

UFO

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DAILY GAZETTE, McCook, NE - Oct. 21, 1981

UFO Sightings Are Reported Over McCook

By JOLENE DAIB
Gazette Writer

Several McCook residents have reported seeing unidentified flying objects in this area in the last two evenings.

Members of three families who live south of McCook reported seeing multi-colored lights west, southwest and northwest of the city. Several of the persons reportedly saw the lights both Monday and Tuesday evening, while one individual reported seeing unusual lights only on Monday evening, and others reported seeing the lights only on Tuesday.

All of the persons contacted by the GAZETTE in connection with the UFO sightings requested that their names not be printed in the paper.

Similar reports were received in North Platte on Monday, and a number of area residents, including weather service specialists and law enforcement officials, observed a saucer shaped object with flashing lights near North Platte early Monday.

One woman reported seeing multi-colored lights hovering northwest of McCook at about 8 p.m., Tuesday. She said they stayed in sight for about 30 minutes before fading from view. The lights were described by the woman as blue, red, green and yellow-colored, and moving in a counter-clockwise direction. Without binoculars the lights appeared as a bright star, but with binoculars the individual colors and counter-clockwise movement could be detected, she said.

She also reported seeing a bright white light on M Hill south of McCook at the same time Tuesday, which she said hovered on the horizon, then slowly moved away, getting smaller and smaller until it disappeared from sight.

Another individual who lives three miles south of McCook reported seeing red, green and white lights hovering along the western horizon just after 8 p.m., Monday, and between 7 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., Tuesday.

He said the lights appeared to be near Culbertson, and traveled west along the horizon. The man said he and nine other members of his family saw the lights.

Another man described the lights as appearing similar to Mars, the evening star, except that they were much lower in the sky. He reportedly saw the lights west and southwest of the city Monday night. He said he was able to see Mars on Tuesday night, and it was quite a bit higher in the sky, which confirmed his belief that the lights he spotted Monday were not from the planet Mars.

"It looked like it was going from milky-white to light red," he said. "It was moving very little, and was up above the horizon." He estimated that the lights were 300 feet to 400 feet high, but, he said, "I couldn't tell for sure because I wasn't sure of the distance."

He also felt certain that the lights were not from an airplane. "I know the difference between airplanes, and it's not hard to tell at all if it's an airplane," he said, explaining that airplanes fly over his property often in preparation for landing at the airport.

He said the lights were between six and nine miles southwest of McCook.

Richard Brunswick, McCook Police Chief, said his department received a call on sightings over M Hill on Tuesday night, but his officers reported seeing nothing unusual in the area where the lights were allegedly seen.

The director of the Unidentified Flying Object Reporting Center at Seattle, Wash., says there is no explanation for an airborne object picked up on radar near North Platte.

Robert Gribble, director of the UFO center, said many of the objects being reported in the North Platte area are bright, scintillating stars.

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.

TWIN CITIES TIMES, Corte Madera, CA - Oct. 8, 1981 CR: L. Whitehurst

Corte Maderans' Close Encounter

"In the realm of the mind, what you believe to be true is true."

John Lilly, M.D.

by Francine Nemitz

SEPTEMBER 15, 1981. Ten past midnight and the sky over Marin is black and clear like a film negative. The night before was a full moon. The air is quiet and calm, but for the sounds of crickets and dogs, and occasional passing cars. Lori Morgan, tired from her long day of waitressing at a local restaurant, relaxes under the covers, watching Johnny Carson. Her husband Jerry is in the kitchen. Something makes him look out the window... then excitedly he calls quietly to his wife, "Lori, they're back."

Seven months earlier, on February 19, Lori and Jerry had their first encounter with an UFO. Late that night, from their apartment window in Corte Madera, Jerry noticed something hovering in the sky above the trees: a gray metallic craft shaped in the form of a rounded disc the size of a house, with square "head lamps" emitting light of diamond brilliance. A pink and blue aura surrounded the craft.

Jerry called to his wife to come to the window. Before she even had time to reason, she told her husband it was an UFO. "The words just came out from my mouth," she said. Cupping his hands around his eyes to be sure he wasn't seeing a glare created by lights reflected on the window glass, Jerry saw what he knew to be an UFO. Unafraid, he walked outside.

"I stood watching it for a minute before it started to move slowly over me," Jerry said. Lori came out and we could see its rounded shape illuminated by a blue light on its underside. The sound it made was like a hydroelectric plant, heavy machinery — low-pitched, but intense."

They both agree they saw it as if from a third position, a surreal picture in their minds, that they were experiencing it as they were seeing it. "It was as if we were seeing it from a different point of reality — removed from the situation. We were looking at us looking at it. I could see my hair blowing in the wind and Jerry's hand holding the pole. It was like an image from a film, but it was real," Lori said. The excitement was beyond anything either of them had experienced or could explain. The craft hovered over them for several minutes and then almost instantly disappeared from view.

They telephoned the sheriff, the police and KTIM — assuming that others would have noticed the lights or heard the sounds; but they received no confirmation of the sighting.

For two weeks after the encounter, Jerry was obsessed with understanding what he and his wife had seen. Unable to sleep, he underwent physical and psychic exhaustion. Finally, Lori persuaded him to wait for the answers to come by themselves. Their lives began to change for the better. Interesting meetings began to occur. People would come to them introducing information that led to answers they were seeking. Many of these people had had encounters with UFOs and many had not spoken of them to anyone before. Synchronicities were developing in their lives that they had not experienced before, but had been hoping to find all along.

Lori and Jerry had met one another at a psychic reading. Their relationship evolved through their research and studies in matters of spirituality and magic. Their purpose was to find truth and meaning and the "means to alignment of all elements that make up the self."

When I asked the couple if the encounter could have been induced by strong belief and will, Jerry replied, "True intention is demonstrated by attainment no matter how it comes. Our desire was out there... They picked up on it."

Lori and Jerry feel that one of the reasons they were visited by these creatures from another star is so they can help prepare our society for the changes that are occurring on earth — physical as well as emotional and psychic changes. "On the cosmic clock, we're at the hour of midnight," says Lori. "The key is to spread love and understanding. The message is the same in the Bible. We're a pain-oriented society. Look at the Excedrin commercial, 'Life got tougher, so we got stronger.' We've got to turn negativity around. Dwell on the good, not the bad."

There is no trace of doubt in Lori and Jerry that what they saw that September night was an UFO. Aware of skepticism on the subject of UFOs, they're also aware of how many people have telephoned them and thanked them for their public testimony — people who for one reason or another have been reluctant to speak out themselves. The Morgans' welcome communication from anyone interested in UFOs. They want to be available as a channel to further understanding in preparation for future UFO encounters.

BERKSHIRE EAGLE, Pittsfield, MA - Nov. 6, 1981

Round, lighted object seen over Williamstown

WILLIAMSTOWN — Local residents reported having a close encounter of the first kind with an unidentified flying object last night.

According to police, more than six phone calls were received at about 8 p.m. reporting a round object with bright lights hovering over Maple Street, off Cole Avenue.

The object was sighted from several parts of town, including Henderson Road, North Street and Cole Avenue.

Within minutes, a crowd of about 200 persons had gathered on Cole Avenue near the Boys' Club. Most of them had apparently heard about the object through the grapevine or over police scanners.

According to police, the first patrolman sent to the scene, Officer Jeffrey Card, also reported seeing a strange object with white lights in the distant sky.

"You gotta come down here and see this," he told the desk.

But the object had disappeared by the time another patrolman arrived.

Police said the crowd dispersed around 8:30 p.m.

UFOs Sighted in Central Marin

Citizens in Corte Madera and Kentfield See UFOs on Two Separate Nights

by Jane F. Rogan

WHETHER OR NOT you believe extraterrestrials piloted their crafts over Kentfield and Corte Madera during the week of September 14, you have got to be wondering what precisely *did* happen. The only certain thing is that two unidentified flying object (UFO) sightings were reported in the heart of Marin County. At midnight, Tuesday, September 15, Jerry and Lori Morgan of Corte Madera claim they saw an enormous craft hover over their house and move slowly toward San Francisco. At 9 p.m., Thursday, September 17, a Kentfield family claims they saw exactly the same thing. Nobody can say exactly what it was these people have reported seeing. But everybody is curious.

Lori and Jerry Morgan have now received national news coverage on their UFO story. On September 30, the couple told Channel 11 viewers all about their sighting. Before that they were interviewed by numerous reporters, including Francine Nemitz from the *Twin Cities Times* [see interview below].

When Morgan and his wife visited the *Times*' office, he told me the September 15 incident was "really kind of a religious experience," similar to others he had encountered. When I asked them for a more in-depth interview, one which would explore a correlation among their lifestyles, beliefs and the UFO sighting, they refused. Their ostensible reason for refusing to talk was based on their fear that people might start thinking they were just after publicity. Considering their track record on news releases, I couldn't help but question this fear as being quite a bit after the fact. I also began to feel that perhaps the Morgans had refused the in-depth interview for other, more personal reasons.

Perhaps the Morgans backed out for the same reasons the Kentfield family insisted that I not use their names in reporting their sighting on September 17. Most people are not willing to have their perceptions challenged or denied. They feel their experience is invalidated. They begin to mistrust their memories. They become defensive and scared. In short, they begin to worry that they are losing their minds. This, of course, is a legitimately frightening experience. But it is only an appropriate explanation for this aura of hush-hush if these people actually did see a UFO. The other explanation for all the mystery is that they are lying.

In an attempt to offer some speculation about these reports, I have been confronted with the uncomfortable dilemma of either disbelieving honest faces and earnest voices, or of believing stories which have no documentation except for some very flimsy hearsay.

After calling NASA, the Federal Aviation Administration, the Mill Valley Air Force Station on Mt. Tamalpais, Civil Defense, the FBI, and the CIA, I am

convinced that there weren't any experimental aircraft out on either of these September evenings. I even called the United States Geological Society to see if there were any reported earthquakes to account for the window-shaking noises the Kentfield family said they felt and heard. Furthermore, I phoned all of the Morgan's and Kentfield family's neighbors looking for confirming stories. Only the Morgan's immediate neighbors confirmed seeing anything unusual, and the young boy I spoke with said he would believe it if someone told him what he saw was just an airplane or a helicopter.

Finally, the question I have to ask is how did so many people in Corte Madera and Kentfield miss a craft described as being the size of "four intersections," "five 747s," and making the noise of an earthquake? But then, maybe people did see and hear a UFO, and they all fear everyone will think they are crazy.

I began to think seriously about how difficult a situation like this would be after I spoke with the mature-sounding, logical voice of the woman in Kentfield. "I know that I saw something very unusual," she told me. "After we watched this huge thing pass over the house, I went in to call up someone who could give me some information. I wanted to contact the Air Force and see if they were doing any experiments. But the information operator's supervisor hung up on me! I don't like people thinking I'm crazy. I don't even believe in UFOs — at all. I saw this thing, and I have no idea what it was."

After this woman, her niece and nephew "saw this thing," and they futilely attempted to contact traditional sources, they looked up the *Independent Journal* story on the Morgans and gave them a call. The Morgans reassured them that they were not crazy, that "the thing" they described fit their own sighting perfectly, and that they could be certain — it was a UFO. To their own credit, the Kentfield family is still not so sure. They did not have an accompanying religious experience. They were scared to death.

If you have ever discussed the possibility of extraterrestrial UFOs penetrating our atmosphere, the question you will often hear is, do you *believe* in them? Those who are convinced that extraterrestrials have visited earth, discuss the subject with a sense of belief behind their words — faith, if you will. And ever since the UFO heydays of the 1950s, religious-oriented groups have been springing up all over the United States and Europe. A pervasive belief, which harkens back to the primitive, mythological worship of messianic sky Gods, permeates these groups.

In 1950, after supposedly being instructed by the extraterrestrial "A-Lan," Mr. Daniel Fry founded a group called Understanding, Incorporated. The group's ambitious aim is to "complete the problems of mankind." Ruth Norman, in 1954, founded Unarius,

Science of Life, out of El Cajon, California. Then there is the group Aetheirus, headquartered on Saturn, but financed from Los Angeles. Mr. George King has been running this organization since 1964. In some form or another, each of these organizations maintains the belief that extraterrestrials exist, that they have invaded our atmosphere in their flying saucers, and that they have done so to lead our country away from certain catastrophic doom.

The extraterrestrials' goals are always benevolent, enlightened, and far more advanced than our own limited earthling philosophies. The aliens are often perceived in an image not unlike the stereotypical Messiah. And when you are so bold as to question the existence of these great beings — who are perhaps our own moral and historical benefactors — you are accused of not being enlightened enough.

These are extreme cases. Jerry and Lori Morgan are the spiritual, "organic" types. So far, they do not come off as narrow-minded, although they may be heading for the "cultish" category. Jerry Morgan sells what are called "New Age Products." The products range from such items as a moisturizing lotion, which will send you on your way to "total success," to a "Formula 23" mineral drink which can "cure" arthritis. If, according to the Morgan's view, a person lives his or her life in harmony with the universe — and this includes using holistic products, and following holistic philosophies — this person will put off positive "vibrations." These vibrations attract certain events which benefit the person's life. They may also repel negative events.

The Morgans believe that their positive vibrations have put them in harmony with the universe and, therefore, in contact with benevolent extraterrestrials. Their explanation for why others cannot experience these sightings is that most people have not achieved this balance in their lives. Given this, I am left to wonder what holistic attributes the doughnut-eating, cigarette-smoking, television-watching Kentfield family possesses.

Tallying up the results of my research, I am left with the following impressions: Jerry and Lori Morgan were looking for an extraterrestrial "religious experience," and they got it. The Kentfield family was sitting watching their television; they heard a loud rumble — like an earthquake — rushed outside, and saw an object in the air that they could not identify. What they got was an unusual and frightening experience. The Morgans are certain they saw a UFO. The Kentfield family is hoping they saw a secret Air Force experiment.

The interesting part about both reports is the different attitudes which lie behind the stories. Because of their uncertainty, their willingness to accept traditional explanations, and their complete desire for anonymity, the Kentfield family's story is more believable to me.

MONITOR, Concord, NH - Nov. 17, 1981 CR: B. Greenwood

Navy veteran saw UFOs over Atlantic

In reference to Robert Kantar's letter, (Monitor, Thurs. Nov. 5), I would like to comment on my own experiences. I have been interested in UFO's for four years. I've read numerous books and articles on the subject and I believe that UFO's exist.

I was recently discharged from the United States Navy. As a Radar Operator, I spent quite a few hours on the bridge of my ship, the USS Belknap. My job was to relay information from the radar room to the officer of the deck. I also had communications with three lookouts via sound-powered phones. One night while crossing the Atlantic enroute to Spain, a lookout reported four planes in formation moving at incredible speeds. I reported his sightings to the officer on watch and stepped outside to see if I could spot the objects. They came to a halt almost directly over the ship and hovered for 30-45 seconds. All of a sudden they bolted in a northerly direction in a blast of orange, reddish light. They were out of sight in 2-4 seconds, moving faster than anything I'd ever seen.

I understand both sides of this controversy, but can be so naive as to say we are the only intelligent life forms in the galaxy? Let's be realistic. There are supposedly a billion, billion planets in our galaxy. Even if only one millionth had any life forms, that still leaves a few thousand planets that could inhabit intelligent life.

I sincerely hope that these UFO's contact us. Maybe they could show us ways to recycle we didn't know were possible. I hope I'm alive to see the day when travel in space is like traveling across the country now. Our future lies in space and I think our space program should be one of the nation's prime concerns. I think Mr. Giglio deserves full credit for coming forward with his findings.

ANDREW SNYDER

SOMERSET REPORTER,
Skowhegan, ME
Dec. 3, 1981
CR: B. Greenwood

Thanksgiving evening, a UFO was sighted at tree-top height near the Chadbourne Road in Harmony. The bright saucer shaped object seemed to appear suddenly and travel north for a short distance before vanishing. If anyone else saw this object in the sky, you are not alone.

Reports of UFOs Continue in Area

Reports of UFO's in the skies of Southwest Nebraska on Thursday night continue to drift in to the GAZETTE, including one account of three carloads of persons seeing what appeared to be an alien spacecraft taking off from the ground.

A McCook woman who asked not be identified said that her son and two other carloads of persons saw an orange-glowing oblong object rise up out of the Republican River valley southeast of McCook and fly off into the night skies.

She said her son was returning from Indianola at about 8 p.m. Thursday on Highway 6-34, midway between McCook and Indianola when he noticed two cars on the side of the road looking at an object in the south.

He also pulled over, she said, and asked them what they were looking at.

The persons pointed to an orange glow in the valley which they thought might be a fire.

After a few minutes an

object rose up out of the valley, hovered for a few minutes and then slowly flew off into the sky.

The woman said her son estimated the craft to be about the size of three automobiles and had multi-colored lights rotating around it.

"He was really scared by what he saw and he's still scared," she said. "He came right down to the police department and reported it. He was shaking and my son is not the type of person to exaggerate things."

The occupants of the other two vehicles were not identified, although their license plates were not from Red Willow County.

The occupants of those other two cars are asked to contact the GAZETTE to verify what happened. Their names will not be used if they so request.

Three McCook police officers also saw an unusual object in the sky Thursday night.

Two officers in one car and then a third officer in another car reportedly looked at a

bright star-like object through binoculars and saw rotating colored lights.

A woman who lives about eight miles southwest of McCook also reported seeing a UFO Thursday night.

The woman, who asked not to be identified, said the object appeared to be about four or five miles straight east of her.

The object looked like a stationary red and yellow flickering light, she said, though it was too low to be a star or a planet and was not an airplane.

She said the object hovered for about 10 minutes but disappeared when a car driving on a country road came near it.

The woman said several other persons in the area also saw the object after they called each other on the telephone to look for it.

On Monday and Tuesday night, several persons reported seeing UFO's south of McCook.

Similar sightings were also reported in the North Platte area on those two days.

spy satellite trying to steal steel-making secrets, but beyond that Diane Enion can't say what it was.

The call was one of 30 to 35 in the last month or so. Many can be chalked up to the full moon and unusually clear skies. Several people have sworn that what turned out to be Venus was a UFO headed their way.

"Ninety percent of anything that comes in can be identified right away," she says, "but the 10 percent — this is what we're fighting for, to find out what they are. That's why we need people to call us."

The most dramatic sighting of late came a week ago last Sunday when a family in Regent Square reported a low-flying formation of strange objects heading over Frick Park.

Several days later, it came to the center's attention that a 17-year-old youth from Dorseyville had seen a similar formation about a half hour before the Regent Square sighting, crossing the Allegheny, heading in the direction of Regent Square.

The youth had had a closer encounter. He saw eight objects in line formation while driving on Route 910 and stopped for a prolonged gaze. After a few minutes, he got back in the car and drove on. A mile up the road, he saw a gigantic triangular object, white lights at each tip, hovering over his car about 500 feet up.

Underneath was a spinning red light. In the center of the red light there appeared to be a blue beam light. He said the object made a low, rumbling noise like the sound of distant thunder. He watched it for a minute, then, becoming edgy because the UFO seemed particularly interested in him, he drove home.

Anybody who saw the same thing or, for that matter, anything else interesting, should call the center (863-3874) immediately upon completing this column.

Don't a lot of crazies call? Actually, quite the opposite, says Diane Enion, who's been collecting information on UFOs since age 18. People are hesitant to come forth for fear they will be thought nutty. That was the case with the youth from Dorseyville, whose friends greeted his tale with guffaws.

"The problem is most people don't believe unless they see one themselves," says Diane Enion. "And even then they don't believe."

Group to sue Air Force to obtain secret UFO data

By Eric Randall
Washington Bureau of The News

WASHINGTON — Do UFOs pose a threat to national security?

"Yes," says Peter Gersten, a lawyer for Citizens Against UFO Secrecy.

"No," says Maj. Donald Brownlee, a spokesman for the Air Force.

Perhaps the courts will settle the question, Gersten plans to sue the Air Force to obtain information on UFOs.

The Air Force is refusing to release about 40 documents relating to UFO sightings involving several strategic air command bases in 1975 and 1976, says Gersten, a New York City attorney.

who also is representing the UFO group in a similar suit against the National Security Agency.

Gersten says the sightings — which typically involve odd-shaped, lighted objects hovering over installations and defying attempts by the Air Force to intercept them — indicate an advanced technology that "poses a threat to our national security."

The best way to alleviate the threat is to study and understand the phenomenon, Gersten argues. Because the Air Force abandoned its UFO studies in 1969, the only forum for UFO investigation is the public arena — although the Air Force has all the hardware to collect data on UFOs, Gersten says.

The least the Air Force could

do is accommodate ufologists by declassifying UFO reports, Gersten says. "It is these unusual objects which pose a threat to our security, not information about them," he says. "It's unbelievable that these objects can penetrate our facilities and five years later the Air Force doesn't know what they are," he says.

Brownlee says the Air Force stands by the conclusions of its Project Blue Book study, which reviewed 12,618 UFO sightings from 1948 until 1969 and offered explanations for all but 701 of them. The study concluded that UFOs posed no security threat, took no hostile action, collected no intelligence and demonstrated no technological principles beyond U.S. capability, Brownlee says.

Why are the documents that Gersten wants classified? "I can't comment on that," Brownlee says.

Gersten says the Air Force suit, which he plans to file in federal court next month, is part of a fourfold effort of his group to establish the credibility of UFOs and learn more about them.

The group is conducting a national fund-raising drive to collect at least \$1 each from the 13 million Americans who a Gallup poll indicates have seen a UFO. The group also is lobbying for a presidential proclamation that would declassify all UFO-related records.

The group — apparently in an effort to find a Daniel Ellsberg-type leak — will provide free legal counsel to any military employee who breaks his or her oath of secrecy by divulging UFO information. Ellsberg disclosed the Pentagon papers in 1971.

Gersten will argue Wednesday before the U.S. Court of Appeals in a suit similar to the planned Air Force suit.

The group is appealing a lower court ruling that the National Security Agency does not have to make public 135 documents, most of which are foreign intelligence reports of UFO sightings. The district court ruled that "release of this material could seriously jeopardize the work of the agency and the security of the United States."

He says the district court made its decision without examining the documents in question, and in his appeal he will contend that such examination is essential to show that release of the documents is not a security risk. Gersten estimates his chances of winning the suit at 1 in 100 because of a judicial precedent established in a case involving the NSA.

POST GAZETTE, Pittsburgh, PA - Nov. 17, 1981

Peter Leo

UFO devotee is not alone

UFOs have been reported in unusual numbers in the Pittsburgh area over the past few weeks. I'm not sure what this means, but if they had any manners at all, these flying objects would identify themselves and explain why intelligent life would be visiting Pittsburgh this time of year instead of Honolulu.

Then again, UFOs are no fun compared to UFOs. That's the way Diane Enion sees it. Neither believer nor non-believer, this 34-year-old housewife and free-lance writer is simply someone who thinks UFOs deserve serious consideration on the chance they might establish proof that we're not alone in the universe.

This sensible, scientific point of view puts her ahead of closed-minded scientists who dismiss UFOs as demonstrating nothing more significant than the fallibility of human observation.

She has never seen a UFO herself. She has seen many an odd-looking thing aloft over the county airport near her home in Brentwood, but, alas, every single one has had an earthly explanation.

But she's hooked on the unexplained. Which explains her interest in magic, haunted houses, cemetery sittings. And explains why she will leave baby, husband, and home in the dead of night to investigate a UFO sighting.

Diane Enion is a member of the Pennsylvania Center for UFO Research, a group of scientists and laymen who believe we'll never get to the bottom of all this if we don't gather information on unusual airborne sightings.

When people call the Buhl Planetarium or the police with UFO reports, they invariably are referred to the center, which sends out investigators like Diane Enion as fast as it can to interview the spotters.

Her most recent case came a couple of weeks ago when some people at the U.S. Steel Duquesne Works spotted an unusual object hanging over the Mon River about the time of a 15-minute power failure. It was probably not a Japanese

DAILY NEWS, Norfolk, NE - Oct. 23, 1981

Another UFO Sighting Here

Mrs. Ron Vogtman, 1600 N. 37th St., says that she heard the family dog barking about 6:30 a.m. Tuesday and looked out a window to see a strange object in the sky. It looked like a large red star moving rapidly from the northwest to the south.

Mrs. Vogtman said she didn't mention it to anyone because she thought they'd laugh, but after she noticed Mr. and Mrs. Doug Busskohl had seen a similar object Tuesday evening, thought she would report her sighting.

UFO over Willits

By DALE MARTIN
Journal Staff Writer

An apparent unidentified flying object (UFO) lit the skies of Willits last night, according to a group of Willits residents who reported a "pale orange peel-shaped object" to the National UFO Reporting Center.

"It was kind of an odd-shaped dome. It disappeared and then came back again," said Lawrence Porter, one of the several neighbors who sighted the unidentified flying object.

Porter said the object was sighted by William Bernhart, Bonnie Porter and the next-door neighbor Dixie Southwick as well, at about 6:45 last night. The group watched the UFO for about 45 minutes before the phenomenon disappeared from the skies. The UFO was sighted about two and one-half miles east of Willits.

Bernhart had come over to the Porters to visit and told them about the object, Bonnie Porter related this morning.

Lawrence Porter said the object "kind of scared" the group.

"We didn't know if it was going to come down or not," Porter said.

Bonnie Porter said the object was "unbelievable. I've never seen anything like it in my life."

She said the group looked at the object through binoculars and she described it as "shaped like an umbrella turned upside down with prongs on it."

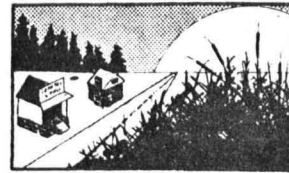
Robert Gribble, director of the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle, Washington, said, however, "It's very difficult to investigate anything like that. We'll have to sit on it."

UFO investigations are currently conducted by three privately-funded organizations in Arizona, Texas and Illinois. The United States government officially closed its own investigation "Project Bluebook" several years ago.



Robert Kerr

BYWAYS



Bill Leet knew the minute he saw the strange luminous disc that his B-17 Flying Fortress would be no match for it.

"Our gunners wanted to shoot it down, but I ordered them not to. I told them if it was hostile, it would have already shot us down," he said.

"Let's just try to figure out what it is," I told them."

Nearly 40 years later as he sits in a bedroom of his Texarkana, Ark., home that he has converted into an office. Leet explains that he is still trying to figure what he saw that night and what other alien craft cross the skies.

"I am vexed, literally vexed, that we do not know more than we do about this."

Today, we at least have names for them — flying saucers, or more broadly, unidentified flying objects. In 1944, no one had even coined a label.

Leet was a B-17 pilot based in Southern Italy during World War II. His squadron flew daily bombing missions on German oil refineries and railroad yards. It was a cold night in November when Leet and his crew set off alone across the Austrian Alps on a dangerous "lone wolf" raid on Salzburg.

"We were just scared to death. I think we were the only Allied aircraft over enemy territory that night," he recalled.

It hadn't helped their chances any when they lost a supercharger on takeoff. With-

out it, they couldn't climb much higher than 18,000 feet, which made them sitting ducks for the big German anti-aircraft guns around Salzburg.

So they diverted to Klagenfurt, some 100 miles closer, and less fortified than Salzburg. They made a surprisingly clean drop there and turned south toward home as soon as the bomb bay was empty.

"We didn't see one flak burst all night. Not one anti-aircraft shot was fired at us."

The unusually quiet skies gave the entire crew a perfect view of the visitor that suddenly appeared just off the tip of the left wing.

"This thing did not approach us from above or below or either side. It was just there, like a light switch being turned on."

"It wasn't like anything we had ever seen before. We couldn't see any third dimension to it. It was just a perfect circle. The closest thing I've ever seen to it is the amber light on a traffic signal. But it didn't look like any earthly light."

Whatever it was, it stayed alongside the B-17 for about 45 minutes. Then, "like a light switch being turned off," it was gone.

Leet reported the incident to an Air Force Intelligence officer, and was told that what he had seen was a new German secret weapon. Leet wasn't really convinced, but didn't dwell on it. The war would end soon, and as the years went by,

Vexed by the things out there in the sky

he forgot about the strange light.

Until eight years later, when he was copilot on a C-47 transport plane carrying troops on leave from the Korean War battlefields to Japan. By that time, "UFO" had become a familiar expression, and when Leet and his copilot spotted a dull, metallic sphere flying alongside the C-47, they knew it was no Communist secret weapon.

Leet began to talk to other airmen and learned that quite a few of them had sighted flying objects that they could not explain. After Korea, he had little interest in returning to his law practice in Lexington, Ky., already twice interrupted by war.

He returned anyway, but did more and more research on UFOs. As his interest became known around the community, he was asked to speak to various groups. The news media soon began calling, and then in the late 1950s, he hosted a local television program on which he would interview guests who had had UFO experiences.

The program ran nearly three years, but all the publicity did little for his livelihood. People might be curious about what he had to say, but they had doubts about hiring a lawyer who saw strange things in the sky.

"It just killed my law practice. The last few months I was there, I didn't make one dollar, not one dollar. Back then, I was really standing naked before the multi-

tudes."

In the early 1960s, he moved on and found work in the aeronautic industry. His first wife died in 1971, and when he remarried in Fort Worth, his new wife Helen made him promise to bring her back to her hometown Texarkana, Ark.

They moved here three years ago. Today Leet spends much of his time writing. He has one book out — a dramatized history of the exploits of World War II pilots called "To Rule the Sky" — and a 350-page pictorial history of Texarkana that he compiled for the Texarkana Historical Museum is at the publishers now.

But UFOs remain his obsession. He believes that the security of the United States rests upon its ability to develop the technology involved in what are commonly called flying saucers.

"I am convinced that UFO activity is the most phenomenal of all phenomena today."

He said the U.S. government's refusal to acknowledge the existence of UFOs is not any sinister plot to deceive the American people, but more likely an effort to keep military study of UFO technology hidden from the Soviet Union.

"Despite the secrecy, I believe 95 percent of all Americans have an open mind on the subject. Polls show that more than half of Americans believe in UFOs."

Leet is Arkansas director of the Mutual Unidentified Flying Object Network, an international organization that compiles



Staff photo by Robert Kerr

Bill Leet is certain we are not alone

reports of UFO sightings. He is trying to find a publisher for a book he is writing titled "What? You Haven't Seen A Flying Saucer?" and subtitled "How To Sight A UFO and What to Do When You See One."

He has spoken at two recent meetings of the Texarkana Optimist Club, and enjoys lecturing. He said his comments on UFOs are received less skeptically today than when he first began talking on the subject more than 20 years ago.

He attributes most of that to a more educated populace, and said that movies like "Star Wars," "Hangar 18" and "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" have stimulated interest in UFOs. However, he seldom goes to such films, and never watches television's "Star Trek" because of Hollywood's tendency to sensationalize such offerings.

"You should never mix fact and fiction concerning UFOs."

GAZETTE, Texarkana, AR — Oct. 28, 1981 CR: B. Leet

STAR, Marion, OH — Nov. 5, 1981

'UFO' Sighed Locally

By KEVIN LAMINAN

Star Staff Writer

A Marion County woman reported Wednesday that she saw a bright, moving pattern of lights — a "UFO" — late Tuesday evening near Big Island.

Marcia Stone, 2840 Lee Road, said the incident occurred shortly before midnight Tuesday.

She said she was driving south on Ohio 203 and was just south of the Conrail crossing when the lights were first noticed near the horizon in the east. With her was Boe Hall, a friend of one of her children, and her five-year-old son. She said she stopped the car and they watched the lights for three or four minutes. The image slowly moved westward behind the car, and then receded more rapidly into the northwest, toward Meeker, she continued.

The brightest of the lights were red, she related, but there also blue and white ones.

Stone said another car came through while they watched the lights, but the driver did not stop. She expressed belief the occupants of the other vehicle also observed the phenomenon. Mrs. Stone said she rolled down her window, and did not hear any sound. There was little or no wind at the time she said. The woman said her husband went to the scene after she returned home, and she went to the site with one of her children, but they saw nothing unusual.

Mrs. Stone went to the Marion post of the Highway Patrol shortly after 12:30 a.m. Wednesday and reported the sighting. A patrol spokesman said she was referred to the Federal Aviation Administration. A patrol official said the post had not received any other recent reports of the same kind.

She said the lights, which roughly formed a square pattern, had no distinct outline, except that she thought she saw a "smooth" "ridge" along its bottom.

A spokesman for Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, said no aircraft from that facility were over Marion County at the time.

However, he had no immediate information on other military aircraft movements. The spokesman noted that Ohio and adjoining states have a number of Air Force and National Guard bases.

The planet Venus often produces UFO reports. Visible in the southwest part of the sky this month, it is brighter than average. However, it had disappeared below the horizon several hours before Mrs. Stone's sighting.

She told The Star that she initially thought the lights were from radio towers in the area, but discounted the possibility because of their brightness and movement.

Groton Man Also Saw UFO

BRISTOL — One of the reports of UFO sightings which appeared in last week's Enterprise has been duplicated by Dave Norman of Groton.

Norman reports that while stopped at the corner of Peaked Hill Rd. and Rte. 104 on Nov. 9, he sighted a string of white lights in a "V" pattern, similar to the lights spotted on Nov. 10 over the skies of Laconia.

Norman says he watched the lights for five minutes, and his description matches the Laconia sighting to a tee. Norman says the pattern held unchanged for a long time, and reports hearing no noise at all. He says the lights seemed to be getting closer, and were at about the same altitude as a jetliner might fly.

Norman's account of the unidentified flying object marks at least the fifth such sighting in this area in the past two weeks.

ENTERPRISE, Bristol, NH — Nov. 26, 1981 CR: B. Greenwood

Suit Seeks to Lift Secrecy Veil From Agency's UFO Documents

By Ward Sinclair
Washington Post Staff Writer

The U.S. government says it keeps no records on unidentified flying objects, because they don't exist. But 131 secret documents about UFOs in the files of the National Security Agency have become the subject of an intense legal battle.

Would the documents disclose startling details about the flying saucers, or UFOs, that more than 10 million Americans claim to have seen? Would disclosure compromise NSA's sophisticated eavesdropping techniques? Is it all buncombe? Or is it all too frightening to contemplate?

Apparently only NSA can answer those questions and NSA isn't talking. NSA, in fact, refuses to talk and its reticence is being challenged in the federal courts.

Eleven months ago, a U.S. District Court judge here, Gerhard A. Gesell, held that the documents were so sensitive that their public release might endanger national security. Gesell did not review the documents. His decision was based on a 21-page top-secret affidavit given him in chambers by NSA.

The battle last week reached the U.S. Court of Appeals, where a small organization known as Citizens Against UFO Secrecy (CAUS), arguing for release of the NSA documents, told a three-judge panel that the government cannot have it both ways.

If UFOs do not exist, CAUS attorney Peter A. Gersten of New York told the court, then Uncle Sam has nothing to hide. If they do exist, then we may be in big trouble—and we ought to know about it. But NSA's lip stays buttoned.

The suit brought by CAUS under the Freedom of Information Act is another in a series of challenges to the powers of spy outfits such as NSA, the Central Intelligence Agency and the Defense Intelligence Agency to withhold virtually anything they want under the guise of national security.

"The government position is that UFOs are not a threat and that the government does not study UFOs," Gersten told the appeals panel. If the panel does not order disclosure, he said, Gesell at least should be directed to review the 131 UFO documents

and decide for himself just how sensitive they really are.

Arguing for NSA, attorney Cheryl M. Long said there is no way the documents, no matter what they show, could be released without exposing and compromising the intelligence-gathering techniques of the agency, which include global electronic snooping and code-breaking.

CAUS' appetite for government documents was whetted by the 1978 release of Air Force and CIA reports on UFO sightings that were deemed to have no national security implications. Ground Saucer Watch, a Phoenix-based UFO monitoring organization, forced the release through freedom-of-information suits.

Those documents revealed that in October, November and December of 1975, reliable military personnel saw unconventional and unexplained aerial objects hovering around nuclear weapons storage sites, aircraft alert areas and missile control complexes at installations across the northern United States.

In some instances, as radar sightings of

the objects were made, Air Force fighter planes were sent aloft in unsuccessful pursuit, although the records gave no indication that the fighters fired on the intruders.

CAUS and the Fund for UFO Research, based in suburban Mount Rainier, noting that last week was the sixth anniversary of a celebrated series of sightings over Loring Air Force Base in Maine, brought a witness to Washington to tell his story at a press conference.

Stephen B. Eichner, a now-retired sergeant who was on duty when a strange object hovered over the Loring ammunition dump, described in some detail what he saw in 1975 and said that officials at the base tended to discount his and other witnesses' reports.

Eichner told how he and fellow airmen had seen a football-shaped reddish orange object, three or four car-lengths long, hovering over the Loring dump. He said the object suddenly vanished, then reappeared some distance away at the end of a runway.

Numerous other visual and radar sightings were made at Loring. Air Force planes were scrambled in a luckless attempt to track

down the object. The Air Force generally theorized that the object was an unidentified helicopter, but Eichner said last week it made no noise and could not be mistaken for a helicopter.

Gersten said CAUS intends to file another freedom of information suit against the Air Force this month in an effort to force disclosure of more data on the series of still unexplained 1975 sightings over Strategic Air Command bases.

POST, Washington, DC

Nov. 3, 1981 CR: F. Whiting

SOUTH ARKANSAS NEWS, Hamburg, AR

Nov. 11, 1981

Crash Report Was Error

What was apparently an erroneous report of a jet aircraft going down sparked a two hour search by Ashley and Drew County Deputies, city police and Rescue Unit members last Thursday afternoon.

Ashley County Deputy Dan Lair said that a trucker had apparently seen a military jet low over the trees on a training flight and the driver apparently thought the aircraft was going down. He then reported the sighting on his citizens' band radio, and the call was relayed

to authorities by a Lacey woman. Lair said that in addition to deputies and others, three aircraft were used in the search for the aircraft before the search was called off after about two hours.

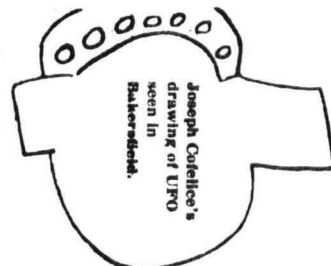
The search began in the southern part of Drew County east of Highway 81 and then moved to the northern part of Ashley County.

Lair said that the aircraft was apparently a military jet on a low level training flight.

At Bakersfield UFO report being probed

by Leonard J. Parent
BAKERSFIELD

"We both got out of the car and walked towards it. They were about 200 yards away from us, and hovered about 200 yards off the ground," said Joseph Cofelice of his unidentified flying object (UFO) sighting Tuesday night on Town Road 20, near the George Sears residence.



"I was driving my son (James, age 16) to a friend's house when we saw these two lights in the sky to our left. They followed us a ways," said Cofelice, "and turned in a manner which placed them directly in front of us about 600 yards away in the western sky."

Cofelice said he was able to make out two objects as they hovered over one another. "One would turn its light on, then the other off," said Cofelice, who operates Black Bart's Barber Shop in St. Albans. "The light would light up the field around us," he said.

By this point Cofelice said he had stopped his automobile, and after the objects started to approach his car, they stopped at a point about 200 yards away, and 200 yards above the ground. It was at this point Cofelice said he and his son exited their car, and started walking towards the two objects.

"They both took off, making a hard grinding noise. It didn't sound like a jet or anything, but machines working hard."

said Cofelice, who said the objects made no noise until that point. Cofelice said when the two UFOs left the area, they headed in a northerly direction, and each had seven lights on their underside, which came on.

In the moonlight Cofelice said he was able to see one of the UFOs clearly. Cofelice sketched one of the UFOs, which accompanies this article. WCAX-TV weatherman Stuart Hall said today someone from Bakersfield reported seeing strange lights in Bakersfield Tuesday night to the Vt. Air National Guard. Cofelice said after Hall mentioned this on his weather program Wednesday evening, he decided to tell of his sightings. "I thought people would believe I was crazy. But after I heard someone else in Bakersfield saw some strange lights Tuesday night, I decided to tell people what I saw."

Hall said Vt. Air National Guard officials in Burlington told him they had nothing airborne that evening which might have been mistaken for a UFO by Cofelice. "I'm going to check with officials at Plattsburgh Air Force Base today to see if they can shed some light on what Cofelice says he saw," said Hall.

"It wasn't an airplane," said Cofelice. "I know what I saw. I'm not crazy."

Cofelice called the UFO Hot Line in Washington State, and they are sending him a form so he can make his statement to that organization, which records reported UFO sightings.

"They said it was one of the better UFO sighting accounts they have heard of," said Cofelice of the UFO Hot Line organization's reaction.

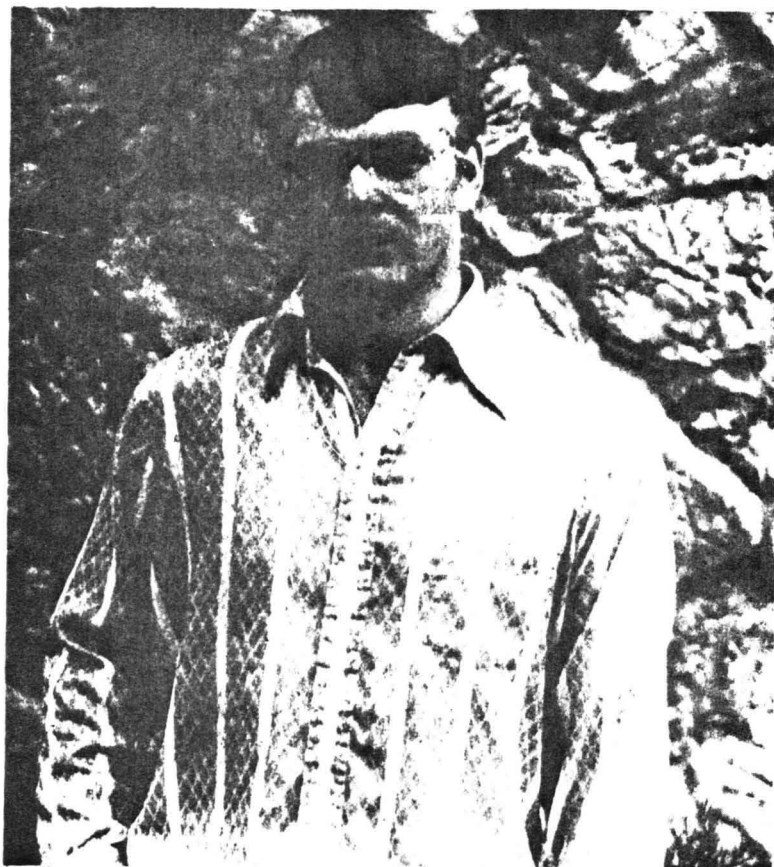
Cofelice said his sighting occurred at about 7:30 p.m.

DAILY MESSENGER, St. Albans, VT — Nov. 12, 1981 CR: B. Greenwood

GETTING TO KNOW

Gary Lambert

He Believes UFO's Exist Around Us



A weird, pulsating object was tracked on radar and observed by thousands of startled citizens at Turin, Italy on the night of November 30, 1973. A Frederic Wisconsin woman photographed a set of strange, tiny horseshoe-shaped tracks which showed up in her yard between January 1 and January 4, 1975. They had no toe or claw marks, were between 2 and 2½ inches across, situated one in front of each other approximately eight inches apart and were two inches deep.

Stories about unidentified flying objects (UFO's) are cropping up all over the country and have been for many years. This brings us to Gary Lambert, a man who studies UFO's as a hobby.

GARY IS head of Lambert Incorporated out of Omaha, Nebraska. He is currently doing some work in the Mosinee area but that's not the only reason he's here. He thinks Mosinee is a prime target for a UFO sighting.

He became interested in this sort of thing about 14 years ago when there was a series of sightings in Nebraska. He was going to law school at the time and really wasn't interested in things like astronomy but this caught his attention. With Gary's business he gets to work all across the country and this also gives him the opportunity to check on UFO sightings nationwide. Also, because he has time off in the winter, he travels extensively to interview people and the witnesses collecting data. He then takes it all home and compares it with other data that

By some coincidence, he had these courses as a prerequisite for getting into this hobby. "I was lucky enough to find that there was something being transmitted in the way of information. I'm at the point now where I can predict some events that are going to come about. I knew in 1978 there would be a UFO flap that would last through the fall and winter and it happened just like I said it would. I predict right now that there will be another one in the fall and winter of 1983."

If you see a UFO you might think it was by chance but Gary says the sightings aren't random. They select some person because of the symbols needed to convey their message. "They select the situation needed to project their message. The message is repeated. For instance, if we were to send a probe somewhere and we wanted to send a message in that probe, we would make the probe so it repeated itself continually so there would be a pattern there that they could pick up on. Eventually, they would learn to decipher the message and they would gain some knowledge from the probe. This is the same kind of thing we have from UFO's. They give symbols which repeat themselves enough so you realize it wasn't a coincidence. Some of the code words they might use are bridge and venus and important numbers are 1, 3, and 5 and variations of that and the numbers 14 and 41. Colors are also important. Green can be

Gary keeps referring to the occupants of UFO's as 'they' so I asked him who he thought 'they' were. "Most of the people who are not familiar with the subject come up with that question. Who is doing these things? I'm not interested in that. I'm interested in why it's being done. I'll find out who's doing it in the future."

If you don't quite understand, don't feel bad. The study of UFO's is very involved and quite complicated. Gary says there is a lot of research involved. "Once you're onto the ideas you start doing research which incorporates getting out your encyclopedia and looking up specific words that you keep seeing, trying to figure out things. For instance, several of the symbols that you keep seeing regularly are the tree symbol and the curve in the road. People say they encounter UFO's at curves in roads again and again. Mushroom also seems to come up often. Each of these are nothing more than pieces to a large puzzle."

BUT WHAT do they mean? Gary says some symbols have to do with things that are coming in the future, what the dangers are. "For instance, before the oil crisis in the 1970's we had blackouts repeatedly in the 1960's. We also had oil based products left behind where UFO's had been seen. Substances like asphalt or oil, or tennis courts would be torn up. When you put all the cases together you saw that oil fitted into a world wide problem which was yet to come. Once the oil shortage began in 1973 they no longer had to warn us about it so they started switching their signs. Many people have heard about the cattle mutilations around the country. They are trying to tell us that a food shortage is coming. If you look you will already see it starting to surface in places like Cambodia and Africa. People are starving to death by the tens of thousands every year. Before that you can go back to the 1896-97 sightings of airships across the country. At that time there was no such thing as an airship. There you had a prophesy of a technology to come. A lot of people think that the disk that is being seen, which is not a conventional aircraft, is a prophesy of what will come to pass in the area of flight in the future."

At the top of the story I said Gary thought Mosinee was a prime target for a UFO sighting. Here's why. Remember he said the numbers 1, 3 and 5 were important. Highway 153 runs right through town. The word bridge is also important. Mosinee has a bridge. They also like the word Lincoln. Mosinee has a Lincoln St. For some reason the word water, and the French equivalent Eau attracts them. Mosinee is near a tremendous amount of water and the Big and Little Eau Pleine Rivers run just south of town. And Mead. Broken down, the letters m e a d mean 31, 35 and 14. Finally, the population of the City has the numbers 135 in it.

GARY IS just biding his time. He can't quite figure out the whole puzzle but he thinks he knows bits and pieces of it. He knows one thing. Something big is in the air and when it happens, he plans on being around to put the missing pieces into place. If anyone in this area has seen something unusual, Gary would appreciate it if you would call or write. His address is: Gary Lambert, 8348 California St., Omaha, Nebraska; Phone (402)391-8091.

Citizens, Police Report UFO Here

By JIM KERRIGAN

They swore they weren't drinking or taking drugs, but two citizens and two Peoria police officers reported sighting a UFO over the city last night.

Leroy Guy Jr., 22, of 1914 N. Broadway summoned police to tell of sighting "a large white light that had red and blue running lights on the side," according to Officer Chris Duncan.

Guy and another UFO viewer, Phyllis Marks, 21, of 1908 N. North, reportedly made the observation between 5:30 and 7 last night. And, noted the apparently skeptical Duncan, they "swore they hadn't been drinking or taking any drugs, nor were they crazy."

But wait, there's more.

Duncan said he "was relating the incident to Officer (Robert) Baer. Officer Baer stated he saw the object while en route to work."

"Officer Baer stated he has frequently observed these objects," Duncan continued, "but (he) also hesitated to be telling too many persons he's been seeing them."

Apparently, the unidentified flying object was jockeyed by a clever pilot, intelligent life with an ear to the radio, perhaps.

AT LEAST that's the conclusion drawn by one of the observers. "Mr. Guy," said the reporting patrolman, "stated the objects must be reading

Soviets change stance towards UFO sightings

By A. Hovni
SPECIAL TO THE NEWS WORLD

Like most countries on Earth, official statements from the Soviet Union concerning UFOs have been quite contradictory throughout the years. When flying saucers were raging over the United States in the '50s and '60s, the Soviets would issue scattered comments to the effect that UFOs were only "Pentagon propaganda" or "nightmares of the capitalist countries." Yet by 1967 the UFO phenomenon had a brief and complete turn-around when Professor Felix Zeigel, the USSR's foremost UFOlogist, and Major General P.A. Stolyarov, appeared on prime time Soviet TV to tell the citizenry that it was their patriotic duty to report to the authorities any unusual object they may see in the skies.

A year later, Pravda, the Communist Party's mass organ, reversed the situation by declaring that the study of UFOs was "unscientific." UFOlogists were back to the underground, where they had learned to cover themselves as "science-fiction enthusiasts." Yet the 1967 opening had a precise reason. The data collected then became the raw material for a detailed "statistical analysis" of 256 UFO sightings conducted by the USSR Academy of Sciences Institute of Space Research. When the report was released in 1979 under the title of, "Observations of Anomalous Atmospheric Phenomena in the USSR: Statistical Analysis" (quickly translated to English in "NASA Technical Memorandum No. 75665" and later distributed by the Center for UFO Studies in Evanston, Ill.), it became obvious that UFOs were no longer "unscientific."

State-run press eyes UFOs

In the last couple of years, a surprising number of UFO-related articles have appeared in the state-controlled press, and some of them have been reprinted in

Sputnik magazine and other Soviet publications in foreign languages. For the most part, these articles attempt to explain away UFOs as some sort of natural phenomena like "chemiluminescence formations (CLFs)," a chemical reaction caused by atmospheric pollution, yet they make it clear that Soviet authorities are investigating UFOs, or "anomalous atmospheric phenomena," as they are officially known. A recent article in Sputnik on the CLF theory, for instance, stated at one point that, "thousands of observations and photographic pictures of these phenomena have been collected and studied in Soviet laboratories."

UFO reports in the USSR vary depending under which channel they are released. Some of the hottest sightings came from a 1977 lecture reportedly given by Professor Zeigel to a group of Soviet technocrats. The report was leaked out, perhaps deliberately, and distributed through the "samizdat" network of underground literature, eventually reaching Western researchers. Although half of the report was devoted to American UFOlogy, a few good cases were mentioned here for the first time.

On August 31, 1961, for example, several cars were stalled on a highway some 30 miles from Moscow, when a UFO hovered on top of an underpass for a few minutes. The cars could not start until the UFO left. According to Zeigel's lecture, another incident was reported by Valentin Akkuratov, one of the USSR's pioneer Arctic aviators, during a flight over Greenland in 1956. Chief-pilot Akkuratov was paced by a saucer-shaped UFO for about 15 minutes, always maintaining the same distance from his plane. A second UFO approached the plane also for brief moments. Akkuratov's report indicates that whenever he tried to either escape from or approach the object in

order to get a better look of it, the UFO would always keep the same distance. Zeigel also mentioned a sighting by three astronomers in Letonia, and a landing case on the region of Volongonsk on January 1976, in which it was possible to estimate that the 30-meter diameter ring left on the ground indicated the object weighed 30 tons.

Chart of sightings

The 1979 official Academy of Sciences report does not describe any particular incident in detail, but it provides three charts with "observation of anomalous phenomena" on three specific dates in 1967 — July 17, September 19 and October 18 — over a wide range of sites in Soviet territory. The Sept. 19 "crescent-like object," for instance, was spotted in eight Ukrainian cities, in Russia, in the Belgorod District, and finally by passenger aircraft flight No. 404 between Voroshilovgrad and Volgograd, which reported the UFO was "hovering," and "maneuvering around (the) aircraft."

The bulk of the study concerns statistical aspects such as time distribution of events, types of objects, observer categories, duration of sighting, object structure and nature of luminosity, etc. Some of the statistics are quite astounding because they demolish popular but faulty stereotypes about UFO eyewitnesses. A chart distributing the observers by specialties, indicates the largest group of witnesses is that of scientists with 25 percent (of which 7.5 percent are astronomers), while the second group are engineers with a 17.5 percent, and the third pilots with an 11 percent. At the bottom of the chart with 1 percent each, are maintenance workers and seamen. This led authors Gindilis, Men'kov and Petrovskaya to state that "in the majority of the cases, the observers had quite high qualifications," which raised

"the reliability of the initial material." Although careful to avoid any opinion regarding the possible origin of UFOs, the authors concluded that "we are concerned with a specific class of phenomenon which have definite stable statistical properties," that most sightings described were "actual phenomena" and not "hallucinations or false reports," and finally that further scientific research should be carried on.

Situation changed considerably

Undoubtedly since the release of the statistical report, the situation has changed considerably for Soviet scientists studying or discussing in public their research in the field. It wasn't always like that. A 1975 heavily censored CIA declassified document on UFOs mentions a Soviet scientist that told "half jokingly" an unnamed source that "someone must have made a political decision that they (UFOs) were not to be sighted anymore." That political decision seems to have been reversed now, although no one knows for how long. The Soviet press continues to deny categorically — much like the U.S. Air Force in the days of its Project Bluebook press releases — that there is not one shred of evidence to prove that UFOs are extraterrestrial, yet they no longer deny that people are seeing them. A mostly debunking Sputnik article, titled "UFOs Through the Eyes of Cosmonauts," quoted Soyuz-5 cosmonaut Yevgeni Khronov saying that, "as regards UFOs, their presence cannot be denied: thousands of people have seen them. It may be that their source is optical effects but some of their properties, for instance, their ability to change course by 90 degrees at great speed, simply stagger the imagination." The days of "Pentagon propaganda" and the "unscientific" nature of UFOs are over...at least for the time being.

...but Kremlin may be manipulating the data

By Dennis Stacy
SPECIAL TO THE NEWS WORLD

Soviet authorities are manipulating UFO data within their own country, says NASA Space Shuttle expert, James Oberg, this country's self-styled "sympathetic skeptic" of UFOs and a longtime observer of the Russian space program. The problem is, Western observers of the Soviet propaganda machine do not know exactly how or why the deception is employed.

"If I had to speculate," said Oberg, "I would say the Soviet authorities look upon UFOs as a harmless intellectual diversion. You can't be a political dissident, but you can be a UFO dissident and it doesn't hurt. And I say that because UFOs are denounced by official spokesmen, yet UFO reports are tolerated and even encouraged by the Soviet mass media, the government itself is playing some game with the UFO phenomena that we here in the West don't fully understand."

Oberg has good cause to be familiar with the Soviet tactics of deception. He is fluent in Russian and the author of *Red Star in Orbit*, a penetrating history of Soviet successes and failures in the race to conquer space. Oberg himself is a computer analyst involved in program-

ming the Space Shuttle Columbia's orbital and attitudinal rocket systems. In *Red Star in Orbit*, he finds numerous instances of Soviet duplicity and outright coverup and embarrassments, including cosmonauts who are erased from official press release photographs following their untimely death or fall from grace.

In a recent interview with this reporter, Oberg turned his attention to the Soviet manipulation of local UFO reports.

Jellyfish UFO coverup

"The biggest case involved the outright coverup of the famous jellyfish-shaped UFO over Pertrozavodsk back on September 20, 1977," Oberg said. "There's hardly a doubt in the mind of anyone who looks seriously at the data that that was a launch of Cosmos 955. The Soviets can't admit that, however, because it was launched from their top secret northern Cosmodrome. So they trot out a bunch of official explanations that it was chemo-luminescent industrial smog, the aurora-borealis, or some other very lame excuse."

A more recent incident involved the release by the Soviet Academy of Sciences of a report entitled "Observations of Anomalous Atmospheric Phenomena

in the USSR: Statistical Analysis." First published in November, 1979, the document analyzed 265 Soviet UFO reports, the earliest of which dated back to 1923. Most of the sightings, however, occurred during 1967 when the Soviet Union supposedly underwent a flap of UFO activity.

Early in 1980, the report came to the attention of Dr. Richard F. Haines, a life sciences specialist employed at NASA's Ames Research Center, Maryland, and Director of Investigations for the Center for UFO Studies, Evanston, Illinois. Haines interested his superiors in making a translation of the Soviet Academy Report which was eventually made available to the public under the auspices of CUFOS.

But Oberg thinks there is more than first meets the eye with the Soviet Academy of Sciences report, too. He says: "This is simply a case of massaging the data. You can put a spit shine on almost anything and it doesn't necessarily increase its value or change its real nature. If you look very carefully at the Academy of Sciences report, you will see it says very specifically, in the report itself, that it is not based upon actual research conducted by the Academy, but that it's merely a statistical manipulation of data provided by Felix Zeigel. And

Zeigel, one of the leading luminaries of Soviet ufology, has been having his own problems."

Zeigel's reports unsubstantiated

Oberg referred to an article which recently appeared in the English journal, "Flying Saucer Review," written by two other Soviet UFO researchers who tried to confirm Zeigel's data and were unable to substantiate a single report.

"He's been totally discredited within the Soviet UFO community itself, in essence, for having fictitiously and fraudulently created his own data, based largely on Western parallels," Oberg said.

"I don't pretend to know who's right," Oberg added, "but there's certainly a good deal of conflict going on over there. I've even heard from various emigres and Soviet officials that political agitators will open and close their meetings with UFO stories to get the public's interest."

"So the Soviet government's attitude toward UFOs is not at all understood by us here in the West, and to say that the Soviet Academy of Sciences report is somehow a blessing, or endorsement, of the UFO phenomena is to play a card game with only half a deck. We just don't know what's in their mind."

UFO sighting over city

A SWANSEA housewife claimed a UFO sighting over Treboeth last night.

Mrs. Mary Evans, of Llwyd Road, saw a "bright fiery light" hovering behind old lodging house ruins on top of a hill overlooking Llewellyn Park. She watched it for several minutes before it disappeared into the night sky.

"I thought the house was on fire because the light was so bright. It seemed very hot and I think must have left some form of scorch marks on the ground," she said.

Meteorites, suggest Swansea Coastguards, could be the answer:

"We have had a spate of meteorites lately, perhaps that is what she saw."

Neither Swansea police nor the airport have had any other reports of the sighting, although Mrs. Evans' neighbour also saw it.

Gower weatherman Mr. John Powell said conditions last night were ideal for star gazing.

SOUTH WALES EVENING POST,

Swansea, England

Nov. 19, 1981

HERALD, Melbourne, Australia - Nov. 11, 1981 CR: P. Norman

New track on UFOs

From DUDLEY HUNT in Denmark

The wonders of electronics are now being used to track UFOs which may be flying saucers from outer space.

Two months ago, 40 members of Sufoi — the

Scandinavian Unidentified Flying Objects Information Group — installed little prototype machines in their homes in Denmark to register changes in magnetic fields.

This is a great help for the observers of the unknown because it's very difficult to see strange objects in the sky if it is cloudy or dark.

These little machines — they are about the size of two packets of cigarettes and cost about \$28 — are tuned to the same sensitivity and show when there is something strange around. They are electronic developments of the Cartwright UFO Detector which was invented in Australia.

Mr Ole Knudsen, a 30-year-old astronomy stu-

dent, who is one of Sufoi's leading lights, said that so far all the machines had recorded was fridges switching themselves on or brief power surges in domestic electrical systems.

There is another difficulty. "We can't depend on all UFOs having a strong magnetic field but, on the other hand, if anything does come around with a strong magnetic field it is probably a UFO or a refrigerator," he said.

The 3000 Sufoi members take their work seriously. All reports of UFOs made to the police or air force are channelled to Mr Knudsen who, if the report comes in quickly, alerts some of the 300 members on sky watch which greatly improves the chances of a positive sighting.

UFOs besieged Canary Islands

Spanish authorities probed sightings, 'close encounter'

By A. Hovni

SPECIAL TO THE NEWSWORLD

(First in a two-part series.)

A series of dramatic UFO sightings rocked the Canary Islands, off Africa's northwestern coast, between 1974 and 1979. All combined, the sightings contain most of the elements that make a good UFO report, such as: multiple witnesses, in these cases sometimes by the hundreds; highly reliable witnesses, including in one incident a Spanish Air Force General — the highest military authority in the islands — and several pilots, Navy officers, TV crews, a medical doctor, etc. in the others; there was besides radar confirmation in one sighting and a series of color photographs taken by different photographers in two other sightings.

You may still ask whether the cases were verified by competent investigators. The answer is a definite YES! Without exceptions, the Canary Islands UFO sightings were investigated by teams of enquiry from the Spanish Air Force. Subsequently, the documents (together with many other UFO-related military reports) were leaked to the public through Juan Jose Benitez, Spain's "number one" UFO journalist, who has published a sizeable number of articles and books on the subject.

A radar/visual UFO report

Compared to the following ones, the sighting of November 24, 1974 is the simplest, yet by no means is it a poor or even average report. The witnesses included an Air Force Lt. Colonel on the ground, military personnel on a radar station in the Grand Canary Island, and the Captain of an Iberia commercial airliner. An unidentified echo was detected also by the same radar station, code-named W-8, but let's follow the facts in a chronological order.

The "Informe 01/75 sobre O.V.N.I.s" (UFO Report 01/75) begins with a statement by a 1st Sergeant and an AF soldier from the "Technical Zone W-8" located in the highest point in the Grand Canary island. At 8:17 p.m., the watchman observed "a very brilliant white light that pulsated." The 1st Sergeant and several soldiers confirmed the sighting and one soldier was assigned to keep a constant watch of it, which was done until the pulsating light disappeared by 5 o'clock in the morning.

The dossier continues with the statement of an (name deleted) Air Force Lt. Col., who was driving with his family on a road in the northern part of the Grand Canary. At 9:30 p.m., the Lt. Col. observed an object, "similar to a bolide, but flying horizontally on a direction parallel to the coast towards the island of Tenerife. It had the size of a luminous spot with a short luminous tail." According to the witness, the object was flying at an incredibly fast speed, "which made me think that it could not be an airplane."

Twenty minutes later, the object was observed by the pilot and co-pilot of a local Iberia airliner, flight IB-098, commuting between Tenerife and Las Palmas. The object, continues the official report, was described as "a very brilliant white light twice the size of the planet Venus, according to the first witness, and four times bigger than the planet Venus according to the second." The Captain called the nearest control tower to enquire if there was any commercial or private air traffic in the area, and he was told there wasn't any. Yet exactly at the same time, presumably the same object was detected on the radar screen of the W-8 military station. The Air Force report indicates that, according to the radar operator in charge, the object produced "a normal echo like the one produced by a large airplane. He (the radar operator) doesn't doubt that it was caused by a metallic body. He is absolutely convinced that it could not have been anomalous reflections produced by comets, or other meteorological agents... The speed of 500 knots detected on one occasion is not normal for the traffic between the islands, either. The operator was not able to determine what it was."

A close encounter of the third kind For hundreds, perhaps thousands, of terrified witnesses from the islands of Tenerife, La Palma and Gomera, the luminous flash on the night of June 22, 1976, (shown on the cover photograph) was an awesome spectacle. For Doctor Francisco Padron and a group of a dozen locals from the small town of Las

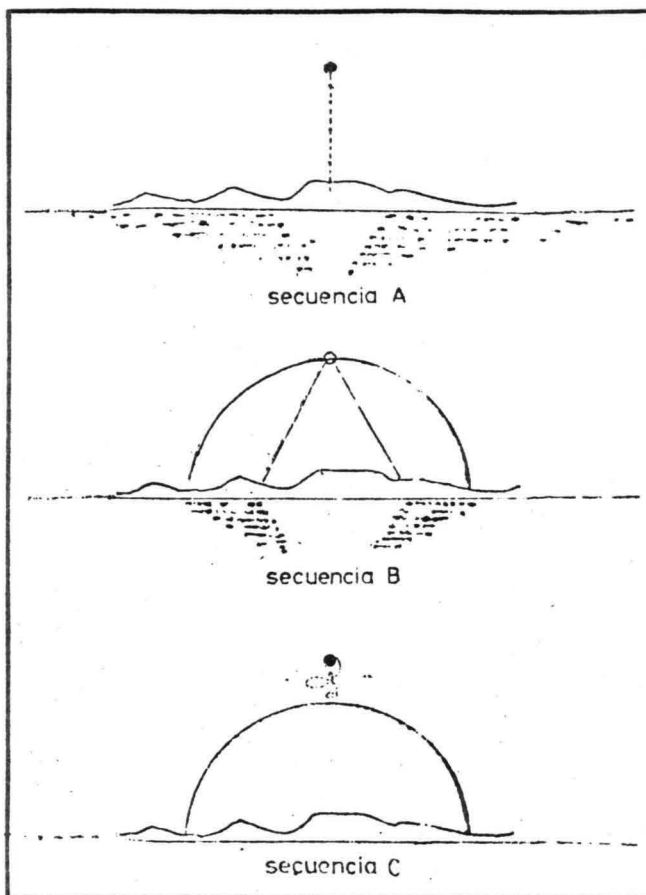
Rosas, the sighting became an eerie entry into another reality. Inside a transparent spherical globe with a diameter of about 30 meters, there were standing two large beings between 2.5 and 3.0 meters tall, facing each other.

The UFO, however, was first spotted by the Corvette "Atrevida" of the Spanish Navy off the coast of the island of Fuerteventura. The official "UFO Report 01/76" states that, at 9:27 p.m., the Captain and the 1st Lieutenant of the "Atrevida" observed "a luminous spot of an intense bluish-yellow color... emerging from land and ascending in altitude in the direction of our position." The report continues saying that the object "remained motionless, with its light rotating." It then divided itself in two halves, but the halo generated by the first luminous spot would remain for over 40 minutes.

Meanwhile, Dr. Francisco Padron, a family doctor in the town of Guia in the Grand Canary, received an emergency call to visit one of his patients in the small town of Las Rosas. When approaching the house in a taxi, he and the driver (as well as a number of neighbors), saw a transparent spherical object with a diameter of about 30 meters hovering over the road. According to Dr. Padron's sworn statement to Air Force investigators, the object was made of "a totally transparent, crystal-like material, since you could see the stars in the sky through it." Inside the slightly-illuminated globe with an "electric-blue color," there was a metallic-looking platform with the color of tin, and three large consoles. "Standing at each side of the central (console)," continues Dr. Padron's report to the AF, "there were two huge figures some 2.5 or 3.00 meters (8 to 10 feet) tall... entirely dressed in a brilliant-red uniform." The "beings" did not face the witnesses, and they were described as having a large chest and short stocky legs. The globe began then to grow in an amazing fashion (yet the "beings" remained in the center with the same size) until it generated a huge halo. It finally ascended and moved in the direction of the island of Tenerife.

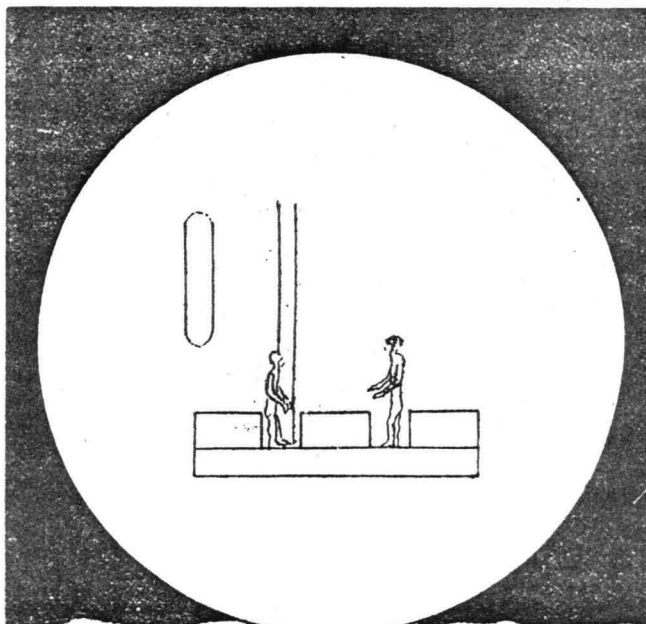
Between 10:15 and 10:30, the night over the islands of Tenerife, La Palma and Gomera was illuminated by a large round object enveloped in a yellow and green halo, as shown in the photograph taken from the neighborhood of Maspalomas in the Grand Canary. Hundreds of phone calls flooded the television and radio stations, newspapers, police and so on. News of the event would travel quickly on the following days throughout Spain and beyond. Some of the explanations given for the phenomenon said it had been allegedly caused by an undersea volcano, or maybe by the fall of a meteorite, or perhaps by some unusual atmospheric phenomenon, or even by those mischievous "OVNIs." Yet meantime, the Air Force was busy collecting the data from the numerous witnesses, knowing that something bizarre, perhaps not from this world, was going on right there under their noses, in the strategically-vital Canary Islands. And they would not be disappointed.

(to be continued in the next issue).



(Above) Diagram of the movement followed by the object as seen from the Corvette "Atrevida" of the Spanish Navy. (Below) Sketch of the transparent globe with two beings inside. Drawings are from appendixes to the official "UFO Report 01/76" prepared by a team of enquiry of the Spanish Air Force to investigate the events of June 22, 1976. The documents were later released to the public through the well-known UFO journalist, J.J. Benitez.

Courtesy J.J. Benitez



SUNDAY GLOBE, Boston, MA - Nov. 8, 1981 CR: B. Greenwood

LATIN AMERICA | STEPHEN KINZER

UFO reported in 3 nations

A classic UFO mystery is the talk of South America this week.

On Oct. 31, an oval object flashing brilliant lights was seen by thousands of persons in the Chilean capital of Santiago. The air force said it had no planes in the air at the time, but private

pilots were reported to have photographed the flying object.

The unknown craft traveled northward, crossing the city of Arica and entering Peru in sight of many before veering southeast toward Brazil. That is where the plot thickens.

According to witnesses and press reports, four Brazilian hunters in the northwestern state of Maranhao were killed by green, orange, red and yellow rays emitted by the UFO.

Nov. 20, 1981

UFO spotted in Rotherham area

Rotherham was visited by a UFO last Friday night.

Driver David Green spotted two mysterious lights while he was heading down Wortley Road towards Masborough.

And when he got to his brother's house in Devonshire Street, the family kept a watch on the object for five minutes until it disappeared like a dot on a TV screen.

"Looking towards Millmoor from Devonshire Street — approximately due East — there appeared to be two star-like lights a short distance apart, as if a car's

headlamps were shining from the sky a great distance away," said David.

"They were too bright to be stars and they were stationary, and therefore were not aeroplane lights," he said.

"After roughly five minutes the strange lights faded, diminished and disappeared completely rather like a TV picture contracting, becoming a dot and then disappearing altogether."

David, of Beckett Crescent, Kimberworth Park, contacted the police who told him that RAF Finningley had been notified.

A spokesman for the RAF said that there had been another sighting by a man from Sheffield who had been looking from Frecheville towards Mosbrough about the same time. He had described it as a "dumb-bell shaped object" with a bright light on each end.

Initially it was rather low, but then climbed and was lost in a layer of cloud.

The spokesman said he had no idea what the object could have been. "We didn't have anything flying at the time," he said.

HERALD EXPRESS, Torquay, Devon, England
Nov. 25, 1981

Devon UFO enthusiasts check out sightings

DEVON UFO enthusiasts are checking out several sightings reported over Plymouth on Monday night.

Eight people in different parts of the city, including Eric Morris, regional co-ordinator of the British UFO Society, reported seeing a flying cross with a defused light in the centre.

Similar sightings were reported over South Devon a few weeks ago and have still not been explained.

"I was alerted by a telephone call at about 5.40 pm and a few minutes later saw it myself," said Mr Morris.

"It was moving very slowly and finally disappeared towards the north-west."

Some observers reported what appeared to be a smaller shining object which travelled earthwards from UFO at an angle of about 45 degrees immediately before the UFO disappeared.

EVENING NEWS, Bolton, England - Nov. 12, 1981

Bright rays came from UFO

SIR — I would like to report that my brother and I saw the UFO that was sighted by Mr Alan Slack on Friday, Nov 6.

We had been to the chip-shop about 10 p.m. and happened to look up and we saw a bright pinky red light with rays coming from it. It seemed to hover and then started to descend behind the houses. There were very bright rays coming from it, brighter than we had seen at first and they seemed to light up the houses. This lasted for about 10-15 seconds and then it started to move away. It seemed to be travelling in the direction of Blackrod.

Steven Gregory (16), Paul Gregory (10), Old Hall Lane, Daisy Hill.

STAR, Indianapolis, IN - Jan. 3, 1982 CR: C. Jones

111 UFOs sighted in Spain in 1981

Madrid (UPI) — More than 100 unidentified flying objects, including one the size of an oil tanker, were spotted in Spanish airspace in 1981, a UFO watcher said Saturday.

Juan Jose Benitez, a journalist and UFO enthusiast from Bilbao, said the 111 sightings represented a slight decrease compared to the previous year.

Benitez said the captain of an

Iberia jetliner reported he saw and received radar signals from "an enormous metal object as big as an oil tanker" off Spain's Atlantic coast last August.

The same supposed space alien was registered by the air control tower at Las Palmas on the Canary Islands, he said.

Benitez said a dozen witnesses last February spotted a "bright shining arrow-shaped object" hovering over the sea, then watched it fly off without a sound.

The air force had no comment.

TRANSLATIONS

CREDIT: Jane Thomas (Translator: R. Girard)

- 1) City and country of incident: Aguillo, Trevino County, Spain
- 2) Date of incident: July 2, 1981
- 3) Name of paper and date of clip: DIARIO DE VALENCIA, September 27, 1981
- 4) City and country of newspaper: Valencia, Spain

LUMINOUS PHENOMENA PHOTOGRAPHED IN TREVIÑO COUNTY

A strange luminous phenomenon, shaped like a huge ball of fire with an incandescent tail, took place last July in Aguillo, Trevino County, Spain, about 20 km. from Victoria, in an area where similar phenomena have occurred in recent years.

The event remained unpublicized until now, since Prudencio Miguruza, who observed and photographed the phenomenon, did not want to tell anyone about it until the roll of film containing the shot of the intense light source had been developed.

"Last year I saw something very similar in the same area. On that occasion," he said, "it was around 10:00 P.M. when a luminous star appeared in the sky. It was hard to describe because it was very nebulous, and also, the light blinded me."

Miguruza is employed at "Banca," and before telling his friends about what he had seen, he took the precaution of waiting until his photograph had been enlarged.

"The truth is," he added, "that I didn't think anything would come out. I was using a very basic camera and didn't think anything would turn out, and for that reason I was afraid they would say I was a bit touched or that I had made it all up."

THE TRACTOR STOPPED

Miguruza was accompanied by his dog when he saw the strange object. "The animal was paralyzed, very nervous and with its tail between its legs, while I felt myself overwhelmed."

"In the photograph you can see clearly the image appearing like a ball of fire falling toward the ground, with a tail stretching back in two directions. In the lower portion of the photo, just above some trees on a nearby hill, you can see a luminous circle of the same light intensity of that of the trail which crossed the sky."

In the same region of Aguillo several similar phenomena have been seen by some residents. Two years ago a farmhand plowing with his tractor was immobilized by the appearance of some intensely luminous lights hovering over the field in which he was working.

The tractor's motor died, while the farmhand remained motionless at the wheel until awakened from an apparent trance by one of his brothers.

- 1) City and country of incident: Satipo, Peru
- 2) Date of incident: November 13 (2), 1981
- 3) Name of paper and date of clip: CRONICA (Matutina), November 15, 1981
- 4) City and country of newspaper: Buenos Aires, Argentina

THREE MISCHIEVOUS UFOs PUT OUT THE LIGHTS

Lima, 14 (DPA). -- It was reported in Lima today that three UFOs over Satipo, in the Peruvian jungle, left the city without electrical power.

According to a dispatch from a correspondent for "El Comercio," in Satipo, inhabitants of the city added that shortly after the appearance of the UFOs, power failed and radio communications were halted.

• "Blue-red" colors

The discs were seen over a radius of 20 km. of Satipo and flew twice over the city. They were first noted as simple, small lights, which then expanded and emitted red and blue lights. A white light surrounded the space ships, according to the report.

- 1) City and country of incident: Mar del Plata, Argentina
- 2) Date of incident: November 21, 1981
- 3) Name of paper and date of clip: CRONICA (Matutina), November 23, 1981
- 4) City and country of newspaper: Buenos Aires, Argentina

UFO AMAZES MAR DEL PLATA

Mar del Plata, 22 (From our correspondent). -- Numerous concurring witness reports of a UFO which maneuvered over the skies of Mar del Plata last weekend have provoked the widest range of comments among the city's residents.

Although the object did not have the traditional "flying saucer" form, witnesses claimed that it was not accompanied by the sound of motors, was considered as being deliberately controlled, and was not a conventional object and therefore not a rocket or satellite.

The following is one of the reports, from a young night school student who saw the phenomenon on Saturday night:

"I was riding my bicycle on Jara Street. When I reached Colón I saw a kind of glowing missile, which caught my attention because it made no noise. Suddenly, it extended some wings, as red as if they had been on fire.

"Then it headed toward Champagnat, toward San Martin Stadium, and I tried to follow it. As I was doing this, it repeated its flight twice more. I waited there quite a while hoping it would return, but it didn't. I can dismiss the idea of an optical illusion or of whatever type of psychic suggestion. The image was very clear and distinct. Also, I can refer you to other people in my neighborhood who also saw it."

CREDIT: Irene Granchi

- 1) City and country of incident: Corrientes, Argentina
- 2) Date of incident: (Not stated; case divulged by doctor, Nov. 18, 1981)
- 3) Name of paper and date of clip: ULTIMA HORA (Rio edition), December 19, 1981
- 4) City and country of newspaper: Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

FLYING SAUCER ABDUCTS TRUCK-DRIVER AND HIS TRUCK

Corrientes, Argentina - Truck-driver Juan Menezes, of this province, was transported over 100 km. by a flying saucer, together with his heavy truck. Juan declared that he was driving towards Caa Catí when an unexpected powerful light surprised him and he fainted. He only recovered consciousness 100 km. after this. The abduction of the truck and its driver was divulged yesterday by a doctor of the San Luis del Palmar Hospital who attended the man during a severe nervous crisis.

This unusual case has been largely commented by Corrientes circles, as in fact, Juan Menezes was actually driving to Caa Catí, and only reappeared 100 km. from there, on the No. 5 Route, close to San Luis del Palmar with no explanation for it; right after the doctor revealed his conversation with the truck-driver, several persons assured him that they had seen a large UFO emitting a moving light and coming downwards in egocentric circles at a vertiginous speed. Of late, the presence of flying saucers in various localities of Argentina has been announced, and some of the eye-witnesses are commercial lines air-pilots.

- 1) City and country of incident: Corrientes, Argentina
- 2) Date of incident: (Not stated)
- 3) Name of paper and date of clip: ULTIMA HORA (Rio edition), December 29, 1981
- 4) City and country of newspaper: Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

BLINDING LIGHT

Corrientes - The Investigatory Organization of Space Phenomena of this Argentinian province have discovered in the locality of Derki, burned traces on the ground from an alleged extraterrestrial ship that employed a giant light ray at a high temperature, capable of burning all it touched. The information given by Ramon (?) Menezes who says he was transported over a distance of 100 km. by a blinding light is being investigated.

Bigfoot

Sighting On Mount Shasta Claimed Five Years Ago

By EMILIE FRANK
H&N Special Writer

Has Bigfoot ever been seen on the slopes of Mount Shasta?

A logger named Virgil Larson claims he saw the legendary creature in September 1976 when he was employed by Columbia Helicopter Co., which was logging on the mountain.

Larson says he saw a huge, bad-smelling critter whose hair started at its eyebrows and went straight back over its head. He said it wasn't a man — not even human — and claimed it "stunk like a half-rotten bear hide." The sighting was south of Cascade Gulch on the lower slopes.

Some say Bigfoot is a hoax, but Larson doesn't think so.

Bigfoot sightings in Northern California and Siskiyou County are fairly common. Records show, for example, that Mrs. J. Pomroy of Butte, Mont., saw in August 1956 what appeared to be a bear running across the highway just north of Mount Shasta City. But it was taking giant strides on two legs, like a human.

In 1962 a Bakersfield, Calif., man reporting seeing a heavy, hair-covered creature 8 feet tall, dirty silver in color with a flat face and human-like hands. He claimed he was within 75 feet when the creature slowly walked away, arms hanging.

And how about this — from John Green's "Sasquatch

File" — about Bigfoot rescuing a Mount Shasta climber. The author failed to get the man's name, but the person claimed that while deer hunting on the mountain he fell off a bluff and was badly hurt. A 9-foot "thing" shaped like a man but reeking with the musty odor of a game animal carried him 2 miles to camp. Later, the man found 1½-inch long, whitish hairs on his hunting coat.

Again, in the mid 1960s, Henry Kierkoph, Woodland Hills, Calif., reported that several hunting friends saw several sets of Bigfoot tracks. In fact, as far back as 1886 the Del Norte Record newspaper reported sightings of a giant creature near Happy Camp, a remote hamlet on the Klamath River in western Siskiyou County. The paper called the creature a "wild man" 7 feet tall with a bulldog head, long hair and beard but hairless on "such parts of its body as is common with men."

The name "Bigfoot" emerged in the 1920s, a brainchild of the press. At that time Bigfoot referred only to creatures in Northern California, but later it spread to Oregon and Washington. Elsewhere the same creature is known as Sasquatch, the English version of such Indian names as Soss q'atl, Sok-questl, Sami sog qia'm, Sasq'atl and others meaning "wild man of the woods."

The Hoopa Tribe of

Klamath Indians called him Oh-man-ah, which was often shortened to Omah, while tribes in the Cascades called him Seeahstiks.

Happy Camp is well known as Bigfoot Country. That's because of the many stories, including one from 1952 when a man was returning to Orleans from Happy Camp during a heavy rainstorm on an extremely crooked and dangerous road. At a road detour he was told to cross the river on a little used dirt road through an area called Bear Valley. After driving about 20 miles he saw in his headlights what he described as a shaggy orangutan resembling a human. Its wet hair looked blue-grey. The creature vanished behind a tree.

Thinking he was overly tired and imagining things, the man drove on. Suddenly his car went into a violent skid. As he brought the car into control he glanced into the rear view mirror and saw a savage face, or thought he did.

He had to stop to remove a fallen sapling that had fallen across the road. Hands on the tree, he was suddenly startled by the thud of running feet and then was face-to-face with Bigfoot, who circled him and then came close.

"The eyes," he recalled later, "were round and luminous. The hair on top of its low round head was rather short. Its eyeteeth were far longer than a human's, also the chest and upper part of its torso was almost bare of hair and kind of leathery-looking. It had a stooped, long-armed posture."

Paralyzed with fear, he realized the monster was playing a game — it would stalk down the road, then charge back. When it stalked, the detoured motorist dashed for his car. No sooner was he inside when there was Bigfoot, clawing at the window. He gunned his car over the sapling. The creature clung to the back of the car, trumpeting screams of rage, but after a time dropped off.



Shasta Sighting — The "X" marks the area where a logger claims to have seen Bigfoot on Mount Shasta on a hot September day in 1976.

Those who have tried to find Bigfoot say the story has credence. Bluff Creek, where the meeting took place, is near the boundary that separates Humboldt and Del Norte counties, a magnificent region slashed by the Klamath River and some of its tributary creeks. The forest floor is a tanglewood of prickly vines and shrubs and the groundcover is so dense humans rarely penetrate the area.

Until a road was constructed from the mouth of Bluff Creek into the mountains, no one except Hoopa Indians knew about Bigfoot. The Hoopas, who had a reservation nearby, chose to keep information about the "wild man" to themselves.

There are more stories, too. In August 1967 almost 600 Bigfoot tracks were counted just west of Bluff Creek. And it was another time on Bluff Creek Road that Ray Kerr and Leslie Brezeale, driving in a pickup truck one night, claimed to have seen a huge,

dark, hairy man-like figure. Another man, working for a road construction crew, claimed to have seen Bigfoot outside a shack. He quit the job the next morning. Several workers who stayed made casts of the tracks. They measured 15 inches long and had strange double-bumps where the ball of the foot should have been. Which brings us back to the slopes of Mount Shasta.

In 1955, John Chamberlain, a Yreka newspaperman, found prints on the mountain with the same, curious double-bump. They also measured 15 inches. Long intrigued by the persistent rumors of large footprints on Shasta, Chamberlain led an expedition. Hoping to find evidence of the much publicized Lemurians — Bigfoot stories were not common then — the group found and photographed large footprints.

The prints show two knobby impressions and the stride measured 50 inches. They

guessed the creature's weight at 450 pounds. Tracks were found near the 11,500 foot elevation level for more than 1,500 feet.

More recently, in 1975, two women searched from Tulelake to Yreka for Bigfoot. And in May 1976, Cherie Darvell insisted she had been abducted by a hairy, ape-like creature in the woods near Eureka.

The most active Bigfoot searcher is Pete Byrne, The Dalles, who has spent considerable time and more than \$100,000 in his searches. He wants to provide protection for the Bigfoot breed, which he believes is a harmless, primitive man who should be left alone. Byrne fears someone will track a Bigfoot, blow its head off and take what's left for commercial use.

Byrne said that if he can establish that Bigfoot is real it will be easy to obtain an executive order protecting the species.

"Because," notes Byrne, "obviously they are rare."



Bigfoot Statue — This enormous wooden statue, carved by Jim McClarin, is at the entrance to Willow Creek, and is part of an attempt to capitalize on Bigfoot having been reported in that area.

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

Biologist finds 'dinosaur' prints in Congo jungle

CHICAGO — A University of Chicago biologist said Friday he believes, based on footprints he discovered in the Congo, that dinosaur-like creatures still roam equatorial Africa.

Roy Mackal, who returned from a four-week expedition, said he discovered some footprints in the African jungles that lead him to believe there still are living dinosaurs.

"I'm more convinced than ever," Mackal said. "I saw the tracks with my own eyes."

Mackal, however, admitted the tracks could have been made by a giant lizard, which, he said, would be a "pretty spectacular find" in any case.

Mackal, who has been at the University of Chicago for 33 years, said the creature he is seeking would be as large as a hippopotamus or a small elephant, with a snake-like head and tail, belonging to the family of saluopod

dinosaurs, which includes the brontosaurus. He said the animal probably weighs 30 to 50 tons.

The footprints were found near the Likuala River near the Congolese village of Dzeke.

Mackal said natives of the area have long believed in such a creature, calling it mokele-mbembe. He said it likely lives in the swamps adjacent to the river.

"The tracks were 9 or 10 inches in diameter," said Mackal, who also sought the Loch Ness monster for a decade. "At first we thought it was an elephant footprint, but the brush on all sides of the trail was squashed and flattened. No elephant does that."

"It could have been a crocodile. (But) the branches were broken 5, 6 inches off the ground. No known crocodile is that large."

United Press International

4 searchers fail to uncover Bigfoot

By STAN KAUFMAN
Staff Writer

If there is a Bigfoot roaming the Fort Custer area, the evasive creature avoided detection by a four-man expedition during the weekend.

Paul Rigney and his entourage spent from late Friday night to after dawn Saturday in sub-freezing weather in the state recreation area in Fort Custer hoping for an encounter with a Bigfoot that reportedly has been seen there by several persons over the past several months.

But the men did not see anything that fit the descriptions of a 9-foot, hairy creature, and they ran afoul of state law in the process.

The entourage was equipped with powerful lights, recorders and cameras. But they also carried high-powered rifles, which are prohibited in state lands in lower Michigan.

Bill Kosmider, the recreational area supervisor, said he told the Bigfoot watchers they could stay if they did not take their weapons into the field. He said special permission could be granted for the weapons, but it was not in his jurisdiction to do so.

Rigney said that if his group could not capture a Bigfoot alive, they would shoot it.

"That is one way to put an end to the controversy if Bigfoot is fact or myth," he said. "This way we could satisfy the skeptics."

With Rigney were Mark Stephens, a short-order cook, and twin brothers Larry and Garry Schmalz, both laborers. All are from Grand Rapids.

Rigney, who headed the expedition, said he has hunted Bigfoot for three years and has researched the creature for eight years.

"No, I have never had the privilege to encounter Bigfoot," he said.

Rigney, a cable splicer for Michi-

gan Bell Telephone Co., said Saturday that his group found no indications that a Bigfoot inhabits the Fort Custer area.

"We heard nothing and saw nothing," he said. "We are disappointed, but must remember that we were on a cold track. The latest sighting was about three weeks old."

Kosmider is among the persons who have reportedly seen a Bigfoot in the recreation area.

Kosmider said he did not know that the four men had weapons with them on their nighttime vigil. When he learned Saturday that they had guns, he said he requested they leave the guns in their vehicle or abandon the expedition.

Rigney said he decided to call it quits.

"We'll be back if we hear of a new sighting as soon as it happens," Rigney said Saturday.

The four men concentrated their search in an area surrounded by the Kalamazoo River to the west and by swamps to the north and south of an open field. The most recent sighting was in that area.

About three weeks ago, Kevin Barthel of Augusta reported spotting a tall, hairy creature in the area that fit the usual descriptions of Bigfoot. He had been hunting with a bow from a tree stand near the river.

Besides Kosmider, others who have seen what they have described as a Bigfoot are a Michigan State Police trooper who was with Kosmider, a fisherman, an author and two other persons.

So far, no photographs have been taken or any evidence of footprints have been found. The creature, according to reports, weighs an estimated 800 pounds and has been seen in areas where the ground is soft.

PIONEER PRESS, Fort Jones, CA - Nov. 12, 1981 CR: P. Guttilla



BIG FOOT TRACKS?—Al Casner holds ruler to one of the tracks he found which he hoped would be identified as belonging to that legendary wanderer of the north woods.

Louisiana man has a special interest in 'Bigfoot' sighting

By RICHARD ADAMS
SUN STAFF WRITER

What has four toes, eats no meat, has hair over most of its body and runs through the swamp near the Pearl River with the speed of a deer?

According to the son of the late Harlan A. Ford of Slidell, La., that creature is the monster of the Honey Island Swamp.

Perry Ford said that his father first saw a hairy creature in the Honey Island Swamp about 10 years ago, and spent a good part of the rest of his life trying to identify it.

The legend of the swamp recently re-emerged after a truck driver found large, four-toed footprints in a gravel pit near the western portion of the Honey Island Swamp.

The swamp runs along the Pearl River in Louisiana, across the Mississippi state line and into Hancock County, ending about a mile west of Miss. 607.

A spokesman for the Pearl River County Sheriff's Department said he did not know the exact boundaries of the swamp on its northern and southern ends, but said "it just goes for a long ways."

Authorities believe the imprints found Friday are the work of pranksters, but some people who saw the most recent markings say they are not sure the footprints are part of a joke because the left-right pattern of the steps was so accurate.

When Perry Ford heard that the footprints, which measured 22-inches long and 5½ to 6-inches wide, had four toes, he hesitated before telling *The Sun* that the footprints found by his father, who died in April 1980, also had four toes.

"The tracks that daddy and his partner from Houston found had four toes, too. The Smithsonian Institute checked them out and determined that they were authentic," Ford said

in a telephone interview from Slidell.

"It interested me when you said four toes. The tracks my daddy got had four toes, three main toes and one smaller side toe, but none of the tracks came near measuring 22 inches," he said.

Ford said his father and a hunting partner from Houston first sighted the creature about 10 years ago while on a hunting trip through the swamp.

"We had an old camp near the swamp for about 20 years before the government recently purchased the land for a wildlife refuge," the younger Ford said.

"It was directly across from the camp that daddy first saw the thing. It weighed, they figured, about 300 to 400 pounds and was about 6 feet tall," he recounted.

"It was on all fours when they first saw it, but it stood on two feet and ran off with the speed of a deer," he added.

"I would say it was about 10 years ago when daddy first saw it and there have been about 18 different sightings since in the upper Honey Island Swamp...."

Ford said the Smithsonian investigation discounted the possibility that the footprints could be those of several orangutans that escaped when a circus caravan crashed near Old Highway 11 in the vicinity of the swamp in the late 1960s.

"The Smithsonian definitely ruled out that the tracks could belong to an orangutan. They also never considered the tracks to be from Bigfoot," he said, referring to sightings of large, hairy, human-like creatures reported in other parts of Mississippi and the United States.

The investigators, Ford said, also determined that the creature was vegetarian and was hard of hearing.

Large footprints to stay mystery?

HAPPY CAMP—13-inch footprints in the mud at a remote logging skid trail at first were a point of humor for Al Casner.

But as the prospector walked away from the tracks, mumbling something about big feet, it suddenly struck him. Big Foot!

"Bear tracks is what first occurred to me," said Casner, after he spotted the markings last Monday; "but on one of them there was what appears to be the clear imprint of an in-seam and heel."

Casner and his dog Hobo walked back and "staked out" the prints, and he returned to town, at first "not wanting anyone to know about it."

"I didn't want anyone thinking I was nuts or something," he now says. But he couldn't keep the find bottled up for long, telling his neighbors about the discovery.

Within 24 hours, Casner was guiding College of the Siskiyous Professor James Collins to the sight, an instructor in folklore and legends at the Weed campus and a man with some experience in working with plaster of Paris.

Along with Collins were students Richard Turk and Ken Miles. They drove up Elk Creek to the Sulphur Springs campground, and took a half-hour hike up the Lick Creek drainage to the site of Casner's discovery.

Casner had taken exceptional instamatic photographs of the tracks, and it was, along with the legend, enough to entice the visitors to see the tracks in person.

"I was in Scouting for 14 years, mostly as a Scoutmaster, and I

took 50-mile hikes each year," said Casner, noting, "but I've never seen anything like this."

Laid off as a worker at the Gray Eagle Mine, Casner said he was walking in the area to kick a smoking habit and search for possible gold bearing rock.

After his find, he hiked back to Sulphur Springs and met two Forest Service employees who loaned him some plastic trash bags to cover his find from the elements.

When the college people came up to the site, however, all agreed that the prints had undergone at least one rain storm and were too vague to conclusively eliminate the possibility of a bear track or some very large human being walking in the mud barefooted.

"If it were a person, he would have to have very, very large feet," said Collins.

Collins and Casner went ahead and mixed and poured the plaster of Paris into the impression and the group made an extensive search of the area with the hopes of finding clearer prints.

Several additional tracks were indeed found, but they did nothing to clear up whether the imprints that Casner found were bear, human or a Sasquatch-type character.

Because of the damp conditions, the group decided to return to Happy Camp and let Casner go back and get the cast later in the week.

"I'll get it over to the college," said Casner.

"It's okay," said Collins, "you can keep it."

Proof of Big Foot had eluded its searchers once again.



The monster of Lake Massawippi

BY RONALD SUTHERLAND

It was a little past midnight as I paddled my canoe across Lake Massawippi in the hills of southern Quebec near the Vermont border. The water was still quite calm, but the increasingly loud rumblings and flashes of lightning in the distance indicated that a storm was closing in fast.

Every few minutes the moon emerged from behind the clouds to pour shimmering white light over the waves. The effect was eerie, almost otherworldly.

Taking my eyes off the yellow porch lamp on the far shore which was serving as my guide beacon, I stopped paddling for a moment to survey the night and the lake, gloriously silent now that the motor boats were all tied to their docks.

Then I heard a splash... and a hissing sound, like some creature drawing breath. I turned, and what I saw literally took away my breath.

The moonlight glared from two greenish eyes and from huge, hideous, protruding fangs. Curving upward snakelike to twin points, the head was a foot or so out of the water, and it was definitely coming toward me, bobbing slightly up and down.

I admit I froze in panic, gripping my paddle with both hands, and in the next few seconds all the stories I had dismissed with a wink and a chuckle came thundering back into my mind.

An old man in a bar, shortly after I settled by Lake Massawippi, told me how he had once hooked a large sturgeon, at least six feet long, originally. After playing the fish for two hours, suddenly he was able to haul it in without a struggle.

Then he discovered that the sturgeon had been bitten in half.

"Sliced clean right across in one bite. Now what yuh figure could do that?" he asked, staring into his beer and breaking a pickled egg in two to emphasize his point.

A woman I know who types university theses rented a house up the lake one summer. Conscientious and hard-headed, Paulette used to get up at 5 a.m. and work on the front veranda of her cottage.

One morning, just as she was lining up a page in the machine, a movement on the lake caught her eye. She looked out to see, in her own words, "a fin about a foot and a half out of the water, tearing across the lake at a terrific

speed, leaving a wake like an ocean liner."

The moon slipped behind the clouds again, plunging me into pitch darkness. The frightful hissing grew louder and quicker, and I could actually feel hot breath on my arms, but I still could not force myself to paddle and at least try to escape.

Oddly enough, a few days earlier, my wife and I had gone out for a midnight canoe ride and had tipped the canoe. She can't swim but was wearing a life belt, so we simply held on for an hour or so, cheering each other as we kicked our feet and stroked with one arm, and eventually we managed to propel the boat to shore.

My God, I thought, the breath growing hotter on my frozen arms, what if we had known that there was really a monster in the lake? How could we have kept our presence of mind?

They're in Loch Ness for sure. Why not Massawippi? Plumb lines, I had once heard, have never reached the murky bottom of some parts of the lake. Great caves are down there, and quite probably an underground channel connecting with vast Lake Memphramagog, which is shared by Canada and the United States.

The creature might even be American. The adjoining State of Vermont is apparently full of leaky nuclear plants, which can cause horrible mutations, I'm told — in other words, monsters.

Just this summer a panel of 200 scientists met in Shelburne, Vt., to study the photographs, sonar readings and 144 sightings over 400 years (explorer Samuel de Champlain saw a "large, snake-like beast" in 1609) of "Champ," the monster of Lake Champlain.



Dr. George Zug, chairman of the Smithsonian Institute's Department of Vertebrate Zoology, summed up the panel's findings by saying, "There's at least a population of large animals of some kind."

Serious scientists, they were; 200 of them.

That guy who disappeared two years ago. They said that he was having an affair with a young thing and wanted to get away from his unsympathetic wife.

They'll no doubt say the same thing about me when no trace of my body can be found. The gossips will have a field day for sure. I knew my wife couldn't swim. Tried to get rid of her a few nights earlier by tipping the canoe, but it didn't work.

So I faked a disappearance. Always was a dubious character. Oddball friends. Weird habits. Too many kids. Obscure books. Kept bees up on the hill.

A matter of seconds now. The moonlight is spreading across the lake again. The storm is veering to the south. And as I stare transfixed toward the head in the water, resigned now to go to my fate like a blubbing zombie, suddenly the head barks at me.

A familiar bark. A familiar old yellow mutt.

I'll never know why my dog took a notion to swim out to the canoe. He loves the water, and all summer he has been trying to catch water skiers. But in the middle of the night with a storm brewing?

And in a lake full of monsters?

Ronald Sutherland is the author of the novel *Snowlark*. He teaches comparative literature at L'Université de Sherbrooke.

TIMES HERALD, Port Huron, MI - Dec. 9, 1981 CR: P. Guttilla

Bear facts could halt Bigfoot panic

By DAVE McVETTY
Times Herald Reporter

BROCKWAY TOWNSHIP — Cindy Barone thinks she finally has the Bigfoot mystery figured out.

An animal track was found last week about a quarter-mile from her family's farm at 7227 Jordan Road, and Barone said she believes she knows what kind of creature it came from. She soon expects to prove that a bear — not Bigfoot — has been bothering family members since late September.

The creature started visiting the Barone farm every week or two after a barn door and tent pole was damaged in September on the farm of their neighbor, Leland Shepard. The most famous visit was Nov. 20, when Barone's 13-year-old daughter, Tina, accidentally touched the creature in the family's barn.

The incidents have attracted nationwide attention and searches of the area by Wayne King, Caro, who heads the Michigan-Canadian Bigfoot Information Center.

Barone said she's been

trying for months to find out how a bear might have found its way to the township. She's not revealing her sources now, but she said she has learned that a tame bear belonging to a nearby resident escaped from its owner two years ago.

Tina must have been able to touch it because it was tame and used to people, she said.

The bear was raised by people since it was a cub. It was declawed and was used to train bear-tracking dogs by its owner, who lives about 10 miles from her farm. Barone said she believes the owner did not report the bear missing so he would not be liable for any damage it caused.

The track was covered by snow Tuesday, but it's been identified by someone who's seen a lot of bear tracks, she said.

"The track shows that it might be a pretty big bear — about 300 to 400 pounds," Barone said. "I've thought it was a bear all along, and I hope this will finally prove it. We have to get rid of this thing; I've got a daughter who's having nightmares."

Michigan Department of Natural Resources wildlife biologists in Port Huron, Imlay City and Caro all said it would be nearly impossible for a wild bear to migrate to the Thumb.

"He'd have to come right down I-75; that's the only way he could get into the Thumb," said Jerry Prone, a DNR conservation officer. "If there is one, it must be one somebody let loose. Maybe it was a pet or a caged bear."

Barone said she's seen the bear once since then, when it appeared in the barn area about 5:30 p.m. one night last week.

"It sort of sits near the barn facing the house so it can look in at us," she said. "It's done it before. I think it's after our apples or grain molasses — our bags of grain have been broken into. If it goes into hibernation now and disappears, then we'll know for sure."

DNR biologists agree it would be easy for a bear to support itself on garbage and food stored in barns upon arriving in the Thumb. But they think that if a bear is in the area, it would have been spotted.

Sheriff departments and con-

servation officers in Sanilac and St. Clair counties have no record of a bear escaping from anyone near the Brockway area. DNR biologists said wild bears have been found in recent years in Midland County and just north of Bay City.

"You never say there can't be any animal in an area, but it's unlikely," said Clayton Douville, DNR wildlife biologist for St. Clair County. "You get a lot of calls reporting bear sightings or tracks, but it usually turns out to be dogs."

"I don't see how a bear couldn't be spotted. There was a lot of hunters working that area recently. And there isn't that much

Howard Green, DNR wildlife biologist for Lapeer County said: "Bears are very visible. They aren't nocturnal, and they have no natural enemies — so they don't try to hide. It isn't very likely one could be here without seeing it."

"But you never know. I was working in Pontiac, and somebody called and said a mountain lion was loose between Pontiac and Milford. I didn't believe it. But I checked, and sure enough a mountain lion was out there. It escaped from a traveling circus."

Bigfoot buffs leery of theory

By DAVE McVETTY
Times Herald Reporter

The Bigfoot experts don't buy it. They don't believe a bear, tame or otherwise, could be the cause of the strange disturbances at the William and Cindy Barone farm at 7227 Jordan Road, Brockway Township.

Mrs. Barone announced Tuesday that bear tracks were found last week about a quarter-mile from her farm and that she hopes to prove the bear is what family members have seen and touched in recent months.

But people who've studied Bigfoot and talked to the Barones say many signs exist that the creature visiting the area isn't a bear — or else something in addition to a bear visits the Barones and other area farms.

Since September, the family has reported several sightings of a large creature. The most notable incident was Nov. 20, when one of the Barones' daughters, 13-year-old Tina, accidentally touched something furry in the barn. Some of the first reports in September were from neighbors of the Barones; one neighbor, Leland Shepard, reported that something had ripped open a tent, damaged two wooden barn doors and pushed in a pig pen fence.

Whatever might be visiting the area is usually described as walking on two legs and at least seven feet high, with a 15-inch print.

The reports from Brockway Township have attracted nationwide attention from people who call themselves Bigfoot experts, most saying they have been researching Bigfoot sightings for years.

"There might a bear out there," Jon Beckjord, director of Project Bigfoot in Seattle, Wash., said after a conversation with Mrs. Barone Wednesday. "But it didn't do all that. And I don't think Mrs. Barone thinks it's a bear."

"What the Barones are doing now is common in these things. They're getting a lot of publicity, and they want to give an explanation."

Mrs. Barone said she's been trying for months to find out how a bear got into the Brockway area; she said she learned recently that a tame bear escaped from a nearby resident two years ago. She said the bear was declawed and was used to train dogs for bear hunting.

Law enforcement agencies in St. Clair and Sanilac counties have no reports of an escaped bear, but Mrs. Barone said the incident wasn't reported because the bear's owner didn't want to be held responsible for any damage.

"To me, a bear could do all that," Mrs. Barone said Wednesday. "And there's definitely a bear out there.... If there's anything else, I'll only be sure when I get to see it."

Mrs. Barone said her husband found a 15-inch print outside their barn, but the track wasn't examined by a professional biologist or a Bigfoot expert. Mrs. Barone said recently that whatever has been visiting since September has returned every week or two — including a visit last week.

Ron Westrum, an associate professor of sociology at Eastern Michigan University, also talked to the Barones Wednesday and believes they've seen something besides a bear. Westrum has researched reports of Bigfoot and unidentified flying objects sightings.

"I think they don't believe it's a bear doing all that," he said. "But with all the publicity, they've got to try to explain it with something that is real. A bear is something everyone knows about."

Why don't the Bigfoot people think it's a bear?

Westrum, for one, became convinced after talking with David Barone, the 18-year-old nephew of William and Cindy Barone. David saw the creature outside of the Barones' barn and fired a gun into the air to chase it away.

"I was very impressed with the sincerity of these people," Westrum said. "There isn't any question they've seen something unusual. And from the description, I'd have to pick a Sasquatch."

"Everything from the description — the length of arms, the small head, there wasn't a neck, the walking on two legs — points to a Sasquatch. He said there was something wrong about it; it didn't fit anything he had seen before. And I think he was describing what he was seeing, not what he was supposed to see."

"He also said for some reason he didn't want to shoot it. I think that's because ... they look like human beings."

Wayne King, director of the Michigan-Canadian Bigfoot Information Center in Caro, has personally investigated the area around the Barone farm, and he doesn't believe a bear could be responsible for the disturbances.

"I believe the Barones have been dissatisfied with the way we operate and haven't told me everything," he said. "There's something strange going on with what they're saying; they keep contradicting themselves. But I don't believe it's a hoax or anything like that."

Expert says comets 'seeded' the Earth

The Associated Press

TOLEDO, Ohio — An astrophysicist says there is growing acceptance of the theory that comets "seeded" a barren Earth billions of years ago with the ingredients for life.

Dr. Armand Delsemme, a professor at the University of Toledo, said that during a meeting last week in Mountain View, Calif., a consensus of scientists agreed that the theory is growing as more is learned about the "rich" chemistry in outer space.

He said the meeting at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Ames Research Laboratory argued only about how — not whether — the "seeding" took place.

"Essentially, the elements in our bodies are 99.9 percent of the group including hydrogen, carbon, nitrogen and oxygen," Delsemme said in an interview Monday. "The same elements are found in the sea, but they are not found in the interior of the Earth."

"The question is, how did these elements get to Earth, where they clearly are in abundance? Where did the ocean itself come from? Through research in astronomy, we have found that all these same elements ... exist in outer space, and that with these fundamental elements we have the building blocks of life itself."

He said astrophysicists have detected 52 interstellar molecules of organic compounds in space.

"In addition, we found that there are huge concentrations of water in space. In addition, we found what could be called 2 precursors of life, the compounds formaldehyde and hydrogen cyanide."

"Starting with only these 3 molecules, we can make all the amino acids, which are the

basic stones with which life is built," Delsemme said.

The key link missing in the chain, he said, is linking the molecules to the development of life on Earth and, perhaps, on other planets.

Also being sought, Delsemme said, are methods to detect whether amino acids themselves exist in space. "We have found evidence of the lightest of these, glycine, and it is very likely we will find others once we can identify them with radio-telescopes," he said.

Delsemme said that as the Earth was developing it was periodically "swept" by comets' tails, which left cosmic dust that he believes carried the elements basic to life.

Delsemme and other scientists speculate that the dust accounts for the Earth's crust, which is rich in nitrogen, hydrogen and other elements essential to agriculture.

"This gradual process would have been accomplished by 100 billion comets in a vast cloud surrounding our solar system," Delsemme said.

The Earth's oceans are probably the result of melting the cosmic dust, which included large amounts of space "frost," he said.

"If you consider the Earth has existed for more than 4 billion years, and life has been in existence on Earth for only a half-billion years, you see the development of life happened rather quickly," Delsemme said.

"Something almost automatic happened, but so far we don't know exactly how. ... But I believe within the next 20 years ... we will know how it happened because of the advancements being made in the biological sciences and astronomy."

Linus awaits Great Pumpkin; Bigfoot watchers await proof

By DAVE McVETTY
Times Herald Reporter

BROCKWAY TOWNSHIP — Just exactly what Bigfoot might be — if it exists — brings out some interesting theories.

Wayne King, director of the Michigan-Canadian Bigfoot Information Center, Caro, believes Bigfoot — or Sasquatch, or Yeti — is a species of ape. But Jon Beckjord, director of Project Bigfoot in Seattle, Wash., believes the creature is something much more mind-boggling.

These differences create a lot of hostility among groups of Bigfoot believers, and the experts are quick to discredit others' opinions. But they all seem to agree that a Bigfoot is bothering the William Barone family in the Brockway area.

"It's not something like an ape — there's more to it than that," Beckjord said. "If it was just an ape, it would be dead somewhere and we'd see it by now in a museum. I think we're dealing with a life form man doesn't know about."

"These creatures seem to have extra or maybe supernatural powers; they don't seem to die. If you fire a gun at one they get wounded, but they never die. So what you should do is try to get pictures."

'These creatures seem to have extra or maybe supernatural powers; they don't seem to die. If you fire a gun at one they get wounded, but they never die.'

— Jon Beckjord,
Project Bigfoot director

There's also a strange, unknown connection between Bigfoots and UFOs, Beckjord said.

"We really don't know what the connection is," he said. "But they're often seen together. Some people say they've seen them come off flying saucers, but I don't know about that."

"Maybe Bigfoot does come off them and acts as a scout, or maybe they have some ability to attract UFOs. Anyway, it seems to be very friendly."

If that theory is true, something to consider is the UFO sightings in the skies over the Blue Water Area — and Brockway Township — less than two weeks before the first Bigfoot sighting was reported at the Leland Shepard farm. Several area residents reported seeing a cloud-like formation with four visible lights over St. Clair

and Lapeer counties during September.

Beckjord said the Bigfoots have avoided capture for so long because they might be able to disappear and reappear. He also said they might have the ability to make their tracks disappear.

Beckjord said they may have the ability to detect the emotions of people approaching them, and for that reason it's usually children who see or come into contact with the creatures. If someone with hostile intentions approaches one, it runs, he said.

But Wayne King and other Bigfoot people think the creature has more earthly roots. King has said it is a member of the ape family and has just enough intelligence to escape detection from humans. He said a strange smell noticed by Barone family members is a

glandular excretion that some ape species release when they are cornered or nervous.

King's goal is to shoot a Bigfoot to prove its existence. He said laws then could be established to protect the creature.

But someone else, Kenneth Wylie, who has studied and even written a book called "Bigfoot," has a different theory. Wylie, who lives in Sutton's Bay on Michigan's Leelanau Peninsula, believes Bigfoot is — more than anything else — a product of wishful thinking.

"I admit my book was skeptical, but I tried to leave open a door of doubt about it," Wylie said. "Societies through the ages have had imaginary creatures that are sort of myths. After a lot of talk, somebody finally sees one. "These people who believe in Bigfoot are sort of a cult. If you try to challenge them, they get real defensive. They believe if they keep looking, they'll finally find one."

He was asked: Sort of like Linus, the Peanuts cartoon character, waiting for the Great Pumpkin?

"Yes, exactly," he said. "Linus really believes in the Great Pumpkin, and he's going to wait in that pumpkin patch until he sees him."