

# UFO

## NEWSCLIPPING SERVICE

## U.F.O. NEWSCLIPPING SERVICE

ROUTE 1 — BOX 220

PLUMERVILLE, ARKANSAS 72127 U.S.A.

CO-EDITORS: LUCIUS FARISH  
ROD B. DYKE

DECEMBER 1982 NUMBER 161

HERALD, Manchester, CT - Sept. 30, 1982 CR: B. Greenwood

# How a UFO buzzed Loring

By Nancy Thompson  
Herald Reporter

It's been almost seven years since Steve Eichner saw the glowing craft shaped "like an elongated football" hovering over a nuclear weapons storage area at Loring Air Force Base in Maine.

It's only within the last year, however, that he has learned that it was not an isolated incident, but one of a series of sightings of Unidentified Flying Objects seen over U.S. Air Force bases in the fall of 1975.

Eichner, now a Coventry resident, found out about the string of sightings from Larry Fawcett, a Coventry police officer and a UFO expert, who is investigating the 1975 sightings and plans to write a book about them.

The men discussed the sightings Wednesday night as part of a presentation about UFOs by Manchester attorney Robert H. Bletchman at Whiton Library. About 40 persons attended the meeting. Bletchman is director of the state branch of the Mutual UFO Network and Fawcett is the assistant director.

ALTHOUGH MANY years have passed since he saw the craft, the memory of that fall night, shortly before Halloween, when the ship broke through stringent security precautions and evaded pursuers with incredible speed, is still vivid in Eichner's mind.

Eichner was a crew chief on a B-52, working the second shift, when

he first saw the red-orange object that looked like "a stretched-out football" hovering over the area where nuclear bombs carried by the B-52s were stored.

The object was only visible for a short time, Eichner said, before the lights on it went out and it disappeared. Within a few minutes, it reappeared over an airstrip, he said, and his crew drove toward it, down a back road into a restricted area where even they should not have been.

The men stopped the truck about 300 feet away from the object, which hovered about five feet off the ground, Eichner said. It appeared to be about the length of four cars, he said, and seemed to be solid — no doors or windows were visible. It made no noise, he added.

"It's a weird feeling," Eichner recalled. "You don't want to talk about it at first. You're supposed to be brave GIs and you just look at one another and say, 'I'm not going out there.'"

THE MEN DID get out of the truck to look at the craft, Eichner said. They observed it for about 15 seconds before "the base went crazy" and security forces, with sirens and flashing lights, began to converge on the airstrip and the craft took off.

Eichner said he heard that the craft was pursued by an F-4 airplane. The craft, he said, was reported to travel at speeds in excess of 1,200 miles per hour — and pulled away from the F-4 "like it was standing still."

Eichner said he also heard that while the craft was over the base, communications were cut off.

The next day officials called the people on the base together and said that what they saw was a helicopter. "We knew it was no helicopter," Eichner said. "It couldn't have been."

FAWCETT AGREES that what Eichner saw at Loring was not a helicopter. Unidentified craft seen in the next few weeks at Strategic Air Command bases in Michigan, North Dakota and Montana were also not helicopters, Fawcett said — although that's what the government would like people to believe.

Fawcett said the incident in November 1975 at Malmstrom Minuteman ICBM base in Montana was particularly serious. There, a craft "the size of a football field" was observed over underground missile silos. The next day, a check of the computer programs that direct the missiles to their targets showed that some of the destinations had been changed.

Fawcett, who got much of his information from the government through Freedom of Information Act requests, said the government has told him that all documentation on the incident has been destroyed. He charged that the government is trying to coverup what went on at Malmstrom — and at other bases — in that fall.

Based on interviews with people like Eichner who saw the UFOs and with pilots of pursuit vehicles, Fawcett hopes to write a book about

the incident, which he said pertains to national security.

It would not be the first book Fawcett was involved with. He worked as chief investigator on a book about a Massachusetts woman who was visited by aliens.

BLETCHMAN SAID he is convinced that aliens have visited Earth. He noted that 11 percent of the adult population of the United States believe they have seen UFOs. More than 100 sightings per day are reported worldwide, he said.

The UFOs, he said, are obviously not natural phenomena and are not manufactured by humans.

"They're other-made," he said. "You can imagine who the other is and how they're getting here."

Bletchman noted that Fawcett is a police officer "like Joe Friday — a just-the-facts man."

Fawcett has his own reason to believe the people he interviews. In 1965, he said, he saw a UFO in Manchester apparently stop at an electrical substation across the street from Manchester Oldsmobile to recharge itself. The craft, which he said was about the size of a 747 with no wings or windows, extended a rod from its bottom side toward the substation. Electricity seemed to jump from the substation toward the craft and all the lights in the area went out, Fawcett said. The object then rose into the air and disappeared.

DAILY NEWS, Russell, KS - Sept. 28, 1982

## Pasture Burn Marks Prompt Questions

George H. Brungardt, Hays farmer, knows something was in his pasture north of Gorham — but he isn't sure just what. The best prospect at this point is an unidentified flying object, although a prankster, religious cult or practical joker could be involved.

Brungardt told Sheriff Gary Clark and Undersheriff Tom Keys that strange burn marks were spotted in his pasture six miles west and two miles north of Russell. He found them when he was burning weeds last week.

Brungardt makes regular trips to the pasture and hasn't seen a previous sign of strange activities. There are 30 head of cattle in the pasture, also apparently not riled up by whatever went on there.

About a half-mile into the mile-long pasture, Brungardt found a set of burned spots. They formed a pattern about eight feet long and four feet wide. At the base are two large burn marks, less than a foot wide and about two feet long. Even with the front edge of the larger marks are a series of eight smaller marks about eight inches apart. The

pattern is repeated with another set of smaller marks about 10 feet from the first set.

An oily residue is on the burned weeds and grass, Keys said. Clark said that nothing else is burned, there are no tracks in the area indicating vehicles and nothing to show land entry or exit to the area.

NEWS-ITEM, Shamokin, PA  
Oct. 15, 1982

## UFO sighted by Kulpmont woman

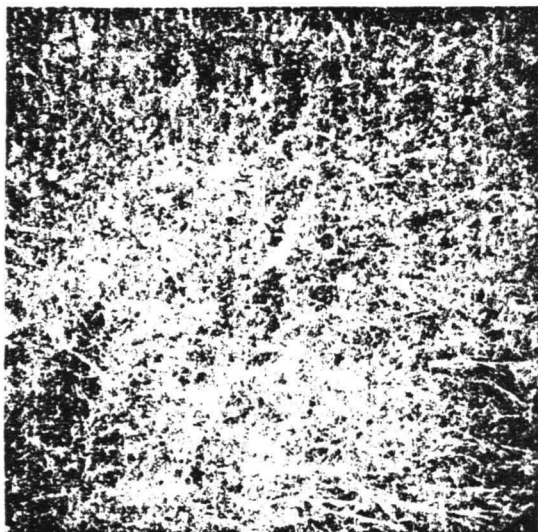
KULPMONT — A resident of Pine Street in Kulpmont this morning reported the sighting of an unidentified flying object (UFO) to The News-Item.

The woman, who gave her name but asked to remain anonymous unless others reported the sighting, said she noticed the unidentified object Thursday night at 10:45 in the sky in an area above the Kulpmont American Legion.

"I could hardly sleep last night I was so excited," the woman remarked. She said she has a habit of looking out her hallway window at the sky. Last night she noticed a lot of lights in a small circular pattern high in the sky.

"It reminded me of a Christmas wreath with lights, and there were flashes behind the object." The woman said the object appeared for about 20 seconds and then began to slowly move southward before disappearing.

"People will say I'm goofy, but I enjoy looking out the window at the sky and moon and stars," the woman said. "I definitely saw something," she added.



STRANGE MARKS, apparently burned places in the George Brungardt pasture six miles west and two miles north of Russell were found last week. There is nothing to indicate movement of a vehicle in or out of the area, no sign of footprints or tracks. The marks are a half-mile from the road. The pasture is visited daily by the owner who has seen nothing else unusual in the area. The large marks in the foreground and the eight smaller marks appear to be burns, but no fire was started to burn elsewhere in the dry pasture. (Staff Photo)



Post-Register/Cathy Koon

## Examining two rocks

MARYSVILLE — Dale Baler, left, and Paul Lenz examine two of the rocks they found last August the morning after a number of area residents reported seeing an unidentified object in the sky over Marysville "flashing all different colors" and then hearing what sounded like "thunder in the distance." A group of campers said the object exploded over the Henry's Fork of the Snake River about 300 feet upstream from where Baler and Lenz found five pieces of the rock. A central core of green glassy material is surrounded by encrusted sand and ash.

# Exploding object puzzles some Marysville residents

By CATHY KOON  
Post-Register  
Upper Valley staff writer

MARYSVILLE — Five pieces of "rock" are the only remaining physical evidence of the unidentified object that exploded over the Snake River north of this rural community 2 1/2 months ago.

Nobody seems to know exactly what passed over the area the night of Aug. 15, but the rocks recovered from the river by two teenage boys the next morning seem to prove that something did.

Mrs. Derrald Baler of Marysville was one of the people who saw the object fly by overhead.

### Flashing lights

"It was pretty high and must have been pretty large," Mrs. Baler said. It had blue and green flashing lights, "so bright I closed my eyes," she said while trying to describe what she saw.

Mrs. Baler and her husband had just gone to bed when they saw the thing go over. Baler jumped out of bed and ran to the front door. By the time he got outside, he caught only a glimpse of it to the northeast before it went out of sight, Mrs. Baler said. That was between 10:30 and 11 p.m.

Their son Dale, 14, said he was awakened by his father running through the house, but the youngster didn't see the object.

Down the street, Dale Baler's best friend, Paul Lenz, 15, saw the light and thought it was lightning.

However, the sky was perfectly clear that night, Mrs. Baler and Lenz agreed. That's what made the next happening equally odd. Mrs. Baler reported hearing "a boom, like thunder in the distance." Unlike thunder, there was only one "boom."

### Investigate

When the two boys got together the next morning and compared notes, they decided to go down to the river to investigate. They talked to a group of campers who were sleeping out near the river and saw the object.

Baler said they saw the object "flashing all different colors." The campers were about 300 feet away when "it blew up in front of them," he said.

The object was traveling from the south at a high rate of speed. Mrs. Baler said she talked to one person from Ashton, just two miles to the west, who also reported seeing it.

Baler and Lenz started looking along the river bank for some evidence of the explosion. They had about given up and were getting ready to go for a swim when Baler said he spotted the largest piece of the strange rock "rolling around" on the rocky river bottom in about 2 1/2 feet of water.

"It was a million to one chance we found it," Lenz said.

Baler said the rock felt "kind of gooshy, like wet ashes" when he pulled it out of the water.

"It was real soft, almost like charcoal — the kind they draw with," Lenz recalled.

The ash-like outer crust surrounds a green and yellow glassy central core.

### Volcanic rock

Now, nearly three months later, the outer shell has dried and resembles gray volcanic rock. It rubs off much like encrusted sand. The largest piece now weighs two pounds and is 10 inches long.

The two teenagers waded about 10 feet downstream and found the four smaller pieces of rock. They took the rocks home and showed them to their parents.

Mrs. Baler and some of her other sons took the rocks to the Ricks College science department and talked to "a young looking man" about the rocks. Mrs. Baler couldn't remember the man's name, but she said he told her it would have taken "something extremely hot" to have formed the rocks.

The pieces "could possibly be part of a meteor," he said, but explained that meteors are usually extremely heavy and consist of metal. A meteor striking the earth would form a crater, he told Mrs. Baler.

He took a piece of one of the rocks to have it analyzed, Mrs. Baler said.

### No one has rock

Robert Hoggan, head of the geology department at Ricks College, was surprised this week when he was contacted about the material. Checking with other members of the department, no one remembered talking to Mrs. Baler, and no one had a piece of the rock. Hoggan said he and his department would be very interested in taking a look at the rocks. Since Mrs. Baler visited the school before the start of the semester, she might have talked to anyone on the science department, he said.

Mrs. Baler took the rocks back home in a brown grocery bag.

### No more luck

Three or four days later, the two boys went back to the river to look for more of the strange-looking rock. Baler said he and his brothers looked three miles downstream at a favorite swimming hole but without luck.

Lenz is totally convinced "lightning couldn't have formed a pile of junk like that. Not in the river."

For the past 11 weeks, the rocks have been sitting in the same paper bag. Mrs. Baler has been asked to enter them in a local rock show, but otherwise, they have been nearly forgotten. She said she was disappointed that no one showed any real interest in them.

Attempts to track the trail of the "unidentified flying object" this week proved futile.

### Nothing recalled

Tech. Sgt. Craig Wolford, in charge of the U.S. Air Force radar tracking unit south of Ashton, said the only objects picked up by his radar equipment are the jets that are equipped for special equipment and are meant to be tracked. He didn't recall seeing anything out of the ordinary.

At the Federal Aviation Administration Environmental Support Unit on Mount Sawtelle, the personnel said the radar information collected there is sent directly to Salt Lake City where air traffic controllers use it to direct air traffic. They said it was doubtful that any object other than an aircraft would have been noticed unless it interfered in some way with air traffic. Since the object came from the south, it wouldn't have been picked up by the NORAD defense system along the Canadian border.

Young Baler and Lenz haven't looked further upstream for a meteor crater since the campers reported seeing the "UFO" explode before it hit the ground. But the two adventurers haven't completely given up on their search. They still want to know what it was and where it came from.

## A reliable source tells his UFO story



THIS IS A FLYING SAUCER story, not from some namby-pamby, but from about as unimpeachable a source as one could find.

This eyewitness account was sent to INK by Jim A., a former county commissioner who lives in western Skamania County. He asked that his last name not be used in full. "I do not wish complete strangers calling me to compare notes with them," he

wrote. "Local people, OK."

Here's how Jim described the incident:

"A few weeks back, while Polly was visiting relations and I was home alone, I turned off the living room lights and took a look out the window to see what sort of a day we would have next morning. Instead of stars, I saw a large yellow light descending to the (Columbia) river.

"It was about the size of a small auto, like a Volkswagen Beetle, and it was descending quite slowly. About 100 feet above the river, it raised a few feet and then descended a few feet more, and did this over and over until touching the water.

"It appeared to be testing the gravity pull to see if it could raise again as it neared the water. Finally, after touching the water, it rose in a zigzag."

Jim called the sheriff's office, and was asked to watch it.

"I went back to the window and watched for a moment as it zigzagged slowly upwards. Then, at high speed, it made a sharp right-angle, zipped east a quarter-mile, back west a half-mile, and then made long zigzags as it lowered toward the river."

Jim went back to the phone to describe what was happening to the deputy. Then he ran back to the window. The UFO was gone.

"I have felt foolish telling this to a few friends and relatives," Jim wrote. "But, I thought maybe it would make an item for you."

FREE PRESS, Burlington, VT - Oct. 1, 1982 CR: B. Greenwood



**The Reel Thing**  
By Susan Green

## Look to the Skies

It's every movie critic's dream: The phone rings and it's Hollywood calling. Fame! Fortune! A chance to meet Robert DeNiro!

When my phone rang the other day, it was indeed a call from Hollywood but DeNiro will probably just have to wait a bit longer for our meeting. The people on the other end were from Arnold Shapiro Productions. If this doesn't ring a bell, don't feel bad; I had no idea who Arnold Shapiro was until it was explained to me that his documentary, "Scared Straight," walked off with an Academy Award a while back. It was a powerful film about a program, in New Jersey, that brings juvenile delinquents into the prison system to talk with lifers.

At any rate, someone apparently sent Shapiro a copy of a story I did in an early April issue of Vermunter magazine about the flurry of UFO sightings in Vermont. Shapiro, who has some sort of old ties with the state, now wants to make a movie about this phenomenon. Planning to begin in mid-October, the film company will seek out many of the same people I interviewed, in Windsor and Richford particularly, who have been seeing strange things in the skies.

As I learned in the spring, a fact that was confirmed by the Shapiro people, Vermont is the only area in the United States that has been experiencing far and close encounters this year. This is, of course, along with Champ, one of our state's big mysteries, but only a small part of its mystique.

Perhaps, instead of a documentary, the film could be a feature, with Robert DeNiro playing a stranded alien who is befriended by a courageous, young female reporter....



# Agoura man probes extraterrestrials

By KAREN LARGE

John Tricas doesn't want to be contacted by extraterrestrials or have a close encounter.

He's talked to too many people who have and he knows it's a debilitating, deflating experience. No one believes them and it shatters their whole perception about reality.

He also knows from first-hand experience. Tricas is first a film maker and second a UFO investigator.

The Agoura resident has been making films since he was 12. He started working as a grip in Hollywood at 16 when he was a student at Newbury Park High School.

It was through his filming that he became entranced with extraterrestrials.

A free-lance field producer, Tricas was researching a story on UFOs and the government's alleged cover-up of the subject for television's "In Search of..." with Leonard Nimoy when his interest was whetted.

At the same time as the "In Search of..." staff was preparing its segment, Channel 7 did a story on a man in Wyoming who claimed to have been taken on board a spaceship. Several aspects about his story made it plausible, said Tricas, who asked Channel 7 to see the story.

"I knew there was credence to the story," said Tricas. "It wasn't just lights in the sky stuff." The sightings occurred during the late 1970s, according to Tricas.

The producers not only agreed to let Tricas see the tape but to do a follow-up on the man for Channel 7's "Eye on L.A."

"When I went up there, it was a job and I was being paid. I didn't really think anything would happen but it was an interesting story," Tricas said. What he saw changed his mind.

During the summer of 1980 the young film maker and cameraman camped out in Wyoming for five weeks near where Pat McGuire, married and the father of eight, claimed the discs had been sighted.

The first week, Tricas interviewed neighbors who corroborated McGuire's story. The second week he and the cameraman took turns standing watch. It was very boring, Tricas recalled. They were looking forward to going home and were beginning to wonder if the story was real.

Three weeks into the trip, he and the cameraman were sitting on a knoll when a green globe of electricity came at them. It did a 90-degree turn, shot up and disappeared. The experience lasted about 10 seconds.

The cameraman was shaken.

"I was intrigued, but I didn't want to go for a ride or anything," said Tricas.

They saw the globe twice more and were able to take photos. But when they took the film for developing it had blistered in several places. Holes were burned through the film, which the lab technicians said could be caused only by an intense energy source such as the sun. The sightings occurred at night.

Although it was alarming, Tricas' and the cameraman's experience was not as dramatic as McGuire's, who had brought them out to the remote Wyoming pastureland in the first place.

Here is McGuire's story:

It begins in 1974 when strange lights appeared at night. Shortly after, cattle were mutilated on his property. Cattle mutilation is an unexplained phenomenon throughout the farms and ranches of the West and Midwest. Often the skin is cauterized as though by a laser and sexual organs appear to be surgically removed, according to Tricas.

A relationship seemed to exist between the occurrence of the lights in the sky and the cattle mutilations.

McGuire and his cousin suspected cattle rustlers with



A sketch of an impression that is said to have been received by Pat McGuire, as drawn by Eric Sprinkle, Dr. Leo Sprinkle's son.

helicopters. They staked out the area and one night spotted the lights.

They hopped in their truck, careful not to turn on the lights. The brake lights had already been disconnected so as not to alert the rustlers.

The cousins drove to within 1,000 feet of a hovering object which was giving off tremendous light when they realized it was not emitting a sound. This was no helicopter.

The cattle were gathered below the disc, bawling. The men watched in amazement as the object shot down beams of light and picked up a cow. The cow disappeared.

McGuire's story was revealed under hypnosis by Dr. Leo Sprinkle of the University of Wyoming, who was researching contactees — those who have been contacted by beings from outer space.

Sprinkle asked McGuire whether he had suffered from any time lapses, a classic symptom of contactees. He said he had. He had no conscious memory of the experience, but under hypnosis, he said he had been picked up 12 times.

McGuire has since been divorced. The unexplained experience shook his personal life, which is typical of contactees, according to Tricas.

Tricas watched the hypnosis and was able to ask McGuire questions which were used for his show. Questioning McGuire was an eerie experience.

"It was as though he was a channel for them. They answered through him," said Tricas.

One thing which made McGuire's story credible to Tricas was a well he had drilled on his property which pumped in excess of 8,000 gallons a minute. It was the largest well in the arid state. The second largest pumped 3,000 gallons a minute. Experts said it was a miracle he could have drilled such a well.

McGuire said he was guided by the Star People, his name for the beings who visited him because of the star on their belts.

Through McGuire, the Star People said they had directed him to drill the well to prove that they were here. It was a calling card, it would bring in other contactees, they told McGuire.

Why are they contacting certain people?

These people are being guided because of their talents, Tricas said. "The beings said, 'It's according to the plan.' When I asked what plan, they said, 'It's not for you to know,'" reported Tricas.

"It's a misnomer that they're in nuts and bolts space ships from other galaxies," said Tricas.

The beings are interdimensional, he said. They're not physical in their true form, not flesh and blood but electricity. They can manifest their appearance in different forms. Experts think there are 70 different groups of beings, said Tricas. He said these could be what the Bible calls angels or some call the devil.

There are many early references to beings visiting the earth, according to Tricas.

He has a photo of a 15th century painting of the Madonna and baby Jesus with a shepherd in the background gazing at what appears to be a space ship. He also has copies of documents signed by J. Edgar Hoover, former head of the FBI, and the Army acknowledging the government's retrieval of crashed or incapacitated "discs" or "saucers."

Tricas said the government's withholding of this information could be the next Watergate, and that the information will eventually come out. Until then, he is working to inform the public about his findings through his films.

"I think it's important people begin to take this seriously. I'm here for information. I'm not just somebody off the streets," Tricas said.

"My purpose as a film maker is to entertain. If I can also send out new information and concepts, that's great."

He did research for a show on Travis Walton whose abduction by a "disc" was witnessed by six people. The show is scheduled to air Nov. 4 on "2 on the Town."

Tricas is also working on a docudrama he calls "Stellar Quest."

The title, explained Tricas, is "because a lot of our questions can be answered through the stars."

## UFO? Milo woman isn't sure what she saw

By Debbie Miller

Darlene Cummings has never believed in UFOs. But an aircraft that buzzed over her home Monday night just might make her a believer.

Cummings, who lives 3 1/2 miles east of Milo, was spending a quiet evening in front of the television Monday night when she heard a loud noise over her house.

"I looked out my back window and saw something go down in the field," she recalled. "It had red lights around it."

Cummings said she watched the craft for a minute after it went down, then jumped in her car and drove to Milo to get her husband.

"When we got back (to the house), we could still see a white light," she said.

The Cummingses then called the Milo Fire Department. Law authorities and rescue workers soon arrived at the scene to begin a search, but Cummings said the light had disappeared when authorities arrived.

Warren County Deputy Sheriff Tom McNamara, who helped direct the search, explained, "We were put in a position where something had to be done. If there was something out there, we had to find it rather than wait until sun-up."

So sheriff's deputies, a state trooper, state conservation officer, members of the Milo Fire and Rescue Unit and some private individuals searched the area for nearly two hours Monday night.

Life Flight helicopter was also summoned to search the corn field with its spotlights.

"At one time, we probably had 25 to 30 people helping," McNamara said.

The area where the aircraft reportedly went down was about two miles long and a mile wide, he said. The search was particularly difficult because of standing crops, brush and a creek. The mud also hampered efforts. Four-wheel drive trucks were used to check parts of the area.

Nothing was found, however, and the investigation was called off at about 10 p.m.

McNamara said two other families verified an aircraft was flying low over the area, but they couldn't verify that it landed. A fourth family, however, told authorities that they thought they heard an airplane crash.

"I would have thought I was crazy, but other neighbors heard it too," Cummings said. It looked to Cummings like the craft, which sounded like a helicopter, landed in a cut corn field.

"It didn't crash. It just went down real slowly," she said. McNamara said the Des Moines Airport radar showed no aircraft in that area.

A low-flying aircraft was also reported in the Milo area a few weeks ago, McNamara said. The craft was believed to be a helicopter, he added.

But Cummings isn't sure what type of craft she saw. "I never really believed in UFOs, but I know I saw something and I don't know what it was," she stated.

And she finds herself looking out the window every night for a return visit.

RECORD-HERALD & TRIBUNE, Indianola, IA - Oct. 14, 1982

# UFO sighting starts study group

By ALTON E. FULLER

Of The Herald-Dispatch staff  
ASHLAND — When George Parsons Jr. remembers that night in 1973, he does so with a kind of awe.

For him, it was a close encounter with the unexplainable.

He was a dispatcher for the Flatwoods, Ky., Police Department at the time, and had been lured outside the station by a "a strange buzzing sound," he recalled recently.

"I looked up and saw a triangular-shaped object hovering over a city parking lot and standing about a foot above the roof of the station."

"It threw out a real bright silverish-gold glow. I walked up under this thing. I was not afraid. It shot up and straight out in a 90-degree angle."

He says he went back inside asking himself if what he had seen was real or imagined.

While wrestling with that question, a woman came into the station crying and screaming, he said. After calming herself, she explained that while driving on a nearby country road, her car's engine and lights suddenly had shut off, he said.

She told him about having seen a triangular-shaped object, briefly making buzzing noises above her car. The object had disappeared in a manner similar to what Parsons had

experienced, he said. "That confirmed that I had seen a UFO," said Parsons, a 29-year-old resident of Ashland.

Since ancient times, people have reported seeing strange and sometimes terrifying sights in the sky.

Unidentified flying objects — UFOs — have been reported in virtually every country in the world. Many reports bear strong similarities.

In the 1940s, the U.S. Air Force was directed to investigate UFOs. The effort, known as Project Blue Book, was canceled in 1969 when officials decided further study of UFOs held little scientific value.

However, Dr. J. Allen Hynek, a scientist who served as an Air Force consultant for more than 20 years on Project Blue Book, has continued to research the UFO phenomenon.

In his book "The Hynek UFO

eventually to solve it could have a profound effect — perhaps even be the springboard to a revolution in mankind's outlook on the universe."

Parsons agrees. After his 1973 experience, he studied the subject of UFOs extensively. In 1979, he founded UFO Investigative Researchers, or UFOIR (pronounced you-for), and is presently its director. He also is state sectional director for MUFON — Mutual UFO Network, an international organization of "ufologists" based in Seguin, Texas.

UFOIR investigates reported UFO sightings in the Tri-State Area and reports its findings to MUFON.

"The purpose behind all of this is to find out what UFOs are," Parsons explained in a recent interview. "If they are from another planet, where do they come from and what is the purpose for their visits to earth?"

A major obstacle to investigating UFOs is the reluctance of sighters to report them because they "fear public ridicule," he said.

"Some people think that anybody that's interested in UFOs is chasing after an illusion," he explained.

Most people don't understand that 90 to 95 percent of present day sightings prove to be misperceptions of natural phenomena, such as clouds, meteors, planets, stars, balloons, aircrafts and satellites spotted during unusual circumstances, Parsons said.

They are taken to be UFOs when, in fact, they are identified flying objects or IFOs, he said.

But, he said, there remains that 5 to 10 percent of sightings that cannot be explained and are puzzling to sighters and

those who investigate them. "They are true UFOs."

His first source of information about UFOs was the Bible. As a preacher at the age of 15, he discovered various passages describing UFO-type sightings, Parsons said.

For example, he cited Ezekiel 1:4 which reads: "I looked, and behold, a whirlwind came out of the north, a great cloud, and a fire infolding itself, and a brightness was about it."

In Ezekiel 1:15 there is a reference to an aerial wheel in the middle of a wheel, which, by today's standards, also would be classified as a UFO, he said.

Because people in Biblical times lacked scientific resources, they described these things the best they knew how, often giving them mystical meanings, he said.

When he spoke with other ministers about his UFO ideas, he was often told that "it was best to leave some things alone," he said.

He gave up the ministry at the age of 20 in part because he felt constrained in "trying to teach the full scope of the Bible," he said.

After working as a dispatcher, Parsons became a Flatwoods police officer but retired with a disabling injury from a car accident during a chase while on patrol. Now he isn't working.

Parsons said the most interesting UFO sighting he has investigated involves a 15-year-old Milton boy who reported seeing a space shuttle-like object hovering above woods near his home last April 17.

The boy described it to Parsons as two house trailers long and three house trailers wide with red and white lights, he said. The

boy lives in a house trailer, which explains his use of them as a unit of measure, Parsons said.

The boy called a relative who caught a glimpse of the object before it appeared to go into a hilly wooded area, Parsons said.

There, it flashed white and red lights alternately and the boy's whole family reported seeing what appeared to be shooting stars dropping toward it every 15 minutes for about 2½ hours, Parsons said he was told during his investigation.

Parsons said he talked with neighbors and acquaintances of the family members and found them to be credible. "They sought no publicity because they asked to remain anonymous."



George Parsons Jr. studies UFO

mous. After several interrogations, their stories always came out the same," he said.

What the Milton family saw could not be explained as natural phenomena, Parsons said. "My conclusion was that it was a true UFO."

The 15-year-old had no doubt about what he saw. In Parsons' report, the boy is quoted as saying: "I've seen some odd stuff before and people might think I'm crazy. But put it this way, that's just the way it is."

## Group claims UFO sighting no hoax?

An investigation of the reported Unidentified Flying Object (UFO) sighting in Perry Township in June was conducted by the Flying Saucer Investigating Committee of Akron. That group reports that the number of calls probably was exaggerated, and that there is no evidence that the object was the product of a hoaxer. The group said the object could not have originated at the K-Mart parking lot, as reported, because some of the witnesses interviewed lived north and west of the store and the direction taken by the object was to the southeast. The group concludes by saying the light source seen that night still is unknown.

REPOSITORY, Canton, OH

Oct. 6, 1982



# Woman dies after 4-week wait for UFO

BY PETER KOBS

Staff writer

Sometime in mid-October, Laverne Landis and Gerald Flach drove from St. Paul to Loon Lake near the end of the Gunflint Trail in extreme northern Minnesota.

They waited there in Flach's car for more than four weeks — waited for the UFO.

Monday morning a motorist found

Flach, 38, semiconscious on the Gunflint Trail. Rescue squad members found Landis, 48, dead in the front seat of the car. An autopsy determined she died from a combination of hypothermia, dehydration and starvation.

After first aid treatment for exposure, Flach was taken to Cook County North Shore Hospital in Grand Marais, where he remained Wednesday evening.

Cook County authorities now are investigating what one local resident called the most bizarre case in recent memory. No criminal charges were filed and there was no evidence of foul play, said Deputy Sheriff Frank Redfield.

"Flach said he had been receiving messages through Landis from some higher power," Redfield explained. "The most recent message directed them to go to the

end of the Gunflint Trail and await further messages."

"These people kind of believed in flying saucers," he added.

Jack McDonnell of Grand Marais found Flach lying on the Gunflint Trail about 10:20 a.m. Monday, said Bruce Kerfoot of the Gunflint Trail Rescue Squad. Flach said his friend in the car needed medical attention.

McDonnell took Flach to the nearby Gunflint Lodge where he received first aid for hypothermia. Loon Lake is about 41 miles northwest of Grand Marais.

The rescue squad used a four-wheel-drive vehicle to reach Landis, but she had no vital signs, Kerfoot explained. The car was snowed in on a small access road a few hundred yards from the main road. It was out of gas.

Landis was taken to the Grand Marais hospital, but could not be revived, Kerfoot said. Flach was taken to the hospital about an hour later, where he was treated by Dr. Michael DeBevic.

DeBevic refused to comment on the case Wednesday evening. Flach couldn't be reached for comment at the Grand Marais hospital.

"I believe they were parked there like four to six weeks, just living in the front seat of their compact car," said Kerfoot, who removed Landis' underweight body from the car. "Flach told me he hadn't eaten in four weeks and they both looked very, very gaunt."

Kerfoot said he saw vitamin bottles in the car, but no sleeping bags and no evidence of cooking. The couple apparently drank water from the lake.

"They told people they were conducting an experiment on hypothermia for some university," he said. "We were all skeptical, but they weren't breaking any laws so what could we do? The sheriff's deputies checked on them every week or 10 days."

Larry Hogen, Flach's neighbor and long-time friend in West St. Paul, described him as a very intelligent, gentle man who had worked as a union electrician for 14 years.

Flach was raised in a small town in the Dakotas and his family knew very little about his interest in UFOs, Hogen said.

"Gerry just changed his whole personality, his whole life in the past six to eight months," said Hogen, who has known Flach for 10 years. "He came on to this kind of obsession ... purely with UFOs. I don't know why he did." Landis lived in St. Paul. Nothing further was known about the 48-year-old woman Wednesday evening.

Police in St. Paul and West St. Paul said they knew nothing about the couple or any local UFO group.

TIMES, Maiden, NC - Dec. 8, 1982 CR: G. Fawcett

## Lincoln And Gaston UFO Reports Checked

A last-minute check back with Douglas Airport radar revealed that the recent UFO sightings over the Timken Plant (Lincolnton), the McGuire Nuclear Plant (Lake Norman) and the Cherokee Nuclear Station (Gaffney, S. C.) were not picked up, due to the low altitude at which they flew as reported by eyewitnesses.

"And the six to eight planes reported by Timken security guards and others after the UFO sightings in the Lincolnton area were also not picked up by radar, as they should have been at that altitude," Deputy Chief Ben Wenning stated.

Other "mystery airplanes" have been reported in Lincoln and Gaston Counties in recent months. UFO investigator George D. Fawcett said.

At 7:55 p.m., Friday night, October 15, Sgt. Frank Olszewski, a guard at the Timken Plant, along with Security Officer Patricia Chapman, and an unnamed wife of a Timken employee observed three brightly-lit orange objects maneuvering in the skies above the plant located off Highway

27 East in Lincolnton.

At the departure of the mystery objects, six to eight planes appeared in the area, as if they were searching for the UFO's.

On Saturday night, October 16 at 7:30 p.m., Penny Keener, a Lincolnton food convenience store manager spotted three yellow-lit objects moving in the air in the vicinity of the Timken Company.

The only other Timken sighting occurred at 9:10 when David Deaton, a Lincolnton welder by trade, watched a bright star-like object circling the Timken plant area, before it dropped below or behind a group of nearby trees. This encounter occurred on Wednesday night, October 20.

Earlier on October 15 at 1:15 a.m., Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Ruppe were startled by a sound outside their home, that increased from a low pitch to a high pitch intense noise. Carol, 37, and Wayne, 40, looked out the windows of their homes and saw a glowing orange-yellow oval object, about the size of a car, maneuver near their neighbors' home about 20 feet

above the roof. The object had "beams of light" at each end and it moved above the power lines in the neighborhood. Their neighbor's two dogs started a barking frenzy, while the UFO was in the area. The strange object was maneuvering about three miles from the nearby Cherokee Nuclear Station for five minutes in a straight line flight from West to East.

On Monday morning, October 18 at 7:20 a.m., two employees at the McGuire Nuclear Plant on Lake Norman, Gary Fortenberry and Jimmy Bumgarner reported seeing a round disc-shaped metallic object maneuvering near the switch yard opposite the McGuire Nuclear Plant. The object, which had four landing legs on it was flying about a 250-foot altitude, above a fog bank. Fortenberry and Bumgarner watched the UFO for over one-half a minute, while driving to work on Highway 73. The two witnesses estimated that the UFO was about 150 feet in diameter.

Previous UFO sightings in the area have resulted in the loss of power output at the

McGuire Plant.

A check with the Air Traffic Control radar at Douglas brought a promise to check on these new series of UFO sightings from the Lincolnton, Lake Norman and Gaffney areas.

Ben Wenning, Deputy Chief and Air Traffic Manager at Douglas Airport stated that Security Guards at the Nuclear plants are to report such UFO sightings directly to the Atomic Energy Commission and not to his office. But Wenning did promise to check for possible radar confirmations of the visual sightings and report back to George D. Fawcett, Lincolnton UFO investigator, who had been contacted by the nine eyewitnesses through direct phone calls or through the Lincoln County Communications Center.

Any other witnesses of these recent UFO's are asked to call Fawcett at (704-735-5725 at nights) or write to him at 602 Battleground Road, Lincolnton, N. C. 28092.

"A large number of recent UFO sightings have been reported near nuclear plants, power lines and substations, as well as large bodies of water," Fawcett stated.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS, Denver, CO - Nov. 5, 1982 CR: P. Gersten

## Denver students up in air about existence of UFOs

By BERNY MORSON  
News Education Writer

Eighth-graders at Horace Mann Middle School in Denver will spend part of Friday sifting evidence for and against the existence of UFOs, but at least three of the students and an assistant principal have no doubts on the subject.

They've seen UFOs.

"I looked up and there were four glowing objects in a diamond shape," said 14-year-old George Poynter about an incident two years ago that occurred while he was flying his kite.

The 100 Mann students are learning to evaluate evidence by reading reports of UFO sightings and government statements denying the existence of UFOs. Students in other parts of Colorado, including a class at North High School in Denver, are following a similar curriculum, which was devised by Coe College in Iowa under a Ford Foundation grant.

The Mann students and the North High class on Thursday heard from Richard Segismund, a semi-retired mining company owner and social psychologist who clearly believes in UFOs. Segismund of Boulder has investigated numerous UFO sightings and at least one alleged abduction of Coloradans by a UFO.

SEGISMUND TOLD the students that, according to most witnesses, the "entities" who inhabit UFOs are 4½-foot tall, have deep-set eyes, large craniums, long fingers and communicate by telepathy.

Many of the students have their own idea of who is inside UFOs. "They're probably beings from another world who are studying our life," Poynter said about beings inside the UFO he said he saw. Poynter said he was not frightened by the sighting, which he described as "interesting."

Poynter said he wasn't sure what the beings inside the craft looked like, except that they were undoubtedly bald. "On all the shows and documentaries on television, the people who saw them said they were bald," he explained.

Pete Langone, 14, said he saw a UFO on Christmas morning two years ago. He described the object as an extremely bright light hovering high in the sky. By the time he called his mother, the light had disappeared, he said.

Langone said he thinks the beings inside have one eye, two noses, big mouths, oval heads "and they're red."

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL Uvaldo Chavez told the students that he saw a UFO in 1972 near Green Mountain in Jefferson County. Chavez said he was standing in the doorway of his home, when "all of a sudden, into view came a very strange thing." The bright object, with domes on top and bottom, hovered for about 30 seconds over a hill five blocks away, he said.

"It wasn't scary, but it was beautiful," Chavez said. Newspaper reports the following morning said five of his neighbors saw the UFO.

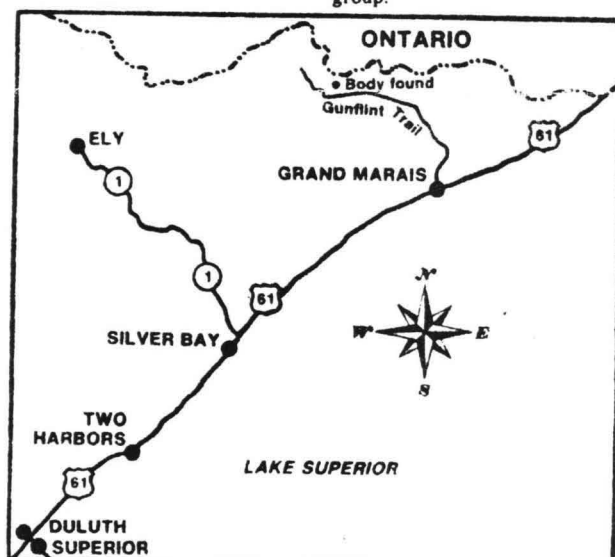
The Mann students included a few scoffers, including Todd Hill, 13. "There's just no such thing," Hill said. "If there was, we would know about them," he added.

He said evidence reported in the press and by Segismund "could be like a trick. They could fake it."

"All the pictures of the stuff — they don't look like they're real. They seem like they're phony," said 14-year-old David Macias.

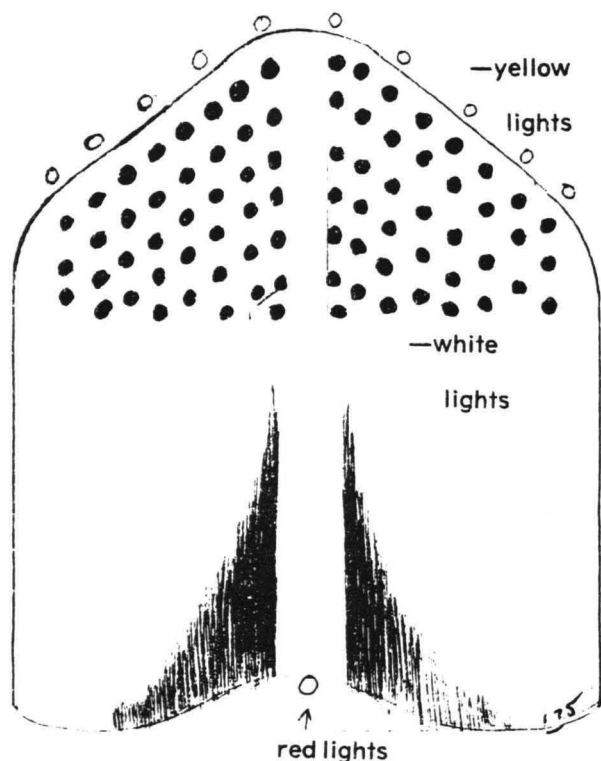
The North High students all appeared to side with Segismund.

Lana Owens, a 17-year-old North junior, said she saw a UFO in Indiana at her grandfather's farm.



This map shows where a woman was found dead and a man semiconscious after an apparent four-week wait for a UFO.

Staff illustration



bottom of craft

## Pioneers Volleyball Team Tells of UFO

Returning home from a series of weekend volleyball matches, the North Arkansas Community College volleyball team watched a craft glide over the trees, hover near their van and silently move away.

While some skeptics have called the unidentified flying object a "big volleyball in the sky" or a "tractor plowing at night," an official at the Center for UFO Studies has taken the sighting seriously, noting how unusual it is for 10 people to view a UFO.

Some of the women who witnessed their first UFO sighting included, Karri Pickup of Siloam Springs, Terri Stacey of Harrison, Cindy Goodman of Harrison, Paula Snow of Valley Springs, Pam Pittman of Valley Springs, Sandy Crook of Valley Springs, coach Sue McDonald, Terrie Graham of Harrison and Jerrie Beall of Hot Springs.

The adventure started at 5 p.m. Saturday, when the ladies left Kansas City for the long drive home. Three hours later and about 18 miles north of Springfield, Mo., on Highway 13, the group's attention was drawn to a pair of bright lights.

Driving down the divided highway, with trees shielding the northbound lanes, several rationalized that it was the headlights of a car on a mountain road.

But as the van rolled across the flat countryside, they saw there was no mountain. The bright sky could be seen below the craft and a red light on the tail blinked, the only blinking light on the craft.

During an interview Tuesday, the girls agreed that the object was like nothing they had seen before, and at the time, they tried to think it was an ordinary airplane, maybe flying low on a search mission.

As the vessel approached the van, one passenger said coach McDonald told the driver to "slow down, slow down!"

She slowed from 60 miles per hour and pulled to side of the road.

As the van was quickly brought to a stop, on the deserted highway, the women opened the van's doors and jumped out. It "coasted" to a stop, Coach McDonald said of the object, and hovered about a "football field" distance from the group for a few seconds, maybe 10 or 15.

Then, very slowly, it tilted to its right, turned in a semicircle and silently began flying off in an easterly direction, veering to the southeast.

When asked to describe the brightness of the lights, the women responded, "bright, bright...very intense...looked more like beams...real white."

They added that there was a row of white and yellow lights under the two bright beams on the front of the craft. They noted that the lights varied in intensity and size.

The ladies remarked that they became aware of all the lights on the bottom of the craft when it tilted to turn and described "complete silence" while the object was in the area.

When the team reached Springfield, coach McDonald said she "immediately" phoned the airport radar tower and inquired if any aircraft had been near Highway 13 in the past 20 or 30 minutes. They replied that nothing had been there all night and suggested she call the UFO Locator Center.

There, her observation was screened and she was told to call Dr. J. Allen Hynek, director of the Center for UFO Studies in Evanston, Ill. He asked about the weather conditions, how close the craft flew to the group, how many persons viewed it and an estimate of its size.

He said there had been four or five sightings in the Springfield area in the last two months and asked her to have each witness independently, without collaborating with each other, write down what they saw.

Dr. Hynek's wife, Mimi, was in charge of the center Tuesday, and said the Center for UFO Studies was established in 1973 to allow sightings "to be reported without ridicule" and analyze data. She noted that "hard stats" are hard to obtain because they "never know how many sightings go unreported."

When phoned Tuesday, she had already recorded five sightings that day, including two in the Chicago, Ill.; one in Tempe, Ariz.; and another in Quebec, Canada.

She said the most common UFO sightings include "strange patterns of lights" and a "disc shaped object." Mrs. Hynek added that sometimes they affect cars, usually the headlights, radio or motor. She said incidents have been reported over the past 30 years, and added that the earliest report claimed a motorcycle's headlight dimmed when an object was near.

Said Coach McDonald: "No one on our team is suggesting that the craft came from outer space. I hope it belongs to our U.S. Government because it apparently has defensive capabilities."

When asked to describe the craft, Miss Pickup said she thought it was black because there was "no color illuminated from the lights" and Miss Graham supported her idea that it was a dark color.

They agreed that turned down wings were part of the body and shaped like a boomerang, according to one girl. It had a dome on top, the bottom was almost concave and the two bright lights were not visible when it tilted to turn.

When asked to describe their thoughts the moment they realized it wasn't an ordinary craft, the volleyball team members replied:

Sandy Crook "didn't think anything. I just looked at it in awe."

Karri Pickup "was surprised and tried to figure out what it was I saw."

Cindy Goodman "thought it was neat."

Terrie Graham (the driver) "thought it was the reflection of headlights in the windshield. But the further we went on, and the closer it got, I wondered what it was."

Pam Pittman "kind of wondered what or who it was and what it was doing because it was irrational."

Paula Snow "was the last to realize it wasn't a traditional airborne craft."

Terri Stacy "was real scared when it stopped and thought we were going to be beamed aboard."

But regardless of the thoughts or experiences concerning the sighting, all agreed it was the "highlight" of the trip.

## UFO seekers' true mission not suspected

BY PETER KOBS  
Staff writer

Cook County residents never suspected that Laverne Landis, 48, and Gerald Flach, 38, were waiting for a UFO as they sat huddled in a car near the end of the Gunflint Trail for more than four weeks.

The St. Paul pair told people they were researching the effects of hypothermia — how humans react to lowered body temperature. They parked Flach's car near Loon Lake, less than four miles from the Canadian border.

But as the weeks passed, local residents grew more skeptical.

"I assumed they were doing a university study," said Patty Leeds, 27, of the Tuscarora Lodge on Round Lake. "But I kind of questioned that after the big snowfall on Nov. 4. They just sat there in the front seat of the car with scarves all over their heads."

Ironically, Landis died Monday morning from the same illness the couple said they were studying — hypothermia. Dehydration and starvation also contributed to her death, according to the autopsy. The car was snowed in and out of gasoline.

Flach was taken to the Grand Marais hospital where he was treated for the same symptoms. He was released from the hospital Thursday afternoon in much better health, said Dr. Michael DeBevic, who treated him.

"He will be obtaining psychiatric evaluation soon, probably in Fargo (N.D.)," DeBevic said.

Responding to inquiries from local residents, the Sheriff's Department sent officers to check on the pair. U.S. Forest Service rangers also checked on the couple.

"They weren't breaking any laws or any federal regulations," said Ranger Cliff Solberg. "We believed them."

Leeds drove his four-wheel-drive vehicle past their car more than once after the first major snowstorm. Each time, he saw them sitting upright in the front seat of the car. The windshield

had been cleared off, but it appeared they hadn't moved out of the car. He also saw two coffee mugs on the dashboard.

"Once I saw the man raise his hand, but the woman just sat still," he said.

Flach was remorseful about Landis' death and very concerned about the reaction of his family, said Deputy Sheriff Frank Redfield.

So far, little is known about Landis. Her mother-in-law in St. Paul said she was the mother of five children and had been widowed for seven years. St. Paul police had nothing to add Thursday evening.

"Even if I knew the whole story, I wouldn't tell you a word," said Landis' mother-in-law, who refused to give her first name.

Flach worked for 14 years as a union electrician and lived with his family in a West St. Paul apartment building, said a friend, Larry Hogan. His family knew little of what Hogan called Flach's "obsession with UFOs" that started six to eight months ago.

"We've never had problems with religious cults or UFO groups here," said Francis Trost, chief of the West St. Paul Police Department. About 18,500 people live in the city, he said.

No one answered Flach's family phone Thursday. Hogan said Flach was raised in a small town somewhere in the Dakotas.

According to Gunflint Trail residents, Flach and Landis arrived in early October. They first parked Flach's compact sedan at a public access site on Round Lake about 50 miles northwest of Grand Marais not far from the Tuscarora Lodge.

"There were too many people at Round Lake, so they moved down to a public access road on Loon Lake," said Leeds. "The car was in a small parking area about 200 yards from the lake — they couldn't see the lake from there."

Satisfied with their new-found seclusion, Landis and Flach stayed in the car for more than four weeks, waiting for "further messages from a higher power," Flach told authorities later.

Rescue squad members found no evidence of cooking in or around the car, only bottles of vitamins. They apparently drank water from the lake.

Cook County authorities are investigating the case.



By News Editor Beverly Taylor and Staff Writer Rick Lee  
Believe it or not, a few years back Levelland was paid a visit by an unidentified flying object. Or was it? No one really knows what happened that fall night a quarter of a century ago when several Levelland and area residents swore up and down that they had sighted an actual UFO.

Twenty-five years ago this week marks the date when Levelland was put on the map like residents then said had never happened before and like probably has not happened since. The city and about a dozen residents were spotlighted with nationwide coverage for reports they gave of a huge glowing object which stalled car engines and put out car lights.

To this day there is no official explanation of what the sightings, which came to be dubbed the 'Whatnik' or the 'Levellandnik', were. But, an undisputed fact remains -- that Levelland and the whole country were set abuzz with speculations and inquiries about what the sightings might be.

The sightings came at a time when the space race between the United States and Russia was at full tilt and the novelty of being able to put a ship into space probably caused a few imaginative folks to have their heads tilted towards the sky a bit more than usual and maybe accounts for a few of the reports of UFO's which were certainly not uncommon around the country.

But, the Levelland sightings were somewhat different from the other claims of strange objects in the sky for the simple reason that about a dozen people separately reported seeing the object and the various reports were quite similar in content.

For this reason, the Levelland sightings are listed by William H. Spaulding, one of the world's foremost UFO experts, as one of the eight best documented cases in history in "The Book of Lists, No. 2."

From what can be gathered from reports, the 'Whatnik' was about 200 feet long, egg-shaped, bluish green, and traveled at an unbelievable rate of speed.

Also adding credibility to the reports was a vein in several of the stories that the 'Whatnik' caused car engines to stall and die as well as putting out the car lights while the object was in the area.

The long night on the second day of November in 1957 began with the first call from Pedro Saucedo. Saucedo called the sheriff's office from Whiteface at 10:50 p.m. and told officers that he had seen a flying object with a flaming red lustre hovering above the ground about four miles west of Levelland on the Morton Highway. He said the object killed his car engine.

Levelland-area farmer Jim Wheeler was the next to claim seeing the 'Whatnik.' He reported it about an hour after Saucedo about four miles east of Levelland on the Lubbock Highway. A Whitharral man and a Kermit man passing through Whitharral both made separate reports of seeing the object near that community soon afterwards.

Tech student Newell Wright saw the object near Snyer, but did not tell authorities until the next day at the insistence of his parents.

The incident gained even further credibility throughout the night as several more people reported seeing the object. But the most important witness by far was Hockley County Sheriff Weir Clem.

Clem was traveling the Oklahoma Flats road northward of town investigating the reports of the object, which had already begun to flood his office, when he said he saw a "streak of fire" blaze across the highway in front of him. Several other deputies who were sent out to investigate the sightings also claimed to have seen the object at least once during the remainder of the early morning hours.

The Levelland Daily Sun News reacted as could be expected, with huge banner headlines like "ENTIRE WORLD ASKS ANSWER" and lengthy in-depth stories probing and comparing the reports of the sighters from every angle imaginable.

Other newspapers across the state and the nation reacted in similar fashion with some even sending special reporters to Levelland to get the first-hand scoop. Those that did not send special reporters certainly called and the operator at the phone company reported that calls coming into Levelland had doubled because of the publicity.

Most of those reporters were calling to talk to Sheriff Clem. He had seen it himself and he was willing to talk about it.

As with any event of controversy or significance or even insignificance, there are always at least two sides and usually more. Clem maintained that what he saw was definitely not a natural weather phenomenon as the Air Force announced the sightings to be a few weeks later. Clem died in 1977, but according to Mrs. Clem, who still lives in Levelland, Weir Clem believed for the rest of his life that he had seen some sort of unidentified flying object.

But Orlin Brewer, who was the editor of the Levelland Daily Sun News at the time, was not too keen on spaceships and the like and treated the whole matter with unabated humor in his column, "A Day in the Sun." In his first column after the sightings, Brewer said that a farmer in the area where the 'Whatnik' was sighted reported that he did not see the spaceship, but that several little green men had knocked at his door and wanted to get a job "pulling bolls."

And, as Sheriff Clem continued to believe he had seen 'something,' Brewer still holds today that what area residents saw 25 years ago was some kind of natural phenomenon. Brewer is now editor at the Vernon Daily Record and in a conversation with the News-Press, he said that nothing has happened in 25 years to make him any less skeptical than he was then.

"It was just one of those things," Brewer said. "It was a good story and an interesting story, but nothing has happened in 25 years to make me believe it anymore now than I did then."

Brewer said that part of the reason that the incident gained so much attention around the country was that Clem claimed to have seen it.

"Sheriff Weir Clem was willing to talk about it," Brewer said. "He was quoted a lot and his position added a lot of credibility to the story."

Brewer said that although he does not believe that the people reporting sightings saw an object from outer space, he has no explanation for what they claimed to have seen.

"I think something happened," Brewer supposed. "I don't know that the interpretation of what happened was anything close to the reality of what happened."

Newell Wright, the Tech student who reported the sighting only after insistence from his parents, is now a lawyer in Oklahoma. Even though he saw the 'Whatnik,' he says today that he never did think what he saw was anything other than a natural phenomenon.

"I never did believe at the time (that) I saw any kind of spaceship from outer space or anything like that," Wright told the News-Press.

He said that after the sightings he talked with a professor of electrical engineering at Texas Tech. "His (the professor's) explanation of a ball of lightning seemed to be a reasonable explanation of what I saw even at the time," Wright said. "And, as time goes on, I seem to be persuaded that's probably what it was."

But, Wright said people did not want him to say he thought what he saw was something from nature. "Nobody that ever talked to me was ever satisfied to hear that (his explanation) because the other was more exciting."

Wright said he was harassed by some of the people in the area after coming forward and is still reluctant today to talk about the incident. "If I had to go through with it again, I wouldn't say anything."

Although the actual sighters were, of course, the most sought after interviews by the media, everyone had an opinion about what the sighters might have seen, and when people are talking, the local newspaper will usually have an ear to the wall. In a survey of local people, the Daily Sun News queried several folks who were willing to speculate about what might have taken place.

Most people thought that what was seen was an experiment of the government, either ours or THEIRS.

Mrs. C.B. Edgar, whose address was listed as 1312 Fourth St., said, "I don't know what to think, whether it is from our government or Russia, but I am inclined to believe it is something from our government."

Others took the natural phenomenon outlook, including O.W. Marcom, who was then Superintendent of Schools. "I have thought about it and there must be some reasonable and logical reason for it. If three people saw it at three different spots, it must not have been imaginary. I definitely do not think it was from outer space or from Russia. A wild guess would be that it is from our government unless it were some natural phenomenon. I think it is utterly ridiculous to even think it was from outer space."

But others were not so sure. One was Mrs. Louise Hall, a certified public accountant. "I feel that it is just as possible that people from another planet would visit the earth as that we would be able to place a satellite halfway between us and another planet, and I think we are going to have to gear our thinking to things that we would have thought absolutely ridiculous only a few years ago."

Some people with authority were even saying that the sightings might have been a UFO. Donald E. Keyhoe, the director of the National Investigative Committee on Aerial Phenomenon, was one who declared it to be so. "We believe (the object was) actually a spaceship." NICAP was a non-official national agency which kept a record of strange sightings.

And self-proclaimed UFO expert James Lee from Abilene rushed to Levelland to give his opinion at first wind of the excitement. Lee told reporters that the flaming object was without a doubt "a spacecraft from some of the neighboring planets."

U.S. Representative J.T. Rutherford from Odessa immediately demanded an explanation from the Pentagon, saying, "the people of West Texas have a right to know (what the object was)," and warned that "in this part of the country, we were raised in the tradition to shoot first and ask questions later."

Levelland was not, however, the only city to get a glimpse at some strange sights. White Sands, N.M. also had some reports of a sighting the night of Nov. 2. Sightings from all over the country filled newspapers for the next week, and there were even more sightings in the Levelland area about a week later. These were not as documented, though, and did not get as much media attention.

But, regardless of how people tried to explain that Saturday night's strange occurrences, life eventually returned to normal in Levelland. The spaceship did not return again, and the reporters either left or quit calling. Levelland had a claim to fame and maybe that was what it was all about. Maybe folks got a little too excited about all the publicity and got stars in their eyes and saw things that were not really there.

But maybe they didn't, too.  
We'll probably never know.

CHRONICLE, Ipswich, MA - Oct. 28, 1982

## UFOs sighted in town; was it the Great Pumpkin?

Whatever it was that hovered in the sky above Ipswich for a long time on the night of September 17, the Mutual UFO Network wants to know more about it.

Several unidentified flying objects were seen by a couple of Ipswich residents who both reported their findings to the Network. The witnesses each described seeing a different shape.

The Network checked with the Ipswich Police Depart-

ment to see if anyone called other sightings in on that evening. The blotter was blank on that score. But because the objects were in the sky for an extended period, the Network feels convinced that other people in the area must have seen them.

Network investigators would appreciate any information concerning the UFOs. If you saw them, or heard of anyone who did, dial the Network hotline, 944-0686.

CR: B. Greenwood

# Waking from UFO nightmare

## Contactees share experiences, support

By DIANA DILLABER  
Of The Oakland Press

Jayson Fisher waited five days before he had the nerve to tell the police that a UFO had hovered over his car and directed a beam of green light at his face.

The officers laughed at the Lake Orion man's story and asked if he'd been drinking.

Some neighbors quit talking to him. His wife and daughter, who were with him during the incident, began to deny it ever happened.

Fisher, who does not want his real name revealed, began to doubt his sanity. Maybe he really hadn't seen anything; maybe he was crazy.

It wasn't until he talked to other people who had experienced the same phenomenon that he began to pull himself together and feel better about himself.

"Ninety-nine percent of the people don't want their names used," he says. "They are not a bunch of oddballs. It's just that such experiences are apparently beyond the comprehension of a lot of people."

Today, almost 10 years after that experience, Fisher and a neighbor are working to form a support group for Oakland County residents who believe they have had a UFO experience. The neighbor claims a UFO landed in her back yard.

"There are judges, an ex-chief of police and a minister," he says. The group's main purpose is to provide an opportunity for contactees to meet and

discuss their experiences — to help them through the problems that often follow.

The local UFO Contact Center is one of several branches of a national organization based in Seattle. Attendance at meetings in the home of a Lake Orion contactee averages between 10 and 15 people.

A brochure put out by two leaders of the center, Dan and Aileen Edwards of McFadden, Wyo., reads, "If any of the following has occurred in your life, please notify the ... center: Missing time; sudden body abnormalities, such as rashes, puncture wounds, warts, geometric marks; unusual dreams relating to UFOs or alien beings; sudden development of extrasensory perception or psychic abilities or night time visitations in your home of aliens."

The UFO center in Seattle provides hypnotic regression, counseling services and group discussions. Through this relationship, the contactees have discovered they are perfectly normal, the couple says.

"There is such a personality difference after such an experience. The family notices it more than the contactee," says Fisher, a tool and die maker.

George Kirchner, a gestalt therapist who earned a master's degree in counseling and is a certified social worker with Samalona Clinic in Birmingham, has agreed to volunteer his time to help Fisher make the group a self-help one.

"They can help each other cope," he said. "But, if a person finds stress

within the family, at work or trying to believe it themselves, they should seek professional help.

"The usual pattern after such an experience is alienation, very often from family and friends. No one wants to believe them. Or they (the persons experiencing the phenomenon) want to get involved in saving the world."

Kirchner will first determine whether the experience is a hallucination or is organically caused.

"If a person's hallucinating, it is usually so powerful it has a massive effect on daily living. Most people who claim to experience a UFO phenomenon don't experience a massive breakdown," Kirchner says. "But the most important thing is the individual who has the experience. They see or hear something and don't know what to make of it."

"If, after treatment, a person still says they saw something, they are better equipped to deal with it."

In the world of ufology, as it is now termed, hypnotic regression is often used to determine whether a phenomenon really occurred.

Kirchner maintains an open mind on the existence of UFOs and believes there should be more investigations into the phenomenon.

"There was enough of a belief by knowledgeable people that the government financed a projectile that was launched into deep space during the Nixon administration in an attempt to contact intelligent beings," he says.

Those who believe they have had a UFO experience and are interested in joining the self-help group, can write U.F.O. Contact Center, P.O. Box 132, Oxford, Mich. 48051.



*"No one wants to believe them. Or they want to get involved in saving the world."*

— George Kirchner

## More report sighting flying object

They're coming out of the woodwork.

After two people's reports of a UFO over Warren Tuesday night were published Thursday, calls started pouring in to The Tribune and to one of the UFO watchers.

The National UFO Reporting Center in Chicago is sticking to its original conclusion that the green-glowing ball was a large meteor, but many local people aren't so sure.

At least one local observer agrees with the center. Rick Senek of Newton Falls said Thursday that he was hunting Tuesday at about 10 p.m. when he saw it.

"I do believe in the possibility of UFOs, but this definitely was a meteor," Senek said. The green ball appeared to be on fire when Senek saw it, and when it dipped behind clouds on the horizon there was a bright flash, he said.

Senek said he didn't report it to anyone immediately because "I just thought the whole world would have seen it."

Nate Tura, 343 Griswold St., N.E., and his wife, Rita, saw the object while driving on Niles Road, S.E. Tura is organizing a Warren UFO reporting center, of sorts, in his living room by taking reports from others who saw it.

Tura has drawn a map of the green object's path over Warren, and on the map he's plotting the sites of people who saw it.

"I want to prove that this thing was a driven vehicle, because that's what it was," he said. "I've never been interested in this stuff before, but I am now."

Rita Tura said this morning that nine people have contacted them already. "So many people are relieved because they know now that they're not the only ones who saw it," she said.

One of those who called the Turas was Joe Williamson, 906 Highland Ave., S.W. He saw it while driving north on Highland Avenue, and claims the green object "hung in the air three or four seconds" before shooting down toward the ground.

Tura is working with James Carnes of Warren, a member of the Tri-County UFO Study Group, in an attempt to find out what the green craft actually was.

TRIBUNE-CHRONICLE, Warren, OH - Nov. 19, 1982 CR: P. Gersten

*They're here! They're here!*

## Close encounter of the Enfield kind

By JON EISEN  
Staff Writer

A Manchester lawyer who has lectured for a decade on unidentified flying objects — UFOs — in the area says he has received a report of a recent sighting in the Enfield area more exotic than any he's heard before.

Robert Blechman, state director of the Mutual UFO Network — MUFON — says an Enfield man reported seeing, and possibly being affected by, a UFO as large as an acre on Oct. 20.

Blechman said he does not have permission to reveal the name of the Enfield man, whom he describes as a middle-aged professional who works for an area manufacturer.

The Enfield man left his home that night — it was a dark night with a clear sky — to go to a meeting at about 6:35 p.m. When he got onto Washington Road, he heard a low-decibel whirring that reminded him of an electric generator. Suddenly his car was flooded with white light — it became "light enough to read a newspaper" — and grew warm.

Through heat waves coming off the hood of his car, the Enfield man saw the UFO hovering over a field next to Washington Road.

The craft was an elongated oval of about an acre with a white, gray belly flecked with 300-500 basketball-sized white lights. It hovered above him at about 200 feet for about 30-40 seconds. The object "obliterated the sky above him," Blechman said.

The object then became a glowing, flaming sphere and took off "like a bat out of hell" in an arc across the sky, Blechman said. That arc may indicate the object was moving at a very high speed and may have shot out of the

JOURNAL INQUIRER, Enfield, CT - Dec. 1, 1982 CR: G. Barley

of the Center for UFO Studies in Evanston, Ill., and a former consultant to the Air Force. His scale was immortalized in the film *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*.

According to Hymek's scale, a close encounter of the first kind involves spotting a UFO at an altitude of several hundred feet. A close encounter of the second kind occurs when an object is seen and leaves traces — like the problems the Enfield man has experienced. A close encounter of the third kind is when someone sees a creature face-to-face.

Blechman said Walter Andrus, a Texas doctor in MUFON, recommended the Enfield man see a doctor and explain what happened. Reportedly, the Enfield man has had a scar on his hand from an accident many years ago that has been inflamed since the encounter with the UFO and has been experiencing the "blahs," according to Blechman.

"He doesn't feel chipper," Blechman said. In addition, the man's wife discovered shortly after the encounter that the door lights on their car weren't working.

Blechman says perhaps the most significant aspect of the sighting was the apparent loss of time experienced by the Enfield man. Though it usually takes only 10 minutes to get to Washington Road from his home, that night it took about a half-hour.

There has been evidence of "missing time" in such situations in the past, Blechman said.

In addition, the Enfield man found "emotionally unnerving" the object's appearance, and had "no sense of arrival" of the object, Blechman said.

Blechman, who still is looking for witnesses, can be contacted at 643-2433.

earth's atmosphere, he said. Enfield police Lt. Herbert Foy, who has handled UFO reports in the area before, said police received no report of the sighting.

Blechman described residents in Enfield — a town that has become known for its UFO sightings — as spotted UFOs on two consecutive nights early this year, Foy said. In early April, a few days after April Fool's Day, eight teenagers said they saw a large object hovering over a house on John Street in Windsor Locks while they were playing in a field off Stevens Street.

At around that time, state police in Stamford said they were investigating a report of a UFO sighting in Mansfield.

There have been a number of other UFO sightings in the area in recent years.

Blechman, who has become known as a local expert on UFOs, said he was put in touch with the Enfield man through a court officer, who in turn heard about the sighting from a friend.

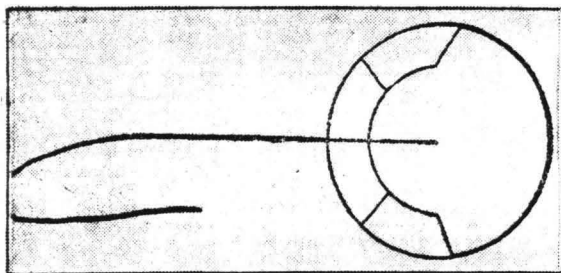
He now is looking for others in the area who may have seen what the Enfield man saw on Washington Road. The only indication of corroborating evidence of the UFO sighting he's gotten so far is a report that another person at the meeting the Enfield man was attending said he heard a similar "whirring sound" before the meeting.

Blechman said the Enfield man has had several health problems and several problems with his car since the sighting, indicating he may have been doused with radiation from the object. That would make the sighting a close encounter of the second kind, according to a scale of UFO encounters designed by J. Allen Hymek, founder-director



# LOOKING BACK

(ALL CLIPPINGS FROM THE FILES OF THE LATE GEORGE F. HAAS)  
NEWS, San Francisco, CA - July 8, 1947



**EARLY DRAWING**—Here is a drawing of a "flying saucer" seen from a ship in mid-Atlantic on March 2, 1870. R. Dewitt Miller, Los Angeles authority on natural phenomena, points out that disks have been reported seen at intervals during the last 150 years.

## 3 Explanations Given For Those Flying Disks

(R. Dewitt Miller, one of the world's foremost authorities on psychic phenomena and author of "Forgotten Mysteries," has spent 15 years accumulating authenticated case histories of inexplicable happenings. In the following dispatch, Miller shows that the mysterious appearance of objects in the sky dates back 150 years.—The Editor.)

By R. Dewitt Miller

Written for the United Press

LOS ANGELES, July 8.—There have been thousands of reliable reports during the last 150 years of strange things seen in the sky. There are at least 100 cases in which the queer objects were said to have a "disk-like" form.

Never have reports of strange sky phenomena been so widespread and so uniform as the "flying saucers."

### DISK SIGHTED

On March 22, 1870, a flat, light-colored disk was observed by the ship "Lady of the Lake," then in mid-Atlantic between South America and Africa. The disk appeared to be of large size and seemed intelligently controlled. A report of it was made in the Journal of the Royal Meteorological Society and a sketch included. The sketch is

## 'Nothing in Sky But Freak Clouds'

By United Press

ATLANTA, Ga., July 8.—Airline pilots here today poured cold water on the report of flying disks, declaring they had seen nothing in the sky during thousands of miles of travel but "airplanes and clouds."

Perry Hudson, Eastern Airlines captain, turned thumbs down on the persistent reports of airborne saucers.

"I've seen many beautiful and strange cloud formations in the air, especially in Alaska, but nothing ever looked like a saucer."

T. P. Ball, chief pilot for Delta Airlines, attributed it all to "Imagination—unless I can get a better explanation or see one myself. It certainly doesn't seem to be the first wave of an invasion from Mars."

Another Delta pilot, J. H. Williamson, a former Army flyer with General Claire Chennault, observed that "A lot of folks must have had too much to drink."

Other airline pilots concurred, pointing out that they have spent thousands of hours in the air over the world, under every possible atmospheric condition, without seeing anything more unusual than "some freak cloud formation."

strikingly similar to sketches made by observers of the flying saucers. Other disks were seen in North Wales Aug. 26, 1894, in India in 1839 and in Norway Nov. 3, 1838.

It seems to me the three most likely explanations — and at this point only guesses — are:

1.—The Army and Navy are experimenting with a new weapon. Although they have denied it, there is much in favor of this explanation.

### MAY BE FROM MARS

2.—The disks actually are from Mars or somewhere outside the earth. The fact that similar objects were seen before the invention of aircraft strengthens this explanation. There has been increasing evidence of life on some other planets. If they are Martians, I would like to meet one.

3.—They are things out of other dimensions of time and space. Certain thinkers in abstract science long have held that some other dimensional being conceivably could enter our world.

Although many reports of the saucers are undoubtedly untrue or distorted, there is plenty of evidence that something very queer is going on.

This is not the first time strange things have occurred. But the previous ones have been "forgotten." Many weird things have crossed the skies of this earth.

## Flyers May Be Seeing 'Dials'

By Science Service Licensed Wire

WASHINGTON, July 8.—Aviators reporting "flying saucers" may have been fooled by images of the dials on the instrument panels of their own planes. There are two ways in which this could happen.

Sometimes the sloping windshield of a plane reflects the dials as in a mirror, though less clearly. An imaginative pilot, especially if he is a little tired, might easily interpret these reflections as flying discs out ahead.

The other kind of self-deception might occur when a pilot finds it necessary to look fixedly at a dial, even for a brief period. This produces an after-image on the retina of his eye, which will seem to be projected on the sky when he looks up again. He could easily mistake a dial for a disc.



**HALLUCINATION?** — It didn't take long, did it? Chapeau Dreamer-Upper Frank Borel of San Francisco has come up with his millinery version of those flying saucers. Modeled by Phyllis Martin, the hat has a long veil which falls into "vapor trails" down the back, it says here.

## Army Says What Disks Are NOT

By United Press

WASHINGTON, July 8.—Official Washington was sure today it knew what the flying saucers were NOT—but it hadn't the faintest idea what they were.

The Army Air Force said they had the matter under investigation. Preliminary study has revealed the disks are NOT secret bacteriological weapons designed by some foreign power, new type Army rockets, or space ships.

Privately some Air Forces officers say the saucers are NOT—and let it go at that. But officially the AAF said it is "keeping an open mind" because the discs have been reported by so many normally responsible persons. Skeptics got a rude awakening when a guided missiles expert attached to the Naval Research Laboratory, Dr. C. J. Zohn, said he and two fellow scientists spotted a saucer June 29 near White Sands, N. M.

Army officials said their inquiry to date shows many saucer reports have turned out to be exaggerated mistakes or downright hoaxes. The Army experts added none of those claiming to have seen the saucers were able to describe them accurately.

A check with AAF fields throughout the nation disclosed not a single saucer has yet been picked up on an Army radar set.

## \$3000 Reward Offered For One 'Live' Saucer

By United Press

A "flying saucer" in the hand is worth worth \$3000 today, but those seen in the sky were still a dime a dozen. There were no takers for rewards of \$1000 each offered in Chicago, Los Angeles and Spokane for a genuine flying saucer. The Army Air and Ground Forces announced they are investigating the reported cloud-hopping disks with an open mind. But privately, high-ranking Army officers said they believed the saucers were a hoax and that some persons were the victims of hysteria.

One of the latest reported "saucers" was from Lillington, N. C., where two college students, Albert Dugan and Charles Cross, said they saw a "bright light" in the sky about 10 miles from Raleigh at 11:55 p. m. yesterday. Dugan said they first thought it was a star, but when it started moving they stopped their automobile and watched.

"It moved in a circular orbit and appeared to be elliptical in shape with blue light radiating from it, mostly around the edges," Mr. Dugan said. "We drove toward it, but it vanished. We watched it for about three minutes. It appeared to be under the clouds."

The Weather Bureau said the cloud bank was about 5500 feet high. Meanwhile, the mystery of the saucers took on an international flavor.

The disks, already reported over most of the 48 states and parts of Canada, were reported over Mexico City. Several persons phoned the Mexican National Defense Ministry to report the disks flying "in a westerly direction." A ministry spokesman said he didn't believe them.

Russian Vice Consul Eugene Tunantzev in Los Angeles scoffed at suggestions that the saucers might be from Russia.

"Russia respects the sovereignty of all Governments and by no stretch of the imagination would it use another country for a proving ground," the vice consul said. "Russia has plenty of territory of its own for any scientific experimentation."

High-ranking U. S. Army officers agreed with Mr. Tunantzev. They discounted theories that the flying disks might be secret weapons for use in bacteriological warfare. They said it was significant that none of the disks had yet registered on Army radar.

In Sydney, Australia, F. S. Cotton, psychology professor, told 450 students to go stare at the sky and see if they could spot any flying saucers. Within 10 minutes, 22 students returned, reported that they had seen the saucers and drew diagrams of the objects and their paths.

"What you have seen were red corpuscles moving across the retinas of your eyes," Professor Cotton said. "You can now draw your own conclusions from reports from overseas."

### DANES RIDICULED

The Stockholm Aftonbladet reported that two Danes who said they had seen flying saucers over Copenhagen were laughed into silence by friends who remembered last summer's "ghost rockets" over Sweden which turned out to be meteors.

At Frankfurt, Germany, Lieut. Col. Hartwin A. Schulze, chief of preventive medicine for the European command chief surgeon's office, offered the suggestion that the saucers might be "muscae Voltan-

tes," or "flying flies," the small, translucent objects sometimes found in the gelatinous part of the eye behind the lens.

The three \$1000 rewards were posted by E. J. Culligan, president of a Northbrook, Ill., company; the Spokane Athletic Round Table, a group of gagsters; and the Los Angeles World Inventors Expositions.

Mr. Culligan offered his reward "for the capture of a flying disk, if tangible, or the true explanation of the phenomena." The other \$2000 can be earned only by producing a "flying saucer." The inventors' Exposition placed a five-day limit on its offer.

Among the latest crop of "eye-witnesses" were some who reported disks landing in a mountain region where it would take several days to get to them and others landing and taking off before any one could get to them.

### KANSAS' BOAST

Newspapers and radio stations were swamped with telephone calls from persons who said they had seen the disks. Kansas—a dry state — boasted that none of its residents had seen one.

Disks have been reported as small as saucers and as big as houses and of assorted colors and shapes. Some "saucers" trailed gases as they sped across the sky, witnesses said.

One of the most bizarre reports was a complex hoax.

A Montana pilot, Vernon Baird, was quoted as reporting that his airplane had knocked a mystery disk out of the sky. But his boss, J. J. Archer, said later that "Three or four of us were sitting around the hangar gassing and we just made it up."

Erwin Rottman reported in Milwaukee that he had seen a flying saucer which changed from gold to silver and back to gold again. A Freeport, Ill., couple said they saw one about the size of an airplane.

A Civil Aeronautics Board spokesman said that agency was reluctant to start an investigation, but might be compelled to, if the disks start flying in regular commercial air lanes or crash into other aircraft. The editor of a Salt Lake City newspaper sent an urgent request to his correspondent at Pocatello, Idaho, to check a report that a "flying saucer" landed on a Pocatello street and took off again.

The correspondent replied that there was "an ordinance against aircraft landing on city thoroughfares."

## London Press Takes Dim View of 'Disks'

By United Press

LONDON, July 8.—The London press had its say today about the "flying saucers" reported in the United States.

The Times: "In weather as hot as this, imagination tends to become fevered."

"The Daily Telegraph: "...An indirect result of large recent exports of Scotch whisky."

The Daily Herald: "Must be a Russian athlete practicing discus throwing for the Olympic Games, and he doesn't know his own strength."

The News Chronicle frontpaged a cartoon depicting a hen-pecked husband reading newspaper reports of the disks while his wife tossed saucers at him.

## Flying Saucers

MONTEREY, April 11 (U.P.)—Sheriff's Deputy Ted Cross insisted today that he saw a flying saucer, or something that looked like one, streaking across the countryside.

Cross said he was driving along a 20-mile stretch of highway between Monterey and Salinas with Deputy James Matney, Matron Barbara Harris and a prisoner when the object came into view. The time was 7 a. m.

"At first we thought it was a morning star from its brightness," Cross said.

"But we looked again and saw it wasn't. It was a round object, about 30 feet in circumference and was traveling at a high rate of speed. I'd say it crossed the highway at an altitude of about 4000 feet."

"Then it stopped and began spinning. After a minute, it left

in a northwesterly direction towards Fort Ord."

A few minutes later, two deputies in the Castroville area north of Fort Ord radioed they, too, had seen the mysterious object. Later, a Greyhound bus driver reported seeing it near Salinas.

POST-ENQUIRER,  
Oakland, CA  
April 11, 1950

POST-ENQUIRER, Oakland, CA - April 17, 1950

## Saucer Sound Described

WAYNESBORO, Va., April 17 (AP)—How does a flying saucer sound? Go get some dry ice and drop it on a tin roof.

That was the answer furnished today by George H. Randall of Waynesboro, a student at Fishburne Military School, who said he saw a flying saucer "going south and moving in a wavy, undulating manner."

Randall said he saw an indistinct mass "that was not an airplane." He said the object had four yellow lights, apparently coming from portholes. It made a noise "like dry ice on metal" and suddenly disappeared, he added.

POST-ENQUIRER, Oakland, CA - April 19, 1950

## Now We Got 'Flyin' Bananas'

FORT WORTH, April 19 (AP)—Now it's flying bananas! Ira Maxey, a veteran of 3600 flying hours in the U. S. Air Force, said today he saw six of them plus something he believed to be a flying saucer. Moreover, he took pictures.

"They weren't moving fast and they appeared to be six or seven miles away," he said.

He described the six objects as without tails or nose—"not like a saucer but more like a banana." The saucer looked real enough to him, he said. Maxey said the objects definitely were some sort of aircraft. The pictures showed they left vapor trails.

# Encroach of Fantasy? More 'Saucers' Seen

By United Press

The world of fantasy was assailing the world of reality with "flying saucers" again today. Very weary of it all, an Air Force spokesman in Washington tried once more to stem the "invasion."

"Misinterpretation of various convention objects," he said. "A mild form of hysteria or hoaxes."

Astronomers across the country said the new "invasion" probably had its origin in what a fine looking planet Venus is right now. Venus can be seen riding the sky clearly in most parts of the country.

Mexico was the center of the "invasion." Newspapers in Mexico City were printing reports from all parts of the country about "silvery balls," "luminous discs," "strange objects," and "fantastic phenomena."

The reports, all unsubstantiated, followed the wide play given by Mexico City newspapers to a "flying saucer" article in an Ameri-

can magazine, "True." Practically all the reports followed the patterns outlined by the magazine.

Mexican authorities refused to dignify with comment the claim of Ray L. Dimmick, a Los Angeles salesman, that they were preserving as a "state secret" the crash of a "flying saucer" near the capital three months ago in which the pilot, a man only 23 inches tall, was killed.

But they said privately that there was no such "secret" and certainly no such crash and no such "little man." The coincidence of the tale with the True magazine story was pointed out. It also was remarked that it corresponded with a recent North Carolina radio station hoax.

Dimmick was telling his story on the authority of what he had been told by unnamed businessmen he met in Mexico City. He had been shown a piece of metal, he said, which had been sold to him as a piece from the wreckage

of the saucer. He refused to tell its location "because government officials swore me to secrecy for security reasons."

But a "flying saucer" was reported again in the Carolina skies where they have been "seen" before. In Orangeburg, S. C., several residents described a "disc" which they said had hovered over the city for 15 minutes and then disappeared, leaving a vapor trail.

Six members of the staff of the Orangeburg Times and Democrat said they saw the disk last night after Mrs. Donald Law, wife of the city editor, told them about it. They said it was about the size and color of a new moon, "only brighter."

Publisher J. L. Sims said the disk appeared to turn slowly in the air, from vertical to parallel with the horizon and then vertical again, before disappearing in the Western sky. Harry Player, a composing room employee, said he and four other persons saw the disk while driving on a highway 15 miles out of Orangeburg.

Other South Carolinians also said they had spotted the disk. In Columbia, some 45 miles to the north, Mrs. John C. Brown looked up on the way home from the movies about 6:30 p.m. and noticed "something white in the sunset."

At Florence, S. C., farmer J. W. Wallace said he saw "a tremendous object" something like an airplane and followed by a long tail. "It was the fooliest-looking thing I ever seen," Wallace said. "I called some of the helpers to

## 'RUSSIAN MAPPERS'

Former Crown Prince Otto of Austria, speaking before a Salem, Ohio, Town Hall audience last night, theorized that the "Flying Saucers" seen intermittently over the United States are Russian map recording devices.

He declared that Russia obtained from Germany after the war nine V-type weapons, two of which had been developed fully. Aided by German scientists, Otto believes the Russians have developed one of these into a flying saucer. He declared that Russia has exceptionally fine air maps of the United States.

watch so no one would think I'm crazy."

Another flying saucer was reported yesterday by residents of Van Nuys, Calif., who told police they saw a bright disk flying about 400 feet in the air. All witnesses said they were sure it was not an aircraft of any known variety.

Composer Eddie Coffman and actor Reed Hadley and his wife said they studied the disk through a telescope. Coffman said it appeared to be 50 feet in diameter and have a dark smudge on the top.

At the same time Mexican officials and US Government officials in Mexico City denied the report

that a flying saucer had crashed near the capital with a 23-inch man aboard. A similar rumor circulated in Denver, Colo., where the number of "Martian" passengers was upped to three.

However, the Mexican government newspaper, El Nacional, quoted "a famous and reputable astronomer" as saying the numerous disks reported over Mexico "carry visitors from Mars."

The disks have been reported by residents of Guadalajara, Juarez, Mazatlan and Durango and were similar in description to one which Airport officials said they saw over Dayton, O., on Wednesday. However, trained astronomical officials in Dayton said they believed the flying saucers were only the planet Venus.

The unidentified Mexican scientist wrote that the manner of flight and proportions of the disks "make it obvious that they carry beings from another world." He said his claim would be confirmed in the near future "when one of the disks is chased to earth by some military plane."

## 'FLYING TRIANGLES'

LOS ANGELES, March 10 (UP)—Now come flying triangles.

Mrs. Ruby Lytle looked out of her kitchen window today and said she saw the thing flying north at a slow, dignified pace.

"It's light in color and it has a gondola-shaped body attached to it," she telephoned the sheriff's office excitedly.

Deputy S. J. Smith made a report on the triangle, adding that Mrs. Lytle did not see any big-headed men about 25 inches tall such as figure in the very latest flying saucer reports.



**URGES CAUTION**—Robert L. Farnsworth, president of the United States Rocket Society, urged the nation to avoid shooting at flying saucers.

## 'Don't Shoot at Flying Saucers'

Rocket Leader Says They May Be From Afar

By United Press

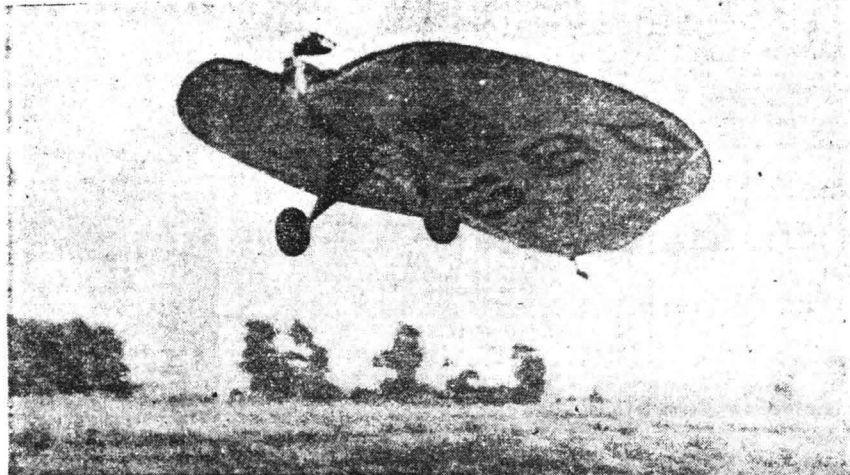
CHICAGO, July 30.—Robert L. Farnsworth, president of the U. S. Rocket Society, urged the nation's top defense officials today to restrain the Armed Forces from shooting at "flying saucers."

Farnsworth said hostile action might alienate mankind from "beings of far superior powers." He said there were unconfirmed rumors that the Armed Forces had been ordered to shoot at any unidentified objects in the sky.

Farnsworth, who makes rockets his hobby, warned against such tactics in a telegram to President Truman, Secretary of Defense Robert Lovett, Army Secretary Frank Pace Jr., and Navy Secretary Dan Kimball.

His telegram said: "I respectfully suggest that no offensive action be taken against the objects reported as unidentified which have been sighted over our nation."

"Should they be extra-terrestrial, such action might result in the gravest consequences, as well as possibly alienating us from beings of far superior powers. Friendly contact should be sought as long as possible."



Is this the forerunner of the silvery "flying discs" reported flashing across the sky? Richard B. Johnson, 2019 Channing Way, inventor of the above plane, is of the opinion the "ghost discs" may be secret military jet planes, similar in design, cutting the atmosphere at 1200 miles an hour. Johnson says he patented the "flying disc" in the early 1930's, abandoned development when he realized the possibility of its use in world destruction.

## Flying Discs May Be Secret Planes, Says Local Designer

Says Disc Jets Could Make 1200 M.P.H.

By RAY NISH

A terrifying yet simple explanation for the fantastic "ghost discs" reported seen flashing across the sky came today from a Berkeleyan.

Richard B. Johnson, 2019 Channing Way, is of the opinion the "flying discs" are actually mysterious aircraft of secret design streaking across the sky at supersonic speed.

Backing his assertion with technical knowledge and experiments that led to the development of a new type aircraft, Johnson expresses the theory the "discs" may have been developed by the military forces here or in Russia and are being secretly flown in test flights.

Johnson claims he experimented with an original circular flying wing, called the Uniplane, near Chicago as far back as 1934. He says he became convinced that the principle led all other possibilities in supersonic and rocket flight, aerodynamically and struc-

turally, and that realization of the tremendous military possibilities of the "flying disc" or almost circular wing caused him to give up its development in 1936 in favor of furthering the trend toward world government so it could not be misused "for destructive or suicidal purposes."

## TESTED IN 1932

Reporting he had invented and patented the flying wing several years earlier, Johnson stated the windtunnel tests were made for the patent office in 1932. He said a good idea of the disc principle may be obtained from the much publicized Chance Vought "Flying Pancake."

"It is urgent that the people understand the significance of this supersonic disc in relation to modern techniques for mass slaughter of civilians," Johnson declared.

## SIMPLE AND CHEAP

"First, its simplicity is such that any nation can produce it in large numbers at low cost."

"Powered with the equally simple ram-jet motor, the design is capable of flying well over 1200 miles an hour and of being seen in Illinois three hours after the discs were seen in Oregon, as re-

ported." He pointed out that loaded with dead bacteria a plane of that type could span an ocean in a few hours.

Johnson said he is in agreement with eminent scientists that "our only security is in uniting into a federal republic with all the nations we can possibly get to ratify a constitution comparable in principles of political science to the successful American "laboratory experiment — the United States. This must be done before it is too late."

## DELAYED APPEARANCE

Convinced that the "ghost discs" may be planes based upon his design, Johnson said "they are of the type of design best suited for transonic and supersonic flight, and are somewhat delayed in making an appearance."

According to Johnson, the characteristics of the circular wing are such as to meet the conflicting triple requirements for subsonic, transonic, and supersonic flight without appreciable compromise. On the other hand, the Uniplane was capable, as proven by 100 take-offs and landings from Stinson Airport near Chicago, of a landing speed of 22 miles per hour, he said.





# Visiting Polish engineer has designed own 'flying saucer'

By GARRY ARTHUR

If powered flight continues to develop at its present rate, we should see magnetically powered aircraft zipping through the skies in about 10 years time.

That is the view of Dr Jan Pajak, a Polish engineer who has just arrived in Christchurch to take up a post-doctoral fellowship in the department of mechanical engineering at Canterbury University.

Dr Pajak was so impressed by his own calculations that he went ahead and worked out just what such ships would look like, how they would work, and what they could do.

They turned out like inverted flying saucers — and he believes that that is no accident.

Dr Pajak's research into magnetically powered flight

is what he calls his science hobby. His professional field is the computer-aided design of machines, and the use of computers for the programming of machine tools.

His theories on the development of propulsion have attracted a lot of attention in Poland. They have been published in a number of popular scientific journals and in newspapers and magazines. He says the Polish Government was considering financing practical development of his ideas, but the recent political upheaval there put an end to that.

He believes that his "magnocraft" could be developed and built for about the same cost as the Anglo-French Concorde supersonic jet. It does depend, however, on the development of new materials that are penetr-

able and impenetrable by magnetic fields.

Dr Pajak uses a scientific method to forecast the development of his magnocraft. He says the development of methods of propulsion is controlled by a principle of cyclical which holds that within 200 years of a new motor being invented, a means of propulsion should be created that uses the same principle.

He is talking of the kind of propulsion which produces a relative motion of one part of the machine towards another. As examples he cites the windmill leading to the sail, the aneroid (air pressure

device) leading to the balloon, the pneumatic motor leading to the hovercraft, and the internal combustion engine leading to the space rocket jet.

"But the common electric motor has no such conjugate," says Dr Pajak. "This means that the magnetic propulsion device corresponding to it has still to be devised."

"Because Jacobi built the electric motor in 1836, by not later than the year 2036 humanity will have to achieve magnetic propulsion of flying ships."

Similar comparisons also indicate to him that about 50 years before the discovery of

a particular form of propulsion, all of its principles are known, and all the materials needed to build it are available.

Therefore, as we are now only 54 years from the year 2036, the conditions should already exist for the creation of a magnetically propelled ship.

Dr Pajak predicts that now that he has published the principles of his magnocraft, someone will build one within the next 12 years.

Dr Pajak says he knew nothing about flying saucers when he began designing his magnocraft — it just logically turned out to be saucer-shaped. Furthermore, he is convinced that U.F.O.s are spacecraft built on the same principles and powered in the same way as his own design.

What convinces him of this is that he finds 12 points of similarity between his magnocraft and what is known about flying saucers. He estimates that this could happen by accident only once in 54,000 years of development.

His craft will be magnetically propelled at speeds up to 70,000km an hour in the Earth's atmosphere, and close to the speed of light in cosmic space. Its fuel will be a mixture of lithium and silver, and instead of exhaust gases, its thermonuclear reactor will produce pure tin.

The crew's cabin (1 in the illustration) will have walls (2) impenetrable by magnetic fields. Above the cabin the walls will curve into a bowl-shaped chamber (3) enclosing the central propulsion compartment (4) on top of which the main propulsion unit (5) is suspended.

This propulsion unit and the nine stabilisation propulsion units (6) produce a powerful pulsating magnetic field. They can be pointed in any direction to manoeuvre the ship, using the attraction and repulsion effects of the Earth's magnetic field.

"For flight along the lines of latitude, the propulsive force is supplied by the magnetic analogue of the Magnus effect, known in hydro-mechanics," says Dr Pajak. "In this effect the magnetic whirl produces propulsive force perpendicular to the lines of the Earth's force field. The Lorentz force is an example of existence of that effect."

"By a combination of the magnetic whirl, the inclination of the propulsion unit's axis, and control of output, we can fly the magnocraft in any direction and above any point of the Earth (even above the equator, where the axis of the propulsion units should be horizontal) or in cosmic space. The magnetic field is omnipresent and its character favours the magnocraft."

Dr Pajak says that a moving magnetic wave will be produced around the craft. This magnetic whirl will cause ionisation of the air around it and create a plasma whirl which will cause a vacuum on the magnocraft's surface.

The craft will have something like an inductive shield around it which will repel and destroy objects such as missiles or meteorites in its path, and enable it to travel through water and even rock.

The magnocraft's magnetic field will enable it to be extended by coupling a

series of craft together, creating a cigar-shaped craft capable of carrying greater loads at higher speeds.

Since he began researching his magnocraft, Dr Pajak, who lectures at the Technical University of Wrocław, has taken a great interest in U.F.O. sightings. He has a fat file of reports and photographs, including a paper by a member of the Russian Academy of Science describing the chemical structure of a sample said to have been recovered from a crashed U.F.O. in Brazil.

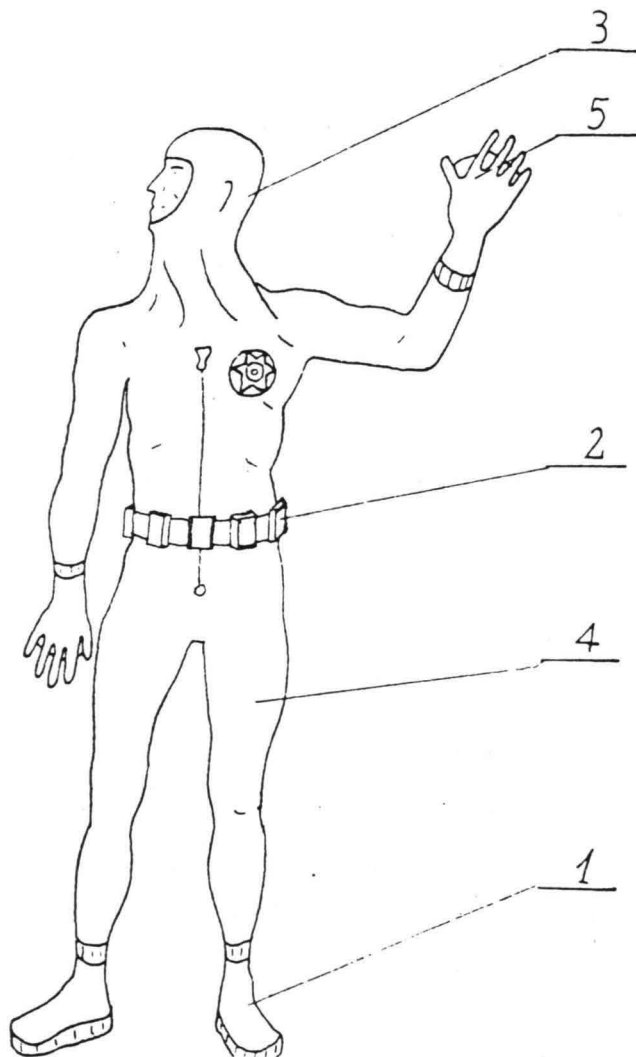
"It's a monocystal of pure magnesium," says Dr Pajak, "containing tiny 5-micron size balls of strontium."

He has a friend working in thermodynamics whose mathematical model of material that would strongly resist magnetic fields would have a similar structure to that of the sample.

Dr Pajak has interviewed a boy who claimed to have seen alien beings near a U.F.O. in a park, and he has pictures of mysterious chemical "footprints" found on the vinyl floor of a house in Wrocław in 1979. Research at his university showed that the footprints had been caused by a strong, pulsating magnetic field. The owner of the feet was estimated to be 1.12 metres (3ft 8in) tall.

Dr Pajak says that U.F.O. research is taken very seriously in the Eastern bloc, and is the subject of considerable discussion in Poland. Wrocław has a very active U.F.O. research society.

He plans to give some lectures here on his researches, once he has polished up his English.



The crew of the magnocraft would be equipped for independent magnetically powered flight. This spaceman has a propulsion unit in the sole of his shoe (1), and a belt (2) with eight more propulsion units for lift. His brain would have to be protected (3) from the magnetic field produced by his belt, his uniform (4) would be in one piece to avoid looping of the magnetic field, and his fingers would need special connectors (5) to stop them being forced apart by the magnetic effect.

## Technician in close encounter

By THOMAS QUIRKE

A Midland technician thinks he has had a Close Encounter of the Barr Beacon Kind.

While driving home from the West Midlands beauty spot in the early hours, Mr. John Hurley found himself on a lonely road pursued, he says, by a glowing, orange ball the size of a small lorry.

At first the former RAF leading aircraftsman thought the sphere was attached to a nearby electricity pylon. But then, he says, it followed him along Doe Bank Lane, Great Barr, hovering noiselessly about 60ft. away over an adjacent field.

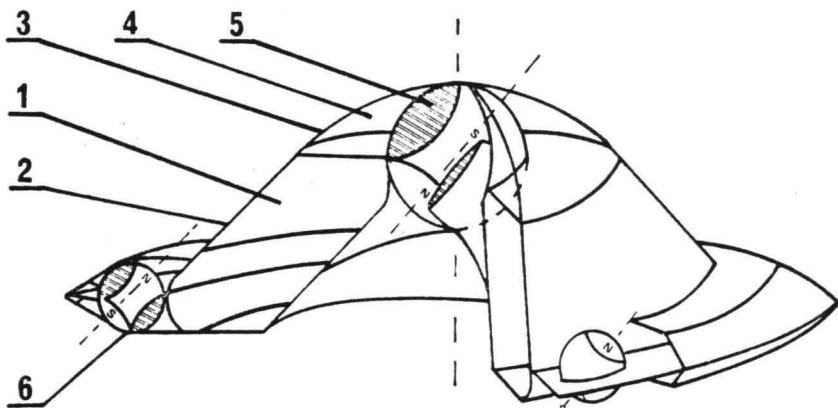
"I was frightened to say the least," he said.

Mr Hurley, aged 42, got out twice to see more clearly. Both times, he says, the object stopped, appearing to change from a ball of gas into something more solid.

The second time, he shone his torch and it approached he says, to within 15ft.

The Central Electricity Generating Board cannot explain the phenomenon but Birmingham's UFO Studies Investigation Service is interested.

POST, Birmingham, England - Oct. 6, 1982



Cut-away drawing of Dr Pajak's magnocraft. Details are given in the text.

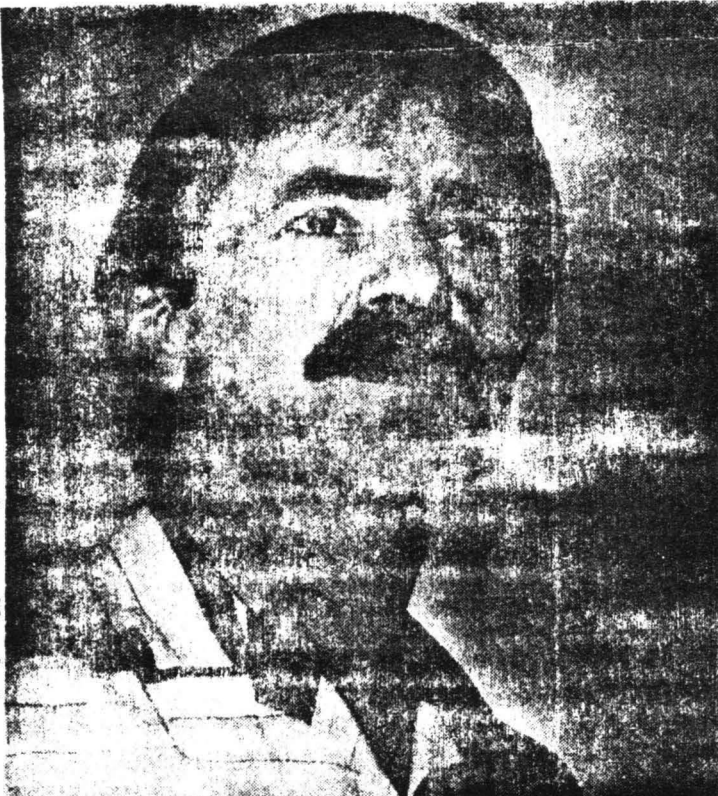
WESTERN MAIL, Cardiff, Wales - Oct. 16, 1982

## Car-patrol officer sees UFO

ANOTHER UFO has been spotted in Gwent — the latest in the past few weeks — this time by a British Transport police officer, Peter Griffiths, at Newport Docks.

He was patrolling the car compound at the docks on Thursday night when, he says, he saw two bright lights pulsating, one to the north and the other to the south.

After watching the lights for five minutes he saw the one to the south change to red and green before changing into a red glow and then moving towards the other light and eventually disappearing into a cloud.



# Fogarty is heading for one close encounter in the U.S.

CHANNEL 9 reporter Quentin Fogarty, has become something of a "mini-expert" on UFOs since he and a camera crew managed to film a series of UFOs off the New Zealand coast in 1978.

He was approached last month by the Hollywood-based Arnold Shapiro Productions Inc and invited to star alongside Richard Dreyfuss in the 90 minute documentary.

Richard Dreyfuss was the star of the UFO movie *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*.

Fogarty will also be working alongside world renowned UFO investigator Dr J Allen Hynek during filming of the documentary.

Fogarty said this week he was "absolutely thrilled" by the Hollywood offer.

"It is a complete change from the nut calls, the harassment and even the death threats which have hounded me ever since we filmed the UFOs," he said.

Fogarty recently published a book on the New Zealand incident, *Let's Hope They're Friendly*, and in it he tells how he, his family and other reporters involved in the story were subject to abuse and threats from nuts and cranks.

"One man rang and told me I would be dead in two days when I first broke the story."

"One reporter who reviewed the book received a string of abusive calls, including a death threat all of his own," Fogarty said.

Story: Phil Teese  
Photo: Mike Arthur

"buzzed" by UFOs think they are?  
"I don't believe in space ships or funny little green men from outer space."

EVENING POST, Leeds, England  
Oct. 23, 1982

## 'UFO' sighting a puzzler for Pat

Mr. Patrick Coyne must have thought the Martians were landing when he saw a UFO on his way home from the supermarket, but the police, Leeds-Bradford Airport and the UFO department at Manchester failed to come up with an answer.

Mr. Coyne, a reader with Yorkshire Post Newspapers, of Thornhill Street, Calverley, Pudsey, was driving along the Ring Road, at Horsforth, with his children, Patrick, five, and Sarah, six, when he saw several bright lights hovering in a clear sky. Then they vanished.

After phoning the police, Mr. Coyne could not get a satisfactory explanation. He said: "I have never seen anything like it and I can only assume the object was a UFO and that we had a close encounter."

## More sightings Nordin UFO base?

**Marsha Hutchings**

Is it possible that UFOs have the area near the French Fort Cove in Nordin marked as their territory?

Following an article in the Sept. 17 *Miramichi Weekend* about a UFO sighting near the French Fort Cove, a report of another, much earlier sighting in the same location has come to light.

A man, who asked to remain unidentified, telephoned the *Weekend* office from Shearwater on Monday.

"A friend from Chatham was down visiting with us," he said, "and he had a copy of the *Weekend* with him."

"When I saw that report on the UFO sighting and read the location where the sighting occurred, I felt I had to phone and tell you about the experience my wife and I had back in 1970," he said. "The location was too much of a coincidence to ignore."

He said one night while he and his wife were driving along the highway near the French Fort Cove, they saw three objects in the sky resembling large balls of molten fire.

"I pulled over to the side of the road near the old smokestack and got out of the car to watch them. Two of them were about the size of a house, with the third one slightly smaller."

"I didn't see any markings — they just looked like molten fire. The fire actually appeared to be dripping off them. They hovered

over the car as if watching us watching them."

"We stayed there like that for several minutes when they suddenly began descending, as if they were going to land in the field near the stack. However, when I looked for them, they were gone."

He said they didn't look like anything he had ever seen before and he "couldn't begin to think of an explanation".

It was the fact that the recent sighting took place in the same spot that convinced him to phone, he said.

The two UFO enthusiasts at CFB Chatham have received two telephone calls since the article appeared in the *Weekend* from people saying they saw "something" in the same area.

Two women reported that they "saw a strange light" over the Nordin area on the night of September 4. They witnessed this from the opposite side of the river.

Two men from Newcastle reported seeing "something" about a week ago, also in the same location.

Radar operators at CFB Chatham reported seeing nothing unusual on their screens September 4.

**LEADER, Miramichi,  
New Brunswick, Canada**  
Sept. 22, 1982

## Pilot's father keeps hoping

By DAVID BAIRD

IT'S four years since 20-year-old pilot Frederick Valentich vanished while flying a Cessna plane over Bass Strait to King Island.

He disappeared after telling air traffic control he was being pursued by a UFO.

And in the four years since that fateful day on October 21, 1978, Mr Guido Valentich has not given up hope that his son is still alive.

Tomorrow, Mr Valentich, 50, of Avondale Heights, will keep a lone vigil at Cape Otway to contemplate the mysterious disappearance of his son.

Frederick Valentich's plane has not been found despite intensive searches.

His disappearance still remains as big a mystery today as it did four years ago.

Mr Valentich said yesterday: "He must have interfered with a flying object."

"Is he on another planet? I don't know."



MR GUIDO VALENTICH with his twin daughters Olivia (left) and Lara yesterday.

"It is very hard to determine where he is," Frederick's twin sisters, Lara and Olivia, were four when he disappeared.

Ironically, the twins' birth date, June 9, was the same as Frederick's and his mother, Mrs Alberta Valentich.

Mrs Valentich, 43, is also convinced that her son is not dead.

She said she believed in UFOs.

SUN, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia  
Oct. 20, 1982 CR: V. Godic



The Arts

# UFO drama: first film, now a book

Let's Hope They're Friendly! by Quentin Fogarty (Angus and Robertson, \$9.95 paperback, October, 1982).

Books By ROWENA WILKINSON

EARLY on the morning of December 31, 1978, several extraordinary events took place off the New Zealand coast.

An Argosy freight aircraft, carrying a television film crew, became involved in a series of UFO sightings that were to make headlines around the world.

What set the case apart from other sightings was that several of the bright objects were captured on film and a number were also tracked on radar.

The film crew were not there by chance. Quentin Fogarty, the author of this book and a journalist then employed by Channel 10, Melbourne, had gathered the New Zealand crew together for an account on sightings in the same area 10 days earlier.

These sightings, along the north-east stretch of the South Island, had been seen by people on the ground, by Argosy freight pilots and had turned up unexplained on air traffic controller's radar screens.

Although largely ignored by the New Zealand media, the sightings attracted interest in Australia and Fogarty, on holiday in New Zealand, was requested by Channel 10 to do a follow-up.

This interest could have

been spurred by the previous mysterious disappearance of Victorian pilot, Frederick Valentich, over Bass Strait. The pilot, 21, and his single-engine Cessna 182 had vanished two months earlier, on October 21, after Valentich reported he was being buzzed by a UFO.

Fogarty interviewed air traffic controllers, pilots and others involved with the December 21 New Zealand sightings and then decided to retrace the path the Argosy pilots had taken to get some night footage of the area.

He had no idea of the strange events that were to follow. Fogarty later recalled saying at the time that it was like entering "a UFO playground".

Three months after the flight, at a press conference in New York city, a group of US scientists said the light sources captured on film could not be explained by conventional means.

Those at the conference included Fogarty and Dr Bruce Maccabee, an optical physicist specialising in laser technology and a consultant to the US National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena, who headed the inquiry into this case.

Dr Maccabee spent three months on the case before releasing his findings and he travelled to Australia and New Zealand to interview all the witnesses.

He also subjected the original film to an exhaustive study and did computer-enhancement analysis on copies of the film.

He then referred his findings to a further 20 scientists and experts in the fields of optics, physics and radar and they agreed that the light sources could not be explained by any known means.

NICAP, which in the past 22 years had investigated 20,000 reported UFO sightings, was for the first time prepared to endorse a film showing a genuine UFO.

Although in the limelight, Fogarty did not exactly get star billing after the sightings and the later press conference in the US.

He claims his life has been dogged with rumors, snide asides and lies since he released the story to the world.

His account is an attempt to set the record straight and to squash some of those rumors, especially those related to his alleged "madness".

The book makes no attempt to explain what the sightings were — those involved only know what they saw. After reading it and inspecting the 20 color stills from the film made during the flight, the reader can make up his own mind.

But as Fogarty said while on the flight when told about a radar object on their tail "let's hope they're friendly!"

## UFO OVER THE BRIDGE

Returning from Pembroke Fair on Saturday night two Pembroke Dock teenagers saw what they believe was an unidentified Flying Object above the Cleddau Bridge.

Michela Rigden (16), Lamados, Milton Terrace, and Lloyd Johnson (17), 25, Commercial Row, were walking along Milton Terrace at about 11.30 p.m. when they noticed a bright orange light in the sky above the Cleddau Bridge. At first they thought it was a very bright orange street light, but realising it was too high above the bridge, Michela ran to her home to fetch her sister Tracey.

When they returned the light had changed to a bright white colour. It disappeared behind a cloud but kept re-appearing for about five minutes, during which time a crowd of about nine stood at the top of Sloggett's Hill watching.

Michela, pupil at Pembroke School, accepts that people may be sceptical of the sightings. "I didn't believe in UFOs before, but I do now," she said. "It wasn't a helicopter. I've seen helicopters at night before!"

She admits to being a little frightened now but she says she wasn't frightened at the time. Although she hasn't read any books on the subject she intends to do so now and has bought a book on the subject.

This sighting is the latest of a series in recent years in Pembrokeshire.

WEST WALES GUARDIAN, Haverfordwest, England - Oct. 15, 1982

WESTERN DAILY PRESS, Bristol, England - Oct. 14, 1982

## Copping a UFO excites world

By Tom Bedford

UFO spotters from all over the world are investigating a sighting by two police officers in Monmouth.

And the town's police station has become an information centre answering telephone calls from eight UFO societies from as far away as Los Angeles.

Several inquiries from American broadcasting companies have come in during the early hours of the morning.

Chief Inspector Keith Harris said yesterday: "We have been inundated with calls. The American inquiries left messages asking us to ring back with a description of the sighting. I don't intend doing that."

Chief Inspector Harris says he does not doubt what Pcs Simon Holder and Tim Banks saw.

They claim a white light with blue and red flashes moved up and down, left and right and in circles over the town.

Other people have since confirmed the sightings.

Now the British UFO Society plans to carry out an in-depth study into the close encounter.

SOUTH WALES EVENING POST, Swansea, Wales - Oct. 22, 1982

## 'Oval shape with flames'

# Snapped, mystery object over city

WHAT is it? A fireball, a UFO or what?

Loughor photographer Mr. John Ferris hasn't a clue. But he does know it's a shot in a lifetime.

He managed to photograph the mystery object — "It was an oval shape about the size of a small house with what looked like flames shooting out from the top" — as it fired over the Townhill area of Swansea at 3 p.m. last Wednesday.

He was sipping a cup of coffee in a city store restaurant when a woman pointed up to the sky and drew his attention to the object.

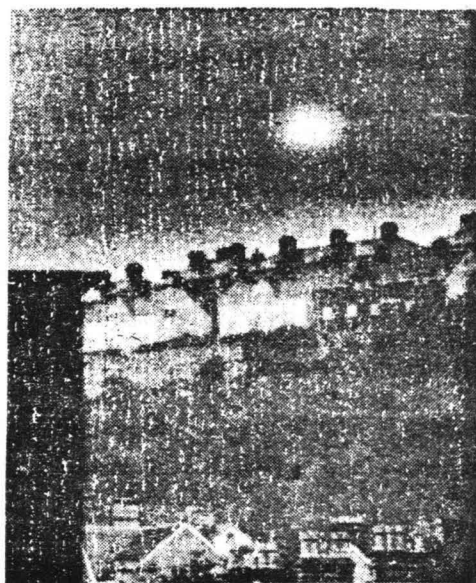
"I grabbed my camera and fired off the last shot on the film with my zoom lens. I didn't think anything would come out. It was a very overcast and dull day and whatever this thing was it was very bright," he said.

Overcast

"I'm mystified. I don't know what it is, but I know it is a shot in a lifetime. Someone else must have seen it."

Mr. Ferris was using 35 millimetre black and white film with his Pentax ME Super camera with 210 millimetre zoom lens. His photograph has been enlarged 170 times to show Pantycelyn Road, Townhill, with the object just behind it.

Swansea police said they have had no reports of any UFO sightings, but Gower weatherman Mr. John Powell said conditions were right for a ball of lightning.



"It was a stormy day and if ever you were going to see a ball of lightning or a fireball that was the day for it. The description seems to fit, but not having seen it myself I could not be sure," he added.

Mr. Ferris, of Heol Maes y Cerrig, Loughor, said: "I honestly don't know what it is. I've never seen a fireball or balled lightning so I can't say whether it was that or possibly a UFO."



MR. JOHN FERRIS... "It was oval, about the size of a small house."

## More UFOs spotted

THREE separate sightings of UFOs have been reported to police in the Cwmbran-Pontypool area.

Mrs Elizabeth Phillips, of Gower Green, Croesyceilog, reported seeing a bright blue light which was static and shimmering, for about three to four seconds at about 9.30pm.

And in Griffithstown, Stuart Blake and Jason Ree, of St Augustin Road, watched two flashing circular objects for about 35 minutes in the sky above their homes. They observed them with the naked eye and binoculars at about 8.35pm.

At about 9.30pm two women in Golf Road, New Inn, said they saw a narrow band of green light for about one minute. The women were Mrs Gauntlett of Hillcrest, New Inn, and Mrs Davies of Golf Road.

The latest sighting reported was in Monmouth. Police say Mr P. A. Jones, of Shelley Crescent, spotted a UFO from his home. He saw a bright, white flashing light travelling very fast in the sky in a south-westerly direction.

SOUTH WALES ARGUS, Newport, England - Oct. 7, 1982

## More UFOs spotted

ANOTHER UFO — or possibly two — has been seen by police in Gwent. The latest sighting was at Newport Docks by a British Transport police officer, Peter Griffiths.

He was patrolling the car compound at the docks last night when he says he saw two bright white lights pulsating, one to the north and the other to the south.

He watched the lights for about five minutes. The one to the south changed to red and green before becoming a red glow. It moved towards the other light.

Pc Griffiths says both the lights were too bright to be stars, but they gradually disappeared into a cloud after about five minutes.

SOUTH WALES ECHO, Cardiff, Wales - Oct. 15, 1982

## Damien encounters a real 'invader'

LITTLE Damien Hulme's game of space invaders with his pal came terrifyingly true when he cycled home.

As he pedalled the few yards from his friend's house, the 11-year-old looked into the night sky and saw a mysterious object covered in lights.

### BAFFLED

"It was about the size of two houses and was still in the air, about 10 feet above the trees," said Damien. The youngster, who his father describes as "a sensible lad", sped home to Sandown Road, Hazel Grove, in such a state he tried to get into the house without opening the front door.

Mr. Paul Hulme, 35, was baffled by his son's sighting over fields 100 yards from the road. He and his wife didn't tell their other children, Danielle, 8, and Christian, 9, for fear of upsetting them.

They called the police who took away a sketch of the unidentified flying object, and a doctor was called to calm Damien down.

The boy had been playing space invaders at his friend Michael Brady's home, also in Sandown Road, last Wednesday night.

He recalled: "I thought it was a plane at first. Then the word UFO came into my mind and I realised what it was." A drawing he made the following day showed a kite-shaped object, with blue-white beams, orange lights in the centre and a band of flashing lights around the edge.

"It seemed to make no sound," Damien, whose hobby is making model fighter planes, said it didn't look like an ordinary aircraft.

The event is the most recent in a spate of reported sightings over the south of Manchester and Cheshire area.

## Close Encounters of a Winchmore Hill kind

LIFE has not been the same for Winchmore Hill insurance broker Nigel Gray since he saw a UFO during a late-night stroll.

The close encounter came at the beginning of the month when Mr. Gray, who lives in Green Moor Link, went for a walk with his brother Stephen.

### High-pitched

Explained 42-year-old Nigel: "We were turning from Fords Grove into Queens Avenue when all of a sudden there was a high-pitched whining sound coming from a strange and eerie light in the sky.

"The light was not particularly bright nor was it unusually dim," he added. "It travelled slowly over our heads and was very possibly no more than a few hundred feet directly above us."

### Braver

At this point Nigel says he dashed for cover under a nearby tree. His braver brother ran along the road, attempting to catch the UFO up, and was joined by a passer-by.

Nigel continued: "Unfortunately the tree I was under obscured my view of the rest of this incredible incident, and with my eyesight not being what it was I was unable to catch more than a few glimpses through the foliage. Eventually

the light faded away into the distance leaving Stephen and I severely shaken."

Now at first I thought Nigel had discovered the alien being responsible for planting those futuristic, eyecore domes for discarded bottles that have appeared across the borough.

### Serious

But he's clearly quite serious. "It's the first time anything like this has happened to me. Sometimes I think it could be rather dangerous to get too involved."

If anyone can offer an explanation that will bring Nigel Gray back to earth, or who really has seen Martians crossing Green Lanes, then get in touch with The Gazette Diary.

## Eisenhower was visited by UFO British lord claims

By John Picton Toronto Star

A British lord claims U.S. President Dwight Eisenhower met aliens from outer space.

It happened at Edwards Air Force Base in California on Feb. 20, 1954, says the Earl of Clancarty (family motto: By Counsel and Prudence).

Lord Clancarty says he was told about the incident by a former U.S. test pilot who witnessed the visit.

He says the pilot, now a retired colonel, doesn't want to be identified.

"The pilot says he was one of six people at the meeting with the UFOnuts," Clancarty told The Sunday Star from the House of Lords, where he is chairman of an all-party UFO study group.

"Five alien craft landed at the base. Two were cigar-shaped and three were saucer-shaped. The aliens looked human-like, but not exactly."

They had the same proportions as a human and were able to breath without helmets, he says.

They didn't say where they were from.

He said Eisenhower was summoned from a golf game at nearby Palm Springs to meet the aliens, who spoke English and told the president they wanted to start an education program for the people of the earth.

According to Clancarty, "Eisenhower said that was all right with him."

Then they displayed their para-normal powers and made themselves invisible.

"This caused the president some discomfort," his lordship quotes the pilot as saying. "The aliens then boarded their spaceships and left. All of us were sworn to secrecy."

Clancarty, who has written seven books on UFOs, says he found out about the secret meeting about three years ago when the colonel was visiting England.

Now, officials at the U.S.-based Centre for UFO Studies say they'll be looking into the incident.

SOUTH WALES ARGUS, Newport, England - Oct. 25, 1982

## 'Flying saucer' among Gwent UFO sightings

A RARE dry and clear night resulted in two Unidentified Flying Objects being reported to Newport police.

A flying saucer, 200 feet in diameter, was apparently spotted over Bettws, Newport, at 10.34pm by a trained ex-military observer. And about ten minutes later, a long "railway carriage" shape was reported over Cwmbran.

Mr John Clarke, a quality control inspector, of Frome Walk, Bettws, told the Argus he was putting on the kettle in his kitchen when he spotted the saucer outside his window.

"I first thought it was an aeroplane at around 10,000 feet, but I was trained in plane recognition while in the army and it wasn't anything I ever say then. It was the fact that it was completely silent that got me," said Mr Clarke. "I looked out again and realised it was a huge saucer-shaped object, perhaps 200 feet across, with a blue flashing light and a green light not blinking at all on the top.

"It was in my sight for about 15 seconds and then it vanished over the house. I called my wife and then we both saw it heading away towards Cwmbran."

Mrs Rosemary Clarke, a factory worker, said: "It was the astonishing size which impressed me. That, and the lack of engine noise.

I didn't used to believe in such things, but it would be incredible arrogance to believe that we are alone in this universe.

"We are honest, hard-working people who had just spent an evening watching television. We never drink. I'll talk about it with people at work and see what they think," said Mrs Clarke.

Unknown to the Bettws family, a matter of minutes later Mrs Marion Gladys Mason, of West Roedin, Coed Eva, Cwmbran, was driving home along Henllys Way near St Dials Junior School.

She told police it was then she had her first sighting of a long oblong shape in the sky, roughly the size of a railway carriage. It had two small white steady lights on each end and one small red one at the bottom.

The UFO was still in her sight when she got home. She rushed upstairs and got her binoculars. She was able to estimate its travelling speed at around forty mph, before it turned over Cwmbran and disappeared.

Yesterday a Ministry of Defence spokesman in London said they would receive the Gwent police reports as a matter of course, and if they could not find a conventional explanation of the sightings they would interview the Clarkes and Mrs Mason.

BIGGLESWADE & SANDY EXPRESS, England - Oct. 13, 1982

## Vic, 72, spots UFO — in Sandy

PENSIONER Vic Fensome claims he saw an Unidentified Flying Object over Sandy in the early hours of Saturday morning.

Mr Fensome has given a vivid description of the UFO and the Express would like to know if you caught a glimpse too.

Mr Fensome should be an expert at spotting UFO's as he was recently one himself! At the ripe age of 72 Mr Fensome achieved a lifetime's ambition when he jumped from a plane and made a parachute jump in aid of charity.

Mr Fensome found himself back in the limelight when he glanced out of his window at about 2.20 am and saw an



● VIC FENSOME

object with flashing lights on against a pitch dark sky.

Mr Fensome saw the object weave about the sky before returning briefly and then shooting off towards Potton.

Mr Fensome watched the object from his 1vel Road home in Sandy before reporting it to friends and he later leared that further sightings had been made in Wales.

Did you see Mr Fensome's UFO? Tell us if you did, or write and tell us about any mysterious objects you may have spotted in the past.

Bedford 217821 is the Express number or write to: The Express, Caxton House, Caxton Road, Bedford, MK 41 0EL.

GRANTHAM JOURNAL, Lincolnshire, England - Oct. 29, 1982

## Mystery light in the sky

A MYSTERY sighting in the skies near Welby is intriguing members of the Grantham Aviation Society. The Society's latest Newsletter tells of a bright light which for moments is stationary, then moves for long distances before stopping.

"Sometimes it moves in a straight line, at others on a curved course," says the Newsletter. "Sometimes both. It has been seen veering towards Harrowby and disappearing westwards."

The light appears at 10,000 - 12,000ft. — usually between 10 p.m. and midnight — in the

general direction of Welby village. A man was walking home from work at about 6 p.m. in February when he saw a very bright light above the Loundthorpe area at about 10,000ft. The man thought at first that it was a star. Then the light began to move. "Staring, not blinking for a split-second, he then saw it stop and, after a minute or so, veer in his direction until it was almost overhead.

"There were no navigation lights. It was just a bright, silent light." Eventually the U.F.O. was seen to accelerate to almost the speed of sound, head west, then vanish.

Over the past three years at least four people have seen the light. It has been seen by two observers simultaneously. "All are intelligent, reliable witnesses."

The Aviation Society report comes to no conclusions.

An extra clue for sky-watchers is that the U.F.O.'s brightness is variable, often less than a navigation light. And although there is no noise when stationary, a rushing noise — like a searing jet — has been heard when it moves at speed.

Last sighting was a fortnight ago.















# More talk about 'Bigfoot'

Sitting in on the press conference of scientists to hear their findings on the Bigfoot phenomena last weekend has to be a highlight of the entire continuing story of this "monster who walks like a man."

While it was exciting as well to talk with men who have followed Bigfoot tracks for many years as well as a man who tracks animals for a living, the approach being taken by today's scientists is where this thing is going today.

The press conference was held at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, B.C. The U-B's story via Associated Press has already outlined the basics of that meeting in a crowded room at the Faculty Center sponsored by the International Society of Cryptozoology.

It was from that place that Grover Krantz, professor of anthropology at Washington State University, announced categorically that the footprints of a Bigfoot reported June 10 on the edge of the Mill Creek Watershed were made by a bipedal higher primate.

But, not by man and not by an ape, both higher primates.

Or, he humorously noted as he cited his reasoning about the maker of the 15-inch footprints:

"Therefore, it's quite simple; we have eliminated every possibility. It's a higher primate, it's not a monkey, it's not an ape, it's not a human.

"Therefore, it doesn't exist.

"We have an interesting problem here."

Krantz displayed several casts of footprints made at both the site where Paul Freeman says he saw the Bigfoot (Tiger Saddle area) and a few miles east, inside the Mill Creek Watershed on a muddy trail.

He based his judgment on the plaster casts made by the Forest Service. He was in China investigating that country's version of Bigfoot, "the Wildman," at the time Freeman sighted the Bigfoot.

But, once back in the United States, Krantz, for several years a scientist who has taken the lead in the efforts to gain scientific data on the Bigfoot phenomenon, moved into the "problem" in the Blue Mountains.

What Krantz said at Vancouver is considerably at variance with what the professional tracker, Joel Hardin, said when the Forest Service called him in here June 16 to look at the watershed tracks.



Outdoors in the Blues

Vance Orchard

While Krantz declared the tracks were not human-made — and he cited other authorities as well on that point — Hardin says they were made "to represent tracks of the Bigfoot in order to promote or perpetuate the Bigfoot story and legend."

Krantz, at Vancouver, said the opposite: "I'm afraid it seems to be beyond the ability of anyone to fake (these tracks). Most of the toes on two of the casts show these dermal ridges (which was the "new" feature which turned up in the watershed) and they show nice patterns, exactly as you'd expect to find them in a living primate. Other mammals — non-primates — do not have dermal ridges (as in fingerprints)."

Krantz noted that the tracks were not made by one of the apes "because all apes have a first toe that is divergent off to the side."

Hardin, too, cites the dermal ridges, although acknowledging that "I'm sure he (Krantz) knows more about dermal ridges than I do."

"There were very visible dermal ridges in each and every one of the tracks up there and they were all meticulously identical," Hardin says.

"Even a novice could see the footprint or the object used to leave the footprint had been ground into the dirt of the hard-surfaced trail in order to leave a completely identifiable print from the back of the heel to the tip of the toe."

"They were purposely faked and done in a manner so strongly that nobody would miss them."

Hardin was reared in Idaho, where he heard about the Bigfoot legend, as he calls it, but says "these tracks (in the watershed) were the only thing I've seen that would resemble and fit into the legend."

Again, there was a difference of opinion between the anthropologist and the tracker.

In his Vancouver presentation, Krantz said of toe formation in casts, "the same foot is

repeatedly cast here, but the toes are in different positions."

"You can imagine the problems of faking these so deeply and also have the toes movable up and down, spreading in and out."

To which Hardin this week said, "this is not the usual kind of hoax perpetrated by someone sitting around having a beer ... and concocts it the next day. It was very carefully thought out and the implement used to make the track was very well engineered ... it wasn't done in 15 minutes... it was done by somebody familiar with the area and the legends and stories and careful consideration given to past experiences."

"They went to a lot of trouble...even before they got in there to make the tracks."

What does this all mean to Paul Freeman, the watershed patrol rider who says he saw a Bigfoot and who a month later, with a party of five men from Athena, found many other huge, manlike footprints?

Determined to find a Bigfoot ever since he left his job with the forest service, Freeman is even more determined to locate one of the animals.

"I'm going to find one of them," he said this week. "I'm going to rub this right in their noses."

Freeman's comment was not aimed at the anthropologist. That scientific response has given the Bigfoot sighter vindication of sorts in what he says he saw that day in Tiger Saddle.

Fullest vindication for Freeman, of course, will come with the producing of a Bigfoot in all its eight-foot stature and 15-inch feet.

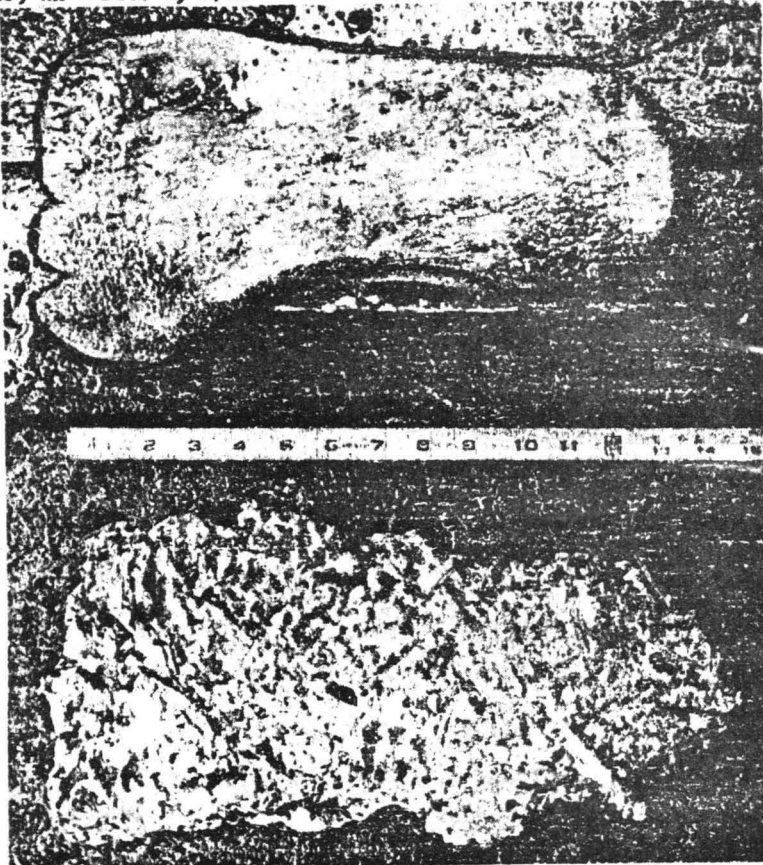
With that philosophy, Freeman joins forces with Rene Dahinden, a man who has spent a good number of years of his life chasing the Bigfoot-Sasquatch thing from deep interior of British Columbia through Washington and Oregon and on into northern California.

Dahinden, who lives at nearby Richmond, was at the Vancouver press conference and voiced the same thought he did when his book, "Sasquatch" was published in 1973. He wouldn't say after Krantz made his presentation whether or not he "believed" in Bigfoot.

Dahinden is forthright and talks the language of a man who might be a bit frustrated with the search he has made as he says: "Something is making those goddamn footprints and I'm going to find out what it is."

The only difference between Dahinden and Freeman is that Freeman is convinced he has seen a Bigfoot but now must bring one back to prove it.

COLUMBIAN, Vancouver, WA - Dec. 6, 1982



CHERYL HASEL HORST/The Columbian

## Prints charming

Scott Brown, a building contractor working on a house north of Washougal, shows the path of footprints he believes were made by a Bigfoot creature last Wednesday. The prints are covered with slabs of sheetrock to protect them from being washed away by rain. The photo above displays the mold Brown made with plaster-of-paris from one of the footprints, showing the print was about 14 inches long. Alongside is a wooden model of the footprint Brown created to conduct a test to determine the weight of the creature that made the print. Brown and his brother, Neal, set the wooden model on the ground and put their full weights on it, a total of 405 pounds. The model went 1/2-inch into the ground, as compared with the footprint depth of 1 1/4 inch. The results of the weight test will be sent to the Project Bigfoot in Seattle for analysis.

# 'Bigfoot' Leaves Impression On 2 Ellington Farmhands

By JOHN P. TARPEY  
Courant Staff Writer

ELLINGTON — John Fuller and David Buckley may seem unlikely celebrities, but ask anybody in town about their brush with fame and you're sure to get an opinion.

It all started late one August night when Fuller and Buckley had what might be described best as a vision. It was just after midnight and the moon was full. The two were behind the barn of Valley Farms dairy — they work the night shift — when they came face to face with Bigfoot.

At least that's what they say.

And that's what the front page headline on The Weekly World News said two weeks ago. Or, more accurately, what the headline screamed, in 2-inch type, exclamation points and a frightful rendering of Bigfoot himself, all fangs and claws and crazy eyes.

For the uninitiated, Bigfoot is an American version of the Abominable Snowman, a hairy, 7-foot creature that seems to appear every few months in various parts of the country and, usually soon afterward, in the pages of assorted racy tabloids.

The Weekly World News is one of those tabloids, published in Lantana, Fla., by the National Enquirer. The paper is, in a word, sensational, featuring medical curiosities, photographs depicting violent acts and, of course, sightings of Bigfoot.

So, when the two farmhands' experience was reported in the local papers and the wire ser-

vices, The News seized the opportunity and gave the pair a few days of fame.

Now the full-page story is pinned to the wall of the dairy's office, next to a full-color poster of Bigfoot. And around Ellington, where there are almost as many cows as there are people, folks are still talking about the apparition.

"It kind of makes you wonder, you know?" mused Donna DeVine, a waitress at the Ellington Chuck Wagon restaurant. "I mean, stranger things have happened in Ellington."

"They say there's a Dracula in Transylvania," she said. "Why not a Bigfoot in Ellington?"

One patron, finishing off a slice of pie at the counter, admitted the story made him think twice when leaving his house at night. "I take a look around now — check under my truck, that sort of thing," he said.

"I don't really think it was Bigfoot," he said. Then, pondering the possibility, he reconsidered. "If it *was* Bigfoot, then we're all in for trouble."

Fuller and Buckley are convinced it was Bigfoot, and if they don't think they're in for trouble now, they sure did that August night. There they were, half a mile from Route 83, nothing but woods and farmland around the barn when they stumbled on Bigfoot near the cattle stalls.

"I just about died," Fuller said, using the same language that the tabloid loved. "I thought I was gone."

Fuller has a lively recollection of that night and gives a vivid description of the creature that caused the stir. He was 7 feet tall, easy, Fuller said, and all hairy and muscular with a flat nose and big teeth.

"It was like something you'd see in a horror movie," he said. "The way it was looking at us — like a dog, all snarling and showing its teeth. He had his hand in the silage bin. I don't know whether he wanted to eat or whether he was just playing with it."

Fuller's partner, Buckley, doesn't talk about it much. He was the one who first saw Bigfoot, the one who gasped and hit the dirt when he walked around the barn door and laid eyes on the creature. His eyes still get wide when he talks about the experience.

"He was big and hairy," said Buckley, 21, taking a break from milking a cow. "Real big."

Jackie Fuller, John Fuller's mother, believes her son's story. The night after Bigfoot allegedly appeared, she went down to the dairy to stand watch, just in case he returned. Bigfoot didn't show for a return engagement, but she believes the story, nevertheless.

"If it was anybody but John, I wouldn't believe it," she said. "But John is the calm type. He doesn't get excited about things. He definitely saw something, and it wasn't anybody playing a joke."

The state police investigated the occurrence, questioned Fuller and Buckley and other employees of the farm, and believe the pair really did see something. What, they're not sure.

"We have no doubt that they did see something," said Sgt. Frederick Bird of the Stafford state police barracks, who oversaw the investigation. "But I couldn't tell you what it was. It could've been somebody playing a joke."

"I'll tell you one thing," Bird said, "you play a practical joke like that around a farm and you're liable to wind up dead. People out in the country have guns, and they don't like to see their animals spooked."

Still, the theory that Bigfoot was in reality a prankster has a lot of proponents.

"It sounds like somebody in a gorilla suit playing a good joke," Ken Morton said as he swept up at the Chuck Wagon. "This Bigfoot idea is kind of hard to swallow."

Then there's the idea that Fuller and Buckley share one heck of a lively imagination, or that their imaginations had some extra stimulation that night.

"Some people believe us; some don't," said Fuller, who is 25 and has worked at Valley Farms for seven years. "Some people are saying that we were hitting the sauce. But we weren't. We even saw the heel print afterward."

But, Fuller said, the heel print was washed away by rain the next day, eliminating any empirical evidence. Consequently, they have their doubters.

"Whether they saw it or not, I don't know," said Al Vulliet, manager of Valley Farms. "But I know one thing. If somebody set 'em up for this thing as a joke, they picked the right people. Those two guys are scared of their own shadows."

ARKANSAS GAZETTE, Little Rock, AR - Dec. 5, 1982

## Is There Extraterrestrial Life? Scientists Say Now's the Time to Look and Find Out

By PATRICK YOUNG  
Newhouse News Service

WASHINGTON — Some ideas simply must await their time. One such idea is the search for life elsewhere in the universe.

Twenty-four centuries ago, the Greek philosopher Metrodorus of Chios boldly suggested that intelligent life existed on worlds far from Earth. "It goes against nature, in a large field only one shaft of wheat to grow, and in an infinite universe to have only one living world," he wrote.

Today Metrodorus' idea is winning wider support than ever.

Buoyed in part by a financial blessing from Congress and official approval from the world's most prestigious astronomy organization, advocates of the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence, or SETI, envision a serious effort to scan the heavens for evidence of life elsewhere in the galaxy.

Their major focus is on detecting faint radio signals from other civilizations.

"At last we do have the science and technology to conduct serious searches for extraterrestrial life," Michael D. Papagiannis, professor of astronomy at Boston University, said, and the search shouldn't be confined to distant stars.

"Some of us, including myself, feel it is important to conduct searches inside our solar system for intelligent signals," he said.

The rationale, he explains, is the suspicion that civilizations more advanced than Earth's may have colonized part of the galaxy, perhaps with a gigantic space station in orbit around the sun.

"These colonies are likely to be habitats in space because it is very

unlikely — in spite of suggestions to the contrary by popular television — that any planet would provide them an atmosphere they could freely breathe," Papagiannis said.

The notion of extraterrestrial colonization is controversial, even among those who believe extraterrestrial life exists. The economic costs and energy requirements of such efforts seem prohibitive.

Indeed, SETI itself remains controversial.

In a recent *Physics Today* article, Leonard Ornstein of Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York laid out a detailed biological argument against the chances of life developing elsewhere.

"Investing in SETI looks more like betting on a dead horse," he concluded.

SETI's most avid supporters admit the search will be an arduous, lengthy task with a high likelihood of failure. But they see the effort as exceedingly important.

"The rewards [of success] would be tremendous," Harvard University physicist Paul Horowitz said. "Here, suddenly, this island of life connects with another island of life. I can't think of any discovery that can compare."

Since the first search in 1960 for radio signals from distant civilizations, at least 31 small-scale projects in seven countries have scanned the skies — all to no avail. Congress refused a National Aeronautics and Space Administration request for funds in 1979 to conduct a major SETI project.

But now advocates say interest in SETI has never been higher among scientists and the public.

As evidence they cite:

★ Congress has approved \$1.5 mil-

lion in NASA's fiscal 1983 budget to study what equipment is needed and the best way to conduct a major SETI project. "What we are doing is not a SETI search but developing the capability and strategy to carry out a SETI search in the future," Donald L. DeVincenzi of NASA's life sciences division said.

★ The International Astronomical Union gave its approval to SETI in August when it set up a new section to help co-ordinate international efforts to find life on other planets.

★ A National Academy of Sciences report earlier this year recommended the federal government spend \$20 million on SETI during the 1980s.

★ A private group will fund a detailed SETI search by Horowitz that is expected to last several years. Horowitz will use an 84-foot radio telescope at the Oak Ridge Observatory in Massachusetts to scan about two-thirds of the sky.

The growing interest in SETI is matched by a sense of urgency among pro-SETI scientists, who fear its time on Earth is limited. "We are building more and more radio transmitters on Earth and in space, and interference is getting worse and worse," astronomer Robert Dixon of Ohio State University said. "It will get to the point where we will have to do SETI from space or from the moon, where there is less interference."

Papagiannis said the idea that extraterrestrial beings may have established a colony in the solar system is based on the belief that living creatures have an urge to occupy all available space, that technological civilizations inevitably will colonize the entire galaxy. "Life has a tremendous capacity to expand," Papagiannis said. "It is almost like a gas."

If such colonization has taken place, Papagiannis suggests, the most likely location is in the Asteroid Belt between Earth and Mars. "The Asteroid Belt consists of large rocks that can provide anything you wish in terms of raw materials," he said.

One question often asked about this theory is why contact has not been made before now.

"People have speculated on that," Papagiannis said. "Such colonies wouldn't have been established yesterday, but probably many hundreds of millions of years ago. For these highly advanced civilizations, the Earth was a dull place — interesting maybe as a case study in biological evolution."

"And this was probably our relationship with them. We were studied, and they kept an eye on our slow evolution. And I think this even included the evolution of man, who — lacking technology and rather primitive science — did not represent an interesting subject of communication."

Even today, Papagiannis suggests, the time might not be ripe. He noted that many question whether Earth's civilization will survive or be destroyed by nuclear war.

"It is possible they don't want to interfere in our struggle, letting the natural process of selection determine if we are fit to become members of galactic society."

And that leads inevitably to a possibility that makes him most uncomfortable: "It is conceivable — though I don't advocate this and I want to emphasize that I don't think this is the case — that some of the unidentified flying objects might represent missions from the Asteroid Belt keeping an eye on us."