

# UFO

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## Mystery lights make encore

By E.B. Walzer  
Staff Writer

A set of mysterious lights closely resembling those seen in local skies by hundreds of people this spring and summer reappeared Sunday night — this time over the Carmel police station in Putnam County.

The lights, watched by a handful of policemen and passers-by, moved slowly across the sky for about 10 minutes and then banked to the north.

An employee at Stormville Airport in Dutchess County said Monday that she believed a flight of planes had left the airport Sunday night. But she said the pilots — who are suspected of flying the planes thought to have been unidentified flying objects in similar sightings over the past six months — are not known to authorities because they use the airport after it is closed at night.

Witnesses to the Sunday sighting said they did not think what they saw were airplanes.

"It was very strange," said John Torpey of Mahopac, whose wife, Linda, also saw the lights as they were driving in separate cars in Mahopac Sunday night.

"I would say it was about 200 yards up, and almost overhead at one point, right opposite police headquarters," Torpey said. "It really was very close, and it made no noise whatsoever. If I had to draw a picture of it, it would be a boomerang, probably about 200 feet across."

According to Carmel patrolman Thomas Budington, about a half-dozen people from the Croton Falls area of town called police headquarters at 10:30 p.m. to report the V-shape of lights, which appeared to be over nearby Lake Casse.

Kent police said they received no calls about the lights, but Yorktown police reported getting several calls from residents who saw the lights.

So far, the lights have been seen not only in Putnam, Westchester, Dutchess, and Connecticut, but also across the Hudson River in Rockland and Ulster counties. On Aug. 21, at 10:30 p.m., scores of people saw a large oval-shaped object with multicolored lights hovering above New Haven, Conn. The lights, which were also seen in nearby West Haven, Conn., and then two days later in Bridgeport, Conn., hovered for a time above the Yale Bowl football stadium, and over the offices of the New Haven Journal-Courier and New Haven Register newspapers, which have a central plant near Interstate 95.

## Station's message out of this world

MUSCATINE, Iowa (AP) — Extra-terrestrial beings who want to break the ice with earthlings have a standing invitation to come and chat at radio station KFMH.

Every Wednesday at midnight, the progressive rock station broadcasts a 10- to 15-minute message to any aliens who might be listening.

"It's a message of friendship, telling that there are those of us who believe in them," said Steve Bridges, 34, KFMH program director. "We play a message of friendship and then play tapes of people who believe in them. Then we give our location in latitude and longitude in English, Samoan, French, Italian, Japanese, Malaysian and other languages. Then we ask them to respond."

The radio station began airing the message in response to interest in the community, said Bridges. Muscatine, in southeastern Iowa, is considered a hotbed of UFO activity.

"I thought the audience would be interested in this, but I didn't realize how many people were really interested. We've had over 300 calls from people — we've had to put in a whole separate phone line just to handle it," said Bridges.

"If this was a promotional stunt, we wouldn't be doing it at midnight, we'd be doing it during prime drive time. This is serious, this isn't like giving out turkeys for Thanksgiving," he said.

HERALD-JOURNAL, Syracuse, NY — Nov. 24, 1983 CR: R. Barrow

## UFO shakes woman's car as she drives on Route 220

By Marsha Helm  
Staff Writer

It was a very dark night as Catherine Burk of Bellwood drove home on Route 220 after a visit with family in Altoona.

She had slowed down as she approached the Country Garden Market as a precaution against turning motorists. But then she heard a sound — a fast whirling sound.

The next thing she knew, her car was lifted onto two wheels. She saw a silver flying object, a UFO, pass overhead. As she fought to regain control of her vehicle, the object swooped away.

"I'm trying to forget it," the Bell Tower resident said. "Nobody knows what it's like until you see it."

And two days after the event, Mrs. Burk still couldn't hear out of her right ear. She was still shaken.

It happened between 8:30 and 8:45 p.m. Saturday. Mrs. Burk said she was traveling north on Route 220 in her Chevrolet Malibu. She didn't see the UFO coming, but she heard it.

"All I heard was this weird noise. It was a weird sound. You could hear it. It was real fast. It was like a real fast hum, and it was sharp," she said as she dotted the tears in her eyes with a tissue.

The object came past her on the right, she said. "When he went over

me, he took the right side of my car up," she added.

As she was struggling with the vehicle, she said she got a glimpse of the silver object flying by.

"It was bright silver with a pocket underneath it. It was really bright," Mrs. Burk said. "It was big, it was really big."

As she described it, the UFO was bright silver and flat on top. It had a round, silver bottom that wasn't as bright. It was circular and on a tilt. But her car was "wobbly," and she was concerned about an accident.

"I couldn't get control of the car. I was sliding over in the seat," she said. The car eventually righted itself. She added: "It came down with such a thud."

Because she was fighting the vehicle, she didn't get a good look at the object. "I didn't see it all. I got

a glimpse of it," the 67-year-old woman explained.

After the car was righted, Mrs. Burk pulled to the side of the highway. Her vehicle wouldn't start again for 20 to 25 minutes. But even after she reached her home, she said, she still saw a silver streak in the sky.

There were no other people around, Mrs. Burk said, except for an older couple who she saw in front of the Minuet Manor. They were looking toward the sky, but she thought they may have been trying to read the hotel vacancy sign.

Their car later passed her vehicle as she returned home.

Mrs. Burk, though upset, decided not to tell people of her experience. "People think you're crazy, so I didn't tell anybody," she explained.

MIRROR, Altoona, PA — Oct. 18, 1983



Mirror photo by Walter Mong

CATHERINE BURK of Bellwood points to what she says is the only visible evidence of her UFO sighting Saturday night on Route 220 — a loosened rubber strip on her car.

## FERN CHICK: WOMAN TAKES HYPNOTIC JOURNEY TO RECALL TRIP TO ALIEN SPACECRAFT

BY BRENT RAYNES

A few years ago, down near stateline, a couple of industrious, teenaged high school students took a notion, after talking with a family who had reported a number of odd UFO sightings (including a white glowing ball 6-8 feet in diameter hovering just a few feet off the ground behind their home), that if they were to stake out the area at night then they might see something for themselves, and perhaps even manage to get the things on film.

They struck paydirt! Seven years and slightly over 200 sightings later, and with approximately 150 35mm photographs of unidentified lights (even taken with telephoto lens and infrared film) Wyatt Cox and Greg Keeton are convinced that something really weird really is appearing in the skies around St. Florian, Alabama. Most of their observations occurred just a short distance from Route 17 (13 in our state) and about seven miles north of Florence.

Retired U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel, Thomas E. Bearden, Vice-President of the American Association of Meta-Science in Huntsville, Alabama, has concluded that the odd phenomenon investigated and photographed by Cox and Keeton is of a piezoelectric nature. Bearden, who holds an M.S. in Nuclear Engineering (Ga. Institute of Technology) notes the presence of quartz in much of the rocks of that region. Quartz bearing rocks are capable of discharging electrical currents when

under pressure, and a known earthquake fault slices through North Alabama, not far from Florence. Also the fact that quartz rocks can create UFO-type lights has been demonstrated under laboratory conditions (as seen recently on the 20/20 television report on UFOs).

Bearden hopes to visit the area soon and activate some sort of electrical generator to interact with the energy he feels these UFOs are made up of.

Time will tell, but in the meantime this reminds me of a report given me not long ago by a woman near Collinwood. Her report may further indicate the correctness of this piezoelectric theory. One night she had stepped outside her home and nearby, resting on the ground, was a reddish-orange sphere, perhaps ten feet in diameter. It vanished before her startled eyes. This same area, I might point out, has been the scene of much reported low-level UFO activity. Particularly back around 1973.

The piezoelectric theory does not explain all of the odd aspects of all of the odd UFO reports that have been made, but it certainly seems to be a step in the right direction. It gives us a scientific perspective and allows for the repeatable experiment.

By the way, Cox and Keeton are available for public lecture and showings of their 35mm slides. If enough people are interested I will make arrangements for them to make a presentation here. Just let me know.

What began as a San Antonio woman's game with lights in the New Mexico sky has become an odyssey through hypnosis — time turned back for a close encounter of the third kind.



Christina Bryant, 35, had been haunted for seven years by several missing hours in her life — a curious time lapse in May 1976, during a drive from Phoenix, Ariz., to Lubbock with her 4-year-old daughter and a friend.

There was nothing difficult about remembering the prelude.

"It was down from Alamogordo," Bryant said, around 10:30 p.m., when the trio noticed lights in the star-filled sky.

To amuse her daughter, Bryant invented a game, commanding the lights to turn blue and then red, which they did, for durations of about 45 seconds.

"We would stop, and it would go off. We would go, and it would stay steady with us. We knew we were playing with something."

They also somehow had left the main highway, finding themselves "on a two-lane back road in the boonies."

Rabbits and deer appeared along the roadside and stared.

Around a bend they saw a police car "with funny lights" and a one-car wreck, the vehicle tilted at a steep angle, its battery oddly hanging from the wrong side of the hood.

The policeman carried a flashlight and a clipboard but seemed to be in parade uniform, with braids and medals, "totally out of sync for a back country road."

When the officer reached for her hand, resting on the frame of the open window, Bryant remembered the sudden chill of his touch.

"It was so cold it scared me."

There was no sign of an accident victim. They asked the officer about the wreck. He asked if they had passed anyone.

About 45 minutes down the road they turned into a highway junction truck stop. The clock read 3 a.m., an impossible time lapse.

In Lubbock, Bryant related details to her mother, who produced a tabloid story with an article about a record number of UFO sightings, Bryant said, "in the same area where we had been."

Bryant said that despite the constant puzzle of missing time, it was January 1983 before "I finally decided I wanted to do something about it."

Bryant never had heard of the Mutual UFO Network of San Antonio, but after a 90-minute period in which she made half a dozen telephone calls she had four leads — "and Bob Morgan's phone number."

Morgan, chief investigator for MUFONSA, took the usual precautions before setting up the sessions he would conduct with hypnotherapist Jackson Morris.

Bryant first took a psychological test called

The California Report.

"She passed it with flying colors," Morgan said. "She's not telling any story."

There are "scary as hell" differences in what Bryant naturally recalls of the back-road incident and what she recounts under hypnosis.

"When he touched my hand is when something was done," Bryant says now of her encounter with the "policeman."

"He opened the door and helped me out. He was holding my hand for the whole time. He was nice, kind and very gentle, of average height, about 5-11, 170 to 180 pounds, blond with blue eyes, nice features."

The police "car," shaped like "a coolie hat," was his ship.

"I'm 5-2, but I had to duck under to go under the lights."

After climbing a ladder into the spacecraft, Bryant was motioned to a chair in front of a large window.

Numbers appeared across the top of a screen, an apparent directional finder with converging lines, and the policeman became her playful pilot, pushing buttons that propelled them to flight against a rush of stars.

"It was great," Bryant said. "I was fascinated. I knew he was not going to hurt me."

"He told me his name — Oran or Oron. If he told me where he was from, I don't remember."

With the ship on automatic pilot he led her to a door, penetrating it with a motion of his hand.

"That's when it got scary," she said, "when I stepped through that door."

A man and two women stood in front of a cabinet near "a very surgical looking table." Her daughter, snugly asleep, was nearby on another table. One of the women had placed a protective hand on the child.

Random recollections were of white coats, a round-faced man of average height who had no facial hair; girls with heavy lashes and pretty eyes. Skin-tight caps covered their heads. All white. Pasty complexions.

This was to be an examination with "a huge syringe" and a long silver cylinder, a stethoscope-like device.

"It was like my feet had no resistance. He floated me. No great pressure." And an out-of-body experience. "I was watching them lay me down on that table."

Skin was scraped from her arm, and she saw them staring curiously at her stomach.

"I know why. I have a large, ugly scar from surgery. I imagine if they had done it, it wouldn't be that big and ugly."



Christine Bryant described the aliens as having almond-shaped eyes and small non-functional mouths.

A needle was stuck in her back. Fluid was taken from an eye, then replaced.

Under hypnosis, Bryant is asked to pay closer attention to the people in the examining room.

"When I realized they weren't the people I saw," she said, "I panicked all over again."

This time the caps became skulls, with tight white flesh. The women became young boys with very small faces, like a half-open book, the nose and mouth the binding, large eyes shaped like almonds. Their mouths, she saw, were merely holes, not functional at all.

Employed by a major airline, she imagines the response: "Oh, so you've got a kook working for you."

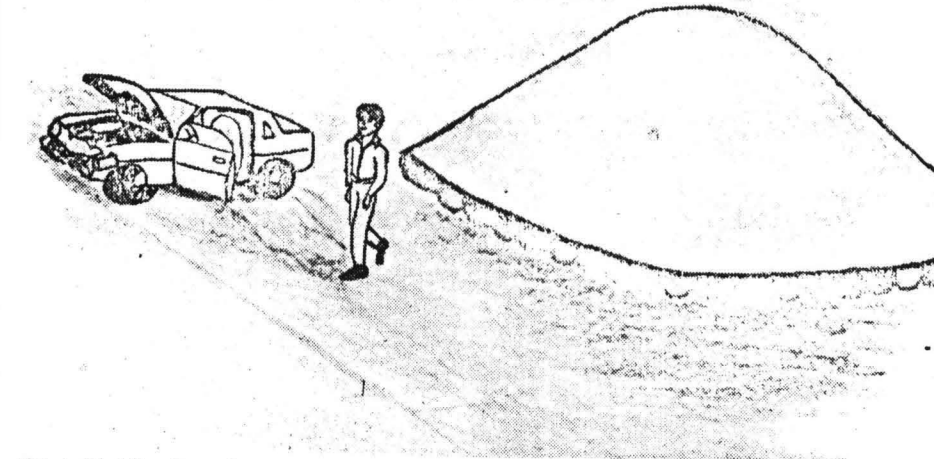
"I don't want to be called a crackpot," Bryant said. "I'm a level-headed, fairly intelligent woman. I don't want anyone saying, 'Oh, there she goes, the crackpot.' I'd like to tell the whole world, but I can't."

"She's very sincere," investigator Morgan says, "and you can tell she was awful scared."

Morgan, in fact, was also the investigator in 1975 when a Leon Valley woman and her nephew reported seeing some men in a field.

The boy, who was 7 at the time, drew some pictures of the "men."

Strangely enough, Morgan said, "the features were almost the same" as those that later would be drawn by Christine Bryant.



This is Christine Bryant's drawing of the spaceship she encountered on a rural New Mexico highway in 1976.



# Is it a bird? A plane? No! It's ... a UFO!!

By ALF SIEWERS  
Independent Press Service

EVANSTON, Ill. — The stars seem closer on a cool night, with the lake breeze rustling in arched elm trees.

Morning comes, and the peace of late summer is broken by a ringing telephone. It's a couple from Indiana. They're scared. They've seen what they believe is a UFO land in their backyard.

At the receiving end of the call, making arrangements for a weekend investigation by a local pilot who volunteers for such work, is J. Allen Hynek, professor emeritus of astronomy at Northwestern University.

Hynek's Center for UFO Studies in this suburb of Chicago celebrates its 10th anniversary this November. The national police hot line has been disconnected, an office has been exchanged for a second-floor bedroom. But each day about two such reports are phoned in here to be checked out and possibly added to the center's 100,000-case computer data base.

The calls can come at any time from any place, referred by the White House switchboard or in the middle of the night from a military officer at the Pentagon. Hynek's investigations carry him around the world; he has just returned from England, and he's planning to leave for New York's suburban Westchester County to investigate hundreds of incidents reported there during a two-week span in March.

"I like to get out into the field," says Hynek. "I like to go out and deal with the people. The UFO experience is a very human experience. The people on the phone this morning were very frightened. They felt it might be something 'evil,' and were worried about radiation. I had to reassure them."

The people who make UFO sightings were an important factor in changing Hynek from a skeptic who helped with early Air Force investigations into an expert on the phenomenon.

People like airport meteorologist Bill Hele, who was driving through Westchester County when he saw something that was 1,000 yards wide hovering 1,000 feet in the air with multicolored lights, drift across the sky. And people like Palatine police officer Dennis Somsel, one of three policemen in separate squad cars and different parts of the Chicago suburb of Palatine who sighted a UFO last November in an incident that was preserved on the police department's radio taping system.

"You get a lot of ribbing," Somsel says. "But in this business, you can't be crazy."

Somsel and the others, familiar with the lights and patterns of planes from nearby O'Hare International Airport, reported a low-flying object of intense light, somewhat saucer-shaped and in two sections, moving silently. Later checks of its reported speed, height and location ruled out possibilities of balloons or low-flying aircraft.

In an interview with investigators from the center, Somsel described the light as "bright, but not blinding... soft, like through a frosted window. I still haven't done justice in explaining the intensity of that white light."

Such sightings in populated suburbs, like the ones in Westchester County, are rare events.

"There are two mysteries in this whole thing," says Hynek. "One is the UFOs themselves, and the other is the apathy about them."

Hynek, who achieved national prominence with his consulting role in the film *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, says public interest in the issue has quieted down a bit in recent years.

"We're getting fewer reports, but a large part of that is that we're getting less of the IFOs (identifiable flying objects) like Venus or meteors. The public is becoming a bit more sophisticated. The reports we do get are generally of higher quality."

"The movie has had good and bad effects. (Director Stephen) Spielberg gave a benign turn to things. Many of the things in the movie came from actual reports in the center. But it also had a bad effect; people think the problem has been solved. Hollywood solved it — it's E.T.! The problem is, we haven't solved the problem."

Hynek and the centre's volunteer network of investigators approach the problem with care, and a lack of preconceived theories.

"The only proper way to go about this is not to assume you're dealing with a UFO, but to knock it down," he says. Hynek's usual approach to investigations is to look for independent corroborating witnesses (after first making sure they're not "too" corroborating), any hard evidence (sometimes including radar reports and marks or burned areas), and to take witnesses to the scene of their sighting and ask them to describe it as he records and times the descriptions.

Hynek's centre isn't the only data base of UFO sightings. The files of what used to be the premier UFO organization in the country, the National Investigations Committee of Aerial Phenomena, were moved in January from the Washington, D.C., area to the home of Sherman Larsen in the Chicago suburb of Glenview. Larsen is a former insurance executive who helped found Hynek's center.

"What we try to do is to keep telling people what the good data on the field is," Larsen says of his educational work on the issue. "One important question to ask when selecting what to read or believe on UFOs is whether the author is trying to sell a preconceived idea. Nobody knows what they are, so what right does anybody have to say they know? As I say, put up or shut up."

Both Larsen and Hynek are critical of the government's role in investigating UFOs.

"It's not so much a coverup as that they don't know the answer," says Larsen, who lectures and talks at schools about UFOs, and is writing his second children's book on the subject. "I think that initially they were inept in handling the matter, and then it became all public relations."

Hynek has written the preface to a book appearing next spring on UFO data obtained from the government through the Freedom of Information Act. The existence of such data has often been denied by the government. Hynek, who once helped lead Air Force investigations, also can cite many examples of government secrecy surrounding UFO sightings, such as the "buzzing" of Strategic

Air Command bases by UFOs in 1975. The military said they were "mystery helicopters," Hynek says.

"I talked to one of the helicopter pilots on the base strike team that investigated," Hynek says. "And he told me point-blank that it (the sighting of UFOs) happened."

"I don't like to get involved in the cloak-and-dagger politics of it," the astronomer adds. "I'm interested in the UFO phenomenon."

"The Air Force and the physical scientists say, 'It can't do those things, therefore it can't exist.' But we can't have the observations forced to fit that preconceived theory."

And just what is behind all those observations?

Possibly a new scientific concept that, when understood, could affect science as much as the understanding that the sun does not revolve around the Earth.

"This phenomenon seems to be controlled by intelligence," says Hynek. "On the one hand, these things seem to be very physical. On the other hand, there are other things about them that do not appear physical. We have the same puzzle in physics, where light can be conceived to be a wave or a particle."

"UFOs seem to be as physical as a Mack truck on the one hand, and as non-physical as the Cheshire Cat on the other. If you take all the properties that UFOs have, then you have to go to a thing that is both physical and parapsychical."

"In this question of parallel reality, well, I hate to say religious belief, but if you go to church on Sunday, you're worshipping a parallel reality. All the religions over the centuries have been telling us that the physical world is not the only reality. I believe that the UFO involves an interface between these realities, but that's just speculation."

"I have a gut feeling that the UFO phenomenon is leading us into the science of the 21st century, to a concept that eventually will demand an explanation that may reorder our scientific beliefs."

# Mysterious Blue Light May Have Been Meteor

By JOHN WILDMAN  
Staff Writer

A brilliant, bluish light briefly filled the sky over North Carolina early Saturday, baffling onlookers who described it as "night turned into day."

A comment from Cathy Connell, a police dispatcher in Union County, was typical of reports from area law enforcement agencies.

"We didn't have anything unusual last night except that light," she said. "Our cars started reporting at 2 a.m. that it was like someone had switched a light on outside."

Later Saturday, astronomy buffs and others, including officials with NASA, speculated that the light show — which lasted about four seconds — was caused by an oversized meteor disintegrating in the Earth's atmosphere.

Tim Sechler, 33, a past secretary of the Charlotte Amateur Astronomy Club, said Piedmont-area residents likely witnessed a very large, very bright meteor.

"I wasn't up at 2:30 a.m., but that's my guess," said Sechler, who has been stargazing since childhood. He said most meteors are no larger than grains of sand and leave only a streak of light as they burn in the Earth's atmosphere. But occasionally a larger meteor enters the atmosphere, he said, and disintegrates in spectacular fashion.

"I've seen about two that put off that kind of illumination," Sechler said. "It leaves a lasting impression on your retina, almost blinding."

Sightings of the brilliant light were reported across North Carolina and in parts of Virginia and South Carolina, law enforcement officials said.

Two air traffic controllers at Charlotte/Douglas International Airport reported seeing the bluish light, as did law enforcement officers patrolling Mecklenburg and neighboring counties.

Bill Herring, a supervisor at the airport tower, said two controllers described the light to him when they left work at 6 a.m. Saturday.

"They said they saw a bluish light across the sky at about 2:30 a.m.," said Herring. "They saw it, but they didn't know what it was."

Telephone communications to and from the airport tower revealed the light had been seen from Spartanburg to Greensboro to Fayetteville, Herring said.

"This was sighted by several responsible, sober people, so there certainly was something to it," he said.

Charlie Smith, a National Weather Service technician at the airport, said an employee working overnight received reports of sightings from Lenoir in Caldwell County to Wilmington on the coast.

"The best explanation we've got is that it was a meteor breaking up," said Smith. "It was a perfectly clear night... we can't determine anything weatherwise that could have caused it."

A Charlotte woman said she was awakened by a blue light streaming into her bedroom window at 2:29 a.m.

"I thought at first there was a police cruiser outside with its blue light on," said a Charlotte woman who declined to give her name. She said she turned on her police scanner radio at home and listened to conversations about the sightings. One police officer, the woman said, spoke over the radio about a man who claimed a UFO had landed on his car.

But George Fawcett, a longtime UFO researcher in Lincolnton, said he doubted that UFOs were involved.

"Something of that short duration usually can be explained in terms of an astronomical phenomenon," said Fawcett, a field investigator for the Mutual Unidentified Flying Object Network.

Fawcett's opinion was shared by two supervisors at NASA headquarters in Washington. The supervisors said they knew of no space program satellites or equipment scheduled to reenter the Earth's atmosphere Saturday morning.

"I think it's the old shooting star syndrome," said one of the supervisors. He recalled meteor showers in August 1982 along the East Coast that prompted numerous phone calls to police telephone switchboards in several states.

Clay Dunn, assistant curator of the Kelly Planetarium in Charlotte, agreed with the meteor theory Saturday. "That's really the only possible explanation... unless you want to get into science fiction and space fantasy."



Photo by Joanna Ramey

CHARLES KNIGHT kneels next to three semi-circles of blackened grass that he believes were charred by exhaust from a flying saucer that landed in the front yard of his Pasadena home Wednesday.

# Man reports UFO sighting

By JOANNA RAMEY  
Staff Writer

While watching the Orioles clinch the second game of the World Series Wednesday, Charles Knight says he saw a flying saucer land in his Pasadena front yard.

"The sixth inning was on, the Orioles were up to bat, and the whole room lit up," Knight, 64, said. "I looked out the window, and this thing came floating by about 12 feet in the air. It was orange in color."

But instead of waking his wife, Mary, to see the spectacular glow, Knight said he quietly followed the path of the saucer as it floated away, then returned to the couch and watched the Orioles' win.

"I wasn't going to tell anybody about it," the retired steam fitter said. "They would all think I was crazy. It left without making a sound."

Yet Thursday morning, when he examined large rings of blackened grass in his Ft. Smallwood Road yard, Knight said he began believing in unidentified flying objects, and told his wife and daughter Linda what he saw.

"The marks are still right here, even through all that rain," Knight said, pointing to three, semi-circles of black grass, which he claims were charred by the saucer's exhaust. "The marks right here are pads where it landed."

Still, Knight was reluctant to notify authorities, so neighbors of his who believe his story, began to make calls.

"Everybody thought we were a little off," said Eric Steen, a neighbor of Knight's, who is also an Anne Arundel County police officer.

"They kept trying to explain to us that an airplane or a helicopter couldn't land there. I told them that I knew that. But that wasn't the problem."

After contacting officials at the state and federal aviation administrations, Steen called the county's police department. After an officer interviewed Knight, a fire department investigator was called to view the landing spot. "He took samples and said it probably was fungus," Knight said. "That's no fungus."

Still not satisfied, Steen called John Lutz, a member of Baltimore-based Odyssey Research, a club specializing in UFOs. Lutz agreed to look at the black circles and take samples.

"We are called to about 35 to 103 sightings a year in Mary-

land," said Lutz, who has been tracking UFOs for 20 years. People who claim they see UFOs are usually referred to Odyssey Research by law enforcement agencies and the aviation administrations, Lutz said. The club's findings are forwarded to the Center for UFO studies in Evanston, Ill.

"Eighty-five percent of these calls can be explained," he said, adding that it is too early to decide if anything actually landed in Knight's yard.

"People, for example, are always mistaking Venus and Jupiter for a UFO."

The only other UFO sighting in the county this year was last month in Glen Burnie, Lutz said, when a man reported an unusual glow in his yard. "But we think that was only a meteorite."

Knight said he was not particularly alarmed by Wednesday night's incident. He is certain that the glow was not his imagination or, possibly, a car's headlights. "I sure believe something is up there now," he said.

A spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration, who declined to give his name, said reports of UFOs are common, but unless those reporting the sightings can give some "identification," such as a tag number, then it is impossible to investigate. A lot of the supposed UFOs, he said, can be explained as aircraft.

By Nancy Clark  
of The Lincoln Star

The U.S. government is suppressing valuable information it has on UFO sightings and other unexplained phenomena, according to John Schuessler, who has worked with the U.S. space program since 1962.

"To an extent, it's a cosmic coverup," he said in a Thursday interview. "The government is holding back on what it knows, because it is so afraid — almost paranoid — that the Russians will learn something from it" technologically.

Schuessler, an engineer with McDonnell Douglas Corp., serves as project manager for Space Shuttle Flight Operations at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in Houston.

He has been actively involved in UFO investigations since 1965, when he heard of several astronaut sightings of unexplained phenomena.

STAR, Lincoln, NE - Nov. 11, 1983

# Space engineer charges coverup on UFOs

Schuessler says he believes most UFOs are probably the result of extraterrestrial visits by more advanced civilizations. He doesn't subscribe to the theory that another dimension could exist side by side with our own.

Despite the governmental clampdown on UFO information, Schuessler predicted that information gained from the study of UFOs will one day revolutionize technology.

"There's a technological payoff that's beyond our understanding at this time," he commented. "Technologically, we're still infants."

He said government officials are afraid to support research into UFOs, because the study of unexplained phenomena is not yet legitimized "to the point that anyone in government is ready to put his career on the line."

Schuessler is one of the speakers participating in a three-day conference in Lincoln on unexplained

phenomena. The conference begins today.

The event is being sponsored by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Division of Continuing Studies in cooperation with other groups interested in unexplained phenomena.

This is the second consecutive year that the conference is being held in Lincoln.

All sessions will be held at the Nebraska Center, 33rd and Holdrege Streets. Registration begins at 8 a.m. Friday. Single-session tickets are available at the door.

Speakers will include internationally recognized UFO expert J. Allen Hynek, head of the Center for UFO Studies in Evanston, Ill.

Cryptozoology (the study of unusual animals) and Fortean events will be discussed Friday, alleged government coverup of UFO incidents Saturday and UFO abductions and animal mutilations Sunday.

# Observatory aide relates sighting of UFO

BULLETIN, Bend, OR - Oct. 27, 1983

By David Cash  
Bulletin Staff Writer

Dan Kraus knows he saw it, but he doesn't know what it was.

Kraus, 27, a research assistant at the Pine Mountain Observatory east of Bend, had the unsettling experience Tuesday night of seeing something in the sky that he couldn't identify.

He was outside the observatory building about 8 p.m. when a distant light caught his attention.

"The thing that got me was it appeared to be half red," he said the next day — "a different red than you usually see on aircraft."

Over the course of two years as an observer and technician at the observatory, Kraus has seen just

about everything that flies or floats, but the color of the light and the way it bounced around didn't correspond to any of those.

After about 10 minutes, certain that something unusual was happening, Kraus called University of Oregon astronomer Jim Kemp in Eugene, who supervises the Pine Mountain facility. He told Kemp he had sighted an unidentified flying object — a UFO.

He said Kemp's first reaction was, "Well, you sound like you're sober."

Kraus, very sober indeed, went back outside, where the light was still moving around at a distance.

"Then it came shooting to-

wards me," Kraus recalled. "It lit up incredibly bright."

Steadily, the light hovered over the observatory. Despite the additional time he had to examine it — he estimated the entire incident lasted about 20 minutes — Kraus couldn't identify it as anything he'd ever seen before.

"I went kind of crazy," he said. "I've always wanted to see something like that."

He thought he spotted antennas illuminated by the glare and he used the flashlight he was carrying to blip a Morse code message of S-O-S up at the object. But, as silently as it had approached, the lights drifted off toward the west and out of sight behind a hill.

Kraus, who often fields telephone calls from less-experienced observers who've mistakenly concluded that an extra-bright star or some atmospheric oddness was a UFO, is completely baffled by the event.

"I wouldn't believe somebody if they told me what I'm telling you," he said. A check around the area for possible explanations or other sightings turned up nothing.

The Federal Aeronautics Administration's Seattle Air Traffic Control Center logged no radar contacts or reports from pilots of unusual air traffic Tuesday evening, said FAA area manager Don Elison. Other checks around the

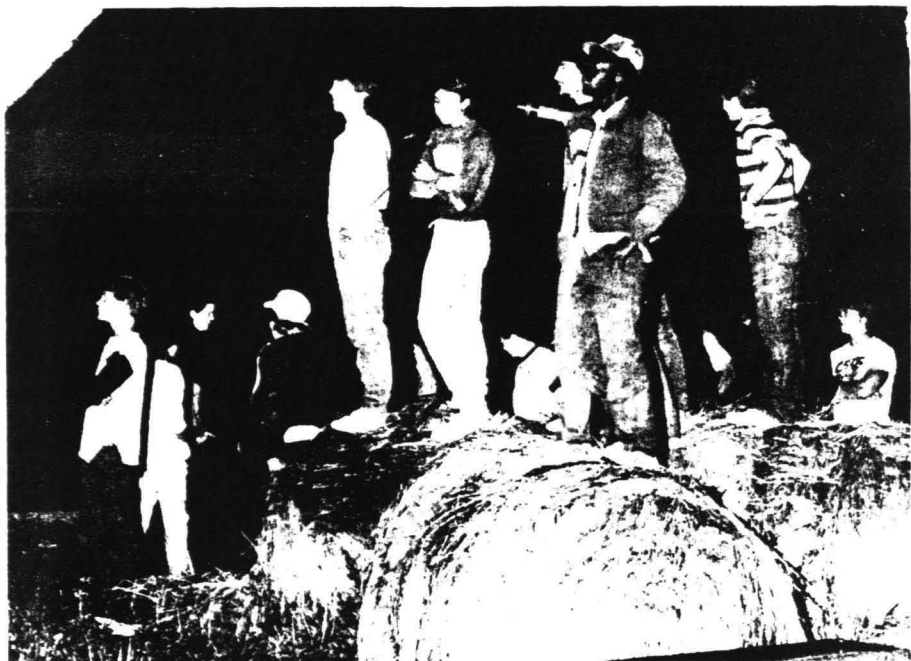
area, including whether the Good-year blimp was nearby, were negative.

Kemp, having made several phone calls of his own during the past couple of days to resolve a "disturbing" mystery, said there's no doubt that Kraus saw something unusual.

But it's probable the light was farther away from Pine Mountain than it seemed, he said, especially because that particular evening was very clear and dark.

"My feeling is that it was indeed a much more distant object," he said. And that opens the door to many potential explanations, even though none has been found. Yet.





(DAILY Photo by David Pryor)

UFO seekers watch unidentified lights in southern Limestone County

# UFO?

## Limestone residents ponder strange light

By DAVID PRYOR  
DAILY Staff Writer

ATHENS — "I'll be honest with you, it made my heart stop," said Ty Strickland, a 14-year-old Clements High School sophomore, one of several people who has recently spotted unidentified lights in the western Limestone County sky.

Ty, his girlfriend Kim Green and as many as 25 other residents of the Turner Crossroads area have since Saturday night seen something they cannot explain zipping through the air and lighting the woods.

The sightings began Saturday night and were repeated Sunday and Monday nights in an open field area southeast of Turner Crossroads in western Limestone County.

Between 100 and 150 people, including a large group of students from Clements High School, waited in the field Tuesday night, watching for a repeat of the earlier sightings.

Brad Zirbel, a 20-year-old farmer, and his co-worker Steve Allen both saw a strange orange-and-white ball of light early Sunday night while working in a field just north of the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant.

Zirbel's father, a successful businessman, farmer and pilot, believed his son's account of what he saw and went out Monday night after a second sighting to watch.

"What I saw was a very bright light moving in patterns that were not possible in an airplane," Bobby Zirbel said Tuesday. "It stayed in the

air for a very short time, but I did see something."

The elder Zirbel said he knew his son and Allen had seen something when he went out Monday evening to get them.

"Steve was more or less frozen in the tractor and did not want to come up to the barn," he said. "I had to pull the tractor in the shed myself."

Allen said he could not identify what he saw, except that it was a bright orange, glowing ball.

Brad Zirbel's friends were told of the incident Sunday night "while sitting around the square (in Athens) and they just laughed at me," Brad said. "So I brought some of them out here Sunday night and they won't

laugh any more."

Tracy Carpenter was one of the laughing friends and later went to see for himself what was in the sky east of Zirbel's farm.

"We came out here Sunday night and sat up here at the barn," he said. "Then we saw a bright light come up above the tree line (about 200 yards away) and light up the whole area."

"We jumped in the car and drove down there and got out where we thought we saw it and looked for it," he said. "Then someone said 'There's a car coming down the road' and I went back to my car to move it out of the road and there was no car there. It was that light and it was in the road."

He said he and his friends got in his car and tried to follow the light, but when they got to the spot where it had been, it was gone.

Alan Johnson also saw the unidentified light Monday night and came back Tuesday night to see it again, this time with a telescope.

Asked if he would set up the telescope if the object returned, Johnson replied: "If I see it again, I ain't gonna want to set nothing up."

Carpenter estimates that the object he saw was 10-feet wide with an orange light in the middle and two white lights on each side.

"I haven't even told my family. They'll probably think I'm nuts too. But I don't care, I know I saw something last night."

The sightings and subsequent talk caused a stir at Clements High School and in the Turner Crossroads area. On Monday and Tuesday nights a crowd gathered near Zirbel's airstrip and barn to watch for the strange lights.

The crowd that waited Tuesday night was not totally disappointed.

The bright orange and white light did not appear in the eastern sky, but witnesses did watch, for about 90 seconds, a strange glowing light in the middle of a freshly plowed cotton field.

The 70-acre field is one of the several Brad Zirbel and Allen had been plowing and it was completely bare.

In the middle of the field, shortly after sundown and several minutes before most of the large crowd gathered, a bright red light began glowing, resembling a campfire from afar. The light burned for about 90 seconds and then disappeared.

Perhaps Stickland and Green saw more of the mysterious flying objects

and for a longer period than any others during the weekend.

"We were on our way coming home from Athens on Saturday night and I saw a bright light off to the right," Ty said Tuesday. "I thought at first it was the Northern star, but then it got brighter and brighter."

"I told Kim to slow down and then it was right above us. It had several lights on it and as best as I could tell was shaped like a diamond," he said.

This sighting was Sunday night and a Monday night sighting by Bobby Zirbel, who used binoculars, confirmed the diamond shape.

"It moved off to the south and we followed it," Ty said. "When we got over near the power plant we saw it land, or at least looked like it landed," he said.

"Then we drove up on a road, and I don't know what it was, but there were several very bright, white lights glowing in the road," Green said.

"They looked like eyes to me, but we were so scared, we didn't stay around to ask questions. I put the car in reverse and backed up for at least a half mile."

Stickland said he "wasn't going to tell a soul" about the strange lights for fear of harassment, but word was out long before he told a few friends at Clements High School.

People in the crowd at the airstrip Tuesday night included public officials, teachers, parents, farmers and dozens of passersby.

One man who said he had seen the object years ago was on hand with a movie camera to record any sightings. Another man, perhaps more frightened than the rest, reportedly kept a shotgun at hand in case of an extraterrestrial visit.

Charles Scott, the Federal Aviation Administration's watch supervisor at the Huntsville Jetplex's air traffic control tower Sunday night, said today that nothing abnormal was reported Saturday or Sunday nights.

"We don't have anything that flies out of here except some T-38s and a few executive planes," said Carl Jones, a public affairs official at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville.

Ed Harris, a spokesman for the Army's Redstone Arsenal, said the lights sighted do not resemble anything flying from there. "We have two types of helicopters and a few other fixed wing aircraft."

He also said the Army has no experimental aircraft flying around North Alabama.

NEWS-COURIER, Athens, AL - Oct. 20, 1983

## One discounts UFOs, but another has seen the lights for years

BY SONNY TURNER

That unidentified flying object spotted this weekend near the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant in south Limestone County may be nothing more than static electricity or methane gas, said a county store owner and farmer.

"At least that's my opinion what it is," said Bobby Zirbel. "It has been so dry down here this summer that the wind blowing at the top of the trees could have set off static electricity." Further, the ground is so dry that methane gas could have seeped up and set off the glow that a number of people saw earlier this week.

But officially, no one knows for sure what the lights are and as yet the strange sightings in the area haven't been explained.

Two Clements High School students were traveling along a road near the nuclear plant late Saturday night when they saw what they said was something solid hovering above them, said Limestone County sheriff's authorities. The youth sped from the area but later came back to investigate.

The youngsters said when they returned, the headlights of their car reflected from what appeared to be a pair of white glowing eyes staring at them.

"I saw a light from something Saturday around 9," said Zirbel. "My son Brad and a friend also spotted a light. It just seemed awful strange."

But Zirbel said this weekend isn't the first time a light has been spotted in the area. "Brad saw it in 1978," he said.

Since the word of the past weekend's sightings, many area residents have gathered at Zirbel's private airstrip off Seven Mile Post Road in hopes of seeing the mysterious lights. Residents were back at Zirbel's airstrip again last night.

PATENT TRADER, Mt. Kisco, NY  
Sept. 28, 1983

## UFOs Again

Residents of Putnam County are peering skyward these days after the latest reported UFO sighting.

Police officials say that they don't believe the brightly colored lights which were seen in sections of Mahopac, Baldwin Place and Carmel last week were "anything more than a group of guys who like to get their kicks out of frightening people."

The fliers were noticed over the Carmel Police Department. "They were up there all right—six or eight lights in a V-shape. They were really eerie because there was no sound emanating from the geometric shape," said Detective Joseph Sobel.

"I received a call late Tuesday night about it, but as yet we haven't investigated," said Limestone County Sheriff Mike Blakely. "They say the things they saw down there were smaller than humans, but larger than dogs," Blakely said.

Sheriff's secretary Kay Worsham said she knows the youth that first reported the sightings and said, "These are people who will not make up something like that. I honestly believe they saw something down there. There have been too many people, including adults, who also spotted it."

Some of the residents who have spotted the light said it produced an orange glow.

Limestone County farmer Jesse Crouch said he's been seeing a strange orange to reddish colored light in the area for the past five years.

"The last time I noticed it was Wednesday night of last week. I was out in the field plowing and noticed this orange, reddish glow in the air. I don't know exactly how to describe it, but it looked like sparklers were going off around it. It appeared to go down in the woods," he said.

"I don't know if this has anything to do with it, but ever since August, there has been a large hole in the ground over there near the woods. The hole is filled with water, ice cold water. I've been farming this land for 30 years and up until this summer I've never noticed this hole. It wasn't there until this year."

Crouch did not discount Zirbel's theory that the lights could be produced by static electricity. "All I know is that there've been some strange goings on around here for quite some time."

"I've been noticing it, but never mentioned it before because I didn't think anyone would believe me. I figured people would be thinking I'm nuts," said Crouch.

# Limestone UFO is sighted by crowd, DAILY reporter

By DAVID PRYOR  
DAILY Staff Writer

ATHENS — Not much was on television Thursday night so I thought I would watch for the strange light at Turner's Crossroads that had attracted so much interest this week.

What I saw at 9:30 p.m. made for better viewing than anything on television.

After going by the Clements Junior High football game, I picked up Ty Strickland, who had seen the "unidentified flying object" several times and of we went.

The light had been seen by several people during the last week around the airstrip of Bobby Zirbal near the Seven Mile Post Road.

When we got there Thursday night, there were at least 100 people waiting.

Most of them, like me, were not disappointed.

The light suddenly appeared twice, perhaps for more than three minutes total time.

The moon was full, with clouds circling it every few moments. Thick fog glided across the barren cotton fields at the airstrip.

Many of the watchers were gathered around three hay bales, chewing the fat when the light appeared.

I had given up any hope of ever seeing it and Ty and I had already gotten into my car and were about to leave when the cry went out, "There it is!"

The first yell came from Brad Zirbel, a normally soft-spoken man who is respected in the community. But his voice was far from soft this time:

"There it is! Do you see it?"

From the hay rolls where people were gathered came, "I see it, there it is."

It was an intensely bright red light. Its apparent position was about 100 feet above the tree line, 200 yards east from our position. There was no noise coming from it.

The light was about the size of a medium-sized star, but it illuminated the tops of trees. The red light was surrounded by several flickering white ones with equal intensity. It held stationary above the trees.

People who had seen the light before, including Strickland and Kim Green, commented to me, "I'm glad you've seen it so people won't think I'm crazy anymore."

The light remained still for two minutes.

Then, just as abruptly as it had appeared, it vanished.

There were no clouds in that part of the sky, nothing impeding our vision.

"Man, this is spooky," whispered one witness. No one approached the light.

Two minutes later, the light reappeared, this time about 30 yards south of its previous sighting.

And this time, it moved quickly south, about one-half mile, then disappeared. It might have been the size of a television satellite dish, relative to our position.

Satisfied, most watchers then went home.

Several people, including college professors, have tried to explain the mysterious light as nothing more than swamp gas.

Well, I have never seen swamp gas, and I do not believe the object I saw was gas.

I am not saying this thing was full of little green men spying on Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant, and whether it was a weather balloon or a secret test plane from the Redstone Arsenal, I do not know.

But I do know I saw something that is difficult to explain.

## A geological condition?

# Professor explains local UFO mystery

By SONNY TURNER

A professor at Athens State College said Thursday he believes a geological condition exists in southwest Limestone County where different energies have combined to produce the glowing lights that have been seen standing and moving through the area this week.

Calling the conditions a vortex, ASC professor of psychology Dr. Joe Slate said, "It may take several years for those energies to build, but certainly there are areas in Limestone County that are geologically conducive to these vortex phenomena. In the past there have been a number of such light sightings determined to be that of vortex conditions in Alabama including the Tri-Cities area."

"I'm not saying for sure this is what the people reported seeing in Limestone County," said Slate, "but this is what I believe happened. Those conditions usually exist in the fall and winter and when it happens, the glow will produce a variety of colors."

"Vortex is a geological condition in which a variety of energies interact to produce a phenomena which we don't expect," said Slate. "When different energies intersect at a point above the earth, then you get this phenomena. They may be stationary or may show movement. When energies come together at a certain point above the earth, this will form a light or glow that produces a variety of colors."

A number of residents have

reported seeing strange lights and unidentified flying objects in the vicinity of the Browns Ferry Nuclear Power Plant. The first sighting was Saturday night when two Clements High School teenagers told authorities they saw something solid hovering above them. The youngsters said it appeared the object landed and when they went to investigate their car's headlights reflected from what appeared to be a pair of white, glowing eyes.

Since then, a number of other residents, including three county farmers, say they have noticed lights in the area. Jesse Crouch said he has seen the lights for five years. He said they reappeared last week as an orange-reddish glow surrounded by what appeared to be sparklers. He said the light appeared to go down in a wooded area near the plant.

County market owner, farmer and cropduster Bobby Zirbel said more than 100 area residents gathered at his airstrip off Seven Mile Post Road Wednesday night in hopes of seeing the strange lights again.

"They spotted it again shortly after 7 p.m.," said Zirbel. "I didn't see it myself, but some of the kids down there said it appeared in the air and then left."

Zirbel said since word got out about the weekend sightings, more than 1,000 people—both adults and youngsters—have gathered at his private airstrip to watch for the UFOs.

"They are out there having fun with it. Most get a kick out of it because it gives them something to do," said Zirbel.

Zirbel said he saw a light appear in the sky and then vanish Saturday night; he believes it could be static electricity or methane gas. "It has been so dry this summer that the wind blowing through the tops of the trees can cause static electricity to produce a light," he said. "Certain energies in the air can cause some mighty strange things to happen."

DAILY, Decatur, AL - Nov. 6, 1983

# UFO sightings continue in southwest Limestone

By PHILLIP GENTRY  
DAILY State Editor

The recovery of three helium-filled garbage bags tied to a flashlight from a Limestone County field has not brought an end to the UFO sightings in the southwestern corner of the county.

Unidentified lights hanging over the trees, flying slowly and quietly near the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant have been reported as recently as Oct. 29 — about two weeks after the garbage bags were found by a local farmer.

Even if no one had seen the mysterious lights after the bags were discovered, the people who live near or who visited the fields and Bobby Zirbel's airstrip say what they saw could not have been a flashlight hanging from three garbage bags.

Ty Strickland, 14, of Popular Point was one of the first people to see the lights. He said what he saw "was definitely no garbage bag."

"We watched it for a long time," said Kim Green, 17, of Popular Point. "That was no garbage bag."

She said the garbage bag contraption was a joke concocted by the uncle of a student at Clements School.

The garbage bags and flashlight were found Oct. 24 by Raymond

Marsh, a farmer who lives on Rockhouse Road near Mooresville. At that time authorities said the garbage bag-balloons might be what dozens of UFO-watchers had seen.

Three women in Neel, a community in western Morgan County, say now that they saw three UFOs fly low over their homes about a week before the first UFOs were reported seen in Limestone County.

For the first two weeks the Limestone County fields where people said they saw the UFOs drew curiosity seekers from the surrounding area at night.

"Most every night there's somebody down there," said Mrs. Bobby Zirbel, whose husband flies a crop duster from the airstrip. "Some nights they'll see the lights."

Miss Green said she heard that reporters from a newspaper in Florida were at the airstrip on Halloween night, watching for UFOs. She said the crowds are not as large as they were in mid-October, but people still stop there from time to time to wait and watch and hope something unexpected will appear.

Spokesmen for the Limestone County Sheriff's Department say they have received no official reports of UFO sightings.

## UFOs? 6 Of Whatever They Were Reported Sighted In Kimmswick

POST-DISPATCH, St. Louis, MO  
Oct. 10, 1983

Residents of Kimmswick in Jefferson County spotted what they believed to be six unidentified foreign objects Sunday night.

Keena Burr, 19, said that her mother, Susan, 39, first saw the glowing shapes about 10 p.m. while Keena and some friends were in the barn. The family lives on Montebello Road at Kimmswick, which is about 25 miles south of St. Louis.

The objects were silver-colored and oval-shaped and had two protruding lights at the top, Keena Burr said. Each of the objects glowed alternately

red and green. The group of objects moved in precise formation in an up-and-down motion and then in a zigzag pattern, she said.

About nine friends and family members confirmed that they saw the objects. Ms. Burr observed the objects until she retired for the night, about 1:30 a.m.

Local law enforcement authorities confirmed that they also saw the glowing foreign objects in the skies, but one said of the matter, "It's out of our jurisdiction."

# UFO captured in Marsh's cow field

There may well be a geological condition in south Limestone County that causes lights in the sky. And there just might be static electricity along the tree tops.

But Raymond Marsh believes the Unidentified Flying Object spotted last week around Bobby Zirbel's farm near Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant was more down to earth—three garbage bags and a flashlight, to be precise.

Monday Marsh found three helium filled garbage bags with a flashlight inside floating in his cow field in south, south Limestone County near the Tennessee River about 20 to 25 miles from where the UFOs were sighted last week.

"There were three big, large, light colored—sort of beige—garbage bags with helium in them," Marsh said. He said two of the bags were still filled, but the third was out of gas and was dragging the other two down. They still floated, he said, but not too much above the ground. "It was stringing up in the air trying to go up again," he said.

"They put a flashlight in it. It was red on one end and white on the other." The bags weren't filled separately, but were taped together so they all shared the same helium forming what Marsh described as a big propeller about 8 feet

across. As the wind blew the propeller from place to place, the flashlight tumbled inside showing the different lights, Marsh figures. The lights didn't show when Marsh came upon the contraption because the batteries were dead, he said.

"I knew exactly what it was when I saw it," Marsh said. He said all the other explanations didn't seem quite as practical as calling the lights in the sky a prank. "It just amazed me. I knew it was a prank. They probably set off one every night," Marsh said.

Though the field where he found the three-winged, lightless object is 20 to 25 miles southwest of the Clements area where the UFO was first sighted, Marsh believes the recent north winds and the rain could have blown the object to his land and helped it fall to earth.

Marsh called Sheriff Mike Blakely to take over the contraption, and Blakely said he was going out to look at it Monday evening. But he laughed about conducting any kind of investigation and said he didn't know if he'd bring the bags and flashlight back to town or not.

Marsh remained amazed at the various explanations for the UFO, but said he thinks it's a good flashlight.



# Women report seeing 3 UFOs

By PHILLIP GENTRY  
DAILY State Editor

NEEL — Jossie Johnson remembers the almost-silent, unidentified object that cruised slowly at treetop level over her home late one early October night.

"It wasn't no three garbage bags tied together," she says confidently. "It had two big headlights, like a car ... And it was making a racket just about like a three or four-year-old Frigidaire."

Perhaps a week before dozens of people in southwestern Limestone County saw unidentified lights hovering in the sky, a smaller group including Mrs. Johnson was watching something unidentified above the trees here.

"Don't ask me what it was," said Mrs. Johnson. "I don't know. God does, but I don't."

"I only wish they'd come back," said Faye Jenkins of Neel. "In my prayers, I wish they'd come back. I love them. That was the prettiest thing I ever saw in my life."

"I don't know what it was," said Edaline Glenn, also of Neel. "I wish it'd come back over where we'd get another good look at it."

The women, who all live near Mrs. Glenn's store in Neel, say they saw the UFOs on two consecutive nights in October — a single UFO the first night and two the second.

Both sightings were after 10 p.m., the first on a Tuesday.

"I was sitting in my living room looking out the window and I saw it just a standing there in the air," remembers Mrs. Johnson. "I saw the light ... it came right over the store ... between the chimney and the tall building."

"I bounced out in the yard like somebody crazy."

Mrs. Jenkins said she had just turned off her television set when she saw the UFO.

"I just opened the door. It was real pretty up there," she said. "I went inside to call my son and called, 'Come here, Ricky, and look at momma's pretty.'"

"We stood out on the porch and watched it come over the store and over my house."

Mrs. Glenn said Mrs. Jenkins called her and asked her to look outside.

"I saw it coming over my house," she said. "It had two headlights and a blinking light, like an airplane. But it wasn't an airplane because it didn't make any noise."

When it got over her yard, remembers Mrs. Johnson, "it commenced to blinking three red lights. I wasn't scared. I just ran out, right under it and looked straight up at it."

"It was round in shape and it had real bright beam lights shining down," said Mrs. Jenkins. "What we saw had real bright lights, three, bigger than half-a-bushel tubs. They were white, just like headlights on a car."

"There were multiple lights on the bottom and a real pretty blue light blinking on the top. It was just beautiful."

"It went right over my house. At that time I could not hear a motor, except a buzzing sound."

"It was no airplane. It was no jet because it was moving too slow."

"It just seemed like, after it got up over me, that it blinked out," said Mrs. Johnson. "I don't know what happened; it seemed like a dream after it happened."

That UFO was going from south to north, says Mrs. Johnson. The two that flew over the next night were going in the opposite direction and were a little west of the store.

"The next night we got ready," said Mrs. Jenkins. Her 15-year-old son, Ricky, saw the UFOs first.

"We had the front door open and he said, 'mommy, here's your play-pretty up here in the air,'" she said. "These were lower than the ones before."

"Just in a little bit after the first one, a second one came over and beared east," said Mrs. Johnson. They were close to the ground, she remembers, because the lights beneath them lit the ground.

"When it got over the woods that flickering light was shining down in the woods," said Mrs. Glenn. "And it came almost to us and turned directly to the east."

"It was just beautiful," said Mrs. Jenkins. "We watched it, but we had propped the front door open where we could dodge back in if we had to."

"One went over my house as the other was over the store. I'd have given a pretty if it had landed in the yard."

She did not follow it as it went over her house, Mrs. Jenkins said. "I don't go around back because I've got skunks (in the woods) and I don't want to get sprayed."

On neither night, all three women agreed, did what they saw resemble or move as a flashlight tied to three garbage bags filled with helium might be expected to move.

"Garbage bags couldn't have risen up and gone over the trees," said Mrs. Johnson. "They'd have gotten hung up."

NEWS, Northfield, MN - Nov. 3, 1983



ERNEST AND MOLLY FREDENBURG

## Couple spots UFO

Every night Ernest Fredenburg goes out to his garage at 414 W. Ninth Street before going to bed to make sure that it's locked. Tuesday, Oct. 25, was just like any other night, except that at 10:30 p.m., Fredenburg saw an unidentified flying object — a UFO.

"I just happened to look up into the northern sky and I saw it," Fredenburg said. "It was a big silver ball with sparkly diamonds all over it and one blinking red light on the bottom. And, boy, was it moving fast."

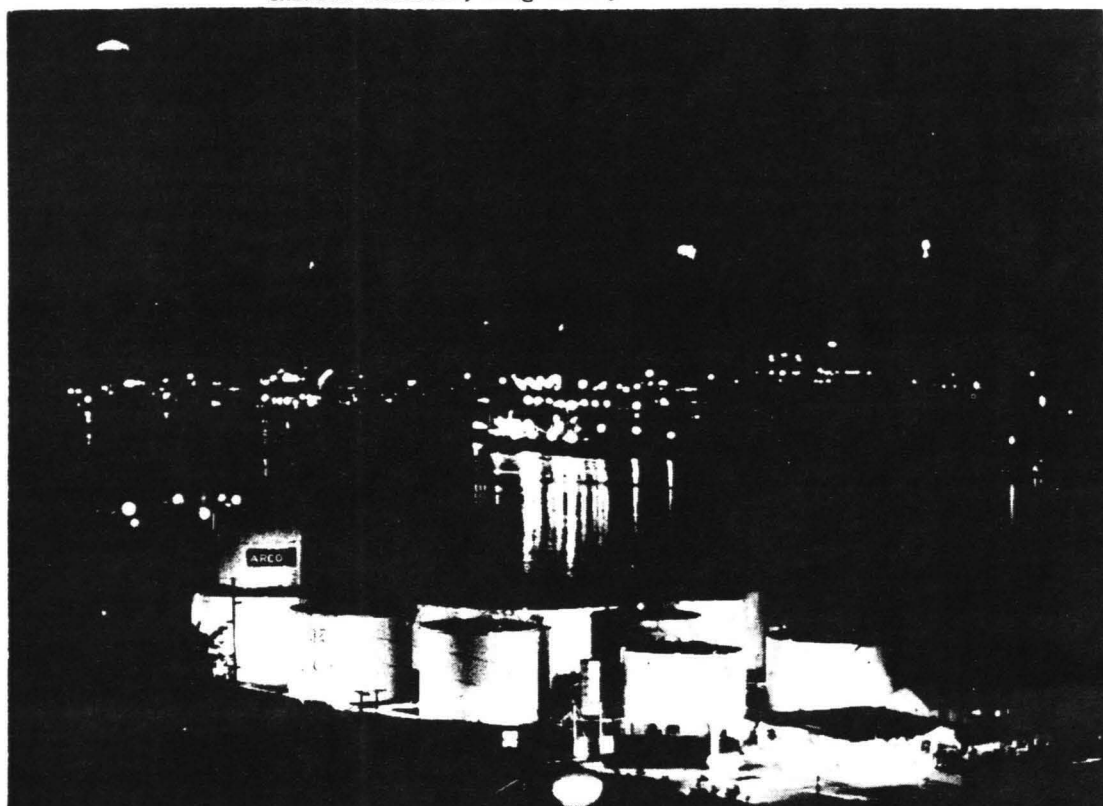
Fredenburg watched the u.f.o. for a moment before he called to his wife, Molly, to come take a look. "I thought he was having a heart attack, the way he was yelling," Mrs. Fredenburg said. When she got outside, though, she could see what all the excitement was about, and attests to Fredenburg's description.

"It was flying really high, but wasn't making a sound," Fredenburg explained. "I kept expecting to hear a noise. I've seen planes flying all the time at night, and I know for sure that this was no plane."

Fredenburg, a former officer on the Northfield Police force, wanted to make sure that people didn't think he was crazy. "I've traveled clear up into Canada and all over the United States, driving in the evenings, and I've never seen anything like it. If it's just some weird satellite or something that the government has flying over the country, I wish they'd tell us about it so that people wouldn't get scared so easily," Fredenburg added.

Fredenburg had called the News office on Wednesday morning to see if anyone else in the area had reported seeing the u.f.o. No one else had reported a sighting.

CHINOOK OBSERVER, Long Beach, WA - Nov. 17, 1983



**UFO SPOTTED** — What could only be called an unidentified flying object was spotted and photographed on Oct. 22, 1983 by Dick Schatz of Seaview and his brother in the Linnton area of Portland, Ore. The object, above, can be seen in the upper left hand corner of the photo. Dick said he and his brother went out on the porch of his brother's home at about 7 p.m. to take a scenic evening photo of the lights of N.E. Portland and the St. Johns peninsula area, with the Willamette River below. While he was readying the camera, Dick spotted the unidentified light in the sky and pointed it out to his brother. Both were very puzzled over the motionless object that made no sound and gave off a bluish-white light. Lights of airliners taking off from Portland airport could be seen in the distance and in no way could be compared to the apparent object. Dick had one

color shot left in his camera and he squeezed it off seconds before the glowing object angled away towards Vancouver and then made a 90-degree turn and went straight up, finally disappearing in the distance.

"I don't know what the light was, but I know no aircraft could do the things that light was doing," Dick said later. He noted that he and his brother had aircraft in the distance to compare the light to. Dick knows that domestic jet aircraft take off at a speed of 160 knots and then zoom to 250 knots. With this in mind, Dick estimated that the light seemed to move at least four times that speed. The above photo is looking northwest into northeast Portland with the Arco bulk plant at Linnton in the foreground. Dick said he wasn't sure, but it appeared that the light hovered over high-voltage power lines that cross the Willamette River.



WEEKEND NEWS, Perth, W.A., Australia - Sept. 10, 1983

# FLIGHTS OF FANCY



This flying saucer photographed in New Mexico back in 1963 wasn't all it was cracked up to be. Purported to be 21 metres in diameter, it actually turned out to be two china saucers glued together and thrown in front of a camera.

There was no doubt that the alien had a terrible case of acne.

"His face looked like my teenager's," said the unnamed American who saw the body in the Antarctic ice.

Four governments know about the crashed spacecraft and the five bodies, but the whole thing has been kept under wraps for fear of starting a panic about invasion from outer space.

So runs the story in the Perth UFO Research Group newsletter.

Perth has two UFO societies. The research group, commonly referred to as PUFORG, is the oldest, dating from 1955, and has about 120 members. Its acting president is Mr George Hume, of Bedford, a retired hospital worker in his 70s.

The youngest group is the West Australian UFO Investigation Centers, which split from PUFORG as the result of a schism four months ago.

This has 41 members and is headed by Mr Michael Borley, formerly president of



## Looking out for UFOs

By Allan Hale

PUFORG, 36 and unemployed, who lives at Glen Forrest.

Both these groups put out mimeographed newsletters.

There is a student group, of 16, 17 and 18-year-olds, which has six members, and is four years old.

This is the Investigation Centre of Aerial Phenomena, which, says its president, Shane Thompson (16) of Bullsbrook, concerns itself mainly with UFOs but isn't very active at the moment because of the TAE.

And there is a scattering of independents, who are interested in UFOs but pay allegiance to no particular group, Mr Hume says.

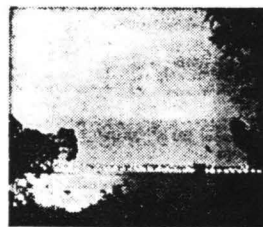


The larger groups canvass members by such activities as exhibitions at shopping centres and talks in schools.

Mr Hume says: "I always say I haven't come to persuade you, but to present you with the information."

Saucers with domes on the other hand, seem to have the task of sampling plants or people.

The people-samplers, the Adelaide group says, examines people and lets them go, with the memories washed clean of the experience until they are asked under hypnosis.



A UFO? No, just a trick of a camera lens pointed at the moon.

A silver saucer with a light underneath seems very interested in human activity.

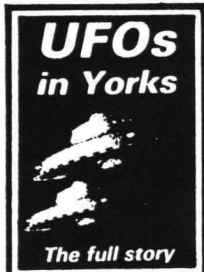
People followed in their cars always report seeing a bright orange light.

If shot at, "by people with limited intelligence," the Adelaide group says, the "UFO" will

YORKSHIRE EVENING POST, Leeds, England - Sept. 24, 1983

# UFO every 15 minutes

GRAHAM W. BIRDSALL, Chairman of the Yorkshire UFO Society, concludes his intriguing five-part series on local sightings and tells how other countries take the many world wide sightings seriously.



THE Centre for UFO Studies, Illinois, USA, recently calculated that world-wide there are an estimated 100 reports of UFOs every 24 hours, or if you like, a UFO is seen every 15 minutes.

In this region, the Yorkshire UFO Society deals with a minute fraction of that figure, yet each report is carefully analysed by its own research team, then an evaluation is made. Often this involves up to 12 investigators gathered around a table, each prepared to add his or her own comments. An evaluation of a report sometimes does not take place until months of careful research has been carried out.

On March 25 this year, a Bradford woman observed a bright ball of light from her bedroom window at 3 a.m. The ball was red in colour, but white flickers of light shone around it. It moved slowly across her field of vision before disappearing behind some trees. On April 15, 1983 an overnight lorry driver was heading east between junctions 22 and 23 of the M62, it was 3.50 a.m. He noticed that lorries travelling



An artist's impression of a UFO reported in America in the mid-Sixties.

could have been responsible, though they do not normally hover over motorways at that time of a morning, or any part of the day for that matter. It is quite possible that a number of reported UFOs could be explained away as being nothing more than military aircraft participating in manoeuvres.

Some helicopter flights, for example, have been seen to descend at night, and turn on their powerful arc lights, in an effort to pick out certain landmarks. From a distance, this can appear to the inexperienced observer to be proof positive that a UFO is in the area.

### Enigma

However, the Ministry of Defence are reluctant to be drawn on this subject, and have stated that until UFOs constitute a threat to the United Kingdom, and are shown to exist, then no real interest will be shown by them. This is a far cry from the French Government, who until recently had its own official research department looking into the enigma. Their research work, and results were openly displayed, and other countries adopt the same stance.

Spain provides detailed records of radar tracks of UFOs seen by both Civil and Military radar networks. Even the United States has been forced to admit that its official

the base, until at last, much to the relief of the ground crew, it shot straight up into the sky and vanished from sight.

The official United States investigation into UFOs, known as Project Blue Book, spanned many years, and sceptics are quick to point out that its conclusions were blunt, that UFOs, or spacecrafts, or flying saucers, do not exist. I like to point out that 10 per cent of Blue Books cases, investigated by the Air Force's own team, remained unexplained.

There have been sightings of possible UFOs in northern England for centuries, dating back to AD91, when a "ship" was seen in the sky over Humberside. In the eighth century, "fire dragons" were reported over Northumbria, and on September 15, 1749, cattle were frightened and trees burnt by a flaming "UFO" in South Yorkshire.

Are UFOs from other worlds as some leading authors would suggest? The truth is, no-one really knows, yet until science takes the enigma seriously, the truth may be years away. Now that another solar system has been discovered, some 25 light years away from Earth, the impossible has become possible. Other solar systems will be found, the large space telescope launched by the shuttle will see to that.































## China Reports New Evidence Of 'Ape Men'

PEKING (UPI) — China's Wild-man Research Association has reported new evidence of ape-like creatures similar to Bigfoot and the Abominable Snowman.

In a report concluding 35 months of field research, Liu Minzhuang, association chairman and member of the Chinese Anthropological Society, said he had hair samples and 1,000 footprint specimens from the creatures.

The *Yangcheng Evening News* said Liu presented the report last week to the Science and Technology Institute of Guangxi province, a hilly region where the "ape men" have been reported. The newspaper said the presentation included the showing of "bits of the wild man's glossy golden hair."

The dimensions cited by Liu were similar to reported sightings in North America of a large, man-like creature covered with hair called Bigfoot and a similar creature in the Himalayas known as the yeti or Abominable Snowman.

Liu said most of the specimens of footprints of the Chinese "ape men" were 16.5 inches long, and 31 of them were 19 inches long. Liu also said the creatures are active in 13 of China's 29 provinces.

Three members of a team hunting for the creatures last year said they spotted one in the Shennongjia Mountains of Hubei province in south-central China. They said it was tall, erect and covered with reddish brown fur, a description that conforms with other reported sightings.

ARKANSAS GAZETTE, Little Rock, AR — Dec. 20, 1983

# Seattle man wrapped up in yarns of Loch Ness, Bigfoot

by Dave Birkland  
Times staff reporter

Remember the Sasquatches, those huge, ape-like creatures that are supposed to live in the mountains on the fringes of society?

They were peek-a-boo creatures, generally known as Big Foot, whose existence always seemed to be on the verge of being confirmed. Even their feces were supposed to have been found and kept in a freezer in a north Seattle home.

But after a time, interest in Big Foot faded. Sightings became routine. Footprints of the monsters became a dime a dozen. Media stories on the phenomenon disappeared.

It was like a breeze cleared the air, and took with it the incredible stench that was supposed to be a part of the Sasquatch legend.

But there still was the Loch Ness monster, another creature that always has been on the verge of being photographed, a picture which would once and for all dispel doubt that it exists in a 24-mile-long lake in Scotland.

That mystery has been around since 525 A.D. and, from time to time, stories still surface about it but they dwell on the adventures who seek the monster, not the legendary creature itself.

While the stories remain intriguing, both seem to have played their course.

But wait! Like the announcer on late-night TV who just said you can cut down tree limbs with the knife set you will get for \$19.95, "But there's still more..."

Jon Erik Beckjord, a Seattle man, now has managed to rekindle interest in these phenomena. He has been in hot pursuit of Big Foot for years and recently tried to pin down the Loch Ness monster.

He just returned from Scotland where he used time-lapse videotape equipment to record what he claims may be not one of the Loch Ness monsters, not two of the enormous creatures of the deep, but three of the behemoths.

But wait! There's more.

Almost as an afterthought, Beckjord, in a recent interview, stated that he had met and interviewed a man who had been kidnapped by a Big Foot tribe.

Holy Sasquatch! Living proof that the creatures exist.

But wait!

We can't meet him just yet, Beckjord states. "I'm not through with him yet. I want to get his interview on film before he is exposed to the barrage of bulls—that is inevitable."

How has this man's experience escaped the world's notice?

"He's told only a few friends," Beckjord replies, and then adds with certainty, "he's credible."

Although reluctant to fill in details, Beckjord did provide some information about the kidnapped man's experience which Beckjord called the "most significant" event so far in the search for Big Foot.

Beckjord calls the man Richard Bigfeather, although that is not his real name.

While Bigfeather was camping alone on the west side of the Cascades during the summer of 1968, he was kidnapped, Beckjord said. It was at night and he was picked up in his sleeping bag, thrown over the shoulder of a large creature and taken away.

While en route, Bigfeather, who is part Indian and seemed to understand the creature, began to think, "I know who you are and where we are going." The creature then put him down and they walked the rest of approximately 1½ miles to the campsite.

Beckjord said the exchange of thoughts between

the two shows that the Big Foot people use extrasensory perception.

Bigfeather told Beckjord that there were 17 creatures at the camp, four males, 12 females and a baby. They had relatively little body hair but each had head hair down to their waist. The men were seven feet tall and the women were six feet tall. They wore no clothing. Bigfeather stayed four days and nights "learning their ways," Beckjord said.

The tribe scraped hides but they weren't wearing hides. They slept under the trees. All this information suggests to Beckjord that the tribe may be modern Neanderthals. Bigfeather, 26, is going to be introduced to the world "within six months if he is willing," Beckjord said.

But wait! There's still more!

In his latest quest, Beckjord managed to produce a videotape of "something" on Loch Ness in Scotland. Imagination is one's only guide in trying to discern what Beckjord has captured on film.

He maintains that an elongated light shape on the otherwise darker water surface is "water motion," possibly the wake of what appears to him to be two of the monsters. There is a splash in the water and they dive. Dark silhouettes just beneath the surface suggest to Beckjord that there are three such creatures swimming away from the video-taping equipment mounted on a hill some 300 yards away.

Beckjord admits that the film is of poor resolution. "I don't think it proves the existence of the Loch Ness monster," he said. Only the remains of the creature washed up on shore will prove it for sure, he says.

Beckjord realizes he stretches credibility with his tales but he doesn't seem to care whether others believe him or not, seemingly secure in his own belief that Big Foot people and the Loch Ness monsters exist.

"I admit there is no proof," Beckjord says grabbing a roll of toilet paper to demonstrate a point. As he slowly unrolled it, he said, "science is unraveling slowly. Today's bulls—is tomorrow's fact."

Of Big Foot, he says, "In my opinion it's a supernatural creature that is able to leave physical traces." He defines those creatures as "gods, fairies or demons that will have an effect on human life but cannot be caught, killed, tracked down or discovered."

"We've been schooled to believe everything can be discovered if you wait long enough... We've been told that two and two is four. With Big Foot, two and two is five."

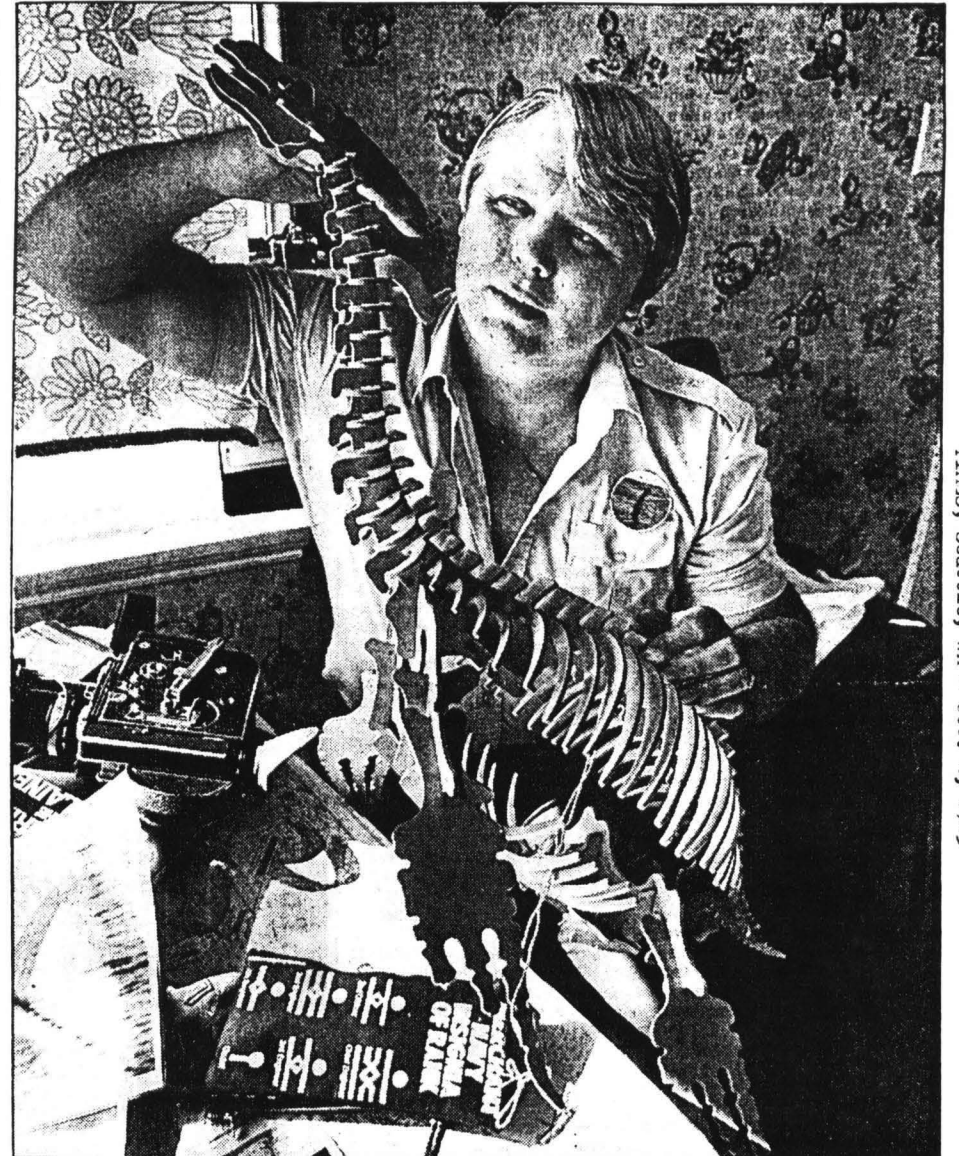
It's hard to draw a bead on Beckjord's veracity. He seems sincere as he tells of his quests.

But then he hands a visitor a copy of a British newspaper, the *Weekly World News*, with a story about his recent Loch Ness trip. The headline on the paper's top story screams: "Mermaid Family Found in Pacific." In smaller type, it says: "Discovery of the century." Then a quote: "I saw human-like beings living in the water," says top scientist.

But even negative publicity helps, Beckjord maintains. It rekindles interest and encourages people to report their sightings. He acknowledges, however, getting a lot of "nut" calls on the "Big Foot Hotline."

Beckjord, a 35-year-old native of Minnesota, came here five years ago from San Francisco, where he worked as an urban planner and made television commercials. He speaks softly and sounds rational, so it comes as a surprise when he says he thinks that some species of Big Foot people "seem to have some kind of connection with UFOs, either as agents or occupants."

He is founder and director of the National Cryptozoological Society. Beckjord says cryptozoolo-



Jon Erik Beckjord with a model of an aquatic dinosaur he says resembles Scotland's mysterious Loch Ness monster.

TIMES, Seattle, WA — Oct. 2, 1983

gical means the study of hidden and anomalous (irregular) animals.

Beckjord operates the society out of his modest house in north Seattle and says he occasionally works in real estate. But most of his time is spent in pursuit of monsters. He says he supports himself on savings, investments, lecture fees and selling photos and newsletters about his endeavors.

But shouldn't a man his age quit chasing the things monster books and fairy tales are made of? What do his folks think?

His mother advises, "do your own thing." But Beckjord quoted his father as saying, "I should settle down, get married and get a decent job."

But from the way Beckjord has dedicated his life to pursuit of the unknown, it doesn't appear likely.