

# UFO

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CO-EDITORS: LUCIUS FARISH  
ROD B. DYKE

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# UFO is still just that: unidentified

by BILL WORDEN

Lapeer County deputies spotted a UFO streaking across the sky over Lapeer County Monday night. And they weren't the only ones who saw it.

Deputies Terry Coulter and Rick Warner were traveling near Dryden at 10:30 p.m. when they noticed lights in the sky approaching from the east.

They saw 3 steady, orange lights forming a triangle. A 4th orange light moved back and forth off to the side. The UFO approached and passed right over them.

The deputies reported the

sighting to their watch commander, Sgt. Dave Wenzel, at the sheriff's department.

Wenzel called Flint's Bishop Airport, but they couldn't pick up anything on radar. Wenzel also phoned Selfridge Air National Guard Base, but their radar also showed nothing.

In the meantime, the UFO traveled from east to west across the county. The deputies sped along Dryden Rd following the lights.

"It was clipping right along," Wenzel says of the UFO. "They couldn't keep up with it."

Coulter took pictures of the UFO, then had County Press

photographer Joe Bybee develop the film Monday night. But the pictures were mostly black, showing only three of the lights as faint specks.

Wenzel describes Coulter and Warner as level-headed officers.

"They were a little befuddled," Wenzel says. "They were beginning to worry about themselves until the calls started coming in."

The sheriff's department received calls from the St. Clair County Sheriff's Dept., Flint police and residents from Capac and Hadley. They described seeing the same thing Coulter and Warner saw.

Danny Griffith of 3465 Sandy Shore Dr., Metamora, was one of those who saw the 4 lights. "They were white lights and they weren't flashing or anything," Griffith said.

"It was a little unusual because it wasn't a real clear night and they were going right along the tops of the clouds," he said. "I figured they were just airplanes until I heard all the talk about UFOs today. There are airplanes flying around all the time."

It's not that Griffith scoffs at UFOs. "I do believe in them," he said. "There has to be something else out there besides us."

ENQUIRER-JOURNAL, Monroe, NC - Sept. 27, 1981

# 'I couldn't get it off my mind, I wanted to make sure...'

By HENRY WELLES  
Staff Writer

A two-hour session with Winston-Salem psychologist Richard Pinneau early this past summer unlocked a mystery that had troubled Pat Eudy for more than two years.

Eudy had been unable to account for approximately three hours of a night in March 1979. He thought he might have had a close encounter of the third kind — a face-to-face meeting, inside a UFO, with a being not from this planet.

But Eudy, 46, a salesman for Callaway Cadillac-Oldsmobile Inc. in Monroe, wasn't sure. "I just couldn't get it off of my mind," he said. "It just kept coming back. I wanted to make sure..."

More than two years passed before Eudy wrote to a civilian UFO research center in Ohio, which referred Wadesboro UFO investigator Henry Morton to him. Morton interviewed Eudy and suggested he speak with Pinneau, who allowed Eudy to become relaxed and recall the rest of his memories of that night.

**HERE'S WHAT** Eudy remembered before and after the three-hour gap in his recollections:

After visiting a friend in Locust, with whom he drank two beers, Eudy headed for the home he shares with his mother, Gay Eudy, on U.S. 601 South.

"I left at 3 a.m. and started down that back road heading toward the Rocky River steel bridge," he said. "I've always looked at the stars and I saw a bright light in the sky..."

Eudy's memory went blank at this point. The next thing he

remembered, without Pinneau's aid, was driving south on Morgan Mill Road, at G. B. Helms' store, en route home.

He didn't recall how he'd traveled from the bridge, which connects Sikes Mill Road with Stanley County, to the store, a distance of about eight miles. Eudy arrived home about 6:20 a.m. "My eyes were just burning like anything," he said. "My skin had a sensation of stinging and itching."

The pain went away after several days. Eudy said he didn't seek medical aid, but treated his fingers and ankles with rubbing alcohol and lotion. He also put drops in his eyes to ease the discomfort.

His session with Pinneau has allowed Eudy to reconstruct some of what happened to him early that morning.

"The only thing I remember is being on board (a UFO) and seeing an astronaut in a suit," Eudy said. The being stood about 5 feet tall, and had two arms and two legs. Eudy said the being's face was covered by a dark-colored visor. "The person never spoke a word," he said.

**HE REMEMBERS** he was first in a well-lit room. Both the room and the being's suit were a light, metallic color, Eudy said. He believes the craft was oval-shaped.

"The inside was designed like a cockpit of a plane," he said. "I wanted to know how it operated." Eudy now remembers asking a lot of questions about how the craft worked.

After a few minutes in the first room, Eudy was taken into a second room, which was darker than the first. "I was scared," he said. "I was put in a chair like a doctor's chair and strapped down. I

think (he was) running tests on me."

Pain in his fingers afterward made Eudy speculate the being took a blood sample from him for analysis.

In retrospect, Eudy believes the craft was propelled by some form of magnetism, and that it was able to pick up his car and move it. He said he still doesn't remember crossing the bridge over the Rocky River or entering or leaving the UFO.

He feels the relaxation process he underwent was a beneficial experience. "It brought back things I thought were true, and it eased my mind because I knew that I wasn't just dreaming up stuff."

Eudy hasn't told many people about the experience or about his session with Pinneau.

Part of the reason for his relative silence has been his job as a salesman. "You don't want to put yourself in a position where people are skeptical of you," he said.

**EUDY SAID** he initially believed he should not become involved in the debate as to whether UFOs exist. Although he believed in them before that night, he acknowledged that many people still don't believe in them.

"Some people just don't believe they're other (beings) out there," he said.

But a concern that people who have seen UFOs might be inhibited from speaking up led Eudy to change his mind and agree to talk to *The Enquirer-Journal* about his experience.

"They're other people who've seen things and maybe now they'll step forward and tell it like it is," he said.

TRANSCRIPT, North Adams, MA

Nov. 6, 1981

CR: J. Greenwood

## Policeman, others spot celestial body

**WILLIAMSTOWN** — Police here and several witnesses report that a bright object was spotted in the sky moving from west to the east over Pine Cobble Mountain around 8 p.m. Thursday.

Kathy Fraser, program coordinator for the Williamstown Boys' Club, Michelle Schroeder of Locke Avenue, and Williamstown patrolman Jeffrey Card, as well as several youngsters at the Williamstown Boys' Club, reported sighting a circular object with bright lights hovering over Pine Cobble Thursday evening.

"We don't know what it was," said Police Chief Joseph J. Zoito Jr. "We're not saying it was a UFO."

Patrolman Card was dispatched to the area of Maple Street and Cole Avenue around 8 p.m. Thursday after Ms. Fraser telephoned the police department reporting the object.

Youngsters, Ms. Fraser, and Ms. Schroeder were on the sidewalk in front of the Boys' Club and Eddie's Market when patrolman Card arrived at the scene. The witnesses pointed in the direction of Pine Cobble Mountain where a bright object moved from the west to the east about one-half mile above the tree line, police said.

Following the incident, the youngsters in the vicinity kept staring into the sky and in the direction of Pine Cobble.

Albert Cummings III of North Hoosac Road was advised to shut off the lights at his home because youngsters were mistaking that for the object that was reported to be seen in the sky earlier in the evening, police said. The object was mistakenly thought to have settled in the north.

The Cummings incident and the object sighting were separate incidents, police said.

## UFO's get national attention:

## Interglactic airport at Pine Bush?

"There are more things in heaven and earth,  
Horatio, Than are dreamt of in your philosophy..."

by Audeen Reilly

PINE BUSH — When Shakespeare wrote these words in "Hamlet," he could have been describing the way some people in Pine Bush feel about those starry heavens above.

"I don't believe in it myself. But, my son, now, he can talk your ears off about it."

So says the mother of Harold Hunt, one of several Pine Bush residents who say they have seen strange things in the skies above this rural community.

Hunt himself could not be reached for comment by press time. But he was one of several residents described in an article in the current issue of *Omni* magazine as having witnessed UFOs in Pine Bush.

Titled "The Pine Bush Adventure — UFO Update," the *Omni* article cites various UFO sightings in and around Pine Bush throughout the last several years. Most of the sightings have been of strange lights that scientists and other experts could not explain.

Some of the sightings have allegedly been of more than just eerie lights. One resident cited in the article, Robert Comeau, was described as having seen an actual "object hovering above his home."

According to *Omni*, Comeau said: "I could hear it whirring, like a turbine sound. I glanced out the window and this disc-shaped silvery object was hovering a few hundred feet from my home. It was approximately one hundred feet in diameter with a row of windows around a domed top."

Comeau declined to talk to a *Citizen* reporter. His wife said, "He'd rather not talk about that."

But she did say she had seen the object herself and said that a photograph of eerie lights that accompanied the *Omni* article is "very true to life."

"This isn't something people talk about," she said. "People laugh at you. But once in everybody's life, they'll see some kind of phenomenon. We've gotten calls since the article came out from other people who've said they saw strange things too."

According to the N.Y. State Police, there have been no reports "within the last couple of months" of UFOs

in the Pine Bush area. In fact, one State Police spokesman said, "In my experience of about 20 years in this county, I've heard of some through the years. But I don't remember reports of any heavy amount of sightings in any one area."

Town of Crawford police chief Dan McCann, on vacation according to the State Police who answer calls to the Town of Crawford police when no one is at the station, could not be reached for comment on any reports of UFO sightings to that police department.

*Omni*, described by the New York Times as a three year old science fiction/science fact monthly magazine, evidently thought enough of the incidents in Pine Bush to send a reporter who spent quite a bit of time here.

Harry Lebelson, author of the Pine Bush article, described himself as a field investigator for the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization. He says he had "cautious skepticism" about the events in Pine Bush but showed some photographs taken of strange lighting there to a physicist from the Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, N.J.

"He thought the photos were significant and merited specialized analysis," Lebelson says in the article. Also according to Lebelson in the article, a noted astronomer, asked to comment on the Pine Bush photos, "distinctly separated them from any natural phenomena when he said, 'I'm unable to interpret these images as atmospheric electricity. They may be something totally unknown to us at this time.'"

Lebelson leaves the reader with this statement. But the people of Pine Bush — some of them at least — are convinced there are indeed "more things in heaven...than dreamt of."

In fact, according to some old-timers, Sam's Point at the southern tip of the Shawangunk Ridge between Ellenville and Pine Bush — and the highest point around — is believed to be a rendezvous point for UFOs.

Perhaps one day, science will be able to definitively prove one way or the other whether UFOs do indeed exist and whether they are from planets with life forms of a higher or equal intelligence than here on Planet Earth.

But, until then, some Pine Bush residents just sit back and smile. They know for sure already.

## UFO reports hovering over Tucson

Tucsonans have been looking to the sky and seeing what they believe are unidentified flying objects for the last two nights, and nobody seems to know for sure what the lights are.

John Robinson, a disc jockey at radio station KTKT, said he received three- to four-dozen calls last night from listeners who had seen lights in the sky that they didn't think should be there.

At least as many people called the radio station Monday night with similar reports, he said.

Some people reported that the lights seemed to be hovering; others said that the lights were moving at a high speed, Robinson said, noting that there was no consistency to the calls last night.

A caller to The Arizona Daily Star last night said he saw small, blue lights that zipped back and forth several times in the sky south of the city.

So what were these lights?

Maj. Joe Mensching of the Arizona Air National Guard said pilots were night training in A-7 aircraft Monday and yesterday. Night training is usually only done every three months or so, he said.

However, the A-7s have green and red lights like commercial planes, and people shouldn't be noticing a difference between the planes, he said.

Gary Mechler, a public-information officer for Kitt Peak National Observatory, said there were no reports at the observatory Monday night of unidentified flying objects. He cautioned that, given the right conditions, stars can take on bright colors and seem to move.

TIMES HERALD, Port Huron, MI - Sept. 21, 1981

## UFO film doesn't fill void

By JOHN F. BROWN  
Times Herald Reporter

Hopes were dashed this week-end that pictures taken by a Marysville youth of lights over Port Huron Sept. 14 might give investigators a look at an unidentified flying object.

The three pictures taken by Steve Vachon, 15, were blank.

Hundreds of people throughout Michigan reported seeing four lights in the sky between 9:30 and

10:45 p.m. Three of the lights appeared in a triangular pattern, with the fourth light trailing off to the side. Most of the people who saw the lights said they were stationary for a time and noiseless.

An investigator for the Investigation Committee on Aerial Phenomena believes the lights were from several planes that were refueling.

Jack Thompson, Warren said: "I still can't explain the lights, but I'm convinced it was a refueling exercise."

Dr. J. Allen Hynek, Evanston, Ill., a world authority and head of the Center for UFO Study, said he received five telephone calls from people who saw the lights.

"These things usually turn out to be aircraft, but what the people saw in your area seems to have

been going too slow to be a plane or helicopter," Hynek said. "These people definitely saw something — something that still isn't explained."

"It certainly is interesting, and merits much more investigation. I can't give you chapter and verse, but we've had many more sightings in your area in past years. And this recent sighting is much the same as the one in Center-ville, Mo., not too long ago. The same type of lights — moving too slowly to be aircraft."

"I really believe the government knows much more about this than they are telling us."

Hynek is an astronomer and a former professor at Northwestern University. He was asked to assist in investigating UFOs by the U.S. Air Force in 1973 and is considered a leading authority on the subject.

## Strange lights remain in skies near Lexington

By MARIE WHITE  
Telegraph Correspondent

LEXINGTON — The strange lights still are here. The most recent report of a sighting of unidentified lights in the Lexington community was received by the Dawson County Sheriff's Department Thursday when lights 30 or 40 degrees above the horizon were observed at 10:35 p.m. about 10 miles northeast of Lexington.

H.C. Pierce, Lexington police officer, said in an interview Friday that he had observed these strange lights many times. He described the first one he saw as "a bright, white light with rapid movement."

There were two of them which came together, then one moved to the east and later the other moved to the west and officers followed the light five miles before it disappeared, he said.

Lights have been sighted in different directions, northeast of town, north of town and the southwest. Pierce mentioned that sometimes there are three of the lights forming a sort of triangle.

"Sometimes I watched them for over an hour," he stated, "before they fade away or seem to move away."

Officer Pierce, Officer Allen Brummet and Officer Steve Finke, all of the Lexington Police Department, consulted with Professor Elmer Kral of the Grand Island School system recently while in Kearney to film an interview about the UFOs. (The UFO filming will air Oct. 3, at 5 p.m. on the NTV Focus program.) Kral is an authority on UFOs and has worked on solving similar sightings across the state of Nebraska.

"Kral said he feels that these lights are a natural phenomena caused by heat waves rising against a colder atmosphere," Pierce said.

The movement of the UFOs is thought to be caused by the movement of the earth, the officer said.

TELEGRAPH, North Platte, NE - Oct. 21, 1981 CR: T. Cook

## No explanation found for object in NP sky

There is no explanation for an airborne object that was picked up on radar by airport officials near North Platte early Monday, according to the director of the Unidentified Flying Object Reporting Center in Seattle, Wash.

A number of area residents, including weather service specialists and law enforcement officials, observed a saucer-shaped object with flashing lights early Monday.

Robert Gribble, director of the UFO center, said that many of the objects being reported in this area are bright, scintillating stars, in particular Sirius.

Gribble said the center had been receiving calls from all over the nation about the star Sirius, a star in the constellation Canis Major, the brightest star in the sky and about 8.7 light years from earth.

The UFO office had received about six calls from the North Platte area

since Monday, it was reported.

But, there is no explanation for the object sighted on radar at Lee Bird Field and observed by Robert Newland, National Weather Service radar specialist at North Platte, the Seattle official said.

Newland used a low-power scope to observe the object. Other officials also reported seeing the object.

There were no aircraft reported in the area at the time, Gribble added.

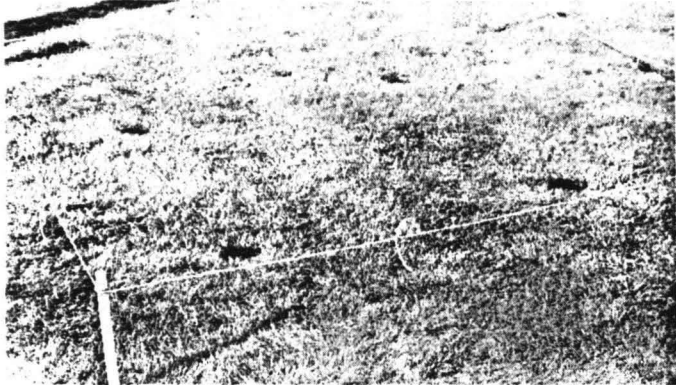
The investigation was impeded, however, by the distance of the object, Gribble said.

"They're all describing this as being quite a distance from them," Gribble said.

Don Mowers, dispatcher at the North Platte Police Department, said that the office was referring calls to the UFO center in Seattle. He added that he had received about three calls Tuesday night.

TELEGRAPH, North Platte, NE - Sept. 26, 1981





## UFO or hoax?

Four scorched circles, approximately five inches across and four feet apart, were discovered in the back yard of home near Auburn Thursday. The residents, who requested anonymity, don't know if

the strange circles are evidence of a UFO visit or a practical joke. A UFO expert from Northwestern University is reportedly on his way to investigate. (Star photo by James Kroemer)

## UFO or pranksters? Expert may decide

By JAMES KROEMER  
Star Editor

Did a small, silent alien spacecraft land in DeKalb County sometime Wednesday night, or is someone merely playing an elaborate practical joke?

A professor from Northwestern University reportedly is on his way to the county today, and his visit may provide an answer.

Until then, mystery still surrounds four evenly-spaced circles of deeply-scorched grass in the back yard of a home not far from Auburn.

The owners of the home say they know nothing about the mysterious circles, which look like they could have been made by the landing gear of a small craft of some kind. They agreed to talk to this reporter, and allow photos to be taken, only after extracting a promise that their names and the location of their home would be kept secret.

The physical evidence would suggest that if a UFO landed, it would have been a tiny one. Its occupants could not have been any larger than small poodles.

The four circles are approximately five inches in diameter each. They are equally-spaced, four feet apart in a perfect square. The blackened circles are burned clear through thick grass down to the ground.

Just outside each circle, the ground is gouged to a depth of about two inches, as though a rigid leg hit the ground with some force.

Are the circles the spots where the small spacecraft's rockets burned the grass away, or was someone simply playing with matches?

The owners said they discovered the mysterious evidence in their back yard Thursday morning around 6 a.m. The woman who lives there said the scorched circles were not there at 10 p.m. the night before, when she went out to walk her dog.

But during the night, the family saw or heard nothing. Their second dog, a spaniel who stays outdoors in a pen, made no noise during the night, and the woman said, "he usually barks at anything."

Also, area police had no reports of strange lights or noises in the sky Wednesday night.

When the scorched circles were examined after daybreak, a powdery, metallic substance was found in one of them. A police officer scraped up the substance and put it in a plastic bag.

It will be examined, along with the site, by noted UFO expert Dr. J. Allen Hynek of Northwestern University, when he arrives today. He was said to be rushing to DeKalb County to examine the evidence before it rained, and asked the family to rope the site off and not let anyone get too close.

Dr. Hynek has reportedly worked closely with the U.S. Air Force on other UFO reports.

WOWO Disc Jockey Rob Westaby, who recently did a series of reports on UFOs, was also contacted about the "landing," and may visit the site today.

Meanwhile the family, and their few neighbors and friends who know about it, are trying to figure out if the strange, blackened circles are evidence of a landing by some alien vehicle or just an elaborate hoax.

# He doesn't know what he saw, but he saw it

By LOUISE PHILLIPPINE  
Express Staff Writer

EASTON — The two mysterious, disk-like objects shone brightly high in the sky above the rooftops of the homes in Easton's West Ward Thursday night, drawing before the eyes of Charles Stanley of Ottsville.

Stanley was watching the 11 p.m. news at the home of his friend, Ethel Wheeler, 1108 Elm St., when a bright light in the sky caught his attention.

"I was checking the parking lot (near Wheeler's apartment house) because there's a lot of vandalism around here when I looked up and

saw this thing shining in the sky," Stanley said.

No, he said, he wasn't drunk or crazy. He just saw what he saw.

At first glance, the 56-year-old man said, the shiny objects appeared to be about 2 inches in diameter and were stationary in the cloudless, star-filled sky.

After watching the mysterious objects for about 15 minutes, Stanley said, he went back into Wheeler's apartment to get his binoculars.

What he saw through them was a strange and eerie sight.

"There was one disk that moved up and down and from side to side

in short strokes," he said. "Then it would turn over on its side so you could see it was disk-shaped."

Stanley said he saw one or more similar objects rapidly orbiting the center disk.

"They were lit up like a Christmas tree — all colors," he explained. "There is no way to tell the altitude or distance of how high they were in the sky."

Stanley wasn't the only one who saw the mysterious objects.

"I got witnesses so people didn't think I was on dope, drunk or nuts," he said.

Grace Miller, who lives two floors

below Wheeler in the same apartment house, remembers the objects as being purple, blue, green and red in color.

"I don't know what in the world it was," she said, "but I came back in (her apartment) and stayed in. That scared me."

Stanley said the objects didn't frighten him, but aroused his interest.

He said he's sure it wasn't an United States airplane or some foreign aircraft.

"I know all the different aircraft of different countries because that was my job in the Office of Special

Investigation when I was in the Air Force," he said.

"It could have been some secret project from some other country," he said. "Being in the north sky, it could have been something the Russians made."

According to Seldon Schroyer, a weather specialist at Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton Airport, there's no explanation for the sightings.

"We got no messages of decaying satellites coming back to earth," he said. "Usually, if there's something coming down, they let us know."

Stanley said he doesn't rule out the possibility that the object could have been from another planet.

"Probably a million miles from here, there are other forms of life on other planets," he said.

## Unidentified flying object 'big as a house' is spotted

At least six persons reported seeing an unidentified flying object in two locations in the Tylertown area last Tuesday night hovering Highway 27 south before moving off to the west.

Mrs. Nell Martin said that her son, Tony, and his wife spotted the object while driving south on Highway 27 near her home.

Roanie Conerly and his mother, Mrs. John Conerly, sighted the object from the patio of the Conerly home. The sightings took place about 9 P.M.

FEDERAL AVIATION Agency (FAA) officials at the Pike County Airport said they had no reports of UFO sightings on the night of Sept. 18.

Mrs. Martin said that her son and daughter-in-law pulled into the

driveway of her home after seeing the object hovering over the highway.

"They watched it for four or five minutes before coming into the house to tell me about it," Mrs. Martin said.

She described the object as a "V-shaped cuplike object. It had different colored green and yellow lights in four sections all around it," she added.

THE OBJECT made no sound while hovering over the highway and the L.E. Pigott home where Mrs. Martin resides with her parents. She said that the craft made a "strange loud noise" as it moved off to the west. The object displayed different colored lights as it moved away, she added.

Roanie Conerly said he first thought the object was a blimp as it moved across the rear of their home near Pine

Acres Subdivision south of town off Highway 27 south.

"It was as large as our house and near tree-top level. The lights were about like Tony (Martin) described them" he added. "My mother and I were watching it from the patio and it first looked as if it might land. We turned off the lights to see what would happen, but it didn't land," Conerly explained.

PERIODIC sightings of UFO's have been reported in the Tylertown area over the years with the incidence of reports seemingly higher in the fall of the year. Last year, residents of the Sandy Hook and Enon communities reported sighting flying objects unlike any known aircraft.

# 'There are people from other worlds'



HERB WELCH/STAFF PHOTOGRAPH

Charles Hickson: "I've been contacted by these things through my mind and I believe I'll be coming in physical contact with them again."

## Charles Hickson claims further contact with aliens from UFO

COPYRIGHT, THE SUN, 1981  
By STEVE RILEY  
SUN STAFF WRITER

Eight years have passed since Charles Hickson and Calvin Parker sent the city of Pascagoula into a UFO tizzy and gained international notoriety with their story of being carried aboard a football-shaped spacecraft.

Pascagoula is quiet now; little is said about the events of Oct. 11, 1973, when Hickson and Parker say three five-foot creatures emerged from a spaceship on the west bank of the East Pascagoula River, floated them aboard the craft and examined them with an eye-like instrument.

A chat with Hickson now seems normal, if talking with a 50-year-old about his encounter with robot-like beings from another world can be considered a run-of-the-mill activity. He sticks with the story, his deep voice ringing with sincerity.

Suddenly, the ice-blue eyes flash, coming out of hiding from behind heavy, restricting eyelids.

Charles Hickson has a new story to tell. And this one's more bizarre than the last.

"I have been contacted by these things through my mind and I believe I'll be coming in physical contact with them again," Hickson says.

Why has he been contacted?

A long, involved answer comes, spoken slowly but without hesitation. Hickson believes the beings want to help earthlings achieve peace and says he has been chosen as one of 12 people to help spread their word.

"We're an aggressive type of people," he says. "We don't have one body of government. You've got hundreds of nations all the time in battle with one another."

"... These beings from worlds up there, if they were to come down here now in their craft, or spacecraft or whatever you want to call it, the first thing we would do is take up arms and try to destroy them."

"It's not going to be that way," he continues. "Things are going to keep happening and people are going to realize that we are not alone, that there are people from other worlds. Those people are going to come down here and they're going to have people prepared for them on this earth to help them let the world know that they are up there."

"I'm going to be one of them. There are going to be 12 people and I'm going to be one of them."

Hickson realizes this story could meet with even more disbelievers than did the abduction scenario. "But," he says, "I'm prepared for it. In fact, I'm looking forward to it."

The aliens are peace-seeking creatures, Hickson says. "If something doesn't happen, our world's not going to be here very long. We're going to destroy ourselves. And they're going to prevent that. They're going to help us prevent that."

Parker, Hickson's fishing mate the night of the original incident, dropped out of sight after the alleged abduction and is now in south Louisiana. The Sun was unable to contact Parker last week.

Hickson says Parker will not be one of the "chosen 12"—all of whom have supposedly had contact with unidentified flying objects—but that he could have been. "... The beings that were controlling those robots tried to contact Calvin through his mind" but it didn't work out, Hickson says. "So Calvin's not one of the 12. He knows that now. They don't bother him anymore."

Hickson won't say when he was contacted, but says the revelations also have helped him cope with the ordeal. "Since this has been revealed to me," he says, "it's eased my mind. I can go ahead with my everyday work, be with my family and not worry about those things. I know what's going to happen now, so that burden is off of my mind."

He also refuses to elaborate on exactly what he believes is going to happen because he has finished

a book, *The Pascagoula UFO*, which he hopes will be published by the end of this year.

"I want the book to come out first," he says. "I'm going to start lecturing again, I'm going to go on national television. I'm going to reveal to the world what's going to happen."

All of which points to the possibility that Hickson's new story is a publicity-seeking stunt to boost sales of the 300-page manuscript, co-written by William Mendez, a Michigan professor.

Hickson firmly denies that. "I'll be honest with you," he says. "Now, I could have made millions of dollars already off of something like this but I don't believe in that."

"We've had two or three movie companies that want to make the movie on Calvin and me but we declined it for the simple reason [that] what they want to do is blow the thing up and make something that didn't happen. I know what happened to me and I don't want them to blow something up that wasn't there."

"All I want to come out," he continues, "is the truth of what actually happened to us and this book is going to be the truth."

The book, Hickson says, will reveal some things not yet disclosed about the time he and Parker say they spent aboard the spacecraft. "There were about seven months I didn't work any and we underwent hypnosis regression with one of the finest hypnotists in the country," he says. "There are things I can't talk about now that I saw aboard that craft and things that I know that have never been revealed yet."

Hickson declines to name the hypnotist or talk further about the book because of the involvement of the hypnotist and Mendez. "It wouldn't be fair for me to reveal any of those things," he says.

The odyssey that eventually placed Parker and Hickson under hypnosis began when they reported their abduction to the Jackson County Sheriff's Department. The department, which took the pair's original statement, was deluged by more than 2,000 phone calls by the national news media. Pascagoula attorney Joe Colingo, who screened the media for the pair, says the situation was "chaotic."

Hickson, who was working at the time with Parker at F.D. Walker Shipyard in Pascagoula, later took a polygraph test and was determined to be telling the truth as to what he believed he saw. Parker never took such a test.

Hickson now works for Universal Systems Inc. in Pascagoula, and his job requires him to commute to New Orleans daily from his Gautier home. He says the first few months after the incident were the most difficult.

"Of course, the first few months after it happened to me, I just couldn't seem to get myself together," he says. "I lost a lot of work and things like that."

"But as far as friends, we [Hickson, his wife Blanche and five children] still have the same friends and a lot more. We've never been ridiculed or anything like that."

Blanche, however, did have trouble understanding why it happened. "For a while my wife was real upset," Hickson says. "In fact, she seemed to be even afraid to go out with me at night or anything like that."

Numerous speaking engagements followed, including appearances on the Dick Cavett and Mike Douglas shows. "Up until about two years ago, I did a lot of speaking all over the country," he says, "but then I just didn't have time."

"I still have invitations from all over the country for speaking at universities and things like that, but I'm so tied up in my work that I really don't have the time for it."

But he'll soon make time for it—after his book comes out. Meanwhile, Hickson occasionally entertains a visitor interested in his story. Not long ago, a writer from a magazine in Greece came to see Hickson after an occurrence similar to the Pascagoula sighting had been reported in his country.

"He's going to send me a copy of it [the article]," says Hickson. "It's going to be in Greek, though. I don't know how I'm going to read it."

### Strange Night Lights Prompt Rash Of Calls

BBS, Sacramento, CA - Dec. 2, 1981 CR: N. Berg

The Sacramento Sheriff's Department and Mather Air Force Base reported a number of calls this week regarding strange lights in the sky. Callers claim to have seen a pattern of six or seven lights in a row, either moving or maintaining a stationary pattern.

An on-duty officer at Mather said Tuesday's sightings—in the vicinity of the Aerofel company—might be attributed to military aircraft. But even he admitted being a little puzzled. "That [explanation] might work for tonight," he said unsteadily, "but we had the same calls last night [Monday] and we didn't have anything flying. On top of that, they [callers] say the lights weren't moving. If it was one of ours, it would be moving."

The explanation, of course, is somewhere in the stars.



# In fall 1973, there was something in the air

By STEVE RILEY  
SUN STAFF WRITER

The fall of 1973 was a turbulent, strange period in both American and world history.

Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein were cranking out exclusive stories that would bring about the downfall of President Richard Nixon. Egypt and Israel were battling in the October war. The New Orleans Saints had won two games in a row for the first time in four years. Spiro Agnew resigned as vice-president after pleading no contest to federal tax evasion charges.

It was during this time that Pascagoula shipyard workers Charles Hickson and Calvin Parker said they had been taken aboard a spacecraft by creatures with crab-like hands and examined by an eye-like instrument.

Hickson and Parker, who reported their experience on Oct. 11, may have had the

most interesting UFO story of that fall, but theirs was hardly the only sighting during that period.

Reports of sightings cropped up all over the Southeast during the first three weeks of October, ranging from a minister who saw "a big red light" to a Long Beach taxi driver who later admitted his story of a tan creature tapping on the window of his cab was a hoax.

Some of the incidents included:

► A Hancock County family that said a UFO that looked "like a house all lit up" landed near their home and started a fire in a soggy field.

► The infamous cab driver hoax. John Lane told Gulfport police that a UFO floated down in front of his cab and a creature, tan in color, had pop-like eyes, lit up like light bulbs and a slit from one side of his head to the other. He later admitted he had fabricated the story, calling it "a joke that backfired."

► A young Grenada minister, the Rev. Clint Holley, who reported a "big red light" that seemed to glitter and change colors. He also saw another UFO that was "one solid, big bright light and going so fast . . . I've never seen anything go so fast."

► A sighting by a WKRG-TV reporter in Mobile that resulted in 3,000 area residents blocking Interstate 10 while seeking a rendezvous with the saucers. Following up on a call to the station, the reporter had gone to the spot the night before and got eight seconds of film of a mysterious flashing light.

The station's news director, Bill Haney, told viewers they could follow the reporter to the site the next night. Haney was expecting only a handful of people to show up; instead, more than 1,000 cars gathered near the station's headquarters. After following the reporter to the site, they spotted nothing.

REVIEW, Branford, CT - Oct. 1, 1981

UFOs over Stony Creek? At Friday night's Hot Dog Roast at the beach, attended by close to 40 kids, several witnessed a zig-zagging UFO shortly before 8 p.m. Eyewitnesses say that the "the little white spot" zig-zagged down from the sky above Pleasant Point over to Rogers Island, and back and forth. The spot changed colors — white, yellow, orange, red and blue. It then zig-zagged back upwards, and remained stationary as a white spot above Beldon's Island. It faded and disappeared; then reappeared and was joined by a "big white disk"; and then both disappeared. Bobby Lenihan called the Branford Police Station, but they didn't come down. Other eyewitnesses were Joan Sawyer, Jason Vincent, Brian Brycenski, Andy DaRos, Shannon Greenvall, Cutter and Ginger Smith and Tricia Monast. Did anyone else see it? Besides viewing UFOs, the youth ate and had a Treasure Hunt.

## UFO probably 'ball lightning'

By JOE MOSLEY  
Of the Register-Guard

Jim Trent and Linda Alderson didn't know what to make of it when they saw five dazzling red lights swoop down on their quiet Veneta neighborhood a week ago Sunday.

But on Monday, after comparing details of the sighting with other similar cases, an expert in the field of unidentified flying objects said the lights were most likely terrestrial and naturally caused.

Mark Rodeghier, a researcher and member of the board of directors at the Center for UFO Studies in Chicago, said that Veneta's strange red lights seem to fall into a category of UFOs tentatively identified as a rare natural occurrence akin to ball lightning.

Ball lightning is a rare lightning form emitted in glowing balls rather than bolts. Several UFO sightings in recent years have been attributed to ball lightning.

Rodeghier recently completed a study of 441 UFO sightings in which automobiles were affected. Veneta's lights seem to fall into the same "subset of events" as 14 of the auto-related incidents. The red lights seem to be a "geo-magnetic terrestrial phenomena" somehow linked to cool, fair weather, he says.

In each of the 14 cases Rodeghier studied, motorists were confronted by the luminescent red lights and their cars were affected. In one case, a battery was partially melted. In another, the horn, headlights and radio became inoperable for several minutes before gradually regaining full power.

"I've surmised that it's a geo-magnetic terrestrial phenomena somewhat like ball lightning, but it doesn't occur in thunderstorms as ball lightning always does," Rodeghier says. "It (the red light phenomenon) tends to occur in cool, fair weather, generally as a cold front passed through."

On Oct. 4, the evening Trent and Alderson were "visited" by the red lights, the skies had cleared after a week of frequent rain. The low temperatures most of the week had been in the mid-40s, but thermometers dipped to 40 degrees on that Sunday night.

"I was never really scared, but I could feel the little hairs standing up on my arms and the back of my neck," says Trent, who was watching television with Alderson in her home when five ruby-red lights swooped down on quiet McCutcheon Street.

"I guarantee we hadn't had a thing to drink and we weren't smoking dope," Trent says. "I don't believe they were flying saucers — just very strange lights. It didn't really scare us, it just amazed us. We were totally shocked."

What Trent and Alderson saw when they stepped out on the front porch of Alderson's home was a group of five dazzling red lights. One, which originally caught Alderson's attention when it shone through her front window, was resting on top of a car across the street. Another was "enveloping" a 5-foot high foxglove plant in a neighbor's

yard, and three others were darting around the neighborhood. Each of the objects was "about one and a half times the size of your hand," Trent and Alderson say.

A Lane County sheriff's deputy who was called to investigate the sighting said in his report that there was "no reason to dispute" Trent's and Alderson's reports, but no explanation for the occurrence was offered.

Rodeghier isn't certain about what causes the lights. "As far as the mechanisms that form this phenomenon go, I really can't say," he says.

However, Rodeghier says that a Canadian researcher has theorized that the lights, which usually last one to two minutes, are the visual effects of "piezoelectric fields," which in turn are caused by stresses in underground rock formations, usually quartz.

Trent says the Veneta lights, which looked like "something from ruby lasers," lasted three minutes at best, before they evaporated. "While they were romping around we just stood there and watched," he says. "Afterward we began walking around, checking the angles and such, because we thought they might have been from a super high-powered flashlight or something."

"But there weren't any beams."

## Area Skies Filled With UFOs

By Jack Mackey  
Bee Staff Writer

For three seconds, Joe Johns, 26, stared transfixed into the darkness of the Nevada County foothills.

As he later reported to the Nevada County sheriff's office, Johns saw what he described as an elliptical shape of white light.

He thought it was going to fall straight down into the canyon, but it stopped, level with the mountain-tops.

The object left a trail of light as it made the swift vertical descent, then suddenly darted back up, without a light trail, and disappeared.

It was brighter, Johns said, than any moon he ever had seen. He said he was on Highway 49, approaching the bridge over the South Yuba River, when he saw the object at 11:10 p.m. Monday.

Johns was one of five people in Nevada and Sacramento counties who have reported seeing unidentified flying objects since the weekend.

A caller who didn't identify himself reported to the Nevada County

sheriff's office that he saw an object at the same time and similar to that which Johns reported.

Tim Blanchard of Sacramento, who lives near the Rancho Cordova line, phoned The Bee at 2:20 p.m. Tuesday, minutes, he said, after he saw "an extremely bright and shiny object about 1,800 to 2,000 feet" in the northwest sky.

And an East Sacramento couple who asked not to be identified told The Bee they saw an oval, translucent object trailing a kite-like tail speed across the sky from northwest to southeast about 5 p.m. Saturday.

In Sacramento, Blanchard said he is familiar with all kinds of aircraft because of his interest in skydiving and general aviation, and he is certain that what he saw Tuesday "was no airplane."

"It was strange. I never saw anything like it before," Blanchard said. He was looking toward Watt Avenue, with his back toward Bradshaw, when he saw the object. He at first thought it might be a helicopter, but there was no noise.

Blanchard said he looked down for "a split second" and the object

disappeared. "I never saw this strong of a light in the sky before. It shook me up," he said.

"There have been a rash of sightings in Marin County, from Petaluma, Santa Rosa and Tiburon," said Tom Gates, an astronomer at Foot-hill College and a spokesman for the Bay area's UFO hot line.

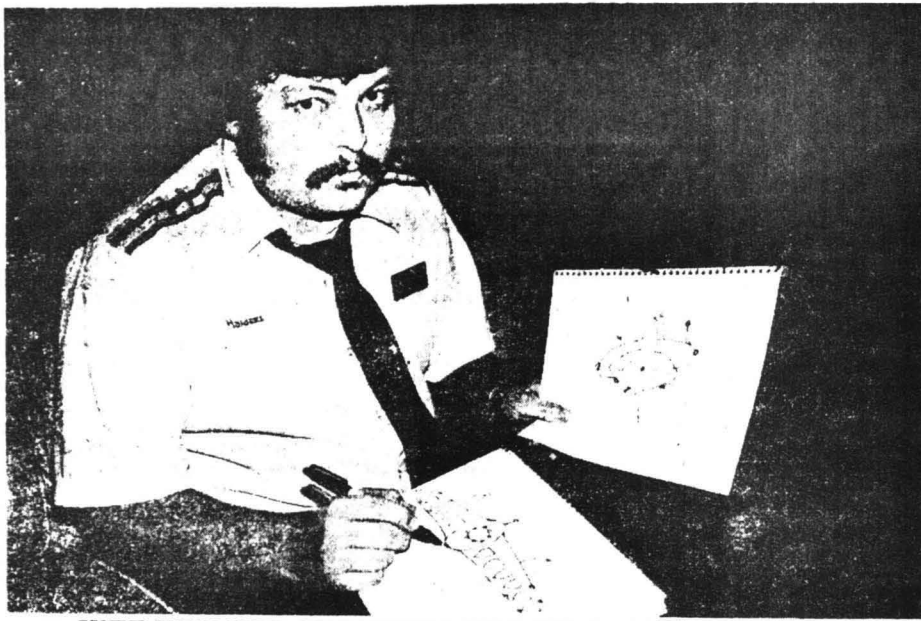
He said there have been 12 to 15 reports in October, including "some very close encounters."

One person, he said, reported seeing a disc-shaped object about 60 feet overhead, so close that a "humming noise" could be heard.

It's not unusual to expect an increase in the numbers of UFO sightings now, Gates said. Historically, there are more reports of UFO sightings in October than any other month. April and July are the other two busiest months for sightings.

The last reports of UFOs in Nevada County were in January and February of 1980.

At that time, mysterious multicolored flying objects in the sky were reported seen by eight persons who reside on two different ridges north-east of Nevada City near the South Yuba River.



**JEFF WYDNER SKETCHES UFO HE SAYS HE SPOTTED**  
Says Low-Flying Craft Hovered Over Highway Near Mooresville

## Decatur Man Believes In UFOs After Sighting

By CHRISTOPHER BELL  
Times Staff Writer

MOORESVILLE -- Before Wednesday night, Jeff Wydner believed UFOs "were possible," but after seeing an unidentified flying object, he is now convinced such spacecrafts exist.

Wydner, of 1804 Seventh St. S.E., Decatur, said he was returning from Huntsville about 9 p.m. Wednesday when he noticed a low-flying object drift toward Alabama 20, about a mile east of here.

"It was the size of a football field and hovered about 100 or 200 yards over me," he said.

Wydner, 22, manager of a Hartselle fast-food restaurant, said he watched as the object slowly passed in front of him, from right to left, turn "and kind of tilt backward."

"I had slowed down to about 15 mph and drove underneath," he said. "I drove a few more yards and started to pull off the road and looked back and it was gone."

Wydner said the egg-shaped object had many white lights and one bright orange light at the end of a pole in the center. He saw no green or red lights as on airplanes.

"It appeared to have thrusters or something across the bottom," he said, but, "I was right beneath it and couldn't hear a thing."

Wydner said he didn't see "any kind of a tail" on the object, which "hovered for about 15 seconds before it disappeared."

"I couldn't see anything made of glass at all," he added.

Wydner said he was surprised by the object. "It doesn't cross your mind you are going to see something like that," he said.

"At first I assumed it was an airplane," he said, but "it was getting lower and lower and finally stopped over me."

"All the lights were bright," he said. "All were regular lights and one was orange."

Wydner said he had passed a van "but I never saw him again." There were no other vehicles on the highway at the time, he said.

Wydner did not report the incident, but when he returned home he told his wife, Gwen. Mrs. Wydner said, "I called police to see if anyone else reported it."

After police advised patrol officers to be on the watch for such an object an anonymous telephone caller reported seeing an object in southwest Decatur but police discounted the call.

"I'm positive it wasn't an airplane," Wydner said.

"I always thought UFOs were possible," he said. "I'm a believer now."

## Down Witchpee Way

BY MARY MOONEY MEARS

It's late, the night about the ground is black. The trees and limbs are black and high up the sky is a deep blue-black yet the stars light up there. They are many. They form patterns and I am thrilled. I see my satellite barreling over the top of the western mountains. It looks like one half of a golden wedding ring. It moved rapidly and suddenly it's down behind the mountain.

The air is cold and crisp. Crickets sing with complete abandon. Sound's great. I love it.

Speaking of my satellite, one day Delphine Fountain, waiting in her car for her sister Ida Jean to have lunch at the Valley Inn called me, then we went in together. And we somehow got on stars and Ida Jean came and we ordered lunch. Out of my window I see the Trinity river, lots of willows turning yellow on the banks. We talk of my satellite that I watch quite often and I told her something I saw one evening.

It was a red star not too far from my satellite. It seemed stationary while the others leaped twisted and shone. Then the red star was gone. It was strange to have seen it up by the satellite as never before I had seen it. I stood gazing up, still wondering. When not too far from me as I stood by the small gate next to the barnhouse two tiny lights like candles shone wide apart, then they began to blaze, blue, red and grew quite large. As men had been logging about there I thought

maybe a fire was up in a big fir top.

I went quickly into the house onto the back or front porch that overlooks the river to see better. There was nothing, it was dark and only tree tops. So I went back to the gate and wondered what I was seeing — round golden balls big as a dinner plate. About seven of them seemed to bounce a few feet off the ground towards me. They came about 10 feet towards me then disappeared.

I went indoors and later while listening to the radio the announcer said something strange. Seemed like he mentioned Fort Beal and said a plane rose up and crashed, that something had been in the air all day.

Then I began to wonder if I had seen a U.F.O. and did I really hear. There never was more to be sure what I heard. The next evening I went out and three golden plate size balls bounced about the same distance from me. I thought if those are U.F.O. people I wish I could see them. They they were gone so I never did know what I saw. Looking at the road there were no marks where they bounced.

I went the next day to tell Doris Carroll, who was The Klam-ity Kourier editor then, but she was busy so I went home thinking probably it would sound funny if I told anyone. But Delphine and I got to talking and I told her. I think it would be a marvelous thing if I could see a U.F.O. I'd probably be too excited and scared: only I hope I'd have no time to be scared.

## UFOs Reported In Richford Area

RICHFORD — Several residents, including the town police chief, have reported seeing unidentified flying objects Thursday and Friday nights.

Chief Homer Combs said he was on Golf Course Road about 7:30 p.m. Friday when he saw two bright, orange lights to his west. One was about 3,000 feet off the ground and the other was 1,000 feet above it, Combs said.

"One light would go out and the one below would go on. They'd go back and forth. Sometimes they'd both be on and other times both be off," he said.

Combs said he called Roland Smith of the town ambulance service on his portable radio, and he also saw the lights. "He watched them for about 10 minutes," Combs said.

The chief said one of the lights went out, then the "other one made a sharp right turn and moved across the sky like you wouldn't believe."

Combs, who is a pilot, said the lights could not have been on an airplane.

Diane Gendron, who lives in Richford village, said she and a friend, Laurie Kennedy, saw the

same lights at the same time.

"I noticed them first and told Laurie to look and she also saw them. They kind of diminished....Then we spotted them to the left us, east of Richford."

"We had the scanner on and heard the police chief tell somebody about it," she said. "As soon as he mentioned it, that's when they blinked right out."

Ms. Gendron said she called Combs "and told him what I saw, and it was exactly what he saw."

Both said they lights made no noise. "Absolutely no sound, not one little bit," the chief said.

Combs said his brother Carlton and a hunting companion, Elton Duniken, saw similar lights Thursday night at 7:30. He said the pair reported that when they looked at the lights through their rifle scopes, they appeared red, but when they watched with the naked eye, they were orange.

"There was other people that saw them up on the Berkshire Road," Combs said.

Another sighting was reported to the Free Press by a man who did not want to be identified. He said the lights were "like nothing I ever saw before."

## Couple says road blocked by UFO

MADISON (UPI) — A deputy sheriff and his wife, a town selectwoman, said Monday they saw an unidentified flying object hovering over Route 43 that beamed a light at them and forced them to take another road home.

Harold and Helen Hendsbee said they spotted the UFO while driving toward their home in Madison after having dinner Saturday in Farmington.

"When we approached the hill, the object itself hovered on top of a hill and it lit up the whole hill, so we sat there and watched it," said Mrs. Hendsbee. "I didn't see any object, I just saw a bright light. It was probably about a telephone pole high and it was just stationary in space."

Hendsbee said he waited a few moments, then tried to drive over the hill, located in Starks about 11 miles southwest of Madison.

"It advanced toward us, then stopped in midair. I then backed up 30-40 yards and then stopped," Hendsbee said.

He said he tried three times to pass. "The second I started to go ahead the object came up again, shining the light right in my windshield. It was bright enough so I couldn't see in front of me," Hendsbee said.

"We had the feeling that it didn't want us to go up there," Mrs. Hendsbee said.

Hendsbee said that after 20 minutes, he turned around and drove home along Route 148.

Somerset County Sheriff William Wright said Hendsbee is "a very honest person" and that he believes the story "has a ring of truth about it."

"I can't visualize him making up any story like that. You have to believe what he said he saw," Wright said. "He doesn't drink. Not a drop."

He also noted there have been other recent UFO sightings in the area.

"I'd like to see something like this myself because it's no longer a laughing matter. There's been too many of them," Wright said.

The Hendsbees said they also saw the object earlier in the evening above the same hill as they were driving toward Farmington, although not as clearly.

A car carrying three men and one woman was parked along the road and Hendsbee stopped to see if they needed help.

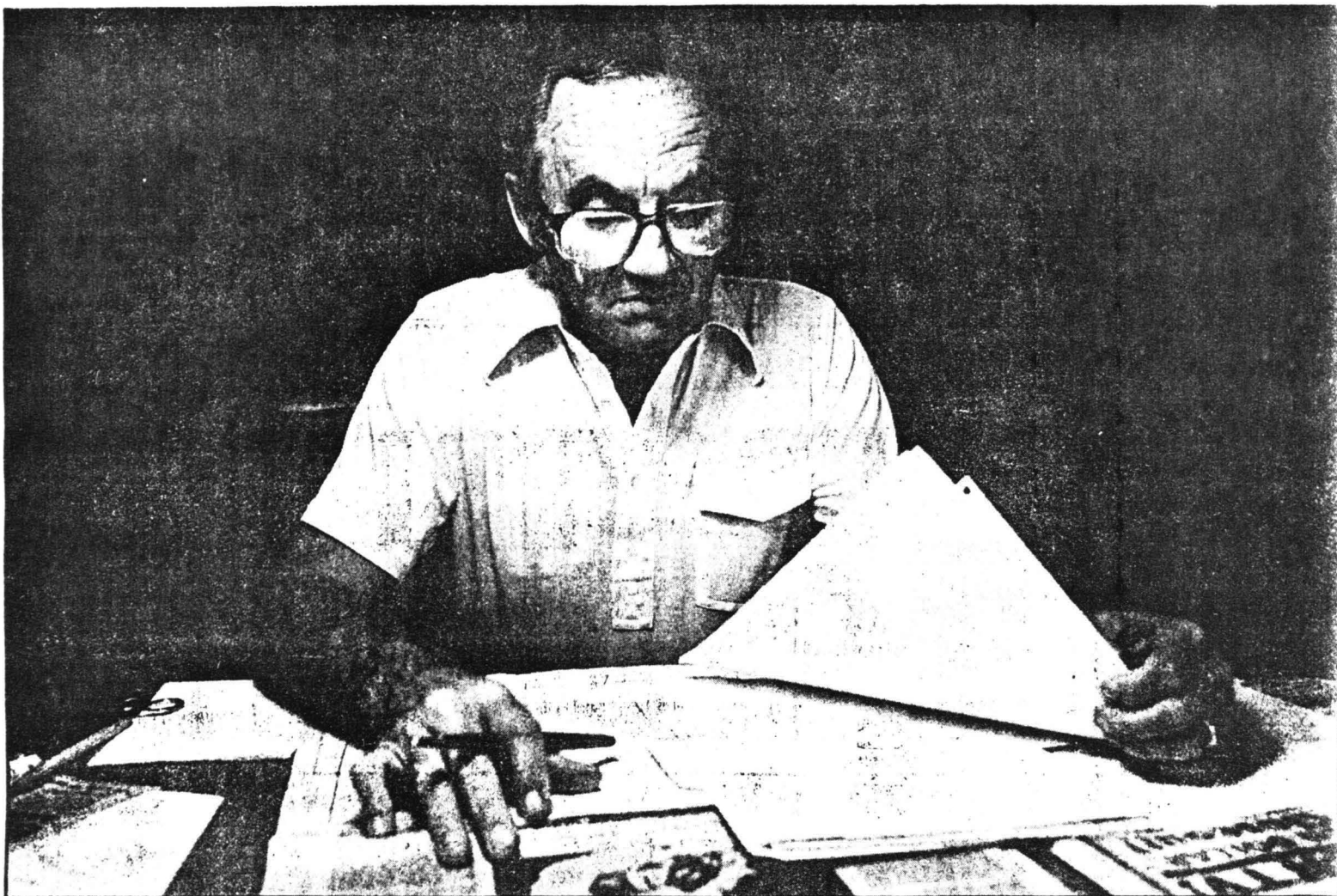
"One of the guys told me, 'Don't go up over the hill, there is a UFO up there. If you do, you are going to witness something you won't want to see,'" Hendsbee said.

"And then they drove off and I could see they were terrified," he said.

None of the other four people said to have seen the UFO were available for comment Monday.

Sgt. Ken Constant of Loring Air Force Base in Limestone said no official investigations were under way "because the Air Force is no longer official in the business of keeping track of UFO sightings."





Staff Photo by George Millener

Bob Pratt collects eyewitness reports of UFO sightings by traveling the globe to interview people who claim close encounters

## Alien Obsession

He Once Scoffed at Them, but Now Bob Pratt Is a Believer in UFOs

By Tom Duffy

Post Staff Writer

UFOs have taken control of Bob Pratt's life. He can't escape the grasp of their immense power. He has never seen one, doesn't think he ever will. But he believes there's something out there.

He's no kooky zealot, caterwauling on a street corner about little green men from Mars who want to enslave us.

First of all, the little men inside have only rarely been described as green. Secondly, they probably aren't from Mars, but from Earth. Thirdly, there's no evidence they want to enslave us.

Finally, there's the man himself. Bob Pratt is a reasonable, calm, objective 55-year-old man who to all appearances is sane. He enjoys tennis, classical music and watching football on television in his suburban Lake Worth townhouse. He is married and has a grown son living in England. He has been a journalist for nearly 30 years, holding a variety of jobs at a variety of newspapers.

And, Pratt says, one of his pet peeves when he was managing editor of a Virginia newspaper, was stories about UFOs. "I was sort of incensed every time, he says. 'I felt I was much too intelligent to believe something like that.'"

Then he went to work for the *National Enquirer*, the Lanatana-based weekly tabloid that has brought UFO reports into homes all over North America. At one time, the *Enquirer* was so enamored of UFO stories the mock headline "Spacemen Ate My Dog!" became a symbol for the paper's philosophy.

That was Bob Pratt's heyday. He traveled all over the world tracking down UFO reports for the *Enquirer*. But his time on the beat had an inauspicious beginning. One fateful day in May 1975, an editor who was pro-UFO (some liked the stories, some didn't) dropped 10 files about sightings on his desk.

"He told me to pick two and investigate them," Pratt says. "I really didn't want to do it, but I picked the two and went to Superior, Wis., for the first assignment. There had been a number of alleged UFO sightings in that area.

"I felt if you asked enough questions, you could figure out what these people really saw. I met with a UFO investigator and together we interviewed 60 or 70 people in that area. I asked every question I could ask and I came away impressed. These people were solid, reliable

'I have become, quite by chance, the world's most active UFO investigator. I averaged 50,000 miles a year, and one year I traveled 80,000. It was my job and it was my hobby.'

— Bob Pratt

citizens, not publicity seekers, and they were believable.

"I came to the conclusion that there was something there. Since that time I've talked to, say, 1,200 people. I became permanently assigned to UFOs by the *Enquirer*, and I traveled all over the world, to the Philippines, to South America, investigating UFO reports. I have become, quite by chance, the world's most active UFO investigator. I averaged 50,000 miles a year, and one year I traveled 80,000. It was my job and it was my hobby."

But, like all good things, it came to an end. UFO stories fell out of vogue at the *Enquirer* (there always was an anti-UFO faction there, anyway). And, one day, the inevitable ax fell on Bob Pratt.

But, by that time, Bob Pratt was a 99.9 percent believer in the reality of UFOs, and an ardent gatherer of UFO reports. So he has set about trying to find some way to "stay in the business."

He has two ventures in progress. One is a book, as yet untitled, that will summarize some of the more interesting cases he investigated and "some of my adventures in gathering them."

The other is a weekly column, *The World of UFOs*, which is offered to newspapers across the country. These are short columns, each of which involves one UFO incident. Unfortunately for Pratt, he is finding that too many editors had the same attitude toward UFO stories he used to have.

"I sent out a mailing of 700," he says ruefully. "I've only heard from 20 or 25, and only one ran the three sample columns I sent. If it doesn't get any better, I'll have to get a job, I guess."

While a true believer in the existence of UFOs, Pratt doesn't have any theories on where they come from, what they want or who they are. He feels fairly confident of what they're not.

"I see no evidence that they're extraterrestrial," he says. "If they were

from some planet billions of miles away, why would they come here, to one little planet? Why would they be concentrating on us? That just doesn't make sense.

"There are a lot of theories as to what they are. Some say they come from inside our minds, that they're a psychological phenomenon. Some say they come from the past, some say the future, time travel. Some say they're an after-death phenomenon, that UFOs are where we go when we die.

"Others say they come from inside the earth, and there's some evidence of that. Many people see them coming out of the water, that's a very common report. Maybe they're based there. Maybe they're based in space. Others have seen them rise up until they become a pinpoint of light, indistinguishable from the stars.

"One woman I talked to in Alabama said she saw a large, cylindrical object flying through the air and it just disappeared like someone was taking bites out of it, like the hamburger in the commercial."

If Pratt has no trouble believing people who saw UFOs, he has a lot of trouble believing the government's UFO policy, which is to ignore reports. It finished its investigation in 1969 saying that no evidence had been found to indicate the UFO phenomenon posed no threat to human life.

"I'm not convinced they're covering anything up, except the fact that they don't know much about it," Pratt says. "But it's funny. I investigated one report of six UFOs that were tracked, by military radar, back and forth across Lake Huron. This went on for some time. The military said it didn't know what they were. I asked one of the military men why they didn't send planes up to intercept these UFOs. He said they didn't provide a threat to national security."

"If he didn't know what they were, how did he know they weren't a threat to national security?"

You can believe in UFOs and nobody will question your sanity. You can make reasonable statements — "I think there's a real good chance that UFOs are real; surely we're not alone in the universe" — and you won't lose your job or your friends or your credibility.

But heaven forbid you should actually see an Unidentified Flying Object and then tell people what you saw. Then you're certifiably crazy.

But if you do see a ball of fire rising into the air, or a glowing triangle the size of football field moving slowly across the sky, or a flying machine as big as Pittsburgh's Three Rivers Stadium, tell Bob Pratt. He'll listen to you — and believe.

THE POST, West Palm Beach, FL

Oct. 20, 1981

# The Strange World of UFOs: Bob Pratt's Favorite Stories

In more than six years investigating UFO reports, Bob Pratt has run across enough UFO reports to keep science fiction movie producers in material until the year 2000.

Many of them come from Brazil, which is such a hotbed of UFO activity. "they had to cancel night classes for two months in one area," said Pratt, who has been to Brazil six times. "If you went outside and turned on a light, a UFO would appear."

Here are two of Pratt's favorite UFO stories.

In 1976, three Kentucky women are driving at night from one small town to another. They see a strange object moving through the sky. It circles them, and then disappears. A few minutes later, a blue light appears behind them, and they're delighted because they assume it's a state trooper.

It's not. Their car begins to rock and sway. At first they don't appear to be moving, but the speedometer reads 85 miles an hour. A long, white road appears in front of them, a road that doesn't exist anywhere any of them ever has been.

Suddenly, it all stops, and they're in a town about 7½ miles away. But, they find out, it's an hour-and-a-half later than they thought it was.

The next day, strange physical symptoms occur: heavy menstrual flow, sore joints and muscles; one woman has a strange circular spot on her chest. They have no recollection of what could have happened to them.

"They were hypnotized, separately," Pratt said. "The stories they told were identical. Each told of being carried aboard a ship, and of things being done to them. They described these shadowy beings examining them, probing them, twisting their arms and legs. One woman described

how one of the beings pressed a circular object down on her chest — and that was where this unusual mark was.

"It was a tearful, painful thing for them to relive the experience. The pillows were soaked with tears. There was no doubt they believed the stories they told under hypnosis."

On Sept. 18, 1976, the Iranian air force picked up an unidentified blip on radar and scrambled an American-made Phantom jet to intercept it. Eventually, another Phantom joined in the chase when the first plane ran low on fuel.

The planes found that when they got within about 25 miles of the object, a cylindrical craft, their navigation and communications systems went out simultaneously. They tried to fire missiles, and found that the weapons system was out, too.

"One flew close enough to the craft to see the cockpit," Pratt said, "and the pilot's report said the mother ship released a smaller ball that chased him all over the sky."

"A message about this encounter was sent to the Pentagon and somebody leaked it. Eventually we found out the report was sent to the White House, the Defense Department, the Joint Chiefs of Staff — all over Washington. This is at a time when the government's official position is that UFOs offer no threat to national security. They said it was passed around only because it was an intelligence report, and the reaction to it officially was that it wasn't a very credible story."

"But an experienced UFO investigator analyzed the Iranian pilots' reports and said this was a 'classic UFO case.'"

— Tom Duffy

## 'Falling star' zips across evening sky

The bright light that flashed through the sky might have been a shooting star, a comet — it's too early for Haley's — or maybe, the gods were playing kickball Wednesday night.

Whatever it was, local police, the Gazette, the National Weather Service and the Shreveport Air Control Tower received several calls at about 6 p.m. from people wondering what the brilliant light was. None of the officials would venture a guess.

A spokesman for the National Weather Service in Shreveport said he had received calls from as far away as Longview, Texas, about the light, which was said to have been moving at a very high speed and left a trail similar to a jet's afterburner.

The light also appeared to be very low, but the spokesman said it actually must have been high in the sky to have been seen over the radius callers reported from.

The light was said to have been moving from east to west. A pilot at the Shreveport Municipal Airport estimated that the light was traveling at Mach 2, which is twice the speed of sound.

One caller said the object had a green light on it; one theorist at the Shreveport Airport thought it was a helicopter.

Similar reports were called in this week to law enforcement officials in the Little Rock area. Astronomers said then that the Earth was under a meteor shower, but National Weather Service officials said Wednesday night that, although they were calling the object a meteor, they were unaware of any meteor shower.

The spokesman at the Shreveport Air Control Tower said he was not usually informed of meteors by the National Atmospheric and Space Administration, unless it would affect his radio transmissions.

## No distress calls

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT, Little Rock, AR - Nov. 6, 1981

# Officials doubt jet crash

A jet reportedly ablaze near Hamburg on Thursday probably was just on low-flying military maneuvers, authorities said.

An Arkansas State Police trooper and sheriff's deputies from Drew and Ashley counties searched for two hours but found no wreckage and no trace of smoke. Officer Genie Kersten of Ashley County said.

"With the crash of a machine that large, there would at least be smoke," said Jim Butler, an inspector in the Federal Aviation Administration's Little Rock office.

Butler's office, the FAA's air traffic control center in Memphis and the Little Rock Air Force Base in Jacksonville reported no

distress calls or missing aircraft.

The FAA and the state Office of Emergency Services in Conway decided to call off the search since no evidence supported the original sighting, Butler said.

A jet fighter using its afterburner might resemble a crashing plane, said David Morrow, assistant chief at the Memphis center, which controls much of Arkansas' airspace.

"The afterburner gives them a sudden burst of speed for quick maneuvers," he explained. "When they kick in the afterburner, it sets out a ball of fire. Kind of like a blowtorch, only multiplied a million times."

The report came shortly after

noon from a woman who had talked to a truck driver over her citizens' band radio, Ms. Kersten said.

"He reported a jet ablaze and tumbling, two miles south of Fountain Hill and headed east," she said. Fountain Hill lies nine miles east of Hamburg in Ashley County.

About a year ago, deputies took several complaints about low-flying jets, she said. The FAA got similar calls and attributed the maneuvers to the U.S. Navy, Butler said.

This time, a spokeswoman for the Drew County sheriff's office said she had heard the jet was from a base in Mississippi.

# Cigar-shaped craft seen over L.A.

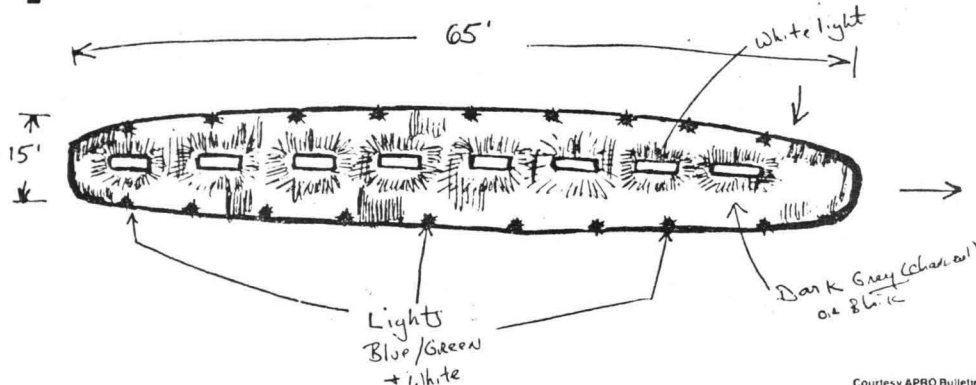
A large, low-flying cigar-shaped object with white lights shining from a row of "windows" and bearing green-blue and white "running lights" was reported to the APRO Bulletin. The object was sighted by a West Los Angeles resident on the night of April 19, 1981 at about 11:30 p.m.

Barry E. Taff reported that he was driving home from a visit with a friend in the city of Palms when he noticed something unusual in the sky as he crossed under the Santa Monica Freeway bridge. He was just coming up the grade from the underpass, parallel to a shopping center parking lot, when he noticed the object moving slowly no higher than 500-600 feet off the ground over the northeast corner of the parking lot at a compass heading of 40 degrees.

After ruling out the object as a helicopter, blimp, or other conventional aircraft, Taff pulled his car over and stopped to observe the strange sight. The object, which seemed about 2,500 feet from where he was standing, gave off no noise.

Taff wrote, "What made me so sure I was not observing any type of conventional aircraft was its basic structural design — that of a flattened, elongated cigar, with no tail section or wings of any kind. It is hard to imagine an aircraft staying aloft without any type of horizontal or vertical stabilizer."

He said that what appeared to be "running lights" were positioned along the top and bottom of the craft which alternated green-blue and white. There were also what looked like windows spaced regularly along the object's length which gave off an



Drawing of the craft sighted by Barry E. Taff over Los Angeles on the night of April 19, 1981. The cigar-shaped object made no sound as it moved slowly over a West Los Angeles parking lot.

intense white light.

Taff wrote, "The object itself appeared to be quite solid and its surface had a charcoal gray color and looked opaque." He said the object was slightly tilted toward the ground and was moving very slowly.

The object, Taff wrote, seemed to come out of the northeast, tilt towards the ground, and then turn away from his position to a point where he could not see the lights or windows. Then it appeared to begin moving back in a northeasterly direction until he lost sight of it.

The entire sighting lasted less than a minute and Taff did not pursue the object because he could not drive and look at the same time. Taff estimated the object's size at about 65 feet in length and about 15 feet high.

NEWS WORLD, New York, NY - Dec. 12, 1981



# Area man tracks UFO reports with writer

By JOHN SHERWOOD  
Staff Writer

Traipsing around the world — even eyeballing the Devil's Graveyard — in search of unidentified flying objects is the kind of thing Charles L. Tucker loves.

He took it in stride two months ago when he headed to Brazil to chase the elusive phenomenon, along with "The World of UFOs" columnist Bob Pratt.

Tucker, of Tekonsha, is a Cold-water native who has been probing UFO reports for almost 20 years. He is director of the International UFO Investigative Bureau, based in Nappanee, Ind., home of Tucker's firm, Superior Industries Inc.

Tucker also maintains business interests in Sturgis, but industry isn't his sole concern. His fascination is with UFOs.

That interest, he said, has led him to maintain contacts with many UFO experts as well as the 78 bases of the UFOIB around the globe.

He has been a state director for the respected Mutual UFO Net-

work, is frequently quoted regarding UFOs reported by the tabloid press and lists trips to Europe, South America and the Middle East in a quest for UFO information.

Tucker and Pratt — a Lake Worth, Fla., writer — met at a UFO conference in 1977 and remained in touch. According to Pratt, whenever his UFO investigations called for a field trip, Tucker often would pay his own way and accompany him.

In July, Pratt chose to probe UFO reports in Brazil, and Tucker joined him again. The trip began in August, Tucker said, and took them 400 miles along the Amazon river from Belem to Santarem, and into a region in the river Tapajos which the natives call the Devil's Graveyard.

For much of their weeklong stay in Brazil, the pair were accompanied by their airplane pilot and Maj. Uryange Hollanda, a Brazilian UFO investigator whom Tucker said was in charge of probing UFO reports for the Brazilian

government but whom Pratt identified as heading a local air-command investigation.

Tucker said Hollanda "cannot state the position of the Brazilian government (toward UFOs) but he has turned over documents, including more than 300 pictures and many documents supporting this phenomenon. And he himself has seen UFOs — and his eyes were even burned one time by a craft."

"We went down to investigate a number of UFO cases that have, for a period of a number of decades, happened almost daily," Tucker said.

"We were interested in what type of activities were taking place, in what type of UFOs were most common and in interviewing the people who had direct contact with the various events."

"We interviewed doctors, lawyers, teachers, village chiefs, fishermen and people of that caliber. We verified approximately 12 types of UFOs that are being seen continually in that area."

Pratt or Tucker did not see any

UFOs while in Brazil. "We weren't looking for ourselves. It was so short a time."

"What we found was that almost everyone in the area has experienced and seen UFOs," Tucker said.

"UFOs have been accepted there for decades, because many people have been seriously affected. The fishermen, for example: UFOs come over the area and light up the whole area with a bluish-white light. They (fishermen) are very fearful. Many of them will no longer go out at night."

"One teacher observed UFOs underneath the (river) water, with flickering lights," Tucker said. "A disc-shaped UFO rose out, dripping water, and zoomed off. The water goes about 200 feet deep there."

"He (Hollanda) and I feel there is a great possibility this particular area could be an underwater base (for UFOs). We are not saying it is, but I feel the United Nations should put together a scientific group and go into this area — with the permis-

sion of the Brazilian government, of course — and investigate for themselves . . . of course, if they already do not know these facts."

Tucker speculated whether UFOs have an extraterrestrial origin, or whether they originate in another dimension, or come from beneath the sea.

Pratt's own views are a bit more restrained.

"I don't believe in underwater civilizations and things of that nature," Pratt said. "While Tucker was with me, people told us they saw UFOs coming into and out of the water; that doesn't necessarily mean there's an underwater civilization. It's possible some UFOs are based under water, perhaps temporarily."

"I don't have any very far-out ideas about this phenomenon. You really don't have any way of knowing one way or the other," Pratt said. "I try to take a very objective attitude toward it. I think it's a waste of time to speculate, or to claim that UFOs are doing one thing or another."

JOURNAL, Alexandria, VA - Nov. 20, 1981 CR: F. Whiting

## UFO Group Fights for CAUS

By Sharon Page  
Journal Staff Writer

They're out there. They're UFOs, and they're out there. Just ask CAUS, the Citizens Against UFO Secrecy. The Arlington-based group believes in UFOs, and it believes the federal government believes, too. But although the government has evidence that UFOs exist, CAUS claims, it refuses to reveal the proof.

CAUS, which just lost a legal appeal for the release of about 135 National Security Agency documents, now vows to fight all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court for the right to view those documents.

"We have 60 days to file a notice of appeal," said Peter Gersten, a lawyer and co-founder of CAUS. "And we plan to appeal our case to the Supreme Court."

CAUS was formed "to seek the release of UFO documents and data from the government," said Fred Whiting of Alexandria, a CAUS spokesman.

Neither Gersten nor Whiting has ever seen a UFO. But both men have a firm conviction that UFOs exist, and they're willing to spend their own time and money, plus the money of "86 consistent donors," to prove their point.

Gersten said the government's UFO documents "prove that conventional objects do exist, and are part of an advanced technology. They also prove the credibility and reliability of the UFO observers."

"The government denies that UFOs exist," Gersten said in explaining why he feels the government won't release UFO documents. "If they release these documents, the government would have to admit that UFOs do exist and we don't know what they are."

"The government would be admitting they were either negligible or lying," he said. "Either way it would be embarrassing."

But agencies of the federal government feel different about the release of the classified documents.

Carolyn Johnson of the National Security Agency said her agency fought the document release in the recent court case because "as the appellate court decision stated, the documents were clearly related to National Security Agency activity and this fell within the protection of the claimed exemptions."

The exemptions centered on the fact that the material requested was "too sensitive" to be released, according to Gersten.

"We don't want anything that's sensitive or violates national security," he added. "But we do want the information on UFOs."

The National Security Agency is not the only agency the CAUS members are taking on to get documents they believe will prove that UFOs exist.

The U.S. Air Force is another target. "Now You See It, Now You Don't," an article on UFOs written by an Air Force captain, was published by the Air Force in October 1978 but the public has never seen it.

The article is among some 40 classified documents containing UFO information CAUS has requested from the Air Force under the Freedom of Information Act.

But the group expects that request to be turned down, as were CAUS's earlier UFO document requests to the National Security Agency.

"Ours was a twofold request of information from the Air Force," said Gersten. "First, we requested any and all documents on unknown trackings (UFOs), and we also asked for any and all documents relating to the 1975 sightings of unconventional objects."

Those objects were sighted by reliable military personnel in the vicinity of nuclear weapons storage areas, aircraft alert areas and nuclear missile control facilities, according to Gersten.

"We are in the process of putting our case together, so we can sue the Air Force if they turn down our request," he said.

Other agencies like the Federal Aviation Administration, the Coast Guard and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration have also released requested UFO documents to CAUS.

Under the Freedom of Information Act, groups like CAUS have won the release of more than 3,000 pages of previously classified documents on UFOs from the Departments of State/Army/Navy/Air Force/Defense, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the National Security Agency, the Central Intelligence Agency, and the Defense Intelligence Agency, according to CAUS's Whiting, who is also a member of CAUS's support group, the Fund for UFO Research Inc.

"The overwhelming evidence indicates that UFOs do exist," said Gersten after viewing the released documents.

CAUS believes the documents released thus far are only "the tip of the iceberg," said Whiting. "We had found evidence of other UFO documents in documents that have already been released."

By filing a request with one agency, CAUS has also discovered other agencies with UFO documents. But to obtain those documents, CAUS must file separate requests with the agency responsible for the documents.

TELEGRAPH, North Platte, NE - Oct. 20 (?), 1981 CR: T. Cook

## 'UFO' sightings perplex police, weather officials

By GENE BROWNING  
Telegraph Staff Writer

Flying saucers with strange lights were something found only in science fiction to a number of area residents until early Monday morning when a lighted object materialized over North Platte's eastern horizon.

"I have difficulty explaining it in my own mind," said Robert Newland, National Weather Service radar specialist at North Platte, who sighted the object on radar at Lee Bird Field.

The saucer-shaped object with rotating red, green and white lights appeared on North Platte's eastern horizon about 2:10 a.m., according to North Platte Police reports and reports from five North Platte residents. Tom Knobel, a Union Pacific Railroad employee who was working in the west general tower at Bailey Yard, called police after he spotted the object and had watched it through

binoculars.

"There were a lot of colors and it looked round," he said. After police received Knobel's call, Sgt. Mike Swain and patrolman James Agler went to the railroad yard to see for themselves.

They observed the object and two other objects. The other two were farther away and less distinct but were in the same general area of the sky.

Meanwhile, at the Lee Bird Field, Newland had received a call about the object and had sighted it on radar. He also used a low-power scope to observe the object.

He said three lights appeared to be rotating on a mobile platform on the object. As the lights rotated, he was able to see the object was saucer-shaped and was hovering near the horizon.

"It was rather low," he said.

"About 6 1/2 degrees above the horizon. It definitely was too low to be a satellite. And most of those move pretty fast."

One of the oddest aspects of the object was that it did not drift with the strong winds that were blowing at high altitudes Monday morning, according to Newland.

"It violates all laws of manmade objects," he said. "It was quite interesting that it was able to stay in one spot that close to the ground and for that duration."

Swain said he had no idea what it was but the fact that it was sighted on radar limited what it could be.

"The only thing we are certain of is that it wasn't a star and it wasn't any type of atmospheric condition," he said. "It's got everybody baffled."

Newland said the object did move occasionally but appeared to be ho-

vering and shifting with the rotation of the Earth.

After the two policemen visited Bailey Yard, they proceeded to the airport. There, Newland could only pick up one of the objects on radar but was able to watch the one object periodically. His first sighting was at about 2:10 a.m.

When Newland went to check on it at 3:05 a.m., the object had disappeared, he said. However, Knobel said he watched the object until it was obscured by the tower's eaves about 6 a.m. No one reported seeing the object actually disappear or go away, according to Swain.

Swain said that besides the sightings in North Platte, law enforcement officials in Lexington and Brady observed unidentified flying objects Monday morning.

After sighting the object, Newland

called the Federal Aviation Administration's center in Denver, where officials told him that no air traffic should have been in the area.

Newland and police then contacted a UFO research center in Seattle. Newland said he expected someone from the center eventually to investigate the sightings.

Sightings of unidentified lights and objects recently have been common in the area. The most recent sighting before Monday morning was on Sept. 24 near Lexington. Two Lexington police officers watched a bright white light with rapid movement.

Police had received several calls from persons who thought they had seen UFOs but that none of the sightings had been confirmed at 10 p.m. Monday.

# UFOs Flying Hillsboro's Friendly Skies

By BILL SANDERSON  
Monitor Staff Writer

HILLSBORO — Some strange things have been seen in the night skies over Hillsboro. They're said to be glowing orange, football-shaped, silent and fast. It would be easy to dismiss the sightings as pranksterism. The trouble is, quite a few people insist they have seen something in the sky.

One state official believes there is something out there. One local police chief has seen some of the objects himself. And one freelance photographer has spent a lot of time during the past few years documenting local residents'

took two dinner plates, and you put them rim to rim (one atop the other) . . . We stood there watching them. Then one of them moved horizontally to the left and went out of sight behind the tree line.

"I went down, and I drove over near the gravel pit. I tried to walk in, but the snow was about waist-deep, and it was 19 below zero that morning. I gave up on that venture, and the other set of lights had been gone before then."

Checking maps later in the day, Campbell, whose full-time job is as an engineer with the state highway department, figured that the objects were floating near a series of power lines in the area.

"There was something there," Campbell said. "If it was a helicopter or something, I would

firmed that Giglio reported the incident, but he said Giglio offered few details. "He said it scared the hell out of him," Hassler said.

The pictures Giglio shot that night show a small spot of light high up on Craney Hill. He later hired an airplane and sent his wife to get daytime pictures of the area where the UFO was. ("I hate flying," he said.)

The pictures show an old logging road on which the leaves nearby are slightly discolored. Giglio said that the discoloration was caused by microwave radiation coming from the UFO, but others aren't so sure.

"They showed me two pictures, and there was no problem identifying them," said Clarence Fitch, who manned the state fire tower on Craney Hill before it closed last summer.





















# Mutilation Mystery Engrosses Ex-Skeptic

By JANE SEAGRAVE

DULCE (AP) — Five years ago, Gabe Valdez didn't believe in aliens from outer space. That was before the steely-eyed state policeman witnessed his first cattle mutilation.

Now, Valdez says he just can't rule out the existence of extraterrestrial beings.

More likely, he says, a top-secret medical research project is responsible for the mysterious deaths of more than 90 head of livestock in New Mexico since 1975.

And despite skepticism from his peers, gentle chiding from his friends and an official report discounting his theories, Valdez refuses to be dissuaded.

"It doesn't bother me. I think they're ignorant," he says of his detractors. "It just makes me work harder to prove these people wrong."

More than a year after a former FBI agent concluded in a 297-page report that the "mutilated" cows were victims of natural predators, Valdez has vowed to get to the bottom of what he believes may be a massive conspiracy engineered by the federal government.

"There are some things I can't talk about now because they're under investigation," Valdez said in a recent interview at his home in this small community on the Jicarilla Apache reservation. "But one of these days it will break."

The 38-year-old career officer is not the kind of man one would easily scoff at.

Small but squarely built, he was named "officer of the year" by the State Police in 1977, largely for his part in the capture of a first-degree murder suspect.

The only State Police officer on the reservation, Valdez is often called on to break up fights in bars or intervene in domestic quarrels.

Valdez, raised the son of a Los Alamos janitor in the tiny northern New Mexico village of Cebolla, realized his lifelong dream when he joined the New Mexico State Police in 1969. The father of three young boys, he speaks with the earnest conviction of a man who is used to being listened to.

He rarely drinks, lifts weights in his spare time and — until recently — "never even even thought about" the supernatural.

"He's a realist, I can vouch for that," said his wife, Margie.

Valdez became involved in the cattle mutilation issue in June 1976 when a neighboring rancher reported a dead cow with what appeared to be strange incisions in its soft tissues.

On investigation, Valdez said he found a tripod-like imprint near the animal's carcass, resembling tracks that might be left by a helicopter landing.

Later, the officer received reports that an unusual orange light had been spotted by area residents around the time the cow died.

Although Valdez said he did not see the light on his first investigation, he subsequently has seen it "a lot of times."

"It goes slowly and then it goes quickly. It looks like an evening star, but it's orange," he said. "I bet at least 85 percent of the people in Dulce have seen it."

Ken Rommel, a former FBI agent, was commissioned in 1979 to investigate the alleged mutilations. He concluded in a June 1980 report that the livestock deaths were due to natural causes and that the "mutilations" were the result of scavengers.

To believe that the cows were deliberately mutilated, he said, "would require a wild imagination coupled with an ability to totally disregard the facts."

Rommel also questioned Valdez' credibility, quoting an unnamed associate of the police officer as saying Valdez sometimes "sees things that are not there."

For his part, Valdez said Rommel failed to investigate true mutilations.

The report "looks very convincing because it came from an FBI agent," Valdez said. "But everything he put in the report was speculation."

"I really don't know of an animal that can handle a knife or break a leg or put a clamp on a leg. You actually have to be a big fool to say that it's predators."

Since 1976, Valdez' name has been linked to the issue of cattle mutilations and he frequently is the first person called to the scene to investigate dead livestock.

Anticipating that his findings will be viewed with skepticism, he now "always tries to take along credible people to the scene of these mutilations."

The mutilations follow a general pattern, he said. In most cases, the animal's rectum, sexual organs and tongue have been carefully cut out.

The incidents usually follow reports of the strange orange light and of helicopter noises. Valdez is convinced that aircraft are involved.

But concrete evidence has been elusive. Valdez said ranchers have tried repeatedly to no avail to catch a mutilator in the act.

"You can sit there for months and nothing will happen and you might leave for the night and they will hit you," he said.

Valdez is becoming increasingly convinced that the incidents are carefully staged to appear supernatural, but he won't say for sure.

"I'm not going to commit myself and say it's not a human force, but there is at least some human involvement," he said.

The explanation he favors is that the federal government is using cows in a top-secret, defense-related medical research project. Orange lights and other devices are used to confuse observers into doubting what they see.

If Valdez has facts to back up his theory, he isn't making them public.

But to the State Police officer, the explanation isn't the product of a wild imagination.

"Who else is going to spend the money to hire an aircraft to kill a cow?" he asks. "Who has the damn money just to kill a cow and take its tongue. It's got to be the government. It's got to be something big."

THE SUN, Biloxi, MS - Nov. 11, 1981 CR: D. Titler

## 'Bigfoot' on Coast? Maybe, maybe not

By RICHARD ADAMS  
SUN STAFF WRITER

PICAYUNE — Official spokesmen at the National Space Technology Laboratories aren't talking about it. The Pearl River Sheriff's Department is calling it a hoax.

But people who saw several huge indentations resembling footprints at a gravel pit near the Honey Island Swamp last week are not so sure that the markings are the work of a prankster.

The size 27½, triple-F impressions were spotted Friday by a truck driver who was collecting gravel at a pit just off Miss. 607 in Hancock County. The pit is about three or four miles north of the NSTL Picayune gate and about two miles from the Honey Island Swamp.

Officials at NSTL were called to investigate the "Bigfoot" markings because it was believed that they were on government property, but spokesperson Elva Smith said that she had no information because the imprints were found on private land in the buffer zone surrounding the test site.

She referred all questions to the sheriff's department.

According to the official description of the prints from Pearl River Sheriff's Deputy Sam Bodie, the four-toed marks are 22 inches long, 5½ to 6 inches wide with one-inch long toes. There is an indication of a narrow area where an arch would usually be, Bodie said, but he said that the prints were not at all like human footprints.

(A shoe to fit that foot, said Tony Palazzo, owner of Palazzo Shoe Repair in Gulfport, would be a size 27½ triple-F. Palazzo said that the largest foot he has ever seen belonged to a 7-foot-1, 216-pound serviceman from Tennessee who wore a size 25 FFF.)

Bodie said that about 10-12 of the indentations were found in the area.

He said the department is handling the indentations as a hoax because he has information that the "feet" used in making the marks were manufactured by two employees at a business in the area.

Bodie said Tuesday that he had not talked with the two suspected pranksters, whom he declined to identify, but said that he received information

from another unnamed individual that the pair made the feet.

"I don't put too much faith in this bigfoot stuff. We haven't seen a bigfoot and we won't believe it until we see it," Bodie said.

Asked how positive he is that the incident is a hoax, Bodie said that his evidence is about "as solid as the footprints," which he described as being ¼ to ½ inches deep.

Deputies Bodie and Fred Reaster took pictures and made imprints of the indentations.

However, others who work at the test site are less than convinced that the whole thing is a hoax. One person, who requested anonymity, said that he believes the markings were made by someone or something that came from woods behind the gravel pit, made a sweep around weigh scales near the pit and returned to the wooded swamp.

When asked if he thought it was a hoax, the observer chuckled and said, "I really think it could be a hoax, but I don't know how to prove or disprove it."

The markings "have an orderly left-right left-right relationship to each other. With all the stories I have heard about the Honey Island Swamp I wouldn't want to discount it, but then again I wouldn't want to see it on a dark night," he said.

"If this is not a hoax, it took someone fairly heavy-set to make the imprints. There was one man who weighed about 250 pounds out there and he did not go as deep as the imprints," he said.

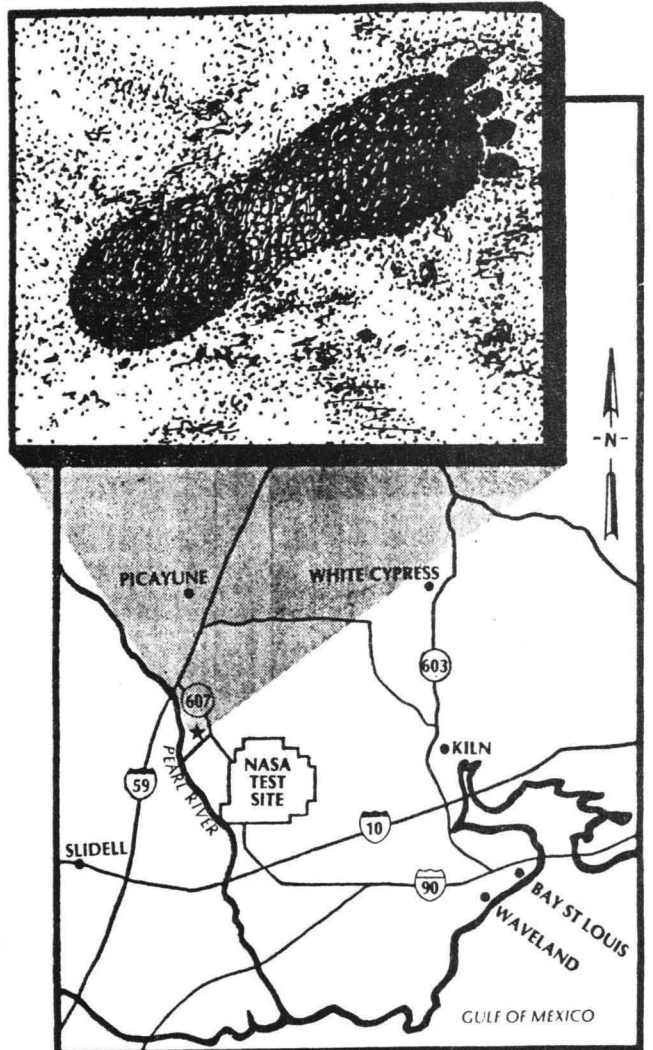
"Our minds just cannot buy something being that big taking that large a stride, about 4 to 5 feet between heel-to-heel," he added.

Another person on the scene Friday also remains puzzled.

"It didn't look like a hoax to me, but it is interesting that it occurred right after Halloween," said the man, who requested anonymity.

"I looked at [the tracks] and said 'Ye Gods.' They looked like bear tracks, but were bigger and there was no indication of front paws, from what I could tell," he said.

"The indentations were in good left-right left-right order," he added.



Artist's conception of print (top); Star notes print's location

# Stranger than strange things eyed at Fortfest

By James Robinson  
NEWS WORLD STAFF

The world is full of strange things — stranger than anyone imagines or can imagine.

Last weekend the University of Maryland hosted a festival to reveal some of these strange events, phenomena and creatures that have boggled men's minds and defied science. On October 17 and 18 the International Fortean Organization (INFO) sponsored the ninth annual Fortfest entitled "Strange Phenomena '81" at the university's student union.

Robert Anton Wilson, the guest of honor, spoke on both days, covering the topics of disinformation and the prospects for Utopia. The other speakers' topics ranged from the pitfalls of being a student of Fortean to tracing England's mystical past through the architecture of John Woods the Elder.

Raymond Manners, himself a veteran investigator of unusual events, emceed the program put together by the "febrile imagination" of INFO's Phyllis Benjamin. The Fortfest — named in honor of Charles Fort, the founder of *anomalology*, the study of unusual and inexplicable events — included an "odditorium" full of unusual handicrafts, foods, musical instruments, books, devices, sculpture, stones and miscellanea, as well as a Reincarnation Ball, in which the participants wore costumes depicting who they thought they were in past lives.

There were also seminars on UFOs, monster hunting and Atlantis.

## The virtue of scepticism

Jerry Clark, the first speaker, set the tone by warning the audience that "Indeed, all things are possible in a separate reality," but that "all things are also possible in Cloud Coo-Coo Land."

Shooting from the hip, he described some Fortean as having "the will to believe without the will to disbelieve." Saying that scepticism is a virtue when studying the unexplained, he then gave 5 rules that define the Fortean sceptic (see box).

He then reminded the audience that meteorites were once "Fortean" phenomena.

Loren Coleman spoke about cryptozoology — the study of hidden animals — in particular the teleportation of animals. He reported cases of Nile monitor lizards in Florida; kangaroos in Utah, Oklahoma, and Chicago; alligators in Indiana, Colorado, and California; and sinister phantom clowns with an affinity for children, as well as the well known but still mysterious cattle mutilations.

Describing the abominable snowman or bigfoot as the classic hidden animal, Coleman explained that some of the sightings could actually be of any large animal found in the Himalayas "such as a species of large monkey." He then went on to associate the werewolves seen in Pennsylvania and Ohio with UFOs sighted there and mentioned a peg-legged bigfoot from Georgia.

## Clowns who steal children

Coleman said that clowns originally represented the Devil in mystery plays and briefly recounted the history of clowns starting with the Pied Piper, which he believes is a true story. The Piper, who wore brightly colored bunting, led all the children of a town into a cave never to be seen again after the townspeople refused to pay him for ridding the town of rats.

Jumping to modern times Coleman pointed out that William Wayne Gacy, the mass murderer, often entertained children as a clown.

Showing a map of the United States sprinkled with dots, Coleman explained that the dots represented cities that had reported people dressed as clowns or animals who attempted to lure children into vans. All have eluded capture by police.

Coleman then spoke about bloodless, mutilated cows found in New Hampshire.

Veteran New York UFO researcher John Keel, in a rambling talk entitled "An Acerbic Address," spoke of an unusual phenomena that had not yet caught the public imagination as had UFOs, namely the mysterious desecration of cemetery monuments. He said that the common phenomenon of finding rows of headstones knocked down and lying in a row could not be blamed, as it usually is, on teenage vandals because the gravestones are usually held in place by steel rods that would take heavy machinery to break.

He said that the frequency and wide geographical spread of these events, which often seem to come in "waves," classifies it as a genuine mystery, but no one has yet written a book on it.

He also spoke on "ghost flyers" — formations of strange airplanes — that have been seen over Scandinavia in the roughest weather and then vanish, as well as phantom submarines and rockets that have been spotted zipping along two feet off the ground along beaches.

During the question and answer session, Keel said he feels UFO research is a dead issue until UFOs actually land and formally make contact with earth.

## Teleported civilizations?

Robert Stephanos spoke about a forgotten catastrophist, Comyns Beaumont, whose books are available in the Library of Congress. Beaumont believed that what is now England was Atlantis before it was hit by a comet and sunk, and Old Jerusalem was actually in Edinburgh, Scotland.

Stephanos' talk concentrated on the latter claim and was supplemented with geological survey maps as well as ancient maps and documents.

Some of Beaumont's evidence includes geological similarities concerning Joppa, the port city of Jerusalem; the three hills that the Old Testament says the area is built upon; and a lion-shaped outcropping of volcanic rock.

Stephanos, casting caution to the winds, explained how archeologists couldn't find the hill Old Jerusalem was built on in the Middle East and that Jerusalem's port city Jaffa is separated by 35 miles of rough terrain, making it very difficult for fishwives to walk there, gather fish from the fishermen and then return to Jerusalem to sell it in the marketplace before noon.

But, says Stephanos, in Scotland you find the three hills, with Edinburgh on the third hill, and a port city named Jaffa a couple of miles from it that has a short cut named Fishwife's Way, where the fishwives carried fish to the market place.

The lion-shaped lava formation is supposedly the Lion of Judah crouching over Jerusalem. Stephanos says that Zechariah 14:4-5 describes what is today called Arthur's Seat which overlooks Edinburgh.

During the question and answer period it was brought out that Egypt was once Wales.

## Urge monster protection law

One of the speakers, Joseph Zarzynski, urged the audience to help pass laws which would protect Champ (the lake Champlain Monster) from bounty hunters and others seeking to harm it for financial gain.

Convinced that Champ exists, based on eyewitness reports, photographs, and sonar soundings, Zarzynski has been studying reports of similar monsters from all over the world, including the Soviet Union, China, Korea, Scotland, Ireland, the United States and Canada.

Citing P.T. Barnum who offered a \$5,000 bounty for Champ and a modern-day scoffer who offered \$500 for Champ's scalp, Zarzynski pleaded with people "not to have a closed mind in relation to

things not proven" and said that "no bounty is needed" to bring back proof that Champ exists.

Robert Anton Wilson, in a convoluted talk, spoke about disinformation and offered an unusual explanation for the weird things that have been occurring since 1947.

Saying that intelligence agencies always had to be monitored by a higher agency in case the lower one had been infiltrated and that the redundant monitoring "would continue until everyone was spying on everyone else, or until the funding ran out." He also said that "spreading disinformation compounds the ignorance of the species" and "separated people from reality".

## Occult origin of UFOs

Wilson concluded his first appearance by speculating on the cause of the rash of UFO sightings and other strange events after 1947 which ushered in the era of flying saucers. He said Jack Parsons, of Jet Propulsion and Space Laboratory fame and friend of Scientology founder L. Ron Hubbard and satanist Alistair Crowley, performed a magical ritual in the Mojave Desert, spoke with beings claiming to be angels, extraterrestrials and or demons and then neglected to close the gateway.

"If (C.G.) Jung is right and UFOs and the strange beings are archetypes from our collective unconscious all we can do is make friends with them," he said.

The next speaker was Ron Westrum who spoke on the sociology of hidden events and how society evaluates unusual happenings. "Encountering unusual phenomena usually results in complete confusion," he said.

Explaining that "expectation helps to create events" Westrum went on to say that many young people expect to see UFOs at some time during their lives.

Speaking on the difficulty of documenting all the strange things that happen to people, Westrum said that "Unless you believe something exists you don't try to find out more about it."

He told the story about the doctor who thought there might be a connection between the broken bones of children and blood blisters he kept finding under the scalp of his young patients. He finally found that parents had been physically abusing their children — something that was shocking and unbelievable in those times.

He concluded his talk by saying, "We don't really know about hidden events."

## Defending catastrophe theorist

The final speaker of the day, C.L. Ellenburger, defended catastrophist Emmanuel Velikovsky from the likes of scientific scoffers such as Martin Gardner, Carl Sagan and Isaac Asimov, among others.

Citing ancient records, Ellenburger explained that Velikovsky was correct in asserting that the earth had flipped over twice in its existence. He said Egyptian priests of antiquity recorded the sun rising in the west and setting in the east two times, and variations in the vegetation on the British Isles proved that Velikovsky was right.

According to Ellenburger, when the weather hits England from the east a certain type of vegetation develops and a different type when the wind blows in from the west. Studies show that there has been a reversal in the weather pattern. The Egyptian records and the reversed pattern could only result from the earth having flipped over. The debate continues.

On Sunday the first speakers represented Vestigia, a New Jersey-based scientifically-oriented parapsychological research group. They displayed equipment made and used by Vestigia members in tracking down strange phenomena.

Art Steinberger spoke about the steps involved in tracking events, and predicted that soon "Fortean researchers

will be aided by scientists." Peter Jordan of the parapsychology team of Vestigia spoke on cattle mutilations, saying that about 80 incidents took place on property belonging to a major military installation.

According to Jordan mostly young heifers were mutilated and some were found with ultraviolet material on their backs, high potassium and magnesium content in their bodies and their copper content had been depleted "perhaps by high doses of microwave radiation."

Jordan indicated the mutilations may be the work of extraterrestrials, citing an article in the July, 1970 issue of *Flying Saucer Review* in which a woman witnessed a 43-inch extraterrestrial with a strange object in her sheep pen. The alien reportedly threw the object at her which returned like a boomerang before the being ran off.

Jordan concluded by saying that Vestigia would keep "improving the quality of the data it collected."

## People bursting into flames

Larry Arnold then spoke about spontaneous human combustion. Acknowledging the phenomenon is still a mystery, Larry presented the facts he had collected including the limited destructiveness of the mysterious fires which consumed bodies but left surrounding objects untouched; the files on those who began to burst into flame but survived, and the fact that Great Britain had more cases of spontaneous combustion per capita than any other nation.

"While a house will burn at 1500 degrees Fahrenheit and the body will burn to ashes at 3000 (in 12 hours), none were equal to the effects of SHC on the body," he said.

"Most of the cases," he said, "took place on or near lines of force found on the earth, and the victim was usually under strong emotional distress."

He also cited cases where the victim, noticing smoke or flames starting to come from their body would put out the flames and live to tell about it. He said the burns resembled electrical or radiation burns and that people shouldn't worry because SHC is very rare; there have been only 300 cases in the last century.

In his second appearance, Robert Anton Wilson spoke about the acceleration factor in human history.

Affirming that worldwide wealth is increasing and life extension and the ability to increase intelligence were right around the corner, Wilson said that, "Utopia is no longer a science fiction concept," and soon everyone "could have the living standard of a billionaire."

Pointing to a study done by G. Harry Stein, Wilson said, "Stein found that all the industrial processes could be done cheaper in outer space with a 10 to the 100th power increase in efficiency."

Wilson also traced the path of progress through history, noting a steady westward motion which brought increasing prosperity at every step of the way. "The path," he says, "now leads to Japan."

The final speaker of the Fortfest was Alvin Holm who spoke on the connection between the ritual sites of the ancient Druids in England and the architecture of John Woods the elder.

Holm said that Woods purposely built structures along ley lines (lines of psychic force criss-crossing the earth), "to connect England's mystical past with the present and, like the Druids, to connect heaven with earth."

## Rules of Fortean scepticism

Jerry Clark gave five rules for the Fortean sceptic:

1. Don't assume that the experts are never wrong. They are human and make mistakes too. And experts out of their field are amateurs.
2. Don't believe every story you hear.
3. Don't get emotionally involved in proving or disproving a case. Some people get emotionally involved and begin to care more about saving face than facts.
4. Don't hesitate to criticize a finding. There's a difference between one who doubts and one who denies.
5. Don't knowingly perpetuate errors. The worst thing you could do is knowingly pass on errors. There are genuine mysteries that may have quite ordinary solutions.



By the light of the silvery spook...

# Just another journey on Devil's Promenade

Editor's Note: UPI staffer Paula Maynard recently visited the southwest corner of Missouri to join in some traditional autumnal revelry — pursuit of the elusive Will-o-the-Wisp. This is her report.

By PAULA MAYNARD

HORNET, Mo. (UPI) — Three hours south of Kansas City and some five bone-jarring miles down a gravel road, my guide blinked through the dust and pointed to a spark on the horizon.

The moonless sky was bright with stars. Our car lights silhouetted the tall tangled weeds, casting scary shadows along the roadside.

"There it is," she whispered as much with reverence as with excitement. When I blinked, the light — suddenly shy — winked away.

The Ozark spook light, a century-old will-o-the-wisp shared by Kansas, Missouri, Arkansas and Oklahoma, appeared to be nothing more than a mote of glitter at the end of a dusty country road.

But through the years, multitudes have found the trip worthwhile and on this night more than a dozen vehicles jammed with spook seekers saw fit to join us. Cars and customized four-wheelers zipped along, their occupants tossing beer cans, revving engines and flashing lights — not my idea of an ideal atmosphere to lure a lonesome spook.

I also was not particularly pleased that we had shattered what was left of our shock absorbers to spend an evening in the woods with people intent on smooching, raising dust and basically clowning around. And the silliness of straining in the dark at a tiny twinkle miles away while ignoring the glittering canopy of stars overhead was starting to sink in.

Had it been any night except Sunday, I could have entertained myself with touring Garland "Spooky" Middleton's Spook Light Museum — a one-room affair furnished with pool tables and nickel-powered pinball machines with broken flippers.

The bow-tie bedecked Middleton has plastered the walls of his establishment with newsprint detailing various theories about the light, said Robert Hoenike of Muddy River Outdoor Adventure, a Kansas City shop which sponsors trips to the wilds to take in the light.

Spook fanciers wanting to strike out on their own should proceed west from Joplin on I-44 to the last free exit in Missouri, turn left toward a Nickerson Farms restaurant and then head south on the state line road about five miles to the museum.

A coin in the museum's juke box buys a recorded account of some of the spooky tales associated with the light, one of the most popular being that it belongs to a Civil War turncoat searching for his head.

After a Union officer led his troops into an unsuccessful ambush, his men allegedly strapped him to a stump and blew his hat and head off with a cannon ball. But so feisty was the traitor that he wrested his headless torso loose, grabbed a lantern and ran off into the woods in search of his missing cranium.

A story styled more for lovers than fighters is a Quapaw Indian legend. A brave and his maiden, despondent that they were not allowed to marry, leapt into nearby Spring River from a cliff called Devil's Promenade. The lovers became separated and have been searching nightly for each other ever since, or so the story goes.

Another Indian story ties the light to atrocities committed by the whites to the Indians along the Trail of Tears migration route.

Scientific types have explained away the light as mine gas or refracted beams from cars traveling down Route 66 as it snakes through Quapaw, Okla.

Simpson Yeomans was part of an expedition in 1955 with his classmates from Shawnee Mission (Kan.) High School. Newspaper accounts at the time said the seriously scientific young men were satisfied they had solved the mystery when they observed the flash as automobile lights. The group never saw the second light — the one that moved — but were certain they could also explain that one with the scientific method if given a chance, the papers said.

"I don't think we were really convinced of anything to tell you the truth," said Yeomans, confessing he was never really

certain his group had stumbled on the truth. "We probably did just see car lights. We probably didn't even see the darn spook thing."

Whatever it's origin, the glittering globe was not about to send my group home disappointed this night. It twinkled coyly again through the dust and noise.

I grabbed binoculars for a better view of the horizon to the west. The light peeked out of a V-shaped notch where the Black-jack Oaks and the road come together against the sky.

There has no denying it, something shone there besides flash lights borne by fellow spook hunters. It could very well be headlights, I thought. But the refraction theory does not account for the light changing color and seeming to float away from the notch and toward the viewers.

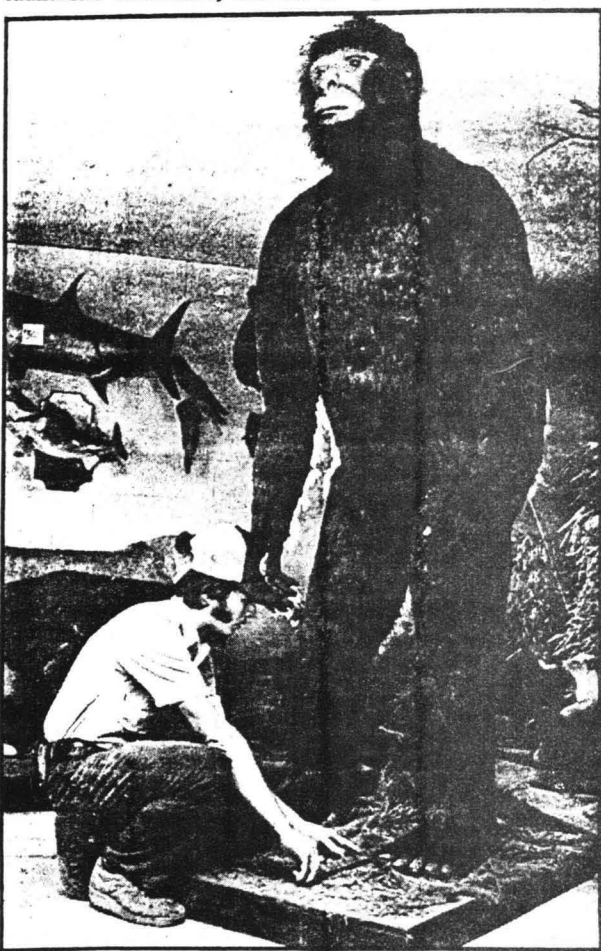
As we looked on the globe reddened and drifted to the left through the trees. Whatever car shining that light would have to be floating across a ravine.

A few minutes later the light moved to the right, again through a clump of trees, and then headed down the road surface toward us. It looked as if a burning ball was rolling along the roadside ditch in our direction.

It snuck closer — to about 100 feet away — shrinking smaller as it came nearer until it more resembled the glow from a cigarette more than a headlight. Then — poof — it blinked out and did not repeat itself.

As we piled into our cars to depart for home, it suddenly blazed in the rear view mirror. We accepted the invitation for entertainment but it went out unspectacularly.

Again we turned to leave and again the mystery light pulled its peek-a-boo trick. But it was late and we were tired. As we drove away, it bounced silently on without us.



Associated Press

David Shopher with his version of Bigfoot

## Legend fascination spawns 'Bigfoot'

By MARK LASHLEY  
Paragould Daily Press

PARAGOULD — The creature is called Bigfoot, or Yeti in the Himalaya range in Asia, Sasquatch in Canada and the Boggy Creek Monster by those who have said they've seen it in the swampy bottoms near Fouke in southwest Arkansas.

Don Shopher, 47, and his son, David, 21, who are fascinated with the legends, created their version of the monster in their taxidermy shop.

"I've been interested in the stories about Bigfoot and Sasquatch for around 10 or 12 years," Don Shopher said. "And David and I decided that we were going to build one."

The 7-foot-10 model stands in a display area of the shop, arms slightly splayed as if he is ready to walk through the front wall.

"It took us 49 hours to construct the thing," he said, "3 days of what was time spent by David putting on the hair."

The elder Shopher gathered books on prehistoric man and drew up a plan that incorpo-

rated features believed to represent ancient man with those reported by the several hundred people who have said they saw the animal.

The figure is built of a sculpture material similar to papier-mache and reinforced with steel.

"Normally, we would have made a cast of the original sculpture and done the detail work on the cast," he said. "But we didn't and the thing weighs about 300 pounds."

The Bigfoot model was an attention-getter at a recent fair in Jonesboro.

"A lot of folks told us that Bigfoot was the reason we took 1st place at the fair," the elder Shopher said.

The success with the creature has the father-son team looking toward another project — a replica of a woolly mammoth.

"We'll have to add on to the shop, though," David Shopher said, as he pointed to the room filled with stuffed lions, a baboon and snakes.

PRESS-REPUBLICAN, Plattsburgh, NY - Nov. 30, 1981 CR: J. Zarzynski

## Sonar tested in Lake Champlain

PLATTSBURGH — The high resolution sonar being used by Dr. Roy P. Mackal and Mr. Richard Greenwell to look for an African dinosaur was initially tested in Lake Champlain.

Joseph W. Zarzynski, director of the Lake Champlain Phenomena Investigation, said Mackal's sonar was tested and calibrated for use in the Congo in the waters of Lake Champlain. The sonar device was

tested on Aug. 30, 1981 in the waters off Button Island near Vergennes, Vt.

Mackal and Richard Greenwell were in the Champlain Valley for an Aug. 29 seminar on Champ. They conducted sonar experiments in Lake Champlain the following day with M.P. Meaney and Joseph W. Zarzynski of the Lake Champlain Phenomena Investigation.

Meaney and Zarzynski donned their scuba gear and acted as underwater targets as Mackal calibrated his sonar unit.

Mackal and Greenwell are cur-

rently in the Congo searching for a dinosaur-like animal called the mokele-mbembe. Mackal's sonar unit shall be used off one of their two dugout canoes while exploring the Ubangi-Congo basin.

"I was very pleased to assist Mackal and Greenwell in testing their equipment to be used during their Congo search," Zarzynski said. "We all agreed it was rather fitting that the sonar to be used to search for the mokele-mbembe was initially calibrated in the waters of an American lake known to be the habitat of likewise unknown animals."

# Youth finds cosmic 'message in a bottle'

By MICHAEL E. BURKE

Transcript staff

NORTH ADAMS — Many contemplate the stars while standing here "on the shores of this cosmic ocean," as astronomer Dr. Carl Sagan would put it, but a rare few ever get a message in a bottle.

On Halloween night, 13-year-old Anthony M. Sarkis Jr. of 453 Walnut St. got just that. He now owns a piece of the stars, a three-inch diameter meteorite.

"Not in a dozen lifetimes will you see this," remarked William G. Seeley, a North Adams State College physics professor who visited the crash site Sunday morning. "This is a rare occasion. You should be proud of yourself," he told Anthony.

At 7 p.m. Saturday, as Anthony stood in his front yard in the dark adjusting a telescope for an evening's viewing, the cosmos hurled an incandescent red fireball through the sky. He saw it as it plummeted to earth in a northwesterly direction and disappeared behind his house. He then heard a boom as loud as a shotgun blast, or louder, that echoed among the nearby mountains, he says.

The meteorite landed amid the leaves and weeds of the Sarkis' backyard vegetable garden, drilling a 12-inch wide, four-inch deep crater and leaving the dry vegetation smoldering around it.

Anthony went out back and discovered, only a few yards from his house, a rough, round object of baseball size glowing red hot from inside a volcano-shaped hole. Anthony, son of Anthony and Rosemary Sarkis, told his family and they too ventured out to have a look. On the way home from church Sunday morning, Anthony made a visit to the police station and shared the story.

What might have sounded like a belated Halloween prank became an adventure not-to-be-repeated in lifetime for dozens of people. It brought out the authorities and neighbors as well as Mayor Richard C. Lamb, who walked to the crash site behind the Sarkis house. It also attracted Dr. Seeley from Williamstown. The physicist's son had seen a meteor streak through the night sky Saturday evening in Lanesboro.

Anthony, an eighth grader at Middle School, said he has been avidly interested in astronomy for a year. He identifies Dr. Carl Sagan as a mentor and one of his heroes.

Dr. Seeley said the sound Anthony heard was a "mini-sonic boom" caused by the speed of the meteorite's descent, which broke the sound barrier. The physicist said the meteorite is all that remains of a larger meteor that

fell burning into the earth's atmosphere. He marvelled that the original might have been "as big as a house" when its fall began, although he hastened to add the comment was only that, not a hypothesis. The Sarkis meteorite must contain a good deal of iron for so much of it to have survived the intense heat as it streamed through the atmosphere. Dr. Seeley said. Heat generated by friction disintegrates the vast majority of meteors long before they approach the ground. Iron, however, has heat-refracting powers that exceed those of other stones that might float in space, he said.

The meteorite appeared to be heavily loaded with iron. Its predominantly black, pocked surface was dotted and splotted with bright red, a color indicative of the presence of iron. One curious splotch on the black rock is green in color, suggesting copper, Dr. Seeley said.

The meteorite find is significant for its size and for the fact that it was discovered while still hot, Dr. Seeley said. The rock was warm Sunday morning when, on Dr. Seeley's recommendation, it was placed in a plastic baggie. While heated, it remains relatively uncontaminated by earth's bacteria and other organic substances, the physicist said, so it is a pure sample.

Dr. Seeley said he doubted the extraterrestrial rock is radioactive.

In the yard off Walnut Street, Anthony and Dr. Seeley, discoverer and scientist, traded observations. Anthony commented that the earth had passed through meteor showers recently. Having read up on meteorites lately, he said the one he discovered must have hit the ground with a temperature of 4,000 degrees Fahrenheit. A corroborating whiff of smoke from burned vegetation lingered above the crater Sunday morning.

Soon, red dust began to coat the clear plastic that held this bit of "space stuff," as Dr. Sagan is wont to say in his popular PBS television series "Cosmos."

With Anthony's permission, Dr. Seeley said he will contact fellow scientists who may ask to analyze samples of the meteorite dust buried in the soil of the crater. Or they may ask to see the rock itself. He said he will deal only with those who will leave the meteorite intact for its owner.

Anthony said that when the meteorite came down, his 250 power refractor telescope was trained on the Pleiades, a cluster of stars in the winter sky also known as the Seven Sisters. He saw the red fireball and the



Meteorite finder Anthony Sarkis Jr.

streaming reddish tail at least several yards long, he said.

Dr. Seeley said the meteors have their origin in this solar system, and added that the asteroid belt, an area in which small, irregularly shaped planetoids cluster between Mars and Jupiter, is a possible source for the meteoric materials which Anthony discovered. During its orbit about the sun, the earth also crosses through meteor zones, however, he noted.

"Look at it this way. Two or three significant ones hit the U.S. in a year," Dr. Seeley told Anthony. "Not one person in a hundred thousand will see it."

## Meteorite: Harvard man says no, NASC maybe

NORTH ADAMS — Although a Harvard University geologist said yesterday that an object found in a Walnut Street yard Saturday night is nothing more than a piece of "industrial slag," North Adams State College physics professor William G. Seeley, said this morning that he will seek further opinions.

"It's hard for me to doubt the veracity of John Wood (staff scientist at Harvard's Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory in Cambridge), because he's a geologist and a good one," Dr. Seeley said.

"It has some unanswered questions, and I want to go about answering them," he added.

An object found by Anthony J. Sarkis Jr., 13, of 453 Walnut St., was said to be nothing unusual and probably a piece of industrial waste by Dr. Wood, following a brief examination of the material yesterday. The Sarkis family brought the small piece of what was thought to be a meteorite to Cambridge for examination.

Looking at the object for about 30 seconds, the Harvard professor determined that it was too light and of the wrong texture to have been a meteorite, Anthony said Tuesday evening.

Anthony, an amateur astronomer, reported seeing a red fireball in the sky at 7 p.m. Saturday. He saw it fall in a northwesterly direction and disappear behind his house. He then heard a boom as loud as a shotgun blast, or louder, that echoed among

the nearby mountains, he said.

The object landed in the family vegetable garden, digging a 12-inch wide, four-inch deep crater, and leaving dry vegetation around it smoldering, he added.

Doubting that a hoax has been perpetrated by the young astronomer, Dr. Seeley said, he would still like to see testing for the chemical and physical properties of the object. In that way, a positive determination could be made as to whether or not the object originated on Earth, he said.

At least five other persons have reported seeing red flashes in the sky recently, Dr. Seeley said.

## Junior astronomer takes find to Harvard for test

NORTH ADAMS (AP) — A 13-year-old junior astronomer and his dad took the day off to travel to Harvard University today to find out if the baseball-size object the lad says fell from the sky into his family vegetable garden is really a meteorite.

If it is, said the father, Anthony M. Sarkis, 37, an employee of General Electric's plastics division, it may be the first meteorite ever known to fall in Massachusetts.

That is what Dr. John A. Wood, a professor of geology and associate of the Harvard College Observatory, said Monday over the telephone, according to Sarkis.

Sarkis said he and his son, Anthony Jr., will take the object to Wood for tests.

"We don't know what it is," said the elder Sarkis. "It had a tail on it. It could be a meteorite or a piece of a satellite."

The younger Sarkis, an eighth grader, said he was adjusting his telescope in his front yard

Halloween night when he spotted a red fireball shoot across the sky and disappear behind his house. Then he heard a boom as loud as a shotgun blast.

When he went out back to investigate, there, among the debris of the garden, was a crater a foot wide and four inches deep. And inside the hole was a glowing red rock.

The elder Sarkis was suspicious when summoned from work by his son.

"After all, it was Halloween," he said.

The father also marveled that Sunday morning, after a night outside, the object still was warm.

The boy later told the police. As his story got around, his home was visited by Mayor Richard C. Lamb and William G. Seeley, a physics professor at North Adams State College.

"Not in a dozen lifetimes will you see this," Seeley told the boy. "This is a rare occasion. You should be proud of yourself."

TRANSCRIPT, North Adams, MA - Nov. 4, 1981

TRANSCRIPT, North Adams, MA - Nov. 3, 1981