

UFO

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TIMES - TRI-CITIES DAILY, Florence, AL - June 3, 1981

Mysterious Fireball Puzzles Authorities

By SHEILA THOMPSON
Staff Writer

Nobody knows what it was, and some aren't even guessing.

Eyewitnesses said a "ball of fire" that looked like a burning airplane or helicopter crossed Highway 20 about 8 miles north of Florence during a thunderstorm Tuesday afternoon.

Officials turned out en masse in search for the wreckage of an airplane, but called off the search about 7:30 p.m. because nothing, other than about eight eyewitness accounts, could be found.

A civil air patrol plane and a crop-duster crisscrossed the area in search of a downed plane, while other men tramped through the brush on foot. An ambulance waited while rescue squad members and volunteers speculated on what could have happened.

W.C. Kilpatrick was headed north about 3:30 p.m. when he saw the mysterious ball of fire. "It was on fire and it was smoking and it looked like an airplane," Kilpatrick said. "It was during that first thunderstorm and it went just over the treetops," he said.

C.G. Stacy was riding south when he said he saw the ball of fire. "I don't believe in UFOs, but it was something," Stacy said. "I saw a big ball of fire and then a parachute came out. Yes sir, I saw a big parachute," he said. But Kilpatrick said he did not see a parachute.

Civil Defense Director George

Mangum said Scott Air Force Base in Illinois would be contacted about the reports. The Air Force base has a list of all missing planes in the United States, and Mangum said that list would be checked to see if it could be linked to this incident.

Florence Fire Chief Audie Hodges said he "wouldn't even attempt to make a guess" as to what the eyewitnesses saw. "I feel reasonably sure that with the amount of area we covered and the people we used, that there would have been some evidence of broken trees or wreckage," he said.

Hodges said he was certain of only one thing, and that was that the eyewitnesses did see something. "I'm sure they saw something, but I don't know what. I wouldn't even commence to make a guess, but I don't think a plane crashed."

Officials thought maybe lightning struck one of the large power poles that line the road, but Tennessee Valley Authority officials said no power lines were down anywhere in Lauderdale County. "Ball lightning" which seems to appear as balls of fire has also been mentioned as a possibility.

But as of now, nobody knows. Hodges said the local rescue officials have had their share of mysteries lately, since a cause for 17 women at a local manufacturing company becoming ill Friday has still not been determined.

"Isn't that something?" he said.

NEWS, Birmingham, AL - June 11, 1981

UFO Reporting Center is baffled by balls of fire

By Bill Jamigan
News correspondent

FLORENCE — A national UFO Reporting Center official says he gets occasional reports of balls of light similar to those spotted by Florence residents earlier this month but has no real explanation as to their identity.

Robert Gribble, a staff member at the private research organization in Seattle, Wash., told *The Birmingham News* Wednesday the center has received few unidentified flying object reports from Alabama recently.

Speculation as to what the burning, descending object was spotted by two Florence men June 2 ranged from a crashing crop-duster airplane to a weather satellite to a meteor to a ball of lightning.

"It looked like a tumbling ball of fire. When the fire went out, a parachute appeared to come out, then there was the sound of an explosion," C.G. Stacy, of Florence, said.

According to published accounts, balls of lightning is a phenomenon that has received little credibility in the scientific community until recent years.

They are said to last for some time, "floating through the air like soap bubbles". They have been described as bluish-white or reddish globes, ranging in size from grapes to basketballs.

THE OBJECT spotted by Stacy and city sanitation driver W.C. Kilpatrick reportedly went under a high tension power line running parallel with the highway west of Florence.

Gribble said balls of lightning are not a common occurrence. They occur during a thunderstorm and occasionally explode.

The UFO spotted near Florence was seen as a thunderstorm was building. Stacy reported hearing an explosion.

After news reports of this sighting, AEA ESPO district 1 director Shirley Gean, of Waterloo, told *The News* she saw a UFO exactly one week before the June 2 report.

Mrs. Gean said the object she saw also gave the impression of being on fire.

Her sighting, unlike the afternoon sighting of the two men, was made at 11 p.m. The object the men saw was headed east. The one she saw was headed west at a 45-degree descent to below the treetops.

She also thought the "big" and "real high" object was a helicopter or airplane on fire. It appeared to be stationary over the Tennessee Valley Authority reservation in Muscle Shoals before it began moving, she said.

Her sighting was from near Bradshaw High School, on the opposite side of Florence from where Stacy and Kilpatrick made their sighting.

The UFO was "reddish pink" with a "lighter shade of red inside a cylinder area," she said.

The object seen by the men appeared to be between them. The one Mrs. Gean reported was south of her.

Lauderdale County highway department secretary Cissie Benson spotted a UFO a year ago in the general direction of Mrs. Gean's sighting.

"I sat on my porch and watched it for 30 minutes with 16-power binoculars," Mrs. Benson said.

The UFO stayed in a stationary position about 2,000 feet high in a direction from her apartment that could put it over TVA's Wilson Dam hydroelectric plant on the Tennessee River, south of Florence.

WHEN IT MOVED, it went left, right, up and down, she said.

It was "probably 50 feet in diameter, flat on the bottom and dome shaped with a red light on the bottom that would dim. Around the edge were rectangular windows," she said.

"There was absolutely no noise. Traffic sounds did not interfere" with the night sighting, she said.

"I had the distinct feeling it was watching me too. Then it took off all of a sudden," said Mrs. Benson, who described herself as a former UFO "skeptic." Both women said they had not reported these sightings until the June 2 sightings.

Gribble said the UFO Reporting Center has had only two prior UFO reports from Alabama this year.

The first, on January 11 near Saraland, north of Mobile, was an "unknown object, with two large, bright white lights, moving across the sky at a high rate of speed," he said.

The second, on April 13, was reportedly seen traveling in "straight line. flight on a horizontal plane" near Cowarts in Houston County, Gribble said.

The Southeast has traditionally had fewer reported UFO sightings than other areas of the nation, he said.

"In 1973, the Southeast had a massive surge of UFO reports, particularly between September 1 and December 31 in all the Southeastern states. That was probably the largest number reported for one area at one time in the U.S. in the 26 years we've been investigating," Gribble said.

"Right now, things are fairly quiet (all over). In January, February and March we had a lot of activity. Then it slacked off till we hit rock bottom," he said.

The center is used by scientists and laymen as a national data gathering center for research projects.

FOREST PRESS, Tionesta, PA - July 1, 1981

UFO IS REPORTED

An unidentified flying object has been reported by an Allegheny couple who were so shook up by the experience they "got the hell out of there" rather than investigate or attempt to confirm the sighting of the brilliant red and green stationary and flashing white lights.

Cheryl and Bruce Hopkins were waiting out a thunderstorm at Moraine State Park, near Butler, about 3:30 a.m. June 24th, when they saw the unexplained phenomenon.

"Whatever it was hovered about five feet off the ground, between where we were standing and our boat. At first we thought it might have been our boat lights, but the dock where we were moored was out of sight from where our truck was parked—and the lights were too bright."

"My husband and I stood there, speechless and frozen in our tracks, as we watched the UFO for about 20 seconds. Then there was a violent crash of thunder and lightning which seemed to envelope the entire cove—and just as quickly, the mysterious lights were gone."

"We got the hell out of there, needless to say. We left our boat at the dock and headed home," the 28-year old Mrs. Hopkins said. She

said they attempted without success to locate somebody from a UFO investigating team after they got home; then they called Allegheny Observatory to see if there could have been some natural phenomenon. She said they were told there was nothing natural that throw off the amount of light they described. They then called the office at the park and the only comment was, "There was a lot of strange things going on in that cove lately." They remembered, then, that a man had been killed just two weeks prior when it was believed lightning struck the mast of his sailboat. Two others in the boat escaped injury, however.

Mrs. Hopkins said they had learned from a friend, a subscriber to the Forest Press, that the editor had been contacted by a UFO investigator from Bradford at the time of the Bigfoot investigation. She said that is why they called the Forest Press instead of any of the Pittsburgh papers.

"We figured you would be most likely to believe what we told you," she said.

The more they think about it, she said, the more certain they are that what they saw was extraterrestrial—both very vividly recall a very audible "buzzing" sound the entire time they observed the bright lights.

STREET SCENES

By LILLIAN WILSON

BETTY SORIANO, a teacher at Dubose Middle School, gave us a call about the unidentified flying object she had sighted in the fall of 1980.

Last Sunday, Street Scenes related a sighting by Robert Gomez, who reported a UFO sighting near Hill Farm on June 12.

Ms. Soriano read the report and said she had debated about calling and reporting what she and another teacher had sighted last fall.

The two teachers were enroute to the Hill Farm, located about six miles east of Alice on FR 665, to pick up another teacher, Connie Hill. They were attending night classes at Texas A&I University.

Ms. Soriano said it was about 6 p.m. and they were arriving at the entrance into Hill Farm when they spotted a "round object coming right at us. We thought it would hit us and the car went dead."

She recalls that there was no other traffic at the time. "The whole thing happened in a few minutes. We felt powerless to do anything. I've never seen anything move so fast," she said.

Ms. Soriano laughingly said when she finally stared the car again, she reached to turn on the car radio to check if there were any reports of a UFO, and instead of turning on the radio dial, she flipped on the windshield wipers.

For what it's worth, the teacher said they had talked about the incident with others, and some students from the area who also attend A&I classes stated they too have seen UFOs in the same area often.

How about you? Have you sighted a UFO recently?

DAILY RECORD, Morristown, NJ - July 7, 1981

UFO Report Probed

CHATHAM — UFO sighting reports kept police busy last night.

More than 15 callers in the borough and another two or three in Madison reported a strange "pulsating red glow" in the eastern portion of the sky that "dipped down suddenly and then rose again."

Starting at 9:49 p.m. yesterday and lasting for the next half hour or so, local police said the switchboard was aglow with incoming calls.

When an officer left his desk and went to see for himself, however, he said it looked more like heat lightning. An investigation is continuing.

JOURNAL, Muscatine, IA - July 22, 1981

CR: J. Brill

UFO sighted here

The quiet of the Muscatine riverfront early this morning was broken by an unidentified object apparently flying over the river.

At least three people noted the object and called the police, but no explanation what the object was, or what it was doing over the river has been put forward.

Shortly after midnight, Randy Reynolds, 809 Poplar St., told police that he had seen a "large orange disc" which changed shape as it flew: disappearing and reappearing in a cone shape.

About three hours after Reynolds' report, a toll taker at

the Norbert F. Beckey Bridge over the river — also saw an object, and called the police.

Police records say that the toll taker's description of the object matched that of Reynolds, adding only that the object "made a whizzing sound" as it flew.

The "whizzing" sound reportedly was heard by police officers patrolling in the area.

One other unidentified person told police the disc was seen over the river.

Material on the sightings has been referred to the Center for UFO Studies in Evanston, Ill.

APPEAL-DEMOCRAT, Marysville, CA
June 9, 1981

UFO Seen Over Marysville Skies

An unidentified flying object was reported over Marysville skies last night, according to Marysville police.

The red, white and blue pulsating lights followed Kevin McCormack, 1374 Val Drive, Marysville, from East 22nd Street to Hallwood and then back again, finally to disappear

over a levee, McCormack told police.

The incident was logged by police at 12:11 a.m. today.

A spokesman for a UFO reporting center at Seattle, Wash., said the center had received no other reports of UFO sightings in the Marysville area last night.

UFO Believers Will Come Here for Weekend Meeting

By Seth W. Moskowitz
Staff Reporter

They come in a wide variety of shapes, sizes and colors and are most frequently seen between 9 p.m. and 3 a.m. during July, August and October.

Worldwide, one of them is spotted every 15 minutes; most people don't believe they exist.

UFOs.

Mention UFOs and you'll most likely be greeted with raised eyebrows, wisecracks and talk of little green men with antennae sprouting from their heads.

Mention UFOs to Gayle C. McBride, however, and you're in for some serious talk — and some surprises.

Like this one:

A UFO was spotted over downtown Winston-Salem less than two months ago.

You don't believe it?

Well, Mrs. McBride says that it's true. And Mrs. McBride ought to know. She's the assistant state director for the Mutual UFO Network Inc., an international not-for-profit organization dedicated to resolving the mysteries of UFOs.

Mrs. McBride said yesterday

that on Saturday, April 25, between 8:15 and 9 p.m., three people saw a UFO over downtown Winston-Salem.

One of the people, a woman who is a member of the Tarheel UFO Study Group in Rural Hall, was leaving the Brookstown Mill when she saw a glowing triangular-shaped object in the north-northeastern sky. The object had a red light in front of it and left a trail of light in its wake, Mrs. McBride said.

Within minutes of that sighting, a woman leaving the Zevely House saw a perfectly round, bright object with a red glow behind it, traveling toward the Brookstown area. The woman reported the sighting to the police, Mrs. McBride said.

(Mrs. McBride said that the two women reported seeing different shapes not because they saw different objects but because they saw the same object from different angles.)

A third person, a man leaving Bowman Gray School of Medicine, also saw the object, Mrs. McBride said. She did not have any details of what he saw, she said, because the sighting is still under investigation by a field investigator with the Tar Heel

UFO Study Group.

The Winston-Salem sighting was one of about 150 UFO sightings in the United States since the beginning of the year, Mrs. McBride said.

Still don't believe it?

Then wander over to the Nature Science Center this weekend, and you'll have the opportunity to talk to some 100 people who do believe in UFOs. The Tar Heel Study Group's Fifth Annual UFO Conference convenes Saturday and continues through Sunday, with 13 speakers from Maryland, Georgia and Virginia.

Speakers include Henry Morton, the state director of the Mutual UFO Network, who will speak on "UFO Propulsion"; George Fawcett, the immediate past state director of the network (who held the post for 11 years), who will speak on "UFO Odds and Ends"; Allan Hendry, a former chief investigator for the Center for UFO Studies in Illinois, another international organization; and Willy Smith, also from the Center for UFO Studies, who will speak about an unusual UFO sighting on June 14, 1980, in South America, which he investigated.

The conference will be Saturday from 1:30 to 9:30 p.m. and Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m. Admission is charged.

JOURNAL, Winston-Salem, NC - July 17, 1981

ARE ALIENS MINING SOLAR SYSTEM?

Resident sees evidence of tall towers on moon

By RAY BASCOCK
Editor

A Montebello man who has studied hundreds of UFO reports is convinced the objects are controlled by beings not of this earth and the aliens may be mining the solar system and the earth's moon.

Kenith W. Templin has a job which takes him to many countries and he has made a habit of asking strangers if they have seen a UFO.

"I have talked to at least 300 people who have seen them," Templin said recently, "and I have been able to find parallels in their stories which would amaze you. I've talked to pilots, astronauts and the average guy at a gas station. There are similarities."

Templin said the typical sighting is of an object which is saucer shaped, "but they do not necessarily fly edgewise through the air," he said. "They can fly straight up in the air at tremendous speeds, seeming to defy resistance."

"I believe they utilize an ionization field to solve the resistance problem, and the government has done some work on this but its problem was you can't see through the field."

More importantly Templin believes the manned and unmanned moon flights have revealed evidence of alien beings and machines on the moon which may be mining that area.

"I talked to two men who were hunting in the western part of our country. They saw a saucer shaped craft which was on an ore pile of an abandoned mine."

"Four tubular arms extended out from it and moved around in the loose mineral. The arms were finally retracted and the craft took off and fitted itself to the bottom of a cigar shaped craft hovering high above."

"After a while it detached itself, came down to the pile, extended its arms — the hunters watched four such trips in one and a half hours. Such arms could be much longer and larger on the moon due to lower gravity."

"If our solar system is rich in minerals that some other system lacks, UFOs could be mining

our moons and planets. Then while here anyway, they could stop off at earth for a closer look. This view fits the data."

The data he is speaking of are two NASA photos which have no identifying numbers but clearly show "X" mark in depressions on the moon surface. (They are not the registration marks).

Templin believes the two photos represent possible mining sites and the "X" marks are crafts like the one seen by the hunters only with the arms more extended.

He describes one of the photos thus: "This photo is without official comment or identifying number — which seems curious. Meteorite craters are nearly always perfectly round regardless of angle or entry of the meteorite."

"Also the displaced material is accumulated around the rim. The crater has no apparent rim and is not as perfectly round as one would expect." (There is white "x" clearly evident near the crater wall.)

About the other photo he said, "Again this photo is without official comment or identifying number. This picture is of another rimless crater, but not the same as the other. It was taken with a powerful telephoto lens — for a reason."

"Look at the two 'Xs' side by side as shown by the arrow. Such marks are rather difficult to explain geologically."

(All of Templin's photos of the moon were sent to him by NASA and Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena.)

On another Apollo 16 view of the moon there is a small rectangle which marks the proposed landing site for the first surface photographic mission.

"Again there is no identifying number on this photograph and absolutely no written comment. When this was shown in the newspapers, they only showed a small area around the rectangle."

"But the three arrows show interesting craters that may not be entirely of natural origin. It is interesting that only those three craters seem to have more white material showing around the outside than any of the other impact craters."

"It is also of interest that in one of the Eastman Kodak advertisements they said that 'those hexagonal craters that have been photographed need a better explanation.' What 'hexagonal' craters? They have never been shown to us taxpayers."

"A few years ago," said Templin, "I had the rare chance to talk to Jim Irwin, Apollo 15 astronaut who walked on the moon. No one was bothering us and I asked 'What did you really see when you were on the moon?'"

Templin said Irwin responded, "It is interesting that you should ask, because our landing site was selected to allow us to inspect a 400-foot tall, thin pyramid, constructed of a different color material than the surroundings."

Said Templin, "He said that they had a rough landing and had to glide quite a distance to find a sufficiently crater-free area to land."

"When they were finally on the surface, they found that they were farther from their intended site than they had hoped and the 'thing' was behind a hill, so they couldn't see it."

"However, they intended to get there by Rover, the power-operated cart. But by the time they finished their experiments, they had used up so much oxygen that they would not be able to walk back in case Rover failed — so they had to cancel. Irwin said it was the biggest disappointment of the whole trip."

"In that case, as a United States taxpayer, I wanted a copy of the orbital picture which showed that pyramid feature. Consequently, I wrote NASA and told them what I wanted, but of course did not mention Jim Irwin, for I did not want to get him in trouble."

"Three weeks later, I got a picture and a letter which said that they had hunted through their file and this picture is the closest to what they thought I was talking about."

"What I received from NASA was a telephoto lens view of the prominent feature called Silver Spur in the Hadley Delta region, photographed during the Apollo 15 lunar surface extravehicular

activity at the Hadley-Apennine landing site," said Templin.

He wrote NASA again and three months later he got a long distance phone call from a NASA man who said, "We have your letter in hand, and we want you to know that we are not ignoring it."

The NASA caller, according to Templin, said "But when we checked in to this we found that we had made a mixtake in our scale factor."

"The feature was not 400-feet high — it was only four feet, for it was simply an ordinary rock. This information has gotten out and confused a lot of people, so we decided to spell it out in a communicate and you will be hearing from us shortly."

Templin said, "That was over two years ago and I haven't heard from them yet. And it is impossible for me to believe that they based their landing on that data and were off only 100:1 on their scale factor. The long distance phone call was almost an admission that it was actually there."

Templin does have a photo of the lunar surface taken by Orbiter II, which shows prime site four and was received Nov. 21, 1966 by the Goldstone Tracking Station.

"This photograph," said Templin, "was given to me by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena. Dr. Hibbs at the lab told me earlier, 'our high resolution cameras sent back photos that defied explanation.'"

"When I asked him what he meant, he said 'They showed shadows of things that just can't be there.'"

The photo that was given to Templin shows a long shadow coming from a white object. "When I asked him (Hibbs) for examples of the things with long shadows he pretended that he hadn't said it."

"When I asked him about the long shadow on the photo he had given me he said 'It is just the shadow of a rock with a low sun angle.'"

In explaining the photo Templin said the white registration marks show about 25-feet of the lunar surface. At that scale, the length of the shadow must be about 300 feet long, although a variance

of slope would change that figure.

"The amazing thing is a Dr. ElBaz was quiet on NASA doings while he was on the payroll but after leaving NASA he said that some of the tall, thin pyramids they photographed were three times taller than the tallest building on earth — and that they were constructed of a different material than the surroundings," said Templin.

"You see there was an astronaut and a NASA employee both using the same terms and saying there were pyramids there built of different material than the surroundings."

Concerning UFOs seen on earth, Templin said he finds people telling similar stories.

"A young man told me he was driving on the freeway during the day and saw a triangular object parked. He took an off-ramp and saw the object with a man in a jump suit standing on it. He said it was triangular with a small triangular sign on one side."

"The young man told me when the man on the object saw him he raced into the object and it took off straight up in the air at a tremendous rate of speed."

"It was a new story to me," said Templin, "and I filed it away as being doubtful. But sometime later I heard almost the same story from another man out of state. He described the same triangular object with the triangular sign on one side."

Templin has heard at least two stories from young people who tell of UFOs which project a light beam which heated up their cars, but could extend and retract like no other light beams can.

"A friend of mine took a photo in Miami of a light beam which was coming out of a cloud," said Templin. "He was riding with a friend and they were both startled to see a bright and sharp beam of light probing around the area."

"When it struck a metal sign post he said it seemed that there was an arc to the ground at the base of the post. By the

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time he got his camera out, the beam was sweeping across the face of building and he was able to get this picture at 250th of a second.

"They looked up and saw that the beam was coming out of the bottom of a cloud. It certainly wasn't from a device belonging to our military, for they do not have to do their testing in downtown Miami."

When asked why the

government is not admitting it knows about the UFOs being alien visitors, Templin said, "You know there have been many responsible people seeing these things who have been ridiculed and had their lives ruined."

"Can you imagine the number of lawsuits which would be filed if the government said they have known about these visitors all along?"

Ramsey woman reports UFO

MIDLAND PARK — A Ramsey woman claims to have seen an unidentified flying object hovering above the United Methodist Church on Godwin Avenue early Friday morning.

Police said Debra Vinci of 57 Carol St., Ramsey, reported that she saw an object shrouded in red and green lights poised 25 feet above the church at approximately 1:20 a.m. She said when she stepped out of her car to get a closer look, the object quickly rose, and disappeared into the sky, according to reports.

"I can't knock her," said acting Chief August Faber. "I've seen one myself." Faber said one summer evening a few years ago he was summoned by his neighbors and walked out of his house and found himself looking at what appeared to be a craft as large as a borough hall.

He said the object hovered noiselessly and then followed a zigzagging pattern into the sky at an amazing speed.

Faber said the borough receives a handful of reports each year. After Friday's sighting officers dialed a national UFO "hotline" number that had been posted on the police station wall for years, only to find that it had been disconnected. A spokesman at McGuire Air Force Base said Friday that the military stopped investigating UFO sightings in 1968, although a national UFO center still operates in the state of Washington.



ALIEN CRAFT MINING?

This is a photo which Templin believes could be a mining site. The arrow points to a light colored cross which he believes could be an alien craft similar to one hunters saw in the United States. He

said meteor craters usually have displaced material accumulated around the rim and are usually perfectly round. This has neither.

COURIER, Chatham, NJ - July 9, 1981

UFO lights up local skies

BY PAT LEITHEAD

AREA — Although no six-inch green men have yet been spotted, residents in both Chatham Borough and Madison did report sighting an unusual phenomenon hovering in the sky Monday night.

The first report was from a young boy visiting on Weston Ave., in Chatham at 9:43 p.m. Twelve other calls to Chatham police followed during the next 20 minutes, placing the object over different areas of the town.

Chatham Special Policeman Dennis McCabe watched the object through binoculars, describing it as one of the most unusual things he'd ever seen. It was a red light which moved slowly, a short distance and then stopped he said, indicating it remained in his sight for approximately 10 minutes before growing smaller, turning white and disappearing.

Simultaneously, Madison Police Lt. Frank Wulff said he saw a pulsating orange glow in the sky, which he thought could have perhaps been an unusual

form of heat lighting. Sgt. Joseph Markovich of the Madison Police also reported sighting what he called a very slow moving plane.

Barbie Johnson and Lisa Mastin both of Chatham Borough watched the "UFO", reporting it was fiery red and sat on the horizon for about 10 minutes. "It was three or four times larger than a normal star," Barbie said, with what looked to be two legs, risers or rays extending from it. "As we ran to notify neighbors, the object turned white and disappeared," Barbie said. The Thomas Harrison family of Chatham described the object as a bright red star which shot off sparks, resembling a fire cracker.

A Summit fireman also reported seeing the unusual object. Chatham Borough police reported the sighting to the UFO Tracking Headquarters in Chicago which is standard procedure, according to Chief David Woodin.

Chatham Township and Florham Park police reported no calls concerning the "UFO".



LIGHT FROM UFO?

A friend of Kenith Templin took this photo in Miami. Dark arrow points to shaft of light which the friend claimed was coming from a cloud. The light struck a metal sign post and the friend said there was an arc to ground at the base of the post.

OREGONIAN, Portland, OR
July 27, 1981 CR: K. Moran

Power line blamed for 'air crash'

A "boom" and some smoke in Northwest Portland were translated into a plane crash early Sunday afternoon, but after a fruitless air and ground search in 90-degree heat, it turned out that the culprit may have been a 220,000-volt power line that kicked out of operation and later kicked back on for no apparent reason.

The plane crash scenario began at 1:18 p.m. when Washington County Fire District 1 officials received a call

that a small plane had crashed off Northwest Germantown Road about 1½ miles north of Northwest Skyline Boulevard.

The Portland Police Bureau dispatched five cars to the vicinity of the crash, and sweating officers and Multnomah County sheriff's deputies — dogged by television and newspaper crews — struggled through the rugged terrain in search of an airplane that wasn't there.

For about two hours, three helicop-

ters and two planes searched the area without success.

PGE spokesman Steve Loy said the transmission line kicked out at 1:15 p.m., three minutes before the plane crash was reported to authorities. The line went back into operation by itself at 5:11 p.m. There was no power outage because electricity was available from alternative sources.

Loy said PGE patrolled the line and could find nothing to suggest why it went out.

Residents Sight UFO, Unmoving, High Over Area; Experts Stumped For Explanation

by Michael Hirsh

It was a reddish-orange, elongated object which, to the eye, appeared smaller than the moon but much larger than the stars, and remained stationary high in the sky for at least five minutes, most witnesses agreed.

Then, in a matter of several seconds, it began to turn white, remaining still, until it suddenly disappeared.

But perhaps the strangest aspect of last Monday night's UFO sighting in the area, reported to police by a number of residents in the vicinity of Chatham Street, is that no one, including meteorological experts, could offer any rational explanation for what it might have been.

Witnesses adamantly denied the object, variously described as rectangular or vase-shaped, could have been an unusual fireworks display, since it was too high in the sky, remained perfectly stationary, and did not emit the luminescence characteristic of fireworks. One resident among the seven or eight Chatham Street observers, Chuck Mastin, said he estimated the object was very large and in excess of 40-50,000 feet high and, using nearby rooftops as bearings, was positioned about 60 degrees in the air. Although he acknowledged that scientifically his method left something to be desired, Mr. Mastin, a chemical engineer by training, said he attempted a form of sight triangulation using the rooftops and was certain that even as

the object faded away it was "absolutely stationary."

Not A Satellite

Mr. Mastin also said he believed the object, sighted between 9:30 and 9:45 that night, could not have been a satellite, since it was much too large and was not perceived as moving, as a satellite would be.

Mr. Mastin's opinion was confirmed by Morristown Airport's meteorologist, Steve Pelletiere, who is also a Chatham Borough resident but did not witness the phenomenon that night. Morristown Airport did not detect the object, Mr. Pelletiere said. A spokesman for Newark International Airport's supervisor of air traffic also said that Newark had not detected the object and had received no calls about it, although one witness, Mrs. Mastin, observed that immediately after the object faded from sight several commercial airliners passed overhead.

Responding to conjecture that the object might have been a weather balloon, a radioson program manager at the National Weather service in Garden City, Long Island told the Press on Thursday he doubts very much it could have been that. The project manager, Jay Krieger, said that a weather balloon "would definitely be perceived as moving across the sky" over a period of several minutes due to wind flow. The Weather Services Atlantic City station normally releases a balloon at 7:00 p.m., Mr. Krieger said, but because the

balloons stay aloft for a maximum of two hours, by the time of the 9:30 sighting the balloon would have burst and descended very quickly. Weather balloons are normally a "neutral" color, Mr. Krieger added, belying the reddish-range description of witnesses, and are spherically shaped.

The phenomenon was first spotted in Chatham by Robert Killoch, the Mastin's next door neighbor.

Hotfooted It Home

"I was riding home on my bicycle," Mr. Killoch said, "when I saw two kids looking up into the sky on Oliver Street. At first I thought they were looking up into the trees, but when I saw what it was they were looking at I hotfooted it home and got my family and neighbors outside." The interval between the time the children were observing the object and the five minutes or so during which other Chatham Street residents witnessed it, after being told about it by Mr. Killoch, led Mr. Mastin to conjecture that the object remained in the sky for at least ten minutes.

Mr. Killoch described the object as rectangular in shape -- "almost like a cornflake box" -- "clay red" in color and pointed in a southerly direction. It appeared to be lit up, Mr. Killoch observed, but gave off no glow or aura as do the moon or the stars. He agreed with Mr. and Mrs. Mastin that the object was "very high" in the sky -- about 15-,20,000

feet, he estimated -- and after remaining stationary in the sky for "a good ten minutes."

"It began to fade. It got lighter and smaller until it turned white -- and then it just wasn't there. It appeared to just disappear."

Bright but No Glow

Mr. Mastin, however, attested that the phenomenon did not appear to get smaller or recede into the sky as it faded but just turned white and "suddenly disappeared." But he agreed that the object, though clearly visible and bright -- "but not as bright as the moon" -- did not emit a glow or an aura.

Another observer on Chatham Street, Frank Bujloni, said that as the object disappeared "it flickered like a star," Mr. Bujloni also said

that "we all had it pitched to a rooftop, so we know it didn't move."

Mrs. Mastin, noting that she herself is neither "a believer or a non-believer" in UFOs, said that among the seven or eight people observing the phenomenon with her "nobody was alarmed or uneasy. We just wanted to figure out what it was."

Florham Park and Madison police also reported a number of calls calling their attention to the phenomenon. Borough Detective Bill Nauta said about 10 or 12 persons called in at Borough headquarters to report the sighting.

Mysterious UFO Hotline

Detective Nauta said the police department

reported the sighting to the "UFO Hotline" in Chicago, a classified telephone number given to police departments around the country.

"What they do, nobody knows," he said, "They don't answer any questions, they just ask them."

Detective Nauta said he figured the hotline was in some way connected with the U.S. Government, since orders directing the police department to use the hotline came down from the state attorney general's office.

Will Chatham hear about its UFO again?

The persons running the hotline "never get back to you," Detective Nauta said.

PRESS, Chatham, NJ - July 12, 1981

REGISTER, Des Moines, IA - August 8, 1981

Reports of UFOs hover after 3 Muscatine sightings

By WILLIAM RYBERG
of The Register, Des Moines Bureau

Alan Wagner, a toll-taker on the Norbert F. Becker Bridge in Muscatine, was getting ready to feed wild rabbits early one morning in July when he noticed something strange.

The rabbits, who usually run away when humans come around, were stretched out flat on the cement pavement.

That's when he noticed a strange object hovering over the tree tops on the Illinois side of the Mississippi River.

Wagner is one of three persons who

reported seeing unidentified flying objects in Muscatine on three consecutive nights in July.

Barbara Schutte, 29, of Weyer, a volunteer field investigator for the Center for UFO Studies in Evanston, Ill., privately funded center that investigates UFO sightings nationwide, said, "It's the best [sighting] the center has had for quite a while. The UFO scene has been rather quiet lately."

Schutte said Wagner described the UFO as an egg-shaped object that gave off an orange glow and had a yellow interior light.

The object moved to within about 250 yards of Wagner, and he estimated that it was about 30 feet wide and about 25 feet tall. Schutte said. The object flew at an altitude of about 350 feet, but shot straight up to about 500 feet to cross the top of the bridge. Then it descended toward the water, veering off toward the west before it disappeared from view, Schutte said.

Wagner reported the sighting to police, but a policeman reported no sign of the object. Later, however, the officer reported hearing a whizzing sound as he patrolled about a block from the station, according to his written report.

Shortly before the sighting, said Schutte, a power outage was reported on Muscatine's south side and she planned to check to see if there could be any connection. Electrical outages sometimes are associated with UFO sightings, she said.

Clyde Bowen, manager of the Muscatine Power and Water Co., said an outage of less than one minute occurred in an area south of Muscatine at 2:04 a.m. July 22. But, said Bowen, the cause is known: A raccoon got into some electrical equipment, temporarily shorting out a circuit. The animal was killed.

Toll-taker Wagner could not be reached for comment about the sighting, and Schutte said he has asked that his name not be used in accounts of the sighting.

"He's been pretty well harassed today with phone calls from various newspapers, television stations and what not," she said.

The sighting was mentioned on national television earlier this week on the NBC television program, "Tomorrow Coast to Coast." Host Tom Snyder interviewed Dr. J. Allen Hynek, director of the Center for UFO Studies, who mentioned the Muscatine sighting.

Schutte said the first Muscatine sighting occurred at 12:07 a.m. July 21, when two young men were riding in a car near the river. A police report showed that the sighting was reported by Randy Reynolds of Muscatine.

The third sighting occurred about 1 a.m. July 23, but the caller refused to give his name.

"This person described it as an orange object, round in the front [and] tapered toward the back," Schutte said, adding that the caller reported seeing it on the east side of town not far from the river.

The object in the July 21 sighting was described as a "large orange disc that changed shapes." The object was seen over the riverfront and "disappeared from their sight at one time and reappeared close to the bridge," Schutte said.

Schutte, a licensed practical nurse, became involved with the Center for UFO studies after she had a sighting of her own in 1976 at her home near Weyer.

The objects she saw were "three huge red lights at approximately 1,000 feet away in a cornfield."



CR: J. Brill

Of strange dreams and flying machines

By THOMAS E. MORONEY

News Staff Writer

The December night is cold and the ground hard. The year is 1980.



The 13-year-old boy is on his way to a scout meeting near his Foxboro home but goes out to the backyard first to check on his dirt bike.

Suddenly, a light comes into view and hovers 50 feet overhead.

He hears a sound he later describes as someone rubbing on the rim of a wine glass.

When he comes inside after 10 minutes, his mother will later describe him as white as ghost. He tells her he has seen a UFO — an unidentified flying object.

She calls Ray Fowler, a friend and state director of investigations for MUFON — Mutual UFO Network. Ray calls Joe Nyman of Medfield, a local investigator. Nyman is at the boy's house even before the boy comes back from the scout meeting.

The boy can't tell Nyman much but when Nyman asks him to remove his shirt, he is convinced the boy has had an encounter with something. There, burned onto his chest, is an inverted "T."

Nyman leaves the boy and his parents. That night, the father records the boy sleeping.

"No more tests. I have to get home; I'll be late for my scout meeting. Boy, what weird eyes you have. What weird hands," the boy says in his sleep. Nyman recalled in an interview last week.

With the help of the tape, Nyman pieces together what had happened in those 10 minutes in the backyard.

between the lines

A close encounter of the third kind — the next day the boy wakes up and doesn't remember a thing from his dream. He doesn't want to

share his experience with anyone but Nyman and his parents for fear of embarrassment.

In the coming weeks, the boy exhibits the symptoms common to those who have had a close encounter.

"Fear. They are afraid to go out. They have strange dreams and soon that fear turns into a fear that they are going crazy," Nyman said.

"Two or three beings apparently ran medical tests on him. The most amazing thing you hear from these tapes is at the end of their conversation. The aliens tell the boy they'll be back," Nyman said.

The question arises from the community of trained UFO observers: If, indeed, this UFO phenomenon means alien visitors, is it possible they keep tabs on and examine humans at different stages of their lives. If, indeed, this is possible, can the boy from Foxboro expect future visits?

The year is 1981 and the only sighting MUFON has on record so far as a legitimate encounter with something flying and unidentified from all of New England comes from Connecticut.

June 18, 1981. Clear day, bright blue sky. Wind blowing from west to east.

Aztec twin engine Piper aircraft. Cruising at 5,400 feet. Six to seven miles east of New Haven. Flying VFR (visual flight regulations).

Pilot notices a bright reflection ahead. At first thinks it's an aircraft flashing landing lights but upon closer inspection sees no wings. Shape was "a stainless steel tire with a rim that seemed to be spinning."

Pilot made a 180-degree turn in pursuit at 200 miles per hour. Unidentified craft is going three times faster. Chase ends. Case goes into the files.

Since 1947, the year most experts would call the start of the modern era for UFO sightings, there have been peaks (the cognoscenti calls them "flaps"), when sightings pour in, and valleys, when virtually nothing is seen. It's safe to say that

'81 is a valley.

But that hasn't stopped this state's MUFON chapter.

On July 24, 25, and 26 at MIT's Kresge Auditorium in Cambridge, MUFON will hold its 12th annual UFO symposium. This year's theme: "Hidden Evidence."

The scuttlebutt is that it will probably be the last time New England has a chance to see and hear such luminaries on the subject of UFOs.

Allen Hynek, director of CUFOS (Center for UFO Studies), advisor to the movie "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" and probably the world's authority on UFOs, will be there. Stanton Friedman, author and physicist, will also be there.

Not everyone in MUFON believes we are being visited by extra-terrestrial beings.

Of course, there are people who do believe. Merlin Sheehan, a "white-haired" homemaker from Braintree and one of the longest-standing MUFON members in this state

"I know I have seen one. Outside my personal life with my family, it's the biggest thing that's ever happened to me. It was Christmas day five years ago. It happened on early Christmas morning. I looked up and way up, there it was, it was like a gift. I know I have to explain this better to you sometime, but it's like it was done for me," she said in a telephone interview last week.

"When I was a little girl, I used to put my chin on the windowsill at night, yearning to know what was going on out there," she added.

Merlin and her husband have visited "saucer nests" where craft have burned a spot in the field.

She also thinks there are all kinds of craft visiting us from everywhere, some hostile and some friendly. The friendly ones are protecting Earth from the hostile ones.

There is also Ray Fowler, probably the most experienced investigator in the state. Fowler believes UFOs have been conditioning Earth to accept them.

First, with aerial sightings, then

landings, and finally abductions, the aliens are slowly getting us used to the fact that they are there. Of course, if they ever just came right and told us who they were, panic would set in.

But there are skeptics like Joe Santangelo, the state director of MUFON and formerly of Waltham.

"Anybody who looks up in the sky for any length of time is going to see something sooner or later that they can't explain," he said in a recent interview.

That doesn't mean they are craft from another planet; it doesn't mean they are *not* from another planet. Santangelo's prime interest is to keep everything as objective and methodic as possible.

Then there are newcomers to MUFON such as Barbara Frizzell of Sudbury, who first got into the network for "sociability" and also because she is "intrigued."

"I have a strong feeling that the government is not letting us know everything about this subject which they know," she said.

Boil down the common beliefs of these "believers," these skeptics, these old pros, and these newcomers and there is one undeniable fact.

Throw out the notion that these unidentified objects are from another planet. Throw out the notion, if you so desire, that these UFOs are even objects at all and you are still left with one piece of evidence that will not be denied: There is a UFO phenomenon and whatever it is, whatever the cause, it is something which can have a profound and lasting effect on the witness.

The July night was warm and humid. The year was 1965.

My Uncle Joe and his wife were visiting us in upstate New York. They went out on the town for the night with my parents. My two brothers were snoring, but I couldn't sleep.

I rose to the window where in the hazy moonlight, I saw a silver disk slip across the clouds and disappear.

UFO sighted thrice on Rte. 89

By GEORGE MANNES

A Hanover resident, Eugene Fucci, has initiated an investigation into his sighting of an unidentified flying object while he was driving between Hanover to Concord last month.

While travelling on Route 89 at 7:30 p.m. on April 15, Fucci, a retired Air Force pilot, said he saw "two extremely bright stars" that he thought were planets.

"One stayed where it was, but the other dropped down to the horizon in a very, very rapid motion," Fucci said. "It approached me — it was an equilateral triangle with lights along all three edges and it went right over me at 150 knots," or about 200 mph. The bright light he had seen was "the leading apex of the triangle, like the headlight of a car," he said.

Adept at judging distances in air from his flying experience, Fucci said the triangle was suspended at a height of 2,000 feet in the air and roughly half a football field in size. "It was all metal and black in color," he said.

"It was going to Windsor, Vt.," Fucci said. "Two ladies saw it there. There was a sighting in Barnard, Vt., too. These were three independent sightings all within a matter of minutes."

"I was late in reporting it because I thought it was a squadron of B-52's," Fucci said. Later that week, he said, "I read an account of the two girls in Windsor, and then I realized what my account was."

Fucci called the Air Route Traffic Control Center in Nashua, requesting them to save the corresponding radar tape for the location and time of his sighting. Generally, the center reuses radar tape every 15 days.

In a letter dated May 8, Fucci wrote to Robert Whittington, director of the New England Region of the Federal Aviation Administration, asking for a copy of the radar tape under the Freedom of Informa-

tion Act.

He also suggested it was in the best interests of the FAA to investigate the incident and absorb the cost of copying the tape.

Whittington referred Fucci's letter to Donald Turner, chief of the Evaluation Branch of the New England region of the FAA, who wrote a letter to Fucci dated May 20, informing him that the cost of obtaining the tape would be \$294.25, payable to the Treasurer of the United States.

The FAA will hold the tape for Fucci until July 1 of this year, according to the letter.

"The Air Force keeps a list of sightings," Whittington said, but according to Turner, the FAA is "not interested or concerned with UFO's."

Fucci also notified Phenomenon Research in Seattle, a national reporting center for UFO's. "They are convinced it's a real, valid sighting," Fucci said. "This is the same thing seen in the last ninety days in the Missouri area."

The Mutual UFO Network in Seguin, Texas, is conducting an extensive investigation into the New Hampshire sighting, said Robert Gribble of Phenomenon Research. No representatives of the network could be reached for comment.

When asked if he thought the Mutual UFO Network would buy the tape as part of its investigation, Gribble said, "I would be surprised if they did."

Although the network is supported financially by a large national membership, their funds are probably insufficient for the purchase, he added.

Fucci's is a "Class A" report, containing important scientific data, Gribble said. Last year Phenomenon Research received 250 Class A reports and three times as many "unimportant" ones, he added.

"I was a non-believer, but of course I'm not now," Fucci concluded.

EAGLE-TIMES, Claremont, NH - May 25, 1981

Letter

Strange sight

To the Editor:

The following is a bit old to be called current news but is, I feel, of interest to people with inquiring minds.

On March 10th of this year (Town Meeting Night) at about 6:35, a reliable Charlestown citizen and myself witnessed the following as we left Twin Maple Mobile Park located off the old Claremont Road to go south and attend town meeting:

A large reddish-orange object, oval in shape, at about the level of an airplane appeared in the sky. It gave the effect of sparkling or more accurately resembled a fire burning and hovered for at least a minute which was the approximate length of time we stopped and observed. I was riding in the back seat and watched it until it disappeared. About one-eighth of a mile proceeding south it appeared again, sub-divided into parts for a matter of

seconds, returned to one part and disappeared.

Fifteen or 20 years ago when UFO's were in print more than they are now, I read extensively on the subject and have always been a believer. Having resumed reading on this subject let me say they are not imagined, especially when more than one person agrees on what was seen. I realize that the government chooses for their own reasons to keep such sightings as secret as possible.

Some time was spent directly following the sighting to contact neighbors in the immediate area but not one of the 15 or 20 people contacted admitted to having seen this phenomenon. Even though there was a heavy flow of traffic going south (reported by a neighbor) there was none when we drove south. Of great interest to me have been people who told me sightings they have seen, some in this area, others local. Some are afraid of being scoffed at so is often happenstance that you learn.

If anyone else witnessed this or has seen similar sightings it would be of interest to see it in print.

Name Submitted
Charlestown, N.H.

CR: B. Greenwood

Camper still probing eerie — alien? — encounter

By Spencer Sias

Of the LJ staff

John Clark is determined to get an answer — was it the devil or an alien from outer space that confronted him? If it was an alien being, did it abduct him?

Clark has been trying to find out ever since he went to sleep under the stars in Sequoia National Park one summer night in 1975.

He has been to an Episcopalian bishop, psychiatrists, psychics, UFO experts, and the media — hoping to make contact with somebody who can tell him what he saw.

On Tuesday night, he subjected himself to a reading by psychics at the Berkeley Psychic Institute of Marin-Church of Divine Man in Santa Venetia.

He emerged as he had gone in — confused.

"They all agreed that there was something very unusual about me," Clark said, adding that they seemed to think something had happened to him.

Afterward, he sat in a bar, sucking on a chain of cigarettes, and told his story for the umpteenth time — frequently stopping to ask for an objective view of his sanity.

It started when he bolted upright in his sleeping bag while his dog was barking to wake the dead and heard his friend, who was sitting up nearby, ask, "What in the hell is that?"

"It was about 9 feet tall," he said, and it made no sound.

"I assumed it was gliding because I didn't see any up and down movement like with walking."

Clark isn't sure whether it was covered with long blond hair or whether it was wearing something that gave that appearance. He got a profile but could not make out a face.

"All I know is that what I saw up there was not human," Clark said. "It was nothing I have ever seen before."

But more than Clark seeing it, it seemed to see him.

"It knew I knew," Clark said.

The relationship between them has grown since that encounter as a result of Clark's search for an



LJ photo/Robert Tong

answer.

He saw more when he was hypnotized recently by Dr. James Harter, a UFO expert and professor at the University of California at Berkeley.

Under hypnosis, Clark remembered "yellow eyes with black slits" and being in a somewhat triangular-shaped room while he was examined with tubes that were stuck painlessly into his arm and stomach.

But before hypnosis all he remembered was running from it that night.

Clark's friend threw a frying pan at it, ran for the car and locked the doors. Clark went for the trailer, locked the door, grabbed his rifle and waited with his finger on the trigger until the sun came up.

Clark and his friend, Ralph Johnson, who is being sought for confirmation of this story, searched for tracks the next day but found nothing.

That was only the beginning.

Clark turned to the Ouija board with the help of

'All I know is that what I saw up there was not human. It was nothing I have ever seen before....

'I just don't think that these things happen to everybody. It seems almost like a game that something is playing with me.'

—John Clark

his ex-wife.

"The Ouija board saw that it was in camp earlier and that it was standing next to me," Clark said.

He "actually thought" the board was putting him in contact with an alien transmission center five million light years away.

It kept saying "Q-on calling, Q-on calling," Clark recalled.

The board said he had come in contact with "Poza," who is known here as Big Foot. "Poza" came from Pluto and crashed on earth in 1863. He is a vegetarian, lives in caves, has been shot twice and has been seen by many people who didn't believe what they saw.

"It sounds so crazy," Clark said with an embarrassed laugh.

Clark didn't want to believe it either. So he tossed the Ouija board into the garbage can.

Clark, a religious man who now works as a district circulation manager for a San Francisco paper, turned to the Episcopal church, visiting a

bishop while in Hawaii on a business trip.

"He said it was Satan posing as an alien," Clark recalled. "He told me not to go back to Sequoia National Park."

"I was really shook up at that."

Next, Clark went to the Academy of Psychic Science in San Diego, where they had a session about his experience.

"What you came into contact with was a mammal that left Greenland before the Ice Age," Clark recalls being told.

Then came several brushes with death.

A hotel where he stayed in Omaha, Neb., was leveled by a tornado an hour after he got laughed at for even asking about whether tornadoes might hit there.

He survived another tornado near Cleveland.

On two occasions while he was flying in a private plane, the engines quit, only to start up again just in time to keep them airborne.

Last February, he put 75 cents into a slot machine at Caesar's Palace in Tahoe City and won the jackpot — a Cessna Skyhawk single-engine airplane.

None of this would have happened, Clark thinks, "if I hadn't seen this thing."

"I just don't think that these things happen to everybody," he said. "It seems almost like a game that something is playing with me."

Losing for Clark would be going mad.

He was close to falling apart for the first two or three years after the incident.

"I don't think very many people could have handled it," he said. "They would be in the mental institution. It nearly drove me to my knees."

Winning for Clark will be getting an answer he can accept.

He and some friends plan another attempt in three weeks when he will ignore the advice of his bishop and camp out at Sequoia National Park at the same site where he first saw it.

Despite his fear, Clark hopes for another encounter to know once and for all what he saw.

"It's been bugging me for six years," he said.

"Something was presented to me and I might as well find out why."

UFO Buffs Hear Serious Talks, Odd Tales

By COLIN McENROE
Courant Staff Writer

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — Like spastic spiders, the fingers of tomorrow's technocrats dart across the consoles, tapping and turning, aiming and firing, parrying and thrusting. It is the game room of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology student center and young Scientific Americans are taking a break to play a plethora of space invader games.

A few feet away, it stops being a game. About 200 visitors have come to MIT to discuss space invaders who are very real to them. Some believe they have seen spacecraft from other worlds. A few believe they have seen extraterrestrial creatures.

Almost all believe there are more things in the universe than are dreamt in our philosophies and that some things in heaven are visiting Earth regularly.

They are attending this weekend's 12th annual UFO Symposium of the Mutual UFO Network, an international civilian organization devoted to studying unidentified flying objects.

For some, it's a reunion with comrades-in-arms who've been swapping information, methodology and anecdotes for decades. For others, like Frank Peters, it's the first chance to seek a learned opinion on an incident from the past.

Peters is not a MUFON member. He showed up at MIT Friday and began hanging around on the fringes of the symposium, looking for someone who would listen to his story. A large mustachioed man with a face creased with worry, Peters has a private obsession that he thinks may stem from a 20-year-old close encounter.

"I've been living in a nightmare," he mutters. "Something has possessed me. I have to create."

Peters tells lucidly the story of his close encounters in the woods of Highbridge, N.J. He and a friend were camping in a field, surrounded by thick woods, on a Saturday night about 1960. Around midnight, they watched a green ball, about the size of the moon, with a long tail "come out of nowhere" and descend toward a nearby valley. Then a tree near the field began to glow with an orange halo and a stretch of woods about 100 yards long "lit up into the shape of a ghostly-type saucer" the color and consistency of flame. The saucer then disappeared, followed by two flashes in the sky.

"Needless to say, we were kind of flabbergasted," Peters said.

The two men then saw a second green ball descend and fog began to roll in. Peters said the next thing they knew it was 11 a.m., and neither man could recall sleeping.

Since that time, Peters has moved to Plymouth, Mass., and has bought an

18-foot trailer. He has a strange compulsion to put things in the trailer and he has covered its interior with a collage that represents, he says, "an expose of life as it is."

He has felt a force guiding his hands to cut out fragments of magazine and newspaper pages and the same force chooses the place where each fragment will be pasted. Words and messages have begun to emerge from the chaos, he said. The trailer now contains instructions for living that range from information about solar power to a new design for baseball (plotted around a star, so that the foul lines are widened and the shortstop has his own base) to the religious message that "we need not be ashamed just because that bitch ate the apple."

"I can't go much further," Peters said of the project. "It's beyond me now.... I could get somebody to pay me a million dollars for it if I could make the right connections."

Lately, something has impelled him to try to make connections with Gene Autry, who, Peters noted, also owns a baseball team, the California Angels.

Peters and his story seemed to make the MUFON nabobs nervous, and, when he interrupted a press conference to sputter out a few fragments of his tale, astronomer J. Allen Hynek followed up with a pointed reference to the damage "ding-a-lings, crackpots and the mentally tilted" can do to the movement's hard-won credibility.

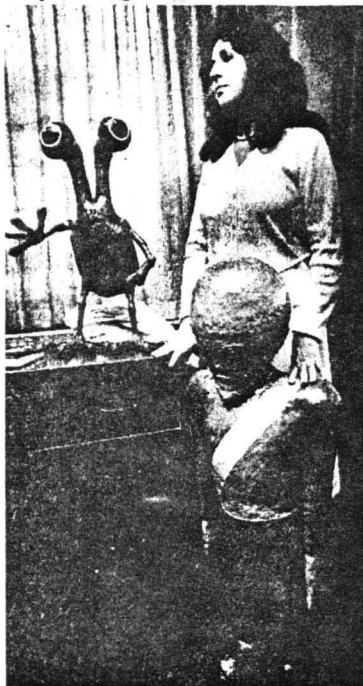
Peters' story, however, does not seem much farther fetched than that of Betty Andreasson, who claimed she was visited in January 1967 by beings who took her away to another world, where she was extensively examined and given some messages for mankind. Members of MUFON, which has close ties to Hynek's Center for UFO Studies, have subjected Andreasson to many hypnosis sessions and lie detector tests, and she is held up as one of the best documented UFO "abductees."

On the other hand, Andreasson, a born-again Christian, has a way of taking some of the scientific wind out of MUFON's sails by clinging to her belief that the alien visitors were angels.

"That was my first belief, and I still believe it," she said Friday. Andreasson, 44, has since divorced her first husband and now is married to Robert Luca, who also claims to have had a UFO encounter. A book about her experiences, "The Andreasson Affair," is popular reading among UFO buffs. A sequel is in the works, she said, based on a second set of hypnosis sessions that uncovered memories of a previous, childhood encounter.

Andreasson irked some MUFON members by showing up at the conference accompanied by her *papier mache* mockups of the two types of alien creatures she encountered. Physicist Stanton Friedman

grumbled Friday night that the creatures lent a science fiction air to otherwise serious proceedings.



COURANT PHOTO BY MICHAEL McANDREWS
Betty Andreasson stands with her own mockups of creatures she said she encountered.

Much of the symposium is devoted to speeches on serious UFO subjects. A favorite topic is government cover-ups of UFO information, which MUFON members believe date as far back as 1947, when the Air Force recovered pieces of a crashed flying saucer in New Mexico and hushed up the matter by claiming the craft was a fallen weather balloon.

The Freedom of Information Act has enabled MUFON members and other UFOlogists to pry loose thousands of pages of government memorandums documenting the sighting, tracking and examination of UFOs, New York attorney Peter Gersten said. Gersten has lawsuits pending against various government agencies and already has obtained about 900 pages of UFO-related documents.

Hynek and Friedman have emerged over the years as primary spokesmen for the movement. Their styles are radically different, and MUFON members have a habit of lining up alongside one or the other.

Hynek, a soft-spoken astronomer in his early 70s, has held various prestigious academic and government posts, but he has been scourged by his academic colleagues for insisting on the scientific validity of UFO-related data, long before belief in UFOs became widespread.

An investigator and researcher of the

subject since the late 1940s, Hynek continues to insist on scientific caution, claiming he cannot reach a conclusion affirming the existence of extraterrestrial spacecraft. Hynek initiated the first system of UFO classification and coined the terminology Close Encounters of the First, Second and Third Kinds. In recent years, references linking UFOs to occult phenomena have begun to crop up in his writings, worrying some long-time followers.

Friedman's academic credentials are less impressive. Holding only a master's degree in physics from the University of Chicago, he worked 14 years in nuclear physics research for corporations like General Electric, Westinghouse and Aerojet General. Friedman is now a full-time lecturer and investigator of UFO phenomena. More outspoken than Hynek, Friedman does not hesitate to claim the existence of intelligently piloted spacecraft from other worlds.

Although Friedman asserts there are no bad feelings between him and Hynek, there are obvious disagreements and Friedman's aggressive, glib style has made him a threat to Hynek's long-time status as the chief guru of MUFON.

Some of the other major personalities at the symposium include:

- Budd Hopkins and Aphrodite Clamar. Hopkins, an amateur UFO researcher, has just published a book called "Missing Time," which details the stories of six alleged UFO abductees, most of whom were born in the same year and apparently had repressed memories of one or two abductions — one at the age of 7 and a second during puberty, implying "some kind of long-term study," Hopkins claimed. Clamar, a Hartford-born New York City psychologist, examined three of the abductees under deep hypnosis.

- Cynthia Hind, a Zimbabwe resident, whose investigations of Africans living in primitive isolation have revealed, she claims, UFO encounters that parallel those recounted by far more sophisticated people, including, she said, "the same psychological experiences as people in New Jersey."

In corridors and cafeterias, the registrants kept up a steady hubbub of talk, using names and terms that have become indispensable parts of the UFO believer's lingo — the New Zealand incident, Project Blue Book, Marcel's metal, the Valentic tapes and the Midwest cattle mutilations.

Beyond all the talk lies, in many cases, a fervent, almost religious, hope that one day the government and the press will acknowledge the validity of UFOs. Friedman and other participants, like Manchester attorney Robert Blechtman, claim that an awareness of extraterrestrials might help us all begin, as Blechtman said, "to think of ourselves as earthlings" rather than nationalists.

Ironically, most of the participants have never seen a UFO, but Friedman countered, "I spent 14 years chasing neutrons and gamma rays. I never saw one, but I believe in them. I've never seen Australia...."

GLOBE, Boston, MA - July 25, 1981 CR: R. Girard UFO researchers convene at MIT

By Marjorie Pritchard
Globe Correspondent

"To have a symposium on Unidentified Flying Objects at the prestigious technical facility of Massachusetts Institute of Technology proves that the science of UFOs is earning its position in the community," said Walter Andrus, International Director for Mutual UFO Network (MUFON).

With that, the 12th annual UFO symposium, sponsored by MUFON, began its weekend program yesterday at MIT. The program is to include speakers from around the world, slide presentations and workshops.

At a press conference yesterday, Andrus said, "I don't believe in UFOs. It is not a question of belief. It is a fact. We have the facts and data that UFOs do exist."

Speakers at the symposium are to include sociologists, attorneys, scientists and members of MUFON, a nonprofit corporation of people who pool their mutual talents, research and sightings to try to resolve the mysteries of the UFO phenomenon.

Peter Gersten, an attorney who has been active in federal government research of UFO sightings, is to speak tomorrow. According to Gersten, the government has not informed the public about many sightings because it thinks that would threaten national security.

Representing Citizens Against UFO Secrecy, he has filed suits against the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and the National Security Agency (NSA) demanding that the agencies release documents on UFO sightings. According to Gersten, the CIA and NSA

have documents concerning significant UFO sightings around the country.

"I find it ironic that the government, which has always said that UFOs do not exist and UFO information is meaningless, will not release their documents because they feel it would be a threat to national security," Gersten said. Gersten is to lecture on the public's right to obtain the documents, which he said the public is entitled to see under the federal Freedom of Information Act.

All the scheduled speakers have said they believe the public should be informed about UFO sightings, including where and when they were seen, what was seen and by how many people.

According to Ron Westrum, a sociologist, "UFO sightings occur in cycles. Presently we are at a low. Only a few people are reporting their sightings, because they think others will consider them crazy."

Westrum said many reports of sightings are considered bizarre because "they are of the 'close encounters' kind. But that doesn't make somebody crazy. It's an excuse to dismiss the whole subject."

Gersten agrees with Westrum about the sighting cycle. In 1975 there were many sightings reported. Many civilians reported UFOs and "it was a unique period because a high concentration of the sightings occurred at military bases that specialized in nuclear weapons," he said.

The professionals scheduled to speak at the symposium this weekend said they will continue to conduct solid research to challenge the UFO mystery.



NORTHERN ECHO, Darlington, England - May 30, 1981

Trio have close encounter with UFO

Down-to-earth Dales farmer Clark Stones is trying to keep his feet on the ground today after he'd seen a UFO.

Clark, his wife Greta and visitor Stan Watson are all convinced they saw a small flying saucer on their farm in remote Arkengarthdale.

The shiny silver disc, about two feet across and six inches deep, was hovering alongside a fence on the farm.

Greta said: "The men had just come from the row byre and at first Clark thought it was a fertiliser sack."

"But it seemed to be looking for a way through,

going back and forward about five feet each way.

"It was a bit like the frisbees children play with, but very shiny."

Sensed

The men called Greta and approached the object — Stan got within 20 feet of it.

"Suddenly it just lifted up in the air as if it sensed," Stan getting nearer," said Greta.

"It was as if it was being pulled. It went very smoothly at about 5 mph until it disappeared into the clouds.

"There was no noise, no smoke, nothing. It was all really weird."

Nonsense

Stan Watson, a scientific officer from Stockton, managed to draw a picture of what he saw.

"But I'm still trying to

find an explanation," he said.

"I've thought of all sorts of things it could be, but none of them fit. I'm baffled."

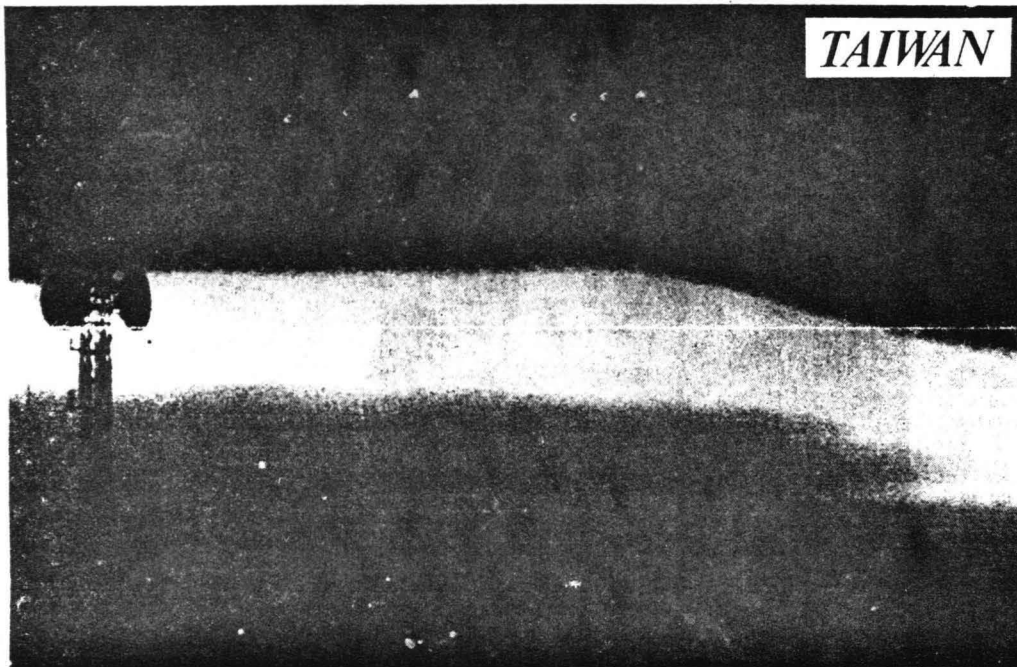
None of the three expects the world to take them seriously.

Greta said: "I always thought things like this were a load of nonsense until I saw for myself."

"But I didn't imagine this. Three sensible adult people all saw it individually."

"And up here we have better things to do than go round dreaming up things from the sky."

PACIFIC STARS AND STRIPES, Tokyo, Japan - June 14, 1981 CR: Y. Matsumura



TAIWAN

Unexplained sky lights

Unexplained bright dots float in the evening sky over Taipei, Taiwan, in a phenomenon that the Taipei Observatory said it could only classify as

unidentified flying objects. The dots, counted at "more than 10," hovered motionless for about one hour. (AP)

SOUTH WALES ECHO, Cardiff, Wales - July 1, 1981

It was a UFO—really!

And here's how it looked...

A STRANGE "plane without wings" hovered over Cardiff as three boys played cricket on Greenway Park in Rumney...

And now Clayton Blight, aged 11, and brothers Ian and Stephen Scammell, aged 11 and 10, are convinced it was something out of the ordinary — an unidentified flying object.

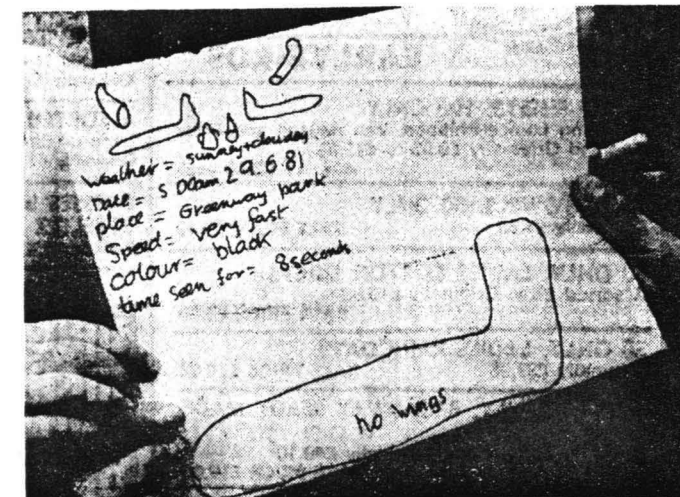
"It was completely black and it was really low-flying," said Clayton, of Camoes Crescent, Trowbridge. They saw the object at about 5pm on Monday.

"It came over with a sort of whirring noise and we thought it was a jet — but then it turned in the sky and we still saw no wings," said Clayton. "It came over the tops of the houses and over the college. It was going very, very fast."

"We just looked at it and when we got back to the house we drew it and wrote about it. Later we reported it to the police."

Clayton estimated the object to be about 50 feet long and said it had hovered in the sky for six to 10 seconds before disappearing.

Ian and Stephen told their parents what they had seen. Mrs Sandra Scammell, the boys' mother, said: "I just know they have seen something. It does seem strange



because an older boy up the road was supposed to have seen a UFO a little while ago and I never mentioned it to my children.

"They have never said anything like this before. My younger two, Jonathan (aged six) and Paul (aged four), were

there, too, and they saw something."

The Scammell boys, of Harris Avenue, Rumney, said they had no special interest in science-fiction, but Clayton read "mostly about UFOs and ghosts."

South Wales Police con-

firmed that the sighting had been reported to them.

UFO spotters, left to right in top picture, Paul, Clayton, Ian, Jonathan and Stephen with their drawing of the object. Pictured above is a close-up of the drawing.

UFO seen in Southland

NZPA Christchurch

The Civil Aviation Division in Christchurch is investigating reported sightings of an unidentified flying object near Wyndham, in Southland, last night.

One of the reports came from the pilot of a light aircraft, and the other from a forest service ranger.

Constable P. Reid, the Wyndham policeman, said last night that he personally knew the ranger who had made the report.

"He was apparently a bit embarrassed about it, but he is a level-headed chap."

Constable Reid was unable to get in touch with either the ranger or the pilot who reported the alleged sighting to the Civil Aviation Division at Invercargill.

He said he did not know what the reported object had looked like, what it was doing, or where it was — except that it was seen w a v o u t i n t h e backblocks."

HERALD, Timaru, New Zealand - June 13, 1981 CR: P. & P. Dickeson

The ones that got away!

THREE early morning fishermen reported sighting a convoy of more than 100 unidentified flying objects over Leicester.

Mr. Paul Gamble, one of the three celebrating the start of the coarse fishing season on the River Soar near Frog Island at about 1.45 a.m. said: "We looked up and saw first one, then a stream of triangles, with lights on the side."

"They were not planes, as we saw a jet passing beneath them. I have never seen anything like it in my life."

The sightings came after a spate of UFO incidents

DAILY STAR, London, England - June 18, 1981

LANCASHIRE EVENING TELEGRAPH, Blackburn, England - June 29, 1981

Ian's UFO is no bedtime story...

IT had just gone 11 o'clock when Ian Snape switched off the TV and went to bed.

But what he saw as he closed the curtains made him get dressed rapidly, phone the police and rush outside with his binoculars.

An unusual egg-shaped object with red, orange, green and white lights revolving round it, hovered above Revidge, Blackburn. And now, Ian, 30, of Mill Hill Street, Blackburn, is convinced he has seen a UFO.

But still hardly able to believe his own eyes, he wants to contact anyone else who may have seen the phenomenon over Revidge at around 11.10 p.m. yesterday.

Ian said today: "I went to bed, but I looked through the window and saw this thing flashing in the sky over Revidge. I got dressed, got my binoculars and sat on the wall outside watching it for about three-quarters-of-an hour. It definitely was not a plane. It was not moving then suddenly it vanished, re-appeared somewhere else, vanished again and came back to its original spot."

"It was so unusual I phoned the police. I would like someone to give me an explanation as to what it could be. Someone else must have seen it too."

June 25, 1981

NEW U.F.O. ALERT FOR COUNTY

A Pembroke Dock family had a breakfast-time surprise as they looked out of the windows of their home on Monday.

For there in the sky, above their home at 22 Meyrick Street, Mrs. Val Horvath and her daughters spotted what they are sure was a U.F.O.

The object first appeared at about 7.55 p.m., and at first Mrs. Horvath thought it was a speck of paper floating up from a bonfire.

But then it stayed in view, circling their house and seemed to gleam in the sunlight.

Mrs. Horvath, 17-year-old Jeanette, 18-year-old Tia and 14-year-old Caroline fetched their binoculars, and what they saw made them certain a craft from outer space was in the sky.

"It was saucer-like in shape, shiny on top and dark underneath with flashing red lights around the edge", Mrs. Horvath said this week.

"We watched it for nine minutes altogether before it disappeared in the direction of Swansea. It was absolutely fascinating, but rather frightening".

Matthew spots a UFO

BULLSEYE member Matthew Higgins saw something strange when he was bird-watching.

"It was a UFO," said Matthew, 10, who goes to St. Thomas the Apostle School, Chertsey.

Matthew was bird-watching from the bedroom of his house at 76 Wheatash Road, Chertsey, when he spotted the round object in the sky.

So he got out his pocket camera and took three good pictures of it before it disappeared.

Matthew said that no one would believe him when he said he had seen the UFO, but after seeing the pictures they were not so sure.

So chums, if you have seen a UFO, why not let your old Prof know about it?

STAINES & WYHAM NEWS, Middlesex, England

June 26, 1981

More Lights Sighted

Further sightings of mysterious lights in the sky on Wednesday night have been reported, this time from Edendale.

At 9pm on Wednesday, children travelling in a mini bus from Wyndham to Edendale saw a bright light in the sky towards the town.

Wendy Byres, aged 12, described the light as a "really bright orange colour, about the size of the bottom of a milk bottle."

"The light sort of went off and on for about a minute," Wendy said last night. "It then wobbled and fell down a little in the sky before it disappeared."

Not all of the eight people in the bus, however, saw the mysterious light.

"Some of them did not believe us, so they didn't look," Wendy said.

Meanwhile, the cause of a mystery light reported by a motor-cyclist near Kennington at 6.15pm on Wednesday has not yet been established, but a member of the local astronomical society, Mr G. L. Hall-Jones, said last night it could have been a meteorite or a piece

of space debris re-entering the atmosphere.

Reports of the 6.15pm sighting have also come in from Riverton, Te Anau, Mossburn, Queenstown and Artherton.

A Queenstown couple, Mr and Mrs J. F. Freemantle, reported they both saw a light while driving back to Queenstown from Christchurch on Wednesday night.

The Freemantles were rounding a corner on the Cromwell side of Tarras about 6.15 when they saw what they described as a bright white light, something like a parachute flare, which lasted only a few seconds.

The couple said the light appeared to be about a kilometre away in a paddock in a southerly direction.

It seemed to disappear the way a flare would, about 10 degrees above the horizon.

Mr Freemantle, a member of the Wakatipu Aero Club, said he could plot the direction of the light on his flying chart if anybody wished to establish if a piece of meteorite or anything had landed.

A Mossburn man, Mr R. Smith, said he saw a light at the same time as the other reported sightings when he was driving along the Lumsden-Mossburn highway.

Mr Smith said he was near the Oreti river when he saw what he thought was a flare appear in the sky. The light did not appear to be very high, and he thought it would have landed in the Oreti river, had it not disintegrated.

The motor-cyclist who first reported the light near Kennington described it as "a bright ball of light, like an electric arc light." He said the light fell at a high speed and flared before extinguishing.

CR: F. & P. Dickeson

SOUTHLAND TIMES, (City Unknown), New Zealand - June 26, 1981

SUNDAY NEWS, (City Unknown), New Zealand - August 2, 1981 CR: F. & P. Dickeson

Orange glow a mystery

A MYSTERIOUS hovering orange light has Bay of Plenty people scanning the night sky.

Since it was first spotted two weeks ago the light has been seen by several people including Mr and Mrs Laurie Newton who say it definitely wasn't an aeroplane.

"We are not the sort of people to get excited about this sort of thing and we're sceptical but we have both seen it twice," Mrs Newton told Sunday News this week.

The retired Tauranga couple first saw the light while returning from Auckland two weeks ago. They stopped the car and watched it for several minutes.

"It was about 2 miles away and stayed motionless for a while then moved towards Tauranga."

They spotted it again a few days later from their hilltop home as they were going to bed.

This time they saw the light change from white to orange.

"We watched it sink over the hill towards Tauranga."

Later the couple were phoned by a Tauranga woman who had also seen the light.

"We are keeping our feet on the ground over this. I don't want to start saying we have seen a flying saucer but it is a real mystery."

"We will be watching through a bigger pair of binoculars from now on," Mrs Newton said.

PAIXIM HERALD, Stirling, England - July 3, 1981

Shieldhill girls sure they saw a 'flying saucer'

SIX frightened primary school-children claim they had a close encounter with a flying saucer.

The girls, all from Shieldhill Primary, were playing on the football field at the school when they said the UFO appeared. Ten-year-old Ann Telfer said: "A herd of cows in an adjoining field stampeded as the black-domed saucer zoomed in and hovered above the ground."

She and the other girls described how light beams came out of the bottom of the disc before it shot into the air again.

Choir Member (9) of 77 Main Street, Shieldhill, said: "It was a frightening experience. It disappeared into a cloud then there was a shower of sparks as though it exploded."

Their teacher, Mrs Jean Harris, said the girls were hysterical when they came back into the classroom. They all gave a similar description of the incident.

The incident was not reported to the police. However, an RAF spokesman in London said there had been no reports of any sightings in that area.

LANCASHIRE EVENING TELEGRAPH,
Blackburn, England - June 27, 1981

UFO makes Frank see red!

AN Accrington man's visitors provided a mystery early today.

For as he waved goodbye to relatives Mr Frank Westell spotted another set of visitors—this time from outer space.

Mr Westell, 41, of Downham Drive, Fern Gave, saw a red flashing light hovering over the moors above Darwen. He and his family watched the lights for over half an hour and Mr

Westell is convinced they were watching a UFO.

"I thought it could be a plane at first and then a helicopter but it stayed for too long and was too high to be either," said Mr Westell. "I phoned my cousin who had been visiting us and she saw the same thing. It was very clear and we had so long to observe it that we had every chance to discount the usual explanations."

EVENING TRIBUNE, Nuneaton, England - June 27, 1981

What did Walter see?

A Hinckley man's claim that he saw an unidentified flying object near Higham-on-the-Hill is being investigated by UFO enthusiasts.

The man, Mr Walter Brown, saw a bright light shaped like a rugby football, which travelled alongside his car, sending out beams of green light.

It stayed alongside for about five minutes, before disappearing from view.

A spokesman for Hinckley Aerial Phenomena Investigations said: "The witness states that he doesn't believe in UFOs, but would like to know if anyone else saw it."

"He is satisfied that it was no normal aircraft, and says there must be a logical explanation."

The disappearance three years ago of pilot Frederick Valentich over Bass Strait may be the opening needed for UFO investigators in Australia.

"The authorities have been sweeping these sightings under the carpet for so long now that the carpet is bulging," UFO investigator Mr Paul Norman said in Mildura yesterday.

"On top of the carpet is Big Brother — but the carpet is going to burst one day," he said.

Mr Norman arrived in Mildura on Friday night to investigate a number of reports of flashing lights observed in the Renmark, Werrimull areas last week.

Mr Norman, an expatriate American, is the Victorian UFO Research Society's only full-time investigator.

His experiences with Unidentified Flying Objects goes back to 1953, when as a supervisor of a hydro-electric power station in his home State of Tennessee, he witnessed what appeared to be a helicopter coming up the river.

Mr Norman said he turned to go back inside, then realised the object was a fanning sort of helicopter which made no sound.

Mr Norman came to Australia 22 years ago and was a part-time investigator for the research society until his retirement in 1976.

Since then he has

Disappearance of pilot is still a mystery

devoted all his time to investigating and collating evidence concerning sightings and personal encounters.

And according to Mr Norman there have been many over the years, although both the American and Australian Governments have been tight-lipped about the sightings.

Mr Norman said that although acceptance of UFO sightings had increased among the public over the past 30 years, both Governments still discounted sightings as genuine.

"However, organisations such as Citizens Against UFO Secrets (CAUS) are breaking down the barriers," Mr Norman said.

He said that through the Freedom of Information Act, 1000 documented reports of UFO sightings had been obtained from the American Government.

"A further 56 key documents are still being sought, but, although we have proof of their existence, the Govern-

ment denies their knowledge."

Mr Norman said CAUS had already begun court proceedings against the U.S. Government to have the documents released and he felt that this would be achieved soon.

One of the documents CAUS wishes to obtain details of the events surrounding a UFO encounter with an Army helicopter over the skies of Ohio in 1973.

"Commander Larry Scoyne and his crew of three were flying a U.S. Army helicopter over Ohio when an object hovered overhead," Mr Norman said.

"At the time the helicopter was flying at about 1700ft. The UFO, a silver metallic-like cigar shape, with a red light, suddenly changed the red light to the color of green and pulled the helicopter to 3800ft at which altitude there was a bump and the helicopter broke loose.

"The crew got back to tell the story. Frederick Valentich didn't," Mr Norman said.

He said although the two incidents were five

years apart each had the same characteristics.

"A lot of interest, both in Australia and America, has been shown in the Valentich case.

"Up until the pilot's disappearance many Australians took little notice of UFO reports but because so many people witnessed strange lights in the sky at the time of the disappearance many are taking the UFO theory seriously," Mr Norman said.

He said an Australian organisation was in the process of producing a documentary film about the disappearance tying it in with other similar reports.

He said still much more information regarding the pilot's disappearance was being kept closely guarded by the Australian Government.

"But I think the Valentich case will be the straw that broke the camel's back as regards UFO sighting credibility in this country," he said.



MR PAUL NORMAN goes through his photo album which has detailed photographic records of UFO sightings in Australia.

INVESTIGATING UFO SIGHTINGS

A full-time UFO investigator is in Mildura checking several eyewitness reports of flashing lights observed at Werrimull last week.

The lights were apparently observed from as far afield as Renmark and Mildura, subsequent investigations have revealed.

Investigator for the Victorian UFO Research Society, Mr Paul Norman, has already collected information from several people who have claimed that they saw the lights.

He said yesterday his investigations had also unearthed two reports of recent sightings involving a "cigar-shaped" object in the sky.

Mr Norman has been researching Unidentified Flying Object sightings and related evidence for the past 28 years.

He is the research society's only full-time investigator.

He arrived in Mildura on Friday night and, depending on the information he can collate,

will be leaving the district this Thursday.

Since his retirement in 1976, Mr Norman has devoted his full time to investigating UFO sightings in Australia as well as sifting through information concerning reports from America and other overseas countries.

Much of his time is spent touring Australia investigating reports.

It was because of a report in Friday's edition of the Sun and Sunraysia Daily that prompted Mr Norman's visit.

The appearance of flashing lights was first reported by a woman listener of the Renmark radio station, 5RM.

The lights were seen by Senior Constable Roy Fletcher of the Werrimull police who reacted after hearing the report on the radio.

Mr Norman has already contacted at least 15 other people who witnessed the lights at the same time.

He said the reports indicated the lights were green in color.

However, some reports dated back to two months before last week's sightings, Mr Norman said.

"The sightings continued during the two month period until reaching a peak at the weekend," he said.

Mr Norman said while in Mildura he was also interested in hearing from any person with information regarding other similar reports.

"I'm seeking factual

evidence which will help prove the occurrence of the sightings."

Mr Norman stressed that photographic records were of great value in documenting and verifying UFO sightings.

While in Mildura, Mr Norman will be available for private interviews with witnesses who have observed UFOs.

During his visit he can be contacted on 23 0883.

His home number is (055) 950348 (Timboon near Warrnambool).

He can also be contacted through the research society on 03 5922502 or P.O. Box 43, Moorabbin, Victoria, 3189.

STANDARD, Warrnambool, Victoria, Australia - August 7, 1981

Documentary film plan progressing

Filming of Bass Strait segments of a two-hour television documentary on the disappearance of a Melbourne pilot in 1978 may begin before the end of the year.

According to Victorian UFO Research Society vice-president Mr Paul Norman final planning and casting are being carried out by Sydney film producer Brian Morris.

Mr Norman is in Western Victoria until March completing research and contacting witnesses of reported sightings related to the disappearance of Melbourne based pilot Frederick Valentich,

who supposedly disappeared in the 'Bass Strait Triangle' in October 1978.

Mr Norman returned from America last weekend where he researched and lectured for four and a half months.

He discussed the overseas filming segment of the documentary while in America and exchanged briefings with fellow researchers on his return to

Melbourne on Saturday.

The film, based on Gary Lester's book 'The Devils Meridian' has attracted several top-name actors.

Several people claiming to have been involved in UFO incidents overseas have agreed to participate in the filming.

Mr Norman spoke to helicopter pilot Major Larry Coyne, who with three crew members encountered a UFO attack while flying a US army helicopter in Ohio.

The men claimed the helicopter was 'pulled' from 1700 feet to 3800 by a green light from a silver cigar shaped UFO.

Mr Norman said American officials in-

cluding those in higher levels of the scientific community had expressed interest in the documentary.

The production with a \$5 million budget will be filmed in the south Otways, peninsula areas and Bass Strait.

It will be called 'Close Encounters of the Real Kind' and is being produced by the Sydney-based Mingara Film Company.

This company with producer and owner Brian Morris has won several Australian and documentary awards.

PIONEER, Lucknow, India - June 28, 1981

UFO

Sir—This has reference to the news item 'UFO sighted' (The Pioneer June 23).

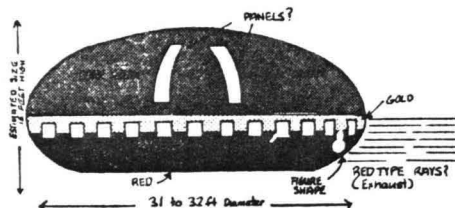
I would like to inform you that exactly the same type of object shining and more luminous than the evening star was sighted by me on the evening of Thursday 18th June just before sunset.

It appeared in the East at about 6-40 p.m. and was visible as a 'white shining object much brighter than the evening star which had not appeared by this

time. At first it remained stationary but after a lapse of ten minutes it gradually started moving towards the west and after doing so for five minutes it stopped and as it did so its colour changed from white to brick red.

Next, to my surprise, it started gaining height and disappeared within a period of two minutes. The whole episode lasted for about twenty minutes. It did not leave a trail as mentioned in the news item, Dheeraj Pandey, Lucknow.

CR: P. Norman



This sketch reconstructs the unidentified flying object the Thew family of Temuka claim they saw near Temuka this month. It was estimated to be around 32ft in diameter, with a height of 15ft, and with windows around the multi-coloured object.

UFO paced us, Temuka family says

Staff Reporter

An hour-long late night encounter on a South Canterbury back road has convinced the Thew family of Temuka that unidentified flying objects do exist.

Mr and Mrs Ken Thew yesterday described how a multi-coloured flying object paced them along the Waitohi Road in the early hours of July 12, approaching to within 120 yards of their car and changing colours as it went.

Mr Thew, a motor mechanic, said they had always had an open mind on UFOs before their encounter, but were now convinced such phenomena existed.

Mrs Thew said they knew by the hour of the night, the manoeuvres and closeness of the object that it was not an aeroplane.

While Mrs Thew was frightened by the encounter and wanted to drive faster, her husband wanted her to pull over to the roadside to get a better view of the object.

They were returning to Temuka from Pleasant Point with their three daughters.

Mrs Thew, who was driving, said she thought the lights were a reflection on the wet windows. But after winding down the window, the couple could still clearly see the object.

They said it seemed to be approaching the car, then abruptly stopped about 200 to 300 metres away, then changed direction and began to pace the car.

"The sight itself didn't frighten me, but the car's speedo told the story of how my wife felt," Mr Thew said.

"When we opened the car window and the object came closer to the car, it was something we had never seen before.

There was no noise and it was quite apparent this was a controllable flying object."

Both Mrs Thew and her eldest daughter were intrigued by what seemed like the shape of a "figure eight" which seemed to be outside the object.

In movement, a fan-like tail of golden-red colour appeared to follow it, but the "tail" was not visible when it was stationary.

The object finally "shot away" towards the east.

It did not seem to move between two points, according to Mr and Mrs Thew — "suddenly it was just somewhere else."

Mr Thew said that as soon as he got home he wrote down all he could recall while the incident was still fresh in his memory.

The Thews said that after reaching Temuka they followed the UFO, which was still changing colours to the east of the town, towards the sea.

Giving up the chase, they returned home, and the couple said when they looked up, the object was hovering above them at an altitude of about 1000ft.

Mr Thew said yesterday that although their sighting had been a fortnight ago, his wife had seen another strange light in the sky only three nights ago.

The Thews were unaware until yesterday that the shape and colours of the object they claimed to have seen were almost identical with a detailed UFO sighting in Illinois, America, in 1952.

In that sighting a nurse, Mrs Ann Sohn, described a similar shaped craft, complete with windows along the side and the same reddish colour to the object.

As it moved, he said, the center of the object brightened and began rotating in the opposite direction to the movements of its surrounding rings, which began to dim and widen at the same time.

He observed six rings during the first three to four minutes and the outermost ring grew to between 20 meters and 30 meters in diameter.

As the center dimmed, the rings faded but then the brightness of the ring of blue-white light around the object increased, the official said.

He added that the object emitted no sound.

CR: Y. Matsumura

MAINICHI DAILY NEWS, Tokyo, Japan - August 7, 1981

UFO Sighted In Northern China

An unidentified flying object (UFO) was sighted on July 24 in the northern part of the sky over Tibet, Peking's Xinhua news agency reported Wednesday.

Quoting a meteorological official in the region, it said a bright object which appeared to be about the size of a table tennis ball, surrounded by a ring of blue-white light of variable brightness, moved from east to west at an estimated speed of 120 kilometers per minute for seven minutes.

TRANSLATIONS

- 1) City and country of incident: Fuentecen (Burgos), Spain
- 2) Date of incident: February 13, 1981
- 3) Name of paper and date of clip: PUEBLO, February 18, 1981
- 4) City and country of newspaper: Madrid, Spain

AT FUENTECEN (BURGOS), IN THE NIGHT OF FEBRUARY 12-13, 1981, A UFO LANDED AND A SMALL ROBOT WAS SEEN

- * Luis Dominguez Diez, witness of the phenomenon, with his wife and son, attested to some amazing facts.
- * The "machine," a possible extraterrestrial craft, was 140 cm. high and 70 cm. wide, and replayed the barking of a dog.

We bring today to our section the most spectacular and amazing case known up to now, this year. Many times before, we have said that CE3 are scarce, but in this case we have an exceptional CE3 of great importance in order to learn more about the UFO phenomenon. The case, lasting for more than one hour, happened at Fuentecen (Burgos), about 17 km. from Arande de Duero, towards Valladolid. The witnesses were Mr. Luis Dominguez Diez, his wife and son. The encounter was in the night of February 12-13, and began at 4:30 a.m.

The witness himself informed us about his experience. It took place in the early hours of February 12 and in the last hours of February 13, the witness phoned "Pueblo." [Translator's note: There must be some error about the dates.] The report was attentively listened to, and about midday Saturday the 14th, we talked again with him. There was no doubt. His declaration was backed by the imprints that the UFO left in the site of the landing. Our duty was to go there, to verify them and to inform our readers about it...and so we did. Now "OVNI Experiencia" (UFO Experience) gives you all the information about this important case that occurred in Burgos.

- o "We went home."
- "Mr. Dominguez, could you tell us what you saw exactly?"
- * "We own a pub and that night we closed late. I was going home when I saw, at ground level, two reddish lights. They were about 150 meters away. I got closer because I thought they were the head-lamps of a car. But, I saw them rising and a few moments later they went down again. I arrived home and, with the lights off, we (my wife and I) began peering through the window. We could see that the "object"—we could not tell if it was solid—made a strange spin. I told my wife to wake our son up, because that was worth looking at. She did so."
- "Was the object still?"
- * "No. It moved like a falling leaf; one moment it was on one side, the next it was backwards, etc. We all saw that. Later, my wife decided to go to bed."
- + "Yes, I saw the lights, but I was afraid and did not want to continue watching them. I did not want my husband to go out, also. I was afraid and I went to bed. The dog was barking continuously," said Mr. Dominguez's wife.
- o "The object lit the surroundings."
- "Did the object do something special?"
- * "Yes. When my son and I were alone the object began to fire from time to time something like a rocket that lit the surroundings as if it were daylight. It was incredible."

The phone call with Mr. Dominguez was fluent. It was possible to feel his special state of spirit, having witnessed those unusual facts, that, once again confirm to us the incontestable reality of this phenomenon. But if these data were interesting, even more were those about some kind of robot.

- * "All that lasted for more than half an hour. Then, a few moments after the "spacecraft" had landed again, we heard some footsteps. We saw something like a robot, 140 cm. high and 60 cm. wide. It was a cubic robot."
- "Had it head, arms, etc.?"
- * "We could not discern body features. It had a metallic look. We saw how it got closer to the fence, one meter away from our house. We have a small dog that was barking continuously. The robot mimicked the barking, but more slowly. In that moment I left the kitchen window and went to the W.C. because there was a small window from which we had a better view. There, I could attentively look at the robot."
- o "I decided to go closer."
- "Were you afraid?"
- * "At the beginning, yes. I could feel my flesh creeping and I had a strange feeling. But later, after having seen that for almost one hour, I was not afraid. I asked my son, 'Where is the torch?'. I found it and also took a hunting knife, just for safety. I unlocked the door and when I opened it to go out, I could see that the robot had disappeared and I also saw how the "craft" rose in the sky and went away over a forest to the right of the house."
- "Did the craft make some noise?"
- * "Yes. It made a strange noise similar to that of a high-voltage cable."
- "Do you remember how long you saw the robot?"
- * "About 20 minutes. It had no head or arms. We only saw the cubic body. Nothing else. We also heard the noise it made when it arrived at the site where I stacked the wood."
- "What was the night like?"
- * "It was not good, quite dark. I think this was the reason why we could only see the cubic body."
- o "The lights split up"
- "What did you do when you went out?"
- * "The "craft" was moving away and flashing. I was perplexed when I noted that the red lights were alternately united or separated about 3 meters. Later on, they disappeared."

Mr. Dominguez wanted his son to talk about the incident and handed him the phone. They went to bed about half past seven in the morning. They slept for some hours and later they went to the landing place. And there they found many imprints and traces left by the "craft."

- "What imprints did it leave?"
- * "In the yard we have a circle of burned wood, where the robot had stood. In the field, where we saw the object, there were some traces in the grass and burned soil. We also found some holes."
- "Have these holes some special form?"
- * "Yes, they have a half-moon shape."
- "What was the robot like?"
- * "A little shorter than me."

We also wanted to know why Mr. Dominguez had phoned our newspaper, "Pueblo," and not to other media. He said: "The following day I told the incident to some neighbors who, besides blaming me for not having called them, suggested that I call some newspaper. And I called the one that is received here. That was the reason why I phoned "Pueblo."

WE SAW THE IMPRINTS

When Mr. Dominguez showed us the site from where he saw the UFO rising and flashing the blinding light that changed night into day for a few moments, we verified that the area was mostly burned—about 5 meters—but curiously, the burned remains we found do not seem to be due to some fire; it was just as if a strong wave of heat had passed over the ground. In other words, there were not any deep burns. We saw very few ashes and the area was not uniformly burned, only in some spots.

We could also find two deep holes—30 cm. long and 2 cm. wide—of a circular form. The distance between them was 130 cm. and they appear in diagonal. That suggested to us that there had been some kind of tripod. Then, a few moments later, we found the third hole, almost hidden by the grass. The distance was also the same.

Maybe it is worth clarifying that the direction of the holes was from the center of the triangle—logically the three holes formed an equilateral triangle of 2-meters-long sides—towards down and away as if, once the UFO was hovering a few cms. above the ground, the three landing gears had been unfolded in order to land.

'Bigfoot' Makes No Impression

CONNEVILLE (AP) — Reginald Daniels is convinced the 8-foot-tall, shaggy, brown-haired creature he saw walking along Oklahoma 99 early Friday morning wasn't human.

And skeptical law enforcement officials aren't yet ready to discount her story.

The Madril housewife, 38, was driving home from an Arkansas vacation around 2 a.m. Friday when something she at first thought was a very large man came into her headlights about four miles south of this southern Oklahoma community.

"When I got closer, I could see it didn't have any clothes and was covered with long brown hair."

"As I went by, it just kept walking. It was like it was in a trance," she said. "When I saw it, I was petrified."

Her husband and two children remained asleep in the back seat, she said. "I debated for a while whether to tell them because the story sounds so incredible. I wasn't sure they'd believe me."

When she arrived home, Mrs. Daniels called the Tishomingo Police Department, the Johnston County Sheriff's Office and the Oklahoma Highway Patrol.

Patrol dispatcher Rue Dee Glover said the more he listened to Mrs. Daniels unravel her fantastic story, the more he began to take her seriously. "She described everything in such detail, I really didn't think it was something she could have dreamed up."

Curtis Trammell, who took the initial call into the Sheriff's Office, said deputies dispatched to the scene found an area where the grass had been beaten down, but no large footprints to corroborate what the woman had described.

His hopes? "Well they said the Sasquatch was extinct for millions of years 'til they found one off the coast of Africa in 1938. Now there are 60 specimens around the world."

Even the Chicago Zoo might have some difficulty feeding and housing 60 dinosaurs.

Cow mutilation reported near Paulina

By Terri Lowry & Sue Keim

It all began on that certain day in September of 1967 when a horse named Snippy was found in a small meadow with flesh missing from its shoulders and its skull and bones entirely exposed.

In the late part of September last year, the Severance Ranch, Post, became another statistic in the unexplainable when its cow was mutilated. Its heart, reproductive organs, rectum and tongue all were removed with precision and, as in so many of mutilation cases, not a single trace of footprints or tracks around the carcass.

No more animals had been found mutilated on surrounding ranches for nine months—until Saturday, May 30.

Grindstone cattle company buckaroos were moving cattle approximately 25 miles from Paulina Saturday afternoon when they came across a bizarre site—a cow dead with her reproductive organs and rectum removed.

The cowboys could find no evidence of footprints.

The 800-pound, white-faced Hereford, worth \$600, was lying in a creek in two to six inches of water, according to Crook County Sheriff's deputies.

The animal's udder, uterus and upper right hip with the Grindstone Ranch brand inscribed were all missing.

Deputies say the parts were cut out crudely with a knife, unlike the precise cuts done in the Severance Ranch mutilation. The cow also showed signs of struggle.

Parts from the cow, owned by Earl P. McConnell of the Grindstone Ranch, were sent today to the state crime lab. The incident is under investigation.

Cattle mutilations are not unfamiliar to the Post-Paulina rangeland.

The first mutilations were reported about 10 years ago on the Lister Ranch where four cows were found mutilated within a four-mile radius on what is known as the 12-Mile Table. They were all found in the same position with reproductive organs removed.

To this day, no reason, scientific or otherwise, has been given for the strange deaths. Many believe that animals are being killed by surgeons. Some say the culprits are cultists or beings from another galaxy.

Oregon is among some 20 states where animals, mostly cattle, are being killed and mutilated for reasons unknown.

IN AFRICA AND IN SPACE, TWO AMAZING EXPEDITIONS PREPARE TO PROBE MILLIONS OF YEARS OF MYSTERY

I aim to bring back a live dinosaur

Dr. Roy Mackal talking to Brian Vine: New York



The search is on... but will we actually find a relative of the brontosaurus?

SCIENTIST Dr Roy Mackal is a rare breed of eccentric. He has to be for he's about to go in search of a dinosaur in the swamps of Africa.

And he even hopes to catch one!

It will be a month-long search — beginning in October—in the Congo for a ten-ton, 40 foot long semi-aquatic dinosaur, thought to have lived 70 million years ago.

What would he do with it if he found it? Trap it and haul it back hoping that it doesn't turn into a King Kong type story?

OPTIMISM

Says the doctor: "Well I guess our 20 pygmies would be able to lash together a cage big enough for us at least to get it to the capital of Brazzaville for the Congo Government to put on exhibition."

"Obviously, you're talking about one chance out of ten billion and the chances are we're chasing moonbeams. But if that one chance didn't exist, we wouldn't be setting out in the first place."

It's only the sheer optimism and schoolboy enthusiasm of scientist-adventurers like Dr

Mackal that help push back the barriers of man's knowledge even in this rare field.

The doctor will risk fever, disease, venomous vipers, black mamba snakes, and the unseen dangers of wading through chest-high swamps to catch a glimpse of *Mokele-mbebe*, the Bantu word for the quadruped brontosaurus believed to be still roaming the dense hinterland of the Congo.

"It's a pretty tall order because the area from which the reports have come from in the past 200 years measures 30,000 to 40,000 square miles," says Dr Mackal, in a mouthful of British understatement.

Naturally, he's been down this trail once before—on an expedition which he financed himself from royalties from his zoological books. He is the author of the textbook for his kind, *Searching for Hidden Animals*.

The *mokele-mbebe* may have stayed hidden on his last trip. "But we found the food the dinosaur's supposed to eat and brought it back. It's a food plant known locally as *malomba*, a green fruit with a milky white sap."

The dimensions of what he is trying to accomplish cannot

daunt him, after all Dr Mackal spent a decade looking for another more famous elusive "hidden animal," the Loch Ness Monster.

For ten years he directed the Loch Ness Investigation Bureau in London and on one afternoon on the Loch in 1970 he claims to have seen old Nessie.

"I saw her myself on the surface just briefly, as we were pulling up our hydroplane cables," said Dr Mackal.

It was a disappointment really because for me it settled the question of whether the monster existed. It has been established by all the evidence now and by the pictures of its flipper taken by the bottoms of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. All we need now, as far as I'm concerned, is a specimen.

SIGHTINGS

"But I gave up at Loch Ness because it was getting a little crowded."

However, Dr Mackal will have plenty of elbow room in the Congo. "No one wants to go to the sort of places we're heading for," he admits with a hollow chuckle.

"But this time instead of

slogging through the swamps, we're going to use dug out canoes and set up an advance base camp at the point we reached last time. In the canoes it will take us only four days against the 20 days of wading up river.

Sightings of live dinosaurs have been reported to him by locals, some of whom had never seen a white man before. They picked out the brontosaurus from his diagrammatic picture book with all the animals of Africa.

ADVANCE

We were shown a cave where the animal had been six weeks before we arrived. We haven't even photographed its footprints yet. But we think the species we will find is smaller than the conventional dinosaur, probably only 15ft long with a head the size of a rhino, three claws and long legs.

The location the Mackal expedition heads for will be a degree above the Equator—in an area that remains a complete blank on today's maps.

But like every good scientist, the doctor is taking along every known advance in technology to help locate the beast and protect the expedition's safety. Sonar probes which will work by starlight, a geographical navigational system which uses satellites to place them within 10ft of any given spot and video cameras.

FINANCE

But whatever high technology the team has with them, the expedition will have to live off the lands eating wild bananas, small antelopes, and fish from the unfished rivers. The pygmies will stick to their diet of *ouanga*—a sort of tapocosa which, in its raw state, is a poisonous root.

"Don't care for it much myself," says the doctor.

An oil man has put up \$200,000 to supplement the cost of some of the high technology on this expedition and the rest, Dr Mackal will largely finance himself.

His hopes? "Well they said the *mokele-mbebe* was extinct for millions of years 'til they found one off the coast of Africa in 1938. Now there are 60 specimens around the world."

Even the Chicago Zoo might have some difficulty feeding and housing 60 dinosaurs.

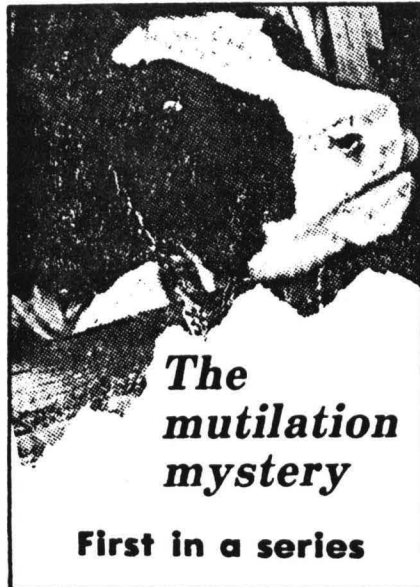
And standing by for the chance of a lifetime...
DAILY EXPRESS, London, England - June 26, 1981

Cattle mutilations remain a mystery

Editor's Note: Following is the first in a 3-part *Press-Citizen* report on the unsolved mystery of animal mutilations in Iowa.

By **LYLE MULLER**
Press Citizen Reporter

When investigators at Iowa State University examined a 125-pound calf found mutilated on May 11, 1980, in a rural Keota farm field, they believed they had made a major breakthrough.



**The
mutilation
mystery**

First in a series

"They were able to determine that there was human involvement," Washington County Sheriff's Lt. Jack Dillon said.

The information was important, for no other reason than "it kind of shoots the die-hards in other states who say they (the mutilators) are predators," Dillon said.

The calf, owned by James Waterhouse, was not the first farm animal mutilated in the nation, the state, or even Washington County. Reports of farm animal mutilations across the nation are numerous and have baffled investigators.

About as numerous as the reports are the theories about why they happen.

Gerald Shanahan, director of the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation, said, "It's sort of an enigma that we'd like to get to the bottom of and I suppose other people would like to."

To date, there have been no arrests in the mutilation cases the DCI has investigated. In most cases, rough terrain, decaying carcasses, and the lack of witnesses have made it difficult to determine exactly what happened during the mutilations, Shanahan said.

"Actually, what is left in each case, I think, is different," he said. "The last ones that we had were mutilated and the eye was removed, the left ear

and the genital parts were removed."

DCI investigators strongly suspect religious cult activity. "Sometimes there's an absence of blood, for what reason I don't know. That gives more credence to a cult-type operation where the blood is extracted," Shanahan said.

Dillon said investigators were lucky that Waterhouse's calf was found before the carcass decayed.

"Prior to that, the average person that you'd talk to in some other state would say it's predators," he said. "If it had laid another 24 hours we probably couldn't have been able to do that," he said about finding evidence of human involvement.

Cult activity is suspected in the mutilation of Waterhouse's calf, Dillon said. "There was no blood at the scene. The animal could have pretty well been dead before the mutilation, but I don't know for sure."

The calf's tongue, eyeballs, and scrotum were removed, he said. "Based upon the similarity (with other reported mutilations) it almost appears it is some kind of a cult that uses these organs as part of a ritual."

Shanahan said the DCI has been investigating reported mutilations since the late 1970s.

"We have our beliefs," Shanahan said. "A lot of people don't necessar-

ily agree with them, but all we can say is that they (mutilations) are being done by humans for whatever reason we don't know.

"Until we get to the bottom of this, we'll probably never know," he said of the motives behind the mutilations.

"We've got people we've talked to...and they're in certain groups," he said. "It (cult involvement) is pretty much documented, not so much in Iowa, but other parts of the country where these things do occur."

Not everyone is as convinced as Shanahan about who is doing the mutilating. Members of the Mutual UFO Network, Inc., a nationwide organization of persons who investigate reports of unidentified flying objects, are also interested in the mutilations.

Grant Callison of Galesburg, Ill., a field investigator for the organization, said members are "becoming more and more convinced that UFOs are responsible" for mutilations. He cited the uniqueness of some of the mutilations, as well as signs of possible radiation at some of the sites as the reasons.

"I would think that the UFO I would be seeking would be occupied by aliens with the knowledge of technology we can't understand," Callison said.

Why aliens would mutilate farm animals, rather than humans, is "another mystery," he said. "I can't prove a UFO's involved, either, because no one's seen one of these 'classic' mutilations performed."

Callison said almost all theories deserve investigation. "The only theory that I don't respect is the theory of birds or animals mutilating another animal," he said.

Shanahan said of the UFOs: "We never got into that aspect of it." He also said there is no evidence that the U.S. government is involved in a secret military experiment, as some theorists have charged.

Those who believe the government is involved in mutilations point to reports that helicopters have been heard or seen in areas where mutilations have occurred. Dillon said he interviewed two people who thought they heard a helicopter near Keota when the Waterhouse's calf was mutilated last year.

"I personally don't believe in some of those things," Shanahan said. But he added, "You have to keep an open mind. If you make up your mind one way or another, then you're not a very good investigator."

NEXT: The state DCI investigation is hampered by a shortage of evidence, personnel, and money.

What on earth was that?

No one knows; theories fizzle out on the Upstate's mysterious 'Big Bang'

By JIM PHILLIPS
News staff writer

Some residents in areas of both Carolinas and Georgia were startled Wednesday afternoon by a noise described as sounding much like a sonic boom, an explosion or an earthquake.

The sound shook houses in Charlotte, N.C. and caused panicky people to light up the police switchboards in Gaffney, Greenville and Spartanburg in South Carolina and Gastonia, Monroe and Charlotte in North Carolina.

And nobody knows what it was.

Officials disclaim responsibility — or even knowledge — of the loud booming noise that apparently cracked out of nowhere about 1:30 p.m. Wednesday.

No supersonic commercial or

military aircraft were reported in the area, according to the Atlanta Air Route Center, so the sonic boom theory apparently bit the dust.

Air traffic controllers at the Greenville-Spartanburg Airport reported nothing unusual.

Shaw Air Force Base in Sumter had no aircraft in the skies when the incident was reported, according to Sgt. Jerry Little of the public affairs office at the base.

"We're very familiar with it," Little said, explaining that the base had received several calls, "but it didn't come from here."

The response from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration? "We didn't do it."

Dick Young, NASA public information officer at the Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canaveral, Fla., said he had received four calls about the

mysterious noise.

"The only thing I can think of is a sonic boom," he said. "We've had no launches or anything that would give us any connection with it."

Although several people described the sound and accompanying shock waves as similar to an earthquake, the geological theory fell the way of all others.

"Nope, it wasn't an earthquake," said Leroy Irby of the National Earthquake Information Center in Golden, Colo. "We've checked and checked and there has been no noticeable seismic activity in the area."

The department of geology at the University of South Carolina in Columbia affirmed the earthquake center's report.

Another theory was espoused, this

one plausible — at least on the surface.

At 12:36 p.m. Wednesday, the seismological observatory at Virginia Polytechnic Institute in Blacksburg, Va., recorded something very similar to an earthquake.

Had it been an earthquake, it would have registered about 3.0 on the Richter Scale.

But it wasn't an earthquake.

"We recorded a rather large strip mine blast from eastern Kentucky," Gil Bollinger, director of the observatory, said.

But since such blasts generate different compression waves than earthquakes, there was no way to determine the magnitude of the explosion, he said.

Such blasts are recorded frequently at the Virginia facility, Bollinger said. However, Wednesday's

blast was larger than most.

But when asked if the strip mine blast could have been heard in Greenville, Charlotte or Atlanta, Bollinger responded: "No way. We couldn't have even heard it right across the Kentucky border in Virginia."

One last hope in finding the source of the sound, short of believing in extraterrestrial visitation, rested with the National Weather Service.

Another dead end.

The sound was not caused by atmospheric conditions, an NWS spokesman at the Greenville-Spartanburg Airport said.

What has been determined for sure is that there was a booming

sound — a noise so loud that Pam Fowler, a Spartanburg County deputy, thought a truck had hit her house.

"It just shook my house," she said.

Similar blasts have shaken the Carolina coast off and on for the past several years.

In one such incident, the boom was believed to have been caused by an F-4 Phantom fighter engaged in the mock defense of the Beaufort Marine Air Corps Air Station.

Representatives from the station's legal department distributed claim forms after the incident.

Other "sonic booms" in the Beaufort area were much like the one reported Wednesday and were never explained.

NEWS, Greenville, SC - June 25, 1981

Mutilation probe short on funds, evidence

Editor's Note: Following is the second in a 3-part Press-Citizen report on the unsolved mystery of animal mutilations in Iowa.

By LYLE MULLER
Press-Citizen Reporter

With a little more evidence, personnel, and money, the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation could be closer arresting someone in connection with reported mutilations of farm animals, according to DCI Director Gerald Shanahan.

Shanahan's office has been investigating mutilations since the late 1970s. In a nine-month span beginning Sept. 15, 1979, the DCI was called to investigate nine farm animal mutilations in Washington, Polk, Boone, Hardin, and Black Hawk Counties.

Mutilations were reported as close to Iowa City as the Riverside and Keota areas during that span.

More recently, mutilations have been reported this year in the Ames and Marion areas. But little evidence is available, making the task of investigating the incidents difficult.



funds. "With our budget cuts we have agent vacancies we can't fill," he said. "The two most visible things we do are crimes against persons and narcotics, and that's just about a full-time job right there."

More time to investigate mutilations could translate into results, Shanahan said. "If we had the resources to put on it, I think we'd probably resolve some of these things. We have constantly followed any cases that are reported."

"Proper reporting is a problem because sometimes we feel they (the animals) have been mutilated, but then they lay out in the field for a couple of days. If predators do get to them, they can make it difficult to confirm."

One of the mutilations that was reported in time involved James and Berna Waterhouse of rural Keota, who found the carcass of a 125-pound bull calf on May 11, 1980.

"(James) heard the cow bawling and he found the calf down there," Mrs. Waterhouse said as she told how her husband found the calf in a field surrounded by a wooded area.

"There wasn't any sign of blood."

Washington County Sheriff's deputies were called and the calf was taken to Iowa State University, where investigators determined a mutilation occurred, and that it had been done by humans, not predators. The calf had not been sick, Mrs. Waterhouse said.

"A calf will be sick sometime for a day or so ahead of time before they go down a hill and die, so it was really a weird experience. (There was) no evidence that any of the calves had been sick and that was the reason he thought it was really strange."

"He got to checking the calf over and found these strange things," Mrs. Waterhouse said. Among the findings were that the calf's eyes, tongue, and sexual organs had been removed, she said.

Shanahan said his office is not ready to arrest anyone for any of the reported mutilations in Iowa. In fact, he said he is not sure what charge would be lodged against someone caught mutilating farm animals.

"There's a question as to what the violation would be...destruction of

"Proper reporting is a problem because sometimes we feel animals have been mutilated, but then they lay out in the field for a couple of days," said Gerald Shanahan, director of the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation. "If predators get to them, they can make it difficult to confirm."

property or something like that," he said. "When you come right down to it, it would be very hard to pick a violation."

Johnson County Sheriff Gary Hughes said there have been no reported mutilations in Johnson County during the past several years.

Sheriff's deputies thought they might have had such a case on June 14, after the carcasses of two calves owned by Lawrence Kott were found near Prairie du Chien Road, just outside the Iowa City limits. But Hughes said the animals apparently were not mutilated and that the case is no longer under investigation.

On June 17, three mutilated lambs

were found in a Marion farm field owned by Wesley Follensbee. The Linn County Sheriff's Department is investigating that incident.

Meanwhile, Berna Waterhouse said she and her husband are more aware of what is going on near their farm, even though they had been routinely checking their cattle every day.

"I guess we're more aware of strange vehicles, or that type of thing," she said. "It makes us more apprehensive of any activity like that around the neighborhood."

NEXT: A nationwide network of volunteers is heavily involved in the investigation of animal mutilations.

PRESS-CITIZEN, Iowa City, IA - June 30, 1981 CR: T. Adams

Horse mutilation leads to Project Stigma

Editor's Note: Following is the third in a 3-part *Press-Citizen* report on the unsolved mystery of animal mutilations in Iowa.

By LYLE MULLER
Press-Citizen Reporter

In 1967, a horse named "Snippy" was found mutilated in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado.

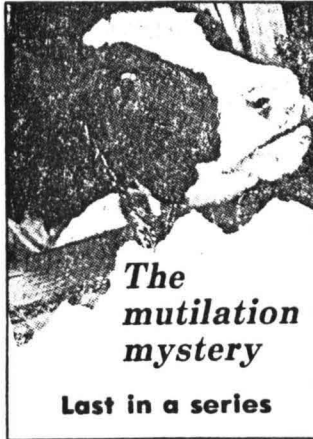
Thomas A. Adams, a student at East Texas State University in Commerce, Texas, investigated the mutilation in 1970 as part of a class project.

He was hooked. "When we arrived in the area and began talking to people we became more and more enthralled with their accounts of what really was happening," Adams said in a telephone interview from his home in Paris, Texas.

In late 1974 and early 1975, other mutilations were reported in Texas. The circumstances involved resembled those when "Snippy" was mutilated, and Adams "began to take note of them."

The result is a group of nationwide volunteers investigating animal mutilations called Project Stigma.

"I started Project Stigma and started publishing *Stigmata* (a quarterly newsletter) at the first of 1978, basically just for information exchange," Adams said.



**The
mutilation
mystery**
Last in a series

core would be maybe 50 people, something along that line, and then maybe a couple of hundred others who seem to maintain an interest at least from time to time."

Adams has exchanged information with the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation, which he lauds for its willingness to keep an open mind about Project Stigma and the investigation into animal mutilations.

As is the case with state and county investigators, however, the volunteer group has never turned up concrete evidence about who is committing the mutilations and why.

"We're optimistic, although I realize the fact that to my own mind this may never be solved," Adams said. "I'm at least optimistic enough to keep at it, because the answers may come tomorrow."

Remarkably, no one has ever been caught mutilating a farm animal, Adams said. "That's one of the, if not the most perplexing aspects of this...that no one has ever been caught, much less indicted or convicted for any of these crimes."

"There have been some areas such as Iowa and in Alberta, Canada, where they (investigators) feel that they've been close to nailing some people who they thought might be involved, but it never gets far enough where they can actually even bring someone in for questioning."

Project Stigma does not take sides in the theoretical battle over who commits the mutilations, Adams said. "If we take a stand it would be because there is evidence to support any number of several different theories."

There is a lot of information, but its quality sometimes is lacking, Adams said. "We can't be too picky," he said. "Even those reporting it may not realize the value of it because something that happened, say, in Washington County, Iowa, may compare significantly to something that is happening, say, in Harding County, Oregon, or El Paso County, Colorado."

So Adams' group continues to collect information, even though he admits "we don't know a whole lot more now than what we knew in 1973 (or) 1974."

Adams realizes the difficulty in understanding why farm animals have been mutilated, and why the attacks have occurred in such an unusual manner.

"You sort of have to adopt, I guess, a pretty loose attitude towards it. One thing you have to come to grips with is the possibility that it may never be solved."

Nine unsolved cases of animal mutilations

Between Sept. 15, 1979 and May 11, 1980, the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation was called to investigate nine reports of farm animal mutilations.

Most of the reports involved cattle, which had various parts of their bodies and all their blood removed. The investigations were stopped after the May 11, 1980, incident because of time constraints, according to DCI Director Gerald Shanahan.

Following is a list of reported incidents investigated by the DCI:

- Sept. 15, 1979, Polk County.

- Oct. 26, 1979, Washington County. This incident, near Riverside, involved the mutilation of a 1,500-pound black

angus bull. An ear, the tongue, and reproductive organs were removed. The carcass was too badly decayed to investigate.

- Oct. 27, 1979, Boone County.

- Oct. 30, 1979, Polk County.
- Nov. 11, 1979, Hardin County.

- Dec. 8, 1979, Black Hawk County.

- Dec. 8, 1979, Black Hawk County. There were two separate incidents reported the same day near Waterloo.

- Feb. 28, 1980, Polk County.

- May 11, 1980, Washington County. This incident occurred near Keota. It was one of the few cases in which investigators were able to uncover evidence that humans had committed the mutilation.

PRESS-CITIZEN, Iowa City, IA - July 1, 1981 CR: T. Adams



Yu Zhenhuan, 2, is hairy ... but he's no "ogre."

Accept Hairy Children, Chinese Told

Special To The Press

PEKING — In Chinese folklore through the ages have lurked lurid legends of hairy, manlike creatures that walked upright in the forests of central China.

Whether or not they ever were as "wild" as the "mountain ogres" described 2,000 years ago by poet-statesman Qu Yuan, such hairy people do live in China and the government says time has come to give them a break.

It is trying to convince the public that there's nothing wrong with being hairy, and no stigma should be attached to hairy people.

Now and then in China a child with thick hair covering his body is born to normal parents. The youngsters are normal in other ways and often grow up to be, in the government's words, "model workers."

Their misfortune is to be born among people who, like many other Orientals, do not have much body hair and do not like the looks of it.

As a result, hairy babies often have been killed at birth or left in the forest to fend for themselves.

An article in the August issue of *Science Digest* discusses the government campaign to gain acceptance for hairy children.

It cautions that more study is needed by scientists before a historic link might be established between the phenomenon and the "wild men" of central China.

CR: S. Gorden

PRESS, Pittsburgh, PA - August 2, 1981

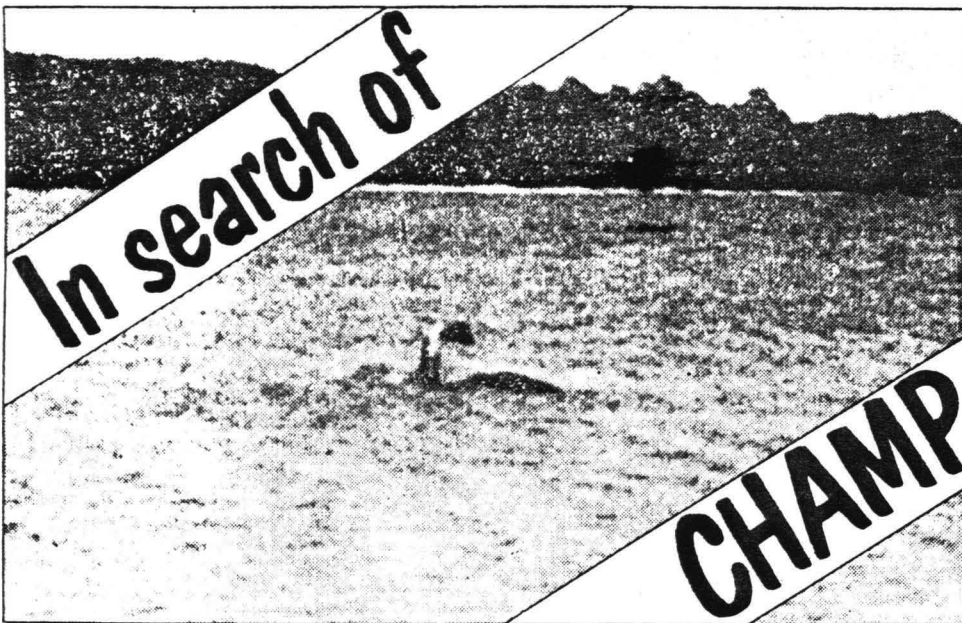


Photo by Sandra Mansi/Gamma-Liaison Agency Inc.

Does a 40-foot monster lurk within the chilly depths of Lake Champlain?



Robert Brown,
the Mayor

'Champ means business.'



Bonnie Clonan,
the Chamber of Commerce

*'We needed a slogan,
Ice Fishing Capital
of the World was considered.'*

First in a series

For years the exclusive purview of Lake Champlain's year-round or summer residents, the mysterious sea serpent Champ has now surfaced as a more public figure, a Loch Ness of North America. In this six-part series beginning today, Times-Union reporter Ronald Kermani recounts the tale of Champ, his lake home and the people who live on its edges.

By Ronald Kermani
Staff Writer

A ribbon of pink sunset held two mushrooming thunderheads together above the roiling waters of Lake Champlain, here on the fringe of the world's oldest mountains.

Joseph Zarzynski, a lanky ninth-grade teacher, stood on the Vermont shore to scan the complexion of this notoriously fickle and short-tempered lake.

"C'mon Champ! Let's get a good look at you!" he said.

The lake was silent.

Champ didn't oblige.

It was another unsuccessful day of monster hunting.

For almost four centuries, the curious have surveyed this 110-mile-long lake, which resembles the taproot of a giant carrot, for Champ — said to be the lake's resident sea monster-creature-serpent.

Beginning in the swamps just north of Lake George, the narrow lake surges north between the stooped Adirondack peaks in New York and the verdant rolling hills Vermonters call the Green Mountains.

Between those massive confines, the lake is a mirror above fertile, shallow bays and dark, cold channels that run as deep as 400 feet, massive underwater crags and outcroppings cut into the earth by glaciers eons ago.

Portions of the lake's 600 miles of shoreline form the international border between the United States and Canada.

And there is a growing body of evidence that somewhere beneath its 435-square-mile surface lurks at least one and perhaps several creatures that some say resemble prehistoric animals.

To some scientists and researchers, the creatures are real — flesh-and-blood vestiges of centuries when ice sheets molded granite as easily as clay, and unbridled streams and rivers first carved their courses.

"I cannot say I believe totally in these things, but I cannot totally dismiss them either," said Zarzynski, a Saratoga Springs teacher who has sought Champ for more than seven years.



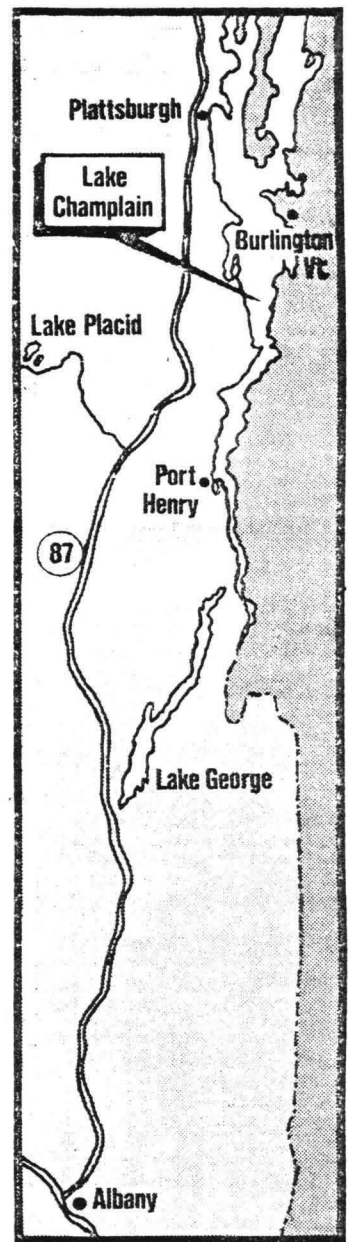
Jane Sullivan,
the Eyewitness

*'I was just ragged, I didn't
keep my head about me.'*



Joe Zarzynski,
the Scientist

'This is America's Loch Ness.'



Map by Ellie Pratkan

"This water is our last frontier," he noted, sweeping the lake's horizon with an outstretched hand.

"We have our own unknown here in our own backyard," he said.

From the first page of western man's diary of this history-rich area, residents have claimed they spotted portions of this, or these, elusive creatures gamboling in the cool, deep currents.

Stories of snake-like heads, serpentine bodies, fangs and thrashing water have been recounted up and down Lake Champlain for generations.

It was only this spring, however, when the world rediscovered Port Henry, learned to pronounce Bulwagga Bay and became endeared to a creature Zarzynski calls "America's Loch Ness Monster."

And what a monster it is.

Nicknamed "Champ," the creature began appearing off Bulwagga Bay with startling and daring regularity this spring — and not just to the town drunks or loafers. It reared its head and body again and again, the local residents said: to a carload of women; a local builder, a group of senior citizens; some businessmen.

"I saw this thing in the lake," said town employee Esther Waldron. "It stood there with just its head and neck out of the water about 150 feet away. It came up about four times in about 25 minutes," she said shyly.

"This thing was no speck in the water," recounted Jane Sullivan, who said she saw the unusual lake inhabitant in late April. "It was a big, long, dark thing that captured your attention. We could distinguish the humps."

Nonsense, snorted Port Henry resident Anthony Mydlarz:

"It's a goddamned watersoaked log, and all the people who see it are soaked too," he puffed.

Despite the factions and contrasting stories, almost every businessman in Port Henry has realized one thing: in a very real sense, Champ means business.

(continued on page 18)

(continued from page 17)

The tall tales get shorter with each sighting. But so does the distance between whatever is in the lake and a cash register. Port Henry visitors and residents alike began clamoring for film, cameras, and binoculars, and hustled to the shore. Some always manage to catch a fleeting glimpse of what they say are a few dark humps and a snake-like neck surfacing in the lake.

Port Henry is an old mining town that died economically about 20 years ago when the iron ore shafts were barricaded and the Republic Steel Co. said goodbye for more profitable sites.

In the movies, townsfolk generally greet monsters with torches and curses.

Not so Champ.

Port Henry welcomed the growing awareness of Champ with open arms and yawning cash register drawers. The fever, local businessmen and politicians say, will cure the dead town.

"Champ is the key, it's going to help everything," said Port Henry Mayor Robert Brown, a retired local postman of 28 years.

It is, some have said, a last gasp effort by a mining town with its industrial base literally buried, to dig itself out.

Port Henry's economic obituary was written with the severance notices 1,100 miners received in the late 1960s.

For about 100 years, the area's residents went to the mines with either a shovel over their shoulder or a Republic Steel pen in their breast pocket.

With the mines closed, few are working today. And nobody is quite sure about tomorrow — except that the Grand Union will be selling Champ T-shirts for \$6.75 each.

It's a hard-pressed village of 1,400 persons, with the lake on one side and a dead iron mine on the other. The village has barely hugged onto Route 9N, which uncoils through the foothills and threads through fields where farmers work hard to harvest more fodder than stones.

Port Henry's course is uncertain, Mayor Brown said, and its destination unknown.

However rough the road to economic survival, Port Henry, for the most part, is along for the ride.

Tons of ink and newsprint have taken the village and Bulwagga Bay into the most respected papers in the world. Starstruck and blinded by TV lights, Port Henry has hosted a media marathon this spring of network news crews

and international reporters. The New York Times had a serious article in its Science section last week about Champ.

Nothing has created such a stir here since Robert Garrow went on a murderous stabbing rampage in the North Country the summer of 1972 or that October 1955 afternoon when local resident Johnny Podres pitched his Brooklyn Dodgers baseball team to their first World Series title.

To give the hoopla a thread of authenticity, the village board passed a resolution last October protecting Champ from molesters, hunters and trappers, and other ne'er-do-wells. Supporters are trying to interest the New York Legislature. Vermont legislators, not to be outdone, are pushing for a similar bill declaring the monster, or monsters, out-of-bounds for bounty hunters.

Meanwhile, a Vermont man is offering a \$500 reward for Champ.

You guessed it: Dead or Alive.

But Champ is not out of the reach of local businessmen. The monster's reported presence has been preened by a well-meaning — but slightly unsophisticated — lot of local storekeepers. Various Champ designs have been ironed onto T-shirts, printed on buttons and coloring books, made into pillows and painted on windows of Port Henry's vacant stores.

Yet no one is quite sure what the creature looks like.

The closest anyone has come to corraling Champ in flesh or on film occurred in July 1977. Connecticut resident Sandra Mansi captured what some think is Champ's first photograph with her plastic pocket camera while standing, like Zarzynski, on the Vermont shore. That photograph appears on the front page of this newspaper today.

For years, the color print of a long-necked creature with one hump out of the water was tacked to her kitchen bulletin board. But like the fever in Port Henry, word of her unusual vacation snapshot had spread.

Optical scientists in Arizona tested the photo and determined that it was not a fake. Doubts lingered, however, when Mansi told researchers she could not remember where the photo was taken or locate the negative.

Nevertheless, the world wanted a peek.

After much haggling, Mansi sold the photo to the New York Times, which printed the picture Tuesday.

Scientists cannot definitively say what the creature in the Mansi photo is, but some investigators have linked the creature with a zeuglodon — or a primitive whale similar to Scotland's Loch Ness monster.

"I think these animals, including Loch Ness and Champ, are primitive whales," said Dr. Roy P. Mackal, a University of Chicago biochemist specializing in cryptozoology, the search for legendary or thought-to-be-extinct species.

"They have come in from the sea, go upstream into the rivers to feed," Mackal said.

Zarzynski, a teacher of Afro-Asian culture and the number-one Champ chaser, said he believes the Mansi photograph "is the best single piece of evidence we have" to substantiate the existence of an unusual creature in Lake Champlain.

Champ, he added, may be a member of a living serpent community without natural predators which may feed by herding fish into shallow bays like Bulwagga. The craggy depths of the lake — similar to the dark depths of Loch Ness — are ideal for such creatures.

Scientists and researchers say they doubt the thought-to-be-extinct creatures in Loch Ness or Lake Champlain are centuries old, but have bred and evolved over the years. With no known natural enemies, researchers like Zarzynski have said, the creatures could live for decades in the cold, deep waters.

Where there are believers, there are skeptics.

For years Peter Tromblee, an attendant at the Bulwagga Beach Campsite, said he didn't take stock in "that lake monster crap."

He changed his tune one day last month. At about 10:30 a.m., while returning from the beach, Tromblee said he saw the head of "a snake-like thing come out of the water, about six or eight inches around and about 20 feet long.

"It give me a funny feeling at first," Tromblee said about his sighting. "There's something big out there."

Despite this, Tromblee said he estimates 90 percent of Port Henry wouldn't believe in Champ — unless "he stood right up and shook hands with everybody."

Some might not shake back, though.

"I think it's pure unadulterated rubbish," said Bulwagga campsite visitor John Dikovics. "I figure it's a gimmick. The bank has cute, fuzzy Champ toys. You know, you can see anything when you're drunk," he said.

Champ had better do a little public relations work in Westport, a quiet summer playground for out-of-towners about 15 miles north of Port Henry.

"I think it's a beautiful fraud," said Charlotte Jones, as she tended a craft co-op on Westport's main street. "That's all they have to do (in Port

Henry) and that's all they have going for them. It's a shame."

Others, however, don't take Champ tales lightly.

"We are not in the goblin world," stressed Mackal. "There are plenty of colleagues who scoff at what we do. But we have scientific people on our side."

Don't forget those in Port Henry who have seen — or who are desperate to see — the village's number-one resident.

Throughout the week, some residents ply the lake in boats; others just sit on shore and gaze toward the Green Mountains of Vermont with loaded cameras in hand.

And there's always Gordon Baker's high-technology, weekend Champ-chasing excursions.

Baker, 35, of Port Henry, is helping to build a nuclear power plant in Oswego during the week. But when he's home on the weekends, he's on Champ call.

He has organized a loosely-knit coterie of friends who will phone him if they see an unfamiliar form on the lake. Baker then calls his friend, Calvin Cross, in nearby Crown Point, who picks Baker up in his backyard — in a helicopter.

Armed with movie, Instamatic, and 35mm cameras, film and binoculars, the two zoom through the skies to the sighting area.

Baker claims he and Cross have closed in on an unknown object on the lake, but the form submerged as the copter approached.

Now, when an object is sighted, Cross feathers the copter engine, and glides into range for a possible snapshot.

The two share the chills of the engineless glide, the approximate \$175-an-hour operating cost, and will split the profits from a clear photo of Champ, Baker said.

"People think we're nuts," Baker mused, "but we've been offered \$100,000 for a still photo. That's good money for a few seconds of work."

It's real work some town residents said they want for Port Henry — the kind that makes people get up at sunrise and takes the village address off the unemployment checks.

"They talk about everything but making work here," said Bud Abbey of Port Henry, a construction worker who hasn't collected a paycheck in five months.

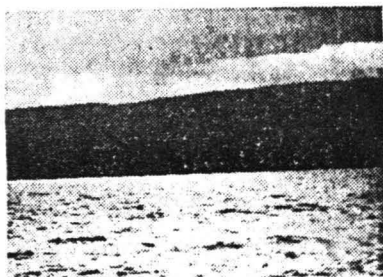
"They talk about making this a summer town," he continued. "This is a good little town. But we have problems. And a lake full of monsters will not help."

NEXT: The Mayor: "Champ means business."

TIMES-UNION, Albany, NY - July 6, 1981 CR: R. Girard

Champ ain't Nessie-sarily so, but don't tell the mayor

In Search of Champ



2nd in a series

By Ronald Kermani

Staff Writer

PORT HENRY — For 28 years, Mayor Robert Brown delivered the good and bad news in this small Adirondack mining town.

But now, with a little moxie and a little help from a sea serpent named Champ, he is trying to deliver only good news.

Residents of this once-thriving but now economically depressed village on Lake Cham-

plain have adopted Champ — the purported sea monster (not unlike the Loch Ness monster) living in the depths of the lake — as their unofficial economic savior and mascot.

Brown, a retired local postman, has melded the jobs of public relations man, cheerleader, tour guide, historian and reporter's helper into his part-time mayorship. Being mayor pays about \$5 daily.

"I love it," Brown says about the international attention focused on Port Henry since this spring, when the lake creature began peeking above the whitecaps more frequently.

The 3 a.m. phone calls from California newspapers, the interviews on television networks and the hours spent chatting with local correspondents have made Brown's retirement into a full-time job.

"Champ's picked up the morale in town," Brown says, "and with all this million dollars worth of free publicity, things will move."

The Port Henry area Chamber of Commerce has already hitched onto the souvenir bandwagon, and is selling Champ T-shirts, buttons, bumper stickers and postcards.

Residents and businessmen are optimistic that tourists will flock to the town, once known for its fertile iron ore mines, to chase Champ, buy the gimmicks and stay for a while at one of the two area beaches and campsites.

But there are others in town who see the other side of the tourist's quarter. Some businessmen said the town needs a substantial industry to survive, and while an alleged sea serpent named Champ and its trail of gimmicks may be popular this summer, the bloom may fade as quickly as the creature does when a boat or helicopter of photographers approaches.

Brown won't hear of it.

"Champ is the key, it's got to help everything," the mayor says. "I can see Champ becoming an industry." He leans closer and says confidentially, "Tourism, you know."

Tourism is a foreign word to Port Henry. The village has been sentenced by its location and an iron mine in its backyard to a life of hard labor.

At first there was timber, and logging became a major business in Essex County in the early 1800s. At about the same time lumberjacks were felling virgin pine forests, high grade iron ore was discovered in the Port Henry area.

One of the nation's first blast furnaces was built in Port Henry, not far from Brown's office, in 1822. Ore from Port Henry's belly was used on the plating for the Union gunship Monitor during the Civil War.

And with the mines came an influx of immigrants, who lived in company-built towns with names like Mineville and Witherbee, named after a founder of one of the mining companies.

The town worked for scores of years, and worked hard. As years passed, the ore became harder to extract, and the Republic Steel Co. began laying off miners in the early 1960s.

And Bob Brown was still delivering mail.

In 1961, the state declared Essex County an economic disaster area, with as many as one third of the work force lining up for unemployment checks.

It hasn't changed much for the 1,400 people in town today. Port Henry is still a meat and potatoes place which hibernates after October and spends the winter either ice fishing or waiting for the Fourth of July weekend.

You can still see the ham-fisted fathers who shoveled slag from dark ore shafts sitting with their children on a bench in town. Their children, some of them products of broken homes, have a

(continued on page 19)

gaunt North Country look. Too much living; not enough play.

It's a town where mothers warn their sons early on about life's sharp corners.

"If you want to go someplace in life, don't come back to Port Henry after graduation," a local business woman says she has told her three sons.

Mayor Brown measures time in Port Henry this way: B.C. (Before Champ) and A. D. (After Discovery).

Back in 1975, "once in a while you would hear someone saw this or you heard a rumor that it (the sea serpent) was sturgeon traveling or playing together," Brown recalls. Champ just wasn't eliciting excitement.

"People were reluctant to say something. They were afraid that they would be laughed at or accused of being high," he adds.

The phenomenon stayed quiet until 1979, Brown says, when 11 women in two cars crossing the Champlain Bridge just south of the village saw several dark humps in the lake. More people began seeing unusual objects, and were not so reluctant to talk about it, Brown says. The mayor admits he himself hasn't seen anything extraordinary on the lake, except an odd series of waves during a still day a few years ago.

"Did you get a chance to stop and see 'Shakes' Wojewodzie? How about 'Bumper' Wheelock?" the mayor asks, making sure the local cast of characters — eyewitnesses all — has been interviewed.

Mayor Brown has a vision. In years to come, Brown says, children will read or watch TV shows about Champ. They will nag their parents for a trip to Port Henry.

"Champ means business," he adds, saying neither he nor anyone else in town can control the commercialization of the monster.

"I don't know how brilliant (the mayor) is," says long-time Port Henry resident Bess Sherlock, "but he makes a nice appearance. He's trying (with Champ). He's really excited about it."

Most residents interviewed said they believe Champ will help funnel new business interest into Port Henry, but that the excitement will not change local living habits or quirks.

"I haven't changed at all," quips Bruce Brassard, a Port Henry clothing store employee. "I still have to mow my lawn each week, and I'm not rich enough to hire someone ... yet."

Mayor Brown should forget Champ for a few minutes, some locals have said, and promote an inherent area attraction other villages may crave — beauty.

It's there in Port Henry, a bountiful scenery beyond the gray mines, the unpaved back roads and the vacant store fronts.

What elusive monster can compare with long shadows on longer fields of uncut hay in nearby Moriah? What shy, seldom seen creature wouldn't pale beside the Champlain Bridge, sunset framed in lacy steel shadows as a full crimson moon climbs into the night mountain sky?

"Without the Chamber of Commerce and Champ, the town would be in utter oblivion," Sherlock says. "What else is there ... it's so discouraging ... but I wouldn't go back to Albany for anything."

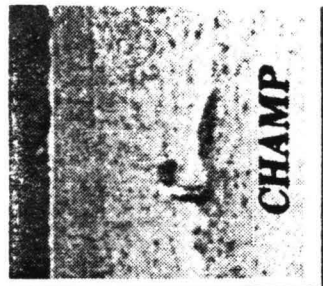
Meanwhile, the Mayor is mapping out another day as Champ's advance man.

"The only people in town I don't know are the ones who moved in yesterday," he says.

And they'll hear about Champ tomorrow.

NEXT: The Scientist: "Champ is America's Loch Ness Monster."

In search of ...



Third in a series

cameras. He has also sauntered into bars at Scotland's Loch Ness, looking for leads and stories which might connect Champ with what some scientists think is its first cousin in Loch Ness.

Despite his seven-year quest, and the \$25,000 he said he has spent, Zarzynski hasn't even caught a glimpse of Champ, or even its wake in the water. The closest he has come was a look at what is billed as the only photo of Champ. That picture, showing a snake-like head and one hump out of the lake, was published in *The Times Union* on Sunday.

It is ironic that Zarzynski has culled probably more information on the

Seven years and \$25,000 later, he still hasn't sighted Champ

what genus or species to assign to the creatures with snake-like heads and long undulating bodies. Zarzynski has classified the unknown lake resident: "Belua Aquatica Champlainensis."

In English, that's "huge water creature of Lake Champlain."

Whatever its name, Zarzynski and Kennard find it fascinating prey.

The creature has led Zarzynski through library stacks, down into 50 feet of murky lake water, into the living rooms of persons who claim they saw Champ and in front of television

search for the legendary sea serpent which many think is living in the 110-mile-long lake has developed into a near obsession. The pair have spent weeks away from home cooking, thousands of their own dollars on sophisticated sonar gear, diving equipment and boats to look for Champ — both above and below the hissing whitecaps.

Some scientists and researchers believe that the serpent-like creature they lake shore residents claim they have have spotted may be an evolutionary ancestor of whales, a species presumed dead for eons. Although they argue

For Kennard and Zarzynski, the

Both men were chasing Champ.

For Kennard and Zarzynski, the

Both men were chasing Champ.

For Kennard and Zarzynski, the

Both men were chasing Champ.

purported creature than anyone else, but has never seen it.

"I know something is out there," Zarzynski said after spending a day looking for Champ just north of Westport, Essex County, with his sonar rig. "It's large and it's shy, and it may be a carrion feeder, herding fish into shallow bays to feed."

For years, Zarzynski has chased the serpent, spoken of it in public, and even lobbied Vermont and New York lawmakers to pass a measure protecting the creature or creatures from harm.

No bill has been passed statewide, although the village of Port Henry, which boasts itself as the "Home of Champ," has passed a local law protecting the creature from harassment, molestation and other unsavory acts.

Zarzynski's efforts have not gone unnoticed in high local and state offices.

An avid follower of Loch Ness developments the last 20 years, Albany Mayor Erastus Corning II said he wholeheartedly supports Zarzynski's search for Champ. He has kicked in about a hundred dollars so Zarzynski could buy a piece of sonar equipment, and lent the searcher his massive file on Loch Ness and related phenomena.

"I'm morally convinced that in Loch Ness there is surely something unusual and very large. What it is I don't know. I hope we never find out ... it's a better thing to be a mystery," the mayor said.

But Corning said he supports Zarzynski's search for the truth because "it's the search that counts sometimes."

Zarzynski has a fairly good track record converting skeptics, including at least one member of Vermont's legislature.

Millie Small, a representative from Quechee, met Zarzynski briefly last year to discuss a Champ protection bill then foundering in a legislative committee.

"I found that within a few minutes I was made a strong believer of the existence of Champ. He (Zarzynski) was so serious, with impressive documentation of his belief," Small said.

Small said she heard about a lot of "closet Champ viewers" around the state, but took the risk of being laughed out of the chambers when she went on record supporting the Champ protection bill.

The laughter is still echoing in some Vermont hamlets.

The bill is still lodged in committee.

New York state has also looked briefly at Zarzynski's work on Lake Champlain.

In a June letter, state Environmental Conservation Department Commissioner Robert Flacke told Zarzynski:

"Your continuing efforts in researching this phenomenon are being watched with great interest by the citizens of our state. Successful conclusion of your research efforts in positively identifying the presence of this phenomena would, in all probability, lead to serious consideration for action by our Legislature to protect this animal."

It's as simple as one, two, three: Find it, identify it, protect it.

And Zarzynski, apart from all other part-time Champ searchers and bounty hunters, is probably best equipped to pursue this unknown. Since he was a child, Zarzynski said he has had an insatiable curiosity about unusual phenomena, including subjects like spectral armies and UFO's.

He read on those topics and others throughout college, and in 1974 found himself correcting ninth-grade social studies papers in a rare quiet spot inside Skidmore College's library. While slashing through mistakes with a red pen, Zarzynski said he saw the book *Monster Hunting* by Tim Dinsdale on the library shelf.

"I was obsessed with it," the teacher said. "I had to find out as much as I could about it."

A few months later, Zarzynski sauntered out of his hotel at Loch Ness in Scotland, tired from a day's search for Nessie, Scotland's older version of Champ. The village was swallowed again by fog, but Zarzynski said he inspected a World War I monument with the inscription: "That Right Might Prevail."

The quote stuck. Zarzynski said the slogan describes his attempt to separate the Champ myths from reality, and once that separation is made, explore the reality. The words are printed on his letterhead; he closes conversations with them.

With Loch Ness and its secrets relegated to second-string status, Zarzynski focused his attention to nearer Lake Champlain. For almost four centuries, this theatre of war has also been a stage for a large serpentine creature, first described by explorer Samuel de Champlain in 1609. Zarzynski was to be another breed of pioneer, traipsing the New York and Vermont shores in a bright red panel van marked "The Lake Champlain Phenomena Investigation," complete with an artist's sketch of Champ rising above the waves.

He interviewed witnesses, charted sightings, gave lectures and spent days on shore scanning the lake with a camera and binoculars.

"I would be very much surprised if I had a sighting, even if I was out here 40 years," he said from a lawn chair facing the Adirondacks from the Vermont shore. "It's pure chance."

In June 1979, Zarzynski's search for Champ assumed a technical cast, when he teamed with Kennard and scanned the lake's depths with a sophisticated side-scan sonar device. The apparatus, using sound waves, makes a topographic printout of the lake bottom.

"We had some curious readings," Kennard explained about the 1979 expedition on Lake Champlain. "It may have been a large school of fish, but the readings came from 175 feet down. Maybe its just large sturgeon. But who knows?"

"I don't believe in monsters and I don't disbelieve," said Kennard, president of the Rochester Engineering Laboratories. "My involvement is technical. But I'm open-minded about this."

The side-scanning was repeated off the Basin Harbor, Vt., shore last month. No sizable blips appeared on the sonar printout.

But that didn't stop Zarzynski. He slid \$225 across a table and rented a camp on the Vermont shore near Basin Harbor for a week. It was a working vacation complete with on-the-job training for lake monster watching.

Two days into his watching expedition, Zarzynski and colleague Patricia Meaney dove into the murky depths off the camp and gingerly placed a tripod with a sonar attachment about 50 feet offshore and about 22 feet under water. The device was connected by cable to a small sonar printout, similar to a fish finder fishermen use, at the camp.

Zarzynski ran the sonar device intermittently during the week, but only a few fish and Zarzynski and Meaney registered on the graph paper when they swam in front of the submerged tripod.

"Even with the tough days, I've always enjoyed myself. I wouldn't trade it for anything else," Zarzynski said, scanning the lake once more.

To Zarzynski, the lake which divides New York and Vermont and served as a bloody water highway during the Revolutionary War, is a giant jigsaw puzzle. A few pieces are in place — the reports of sightings and, in late June, the first publication of the photo said to be of the serpent. Most pieces, however, remain submerged somewhere beneath the rolling lake surface.

Zarzynski fingered his new movie camera and fidgeted with cameras mounted on tripods on the camp porch and aimed at the lake.

"I'm not trying to convert somebody to a new religion out there," Zarzynski said of his efforts to coax people to recognize the importance of protecting the unknown creature or creatures.

"They have to come to their own conclusions," he added. Some, like Sally Barker, already have.

She placed an ample Bloody Mary in front of Zarzynski at the bar of the comfortable Basin Harbor Club, and gave an equally ample dose of disbelief in Champ.

"It's a mythical monster, something like Loch Ness, you know, just a publicity stunt," said Barker, of St. Albans, Vt.

Zarzynski stared at the celery stalk in his drink.

"I don't believe it at all," she continued. "People see things they really don't see all the time."

What would convince her? "Drag it up on shore."

About a week later, Zarzynski was stuffing heavy woolen sweaters and long pants into a suitcase, and thumbing his address book under "L."

He was packing for another monster hunt. He was bound for Loch Ness.

NEXT: The Eyewitnesses

The thrill of the quest

By Ronald Kermani

Staff Writer

It was Father's Day and his 12th wedding anniversary, but James Kennard wasn't at his Rochester home. He was on Lake Champlain, looking for a sea serpent.

Joseph Zarzynski, unmarried, a school teacher from rural Saratoga County, was also on the lake that Sunday last month, trying to make a seven-year dream come true.

Both men were chasing Champ.

For Kennard and Zarzynski, the

Tall Tale?

Bigfoot Hunters Stalk The Woods For Clues To An American Legend

By Joe Vargo
Bee Staff Writer

BLUFF CREEK, Del Norte Co. — Warren Thompson peered at the footprint in the soft brown sand, bent down to examine it further, swept away some debris at the bottom of the track with his finger, then stood up and shook his head.

"It's a bear track," he said. "It's not what we're looking for."

What Thompson was searching for was a Bigfoot print, those 18-inch footprints that have awed many people who have traversed the forests of California's far north coast and inspired innumerable fireside tales about the legendary creature.

Thompson's most recent search for Bigfoot was in Del Norte County, but his interest in the creature has taken him all over California and as far north as British Columbia. He has never seen the creature, but he did find some large footprints once. And he says he'll continue looking.

The number of Bigfoot sightings and the number of fresh footprints have declined in recent years. The price of gasoline may have had something to do with that. Fewer people are now actively involved in the search.

But fewer sightings or not, the controversy over Bigfoot continues. Believers point to the thousands of reported sightings on file and say they all can't be hoaxes. Doubters readily counter by saying there has never been one shred of physical evidence — like hair, or fur or a carcass — to prove its existence.

Without question, Thompson is a devoted believer and searcher, which is evident by the footprint casts that decorate his kitchen to the Bigfoot-shaped accelerator pedal adorning his pickup truck. His house in Redwood City bursts with information about Bigfoot. His bedroom contains several files with descriptions of the reported sightings. The walls are covered with drawings of Bigfoot.

Thompson has one of the most extensive Bigfoot files in the world, the result of more than a dozen years of searching for the creature. He expands and updates the files by keeping in touch with other enthusiasts throughout the world, from countries as far away as Australia and the Soviet Union.

"My files are open to anyone who wants the information," he said. "I want to circulate as much of the information as possible."

Serious Bigfoot searchers are well known to each other. They correspond frequently through newsletter and telephone conversations. But they all contact Thompson, who in turn writes dozens of letters to others throughout the world.

Every Bigfoot enthusiast has a favorite piece of evidence to prove — or in some cases disprove — the existence of the legendary animal. For some, it's a blurry photo, for others it's a cast of what may be a footprint. For others, it's an eyewitness account that's just too detailed, too vivid, to be a fraud.

Thompson and the other members of the "Bay area group," seven Bigfoot searchers who have spent about 100 combined years looking for the creature, never dismiss any sighting, Thompson said. Even the most difficult to believe are noted under "creative Bigfooting," he said.

The Bay area group is large as such contingents go. Most Bigfoot seekers work alone or in pairs, and they each have a motive for looking. For some, it's the fame and financial benefits that would come to the person who produces a specimen. Others look for scientific reasons. Others, like Thompson and his associates, look in the hope of just seeing the creature.

"If I can just see Bigfoot, then I feel all my efforts will be worth it," he said.

Bob and Tommie Throneberry, a husband and wife team from Texas, are among those who search to gain scientific knowledge. They are neither believers nor disbelievers.

"If such a creature exists," said Bob Throneberry, "it exists apart from whether or not I choose to believe. Many Bigfoot researchers think that because they believe in Bigfoot, it automatically exists."

Tommie Throneberry said that of the hundreds of self-proclaimed Bigfoot "researchers," only a handful are genuinely qualified.

"Most researchers have no background in science, and a few are teenagers," she said. "The only thing they know about researching is that they want to become investigators."

Both Throneberrys said Bigfoot research is hampered by unqualified investigators and "mystics," people who claim they can make paranormal contact with Bigfoot.

"People have played musical instruments, made noises and used tarot cards to attract the creature," Bob Throneberry said. "One person claims that Bigfoot is made of barium and lives in the fourth dimension."

"But you have to be tolerant of all kinds. You just have to choose your method of research and not step on anyone else's toes."

Most members of the academic community dismiss the reports, Bob Throneberry said. And at least one, Grover Krantz, a Washington State University anthropologist, allegedly has been denied departmental promotions because of publicly professing his belief in the creature, Bob Throneberry said.

The single most intriguing piece of Bigfoot evidence is the famous "Patterson film," taken by Roger Patterson, a rodeo cowboy turned Bigfoot hunter. Advocates and skeptics alike say it could prove whether or not the creature exists. The 18-second film, shot in October 1967, shows a hairy creature quickly walking upright through a clearing in the Six Rivers National Forest in Del Norte County. Analyses of the film indicate the creature is female, about 6 feet 6 inches tall and weighs at least 350 pounds.

Patterson and his partner, Bob Gimlin, said they stumbled upon the creature as it relaxed along Bluff Creek, one of the many small streams that meander through the forest. They said the creature didn't notice them until one of their horses spooked. The creature then quickly headed back into the forest.

As with so many other aspects of Bigfoot, the Patterson film is shrouded in controversy. Critics of the film, shot 65 feet from the creature while Patterson was running, say the creature is a man dressed in a gorilla suit. But those who believe the film is legitimate say the creature walks in a manner that cannot be imitated by a human.

Patterson died a few years after shooting the film and swore on his deathbed it was legitimate.

Those with copies of the film guard them jealously. The original sits in a Salt Lake City film vault. The owners won't release it without a court order. Bob Throneberry has examined the film site repeatedly for any evidence of the creature. He made calculations of the distances covered by the creature as it walked through the 18 seconds of the Patterson film. Surveys of the landscape were taken. Yet nothing, either way, was ever proven.

The Patterson film site has changed radically over the years

since the film was shot. The forest has taken over, and the clearing is only about half the size it was in the film. Many of the landmarks are gone. But it is believed that the film is the single best piece of evidence to support the existence of Bigfoot.

"So far," said Tommie Throneberry, "the film has stood on its own merits. And some Soviet scientists are convinced it is real."

Although the film site is not the same as was in 1967, Bigfoot enthusiasts still make the trip to Northern California to visit it, Thompson said. Camping on the "shrine" is still the high point for many, he said.

Thompson visits the area whenever he can. On a recent trip, he took Jim Foy, who came from North Carolina to see the site.

"I've been thinking about making this trip for several years," said Foy. "But until now, I couldn't find anyone who knew the area well enough."

Getting to the site is no picnic. The road ends three miles from the site and from there, Thompson and Foy traversed Bluff Creek, with its often waist-high water, slippery rocks and numerous logjams. The three-mile trip took four hours. And although Thompson and Foy saw many raccoon, deer and bear tracks, they did not find any Bigfoot prints, and they did not catch a glimpse of the creature.

Thompson said he has no intention of doing anything to harm a Bigfoot, if he's ever lucky enough to see one. He's even against temporarily drugging one so scientists can examine the creature up close.

"I'm pessimistic about human behavior," he said. "The temptation would just be too great. It would be the ultimate hunt. If you could knock one out, you could easily kill it and pick up a fantastic reward."

"I just don't want to see the thing exploited. Bigfoot doesn't need man. Man, for whatever his purposes, seems to need Bigfoot."

Bob Throneberry believes that the mystery surrounding Bigfoot could be solved if all the searchers shared their information.

"But some don't want to see it solved," he said. "Too many people have been manipulating Bigfoot for their own financial purposes or because they want to perpetuate the mystery for some future glory."

"As long as there's a mystery, people will continue buying books. Researchers will continue making money from Bigfoot."

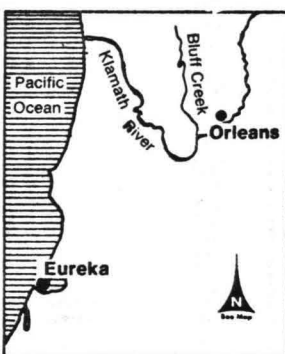
As for the Throneberrys, they say they'll continue their interest in Bigfoot while remaining steadfast skeptics.

And Thompson, despite the many hours he spends reading and writing about Bigfoot, insists the creature has not become an obsession.

"I spend about as much time at it as a friend of mine who's an avid hunter," he said. "It could be an obsession if I didn't enjoy myself so much. But even if I never see a Bigfoot, just being here in this beautiful country puts me way ahead of the game."

Although no one has ever produced a carcass of a Bigfoot, or taken a close-up picture for that matter, there are those who remain adamant about its existence.

Those who believe such a creature exists point to the thousands of reported sightings and hundreds of footprints found in the last century. They say that even if 90 percent of the sightings are hoaxes or the products of overactive imaginations, there is still room for dozens of legitimate ones.



Even the color of the creature varies, depending on the location. Bigfoot has been variously reported as white, red, brown and black. The eyes have been listed as black or brown, but there have been reports the creature has red eyes that reflect in the dark.

Then there are the footprints. Thousands of five-toed, 18-inch long prints have been reported and dozens preserved in casts. Although even the most ardent Bigfoot believer will admit that many pranksters have faked Bigfoot prints, some prints are hard to dismiss. Some point to a creature with a gait similar to — but not exactly the same — as man.

But both skeptics and believers alike say the large, remote area in the Six Rivers National Forest in Northern California is ideal for sustaining a creature like Bigfoot.

"The large variety of berries and small animals like rodents, squirrels and deer in that area would make it easy for a creature like Bigfoot to survive," said Warren Thompson, who has been looking for the creature for 12 years.

Bigfoot appears to be a solitary animal who has not yet mastered the use of fire, said Thompson.