (called "Salon de Santa Gadea"), I noticed a red light that was moving towards me. When I realized its direction of movement, I tried to increase speed. The UFO hovered about one meter and a half over me and the motorcycle stopped. It was impossible to start it again. I put it in dead gear and drove to a near bridge. The object moved over a concrete platform on the right side of the road. I did not move. I thought it was going to fly to Portugal. I was wrong. The object remained stationary over the banks of the Guadiana river. Then the red light moved very quickly towards me. I let my motorcycle fall and threw myself down beside it. Now I was close to one sentry-box of the Spanish Civil Guard which is just on the bridge. The object crossed over me towards La Cristina. About 40 or 50 metres away, it stopped suddenly. I was really scared. Then it moved upwards, made some kind of square in the sky, turned about itself and shot off towards Portugal. All this happened in a few moments. The object made no noise and when it passed over me, I felt a gust of hot air that moved the bushes near the bridge. The object was like a circle of 10 meters in diameter and emitted flames from the back. Its color was all red."

- 1) City and country of incident: Rocha, Uruguay
- 2) Date of incident: Early August, 1980
- 3) Name of paper and date of clip: LA VANGUARDIA ESPANOLA, August 7, 1980
- 4) City and country of newspaper: Barcelona, Spain

Julio Cesar Cabrera Pereira, who lives in Cebollate (Department of Rocha) claimed that a couple of extraterrestrial beings attacked him and caused him some injuries and burns. He explained that he had met these unusual visitors at the front of his house. They had a quasi-human form, "were really beautiful," and their body was of a greenish color. They hit the witness with a small object like a cigarette box. The witness felt an electric shock which paralyzed him. He was "controlled" by this instrument. He could only move when it was directed to a part of his body and a white beam touched him. When this happened, he had to sit down, or roll in the mud, or even laugh. He was obliged to move against his will. Cabrera Pereira described one of the beings as "a tall person, with slanting eyes and blond hair, his body was green and very bright." The other one seemed to be a woman, also blond, with some kind of green turban and very prominent eyes. He was visited by a doctor who verified that he had some bruises.

CREDIT: Jose Alestia via Robert Girard

- 1) City and country of incident: Vinces, Ecuador
- 2) Date of incident: May 15, 1981
- 3) Name of paper and date of clip: EL COMERCIO, May 18, 1981
- 4) City and country of newspaper: Quito, Ecuador

UFO SEEN IN VINCES

A luminous object which may have been a UFO caused astonishment, as well as fear, upon being seen by a number of people here. Among them were professors Rafael Sotomayor Gallardo and Walter Ubilla Moran, news reporter Santiago Ubillas Lucas, and local resident Bernardino Bustamante, who is the source of this report. Bustamante said that the unusual apparition took place Friday night near Vinces.

Bustamante added that he, the people mentioned above and others whose names he can't recall, saw the UFO along a stretch of highway between Santa Maria and La Mira near here, causing initially a natural feeling of nervousness.

- 1) City and country of incident: Florida, Uruguay
- 2) Date of incident: May 22, 1981
- 3) Name of paper and date of clip: EL COMERCIO, May 24, 1981
- 4) City and country of newspaper: Quito, Ecuador

UFO CAUSES BLACKOUT IN URUGUAYAN CITY

A blackout lasting 18 minutes hit the city of Florida in the interior of Uruguay, 120 KM north of Montevideo, while hundreds of people watched the maneuverings of a UFO overhead.

The UFO last night threw the small city into an uproar.

According to reporter Luis del Castillo, a spherical object with white, red and green lights on its surface, moved from west to east over the city, causing a cutoff of electricity.

The head of the local power plant, Miguel Canto, blamed the blackout on excessive power consumption outside the city, which activated automatic circuit breakers.

According to Canto, when the circuit breakers are activated by over-consumption, the situation is usually normalized within two minutes. But this time the mountings broke, and it was necessary to resort to a manual system to restore energy to the city.

The blackout lasted exactly 18 minutes, the amount of time that the UFO was flying over the city.

While the technicians spoke of "coincidence," they can't explain the reasons for the overload, and residents are saying that the UFO caused the blackout.

CREDIT: F. Cerda Guardia & Richard Heiden

- Location of Incidents: Tijuana (state of Baja California Norte), Mexico
Dates of Incidents: March 1 through 10, 1979 (possibly earlier)
Name and date of paper: DIARIO DE AVISOS, March 11, 1979
City of paper: Santa Cruz de Tenerife (Canary Islands), Spain

A "UFO" CAUSES FEAR IN MEXICO

TIJUANA (Mexico), "Efe."—

For ten days now, appearances of an unidentified flying object (UFO) have caused panic among the inhabitants of a suburb of Tijuana, a Mexican city located 2,900 kilometers from the capital of the Republic.

The "UFO" lands on a hill (or in a woods--the Spanish is ambiguous--trans.) near this city every night, surrounded by a bright multi-colored light. After remaining on the ground for some minutes, it rises up at great speed.

According to the residents of the suburb, the phenomenon has caused contamination of the waters of a nearby river, as dozens of dead fish appear in it.

They added that they did not make a report to the authorities until yesterday for fear of being considered liars.

The police indicate for their part that it is not an airplane or a ship, as the "UFO" appears as a light that falls at great speed and in a matter of seconds rises into the sky, to become lost in the infinite.

[Note: A short item on this case had previously appeared in UFONS #129, p. 13, col. 2, though with the incorrect dates of March 3-12.]

CREDIT: Richard Heiden & Latham Wright

- 1) Locations of incidents: Northeastern Brazilian states of Rio Grande do Norte and Paraiba, including Laranjeiras do Abdias, Rio Grande do Norte
- 2) Dates of incidents: May through August, 1980
- 3) Name of paper and date of clip: TRIBUNA DO NORTE, Aug. 30, 1980
- 4) City and country of newspaper: Natal (Rio Grande do Norte), Brazil

FLYING SAUCERS IN THE NIGHT IN THE WILDERNESS

The nights in the wilderness have always been inhabited with legends and shadows that inspired fear. It was the people telling of the werewolves, mules without heads, and souls in pain. Time passed, the legends died, [and] the shadows gave way to the bright and unknown lights that the Americans call UFOs, or "unidentified flying objects" [sic]--"objetos voadores não identificados" to Brazilians.

At least one man already was in the power of the extraterrestrials, taken during the day, at 10:00 a.m. to be precise, while working on the farm, and was left five kilometers away from the location where he was picked up, near Lages. And it is in Lages and nearby cities that the UFOs have been appearing constantly, and it is said that on Tuesday night a flying saucer succeeded in destroying the roof of a home, where three frightened farmers tried to hide when the strange apparition was pursuing them. The examples are many, and in the wilderness, the nights are filled with fear again.

The constant incursions of the brilliant and speedy "master ships" to the cosmos papagerimuns [?--trans.], if they have not yet identified those no less mysterious flying objects, at least they brought to Rio Grande do Norte more than newspaper headlines: [they brought] the ufologist from England, Irene Granchi.

Apparently, it almost seems sensational gossip mixed with fiction, but, in spite of it all, the fact is real, deprived of mystery: since the ufologist isn't arriving aboard a flying saucer. She arrives tomorrow, the 31st, at the airport of Parnamirim [state of Pernambuco--trans.], in a green and yellow jet of Transbrasil Airways, coming from Rio de Janeiro.

She comes by invitation from her colleague Nati Cortez, who shall be her hostess, and she will gather fantastic information to undergird her keen interest in UFO research concerning unidentified flying objects with their strange extraterrestrial beings. The Englishwoman's weekend, therefore, will be in two unusual inland communities, Lages and Laranjeiras do Abdias, where she will listen to the humble farmers narrate their amazing trip in space--the unexpected journey some of them took in the UFOs.

CLOSE CONTACTS

Since the beginning of May the flying saucers returned to the skies of Rio Grande do Norte, after a period of absence from these parts--the last time being the beginning of the year in the "Reta Tabajara," where the ufonauts enjoyed the moonlit night in between their drinking of beer and eating appetizing meat barbecued by the side of the road. [sic--"Ufonauts" is probably an error for "ufologists," meaning "skywatchers"--trans.] The close contacts would come later between ufonauts in the "master ship" and a woman from the cane fields....

In May the flying saucers were seen by fat people of Caicó [state of Rio Grande do Norte--trans.] who were testing cooper [?--trans.] in the Itans, by students who were exercising in the Diocesan School, by vice-mayor Basílio Ginane, who was at his ranch Gavião, and by incredulous farmers living in Santa Luzia and Várzea, in the Seridó area of the state of Paraiba. The next month the saucers appeared in Laranjeiras do Abdias, and subsequently in the Central region, in a bolder manner: "kidnapping" farmers.

Laranjeiras do Abdias, in the municipality of São José do Mipibu, attracted ufologist Irene Granchi to the papagerimuns regions. Writer Nati Cortez sent clippings from the TRIBUNA DO NORTE, the only newspaper to "cover the facts," to the Englishwoman. Later the experiences of the farm couple who spent three endless days in the company of the ufonauts would become known "through other sources."

The woman was greased with a gelatinous liquid and then submitted to a bitter experience in sidereal space: seduced and raped by a ufonaut.

The sexual scene was witnessed by the helpless husband, who, in order to evade the malicious remarks of his neighbors, resolved to be quiet about it, and did not even report the "crime" to the police deputy in São José de Mipibu. But the woman took the initiative of sharing what happened with her friends in Laranjeiras do Abdias. This came to the attention of ufologist Irene Granchi in a matter of time.

In Lages, the group will first look up Pedro Alves, a Central Region reporter for the newspaper Jornal de Integração Estadual da Rádio Cabugi, who had interviewed several individuals "kidnapped" by the strange extraterrestrial beings. Afterwards Irene Granchi and Nati Cortez will return to Natal, with the former going on to Rio, where she resides and follows the activity of unidentified flying objects. She teaches English in the Cultura Inglesa, and is Editor-in-Chief of the magazine Documento OVNI [sic--this magazine, which has unfortunately stopped publication, is really called OVNI Documento--trans.].

DIALOGUE AND DRAMA

Mrs. Nati Cortez, widow of Mangel Genésio Gomes de Melo of Currais Novos [state of Rio Grande do Norte], a pioneer in mass transportation in the Seridó [this is a cotton-growing region on the border between the states of Rio Grande do Norte and Paraiba--trans.], began her interest in ufology after the Second World War, coinciding, logically, with their re-appearance--in fleets. They would follow airplanes, causing panic among the pilots and many doubts in the armed services of the countries in conflict.

However, only in 1979 would Nati Cortez become known in Natal through her research, after having edited the book "Diálogo com as Estrelas" ("Dialogue with the Stars") (stars dialoguing about pseudo-stars that disturb the rest of the constellations). Afterwards she edited "Space Theater" in 1972, the Mystery of Flying Saucers in the literature of Cordel.

Before, and during that period, she wrote a series of articles about UFOs in magazines and newspapers. In her "Reflections on Flying Saucers" in letters printed in NOSSA MENSAGEM (Our Message), edited by Aparício Fernandes, a native of Acari [state of Rio Grande do Norte], living in Rio, writer Nati Cortez reveals some of the secrets of ufology: "mother-ships" or "master-ships" in the shape of cigars, silvery in appearance, looking like a zepellin, containing in their holds the saucers that fly out occasionally.

She believes that UFOs originate from other planets, from more advanced civilizations: "they must come from galaxies and not from our solar system." Ufonauts "are the UFOs, travellers from space," while ufologist[s] are persons "who not only believe in, but take an interest in, write about, research, [and] live the subject." Mrs. Nati Cortez, member of the Brazilian Society of the Study of Flying Saucers, receives correspondence from all over the country.

She is the mother of 17 children, with only one of her children, prosecuting attorney Cléobulo Cortez, taking an interest in the subject. It was he who learned about the sexual relationship between the farmer's wife from Laranjeiras do Abdias and a traveler from space. A similar incident was related in the book Os Ufonautas [Hans Holzer's THE UFONAUTS was published in Portuguese with this title, but on scanning it I can't locate this case--R.H.] --which did not reveal, however, whether the European woman who was seduced by the extraterrestrial became pregnant. Thus the doubt remains: will we have, in the next few months, some news from the humble home of the couple kidnapped in Laranjeiras do Abdias?

Text by Orlando Rodrigues



Mutilated cow found in Fernie area



Mutilated cow being photographed by RCMP officer.

Fernie area suffered its first case of cattle mutilation last weekend, when a three-year-old cow, owned by White Spruce Ranch was found dead and with various parts of its anatomy removed, expert knife work.

The animal was found about 100 yards off Highway 3 in plain view of passing motorists. Its anus was removed, also a portion of the tongue, the lips from one side of its mouth, and one eyebrow. It had an incision in the right chest cavity, apparently made with a sharp instrument, although dogs or coyotes had chewed on that part.

An examination, both internally as well as externally, by Fernie veterinarian David Lawson, failed to uncover the cause of death.

Local man Lewis Cloutier was apparently the first man to see the cow, saying he had noticed it while driving by a about 8 p.m. Saturday evening. The following morning Bernier man Edward Brown drove by and noticed the animal and the mutilation. He phoned the owner, Lloyd Phillips, who, after going to the scene, called the RCMP.

Extensive examination of the area failed to turn up any clues. Mr. Phillips said he felt no one had entered by way of any of three gates in the area, because of lack of tracks and because his own particular way of leaving the gates had not been changed.

While saying he cannot believe the incident, similar to many others reported in Alberta and in the United States, was perpetrated by mysterious explanation either. States, was perpetrated by mysterious aliens from outer space, Phillips said he cannot come up with a rational explanation either.

The field where the animal lay was grass-covered, hence not a surface which would normally leave tracks. Phillips says he is inclined

to believe the animal may have died from some cause as yet not found, then was mutilated by a person or persons bent on stirring up publicity such as surrounded the many incidents in Alberta.

Location of the animal indicates that the mutilations took place in the darkness of night, yet Mr. Cloutier reported seeing the animal with mutilated rump at about 8 p.m. Saturday when it was still daylight. Mr. Cloutier said that at that time, he had seen no mutilation of the front portions and that the final position of the animal differed from that which it was in Saturday evening.

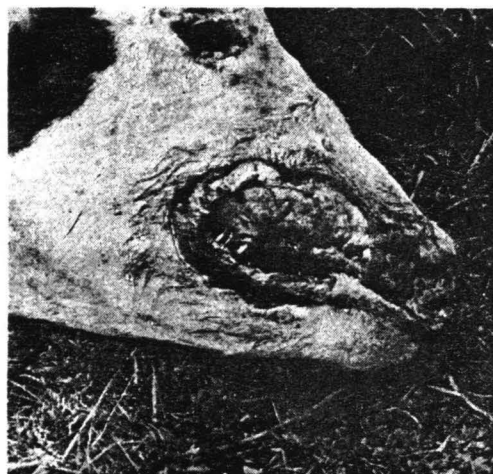
A trade mark of other mutilations is said to be the half-moon segment removed from above the eye and including the lid, identical to the portion removed from Phillips' cow.

Another similarity is the very fine knife-work used in the mutilation. There were very few jagged edges, with the ones which did exist being in the area of the anus. Skin around the eye and the lips was removed without there being the slightest cut in the underlying flesh.

For a time, there was concern about the whereabouts of the cow's calf, said by the owner to be about three months old, but it turned up on the pasture Monday, safe and sound.

Mr. Phillips said the ranch has always been tolerant of people who walk about the pastures, particularly since many cross the property to fish in the Elk River, which forms the eastern boundary of the 140-acre pasture. However, he said, anyone found on the property in future will be accosted and asked for an explanation.

Phillips said he is now definitely planning on posting the property against unauthorized trespassing.



Head of mutilated cow, showing where lip was cut away.

UNION, Sacramento, CA - July 16, 1981

Bigfoot search fails

CHESAPEAKE, Va. (UPI) - Park rangers combed Northwest River Park in vain Wednesday for an elusive, ape-like creature that has been reported roaming through the 760-acre refuge.

"We don't claim it's Bigfoot, but the only thing we're lacking here are actual footprints," said Park Ranger Pat Higgins.

Sherry Davis, 24, of Chesapeake, said she saw the creature last month while camping.

Strange beast roams in Rome

ROME - A Rome family has reported a large mysterious animal roaming around its home and terrorizing horses and other farm livestock.

The family on Johnson Road reported that it shot at the black animal described as between seven to nine feet tall Sunday. Sheriff deputies did not find any animal, but did find some large footprints near the home.

The animal reportedly showed up Wednesday. The family said it was awakened by loud growling and commotion in the yard. The family said every time they shined a light on the animal, it would return to the woods.

The animal came back Sunday, and the family chased it into a clearing, where several shots were fired. It was unknown if the animal was hit.

The family said since it came to the property, four ducks and some chickens have disappeared.

DAILY CAMERA, Boulder, CO - May 20, 1981 CR: D. Anderson

God, Flying Saucers at Work?

Man Vanishes Without Trace

By CHANCE CONNER
Camera Staff Writer

When Maurice Dametz disappeared April 29 in the wilderness of Pike National Forest near Deckers, authorities thought they had a good chance of finding evidence that would lead them to the 84-year-old man.

Today, three weeks since Dametz vanished on a rock-hunting expedition, police admit they are stumped. There are no clues in the bizarre case.

In fact, officials say they don't even know where to start looking for Dametz.

"There is no evidence for us to evaluate," said investigator Ace Ratliff of the Douglas County Sheriff's Department.

"If we had something — a piece of clothing, a tool, anything — we'd know which way to turn.

We've covered a 5-square-mile area in the forest, every crevice up there. It was the most detailed search we've conducted in 15 years."

Still, no evidence has been found.

Credit cards that Dametz was carrying have not turned up anywhere, Ratliff said. Daily checks with Denver area hospitals have produced nothing. Even a \$5,000 reward offered by the Dametz family hasn't prompted any information.

Devout Christians, Dametz' family has suggested that he may have been "taken up to heaven by the Lord." Other theories suggest Dametz was kidnapped, or that he simply may be lost in the forest.

"Who knows?" Ratliff said. "Maybe a flying saucer came

down and ... ZAP ... picked him up and took him far, far away.

"This is a bad thing to say, but if we had a body, we'd have a place to start," Ratliff continued. "But there's nothing. Nothing."

Authorities have interviewed Dave McSherry, 51, of Boulder, who was with Dametz when he disappeared. They've also spoken with a number of persons who accompanied Dametz on his frequent rock-hunting excursions.

Dametz, a former teacher and pastor of several Longmont area churches, was with McSherry in a part of the park called Devil's Head. McSherry left Dametz to drop off some equipment at a car parked 300 yards away. When he returned to the area where they had been rock hunting, Dametz had vanished.

COURIER-JOURNAL, Louisville, KY
May 11, 1981 CR: V. Hilliard

WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO...?

By VINCENT CROWDUS

... Trigg County Bigfoot who left tracks in snow

Bigfoot was the talk of the town in Linton at the edge of Lake Barkley last January, when reports circulated that large humanlike footprints were seen in the snow there.

But the Trigg County sheriff has concluded that the Bigfoot was a big fib.

E. S. Lester, a resident who examined the tracks and took snapshots, said they were 18 inches long and 6 inches wide. Later, someone put up a sign saying "Slow - Bigfoot Xing," where the footprints had crossed KY 164. And the community eagerly awaited another snow to see if the monster was still around.

But no tracks have been seen since, according to Sheriff James Mathis.

His conclusion: "That was a lot of baloney. It was some prankster. He took a vacation."



Big Foot on the loose?

BY RUTH WELLMAN CAMP
Town Crier Staff Writer

Something or someone has been prowling around the Richard Quinn farm at 2255 Catholic Church Road for the past two months. According to Roberta Quinn, dogs in the neighborhood have been barking a couple of nights a week, usually between 2:30 and 3:30 a.m. "It's not like they would be barking at a passing bicyclist or other dogs," said Roberta Quinn. "It's a very vicious bark."

Living next door in a trailer rented from the Quinns, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth LaClear report that they have not only heard something nosing around their home, but Mr. LaClear has seen the culprit as well.

LaClear said that for the past two weeks, he and his wife have heard something nosing around their bedroom window making "sort of a growling sound." Since whatever it was never seemed to cause any damage, LaClear never bothered to check to see what was outside his trailer.

Prompted by neighbors and friends, however, he decided that it might not be a bad idea to see if he could get a glimpse of what was causing the livestock on his property to "Go Bananas" whenever it appeared.

After being awakened by sounds late Friday evening, May 15, LaClear glanced out of his bedroom window and saw a "human shaped" creature about 7 or 8 feet tall standing upright by a tree stump in his back yard. "I thought at first that it might be Scott, Quinn's son, but whatever I saw was taller than Scott," said LaClear. "I called Quinns immediately to see if anyone was out walking around. Scott told me that there was no one outside and that he would get his gun and meet me in the driveway."

According to LaClear, as soon as he went outside, he was met with a strong odor, like something was dead. He met Scott, who stated that he, too smelled the "putrid" odor. They went to the spot where LaClear reported having seen the creature, but there was no trace of it.

LaClear stated that in about 4-5 minutes the odor had disappeared, but suddenly it came back. "At the same time," he said, "the horses started rearing and kicking, the cows went bananas, and the dog started howling."

He saw something

"OVER THERE in the dirt is where we found the creature's footprint," says Kevin LaClear who reported seeing a 7 or 8 foot tall creature in his back yard last week. The footprint, which was later destroyed when the garden was disked, was about 11 inches long, curved and had three toes, according to LaClear.

LaClear and Quinn did not search any further because "We didn't want to be heroes and have this thing sneak up on us," stated LaClear.

LaClear phoned the Ingham County Sheriff's Department and deputies arrived on the scene to investigate. LaClear showed them a footprint that was about 11-12 inches long, similar to a human print with a "funny shape: it had a curve in it with 3 toes."

"This is the worst shock I've ever had in my life," said LaClear. "I've been staying awake at night waiting for it to come back. It hasn't harmed anyone yet, and I wouldn't want to kill it. I would like to see it face to face, if it were chained."

LaClear presumes that the creature, whatever it is, must be a vegetarian because there is plentiful young livestock in the neighborhood which hasn't been touched.

Roberta Quinn returned home at 11:10 Friday night and immediately smelled the same odor. "My first thought was that someone had hit a skunk, but I realized that the smell was much worse than that. By the time my husband, Richard, got home at 11:30, the odor had completely disappeared. "I have never smelled anything like it before in my life. It was like something dead had been dragged around, only much worse."

When contacted by the Town Crier, Captain Richard Abbott of the Ingham County Sheriff's Department stated, "I have no doubt that LaClear saw something, but what? If a creature as large as what LaClear reports him to be has been roaming in this area, what is it eating, and why haven't hunters seen it?"

Captain Abbott also added the possibility that it might be kids playing a trick because "We have had an experience with this before."

When asked about the possibility of the creature being a bear, Abbott said "I doubt very much that there are bears in this area. Bears and humans don't get along very well."

He went on to say that he saw no reason for people to get upset about this incident and to go around with guns. "I don't want anyone getting hurt needlessly."

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT, Little Rock, AR - June 26, 1981

Photographs belie Atlantis evidence

The Associated Press

MOSCOW - A Soviet scientist who thought his research team had found the lost continent Atlantis off Portugal's coast now says photographs disprove his earlier theory.

"The latest photographs have dispelled any thoughts by our scientists that this could be Atlantis," Andrei A. Aksyonov, deputy director of the Shirshov Institute of Oceanography, told The Associated Press in an interview Thursday.

Two years ago, the Soviets reported finding evidence of what appeared to be ruins of ancient stonework on the submerged volcanic mountain of Ampere, one of several peaks in the seafloor range that arches from the coast of Portugal to northern Africa.

Ampere is about 250 miles west of Portugal's Cape of Sao Vincente. Its summit lies about 200 to 230 feet below the surface.

Two years ago and again this spring, Soviet scientists produced photographs of Ampere's summit

in which they said they "discerned rectangular structures" resembling "vestiges of walls and staircases."

Aksyonov said photographs taken last month, however, "have convinced me that the formations in the older photographs bear only a coincidental resemblance to manmade structures."

"The new photographs clearly show regular geologic formations of basalt formed by volcanic action on Ampere," he said.

ADVERTISER, Lafayette, LA

July 8, 1981

'Sea Monster' King In New York Town

PORT HENRY, N.Y. (AP) — The "sea monster" of Lake Champlain is the summer's hot news all along this 125-mile inland sea. Here in Port Henry, across the lake from Vermont's Green Mountains, "Champ" is king.

Nearly everyone in town claims, or knows somebody who claims, to have seen the monster whose purported picture was published in The New York Times last week. Sandra Mansi, now of Winchester, N.H., said she took the copyright photo on July 5, 1977, from somewhere on Lake Champlain's coastline in northern Vermont.

The existence of a dragon-like creature in the lake has been talked about for 350 years. Since the days of explorer Samuel de Champlain himself, sightings have been reported all along, but given far more credibility in recent years as serious scientific research into "Nessie," the sea serpent of Scotland's Loch Ness.

Scientists who examined Mrs. Mansi's photo say it does not look like a forgery, but they stop short of saying it looks like a monster. Bay, off limits "to anyone who would in any way harm, harass or destroy the Lake Champlain Sea Monster." Further proof is needed. Champ already serves as the town's all-but-official mascot. Last fall, the town passed a resolution declaring the local part of the lake "Bulweria Bay," a fluffy stuffed Champ will be part of Port Henry's cottage industry.

Mayor Robert Brown says he thinks many earlier sightings probably went unreported because monster-watches "thought people would laugh at them." Yet to adopt Port Henry's effort to adopt Champ, Brown's estimate that the town has received millions of dollars worth of free publicity, the village of 1,400 and 1980.

But although Brown said he would welcome an economic boom — if tourists can find a few small ones. Some of the lake-side campgrounds are at ready full. The town usually attracts so few visitors that the off-season atmosphere "Talking with other locals, however, gives a visitor the feeling that Champ is considered more than just a possible money-making freak show."

"I believe there's something out there," said 24-year-old Tom Scorzafava, manager of the town campground. "I've never seen it, but last week two of my men saw something. They were picking up the garbage from along the beach. At Laura's coffee shop downtown business is so slow that closing time is 3 p.m. A young woman there who did not want to give her name scoffed at the monster stories. "Usually they've had four or five drinks, then they see it," she said.

They didn't get a picture, though. Steve's camera was out of film.

Cause of cow death unresolved

By BRUCE RAMSEY

What fate met the luckless three year old cow in the cool evening of Saturday, May 16 on the fields of the White Spruce Ranch?

Conflicting statements from the two constables from the RCMP's livestock investigation section at Kamloops and Fernie veterinarian, Dr. David Lawson who conducted the autopsy on the mutilated cow confuse even more an already confusing situation. The full RCMP report has not yet been received.

The RCMP believe the animal died from natural causes, but they admitted to rancher Lloyd Phillips that they had no explanation for an eight or nine inch cut in the neck which runs, not across, but in a lateral direction, cutting squarely the large tendon in the neck. It was not frayed or chewed as would be the case if a predator had felled the animal.

Dr. Lawson said he was unable to determine the cause of death "on the basis of my examination". In his official report, Dr. Lawson noted "the wounds on the head definitely appeared to have been made sometime after the animal's death, and quite possibly the other wounds as well".

"The external wounds appeared to fall into two categories. The wounds on the rear end and the neck and shoulder appeared to be characteristic of damage inflicted by carnivorous animals with irregular edges, shredding of the tissues, and what appeared to be tooth marks".

Then, Dr. Lawson concludes with this significant remark: "The wounds on the head appeared to have been made much more cleanly except for the irregular part on the muzzle. I find it difficult to imagine how an animal could have made the skin wounds or cut off the tongue go cleanly inside the mouth. Therefore, it appeared more likely that wounds on the head were made by a person using a sharp instrument."

A news report in the Lethbridge Herald on the incident stated the animal was observed to be sick the day before. Phillips denies this, saying he had observed the animal standing under a spruce tree, humped up, as it were, to protect herself from the rain. He noted its eyes were bright, its muzzle was damp, it did not hang its head, it was not constipated and was not bloated.

Phillips, however, does not rule out the possibility that the animal died from eating a poisonous plant, but he is critical of the authorities who did not send the vital organs to a pathological laboratory in Lethbridge to determine scientifically the cause of death.

"I am critical of the fact that no examination of the stomach contents was made, no examination of the liver and no examination of the glands in the flank or shoulder areas was made," Phillips said, adding that when government inspectors check animals at an abattoir, the first thing they examine is the glands and if they are not up to scratch the animal is consigned to dog food.

The question of the animal dying of natural causes is questioned by Phillips and other area ranchers who examined the mutilated corpse. Phillips maintains the animal was not bloated, no symptoms of black leg, nor symptoms of haemorrhagic septicaemia which affects the blood stream, nor were their symptoms of grass tetany which occurs in the spring when the animals are turned out into the green grass.

"I am at a loss to know what the police mean when they attributed death came from natural causes, except the possibility the animal could have eaten a poisonous plant, such as larkspur or wild parsnip, the presence of which could have been determined by blood samples or an examination of the stomach contents. No blood or tissue samples were taken."

Phillips said that in some statements attributed to the RCMP, they said predators go for the softer parts of an animal, which I agree with, "but in the light of that, he questioned why the predators would go for the bony area above the eye, take only the hide and hair, leaving the flesh untouched."

"Also, in the area above the eye, you could see where hairs had been cut as if by a knife or scissors. To meet that indicates it was no predator that mutilated the cow," he stated.

With regards to the tongue, the police said it was normal for a dead animal to have its tongue protruding; and Phillips agrees with that. The police, he said, stated that if the tongue was protruding a coyote or other predators would bite it off. That, they say, is the reason why half the tongue is missing.

"The police told me that anyone cutting the tongue from the side of the mouth would be cutting it at an angle. It was not cut at an angle. In actual fact, there were signs which indicated to me that the tongue had been cut half way from one side to half way from the other, because in the centre of the tongue there were two knotholes that did not jibe. It was cut at a right angle, a square cut, Phillips said.

Further, he stated the eyes were untouched, and he pointed out that normally, animals go after the eyes.

Also, predators go into the flesh of the haunch, but in this case, the flesh of the haunch was untouched. All that was taken was approximately four inches of the large intestine.

When the RCMP team came from Kamloops - Const. R.J. Convey and Const. M.J. Chorney - they gave Phillips a copy of an article from Penthouse magazine on cattle mutilations which was subtitled "The Truth At Last". Phillips has no quarrel with the article, although he wonders what the qualifications of the writer, David Rorvik, are. He wonders, too, about something else.

"I think," he said, "the RCMP investigation was geared to fit what was said in this article. They had a preconceived idea that there were no mutilations. There had to be a natural explanation."

They argue, Phillips said, that blow flies eat the hide so it looks as if it were cut with a knife. I say there were no blow flies anywhere around, and said the enlargements of pictures he took of the dead animal show no trace of them.

"I will give \$10 to the Tom Uphill Memorial Home for every blow fly that shows up in those photos," he said.

As Dr. Lawson pointed out in his report, "the wounds on the head were made by a person using a sharp instrument." That is the real mystery, and one that causes no end of concern to everybody involved in the cattle industry.

Phillips has a theory about it. That cut on the neck might have resulted from somebody shooting the animal with a dart gun, and then, using a sharp knife, cut the dart out in a lateral direction, removed the tell-tale evidence.

He reports that a man told him that about the time the incident is believed to have occurred, he spotted a small sized bluish car, similar to a 1971 Valiant parked beside the road and two men were standing beside the car.

Phillips does not believe the animal was mutilated to serve some weird occult rite.

CR: P. Guttilla

Scientist-believer studies the elusive Bigfoot, seriously

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NANITA, Idaho - Some hear the high-pitched screams piercing the quiet forest. Some see the oversized tracks that lead the beast its name.

Some catch a glimpse of the huge, dark shape moving through the trees or across a mountain meadow.

Some believe - and some don't - in Bigfoot.

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Ray Rogers is among that number.

Rogers, Idaho Fish and Game Department regional wildlife manager for the panhandle region, said he has seen "some strange tracks" but "nothing I felt had much credibility at all."

About three years ago, he said, an area trapper heard blood-curdling screams in the night - sounds like nothing he had ever heard. The next morning, he found foot-long tracks along the banks of the Coeur d'Alene River - and brought Rogers up to see them.

"They were odd, all right, about a foot long with four long toes and... kind of boxy looking," he said. "It was kind of spooky."

But Rogers said he was not convinced.

"I'm skeptical about anything I hear about Bigfoots," Rogers said. "With all of the work we do out here, you'd think we'd find some real concrete evidence, like the bones of one."

Not necessarily, Krantz said.

"If these things are real," he said, "you probably wouldn't find one dead unless a human killed it."

With the possible exception of bears, he said Sasquatch would have no natural enemies, so it would only die at the hands of man or of natural causes.

And if an animal dies naturally, as in starvation, the animal dies slowly and can pick its own place of death," Krantz said.

Animal instincts would lead the Sasquatch to "hide itself as well as possible," before it died.

Bigfoot's existence can't be proved until a carcass or bone - some piece of physical evidence - is found, he said. But that doesn't mean they aren't out there.

For those who can't believe the massive beasts could exist unproven in an increasingly infiltrated wilderness,

"They were odd, all right, about a foot long with four long toes and... kind of boxy looking. It was kind of spooky."

POST, West Palm Beach, FL
July 16, 1981

Ranger: 'Bigfoots' All Alike

CHESAPEAKE, Va. (AP) - Those 7-foot, hairy, foul-smelling creatures are the same the world over, whether they're called Bigfoot, Yeti, a skunk ape or an abominable snowman, according to Park Ranger Patrick Higgins.

The stories from campers and visitors at the Northwest River Park near Chesapeake seem to fit the general image.

"The descriptions of these things, they all match from all over the world," Higgins said, adding he's had experience trying to spot Bigfoots in Florida.

"They're 7 to 8 feet tall, fully haired with brownish hair, with a real foul odor, and leave large footprints. And they're harmless, very meek and timid," he said.

Sherry Davis told the Chesapeake Post recently she thought she was crazy when she spotted a Bigfoot running through the park's campground on June 9. It was hairy and about 7 feet tall, she said. It took her a while to decide to come forward with the information.

Higgins found no evidence of a bear. He has described the creature's smell as like that of "an uncovered septic tank," but when he checked out the one tank in the area, he saw no leaks and detected no odor.

"Now, I'm not saying it is, but I'm not ruling it out that it isn't," Higgins said. "We need more information."

But if - just if - it is, Higgins has a few theories.

Higgins figures it's either attracted by cooking smells or is looking for a mate. "Maybe he's lonely," Higgins said.

"I know it's not a guy out there in a fur coat. It was about 100 degrees, and he would have dropped from heat prostration. We would have found him."

And if an animal dies naturally, as in starvation, the animal dies slowly and can pick its own place of death," Krantz said.

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For those who can't believe the massive beasts could exist unproven in an increasingly infiltrated wilderness,

Krantz tells the story of the lowland gorilla.

He said for about two and a half centuries, stories were told of a dark, man-like beast, in the African lowlands. The sightings began around 1600, he said. But experts of the day rejected them. And it wasn't until 1849 that the first gorilla skeleton was found.

Much less time has passed since the first Sasquatch was sighted in the United States. American Bigfoot reports date back to the 1830s, he said. Indian legends describing the beasts go back much earlier.

Of the sighting stories he's been told in Idaho, Krantz said he believes all but one. But of 31 Sasquatch reports he has personally heard throughout the western region, he said only about one half seem authentic. And he said California reports are almost always phony.

Krantz estimated there are at least 200 Sasquatch - the minimum number necessary for a breeding population - in the mountain states.

But belief in Bigfoot is not exactly within the scientific mainstream, and Krantz said his penchant for the giant primate has led some of his colleagues to scoff at him.

Others are open-minded, he said.

Krantz said he is the only scientist that he knows of who is seriously studying the Sasquatch.

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Swamp creature sighted

By HAL LEDET

Advocate staff writer

LAPLACE — Harmon Levron and his 16-year-old son Mark figured on ridding the world of a few poisonous cottonmouth moccasins last Sunday afternoon.

Their plan was to plink the snakes with .33-caliber firearms in the cypress swamp near Ruddock in St. John the Baptist Parish.

They parked their car on the old U.S. 51 near the junction of I-55 and walked about 20 yards into the cypress-rich swamp. Levron carried a semi-automatic pistol. Mark had a birthday-new pump rifle.

The swampy area between I-55 and Lake Pontchartrain is narrow, no more than four miles wide at its extreme and perhaps one mile wide at its narrowest.

Because it is under water most of the time, it is seldom traversed by humans. But its habitat is ideal for cottonmouths, which thrive by the thousands in the brackish surroundings.

"We had each taken about three shots," Levron said, "when I looked at my son and he looked at me. Suddenly, there was a horrible smell in the air. I told Mark that somebody had probably dragged a dead cow into the swamp. So we moved to our right, trying to get out of the path of the smell."

What Levron and his son saw next terrified them.

"As we were walking, we heard a loud noise, like something really big crashing

through the branches. Up ahead, about 30 or 40 feet, I saw a tall, shaggy-looking thing with long reddish-orange hair running deeper into the swamp."

Levron says he and his son didn't wait around to investigate further.

"I'm telling you," he said, "as fast as that thing was running away from us, we were running away from it."

Levron said he told a few neighbors in Kenner about the experience.

"You know how it is," he said. "They laughed. They wanted to know how much beer I had drunk, you know, kidding me about the whole thing."

Levron, a welder, did not go to work Monday. On Tuesday, he told his story to a fellow worker, who suggested he call a newspaper to find out if there had been any recent sightings of strange creatures in the area.

"I just want to know if I'm going crazy," Levron said.

There have been no recent sightings of huge, shaggy creatures in St. John the Baptist Parish, law officials there say.

But there have been in the past. And also in neighboring St. Charles Parish.

In August 1977, a man from the Lucy community startled his friends with a story of a "Big Foot" sighting.

The creature, the man said, was "about seven feet tall, covered with brown hair, had a long tail and walked on two feet." It was seen crossing a strip of land after going through a lagoon, then entered the Mississippi River.

LaPlace resident Kenneth Simar and a

friend went out in search of the creature. What they found were footprints that Simar described as "looking like the cross between an alligator and a primate."

The description of the footprints as alligator-like coincides with a description of plaster casts of prints supposedly made by a Honey Island Swamp creature and shown to Pearl River Management Area Supervisor Dave Moreland about two years ago.

Moreland works for the state Wildlife and Fisheries Commission. He has heard quite a number of stories about the Honey Island Swamp monster.

Is there or has there ever been any tangible proof that such a creature exists?

"No," Moreland says.

"There was one man who made some plaster casts," he says, "of what he thought to be a huge apelike creature. I looked at them and thought they looked like alligator tracks."

Moreland says that because the Pearl River Management Area is so close to New Orleans, a large number of novice woodsmen come into the refuge.

"A lot of these people don't understand the noises that birds and animals can make, so they attribute something else to noises that are perfectly normal for this type of area."

Harmon Levron and his son Mark aren't convinced that Big Foot exists.

But today they're a lot closer to believing it than they were last Sunday afternoon.

Bigfoot Wandering Across N.J.?

By CATHY BURKE

United Press International

Robert Jones would like very much to crack the mystery of the Bermuda Triangle. But because he cannot afford to go there, Jones stays in New Jersey and investigates Big Foot, haunted houses and

spook lights.

Jones, 47, a computer analyst with IBM, is founder of Vestigia, whose realm — quite simply — is anything "that is short-lived or unexplained phenomena, only plained" around the state.

"As luck and life would

have it, there's a lot of things to work on," he said.

The group, based in Byram Township, was formed in July 1976 and boasts 50 members, about half of whom are scientists by trade or training, and the rest "a variety — from policemen to housewife," Jones said.

"I've been a scientist ever since I left college," he said. "But I like to look at new things. Eight or nine years ago I became interested in unexplained phenomena, only I wanted to look at it sci-

entifically. With a few others, I formed the group and we've had a ball ever since."

The group divides itself into teams to crack some of science's toughest mysteries. A biological team is examining evidence that suggests Big Foot, also known as Sasquatch — reputedly a big, hairy half-man, half-beast — may be wandering on a path from New York to Pennsylvania.

The same group also is trying to unravel the mystery of the black panther, whether

its sightings in New Jersey are an anomaly or the occurrence of a leopard with melanism.

A parapsychology team studies unidentified flying objects, commonly known as UFOs.

An earth sciences group is taking on "spook lights." "That's our hottest item," he said.

Long Valley, the light registered on equipment, and Vestigia members took infrared photos.

From that evidence, Jones said, the group is working on a theory that may provide some explanation not only for "spook lights" but also for the Bermuda Triangle, UFOs, ghosts and haunted houses.

He said studies show the light is a special case of air particles ionizing into a ball inside an electrical field and, under certain conditions, causing a glow.

Jones theorizes the phenomenon occurs in areas that are "active seismically, or on a fault line. If sub-

surface rock happens to contain enough quartz, Jones said, you have pressure against quartz crystals that causes "piezo electricity." If the energy grows large enough, "all kinds of things can happen."

Yet, the group shuns the sensational in a field that is naturally sensational. "We go by the theory, if we can't explain it, we don't judge it," he said.

Big Foot provides one such sensational topic. There have been scores of reports that Big Foot — a frequent focus of news reports in the Pacific Northwest — has been sighted around New Jersey.

"There's probably a couple thousand of them (reports) around the country," Jones said. "Big Foot may be in 39 out of 50 states. We find a vague migratory pattern in the Northeast, from north of Poughkeepsie, N.Y., through Pennsylvania. There's a northwestern New Jersey to that hope," group members might run into the big fellow.

Yet it is the process of discovery that keeps Jones and like-minded group members together. They are just

creatures, and because they are described as timid, strong and nimble, probably with nocturnal vision, a fine sense of hearing and smell and "reasonably advanced intelligence," it is not surprising a Big Foot hasn't been caught.

In a field study this summer in Sussex, where Big Foot was last reported sighted May 23, Jones said Vestigia will go out and look for clues to the Big Foot mystery. And, he added, "I always entrusts the Northeast, from north of Poughkeepsie, N.Y., through Pennsylvania. There's a northwestern New Jersey to that hope," group members might run into the big fellow.

Yet it is the process of discovery that keeps Jones and like-minded group members together. They are just

one link, he said, in a worldwide chain of groups, researchers and scientists who communicate with each other about the "unexplained."

"We are in communication with groups around the world," he said. "But mostly it's done without publicity. We have even assisted universities."

"Unfortunately, our field of study is tainted by other groups who specialize in the sensational."

Vestigia is not for thrill-seekers, either, he said. "Some people are looking for a thrill a minute, but it's not there," he says. "Sometimes it's just hard work."

Group Probes Mysteries

CR: T. Benson

'Big Boom' Rocks, Mystifies Carolinas

This story was reported by Allen Cowan, Debra Dobkowski, William Douglas and Lawrence Turner, and written by Douglas.

"The Big Boom" rocked parts of the Carolinas Wednesday, leaving aviation and geological officials wondering what the noise was and where it came from.

Nobody knows what caused the loud and brief noise, but explanations included an explosion, an earthquake, a sonic boom and a meteor or satellite falling into the atmosphere.

Whatever it was, people in Charlotte, Monroe, Gastonia, Spartanburg, Greer, S.C., and Greenville, S.C., heard and felt it.

Charlotte police and firefighters were told the noise was an explosion at the Paw Creek Terminal on Thrift Road or a blast at a nearby grocery store.

More than 11 fire vehicles and at least six rescue crews from MEDIC and Charlotte Life Saving rushed to the petroleum products terminal only to find puzzled residents standing nearby.

"I just heard an explosion," said Lane Hollar standing outside the terminal. "It lasted just a second, but it vibrated the ground."

Billy Rogers of 2152 Camp Greene St. in northwestern Charlotte heard the noise and followed the fire engines to the terminal.

"I came over here to check," Rogers said. "It sounded like dynamite." People in the tower at Douglas Municipal Airport heard the noise about 1:27 p.m. Controllers reported the noise to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) control center in Atlanta as a sonic boom.

"It's very rare that we have one," said FAA tower chief Bernie Groseclose at Douglas airport. "It sounded like a stove exploding."

Charlotte and Atlanta FAA officials say, however, they were not tracking any commercial or military aircraft traveling at supersonic speeds at the time the noise occurred.

"We've had quite a number of calls," said Maj. Dave Gilbaugh of Shaw Air Force Base near Sumter, S.C. "We don't know if it is a sonic boom. We're attempting to check."

Hersel Story, 46, of Rt. 6 Charlotte was reading in his mobile home when the noise hit.

"I heard a loud explosion which seemed to move the mobile home," he said. "It sounded like a sharp, shattering boom."

Geologists said Wednesday that the possibility the noise was a minor earthquake was remote.

An hour before the sound was heard, a seismograph at the Virginia Technical Observatory recorded an eastern Kentucky strip-

mining blast that registered 3.0 on the Richter scale. The observatory is at Virginia Polytechnic Institute in Blacksburg, Va.

Matthew Sibol, a Virginia Polytechnic graduate student, said an explosion appears on a seismograph for the same reason an earthquake does — the seismograph records compression waves as they travel through the ground. Both earthquakes and explosions shake the ground, forming waves which the seismograph records.

If loud booms weren't enough, air traffic controllers at Douglas Municipal Airport had another minor emergency to add to the confusion — an emergency landing for a plane with one engine shut down.

Piedmont Airlines Flight 939 from Charlotte to Knoxville left about 12:40 p.m. with 16 passengers and four crew members.

Shortly after takeoff, the pilot felt vibrations coming from the left engine of the twin-engine YS11 turboprop.

Rather than take a chance, the pilot turned off the left engine and asked permission to return to Douglas.

As fire equipment stood by on the runway and other air traffic was temporarily diverted, the plane landed routinely. There were no injuries. The flight was canceled and the passengers rerouted through Atlanta.

day and those heard in 1977-78 is that the earlier booms were heard only in coastal areas.

Possible explanations for Wednesday's boom included an explosion, an earthquake, a sonic boom and a meteor or satellite falling into the atmosphere. The most likely explanation appeared to be a sonic boom.

"To get a sonic boom, you have to get (an object) going faster than the speed of sound," said Dr. Edward Oberhofer, astronomy professor at UNCC.

The speed of sound close to Earth is about 800 mph, but it varies depending on the density of the air.

Oberhofer explained that in a sonic boom, "the sound waves sort of spread out like a cone around the front of the object."

The air is compressed around the speeding object and is trying to move away from it. When the sound waves come by you, you hear the boom, Oberhofer said.

Other Things That Go Bump

By DEBRA DOBKOWSKI

Observer Staff Writer

Wednesday's startling boom joins a long list of mysterious blastlike sounds. Most, like the boom that rocked Mecklenburg County in 1973, are attributed to sonic booms from planes flying overhead.

Others, like the booms heard in coastal areas in 1977 and 1978, are more mysterious in origin.

The cause of those booms, heard up and down the East, West and Gulf coasts, was thought to be anything from out-of-this-world origins and exploding methane gas to earthquakes at sea and sonic booms.

Dr. Morris Davis, professor of astronomy at UNC, said those noises were caused by aircraft traveling at supersonic speeds in other parts of the world.

Aircraft are not supposed to travel over the continental United States at speeds that exceed Mach 1 — the speed of sound, said Terry White, public information specialist at Johnson Space Center in Houston.

The difference between the booms heard Wednes-

Jersey Big Foot tickling interest among scientists



By TOM GIBBONS

Scotland has its Loch Ness Monster, the Himalayas the Abominable Snowman and now, New Jersey may have Big Foot.

Recent sightings of the legendary creature in the rural hills of Sussex County have sparked the interest of an independent scientific team involved with investigating unexplained phenomena.

This most recent sighting, however, is certainly not the first in the state. There have been nearly 100 reports in New Jersey of Big Foot, also known as Sasquatch, dating back as far as 1914.

Robert Jones, leader of the Byram-based scientific group, Vestigia, said members would conduct an "intensive field study" this summer in Sussex, where the creature was reportedly sighted May 23.

Sophisticated tracking equipment, including starlight night scopes and electronic detecting devices, will be used to search for the creature, said Jones, who has been looking for Big Foot in New Jersey and Pennsylvania since 1973.

In the most recent sighting, the half-man, half-animal creature was reportedly seen crossing a road at night in the Franklin section of the 35,000-acre Newark Watershed by two Sussex County men returning home from a fishing trip.

"The report seems very reliable. The men who made the sighting

are what I would describe as solid citizens," Jones said.

One of the fishermen, who asked that his name not be used, said he had been driving down a dirt road with the car's high beams on when suddenly the creature strode across the roadway.

"I slammed on my brakes and then quickly turned off the road to follow him down a dirt path," he related. "We were about five feet from him when my station wagon got stuck in mud."

Describing the creature, he said it stood about 6½ feet tall, weighed slightly more than 300 pounds and was completely covered with reddish brown hair. He said the creature did not have a snout, but rather, a flat face and ears like a man.

"It was semi-human," he said, noting the creature walked with a slight hunch, swung its arms and clenched what appeared to be fists while walking oblivious to the vehicle's presence.

"He was moving like a cross country skier would move," related the 29-year-old electrical inspector.

"I'll go to my grave knowing it wasn't a bear or anyone in a suit. I don't expect to ever see anything like that again."

Jones said a large number of Big Foot sightings in the state had been in the northwestern counties — Sussex, Warren, Hunterdon and even parts of Morris. He noted the creature has also been seen in the Pine Barrens. "This latest incident just adds to the evidence," he said.

Although local police are not aware of any other sightings of Big Foot, they said during late May a "large number" of bears had been reported in the watershed area.

Jones, an IBM computer analyst, said if someone had a good look at a Big Foot, he could not confuse the creature with a bear.

"A bear wouldn't walk across a road on two legs," Jones said, adding that a bear also would not swing its arms.

Although Big Foot has received less notoriety in the state than the Jersey Devil, an apparition that some believe resides in the Pine Barrens, the evidence supporting the existence of Big Foot appears to be more substantial.

Jones said in addition to eyewitness reports, he has accumulated such evidence as footprints, hair and feces samples, as well as a tape recording of the creature's high-pitched screams.

"The hair and feces samples cannot be matched with any other species," Jones said, noting the footprints are also unusual. He said the tape recording had been made by a Pennsylvania resident who had encountered a Big Foot.

One of the most interesting tales relating to the creature reportedly involves an incident that took place in northern Sussex more than seven years ago, according to Jones.

A truck driver claimed that while traveling along a secluded roadway at about noon, he was forced to stop when a large hairy creature stepped in front of the truck.

The creature stood in the road, about 15 feet from the truck, and watched the driver for several moments, screamed and then ran off.

The driver later described it as having man-like facial features and giving off an odor "as if it had been dead for some time."

Although there have been fewer sightings of the creature recently, a party of four or five young persons all claimed to have seen the creature in a secluded wooded area in Sussex last year.

"I'm investigating that sighting at present, so I don't have any more details," Jones said.

He said the descriptions of Big Foot were basically the same, "large, erect, hairy creatures with human features and that give off a terrible odor."

He noted the odor might be a defensive mechanism, like the scent given off by a skunk.

"We're not sure, but Big Foot might also have nocturnal vision," he added.

Some scientists believe if Big Foot does exist, it might be an evolutionary link between man and ape. Informally, the creature has been named *Homo nocturnus* — night man.

Jones said he believed the creature is migratory, noting there have been sightings in a "kind of path" from Poughkeepsie, N.Y., south through northwest New Jersey and into western Pennsylvania.

The elusive creature has been spotted throughout the world, except in the polar regions. A large number of sightings have occurred in the western United States, especially California, Oregon and Washington.

POST, Houston, TX - June 26, 1981 GR: M. Hall

Titanic search not first for 'average' oilman

Editor's note: Jack Grimm wants to find the Titanic. He sets sail to the North Atlantic Sunday. This is not the first curious ambition for this self-described "ordinary, plain, average" Texas oilman.

By JOE STROOP

ABILENE (AP) — So who is this guy, anyway?

He made millions in the Texas oilfields and uses his money to look for Noah's Ark, the Loch Ness Monster, Big Foot, Big Bird and — if he leaves Boston harbor Sunday as scheduled — the Titanic? And his name is Grimm? Must be a fairy tale of some sort, right?

"I consider myself ordinary, plain, average," oilman Jack Grimm said with a straight face and a serious tone of voice. But if he means it — if it is not a tongue-in-cheek assessment — he is the only one who thinks that of himself.

For 11 years Grimm has been making headlines with his unusual adventures, but the 56-year-old wildcatter's taste for the unusual really began before then — when he got married, he and his wife spent their honeymoon prospecting for gold.

The first of his escapades to reach the public eye was his financing of a 1970 expedition up Mount Ararat in Turkey to look for the remains of Noah's Ark.

The trip did not locate the ark but did result in a movie, *The Search for Noah's Ark*, that enjoyed a limited run in theaters and drive-ins as well as a couple of showings on network

television.

Next he entered the 1975 World Championship of Poker at Las Vegas, Nev. Much was made of his ouster from the tournament, as he went bust — dropped \$10,000 — in one hand of Hold 'Em.

"What nobody mentions is that I had won nearly \$10,000 the day before," Grimm said, insisting he just about broke even, except for picking up a nickname he despises to this day.

"Please don't call me 'Cadillac Jack,'" he begged a reporter who had spent the day with him in Abilene.

After the poker stint, Grimm announced in 1975 he was financing a search for the legendary Loch Ness monster, the prehistoric reptile supposed to be living in a lake in Scotland. Grimm had bought some special film for the Noah's Ark expedition and, since he had some left over, decided to use it in the hunt for "Nessie," too.

The next year he paid his own money to send a pair of local photographers to western Canada to look for Big Foot, the large, hairy, man-like creature said to have been terrorizing some of the natives in that region.

And his big year was last year, which contained two major announcements.

First, he was going to be spending money to search for the sunken ocean liner Titanic which went to the bottom of the North Atlantic after ramming an iceberg in 1912.

Second, he was commissioning noted sculptor Robert Berks to carve a 40-foot high, 200-foot long panoramic bas-relief into the side of a mesa he owns outside Abilene. The work would

be a pictorial history of the Old West as told from the point of view of the buffalo.

"This will last longer than the pyramids," Berks said of the work during a groundbreaking ceremony earlier this year.

"I bet you came here thinking all this stuff I do is just half-baked, didn't you," Grimm said as he held up a model of the Titanic. "Like I work on whims — just wake up some morning and say, 'Hey, let's go look for the Titanic.' Well, I put a lot of thought and research and time into these things."

"I look on them as business ventures. Each one is a business venture designed to be successful — to make money. They're not off-the-cuff larks."

The search for Noah's Ark, for example, resulted in a movie — *The Search for Noah's Ark*, which was not a box-office smash but "made money," Grimm said.

His Titanic search, cut short last winter by foul weather off the coast of Newfoundland, is scheduled to begin again when the research ship Gyre, with Grimm on board, leaves Boston. And if he finds the hulk, a book and a movie are waiting in the wings for near-immediate release.

"Maybe I differ from a lot of other people by doing these projects when someone else would just dream about them but . . . would be embarrassed about saying, 'I'm gonna go climb Mount Everest,' or something," he said. "But once you start one of them, people say, 'Oh, boy, that's a great idea, I wish somebody would go do that.'"

Grimm said many of his associates in "con-

servative" enterprises, such as oil and gas exploration, also have interests in his more exotic projects, such as the Titanic expedition. And they, he said, do not consider him eccentric, strange or whimsical.

"There are others involved in these things, geologists and engineers, friends and associates of mine. Do you think that they would have the same whims that I do? No, they wouldn't. I think they enjoy participating in these things because there's a chance they'll get their money back, maybe make a profit. And maybe it is on the order of looking for a gold mine, but they're business ventures."

But why such out-of-the-way projects? Why not investments in the silver market, like Dallas billionaire Nelson Bunker Hunt, a long-time friend? Or a baseball team, like fellow oilman Eddie Chiles?

Basically, his answer is that he considers the potential reward worth the risk, just like oil drilling but a lot more fun.

"If I do find the Titanic — and I will — if we found Big Foot, or the Loch Ness monster, nobody would think we're silly. When you confirm the existence of something, you've got the support of everybody. And until you do confirm it, or make these discoveries, people share with me the excitement of looking for them. It's a great search."

"I get to go do these things, take part in these adventures, but I always try to share them with the public, with the average man, because he would love to go do them, too. He dreams about them, but he hasn't had the opportunity."

Rome's strange beast: is it fact or fantasy?

RÔME — Principal figures involved in the mystery of a strange beast or beasts that once again are being reported on Johnson Road here are refusing to comment or talk to the media.

The Valley News has learned at least three area residents spotted what they believe is a nine-foot tall animal which walks on its hind legs Tuesday night in the same area where sheriff's deputies found large footprints a week ago.

Ducks and chickens continue to be found dead or missing in the same area.

Other residents on Johnson Road feel the "creature" might be a bear. One long-time resident of the area reported of hearing grunting and growling sound from the woods this week. He remembers bears in the area many years ago and feels there might be one or two still living in the thick, rugged country near the Grand River by Johnson Road.

IT IS not only Everest explorers who bring back tantalizing tales about the "abominable snowman."

The Chinese have been hooked on the mystery ever since the great Ming Dynasty of medieval times, when villagers in wild south-east China started reporting sightings of big, hairy "human bears."

Now a full-scale investigation by the Peking nature museum into the "wild men" has sparked fresh interest.

It was in Zhejiang province, south-east China, that the most famous "wild man" appearance occurred in May 23, 1957, when "a man-like animal fully covered with black hair" assaulted a 12-year-old

girl tending cows.

Her mother and the villagers rushed to her rescue. Beat the startled "animal" to death, chopped off its four limbs and gave them to the authorities. The hands and feet of this bizarre creature were preserved by a biology teacher for 24 years. The remains were rediscovered in 1980.

Zhou Guexin, a wild man specialist from the Peking province, went to Zhejiang province to interview witnesses and study the limb prints, X-rays, finger and palm prints and other scientific techniques.

He concluded that the creature weighed between 50kg and 65kg, stood more than 1m tall and was a previously undiscovered cousin of the big short-tailed monkey. The villagers also told Zhou that they found bamboo shoots in its stomach, indicating it was a monkey.

But Zhou would not explain other phenomena associated with the Zhejiang wild man.

"As for the big footprints and big nests found in trees, Zhou holds that they have nothing to do with such a short-tailed monkey and that they are awaiting further investigation and clarification," reported the Peking Evening News.

Nor have Chinese scientists been able to end speculation about 3m tall "dull giant" men of nearby

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Nor have Chinese scientists been able to end speculation about 3m tall "dull giant" men of nearby

able, arguing that the peasant who man could have invited the story for reasons of her own, and that the offspring could have been deformed, retarded or both.

But scientists did find footprints more than half a metre long which suggested the creature was nearly three metres tall and weighed nearly 200kg.

The scientists interviewed more than 250 people who claimed to have seen one or more of the wild men. The best theory the scientists ventured is that the creatures are descendants of a distant ancestor of man who walked upright and who was covered with brown hair.

Special to the Star.

Hubei province. The Chinese Academy of Science launched a full-scale expedition into the forbidden Shennongjia forest of Hubei province last year, but has not produced any firm evidence to pooh-pooh local stories.

But they did find the skeletal remains of an "ape-child," which locals believed was conceived in a mating between one of the "wild men" and a peasant woman. According to a local newspaper report, examination of the photograph and the skeleton revealed both ape and human characteristics.

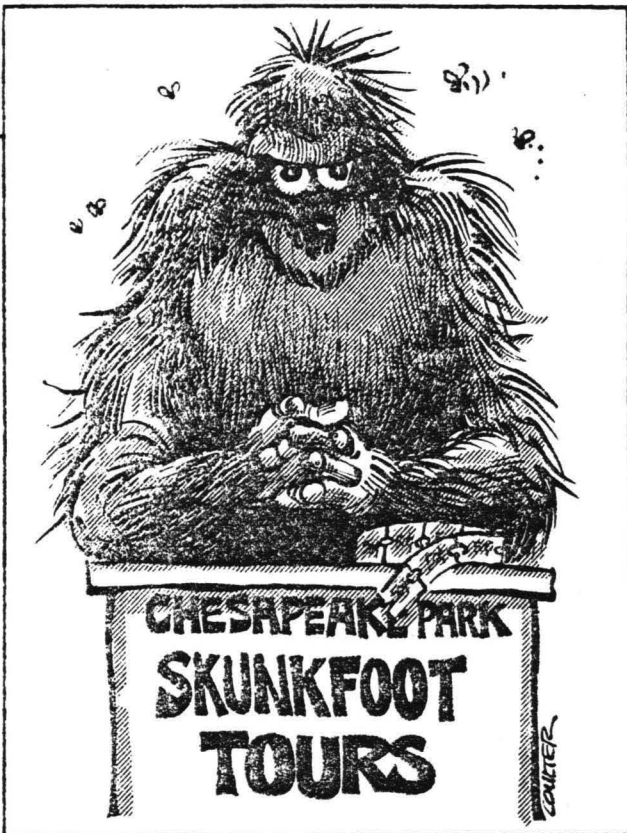
Some Chinese scientists point out that reproduction between animal and human is scientifically impossible.

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Special to the Star.



By William Coulter for The Washington Post

Creature From the Dismal Swamp

By Denis Collins
Washington Post Staff Writer

CHESAPEAKE, Va. — Ranger Pat Higgins has never seen the beast, mind you, but if you want his honest opinion, there is a creature 7½-foot tall, hairy as a shag rug and smelling like a sewer that comes out of Dismal Swamp periodically to stomp through his park at night.

Skunkfoot, Higgins calls it. "There is something out there we can't explain," says Higgins, who has combined a half-dozen sketchy reports with one eyewitness account to come up with a profile of his hirsute visitor. "Personally, I think it's a vegetarian."

The reported sighting of the creature this week in Northwest River Park, which adds Virginia to a list of a dozen states where Bigfoot encounters have been claimed, has provoked a rash of jokes, a heavy dose of skepticism and a small shiver of fear in the Tidewater towns of southeast Virginia.

"We get two kinds of calls," said Lorene Day, one of four rangers assigned to the 760-acre park. "We get thrill seekers as well as the ones who say can we still bring the Boy Scouts there to camp."

The sighting was reported by Sherry Davis, a Chesapeake housewife and avid camper. She told rangers that one recent morning at 2 a.m. she was awakened at her

campsite by a crashing noise and a sharp, acrid smell. When she turned on her car headlights, she spotlighted the beast for a full 15 seconds before it disappeared into thick woods.

"The smell... is the worst thing about it," Davis told the Chesapeake Post, a small weekly newspaper that broke the story this week with the kind of front page play usually reserved for county board scandals.

The story was given credence by Higgins, who was careful to say he could not and would not confirm the beast's existence, but then speculated that Skunkfoot was probably a male and possibly lonely.

"There's been a lot of kidding," says Higgins, 52, a transplanted New Englander who has been a park ranger for the last 30 years. "Most of the other rangers take this with a grain of salt. They say the next thing you're going to report is a UFO." Here Higgins pauses to brush a strand of white hair from his sky-blue eyes before confessing: "I haven't had a drop of liquor in 20 years."

Higgins says his superiors in the Chesapeake parks and recreation department have not been overwhelmingly enthusiastic over his role as Bigfoot champion. Publicizing the presence of a foul-smelling beast in one's campground, he concedes, is a bit like the mayor of a

seaside town bragging about the wondrous sharks in his beach water.

"Nobody has told me to shut up yet," says Higgins, whose natural curiosity has overcome his official reserve.

The Chesapeake Chamber of Commerce has not yet decided how Bigfoot might affect tourism. "We haven't really taken a position on Bigfoots," says Belton E. Jennings, executive vice president of the chamber. "We just have not done an economic impact study on it yet."

At least one local merchant is offering three bananas to the beast. Elton Ward, owner of a fruit and vegetable market near the park, first tells visitors he suspects the creature may in fact be one of his daughter's current suitors. Upon reflection, Ward decides that the beast was responsible for damage done to a half-acre of his sweet corn and not raccoons as he had earlier suspected.

"I'm thinking seriously of filing for Bigfoot insurance," says Ward.

The Chesapeake Post is organizing an expedition next week of rangers, reporters and local anthropologists to capture Bigfoot on film. Ward, for one, hopes they are successful.

"We need a Bigfoot around here to attract more visitors," deadpans Ward. "Heck, everywhere needs a Bigfoot."



ALEX THIEN

In search of
the Loch Ness Monster

FOR YOUR TRIVIA file and the idea that you have to have a gimmick, take a lesson from a Scotsman whose boat business wasn't doing well at all.

To turn things around, he came up with a Hunt the Monster trip, in this case the Loch Ness Monster.

For only \$800 a week, or \$160 a person until he fills all the bunks, the Scotsman will take you off on his cruise boat to sail the waters of the mysterious loch looking for the monster.

The boat is equipped with the latest underwater detection devices and a surface radar scanner to spot the monster if it starts swimming about on top of the water.

The boat owner also has an authority on the Loch Ness Monster tales to act as a consultant. So far, monster hunters have recorded moving objects near the bottom of the 780-foot-deep loch and have plotted their findings on a special chart.

So, for the vacation of a lifetime

CR: R. Heiden