

UFO

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CO-EDITORS: LUCIUS FARISH
ROD B. DYKE

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NEWS-MESSENGER, Lincoln, CA - Dec. 15, 1983

UFO sighted in Lincoln?

It's a bird! It's a plane! It's a—well, what the heck is it anyhow?

That's what a News Messenger reader on O Street was asking herself Sunday when she observed a bright light low in the skies shortly after noon.

Lincoln was being wracked by a storm when the woman, who lives in the senior citizens complex, heard a thumping sound and noticed that the lights in her home dimmed.

Looking southeast, she saw a luminous object traveling above the level of the treetops, but below the horizon.

"It was brilliant, absolutely brilliant," she said. "I've never ever seen anything like it."

The object appeared to be over the old school building at Glen Edwards School. It didn't appear to go behind the trees or shine bright enough to shine through branches of trees in the area of I Street.

"I'm not in the habit of seeing things or imagining

things," said the woman.

Although Sunday's storm wasn't electrical with lightning and thunder, it is possible that the object was a ball of lightning or perhaps caused by tree limbs hitting against power lines.

Then again, maybe E.T is making a comeback.

EVENING TIMES, Little Falls, NY
Nov. 2, 1983

UFO Was Reported Sighted in Finks Basin Area Monday Night

Although area police agencies said they received no calls, several residents in the Finks Basin area said they saw a UFO Monday night.

City police and East Herkimer state police said they knew or heard nothing about such a sighting, but residents in the area, most of whom did not want to be quoted because of the day, Halloween, said the object had red lights and bright white lights pointing down.

The UFO was spotted about 7 p.m. in the Finks Basin area and traveled slowly south toward Fall Hill. There have been other

reports of sighting the object in the Fort Plain area and a distance east of the Little Falls Thruway interchange.

Some of those who heard about the sighting said calls were made by others to Griffiss Air Force Base in Rome, and officials at the base reportedly said something did appear on the radar screen but disappeared.

One woman who saw the UFO said it was brown in color, round and domed shape. She said she had been in her kitchen when she heard a loud roar, much louder than an airplane, went outside and saw the UFO.

SUNDAY EXPRESS-NEWS, San Antonio, TX - Jan. 22, 1984 CR: MUFON

UFO-viewers sue U.S. for damages

DAYTON (AP) — Two women and a 10-year-old boy have sued the U.S. government, seeking \$20 million in damages for injuries they claim to have received when they encountered an unidentified flying object hovering above a country road.

Betty Cash, 54, Vicki Landrum, 60, and her 10-year-old grandson, Colby Landrum, are seeking payment for medical treatment after suffering chronic illness and injuries from what they claim was radiation that beamed at them from a hovering UFO three years ago.

A lawyer filed the suit in a Houston federal court on Wednesday.

The three claim in the suit that the federal government is somehow involved and should be held responsible for their medical care.

The incident occurred around 9:30 p.m. Dec. 29, 1980, while Cash, Landrum and the youngster were returning home from a bingo game.

Object glows in sky

As they drove along a country road seven miles outside of New Caney, they noticed a bright object glowing in the sky.

The object hovered 60 to 80 feet above the road and had such "intense brightness and glow that they couldn't make out its shape," said Peter Gerston, a New York attorney representing Cash and her friends.

The object was flaming and gave off so much heat and light that Cash and her friends could drive no farther, Gerston said.

They got out of the car for awhile, said Gerston, and Cash rested her hand on the vehicle. When she removed her hand, he said, she found it had left a permanent imprint on the car.

Landrum said the group then drove down the road, stopping at a small graveyard. She said they counted 23 helicopters near the object, but Gerston said they were unable to determine whether the chop-



VICKI LANDRUM 'SAW' UFO
... wants paid health care

pers were escorting the object or pursuing it.

For a few days after the incident, the three people suffered severe headaches, nausea, swollen earlobes and eyelids, diarrhea and facial blisters, Gerston said. The health of Cash, who received the most exposure, "became much worse," he said. She was admitted to Parkway Hospital for one week and later for two more weeks.

Gerston said that in the year following the event they were chronically ill and Cash was "in and out" of the hospital from October to December 1981.

Cash and her friends still experience some of the symptoms from time to time, including nausea, loss of appetite, skin blotches and blisters, the lawyer said.

In their suit, Cash, Landrum and the boy asked for damages totalling \$20 million.

Gerston said his clients also want to determine what type of radiation they had been exposed to so they could seek appropriate medical treatment.

TIMES, Ft. Morgan, CO - Dec. 6, 1983



By MICHAEL KERRIGAN
Times Staff Writer

Now that the reported rumor has lumbered around the county for nearly three weeks, the quiet speculation that a flying saucer landed between Fort Morgan and Wiggins on Nov. 17 should be put in its proper perspective.

As with most rumors, quotes cannot be attributed, faces behind the stories tend to fall into a blur. Nothing can be substantiated, but the rumor is there, nonetheless.

According to this particular story, the incident — I should say incidents — took place early that Thursday morning. The first sighting came at approximately 12:45 a.m. With red and white lights flashing, the object moved slowly out of the northeast, from the general direction of Sterling, but with a more northerly cut.

However, no sightings have been reported to the authorities from those living in either the Hillrose or Weldona areas.

Guardians of the story theorize this first sighted craft to have been on a tracking or scouting mission. Spotlights were reported to have shined down

LOOK OUT

UFO Rumor Floats About

from the ship, lighting the countryside. Wide sweeps were made with the lights between County Roads 18 and 26, possibly to determine an acceptable landing location.

This rumored action went on for eight to 12 minutes, depending on the story you hear, or which you choose to believe.

The first sighting ended with the craft hovering in the area of Roads P and 9. From that location the ship paused briefly, then simply disappeared.

An actual landing is rumored to have taken place more than an hour after the initial sighting, but before daylight. As with most crises, or perceived crises, the actual length of time that elapsed between the first and second reported incidences differs radically. However, all rumors confirm that the touchdown of the second craft took place before first light.

It has not been established whether the second sighting was the original craft on a return mission or a different ship entirely. The flashing lights, along with the projected beam, are consistent details of both rumors.

However, the described appearance

of the second craft is wholly inconsistent with the emergence of the first.

The second craft is reported to have dropped from the sky in an unwaivering line, stopping just a few feet above the ground. It is rumored to have made its appearance in the same vicinity where the first craft disappeared.

Those responsible for the rumor said the ship — nearing the size of a Greyhound bus — extended five glowing, landing legs then silently settled to the ground.

The mere sighting of the craft frightened away all reliable sources, but the stories that persist confirm the emergence of two shafts of light from an opening near one end of the craft.

Soil samples were believed to have been taken from the landing site, although this is impossible to confirm because of the recently plowed nature of the ground.

The possible abduction of a steer also has not been confirmed.

There have been no reports to sheriff's deputies of livestock thefts from the mentioned area. Officials in that department have been unable to

confirm even a source of the rumor of the first possible sighting. An investigation of the rumored landing has not been started.

The craft is believed by some to have remained on the ground from four to 10 minutes before it took off, as it descended, in a straight, vertical direction. There was no remaining evidence to indicate the craft had made local contact.

Speculation regarding the nature of the visit has been broad, waxing between scientific and religious. Communist-inspired has also been mentioned, but this has been dismissed by local rumor experts as pure conjecture.

Morgan County officials have not been contacted in regard to the rumors; as a result, no comment regarding public safety or precautionary measures has come from their office.

And there you have it: the best and most consistent — though least reliable — details of the barely persisting story.

Limited public debate will probably go on indefinitely. The mere thought of spaceships in Morgan County is also expected to go away as soon as the rumor is forgotten.

Couple reports an 'alien' visitor

By MARTY McDONOUGH
WESTHAMPTON — A Westhampton couple is still not sure what they saw up in the sky this past weekend, but it has certainly affected them. "Somebody's trying to send a message to us," believes Timothy J. Babyok, 31, of Edwards Road. "I thought it was a UFO (Unidentified Flying Object), but I'm not sure. It might have been something from heaven, but it was definitely alien," he said, adding that he is "not religious."

Whatever "it" is, Babyok and Rosemarie A. Greaves, 24, saw it early Saturday and Sunday mornings, and they captured some of the second sighting on video tape. Through binoculars, Babyok said it appeared to be a perfect saucer shape, with portholes encircling the edge. But it also changed shape several times, he said.

Easthampton police officer Frederick Peterson thought it was the planet Venus. Westhampton officer John Clark was a little more optimistic.

"I believed it was a planet, but he said it lit up a room in his house, so it could have been something," Clarke said.

At about 6 a.m. Saturday morning, about 20 minutes after the first sighting, Babyok and Ms. Greaves both say they saw the white ship

come directly towards the house, and it was so bright it lit up their room. It stopped in mid-air, and started blinking one blue and one red light.

Babyok called the police, and later called the Barnes airport in Westfield, but was hung up on.

"I know people will say I'm crazy, but I know what I saw," he said. "I don't want a lot of attention, either."

Babyok, a black belt for 10 years, is the operator of the Lashbury Karate Club on 40 Cottage St. in Easthampton.

3 report 'fast, spastic' UFO tree-top high

By Mike Mooney

ByRON — E.T. came home Monday night — at least three Byron residents feel it may have been E.T. or some other alien creature they saw buzzing around their car about 6:30 p.m.

"I'm not nuts. It was real," said Mike Goodwin, a 19-year-old Byron resident who said he saw at least two unidentified flying objects near Montague and Conger roads Monday night.

Brother Jeff, 18, and friend Robert Blanchard, 17, verified the sightings and described the objects as "triangular in shape with blinking red and white lights — but not a steady blink."

The three were returning from Christmas shopping in Rockford when they first sighted what they thought was a falling star.

But then the star stopped falling and leveled off at about the tree tops. Mike Goodwin said, "We followed it for a long time. Then it looked like it was going to collide with an airplane. But the airplane was another object shaped the same way."

The Goodwin brothers' father, Jerry, laughed when the trio told him of the sighting.

But then I questioned them individually," he said. "And all three told basically the same story. I know none of them had been drinking, and they don't take drugs. They honestly saw something. I don't know what, but they saw something."

They were seeing something at Greater Rockford Airport, too, where a spokesman for the Federal Aviation Authority said he could detect some sort of moving object in the Byron area.

"I don't know what it is," the spokesman said. "From the erratic path it's following, it might be a helicopter."

But both the Ogle County sheriff's police and Byron Police Department said they knew of no helicopters flying in the Byron area Monday night, although they had heard radio traffic from the rescue helicopter at St. Anthony Hospital, Rockford, which was returning from Freeport.

A patrolman for the Byron Police Department checked out the area and reported a strange glow in the air which he thought might be the reflection of the Byron Nuclear Power plant lights off the snow.

"I thought they might be thinking of a helicopter, too," Jerry Goodwin said. "But all three boys said they got out of the car and stood right below the lights. They figured whatever it was was sitting about 150 feet in the air and they couldn't hear anything."

Goodwin said all three boys also described the flying object "as very fast and spastic. They said there was no pattern to the way it was flying and that it was moving too fast to be a helicopter and too low to be an airplane. I don't know what it was, but the boys know they saw something."

A spokesman for the National UFO Reporting Headquarters in Seattle, Wash., said his organization had received no other reports from either northern Illinois or southern Wisconsin Monday night.

"The only reports we've had today are some strange lights in southern California," he said.

Hoosier leads worldwide search from store office for elusive UFOs

By JOHN J. SHAUGHNESSY
Star Staff Reporter

Nappanee, Ind. — You probably won't believe this story, but it's true.

The setting is the northern part of the state, in the town of Nappanee. Usually the strangest thing you see there is a black-dressed Amish resident driving his horse-and-buggy along a highway.

But Nappanee also happens to be the place to find Charles L. Tucker and his unusual, out-of-this-world organization.

You see, Tucker is the director of the International UFO Investigative Bureau, an organization that wants to get all the information it can about unidentified flying objects.

Strange, right? But even stranger is the fact that the bureau's headquarters is located in a building that also doubles as the site of Tucker's furniture and bedding business.

INSIDE THE building, a figure with an expressionless face leads visitors past stacks of cushions and into Tucker's somewhat eccentric office.

In the office, a 2½-foot high ceramic tiger rests on one side of the red shag and a leopard on the other; a painting of a Mexican struggling with his burro decorates a wall, and the pillows on the couch depict naked native women.

The strange thing is that the 55-year-old Tucker seemed like such a likeable, intelligent, normal guy. No flashy clothes for Tucker, just dark brown pants, a light brown sports coat, and a tie and sweater that coordinated.

That's normally the type of person that believes in UFOs, Tucker said.

"FOR THE past 20 years, I've been involved in this. I've traveled around the world lecturing, listening, and searching for any information I can get about UFOs. We have 87 bases around the world, and most of the people I've come in contact with — the people who have seen UFOs — are credible people.

"I'm not dealing with people of questionable character. Farmers, professors, priests, doctors and lawyers have seen them. And 63 percent of our astronomers and 57 percent of our scientists believe they exist. There's no question that believing in UFOs is accepted."

Indeed, the most recent Gallup poll on the subject indicated that a solid majority of Americans — about 57 percent — believe in UFOs. College-educated and younger people believed the most. The survey also showed that 11 percent, or a projected 13 million Americans, also said

they had seen what they thought was a UFO.

"EVEN FATHER Theodore Hesburgh has said that he has seen a UFO and believes in them," said Tucker, who displayed a photocopy of an article that ran in the *National Enquirer*, the tabloid devoted to Hollywood scandals and diet plans. There in the article was a picture of the University of Notre Dame president and his account of seeing a UFO during a fishing trip in Michigan.

Then Tucker referred to another *National Enquirer* article which had the headline, "Investigators Pinpoint Secret UFO Base Under the Amazon River."

"I don't hold the belief that UFOs come down from the millions of planets in our universe," said Tucker, a respected businessman, husband and father who was quoted in the article.

"I THINK we can find them right here on earth. Down in Brazil, in an area called The Devil's Graveyard, many people, including pilots and ship captains, have seen UFOs go into the water and come out again. A lot of people believe there are advanced civilizations living under the sea."

A Michigan native with several college degrees in religion and philosophy, Tucker talked with the fervor of a minister, a position he once held. He saw his first UFO in the early '60s in Georgia — "a box car on fire in the sky coming down to earth" — and his life has never been the same.

Maintaining a mild interest in his furniture and bedding business, Tucker dedicates most of his time to the bureau, traveling to areas where UFOs have been sighted, spending about \$20,000 a year to obtain thousands of documents from the U.S. government about UFO investigations.

TUCKER KEEPS all those government documents in four large file cabinets on the second floor, an area where paintings of imaginary UFOs stretch across every wall and into every room.

A sample document is one from 1950 in which an investigator for the Air Force noted that "three so-called flying saucers have been recovered in New Mexico. They were described as being circular in shape with raised centers. Each one was occupied by three bodies of human shape but only three feet tall, dressed in metallic cloth."

The documents help Tucker support some of his theories, theories which hold that aliens became marooned on earth and mated with humans, that aliens have IQs of 2000.

STAR, Indianapolis, IN - Jan. 15, 1984 CR: C. Jones



Star photo

UFOs are a daily concern for Charles Tucker Nappanee man directs worldwide UFO investigative bureau

that aliens are becoming increasingly concerned about our potential to destroy the earth with nuclear weapons.

"THE TRAGEDY of the situation is that the public doesn't realize all the information the government has about UFOs. Do you realize that 55 percent of all the UFO sightings have been by military personnel? The government doesn't think UFOs are harmful to our national defense so they've decided not to pursue the issue."

Tucker said he can understand when others don't believe, but for him there is no doubt.

EVENING NEWS, Salem MA - Nov. 28, 1983

CR: B. Greenwood

Beverly

UFO sighting
BEVERLY — Beverly Police responded to the home of the Bernstein family at 44 Dartmouth St. about 8 p.m. Saturday on a report from 13-year-old Jodi Bernstein, who claimed she saw an unidentified flying object.

Jodi told police she was watching television just after 7 p.m. when she began hearing banging on the den window. According to police reports, when she looked out the window, "she saw a bright white oval and sometimes star-shaped object turning about 35 yards away over her neighbor's house."

She told police the same thing happened three times in a 45-minute period.

Police checked the area but found nothing unusual.

No similar calls were received over the weekend.

By Joan Rice
and Janet Zenke

For centuries, man has looked into the heavens, wondering if perhaps elsewhere there exist other life forms.

As yet, nothing has reached the public to provide a definitive, absolute answer to the recurring speculation. In the 1960s, however, UFO stories abounded. These not only alleged sightings, but they also involved "close encounters."

Despite the sensational nature of such unexplainable phenomena, a St. Louis metropolitan group has been unobtrusively investigating reported area UFO sightings for the past 12 years. The UFO Study Group of Greater St. Louis, Inc. has taken a methodic, scientific approach to the fantastic subject.

Specialized members of the group record sightings and attempt to discover the identities of mysterious objects. Whatever the case, the group sends its information to the Mutual UFO Network, Inc. (MUFON), a nationwide organization which duly tabulates it.

Based in Seguin, Texas, MUFON handles on the average of two or three calls concerning UFOs daily, says Walter H. Andrus Jr., international director of the organization. Between 80 and 90 percent of these calls, upon initial investigation, are determined to be of natural or human origin, Andrus reports.

However, he adds that between 10 and 20 percent of such probes result in conclusions which "defy earthly explanation."

Since 1960, the national list of determined "unidentified" reports numbers about 80,000, but this doubtlessly includes duplicate sightings, he notes. Andrus says 60,000 better reflects the number of "individual" reports.

The local study group was organized when John Schuessler, head project engineer for the highly successful shuttle which McDonnell-Douglas has on loan to NASA, discovered that several colleagues and friends shared his fascination with UFOs.

Formerly a St. Louisan, Schuessler and McDonnell-Douglas design engineer Cliff Palmberg discovered in 1965 that they had "common interests," according to John Schroeder, regional chairman of MUFON and a member of the UFO Study Group of Greater St. Louis.

Schroeder, staff communicator for the Missouri Lutheran Church Synod, says Schuessler and Palmberg got together with Willard Armstrong, formerly a professor of electrical engineering and physics at Washington University. In 1969, the three formed the nucleus of a UFO study group which first met at each others' homes once a month, Schroeder recalls.

Three or four months after the first meetings, Schroeder says he got wind of the small group and joined. "The meetings were more or less a mutual sharing of information," he adds. Now the 80-member group channels its discoveries to MUFON and to the Center for UFO Studies in Evanston, Ill., he says.

It is estimated that the UFO Study Group of Greater St. Louis has investigated approximately 4,500 sightings in the bi-state region since the group was formed in 1969. Since the group was not incorporated until 1972, it took a number of years before one man's idea became a reality.

No engineer or scientist, Schroeder says his interest in the extraterrestrial objects stems from a relatively close encounter with what he believes to have been an alien craft during his youth. It took place in 1941 in Cleveland, Ohio.

Schroeder, then 17, was a grocery store clerk. He left work one Saturday night in early November and met his older brother, an employee at a nearby hardware store. The two bought a carton of ice cream before setting out for home. Both hoped to make it home before a storm hit their community, Schroeder remembers.

"We were running home to avoid the rain storm, when the ground was suddenly lit up by a huge arc of light," he reports. Looking up, he recalls seeing "an intense blue white light" emitting from behind low cloud cover. The two stopped in their tracks, then saw the bright lights much more clearly as a disc came through the cloud bank and hovered over a house.

Its appearance reminded Schroeder of "brushed aluminum," he says, adding that there were no "rivets" or seams to break the object's polished surface.

"The grid at the bottom of the saucer was bright white," Schroeder says, elaborating on the description.

As it came down to a distance of 25 feet above the boys, the white grid ran in "waves" in one direction across the bottom of the metal object. When the disc hovered, the waves were pulsating from the center of the dish to the outer perimeter, he explains.

"It looked like it was a self-contained system. There was very little energy loss," he says. He adds that the disc had about eight small circles which flashed lavender, alternating with eight more which flashed orange. "Those are opposite colors on the chromatic scale," explains Schroeder, an accomplished artist.

"It stayed 30 seconds at least. Meanwhile, we got drenched," he says, smiling. "We both saw something that looked like a small figure sitting inside, working controls." The two were able to see the entity because it appeared in a transparent dome located on the top of the saucer.

Without a moment's notice, the craft "angled up at a 30-degree angle and disappeared through a cloud," he recalls.

As chief field investigator for the local UFO study group, St. Louisan Charles Adams is among the first to be alerted when a UFO sighting is reported to the organization.

The last sighting recorded in the greater St. Louis area took place in December of 1983, says Adams, but he declined to elaborate because the case is still under investigation.

Though a believer in the existence of UFOs, Adams takes an objective approach when a sighting is reported.

Though a believer in the UFO phenomenon, Adams' response to such calls is purely objective.

The investigative process "becomes a question of probabilities — it was probably this, or it was probably that," says Adams. "It's a matter of going through all the (natural) explanations, until you come to the one that it is." When a sighting cannot be identified, the investigator has to make up his own mind as to what he thinks the witness saw, Adams says.

According to Adams, the most typical sighting occurs at night, and in that instance the first objective of the investigator is to rule out the possibility of airplanes, stars, advertising aircraft, and weather balloons.

If necessary, local agencies, such as community police departments, the planetarium and various faculty members of nearby colleges may become involved the verification process, says Adams.

For instance, he explains, a professor in a college science department may be able to confirm or deny a natural environmental cause for the sighting by answering the question — "Could this be swamp gas?" — in pursuit of solving one hypothetical case.

Police departments can verify whether or not similar reports were filed for the same sighting, while information from planetarium sources will verify the positions of stars at particular times, Adams notes. The agencies may also refer calls about UFO sightings to the organization, he says.

Adams, an electronics engineer at AT&T Technologies, believes "the normal progression of mankind is to outer space." His interest in man's relationship to outer space was heightened during his tenure as senior engineer on the Inertial Guidance System Project of the Gemini space program. "Gemini proved man could exist in space," he says.

Of alien beings visiting the Earth in strange space crafts, Adams contends that a recent public tendency to neither believe nor disbelieve is more prevalent now because of the space program. "People are becoming more open-minded," he claims. Further, he says, "It's never been proven that it can't be."

Adams says his strong belief in UFO existence is tied to a memo, dated March 22, 1950, sent from the Strategic Air Command to the director of the FBI. It was released under the Freedom of Information Act, says Adams, and according to his sources is an authentic government document. In part, the document reads:

An investigator for the Air Forces stated that three so-called flying saucers had been recovered in New Mexico. They were described as being circular in shape with raised centers, approximately 50 feet in diameter. Each one was occupied by three bodies of human shape but only 3 foot tall, dressed in metallic cloth.

When an unidentified flying object has been reported, there are generally two standard descriptions given to investigators, says Adams.

The first is commonly known as the "flying saucer." According to Adams, this first kind is circular, with a transparent dome on top and often has protrusions from the bottom. The disc-shaped objects generally emit a glow from the bottom, "like neon or mercury," says Adams, which he says is probably the result of energy developed by the machine which ionizes the air around it.

The other common description is a space ship of triangular shape, with lights on the bottom side rather than a glow, and typically the lights are in colors. One witness described such a ship as a "piece of French toast with two corners cut off," said Adams. Such analogies are attempts by witnesses to relate totally foreign images to a common experience, he noted.

Only about 10 percent of reported sightings are rendered inexplicable, says Adams, and of that number, only 5 percent (excluding cases that involve "abductions" and the element of "lost" time, which will be explained later) might include alien sightings.

Sightings of extraterrestrial beings also tend to be consistent in description, Adams points out.

One creature common in MUFON Field Investigator's Manual as "dwarfs," stands only three and one-half feet tall, with large, rounded heads, round eyes and disproportionately long arms. The manual also indicates that dwarfs are often seen wearing shiny, silver coveralls and helmets.

"Normals," according to the manual, are the second most common type of alien being reported. Similar in appearance to humans, these aliens are reported to be five to six feet tall with slanted or oval eyes

(continued on page 4)

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Jeff Kretsch

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Charles Adams

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John Schroeder

A local UFO study group has maintained a large membership because of its efforts to discover what lies beyond mere sightings.

UFO

St. Louis, MO - Jan. 25, 1984)

and less pronounced noses and mouths. In most of the abduction cases the entities described are normal. This type wears different-colored suits and helmets.

Investigators are taught that entity observations usually fall into two categories - intentional and unintentional encounters.

According to the MUFON training manual, witnesses have described unintentional encounters when entities appear to be surprised by the presence of the witness. The witness may be paralyzed, "by a ray or force field of some kind until the entity leaves," as stated in the manual.

An intentional encounter may be apparent in cases where UFOs land near homes or on roadways, blocking vehicles. Such landings, as described in the training manual, usually occur in less populated areas.

Whatever the case, Adams indicates a witness will only be endangered if the entities feel threatened. "They are peaceful people," he believes.

Hypnosis, according to Adams, is a specialized tool of investigation, used in rare cases.

In order to obtain data such as distances or height, an investigator may stage what Adams refers to as a "dummy run" - having the witness re-enact the alleged sighting.

The challenge to an investigator, says Adams, is to "take one piece of evidence - you don't know where it's going to come from or what form it's going to take - and develop it." Combining that shred of data with other pieces of the information puzzle will someday lead to the clear picture, believes Adams.

UFO field investigators are required to attend a 14-hour training session, led by Adams. Persons interested in such training need not have a scientific background, says Adams, emphasizing, "All you have to have is the willingness to do it."

For the time invested, Adams says an investigator will be called upon to use his skills maybe twice each year.

For non-believers, discovering the natural cause behind each case is only a question of time.

For Adams, each sighting that can be explained by natural causes brings him closer to the case that can't be explained.

"I know someday I'll get a good case, one of those real good ones, if I just stick with it long enough."

* * *

At least one member of the UFO Study Group says he cannot accept the findings of investigations at their face value.

Both witnesses and investigators read into their observations not only current perceptions but also those which have been collected in their memories, says Jeff Kretsch, president of the St. Louis study group. He works as a map-maker for the U.S. Department of Defense.

Kretsch says he must base his study of UFOs on a generally-

accepted collection of facts common to most sightings.

Yet, in the 35 or so years which have passed since the first UFO sighting, there is "no solid knowledge" on which to build, Kretsch observes. His inclination to look for facts instead of relying on observations comes from a concentrated scientific background.

Kretsch graduated from Northwestern University in 1975 with a bachelor of arts degree in astronomy. Three years later, he graduated from Southern Illinois University with a master of arts degree in physics. He earned yet another master's degree from Purdue University in 1981 after having studied photogrammetry, the science of making reliable measurements by the use of photographs, and aerial photos in particular.

Such a background can be both helpful and a hindrance, he remarks. It provides him with a good perspective on extraterrestrial phenomena, yet it is so complex as to confound his explanations to those without the specialized knowledge, he says.

"The way that we look at our data distorts our beliefs," Kretsch says in response to a query as to whether he believes in UFOs.

Using the term "ufology" to refer to the study of UFOs, Kretsch notes that "in order for it to be a science, we have to have a body of fundamental knowledge that people generally agree on." As yet, there is none, he says. "This might be one of our goals to eventually accomplish," he suggests.

If most of the reports he investigates as an astronomer offer little factual evidence on which to base a belief, one may wonder why Kretsch concerns himself with the group, a phenomenon in itself.

He frankly admits that he is fascinated with the subject. This captivation was enough to compel Kretsch to find out more about the UFO Study Group of Greater St. Louis.

"These groups usually generate data about UFOs, and I wanted to understand how it was gathered and selected," he says.

Ironically, his involvement precluded an objective study of the group's investigations. "I ended up getting involved in the process itself," wryly comments Kretsch.

Immersion has its good points, however. According to Kretsch, the study group provides him with the means to put his background in astronomy and physics to good use; he is an avowed puzzle-solver.

He has participated in "a couple of dozen direct investigations," he estimates. Of those, there were "a few that didn't pan out." Yet, there were also "a few that I couldn't explain," he adds.

This fact keeps Kretsch's interest alive, but it also strengthens his need for finding factual evidence behind observations. "I don't believe because I can't prove (the existence of UFOs.) But I don't disbelieve it, either. I think it's something worth studying."

A chilling secret at Langley?

Is the Peninsula hiding a deep, dark secret? Is there something over there a bit more intriguing than Buckroe Beach, a dry dock or two in Newport News, Saturday night in Phoebus?

Writer and researcher Larry W. Bryant of Alexandria thinks so.

He was here not long ago, dropping hints about long-dead creatures from outer space packed in ice and hidden somewhere deep inside Langley Air Force Base in Hampton.

If it is true, here is the biggest news story since Burger King switched to Pepsi.

Bryant, director of the 5-year-old Citizens Against UFO Secrecy and a native of the Peninsula, has been making a pest of himself as far as the U.S. government is concerned. He recently sued the Air Force in federal court in Washington, D.C., demanding that the government surrender any and all extraterrestrials it has found in crash landings over the years.

While poking around Hampton, Bryant told me, "The Air Force quite literally has skeletons in its closet - the remains of UFO occupants retrieved over the past 37 years."

Nonsense, said a spokesman for the Air Force at Langley. Since 1948 the Air Force has investigated 12,618 sightings of UFOs and explained all but 701.

Bryant insists that the Air Force is stonewalling.

He said, "I'm waiting for somebody in the Air Force to come out of the closet and say, 'Hey, look. I'm tired of keeping this secret, and I want to share it with the world.' Langley Field has long been rumored as a way station for hardware



Larry Bonko

and bodies of creatures recovered from alien spacecraft."

Langley Field captured the interest of the Citizens Against UFO Secrecy three years ago when a book written by Charles Berlitz and William L. Moore ("The Roswell Incident," Grosset and Dunlap publishers) came out. The authors quote a former Air Force Officer who said he saw the remains of nine aliens at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio seven years ago.

On page 96 is written, "The nine deceased aliens were preserved under deep-freeze conditions in well-lighted, thick glass enclosures. The officer described the bodies as short in stature, about four feet in height and what appeared to be grayish skin. The officer had been informed that alien spacecraft were being kept at Wright-Patterson, McDill Air Force Base in Florida and Langley Field."

Creatures short in stature with grayish skin? Sounds like somebody's in-laws.

Bryant said he has a gut feeling that rumors of aliens in crash landings are true.

"I believe in the Langley connection," he said.

If you have any secrets to share with Bryant, write to him at 3518 Martha Custis Drive, Alexandria, Va. 22302.

Bryant would have us believe that the Air Force at Langley was keeping things - scary things - from as long ago as 1959. Maybe it is just a coincidence, but that was the year when a 15-year old schoolboy, Mark G. Muza, saw a flying saucer over Poquoson ("it hovered over my head") and fired two blasts from his 12-gauge shotgun into it.

Really? "Yes, I did," Muza said after I tracked him down in Newport News where he is a police detective. He remembers the UFO as a queer-looking thing with a black body and silver trim.

Muza never saw it again. He remembers the sighting as if it happened yesterday. "I have no idea what I saw," the man said.

Bryant asks, "Can you dismiss reports like that as a bunch of baloney?"

He calls the UFO cover-up bigger than Watergate.

"Give us bodies, give us hardware," he asks the Air Force.

Give us creatures.

The Air Force will never do that. Imagine the impact. *Creatures from outer space reach Earth!* The stock market would collapse. People would fall out into the streets in a panic. Children would sob. Women would faint. Men would run for the hills. And you would never be able to get a plumber when you need one.



"Aliens? What aliens?"

Woman believes she was stopped by UFO

By SCOTT ELLIOTT
Review Managing Editor

SEVEN POINTS - A Cedar Creek Lake Area woman claims to have been "stopped" by what she believes was an unidentified flying object (UFO) Friday night while driving on Hwy. 85, six miles west of here.

Carolyn Green, 35, reported to Seven Points police she and her seven-year-old son, Timothy, were "forced into a ditch" by some unknown entity about 8:15. They were coming back from Ennis where they had visited Ms. Green's uncle.

Ms. Green (address Rt. 2, Hwy 90, Mabank) told the Review she was later pulled over by a Seven Points patrolman and issued a speeding citation.

"(After the UFO incident) I found myself driving 75 miles per hour down the highway," she said. "I was in shock. The policeman pulled me over

and gave me a ticket. I told him what happened, but I don't think he believed me...just thought I was trying to get out of a ticket.

"I will be happy to pay the ticket," she added. "All that matters to me is that people believe I'm telling the truth. Both me and my son will be glad to take a polygraph test."

Ms. Green said she was driving about 55 mph when the "force" brought her 1979 Mercury to a halt in a roadside ditch.

"We were driving along and all of a sudden my lights began flashing off and on. Then something pulled me off the road...literally took control of the steering wheel," she said. "The car was literally driving itself. I tried to turn it around and couldn't."

Ms. Green said neither she nor her son saw anything until after the car had come to rest.

"Then we noticed some red, flashing

lights above us," she said. "It (the lights) kind of hovered over us then came right into the car. It lit up the whole car. My hair was standing on end. My son was frightened, asked, 'Mommy, what is it?' I didn't know."

Ms. Green says she doesn't know how long she and her son were in the ditch.

"It may have been a matter of seconds or minutes...I just don't know," she said. "All I am certain of is when I regained my senses, I found myself speeding down the highway."

Ms. Green, a mother of two and resident of the lake area for 10 years, says she doesn't expect anyone to believe her story but felt it was her duty to report it anyway.

"I've talked to police and you people (the newspaper), and I'm going to call the military next," she said. "I don't have any idea of what it (the force) was, but I think people should know

about it.

"I know folks are going to say I'm nuts," she added. "Nothing like this has ever happened to me before, and I never expected it to. I'm a law-abiding citizen. I wasn't drinking, and I don't fool around with drugs. I know what I saw, and my little boy knows what he saw. Maybe I could dismiss it (the force) as an airplane if my little boy hadn't been there with me to experience the whole thing, too. But his account of what happened is the same as mine, so I can't dismiss it. I think it was a UFO of some kind."

Betty Hill remembers

Her interest in UFOs continues unabated

"Suddenly the ship became a bright glowing object, and it appeared to roll like a ball turning over about three or four times and then sailing into the sky. In a moment it was gone... We got in the car and Barney started driving. He said nothing during this whole experience, so I turned to him and asked, 'Do you believe in flying saucers, now?' He replied, 'Don't be ridiculous.' Then we heard the beeping on the car again, and I thought, good luck, good bye, and I am going to forget about you. If you want me to forget, I will, and I will not talk." (An excerpt from the book "The Interrupted Journey," by John G. Fuller.

By DWIGHT ADAMS
Staff Writer

Well, Betty broke her promise and she did talk. Eighteen years ago, her story made front-page headlines throughout the world. Reporters came to visit her from London, Paris, Italy and Canada for interviews. Movie and television producers wanted to capture her experience on film. People still arrive at her doorstep unexpectedly.

Betty Hill of Portsmouth, a retired social worker with a master's degree from the University of New Hampshire, is considered by some people to be rather candid, even eccentric.

However, almost no one disputes her disarming honesty or sincerity about a subject which some folks doubt even exists. Betty, in fact, is an addicted UFO observer. That's right. She likes to look for Unidentified Flying Objects whirling through the night. (Remember to say UFO, for "flying saucers" will only provoke a cold shoulder from Betty.)

By her own admission, she is the resident expert on the subject, in an area of the country where many residents claim first-hand knowledge. Since 1965, Exeter, Kingston, Portsmouth and other areas of the state have been deluged with reported sightings of strange, unexplained aircraft. There's even a site in Elliot, Maine called "UFO Alley," where residents once lined up for weeks in their cars and pickup trucks, just to get a glimpse of the alien visitors.

"UFO's are around and to most people in New Hampshire they're accepted," says Betty. "We live in peaceful co-existence with them."

She adds that people here on the Seacoast know a great deal more about UFO's than anyone else she's met. That means a lot of people since Betty still lectures to audiences around the country about her personal experiences with UFO's — at a fee of \$1,000 plus expenses, arranged by her agent. Those trips usually include press conferences, and a stop by the local radio station for a chat with the talk-show host.

More recently, she appeared twice on "Lie Detector," the syndicated television show with famed-attorney F. Lee Bailey, to tell her story under the rigid analysis of a polygraph machine. Also Reader's Digest Condensed Books published a shortened version of her experience a few months ago.

Why are people interested in anything Betty Hill has to say? "I've been written up in just about everything. Ours is the first valid case of people being on board a UFO, of people actually having contact," she says.

It all began, with a week-long series of newspaper articles published in the Boston Traveler in October of 1965, and a subsequent book written in 1966 by John G. Fuller, a freelance writer, about Betty Hill's experience. The book, titled "The Interrupted Journey," is about Betty's and her husband, Barney's, capture and physical examination by alien beings.

On Sept. 19, 1961, Betty and Barney Hill were driving home, south on Route 3, after a vacation in Canada. On one section of the trip, about 35 miles between Indian Head and Ashland, New Hampshire, Betty and Barney couldn't remember anything about the drive; no landmarks, no people, no motels, nothing.

By the time they returned home, Betty says, they knew that something was wrong, something had happened to them, but they

couldn't remember what. The physical evidence was there. Betty's torn dress, with unexplained pink stains on it; scuff marks on Barney's shoes; strange, shiny circles on their car's trunk, which made a hand-held compass refuse to point and wristwatches that had stopped.

Four long years of anxiety about that night and dreams of UFOs were finally ended in 1965, when Betty and Barney, under the advice of friends, decided to see a Boston psychiatrist, Dr. Benjamin Simon. Under Simon's consultation, — using medical or deep hypnosis — Betty and Barney revealed a strange tale of being chased and later captured by aliens, from a spaceship.

"For a long time they just followed us. For one thing we kept stopping the car and looking at them," she says. She says the aliens were interested in capturing them, because they had such different physical appearances. Betty is white and her husband, Barney, who died in 1969, black.

ALIEN EXPERIMENTS

One of the experiments the aliens performed on Betty and Barney was to scrape off a few skin flakes, with a tool resembling a letter opener, she says. "Where else could they find two entirely different types of people? When a UFO captures a person, they want to do some kind of research on their own and they just grab somebody who is handy to do the testing on."

Betty says the leader and the examiner also spoke English to her, though in a foreign accent. She asked him after he led her into the ship, "What the hell do you want with me?" One of the reasons the alien spoke to her, she adds, was to reassure her that she wouldn't be harmed.

Aliens speaking to the people observing them is not that unusual, according to Betty. She theorizes that UFOs and their crews are assigned to different parts of Earth, where they learn the various languages and study native cultures.

One woman in Pennsylvania called Betty to tell her about a UFO that talked to her while she was driving her car and said what some people may consider to be the point; "You have great confusion in your government." Another man in South Carolina reported that a UFO had flown over him and remarked "Why do you kill your brothers?" However, the most universal question aliens ask, according to Betty, is "What time is it?"

Betty says her mother and sister in Kingston have also viewed many UFOs near there. In fact, back in 1967, when her sister told Betty and Barney that she had seen a spaceship, they didn't take her story that seriously.

Betty remembers back to the night she was captured and says she wasn't scared up until the last moments before being taken. "Then I really panicked, they had separated into two groups and surrounded the car... But by then, I never had a chance to run."

She also remembered an incident that proved to her, she says, that her experience really happened. One night at Dr. Simon's house, Barney, while under hypnosis, tried to rise from his chair and run as he was reenacting his resistance to being captured by the aliens. "But as he started to run, his legs just slipped out from under him and there wasn't anything on the floor. It was as if he had been tackled by someone."

ALIEN APPEARANCES

In the book "The Interrupted Journey," which has since been published in at least five languages, the Hills described the aliens as resembling, short, bald humans, with high foreheads, such as Mongoloid children often have. They also had large, "wrap-around" eyes; no ears; nostrils, but no noses and thin lips. Their skin was a bluish-grey, almost metallic in appearance and they had no noticeable hair. The leader, according to Betty, looks identical to a sculpture she keeps in the house — nicknamed Zeta Jr. — created by a friend from drawings Betty scribbled of the aliens.

Even though she believes in UFOs and her own experience, Betty says there are many people out there who are telling fanciful stories about being captured and taken on trips in spaceships, just to receive publicity. "I don't believe any of them," she remarks. Even so, she still scoffs

those "so-called experts" — including Carl Sagan, the well-known astronomer — who refuse to take the UFO phenomenon seriously.

SECRET LAUNCH PAD

Whatever their opinions, Betty isn't about to let the "debunkers" prevent her from enjoying her favorite hobby — watching and talking UFOs. Already she has taken color slides of more than 150 different spaceships at a secret launching pad near Exeter, she says. "Actually it's never bothered me a bit when people say they don't believe me. I'm not trying to prove anything. I don't know of anything in the world that everyone agrees on."

She says she has seen all types of spacecraft at her launch site: including mushroom shapes, hamburger shapes, cylinder-like UFOs with something resembling a sailboat keel underneath, and even ones that looked surprisingly like a house, with slanted sides. One of her favorites is a round ball, usually red, but sometimes green or other colors, that looks "as big as a full moon."

Betty remembers another incident where someone, besides the aliens, seemed concerned about their interracial marriage. Back in the mid-1960s, after her book was first published, several movie producers approached her about making a film of her adventure; under the condition that they would use either an all black or all white couple to play the Hills' parts.

"We said no way," Betty recalls. Instead, she waited until 1975, when another producer decided to cast James Earl Jones, a black actor, as Barney; and Estelle Parson, who is white, as herself. The television movie that resulted was called the "UFO Incident," and the producer flew Betty to New York for a private showing.

As far as later-day movie depictions of UFOs go, Betty says they aren't that accurate, especially their choices in alien characters. "Certainly they generate a lot of publicity about UFOs, but the aliens didn't look anything like those in 'Close Encounters' or 'ET'. They're different from us, but they're not that weird."

SIGHTING SUGGESTIONS

Betty has a simple suggestion for people who want to watch for UFOs, even though she won't describe the "secret signal" she uses to attract them at her launch site: first, understand the legal lighting of airplanes, so you know when you're not looking at one, and also make sure you bring binoculars. Otherwise, "Just watch the skies and check out every light you see — don't just assume it's a plane."

Even though she says UFOs also appear during the day, the best time to see them is at night, between 5 and 9 o'clock. Most of them are small, not at all like the huge, "mother ship" that starred in "Close Encounters." "If they were that big, everyone would know about them. They're sort of sneaky actually. Often they fly around with no lights on at all. And then they turn them on and there they are, right in front of you."

Times have changed a great deal from the 1940s, when people used to shoot at UFOs with their shotguns, says Betty. However, she adds that the human race's hostility has kept more UFOs from trying to make contact. To counter that, she believes that the friendly approach — is certainly the most diplomatic.

"There's always the possibility of interaction between the observer and the UFO. I always tell people in my lectures, when you see a UFO greet it and say 'Hi'. They do this and they often get a reaction. Then they call me and tell me all about it," she says with a laugh.

Even though UFOs are fascinating and seem to be at least as interested in us as we are in them, Betty cautions those who watch — not to get too close.

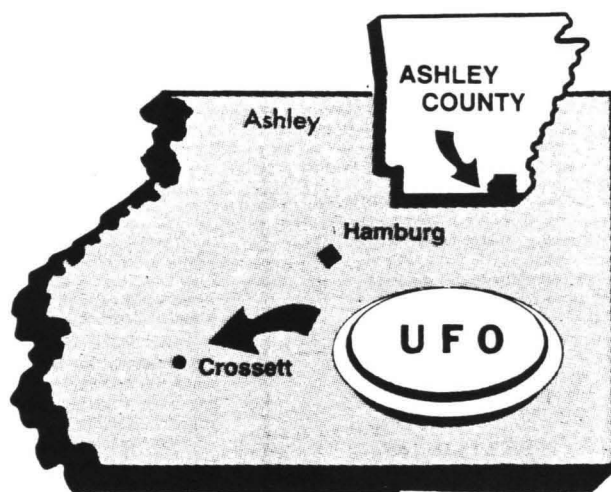
In Russia, which has documented at least three human kidnappings by UFOs, she says, three scientists thought they would walk up to a grounded UFO and examine it. When the first one got too close, he collapsed unconscious after being struck by a beam emanating from the craft. The others had to drag him away and he ended up in a hospital for a week after the incident.

She also told the story of three women from Lexington, Ky., who were captured by aliens and then tested for their resistance to pain. One died shortly after her release.

Even though she says she has had experiences with UFOs, including being chased in her car since her first incident back in 1961, Betty says the attention doesn't bother her at all. She does sometimes feel a strange mixture of curiosity and fright, however, when the UFOs approach too near. In fact, she still "takes off" and runs from them, at times.

"I don't think they'd capture me again. If I thought that, I'd never go out again," she says. "There's something about UFOs. You can watch them from a distance, but if they get within a certain limit you panic. You get nervous and very scared and you take off. I still have that reaction, even now."

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT, Little Rock, AR - Feb. 1, 1984



Radio newsman, others report UFO near Crossett

From Democrat News Services

CROSSETT — A UFO was sighted here by several people Tuesday.

Crossett radio station KAGH carried a report about the sighting when news director Charlie Parks saw what he described as a pale-green, flat, wingless object moving quickly from west to east across the morning sky.

Parks said several people

called the station to report seeing the same object.

Robert Gribble, a member of the staff at the UFO Reporting Center in Seattle, said in a telephone interview that his agency talked to two people about the sighting. The center tries to determine, he said, if the object spotted was an aircraft, astronomical occurrence or an unidentified object.

Space visitors are trying to guide us, expert says

By Jenny Abbe
Times staff writer

DANVILLE — "Across my vision flew a very large, beautiful, iridescent amber object. It was awesome, really."

Daniel Ross said he never thought much about space prior to Aug. 20, 1974.

That night, because a radio was left on, his indifference was transformed into an enduring fascination with the heavens.

He and hundreds of others in the vicinity of Glens Falls, N.Y. alerted by a radio talk show, saw what they believed to be a fleet of space vehicles.

Because the reports were confirmed by the Federal Aviation Administration, military authorities, local police, and radar operators from nearby airports, the incident is considered one of the best documented of UFO sightings.

"For many, including myself, there were no doubts," said Ross. "It was so impressive and so beautiful to see, I had to know, 'What's behind it?'"

So Ross founded the Public Interest Space Sciences Center, a clearinghouse of information on UFO research. He will bring his knowledge of the subject to Danville during the winter session of the San Ramon Valley Community Center in February.

In a class entitled "UFO's and the Evidence from Space," Ross will present a survey of recent and historical evidence of visitors from space, aided by slides and photographs from individuals and



Times photo/Ed Bell

Dan Ross says NASA has much extraterrestrial information that has not been made public.

from NASA's files.

Ross and his wife, Pam, who moved to Concord from the East Coast a year ago, took a serious interest in things extraterrestrial from that moment on.

Ross describes the class as a common sense and "down-to-earth" treatment of the subject of UFO's.

"This course does not deal with the fictional, strange or abstract," said Ross.

He and other of his colleagues in space research believe that much evidence that points to life on other planets has been kept from the public by the government.

"I'm not against NASA," said Ross, "but I have a little problem with them not bringing out all the information."

He referred to a book called "Moongate: Suppressed Findings of the U.S. Space Program" by William Brian, as an accurate survey on the subject, and another book in which a former senior technician on the Apollo spaceflight project describes numerous encounters with alien spacecraft.

Ross insists most astronauts follow a government rule preventing disclosure of such sightings "in the interest of national security," with the notable exception of former astronaut Gordon Cooper.

"Intelligent beings from other planets regularly visit our world in an effort to enter into contact with us," Cooper told a reporter in 1976. "I have encountered various ships during my space voyages. NASA and the American government know this and possess a great deal of evidence."

After working several years as a college administrator, Ross now devotes all his energy to space research.

In addition to teaching and lecturing, Ross is working on a "monumental effort" — a book he hopes will be "the last book on UFOs."

He said alien space activity right now is in very high gear, that about 50 sightings are reported each month in newspapers around the country. His task, he said, is to encourage public awareness.

"With each passing year, evidence substantially increases, but public interest and public knowledge is on the decrease," said Ross.

Ross said extraterrestrials have stepped up their appearances, "because of the situation we've put ourselves in."

In an all-out nuclear confrontation, said Ross, debris and radiation would go into space, "and effect their future also."

Their advanced technology and fine instrumentation enable the visitors to observe conditions on earth and "understand better than we do our own attitudes," according to Ross.

He said many may even pass undetected among the common people on Earth, "to try, in the best way possible to get people moving in the right direction."

The class will meet Feb. 14 and 21 at 7 p.m. at San Ramon Valley High School. For more information, call 837-8235.

Public Interest Space Sciences Center
P.O. Box 3033, Walnut Creek, Ca. 94598

IDAHO STATESMAN, Boise, ID - Jan. 22, 1984

Idaho 'flying saucer' sighter dies

A Meridian man who made the term "flying saucer" a household word died Monday in a Bellevue, Wash., hospital. He was 68.

Kenneth Arnold first reported seeing nine pulsating objects traveling at high speed on June 24, 1947, when he was flying over the Cascade Mountains while searching for a lost Marine Corps transport plane.

"They seemed to be alive in the center, to have the ability to change their density. I know that sounds strange," the Boise businessman told an *East Oregonian* reporter, Bill Bequette.

Mr. Arnold's obituary appears on Page 2C.

Mr. Arnold, who had flown more than 4,000 hours, said the unidentified flying objects were "like boats skipping over rough water." Describing his observation to Bequette, he said the objects traveled, "Well, like a saucer would if you tossed it across the water, as if you were skipping rocks or whatever."

Within days of Mr. Arnold's sighting of the "flying saucers," worldwide attention was focused on the quiet man from Meridian who made his livelihood selling automatic dry chemical fire extinguisher systems that he had invented. He continued his company, Great Western Engineering, until his death.

Following publicity from Mr. Arnold's experience, sightings of mysterious objects in the sky were reported throughout Washington and Oregon. A pastor said the sightings indicated the end of the world.

From 1947 to 1948, Mr. Arnold said he received more than 10,000 letters from people all over the world. In an interview in 1977, he said his wife and four daughters suffered from the intense publicity.

"I think I'm publicity-shy because . . . in the first place, almost everybody has been able to exploit this subject for profit," Mr. Arnold said. "I've earned a right to enjoy my independence, my privacy."

Mr. Arnold wrote two books on his experiences, titled *The Com-*

ing of the Saucers and The Flying Saucer as I Saw It.

A quote that Mr. Arnold often gave to those who badgered him with calls and visits was printed on a card:

"A great man is the unbelieving man; he is without spiritual sight or hearing; his glory is understanding his own understanding . . . why allow others to think for you? Stand on your own feet . . . Who but the Creator could have created so great a man as the believer?"

EAGLE, Reading, PA - Jan. 27, 1984 CR: S. Gordon



J. Earl Ruthardt
The Eagle

UFOs in Berks in 1983 all were explained

Several reports from Berks County about unidentified flying objects were received in 1983 by the Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained. Greensburg.

"We had a couple of reports from Berks County, but we were able to explain them," said Stan Gordon, who has been studying phenomena for 24 years as head of the association.

"One was a misidentification of the planet Venus, and we got several reports resulting from an advertising campaign in which a store used a searchlight and the beam reflected on a distant cloud."

In 1973, there were numerous reports from Berks about low level, large objects that were solid structures, he recalled. They were not explained.

GORDON, A RADIO communications specialist, said there was a lot of unusual activity in 1983 involving animals and UFOs in Pennsylvania.

The association is investigating Bigfoot reports in the Harrisburg area. Bigfoot is a supposedly hairy anthropoid.

From June through October, in the western part of the state, there was a massive wave of UFO reports, he said. "Many reports were explained as mis-

identifications of planets and stars," Gordon said.

However, many cases remain baffling, such as these:

At Greensburg, on Jan. 2, two men watched two, huge and hairy Bigfoot creatures in a field for 20 minutes.

On March 19, in Armstrong County, more than 20 persons saw a Bigfoot walk out of the woods. It came within 30 feet of some of the people. The police arrived shortly after and found the people extremely frightened.

ON OCT. 15, in Blair County, a woman driving on Route 220 encountered a large, silver object making a loud noise as it passed over her car and mysteriously lifted the car off the ground for several seconds.

The car wasn't damaged, but the woman's spine was injured. She also lost hearing in one ear and has constant headaches.

Over the years, Gordon and his volunteer group of physicians, engineers and assorted technicians have made casts of Bigfoot footprints, which they believe are genuine prints of some creature. They can tell a phony footprint from a real one.

Gordon hasn't seen a UFO, "But I've seen a number of alleged landing sites, depressions where UFOs were reported to have landed," he stated.

BIGFOOT AND UFOS seem to

have an "interconnection," Gordon noted.

"Energy seems to be the main key for phenomena appearing. Many Bigfoot and UFO sightings occur in areas near high-tension lines, radio towers, power plants, microwave towers, and other energy sources.

"We're dealing with some sort of phenomena that, under certain conditions, appears to become solid and later disappears."

Rumors from good sources, he said, say that a book to be published in the spring, "Clear Intent," allegedly will show that the government and military forces were deeply involved in monitoring UFOs up to early 1980.

Even though the Air Force "Project Bluebook" investigation of UFOs was said to have been abandoned in 1969.

"Certain groups obtained the data and reports in the book under the Freedom of Information Act," Gordon explained.

"I understand the reports were from the Central Intelligence Agency, the Army, the Air Force, the FBI, and other government agencies. It's going to cause an uproar."

"I also understand that the Pentagon is working on a UFO film documentary, which may be timed for release when the book comes out."



FOREIGN NEWS

NEWS, Farnborough, England - Nov. 4, 1983 CR: T. Good

Baffling bright lights

A FRECKLETON man claims to have had a close encounter with a couple of eerie UFOs recently.

And while Richard Iddon, of Further Ends Road, Freckleton, who often takes his dog for a walk down towards the Ribble along Green Lane, and is accustomed to low-flying aircraft from both British Aerospace and Squires Gate, was out the other night he saw two objects which stopped him in his tracks.

The first travelled slowly from North to South over the Ribble and the second from the East towards Lytham before disappearing in the distance.

Both were bright unflickering lights which Mr Iddon says made no noise.

He estimates they were about two miles up — much too low to be stars or anything of that nature.

"If there had only been one I would probably have forgotten about it," says 54-year-old Mr Iddon. "But as there were two I wondered if anyone else saw anything?"

Can anybody shed a light on this mystery?

Expert called in over UFOs

AN international expert on UFOs is to research claims by an Aldershot pensioner that he had a close encounter with men from outer space.

Mr. Timothy Good is one of Britain's leading authorities and foremost lecturers on the subject.

He has a specialised knowledge of cases involving reported contact with the occupants of UFOs — popularly known as close encounters of the third kind.

Mr. Good has written to 77-

year-old Mr. Alfred Burtoo to arrange a meeting in order to discuss his experience.

Mr. Burtoo, of Pegasus Avenue, Aldershot, claims he spoke to beings from outer space and boarded their flying saucer when it landed on the banks of the Basingstoke Canal near to the spot where he was fishing.

BECKONED

Local UFO experts are convinced his story is true.

Mr. Omar Fowler, of the Surrey Investigation Group on

Aerial Phenomena described Mr. Burtoo's sighting as the most sensational thing to happen in this area since he has been researching UFO sightings.

Mr. Burtoo was fishing with his dog Tiny near the Government Road bridge over the Basingstoke Canal in Aldershot at about 1.15 a.m. on August 12 when the flying saucer landed.

He said: "I went to have a look and two forms came towards me dressed in pale green suits. They were about 4ft. tall

and were wearing dark visors covering their faces."

He added: "One of them beckoned me and I followed them to the steps."

Mr. Burtoo climbed aboard the spaceship and was asked to stand under an amber light.

CONSULTANT

He said: "Then they told me I could go because I was too old and infirm for their purpose."

Mr. Good said: "This seems to be an important case and I would like to meet Mr. Burtoo for an informal talk."

Mr. Good, who lives in Beckenham, Kent, first became interested in UFOs in 1955.

He began his own independent research into the subject in 1961 and since 1967 has lectured throughout the United Kingdom.

In 1980 he addressed the House of Lords all-party UFO study group and has since become one of its principal consultants.

Mr. Good has appeared on numerous TV and radio programmes and has acted as consultant to BBC TV for both documentary and science fiction films.

EVENING ECHO, Southend, England - Nov. 15, 1983

UFO—or pie in the sky?

A UFO mystery has started after reports of a green glowing sphere in the sky above Southend.

The glowing object was first seen by a milkman. His sighting was confirmed by stunned crew members of two ships. Coastguards as far away as Brighton and Dover also received reports about the mystery object.

John Rendle, 36, of Ruskin Avenue, Southend, was driving to work to start his milk round when he saw the huge green light above Sutton Road.

He said: "I was really shaken, but I saw what I saw and I was amazed."

"I have no idea what it was."

Mr Rendle said the object appeared to be

travelling very fast at about 150 to 200 feet, but there was no engine noise.

It was heading from Shoebury towards Canvey. But the Defence Ministry at Shoebury say the object had nothing to do with them. Their first weather balloon was not launched until four hours after the sighting.

The ball was next seen by ships in the Thames and reported to Thames coastguard.

A coastguard spokesman said: "At 4.55 am we got a report from the Alison Theresa and it said a quite large green light, definitely not a flare, passed in front of him."

"He said, 'It was very weird. I do not like to say it, but UFOs come to mind'."

NORTHUMBERLAND GAZETTE, Alnwick, England - Nov. 11, 1983

UFO debate— an answer

A FORMER RAF man has joined the debate on the mystery object seen in the night sky over Northumberland.

Many people have described the brightly lit, slow moving body since a sighting was reported in the Gazette two weeks ago. But last week RAF Boulmer denied all knowledge of the object which was seen passing over the air base on its way north.

A Boulmer farmer believed it was two aircraft refuelling and his theory has been backed by former RAF Regiment member Mr Jim Turnbull, of St. Lawrence Avenue, Amble.

He was on his way to work as a night patrolman at Acklington Prison when he saw the lights.

At first he thought it was Venus but then recognised it as a KC 135 in a refuelling operation with a huge aircraft — probably a Galaxy, or possibly a Starlifter or B52. He has seen the same thing a number

of times in recent years.

The aircraft would be flying relatively slowly at between 10,000 and 12,000 feet, he estimates. He could not hear the engines because of noisy machinery on the nearby opencast site.

Mr Turnbull says the bright white lights are used in night refuelling and there would be red lights on the wings.

He wishes it had been a "close encounter," says Mr Turnbull, who is convinced of the existence of extra-terrestrial visitors.

He says he has seen unexplained objects in the past and spoken to two pilots shaken by sightings. "I would have loved to believe it was a UFO — there are definitely things up there."

EVENING TELEGRAPH, Northamptonshire, England - Nov. 17, 1983

Fly-by-nights?

W A PAYNE says the existence of UFOs is "very improbable". That is not a categorical denial — as neither of us can prove one way or another that they do not exist.

Why limit our minds to our planets and solar systems? If UFOs exist — and history supports this — their science would be so advanced that we have not the comprehension or logic to really understand it.

I cannot put UFOs and the Loch Ness Monster in the same category. Locally, we only need to go as far as Weldon where a few years back separate witnesses described their experiences of UFOs.

Neither Mr Payne nor I can prove or disprove anything, but I always keep my options open.

DEREK BRADSHAW

12 Lyveden Place, Kettering.

I WISH to comment on the letter by W A Payne concerning his sceptical view on UFOs (ET Nov 9).

As a firm believer in UFOs I strongly disagree with the views of Mr Payne. To another planet with life, we are viewed as UFO objects, espe-

cially our spacecraft, rockets and high flying planes. We know we exist, that there are other planets and we could be watched, in the same way as we watch them.

Personal observations over many years and strange happenings have put no doubt in my mind that alien intelligence is now infiltrating at a steady rate.

From a logical point of view, the existence of UFOs is very probable. Only this year a strange object, viewed by a Wellingborough engine driver and myself, descended near disused ironstone workings near Sidegate Lane, Wellingborough.

Visual electrical energy could be seen coming from the craft, as it landed with bright blue flashes.

Yes, I am convinced UFOs do exist and I am 100 per cent in disagreement with Mr Payne and his views.

Perhaps his UFO sighting is just around the corner.

NEIL HAMMOND

6 Barringer Gardens, Irchester.

■ SID SAYS: Anyone else seen a UFO locally?

RAND DAILY MAIL, Johannesburg, South Africa - Nov. 9, 1983 CR: C. Hind



Riaan van der Merwe's sketch of the triangular object sighted over Johannesburg last night.

Latest UFO spaces Vans out

Mail Reporter

A JOHANNESBURG family watched enthralled last night as a triangular-shaped UFO droned low over their home.

Mrs Yvette van der Merwe, and her children, Riaan, 16, and Ulanova, 11, of Johannes Street, Fairlands, said it was "the sight of a lifetime".

"I was in the kitchen when I

heard a strange noise. Then I saw a very bright light," said Mrs Van der Merwe last night.

"I called the children, and we watched from the kitchen doorway as a triangular shaped object, about 8m long, droned low overhead."

"It crossed over our house from east to west."

Riaan van der Merwe made a

drawing of the object.

The Van der Merwes thought at first that the apparition was a meteorite.

Last night officials at Jan Smuts Airport said that no objects had been sighted on radar.

This is the second unidentified flying object to have crossed the Johannesburg sky over the past few months.

PRESS, Timmins, Ontario, Canada - Nov. 4, 1983

UFO mystery solved...or is it?

MATHESON (Staff) — A temperature inversion that caused a three degree jump the morning several people claimed to have seen an unidentified flying object could have been caused by the movement of clouds, a weather bureau spokesman said.

Those who reported the sighting, however, maintain what they saw was not moving clouds.

The weather spokesman said between 6 a.m. and 7 a.m. Oct. 11, when the UFO was sighted, the temperature jumped from close to zero to 3°C.

He said the raise in temperature is unusual when the sun is not yet up, but the change could have been caused by 5-10 mph winds moving

scattered clouds 2,000 feet above the ground.

But Matheson Ontario Provincial Police officer Bob Johnson, who was near Cochrane when he spotted something in the early morning sky said what he saw wasn't cloud cover.

"There was something there," he said. "It wasn't clouds, there was a mass."

Marcel Tremblay, of Matheson, was hunting the morning of Oct. 11 when he saw something moving slowly in the sky.

"I thought it was a plane that had come in low and was crashing," he said. "There was a mass and lights."

"It wasn't my imagination," Tremblay said. "It was definitely something."

WEST LANCASHIRE EVENING GAZETTE, Blackpool, England - Nov. 4, 1983

Those mystery lights...

READER Richard Iddon was not alone when he saw two strange objects over the River Ribble the other night.

Mr Iddon, of Further Ends Road, Freckleton, stopped in his tracks along Green Lane when he saw two bright unflickering lights. One travelled slowly from North to South over the Ribble and the second from the East towards Lytham.

The experience was shared by a Lytham woman whose home overlooks the Ribble and saw the strange lights on two separate nights.

Yet another sighting was made by Pleasure Beach employee Linda Pugh, 24.

"It was relatively low, had lights on top and underneath and moved pretty fast. In half an hour I saw it three times. Did anyone else?" asks Linda, of Park Lane, Preesall.

BUG-EYED ALIEN MEETS AIR CHIEF

E.T. just wants to ban the bomb

LONDON, Sun. — The subject of UFOs is about to create a storm in Britain's august House of Lords.

Today Lord Clancarty, chairman of the Lords' UFO study group, called for urgent debate on what he claimed were attempts by the occupants of flying saucers to stop a nuclear war on Earth.

"They would be very worried about what's going on here," he said.

"It's quite possible they're warning us not to press the nuclear button. The cover-up must end."

"It's time Whitehall came clean and admitted what they know about UFOs and landings in Britain."

A member of the House of Commons Defence Committee, Sir Patrick Wall, backed Lord Clancarty, saying: "The theory about aliens trying to warn us seems feasible to me."

"And, if that's the case then we should listen to them."

— GARY HUGHES

CR: P. Norman

From BOB SMITH in New York

AMAZING new facts about the night a UFO came to Britain have been revealed by the U.S. airman who saw the craft land.

The secrets were locked away in 22-year-old Art Wallace's mind. But following hypnosis, he has now given us:

● A full description of the aliens who manned the ship;

● Details of how a senior American officer actually communicated with one of the beings;

● Evidence that the U.S. Air Force may have helped repair the damaged craft.

The UFO landed near the American base at RAF Woodbridge, Suffolk, in December 1960.

But the close encounter was kept secret—until last month when the massive cover-up was exposed by the News of the World.

Since Wallace—now a civilian back in the US—revealed to us what he saw that terrifying night, his life has been threatened.

Recently, he received a



phone call at his home and an unidentified man told him: "If you don't shut your mouth then it will be shut for you."

This follows a frightening meeting he had with several men he believes were from the CIA, during which he was warned that "bullets are cheap."

During his session with two top hypnotists, Wallace this is not his real name—not only confirmed his original story but made some astonishing new revelations.

SKIN

He now says he remembers seeing a face-to-face meeting between one of the aliens and the officer who was in charge of the U.S. base.

The alien was between three and four feet tall, with a very large head and huge saucer-like eyes that grew much larger every so often.

It appeared to have greyish skin and was wearing what looked like a dark jumpsuit and the outline of its figure glowed.

Wallace was unable to hear any voices as Wing Commander, now Brigadier General, Gordon



ALIEN: Artist's impression

Williams and the being communicated with much hand waving and pointing at the strange triangular craft.

He said the four aliens appeared to be floating just above the surface of the ground and, at one point, became alarmed and formed themselves into a defensive line.

One of them floated over the UFO near to where Wallace was standing and he blacked out. The next thing he remembers, he was back in his barracks.

Wallace believes the craft needed repairs after hitting a tree.

CRAFT

He was told later by some of his pilots on the base that a U.S. transport plane flew in from Germany just hours after the UFO landed, and was immediately surrounded by armed military police.

A package from the plane was put in a jeep which then drove off towards the landing site at Tangham Wood. Later that day, the craft was gone.

The base's deputy commander Lt-Colonel Charles Hall, admits there is "one hell of a lot more" to come out.

Road to mystery

A NIGHT out at bingo ended in a chilling encounter with a UFO for three women and a schoolgirl last week.

As they drove home to Rippington, Lincolnshire, they spotted a strange light in a field.

"We stopped and got out

of the car and stood there flabbergasted," said Mrs Jenny Clarke, 31.

"This object was literally dormant in the sky—it didn't move or anything."

"Then all of a sudden it started its engines and circled round us, before going away into the distance."

PORTSMOUTH NEWS, Hants., England - Nov. 5, 1983

Seen a U.F.O? Contact Chris

A WIDLEY man wants to start a UFO group in the Portsmouth area to investigate what he claims is a recent increase in mystery objects in the sky.

Mr. Christopher Harrison, of Devereil Place, hopes to hear from people who believe in UFOs and from other people who have witnessed strange phenomenon but are too embarrassed to admit it.

For the past three Sundays, at exactly 10 p.m., Mr. Harrison has seen a glowing round object pass overhead and disappear in the direction of Portsmouth.

"The craft or object was smaller than a small private aeroplane. The object itself was illuminated with a whitish light, and there was a slight glow around it. There were no flashing lights."

"It moved more slowly than a normal aircraft and was completely silent. Its height was about 2,000 to 3,000ft."

Mr. Harrison said he watched the object travel southwards from the direction of Butser Hill. It did not speed up, but it disappeared in the mist before he had the chance to use his binoculars.

He is interested in astronomy and "ufology" and has made a study of previous sightings in the Portsmouth area.

"I have made several previous sightings myself and in the past I have had witnesses with me. On these last three Sundays I was alone and I hope to hear from anyone who saw the same objects."

Mr. Harrison's telephone number is Cosham 381305.

STAR, Auckland, New Zealand - Nov. 22, 1983 CR: R. Collyns

Television today

Dogon find Dog Star

Now it's topic for a series

The science fact/fiction theme of new TVNZ drama *Children of the Dog Star* is not alien to producer Caterina De Nave.

De Nave is a former archaeologist and sci-fi film lover with a long interest in the work of alien astronaut theorist Erich von Daniken.

De Nave says *Dog Star* is based on an old legend of the Dogon people from Africa.

Through communica-

tion with their gods the Dogon could name the density and orbit of Sirius B (the Dog Star) centuries before white men discovered it in 1950.

This African oddity has been switched around for television consumption. The Ken Catran script goes that 7000 years ago Dog Starians sent three computer problems out here to teach earthlings how to live.

Two returned, but one got stuck in a South Auckland swamp. Enter young Gretchen who is holidaying with her aunt and uncle on their farmlet. She discovers a mysterious weather vane on the barn, dug up from the swamp years before. . . . So goes the tale which

De Nave says isn't as silly as some science fiction sounds.

The story is rooted in fact.

"There is evidence that extra-terrestrial beings exist—from von Daniken books such as *Chariots of the Gods* and from legends found in Africa, the Middle East and South America. This will give the series a more realistic dimension," she said.

De Nave began thinking about pre-history and understanding the sophistication of non- and pre-Western civilisations, while she was digging up bones and pots as an archaeologist in Western Samoa.

She started out as a primary school teacher in

Parnell, switched to archaeology, picked up master of arts degree in political studies along the way and got her big break in film-making with the help of Jack George of *Skycrane* fame.

Since then De Nave has worked for *Play School*, *Spot On*, *Close to Home*, directed two documentary dramas for the *Pioneer Women* series, *Nurse Maude* and *Ellen Anne Hewitt*, and has just completed a seven and a half hour drama series called *The Principal* for TVNZ.

Since arriving in Auckland three weeks ago De Nave has been deep in production meetings with director Chris Bailey (producer of *Both Sides of the Fence*) and the people

from the special effects crew.

De Nave says that while TVNZ drama hasn't got a big glossy bag of tricks like United States sci-fi films, *Dog Star* will employ very sophisticated and inventive special effects.

However, she refused to reveal the aliens' personalities or their *Dog Star* outfits.

"All I'll say is that they are not threatening and that they know their onions."

Casting for the three child roles and 10 grown up parts in the kiddult drama has yet to be completed.

Filming will begin in February and *Children of the Dog Star* should screen mid-1984.

DORSET EVENING ECHO, Weymouth, England - Dec. 22, 1983

'U.F.O.' SIGHTED

Something resembling U.F.O. which appeared to be burning out on re-entry, was spotted by man at Ferrybridge, Wyke Regis, yesterday afternoon. The man, who was returning to Weymouth Underwater Weapons Establishment at Portland, where he works, said he made sighting at 4.45 p.m., and added that object was travelling from east to west with flames shooting from it. It appeared to go down in Lyme Bay. A spokesman in operations room at Portland Naval Base said today there was great deal of lightning activity at time man reported sighting, but no reports had been received of anything unusual.

UFO turns up again

WHEN regular Mems reader Mr Edward Tuck saw my report of a UFO photographed from a plane above Scarborough, he tells me his immediate reaction was: "I've got one of those!"

He believes the strange object snapped by Mr John Temlett 2,500 ft up could be similar to this one he photographed over Lake Windermere in 1976.

Mr Tuck (67), of Sandybed Court, Scarborough, was working in the Lake District.

"Before I got my camera out it looked like a cross — that's what made me get my camera out. I've had it under a magnifying glass, but I can't focus on what it is."

Mr Tuck has been a keen amateur photographer ever since he saw the scenery of Scotland.



BULLETIN, Townsville, Queensland, Australia - Nov. 26, 1983 CR: P. Norman



UFO watcher Mrs Claire Noble ... has theories about visitors from outer space.

UFOs haunt Tully

TULLY is still a favourite haunt for Unidentified Flying Objects, according to a Tully woman.

Mrs Claire Noble said in Townsville yesterday that she became interested in UFOs after an unusually large number of sightings were reported after 1965.

In particular, one farmer's experience in 1966 put Tully on the map as possibly the most popular spot in Australia for UFO spotting.

After a flurry of sightings in the '60s, they returned in force in the early 1970s, Mrs Noble said.

Now they are back, with two or three reported sightings each month this year.

Since 1965, Mrs Noble, a housewife when she is not studying UFOs, has been deeply involved in reporting the large number of sightings to UFO societies in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane.

She has her theories as to why Tully should be so popular with craft, presumably from outer space.

One is that such craft draw from a power supply in the earth's crust which for one reason or another is accessible to them in the Tully region.

In 1965, a farmer, Mr George Pedley, was working on his tractor when he thought he heard air escaping from the tractor tyres.

When he looked up, he saw a spacecraft taking off from close to Horse-shoe Lagoon.

When the lagoon was checked, an area 13m across bore marks of strange happenings — all the bullrushes in 2m of water had been forced in a clockwise circle.

And while evidence of that take-off was being examined, UFO experts discovered what appeared to be marks from a previous landing.

"I have made many sightings myself," Mrs Noble said.

"I report the ones which are reported to me, but there are many

probably not being reported."

Mrs Noble said sightings reported to the RAAF tended not to be heard of again.

"They take the reports, but for various reasons they are not passed on to us," she said.

Mrs Noble said she would be happy to hear from anyone who made a UFO sighting, especially in the Tully area.

"I want to let people know that the UFOs are still appearing in Tully," she said.

One craft which had appeared more than once was pencil or torpedo-shaped and flew low to the ground.

Mrs Noble said the craft were deliberately watching Earth.

"They are bothered at what is going on with bombs here," she said.

NORTH DEVON JOURNAL, Barnstaple, Devon, England - Dec. 8, 1983

Sky lit up by UFOs

UFO sightings have been reported from Filleigh this week.

Several children say they have seen strange flashing lights coming from a moving flying object.

They claim that it was travelling at "tremendous speed, faster than an aeroplane, and making a whizzing sound." There is parental support for the evidence.

One sighting at 8.30 p.m. was near to Aller Cross when two mothers were taking their children home from a cubs' meeting.

The lights went red, orange, and blue, followed by a big white explosion of light.

This kept on happening. The objects moved in half-loops in slow succession.

Breakfast sighting

Another sighting happened at 8.15 a.m. the next day.

It was reported by a child near West Buckland who knew nothing of the previous sighting.

His friend also watched with him as they waited for the school bus.

They claim the object was as big as the school playground. They also saw colour flashes of light.

Those reporting sightings were Anna Pawlyn and her son David, Caroline Keane and her son Simon, Clive Hussell, Neil Bowler and Glen Davey.

'Track the UFOs' says vicar

BY DAVID CHADWICK

Space, that final frontier, and outer limit of a twilight zone which may be populated by extra terrestrials, holds many unearthly secrets.

And it is such inter-galactic mysteries which an Oxfordshire clergyman is trying to probe — and he has appealed to Banbury Guardian readers for aid in an investigation into the UFO phenomenon.

It may sound like something out of a space-age comic book, or an episode from Gerry Anderson's UFO television series, but the Rev Donald Thomas, of the Rectory, Long Hanborough, is serious about his investigations.

He is asking Banbury area to people who spot possible UFOs or ETs to "phone him, rather than phone home," with details of the sightings, such as where the object was seen, when and what it looked like. He can be contacted by telephone on Freeland (0993) 881270, or by letter.

CYCLES

For he is convinced visitors from other parts of the galaxy visit planet earth in four yearly cycles and believes October this year may have been a period of increased UFO-related activity.

Part of the UFO mystery lay in the apparent cycles, or frequency with which UFO sighting reports built up.

"From the peak of 24 provincial newspaper reports focussed on just one day, October 26, 1967 — to a similar, but much smaller peak in the latter part of October 1971, as reported in the Banbury Guardian, the four year cycle would have appeared to have continued up to October 1975."

"It would be interesting to discover whether October 1983 has produced anything at all in the way of authentic sightings, since little, or nothing of note has been reported for a very long time," he said.

The last time any extra-

terrestrial, or UFO activity took place in Banbury and district was way back in October 1971, when the Banbury Guardian reported a spate of inexplicable aerial sightings.

There were so many that the Banbury Guardian's lead story on October 28, reported the Ministry of Defence was to investigate the flood of UFO reports in this area, during the previous few weeks.

The question which now remains is: was October this year of similar UFO vintage to the same month 12 years ago, with its plethora of unearthly goings on in the heavens?

GUARDIAN, Banbury, England - Nov. 10, 1983

Close encounter over in seconds

A BURST of flame, a bright light, low in the early morning sky which then shot over the horizon trailing green flame ... in seconds Terry Coleman's close encounter of the third kind was over.

He pulled over, a strange smell seemingly coming from his car. "I wound the window down and the smell was definitely in the air outside," said Terry. "It was sort of sulphury."

Milkman Terry was on his way to work in St. Albans at 5 am on Tuesday morning, travelling along the A509 between Olney and the M1.

"I thought it might have been a shooting star but it was too low," said Terry, of Whitsundeale Close, Finedon.

"It was a burst of flame then it shot across the sky trailing a green flame. It was definitely arcing. I thought it was coming down. It was so much lower than the stars."

"I thought, if I put my foot down, I am going to see where it lands." But Terry lost his UFO, when it disappeared over the horizon. "It all happened so quickly. There was no shape to it or anything."

"I'm not interested in UFOs but I was quite excited. The way it was going, someone else must have seen it, I feel sure."

Mr. David Abbott (39) a UFO Investigator and former chairman of the Northants UFO Research Group, said: "My first reaction is always to look for a possible sensible explanation."

"I have got no immediate answer as to what Mr. Coleman saw."

CHRONICLE & ECHO, Northampton, England - Nov. 18, 1983

Close encounters of the Norwood kind

IT MAY be reassuring to some that the Norwood skies are not cluttered up with strange flashing lights, flying saucers and little green men.

But Pam Kennedy of Vermont Road, Upper Norwood, has been hoping for 30 years to get a glimpse of a UFO.

For the past five years she has been the membership secretary of the 300 strong British UFO Research Association.

She has never come face to face with an extra terrestrial, and is not sure how she would react if she did.

"In the early days I would

have rushed over to have a look, but now I would be more cautious, I'd hide behind a tree and see what came out first. I would probably think what the Dickens do we talk about, if we do talk."

Destination

The most recent South London UFO sighting reported to the Association was in Morden at 5.30 am.

Whether Morden is a likely destination for intergalactic travellers is anyone's guess.

On this occasion a mother and daughter saw a tremendous white light in the sky, and three other white lights emerged from it.

"They stood and watched it cavorting around for about an hour. Then two jet planes roared over their house, as if investigating," Pam said.

The British UFO Research Association has its own investigators who carefully look into reported sightings.

Often they can be put down to things like satellites, unusual effects caused by moonlight through clouds, and apparently Venus is quite frequently mistaken for a flying saucer.

Pam Kennedy's interest started back in 1953 when she read magazine excerpts from a book called 'Flying Saucers Have Landed' whose effect, she says, was electrifying. It was written by George Adamski, who had been taken up in a spaceship after meeting some extra-terrestrials in California.

Soon after, she went to a meeting of a flying saucer club in a room over a pub in Hampstead, and was hooked.

"In those days you were very careful who you told that you were interested in flying saucers. But over the years it

has become a respectable subject. Today it is being investigated by scientific types all over the world."

She is not at all bothered by those who can't take it seriously. "They're entitled to their opinion. My friends sometimes say 'you're not still interested in that rubbish'."

'Batty'

And she says that aficionados do include the 'batty types.'

One stumbling block is the theory that nothing can travel faster than the speed of light.

"They say it's not possible to do all that travelling, it would take them too long to get here. But in so many things with science, they have said such and such a thing is certain, and then 50 years later reverse their opinions. You just have to keep an open mind."

Interest in UFOs has led to interest in other subjects, ranging from astrology to ley lines. She also enjoys science fiction - "not too way out, like bug-eyed monsters," and



Pam Kennedy

sci-fi films.

She liked 'Close Encounters of the Third Kind' but added: "I didn't like the creatures that got out of the space craft because they reminded me of worms."

UFO believers must obviously consist of all sorts. Miss

Kennedy to an outsider would seem just as much at home in the WI as the UFO Association.

She hasn't given up hope of her own sighting. "I still plod on. It's a very frustrating subject. Sometimes you get sick of it, but you can't leave it alone."

KUWAIT TIMES, Kuwait, Kuwait - Dec. 14, 1983

Safe landing

Beijing, Tues. — A Chinese military plane landed safely after a mysterious falling object lopped its tail off in mid-air, a Canton newspaper reported.

The Yangcheng Evening News said the incident happened last month when the aircraft was flying at 11,000 metres above northern China. — Reuter

ALDERSHOT NEWS, Hants., England - Nov. 25, 1983 CR: T. Good

UFO EXPERT SAYS: ALF IS TELLING THE TRUTH



UFO expert Mr. Good chats with Mr. Burtoo at the pensioner's home.

AN international UFO expert has visited the spot where an Aldershot pensioner claimed he had a close encounter with men from outer space.

And now Mr. Timothy Good, Britain's leading lecturer on the subject, is convinced the story is absolutely true.

Mr. Good, an independent researcher, wrote and arranged a meeting with 77-year-old Mr. Alfred Burtoo after the "News" reported his experience.

He claimed he spoke to beings from outer space and boarded their flying saucer when it landed on the banks of the Basingstoke Canal, near to where he was fishing.

Mr. Good has a specialised knowledge of cases involving reported contact with the occupants of UFO — popularly known as close encounters of the third kind.

Consultant

And he said of Mr. Burtoo's story: "It is a very important case and quite exciting. I am convinced he is telling the truth and he was a genuine experience."

Mr. Good, who is a principal consultant to the House of Lords all-party UFO study group, spent a couple of hours talking to Mr. Burtoo at his home in Pegasus Avenue, Aldershot.

The pensioner was over the moon to have an expert ear to listen to his story and was more than happy to once again go through the events of August 12.

That night he was fishing with his dog Tiny near the

Government Road bridge over the Basingstoke Canal in Aldershot. He said the flying saucer landed at about 1.15 a.m.

He said two forms, about 4ft. tall and dressed in pale green suits, came towards him. Dark visors covered their faces. One of the forms beckoned to him and he followed them to the steps of the spaceship and climbed aboard.

Once inside he was asked to stand under an amber light and was then told: "You can

go. You are too old and too infirm for our purpose."

After hearing the story Mr. Good said there were many similarities between Mr. Burtoo's experience and other cases he had investigated.

Cases

"It strikes me that Mr. Burtoo could not have known many of the things he has told me. From the outset of the description of the craft to the occupants themselves there are

similarities with lots of other experiences."

Mr. Good, who lives in Beckenham, Kent, first became interested in UFOs in 1955.

He began his own research into the subject six years later and since 1967 has lectured throughout the United Kingdom.

He believes there are different groups of beings visiting this planet from other solar systems and documented sightings go back as far as 1955.

Many UFOs have been seen above military establishments

and he says that could be the reason why the craft seen by Mr. Burtoo was in Aldershot that night.

Mr. Good praised the pensioner for speaking out about his experience. He said many people were afraid of talking about UFO sightings for fear of ridicule.

He added that he would now be using Mr. Burtoo's experience in his lectures and discussing the case with other researchers.

Return of the UFOs

FOUR people claimed this week that they had seen "UFOs" over the town, but refused to give their names for fear of ridicule. They are the first "sightings" for three years.

A 25-year-old Chobham rugby player claims he was driving home on Saturday at about 5.15 p.m. along Woodham Lane after a match and saw a red light which sped overhead and appeared to fall on to the West Byfleet Golf Club.

"It was much larger than an aircraft and I braced myself for the sound of a crash, but nothing happened."

A second witness, aged 26, who lives on Constitution Hill, claims he saw the same object but in more detail.

"I noticed what seemed to be a light aircraft crashing down over Woking Park. I realised it wasn't because the shape was more of a triangle and it glowed redly orange," he said.

His father, a headmaster living in Pyrford, claims to have seen the same thing while driving through West Byfleet.

The men think it may have been satellite debris which developed a fluorescent effect as it burnt up in the atmosphere.

An 18-year-old girl student told of a second "sighting" on Monday.

"It was about 7.40 p.m. when I stopped my car to watch three bright lights in a perfect triangle hovering over the Manor Farm Estate market garden at Byfleet."

"They remained over the Wisley woods and then moved to the left, dissolving slowly until they disappeared. Two minutes later three more lights rose out of the trees, one became brighter and two others glittered to form the shape of a really huge triangle."

WOKING NEWS, Surrey, England - Jan. 19, 1984 CR: T. Good

UFO!

Western Australians have reported more than 10,000 UFO sightings in the past four years. Most of these have been accounted for, but some, despite thorough investigation, cannot be explained. Here we recall some of the UFO mysteries which have baffled authorities in WA.

FRANCIS COLLINS could be forgiven for thinking she had awoken into a nightmare.

No sooner had the 34-year-old Esperance shop-owner been shaken out of her sleep than she was filled with fear.

Mrs Collins was roused by her terrified friend, potter Maggie Yeend, who was at the wheel of her van gazing at a bright object in the night sky immediately in front of them.

A brilliant ball of light hung in the air ahead of the car. It was only a short distance away — perhaps 200m — in line with the path of their car.

It glowed an orange-red color against the dark and looked semi-circular in shape.

The object loomed menacingly in front of them, although the women heard no sound over the van's engine, and appeared to be moving at the same speed as the van.

The women stared at the object, hearts pounding. Maggie pressed harder on the accelerator, but found

By JIM POLLARD

that the van would not go any faster than 80kmh. It was normally capable of doing up to 110kmh.

It was just after 3am. The two women had not long left Munglinup to drive home to Esperance — a 100km stretch — and on this morning, March 28, 1982, the South Coast Highway must have seemed the loneliest road in the world.

Frightened

"When it first appeared I was astonished," Mrs Yeend, 42, said later. "I could not believe my eyes. I woke up Francis and for 20 minutes we were frightened stiff. Gradually, we began to think the UFO meant us no harm."

"It wasn't a star or the moon, and it definitely wasn't Venus. It remained stationary while we looked ..."

WA sightings baffle experts



The chairman of the WA UFO Investigation Centre, Mr Mike Borley with a picture of a UFO sighting in Arizona.

"It went from one side of the road to the other on occasions and we could see other lights underneath it."

"Once it seemed to bank right and turn around, but there was no sound. It looked about the size of a small helicopter."

"A truck approached us and the UFO emitted some kind of spray or mist from the back, then sped away

into the sky. It returned soon after the truck had gone, and followed us the entire way to Esperance."

On reaching the town the two women drove straight to the home of an off-duty policeman and reported the incident.

Constable I. Gordon, 28, said afterwards he was woken just before 4am by Mrs Collins,

who was "in a terrified state".

"She said she and her friend had been followed by a UFO, which was then hovering over the bay, so we went outside," Constable Gordon reported.

"About 1km out and 2km up from the horizon was a bright object. It wasn't a star or the moon and definitely wasn't Venus. It remained stationary

there the whole time we looked at it, but disappeared soon after."

That incident is WA's most startling UFO sighting. Eyewitness reports from both women and the policeman were later supported by two kangaroo shooters, a truckdriver and other motorists who said they also saw the mystery craft near Esperance that day.

For the WA UFO Investigation Centre it is just one (albeit the most impressive) of a number of UFO sightings in WA which cannot be explained. WAUFOIC chairman, Mr Mike Borley, who is perhaps the State's foremost UFO investigator, said the Esperance sighting occurred when there were no aircraft near the town.



A picture taken through a magnifying glass by an amateur photographer at Bentley in 1980.

"March 28 was also a night of perfect visibility," Mr Borley said. "It was fine and there were no clouds." Weather and aircraft play a key role in Mr Borley's favorite pastime — investigating UFOs — because they help explain so many UFO reports.

"We account for more than 90 per cent of sightings," Mr Borley said, "either as aircraft, planets, satellites or meteorological phenomena."

Unexplained

That is gratifying news, because Western Australians have reported more than 10,000 unidentified flying objects in the past six years.

"Despite thorough investigation several dozen cases remain unexplained," Mr Borley said.

"We check airports, the Department of Aviation, Bickley Observatory, the Bureau of Meteorology and local police for every

report but some remain a mystery."

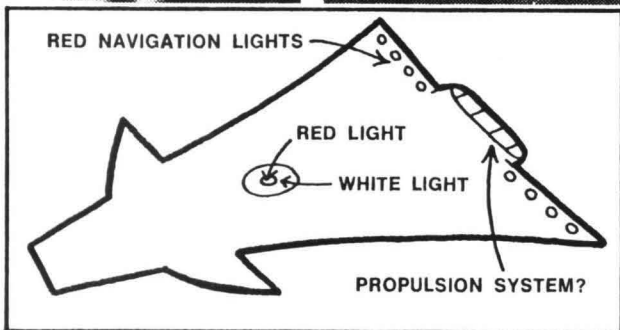
One mystery which has baffled Mr Borley and his colleagues is a set of strange marks found in a barley field at Ogilvy, 80km north-east of Geraldton.

Four circular imprints, 13m in diameter and 8.5m apart in the shape of a square, were discovered in June 1980 by a farmer while ploughing.

The size of the marks puzzled the farmer so much he contacted local authorities to try to find out what could have caused them — after a neighbor said he had seen "a rising light" in the field two weeks earlier.

Geologists from WAIT tested the ground and determined that a weight in excess of 75 tonnes would have been needed to make each imprint.

Mr Borley said a



A drawing of the craft sighted over Pearce air base in September, 1983.

possible close encounter of the third kind (alien contact) occurred in WA in 1979.

"The first and only report by a Western Australian who claims to have met an alien being was made in May 1979 by a Coolgardie farmer," he said.

"The man claims a person in a strange suit confronted him in his farmhouse shortly after he noticed two rocket-shaped craft on a nearby paddock. He said the being spoke to him in a strange tongue, then English, while his watchdog cowered in the corner."

"Numerous authorities questioned him over the incident, but have been unable to disprove his claim or shed any light on the matter."

Meanwhile, the reports are still coming

in, and that is just the way Mr Borley wants it.

"Our aim is to investigate reports and classify them all before putting them into archives," he said. "We then have de-



Farmer Eric Parker shows reporter Brian Northeast the strange bald patch in his barley paddock in 1980.

tailed information for reference.

"The value of this was shown in September when a UFO was reported by several witnesses near Pearce air-base. The drawings of that craft were very similar to those of one tracked by police in Melbourne in July."

Interest

Mr Borley, who is 35 and has six children, said he developed an interest in UFOs when he sighted one himself in the 1960s.

"Some people think

I'm sort of a looney going around looking for little green men, but that's not the case," he said.

"We're just looking for a sensible solution for UFOs — whether it's secretly - tested military craft or whatever."

People who want to report a UFO sighting should write to Mr Borley (Kenmore Rd, Mahogany Creek) or attend the Investigation Centre's "barbecue - sky - watch" at Quarry Park, Gosnells, on Saturday at 4pm.

Small Group Controls World Destiny

ANTI-GRAVITY machines, the unified field atomic bomb tests, laser research and apparitions.

All these are covered in Bruce Cathie's new book, *The Bridge to Infinity - Harmonic 371244*. Cathie fans will be delighted with the wealth of information and the evidence put forward on such places and phenomena as the pyramids in the Shensi Province of China, levitations in Tibet, the Philadelphia Experiment carried out by American scientists relating to the unified field theory and the apparitions of the Virgin Mary at the small village of Garabandal in Spain.

The book contains something for everyone on unexplained phenomena around the world

and for those who are newcomers to his writings, a surprise is in store that may well lead them to delve into his earlier publications.

There is an urgency about this book, a "stand up and be counted" theme that runs all the way through it. Challenges are raised against various social orders around the world to virtually refute his allegations and proofs that a comparatively small group is controlling the destiny of the world; a group that has in its possession technical information far beyond the wildest dreams of man. So far there has only been a stony silence from his critics.

In the final chapter of *The Bridge to Infinity* Cathie has turned his talents towards investi-

gating the various apparitions of the Blessed Virgin around the world during the past 100 years. Well known appearances such as Lourdes, Fatima and Garabandal are fully covered and the conclusions that he has reached will surprise many.

Other "Heavenly Manifestations" are also dealt with, with more startling results.

Perhaps the reported apparitions of the Virgin Mary in Garabandal, in northern Spain during the 1960s, have attracted the author's curiosity more than most.

Here an urgent message was given to be relayed to the whole world with a promised great miracle still yet to happen to convince the world of the authentic-



● Bruce Cathie... more unexplained phenomena.

ity and the extreme importance of the communication. Full details of this story are well covered and what does Bruce Cathie think of Garabandal? Well, that will be another surprise in store for the reader of this interesting book.

At Garabandal the Virgin Mary detailed that the present Pope would be the last one, and then it would be the "end of time."

UFO — NOW A SECOND SIGHTING

A COUPLE say they saw a UFO above Rochester airport — the second reported sighting. And before anyone says it, Tom and Eileen Carter are sure it wasn't a plane. "It was circular and surrounded by lights," said Tom.

They thought nothing more of it until reading the Post story about a woman who had to be calmed by police who found her in a hedge after 'seeing' a UFO.

Tom said: "I thought I had better phone the Post before people thought that woman was mad. She isn't, because we saw it as well."

The couple, from Longley Road, Walderslade, were driving down City Way on Wednesday evening at about 9pm when they saw incredibly bright lights.

SCREAM

Their report coincides with that of the unnamed woman who collapsed screaming in City Way the same evening.

A spokesman said she had panicked after seeing bright lights in the sky. They think it was a low flying plane's landing lights.



UFO spotters Eileen and Tom Carter.

KENT EVENING POST, Maidstone, England - Dec. 5, 1983

CHATHAM STANDARD, Kent, England - Dec. 13, 1983

LIGHTS IN THE SKY MYSTERY

IT IS unlikely an invasion force of little green men is homing in on the Medway Towns, despite recent sightings of weird multi-coloured lights in the sky above Rochester.

It seems that traffic controllers at R.A.F. Manston noticed nothing unusual on their radar screens on that night.

If the Medway Towns were "buzzed" by inquisitive aliens, they were not interested enough to make a landing at the nearby airport.

But the mystery remains.

One woman walking along City Way certainly saw something which frightened her. Police found her cowering in the bushes screaming in terror. She claimed she had seen a

strange object flying over City Way, Rochester.

Later a Medway couple also said they had seen strange multi-coloured lights in the sky as they drove along City Way towards Maidstone at about 9 p.m. the same evening, 30 November.

Tom and Eileen Carter, of Longley Road, Rochester, saw the mys-

terious round U.F.O. from their car window — though they were not impressed enough to stop and get out to watch.

Eileen, who is 40, said: "We both saw a round object with all different lights — white, blue, green and red. It was quite big and it was certainly not a plane."

IPSWICH EVENING STAR, Suffolk, England - Nov. 17, 1983

Close encounter with mystery lights

MYSTERIOUS lights have been reported on two consecutive nights off the Suffolk and Essex coasts.

Coastguards say that Tuesday night's sightings were flares being used during USAF exercises.

But lights reported by two ships off Essex on Monday night still remain a mystery.

Sightings

Suffolk UFO investigator Mr. Paul Hermon said that he was intrigued by Monday's sightings.

"I have heard reports that two ships 15 miles apart out to sea saw a green light which took about one minute to pass between them and that a similar light had been seen and reported by various people along the coast."

Coastguards at Walton on the Naze said they had received reports from two ships saying they had seen a mysterious green light early on Tuesday. They had received no further reports.

USAF Bentwaters confirmed that there were no exercises off the coast on Monday night.

GAZETTE, Milton Keynes, Bucks., England - Jan. 13, 1984 CR: T. Good

Lights in sky spark new UFOs probe

TWO PULSATING white lights in the sky over West Bletchley could be the latest in a series of UFO sightings in the area.

A report has already been logged with the British UFO Research Association by their Home Counties representative Ken Phillips, but he is looking for more than the two witnesses he has found so far.

By ANDY GIBBS

car on Saxon Street, near Fishermead.

And in 1978, the sighting of an object over the Lakes estate, with lights spinning round it and a blue-white glow, was given a "high credibility rating".

But Mr Phillips is sceptical that the latest sighting is genuine. He has established that three aircraft from RAF Upper Heyford in Oxfordshire were in the area at the time.

"There was no sound detected, but aircraft sometimes shut off their engines because of environmental grounds over cities," he said.

"This has all the hallmarks of an archetype which may have been triggered off by the sighting of USAF jets. You can't really say that it's anything more concrete than that at the moment."

GLOBE AND MAIL, Toronto, Ontario, Canada Jan. 13, 1984 CR: G. Duplantier

40 report UFO in Ukraine

MOSCOW (Reuter) — A mysterious bright object flew at great speed across Ukraine and southern Russia last month and Soviet scientists are puzzled and divided about what it was, the Moscow newspaper Trud reported yesterday.

It said more than 40 witnesses had filed reports of the object, a bright sphere followed by seven smaller lights, which crossed the sky on the night of Dec. 2.

Most said they saw it changing altitude and direction and some claimed they saw a "construction

like a space ship, flying less than a kilometre (half a mile) above the ground," Trud reported.

The daily cited different experts as saying it may have been a meteorite, ball lightning, or parts of a satellite burning up in the atmosphere.

The head of the Ukrainian Commission for Cosmic Research, Grigory Pisarenko, said the object was flying too slowly and too near the ground to have been a meteorite. Its speed has been calculated as 5,950 kilometres an hour.

STARS AND STRIPES, Washington, DC Jan. 28, 1984 CR: G. Fawcett

7 Mideast oil workers report spotting 'round, silver' UFO

BEIRUT (UPI) — Oil field workers in the emirate of Sharjah have spotted an unidentified flying object, the latest such sighting in the region in recent months, the Gulf News Agency said.

It said the UFO was sighted by seven people who described it as a "round object, silver in color, and flying at a very high altitude."

The seven also told the agency the object was "not a plane or a satellite."

Residents of the nearby emirate of Ras el Khaimah have reported at least one such sighting in recent months.

MAIL, Surrey, England Jan. 14, 1984 CR: T. Good

UFO weight loss?

THE MAN who claims he was taken aboard a flying saucer in Aldershot on August 12th by little green men has lost 1½ stone in weight since the incident, says Mr. Omar Fowler, chairman of the Guildford-based Surrey Investigation Group on Aerial Phenomena.

Now Mr. Fowler — whose account of the alleged 'close encounter' has just been published in the Flying Saucer Review — wants to establish whether Alfred Burtoo's weight loss is caused by a worry or radiation sickness.

The UFO expert is convinced the Aldershot man did go aboard a saucer-shaped craft on the banks of the Basingstoke Canal, late at night. His description of the craft tallied with many others from around the world, Mr. Fowler said.

Since October, places like Aldershot, Normandy and the Hogs Back have reported a spate of UFO sightings. Just before Christmas a mysterious blue light was seen in the sky above Weybourne near Farnham.

And those readers who think only America is plagued by alleged landings of strange craft might be mistaken. On October 14th a woman on a country road near Reading, reported to her employer that she had seen a saucer-shaped craft on her way to work at 6.15 a.m.

'Rocket' flight still mystery

A SIGHTING of a mystery object in the sky by a woman motorist and her 15-year-old son, as they were driving out of Christchurch at the weekend, sounds remarkably like other UFO sightings in the area in recent years.

This is the reaction of UFO specialist Mr. Philip Shaw, of Ferndown, to the rocket-shaped object observed by an astonished Mrs. Maxine Allenby and her son Robert on the main Lyndhurst Road at Hinton Admiral.

Mrs. Allenby, who was driving to her home in Ash Road, Ashurst, thought at first she was looking at a low flying aircraft. It took a steep dive as it passed across the road ahead and went out of sight behind trees in the Walford direction.

Thinking it had crashed she alerted Christchurch police. They made a thorough search of the area but found nothing.

New Milton police were also contacted but drew a blank and Air Traffic Control at Farn had no knowledge of any low flying planes.

The incident, which has left Mrs. Allenby and Robert keen to find out more about UFOs, occurred as they approached the Cat and Fiddle pub at dusk on Saturday.

They were both definite that what they saw was not a reflection from another car's lights, although the light from it was the same yellow colour.

The object was in the middle of the windscreen when she first spotted it, said Mrs. Allenby, probably less than a mile away and moving fast at little more than tree height.

A mass of cone-shaped light was coming from the front part and behind, she and Robert could see a long, dark shape with no markings on it.

After jumping to the conclusion it was an aircraft, they then realised it had no wings and was rocket or cigar-shaped.

It suddenly took a sharp dive and looked as if it must have crashed after disappearing below tree level.

They had it in view about 20 seconds, long enough to talk about it while still watching. "I said to my son 'I'm not imagining it?' and he said 'No.' It was definitely there," said Mrs. Allenby.

"I've never seen anything like it before. We could not stop talking about it the next day."

Mr. Shaw, organiser of Ferndown Mystery Circle, told the Echo the sighting sounded remarkably like another not far away at Highcliffe Castle in the 1970s. That object was also cigar-shaped.

"This is very characteristic of the shape of objects I have investigated in the New Forest and Wessex area back to the 1950s," he said.

"They describe extraordinary manoeuvres, not always conforming to what we know of aircraft."

● Bournemouth weatherman Mr. Peter Rogers said what was seen could have been a lightning ball, a phenomenon still being investigated today.

CR: T. Good

TRANSLATIONS

CREDIT: Milos Krnelj

City and country of incident: Split, Yugoslavia
Date of incident: October 3, 1983
Name of paper and date of clip: AS, October 21, 1983
City and country of newspaper: Sarajevo, Yugoslavia

"WE SPOTTED A FLYING SAUCER"

On the evening of October 3rd, a group of nine amateur astronomers from Split spotted a UFO. Telescopes and other instruments enabled them to watch the object for a full ten minutes. Later, some newspapers published statements attributed to the astronomers, claiming they had seen only atmospheric phenomena of some kind. But this is not what they really said and they determinedly deny such fictitious statements. The group of eyewitnesses is now trying to determine the identity, height and course of the unknown object, as well as other details.

On the evening of the observation, two of the astronomers, Tonci Osibov and Ivica Vucemilo, were in the dome of the observatory, observing the heavens through the telescope. The others, Goran and Zoran Ergovic, Dragan Nakir, Dragan Solic, Darko Selakovic, Ante Denic and Ivan Babic, were on the club premises where they worked on theoretical astronomy under the tutelage of Goran Ergovic.

The peaceful study of the theorists was suddenly interrupted by loud voices from within the dome.

"Alarm! Alarm!" cried Tonci Osibov and Ivica Vucemilo at the top of their voices.

"What happened?," asked Goran Ergovic, who was the first to run up to the terrace.

"A flying saucer!"

"Nonsense!"

Yet, in the next moment, all of them had the opportunity to see with their own eyes a peculiar object, flying at great height from the direction of Solta Island towards the Kastela Bay. Every possible "scientific presumption"—that it might be a satellite, a plane, a helicopter, a balloon or some natural phenomenon—was denied in the next few minutes of observation. As they recorded in the diary of the observatory, verifying their notes by their signatures, the object moved "relatively fast" and emitted a twinkling blue-white light which occasionally changed its intensity.

"Instead of only watching and guessing what it might have been, we decided to observe it very carefully," said Goran Ergovic in his statement to the Sarajevo weekly, AS.

The nine astronomers watched the object through a telescope and other instruments for ten minutes, from 20:10 to 20:20, the period in which the object was visible to them. Because of its great distance and brightness, however, they could not tell the exact shape of the object, but it seemed more oblong than circular. Some three minutes later, when it came under the center of the "Great Bear" constellation, it suddenly stopped.

"I watched it then through a telescope lens with magnification of 9 times, because in the meantime, the object 'disappeared' from the telescope," said Goran Ergovic. "I noticed that it was surrounded by more objects which were smaller and emanated strong orange light. It was not possible to tell their exact number because they were partly hidden behind the bluish-white light of the larger object. All that time, the objects were flying very slowly and

after a shorter period of floating in the same spot, they continued their flight to the north. In the next two or three minutes, it seemed to us as though they had fused together into the larger object, whose brightness soon turned into a strong red color, changing its intensity from time to time. This continued until the object disappeared behind the mountain Marjan."

At the same time, many inhabitants of Solta Island, as well as citizens of Split and Kastela, also spotted this UFO. Two hours later, at 10:00 P.M., they spotted a somewhat smaller object of strong orange color. It headed in the same direction, from south to north, at a rather slow speed, so that it took nine minutes to disappear on the horizon.

In the next few days, some newspapers wrote that the astronomers from Split—eyewitnesses of this phenomenon—stated that it had not been a "flying saucer," but unusual atmospheric in the form of heated balls.

"No one of us has ever given such a statement," said Goran Ergovic, "and on the basis of our own observations, we strongly reject such an interpretation. The object we saw was oblong-shaped and of bluish-white brightness, while atmospheric clearances (ball lightning?) look like heated balls. Besides, they move extraordinarily fast, while the unknown object had been visible for ten minutes and it had floated for three minutes on the same spot at a very great height."

The activity of the astronomers is now concentrated on efforts to collect their observations and comparisons and then to calculate the flight path, the height, the size and the shape of the unknown objects. But the answer to the most important and interesting question, what was it actually all about, will surely remain unknown as it has remained so many times in similar cases all over the world.

CREDIT: F.A.D.A. (Translation Credit: George Andrews)

City and country of incident: Provencal, France
Date of incident: January 8, 1981
Name of publication and date of article: FRANCE-SOIR, November 19, 1983
City and country of publication: Paris, France

EXCLUSIVE: SCIENTIFIC PROOF OF UFOs

Two scientists who are above suspicion have brought up again the subject of UFOs. For the first time, their statements are backed up by official and irrefutable laboratory examinations and analyses. Jean-Yves Casgha interviewed them on his "Boulevard of the Strange" program (every day at 2:45 P.M. on France-Inter). In this article he explains their discoveries. Mind-boggling: one of them appears to have found out the energy used by UFOs, and to have built a model which works.

The village of Trans-en-Provence is a tiny town situated a few miles from Draguignan in the Var region. Leaves of plants collected there which had mysteriously aged contain irrefutable evidence that a UFO landed in this village. Dr. Bounias is the director of the biochemical laboratory of the INRA (National Institute of Agricultural Research) at Avignon. He made the analyses, and formally states: "We worked on very young leaves. They all had the anatomic and physiologic characteristics of their age. However, they had the biochemical characteristics of advanced senescence, of old age! And this does not resemble anything known to exist on our planet." The only scientific hypothesis capable of explaining the disconcerting old age of these young vegetables is the landing of a UFO, which a witness reported that he had seen to land at the place where the leaves were gathered.

The INRA carried out the analyses at the request of CEPAN (Group for the Study of Unidentified Aerial and Space Phenomena), which is a branch of the National Center for Space Research. The leaf samples were collected by the Draguignan police. Inscribed in their structure is the testimony to a visit by a "flying saucer."

This took place on January 8, 1981. About 5 P.M. on that day, Renato Nicolai, who lives at Trans-en-Provence, saw an aircraft land about thirty meters away from him. There were no flames, there was no smoke. It was about one and four-fifths meters high, two and a half meters in diameter. The color was that of lead. The shape was similar to two logs on top of each other, encircled by a sort of metallic crown at their point of junction. The entire craft rested on small telescopic legs. There was no light, and no noise except a faint whistling. After about a minute, the craft took off, rose into the air, and disappeared.

However, traces remained on the soil. As the police gathered samples, they carefully took notes on their respective distances from the UFO impact site. These samples of vegetation are today at the center of the most disturbing of scientific mysteries.

Dr. Bounias, of course, carried out his examination in the most rigorous possible fashion. He established samples from plants of the same species taken at different distances from the point of impact. He analysed the photosynthetic pigments, the glucides, the amino acids, etc. He found that the type of "biochemical trauma" revealed by the leaves diminished as the distance from the UFO impact site increased. He explains: "Certain substances which are present in the close-range samples are not present in those taken further away, and vice versa."

There is no possible risk of a mistake. "We have found differences sufficiently important that the statistical significance of the results is irrefutable."

Although he continues to do research on the samples to find out everything possible from them, no one tries to argue with the results thus far obtained. But no one is offering any explanations of them either.

The director of the biochemical laboratory adds: "All we can say is that something certainly happened. We have observed the effects of a phenomenon. But we don't know its precise nature or, above all, its cause."

Dr. Bounias takes care not to specify that the cause was the UFO seen by Renato Nicolai. As a scientist, he goes no further than stating what his work has verified. He says: "The next step would be to compare the effects we have observed with those caused by other physical agents known to us, such as generators of electronic fields. But that is only a suggestion, a line of research I indicate which might not yield any results."

However, if such tests caused similar results on vegetation to the effects on the leaves taken from Trans-en-Provence, this would constitute an extraordinary revelation: it would establish proof of another scientist's theory, who thinks that he has discovered how UFOs function. His name is Jean-Pierre Petit. He is a researcher at CNRS (National Center for Space Research). In his laboratory at Aix-en-Provence, he has even built a model of a UFO that works.

Professor Petit has been trying for years to get his colleagues to acknowledge interest in his work. None of them have shown any interest, at least in France. Russian scientists have not only appreciated his work, they have encouraged and helped him, in contrast to the attitude of his French colleagues.

He is passionately interested in the Trans case, and states: "As far as I know, this is the first UFO case which is scientifically acceptable. One is obliged to seriously consider the hypothesis of 'space-ship of unknown origin,' as described by Mr. Nicolai, because of all the possible explanations, it is the one which fits best with the INRA results."

He states categorically: "This space-ship can not be of terrestrial origin. No one on this planet knows how to make a craft capable of performing like a UFO. Therefore all the indications are that they come from elsewhere."

(continued on page 14)

(continued from page 13)

He is certainly one of the best qualified scientists in the world to make such an assertion, since he seems to have discovered the secret of their energy system.

At the moment, his model UFO looks rather like a doll's hat. But this odd-looking object has an irreplaceable part to play in his laboratory; it is used to verify whether UFOs really can travel by using the principles of MHD (magnetohydrodynamic energy).

It is difficult to understand the details, but it seems to be a revolutionary propulsion system.

Let's try an analogy. In using a dynamo, one turns a handle and produces a current. That is a generator. If one reverses this process by sending a current, the handle turns. MHD is somewhat like that, but there are no moving pieces. If one injects a gas charged with a speed S, thus carrying kinetic energy, a current is produced. If one reverses this process by sending a current into a gas, the gas is set in motion at speed S. It is a question of stimulating movement in a liquid or gaseous fluid. It is a procedure for direct energy conversion without moving parts.

This brief attempt at an explanation seems rather abrupt. Jean-Pierre Petit has been working on MHD since 1965. Shortly after beginning this line of research, he became interested in UFOs. It seemed to him unlikely that all the witnesses could be hallucinating. The scientific argument against the existence of UFOs was that: "All these witnesses say that UFOs travel very fast without making any noise, but this is impossible to do without making the double bang characteristic of jet aircraft breaking the well-known barrier of sound." This seemed unconvincing to him.

He devoted his attention to investigating ways of passing this barrier without making noise. In 1975 he found a way, but the entire French scientific community spurned him as "irrational." He was not able to present the results of his research to qualified academics until the 8th International Conference on MHD, which met in Moscow during September of 1983. He was the only French scientist to participate in this conference.

Since then, and in spite of his results, he has not even been able to obtain a place to put his equipment, which is gathering rust in the garden of a friend somewhere in Marseille.

It seemed incredible to be in a laboratory talking to a competent researcher left in such a situation. Jean-Pierre Petit took his model in his hand: "This is called an aerodyne MHD." He paused for an instant, then with a twinkle in his eye, he added: "If I called it a flying saucer, it would not be taken seriously. I have only just begun to understand that in France everything is a question of vocabulary. Now, have a look at this."

He places the model under a glass bell, in which he diminishes the pressure in order to need less energy. He switches on the current, and you have before you what I saw: as the aerodyne functions, it changes in color and luminosity according to the energy it receives. Of course, it is more complex than that, but the result is that it functions like a UFO. He says: "But that's not all. In the air you don't really see what's going on."

He removes the model from the glass bell and puts it in a large container of water, a channel of water. When he makes a current of water flow over the model, as if miraculously, it stays absolutely immobile. There is no wave behind it, not the least little wrinkle before it—but the water makes a hollow space in front of it! I watch in astonishment, as if I was witnessing the impossible.

"You see, I told you: MHD is extraordinary. Of course, my model doesn't fly yet, but it's a question of power and of resources. But from now on, as far as the theory is concerned, it is a sure thing. I still haven't discussed microwaves and ionisation with you, but what I can tell you is that a microwave generator only slightly more powerful than those that we possess could explain quite a lot about what happened at Trans-en-Provence."

Jean-Pierre Petit feels isolated, indeed very much alone, with a heavy responsibility and a determination to develop his extraordinary discovery and make it known. But all by himself, faced with the inertia of the French scientific establishment, it is difficult: he is running a blockade.

As we parted, he showed me two letters. One was addressed to the Minister of Defense, the other to the Minister of Research and Industry. The letters contained a brief summary of his discoveries, and explained the urgency of devoting serious attention to the UFO problem after the Trans-en-Provence case.

Then he reached into a cardboard box and withdrew the proofs of a comic strip concerning scientific vulgarisation, which is to be published by Editions Belin under the title of "The Wall of Silence." It is a genuine master-work whose clarity and wit should inspire professors of physics everywhere.

"I have put all the principles and even some of the experiments of MHD into this. At the Academy of Science, they still consider it impossible. They have not yet understood that when one popularises facts which have not been accorded recognition, one is really doing scientific research. They are going to be obliged to devote serious attention to the problem. From the scientific point of view, my project is impeccable. When you realize that my twenty years of scientific research are better appreciated in Russia than in France, it is an absurd and impossible situation."

The history of science is filled with such blockades, as Galileo certainly knew! But what makes it all so strange is that in the end, the truth always comes out and triumphs. It is certain that some day the strange little doll's hat of Jean-Pierre Petit will be recognised for what it is: the first UFO at last defined and identified. — Jean-Yves Casgha.

TRANSLATION CREDIT: George Andrews

City and country of incident: Lake Batiscan, Quebec, Canada
Date of incident: July 16, 1982
Name of paper and date of clip: LE JOURNAL DE QUEBEC, November 26, 1983
City and country of newspaper: Quebec, Quebec, Canada

UFO AT LAKE BATISCAN

The women were really frightened - One even jumped into the lake.

The Veilleux family, which lives at Saint Charles Lake, has been through an extraordinary adventure which will, in my humble opinion, help C.C.U.Q. researchers theorise concerning how UFOs function in our skies.

"It was Friday evening, July 16, 1982. The hands of my watch indicated precisely 8:50 P.M. I was alone in my inflatable boat, fishing on Lake Batiscan, which is about 70 miles from Quebec. Several of my friends, also on vacation, were also fishing on the lake at this time, but in small groups at different places. Because of the distance involved, we could not see each other.

"Although the sun was still shining on the western horizon, which I was facing, I suddenly saw lights on the mountain! I know this area well, as I come here every year for my vacation, and I know that there is no road as high up on the mountain as the lights were coming from. I was astonished and watched them for a long time. What's more, not one single fish took a bite on my bait! The lake is famous for its trout, but no one caught even one single fish all that week.

"There were very few birds, and the only ones that did appear flew low and did not make their usual sounds.

"Suddenly there were what I thought were several flashes of heat lightning. A few minutes later, a UFO silently appeared from behind the mountain on which I had seen the lights. It came directly above me and stopped, hovering about 150 feet directly overhead. I was not afraid, I was fascinated. Then it suddenly accelerated very very rapidly, traversing the entire surface of the lake at unimaginable speed! It sped along with astounding rapidity, stopped dead, took off to the north, then immediately went south! Its speed was such that it was all our eyes could do to follow it while turning our heads! Then at lower speed, it returned behind the mountain from which it had come.

"Upon my return to the house, everyone had seen it. I didn't tell anyone that I had also seen it. There were twelve of us. The women had been really frightened, very frightened. One even jumped into the lake to avoid being abducted by the UFO. It seems as if the UFO wanted to demonstrate the extent of its flight capabilities to us!"

CREDIT: Irene Granchi

City and country of incident: Chapeco, Santa Catarina, Brazil
Date of incident: December 14, 1983
Name of paper and date of clip: O ESTADO, Florianópolis, Sta. Catarina, Brazil
City and country of newspaper: Florianópolis, Sta. Catarina, Brazil

CHAPECO FARM-OWNER MAKES EXTRATERRESTRIAL VOYAGE

(SUMMARY)

Antonio Nelso Tasca, former broadcaster and now farm-owner in Barreiras, State of Bahia, was visiting friends in Chapeco, where he had lived for many years and was well-known as a broadcaster for the local radio. He has a high reputation and is admired for his honesty. He has been living in Bahia for the last three years.

The adventure this 49-year-old man had lasted eight hours, during which he was supposedly taken aboard a UFO. It started at 8:00 P.M., December 14, as he was returning to Chapeco from Colonia Cella. He was driving along the BR-282 highway alone. On reaching somewhere near the local Coca-Cola factory, he felt impelled to stop and get out of his car. He cannot explain why he did it. He looked up and saw, to his right and above a vehicle something like a bus in shape, with its lights on inside, but the outside ones off. He locked his car and walked towards it, but on approaching it, at about 30 meters distance, he found it was suspended in mid-air, was circular in shape and emitted white lights. He realized it was a UFO, about which he had read so much in many scientific books.

He proceeded decidedly, wanting to find out closer what he was sure he was prepared to meet. He now felt big waves of heat and supposed they were caused by radioactivity coming from the ship. This frightened him, so he decided to leave, turning back towards his car. After only a few steps, a band of solid light reached out from the ship and "caught" him and, with incredible speed, pushed him up into the UFO. This shock made him fall unconscious.

It was Wednesday, eight o'clock. He returned to this world at six o'clock Thursday morning. He cannot recollect how long he was unconscious on the ship, but when he awoke in it, he was naked, lying in a dark place, with a sensation of tightness and lack of air. His first impression was that he was in a coffin, buried alive. Soon, though, he started moving his toes and breathing with less difficulty.

The poor man started crying convulsively, possessed by a never heretofore-felt fear. As he grew accustomed to the darkness, he started to feel the touch of little claws or hands on his legs. Then he noticed two or three creatures examining him in the dark. After that, they disappeared.

All of a sudden, the place lit up. Naked and fearful, Antonio Nelso Tasca discovered that he was in a room where the walls and ceiling shed light. No doors or windows were to be seen. His clothes were lying on the floor, so he got dressed. Then a door, not visible to him before, opened.

A very beautiful, petite woman, wearing light-colored garments, and of a delicate complexion, entered the room. He learned later that her name was Cabalá, and she came from the world of Agalá.

"She was charming. Her eyes were widely placed apart, like Bruna Lombardi's eyes; they slanted, like Oriental eyes. She was wearing slippers, or something like that, and something like a woman's nightgown." This was Antonio Nelso's description of her. His mind in turmoil, he tried to speak, but before he could manage this, she introduced herself by telepathy. He was still silent, but as his thoughts took shape in his mind, she replied. He was told that he had been chosen to give mankind a message to divulge among the people of Earth, a warning against the destruction of the planet. He tried to find out why he, a man with little power, with no special gifts, had been chosen, and was told by Cabalá: "Because you have always believed in superior civilizations, you have always wanted to communicate with me, and because you have a cosmic mind." The conversation developed, and something happened afterwards that Antonio Nelso does not wish to reveal, for it could cause him personal problems. For this reason, he refuses to speak about it. However, he declared that before his death, he would leave a full report written for his children, so that mankind should know what had happened.

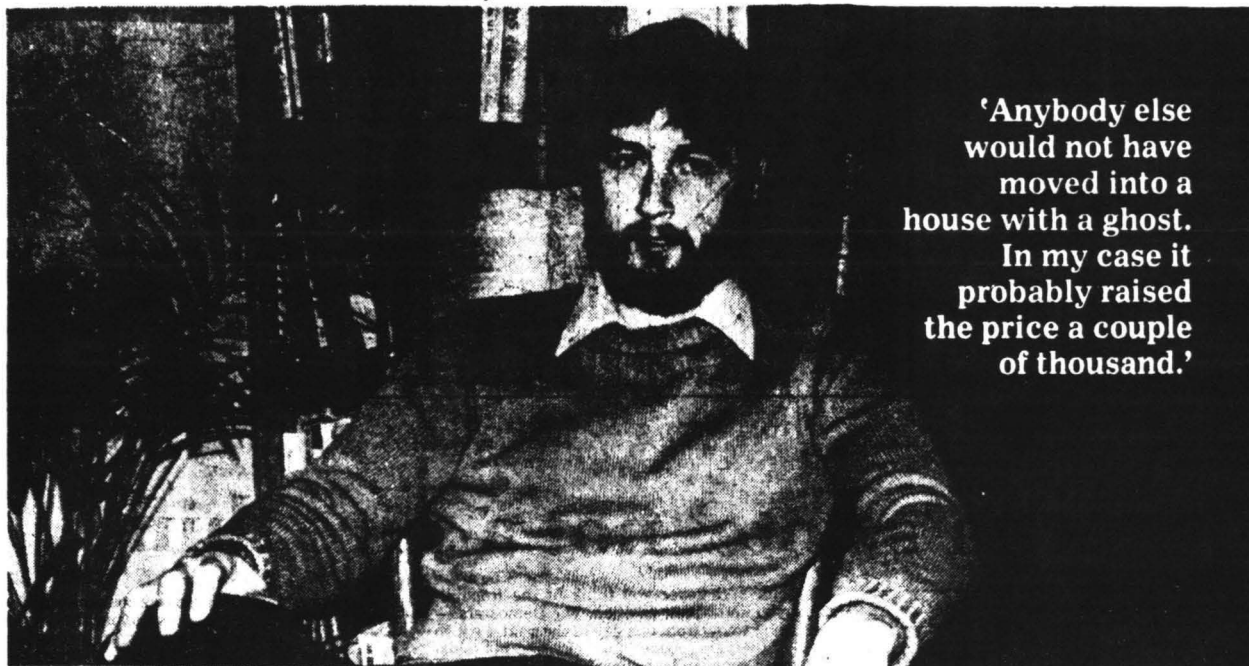
When he was told that he would be given a message, Antonio Nelso explained that his memory was weak, and he would not be able to remember it. Cabalá assured him that this message he would never forget. Forthwith, she went over to the only piece of furniture in the room, standing by the wall, and touched some kind of contrivance. The furniture was a half-moon-shaped desk, attached to the wall. From the floor there emerged a showcase and in it a diadem, displaying eight facets in green, yellow and red. This was placed on his head, and the woman then gave her message, requesting him to repeat it twice. He was told that the message, containing 40 written lines, would never be forgotten. The extraterrestrial bade him farewell, lifting her right hand. The room went dark once more, and Tasca felt himself being pushed at the back by the little creatures, the same that had examined him before, lying down.

What had most impressed our man was the fact that he had been told that he was 180 meters below the surface of the Atlantic Ocean. He was taken to another room, where he once more fell unconscious.

When he awoke, he was lying on a little plateau above a crag, by highway BR-282, close to the Electro-Diesel Batistella works. It took him quite a long while to recover, and then he walked down to the works and asked the people there to warn his family. They, in fact, had already warned the police about his absence, having discovered his abandoned car, and fearing he had been assaulted and killed. From the works, he went over to where he had left the car the night before, where he found his family and the police waiting. Then he went to his son's house, where he took off his clothes, and his son noticed strange marks on his back, as if produced by an iron in embers, showing a "W," followed by a kind of exclamation mark. The burn was not painful, even when pressed or scratched.

Tasca consulted doctors who examined him. They declared he was healthy, both physically and mentally. One of them, Dr. Julio Zawadzski, found it strange that the burn should not have caused any discomfort or physical change.

Tasca feels he was born anew; he sees the world in a different way and wants to live intensely. His economic problems do not worry him any longer, for he no longer feels attached to material things. He intends to go on living as before, working, but also divulging the message through friends, for he does not wish his name to be mentioned, and desires no publicity.



Loren Coleman: His newest book, 'Mysterious America,' is due out this week to coincide with Halloween.

Photo by Jeff Stanton

'Anybody else would not have moved into a house with a ghost. In my case it probably raised the price a couple of thousand.'

A man who chases hobgoblins and other strange creatures

By John Rolfe

LOREN COLEMAN of Portland believes that there are more strange creatures in heaven and earth — which is to say, for his purposes, in the United States and Canada — than are dreamt of in our mundane philosophy of natural science.

For over 20 years Coleman has devoted himself to the study of such wondrous beasts as Massachusetts' Dover Demon, the New Jersey Devil, and Lake Champlain's "Champ." For the past ten years he has been actively involved in field work and research, traversing the continent to identify and classify unexplained physical phenomena. He has investigated and reported on "spook lights" and UFOs, phantom clowns and phantom panthers, alligators in New York City, a mystery kangaroo in Chicago, African lions in California and "oak apes" in the swamps and bottomlands of North America.

The fruits of Coleman's researches into the demonic and the demonically out-of-place are scheduled to appear in his new illustrated book, "Mysterious America," (paper, \$5.95) under the imprint of the prestigious British firm Faber and Faber. Publication is set, appropriately, for this week to coincide with Halloween — "My favorite holiday," says Coleman.

In deference to that perhaps a midnight interview should have been scheduled. Instead it was twilight, at the 1826 former farmhouse near Woodfords where Coleman and his wife Libbet have lived since April. The only signs of inhuman life here in the den are a brace of roly-poly orange cats, a toy pterodactyl suspended from the ceiling, an ersatz armadillo and a stuffed fox.

Coleman himself appears fairly unphenomenal. He is soft-spoken, with unusually luminous blue eyes (of which he possesses only the standard two) and in his discourse on strange beings and events there is no fanaticism, just the calm reasonableness and assurance of a man who knows whereof he speaks.

He is a native of Illinois who "fell in love with Maine . . . with the quiet, and the wildlife . . ." after buying a vacation cabin at Rangeley to which he could retreat from Cambridge, Mass., where he lived for three years. He began house-hunting here in January. He is especially delighted with one unusual amenity of the house they chose:

"It's haunted," he says. "A woman dressed in white was seen by the previous owner about two years ago. He was re-doing the upstairs when he sensed something in the room, turned, and saw her standing there."

And then?
"Nothing really happened. He went on working and she gradually disappeared. He did see her again, though, when he was working with a table saw in the cellar."

"Anybody else would not have moved into a house with a ghost," he observes. "In my case it probably raised the price a couple thousand."

COLEMAN'S fascination with the nether-world began early. "I can tell you exactly," he says. It was March 1960. I'd been reading a lot and one of the many books that came my way was one by Charles Fort. And then at about the same time I saw a movie on the Abominable Snowman, and because of that I went off on a tangent reading anything I could find about the Snowman, and I read all Fort's other books in Ace paperback reprints."

As Coleman explains in his introduction to "Mysterious America," Fort was an American writer (1874-1932) who wrote that he had examined in his four books "A procession of the damned. By the damned, I mean the excluded. We shall have a procession of data that Science has excluded."

Which is why those who today study the wonders examined by Fort are called Forteans and why the strange and unusual phenomena they research and write about is referred to as Fortean. Associations including the International Fortean Organization, based near Washington, D.C., and the journal Fortean Times of London have sprung up to carry on Fortean's work.

"The Fortean Society began in the '20s," Coleman says. "But Fort refused to join because he hated organizations." Members of the original group included Booth Tarkington, Theodore Dreiser, Oliver Wendell Holmes and Clarence Darrow.

Coleman's own Fortean credentials are extensive: a regular column in the Fortean Times, co-authorship of two books on Fortean subjects ("The Unidentified: Notes Towards Solving the UFO Mystery," (1975) and "Creatures of the Outer Edge," (1978) plus a hundred articles for publications as diverse as Fate and Boston Magazine and lectures delivered at MIT and American University in Washington, D.C.

This morning, if you are reading this early enough, you can catch him live on WBCN's Sunday Morning Review, along with author Stephen King and Douglas Adams, creator of "The Hitch Hiker's Guide to the Universe," doing a special Halloween show.

Coleman estimates that there are "perhaps 200,000 actively interested Forteans, many exchanging letters, information and ideas, developing libraries" (Coleman's own library is possibly Fortean's finest) "and about 50 writers and investigators like myself."

The true Fortean, Coleman says, is distinguished by a certain skepticism — not only towards facile scientific or commonplace explanations but also towards the actual phenomena — and an irreverent sense of humor about the whole thing.

The latter is best illustrated by a riddle in Mysterious America's final chapter:

"Why did the mystery kangaroo cross the road?"
"Obviously, to get to the Other Side."

TRAINED as an academic (he majored in anthropology and minored in zoology at Southern Illinois University, and holds a master's in social work from Simmons) Coleman emphasizes that he works in the field "as an investigative reporter, skeptical but open-minded," with the attitude that "there may be something out there that none of us know about." News of sightings are often relayed to him by the ever-watchful Fortean network: about half of the reports he rejects as not deserving further inquiry.

One widespread phenomenon, he says, is "teleportation of animals — Nile Monitor lizards in Florida, kangaroos in Wisconsin, alligators in Kansas. In those cases I made sure I tracked down all the animals which could be ascribed to escaped zoo animals or wandering pets. The teleportation of animals doesn't seem to be part of a meaningful plan, but the phenomenon is clearly beyond the convenient escaped-pet explanation."

According to Coleman, Forteans can now be broken down into three schools of thought: those who subscribe to the teleportation of animals theory, those who regard such phenomena as "psychic," or projections of the collective unconscious, and "cryptozoologists" who think that there are animals yet to be discovered.

"And people exaggerate, as you know," he says matter of factly. "A creature that walks upright and leaves 10-inch footprints would be about 5 ft. 9 inches, but if you talk to the people who saw it they'll say seven or eight feet."

"So the Dover Demon chapter is included partly to give insight into what I actually do when investigating."

The Dover Demon (so named by Coleman) was "a small gnome-like entity with an enormous head, large round glowing eyes, and long spindly limbs" spotted by four Massachusetts teenagers in three independent sightings in April 1977. Coleman's investigation involved interviewing the witnesses, researching their characters and backgrounds to determine their reliability, and detailed examination of the sighting areas.

Ultimately Walter Webb, an assistant director at Boston's Science Museum, decided that "a hoax is unlikely, and the report should be classified a low-weight unknown."

One of the most striking incidents in the book is that of "Kelly's little men" — noseless, bald, taloned and silver-skinned creatures who confronted the Sutton family at Kelly, Ky., one August night in 1955. The little men were not harmed by the Sutton family's enthusiastic gunfire. One, with otherworldly insolence, is alleged

(continued on page 16)

Evidence shown at conference

Human-combustion theories told

By Glenda Peterson
Journal Writer

People who die by spontaneous human combustion — a rare and mysterious occurrence in which the human body is believed to be consumed by fire from within — share common characteristics, according to Larry Arnold, a leading researcher in this ghastly phenomenon that he says has plagued mankind thousands of years.

Among the speakers at a three-day Lincoln conference on "Exploring Unexplained Phenomena," Arnold presented photographs Friday as tangible evidence that spontaneous human combustion has occurred and offered theories to explain why.

Victims are usually female; most have ambulatory difficulties, are aged, fat and alcoholic, Arnold said research indicates.

Normal dwelling fires rarely reach above 1,500 degrees Fahrenheit, Arnold said, and it takes several hours at 3,000 degrees Fahrenheit in a crematorium to reduce a body to ashes. Yet, in the spontaneous human combustion incidents Arnold related, the torso, even the bones, often was reduced to ash in as little as four minutes, while the fully clothed extremities, particularly the legs, often were spared.

Left intact

The area around the body, although combustible, was left intact. Arnold used the example of Dr. John Bentley of Coudersport, Pa., as a victim of the phenomenon. His remains, consisting only of a charred foot and a pile of ashes, were discovered on Dec. 5, 1966, by a gas meter reader.

A widely distributed medical journal says, "Spontaneous human combustion cannot occur and no good purpose can be served by discussing it." But Arnold says 300 cases of spontaneous human combustion have been chronicled. He said a half dozen cases occurred in England alone during the last half of 1938.

Possible causes presented by Arnold — including disturbances in the earth's magnetic field, self-ignition by human emotion, and sapping of human energy as a food source for foreign occupants of UFOs — were challenged

at Friday's conference by Jerome Clark, 37, associate editor of Fate magazine, published in Highland Park, Ill. The magazine, which deals with unexplained phenomena, has a circulation of 100,000, Clark said.

Research, friends

Clark, who said he has been interested in the subject for 26 years, has written several books on unexplained phenomena. He came to the conference at the Nebraska Center, 33rd and Holdrege streets, to find out what kind of research is being done and to meet old friends.

"I'm a little more skeptical than some of the people here," he said. "Some people are too skeptical, some are too credulous. You have to walk that lonesome road between the two. I don't think there are any people here you could call cranks," Clark said. "What happens so quickly in these cases is the tales grow in the telling. You have to search out the truth."

The meeting, which has attracted some 80-100 people from across the United States, ends Sunday. It is open to the public; admission is charged.

HERALD, Auckland, New Zealand
Dec. 31, 1983 CR: R. Collyns

Encounter With A Sea Monster

DECEMBER 31, 1883.

Captain D. Seymour, of the American whaling barque Hope On, which anchored in the bay at Panama on the 7th from a four months' cruise with 600 barrels of humpback on board, reports having encountered a strange marine monster off St Elmo.

This is one of the Pearl Island group, situated between 40 and 50 miles off Panama. The boats were out waiting signals from the vessel as to the direction in which the whales were heading.

Suddenly the water broke at a short distance from the boat.

Captain Seymour was steering, and he made ready to catch a whale.



But to his surprise, and that of the men in the boat, who ceased pulling and looked around when he shouted to them, an animal somewhat like a horse slowly rose out of the water and then dived, apparently alarmed at the sight of the boat.

None of those present had seen an animal like it before, although they are all old sailors, and they agree in saying, as do another boat's crew who saw it the following day, that it is an animal which has never been previously encountered.

The glance which Captain Seymour obtained enables him to describe it as about 20 feet in length, with a handsome, horse-like head, with two unicorn-shaped horns protruding

from it, with four legs or double-jointed fins, large, black spots, and a tail which appeared to be divided into two parts.

The animal was seen on two different days, and an effort would have been made to catch it had it not been that whales were about at the time. Captain Seymour and his officers agree in believing the monster is peculiar to the locality, and that it could be easily killed with lances and bomb guns.

Officers of the Pacific Mail Company state that they have seen this animal on several occasions, although they never had the opportunity for close observation which was obtained by the Hope On.

Mysterious Booms Heard Around State Baffle Authorities; Some Blame Ice, Cold

Gazette State News

A series of mysterious loud booms reported by residents of Hope, De Queen, Fulton, Mena, Ola, Batesville, Little Rock and other Arkansas cities will remain mysterious, at least for a while. Authorities are baffled about their source.

The noises, which have been described as sounding like an explosion, a sonic boom, a book falling off a shelf and a hand pounding on a wooden door, apparently have been occurring since the beginning of the recent cold weather. Inquiries have produced a number of theories and guesses but no plausible explanations.

Forecaster Hears Boom

George Wilken, a National Weather Service forecaster at North Little Rock, said he heard one of the booms himself and has had several reports of booms at the Weather Service but said he could think of no meteorological explanation.

"It sounded like a book falling off a shelf and landing flat on the floor," he said. "I can't think of any phenomenon connected with the cold weather that would cause it.

It's not thunder because we haven't had any on the radar and the type of clouds we've had don't produce thunder."

Jets Ruled Out

Capt. Peter Kirk, the base information officer at Little Rock Air Force Base, said he had called Air Force and Navy command centers and the Federal Aviation Administration and said they had no reports of military air traffic over the state that could have caused sonic booms.

Dale Blaylock of the state Office of Emergency Services said he

thought the noises might be the sounds of exploding electrical transformers.

Wilken said the only explanations he could think of were that the booms had been caused by trees breaking under the weight of snow and ice, concrete or wooden walls popping from exposure to low temperatures or sonic booms. Cold air, he said, allows sound to carry long distances.

"Those are the only things I can think of," he said, "but I wouldn't bet my life's savings on it."

ARKANSAS GAZETTE, Little Rock, AR - Dec. 24, 1983

Cult rites probed

SANDY — A young cow found mutilated in a field near Sandy may have been attacked during a cult ritual, a Clackamas County sheriff's deputy says.

The 9-month-old heifer's owners, Charles and Linda Herrell, said they found the animal's body in their east pasture. The heifer's ears and teats had been severed, they said.

The mutilation occurred Saturday, deputies reported.

Ritualistic mutilations of animals usually includes the removal of sex organs and, in females, the udder or teats usually are severed, said Deputy Jim Munsey.

"The mutilations are done by professionals," said Munsey. "There is no blood, no hack job. It looks like it's been done by a skillful surgeon."

CR: P. Guttfli

UFO Study Group Warns Hunters to Keep an Eye Out for 'Bigfoot'

By DAVE McCAMON
Vindicator Salem Bureau

ALLIANCE — Hunters, beware: While you are stalking that deer, an unexplained phenomenon may be lurking just behind you.

Paul Rozich, cochairman of the Tri-County UFO Study Group, said another sighting of "Bigfoot" is due in the area.

Both he and cochairman Jim Rastetter have some suggestions for hunters if they spot one of the elusive and mysterious creatures.

Yes, Bigfoot — or something unexplainable — has been seen several times in the Alliance-Sebring area. The most recent sighting was last summer, when a man saw a large, hairy creature upright on two legs clawing at a tree in a wooded area behind the Deerfield fire station.

The man gave the report at one of the study group's public meetings, which are held from 8 to 11 p.m. the second Saturday of the month at the L-K Townhouse Restaurant, 1975 W. State St.

The meetings are occasions when serious contemplation is given to the unexplained, and visitors can speak of peculiar happenings without fear of scorn. Many tales have gone unspoken for years, held by persons who think others may laugh at them.

Rozich, who has been investigating sightings of unidentified flying objects and Bigfoot in the area for 20 years, said the young, bearded man attended three meetings before he felt confident enough to speak. He told how he and a friend viewed the creature from about 100 yards.

The man said he and another person also saw a similar creature, standing an estimated nine feet tall and weighing well over 300 pounds, in the same wooded area in 1968.

Bigfoot, also known as the Abominable Snowman, the Yeti or Sasquatch, has been spotted in every state and around the world. In California, the state Legislature has declared it unlawful to shoot at one.

None has ever been caught, and American public is perhaps best acquainted with the Bigfoot creature from the 16mm film taken in 1975 by a California man as a creature showed himself in a clearing walking rather casually with long arms swinging.

There have been many reports of people shooting at the creatures with various sized weapons, but no dead animals have been found. Some cry out after being hit and others run away, apparently unharmed. Some simply disappear.

Rozich, a family man who is a supervisor of technical graphics at Babcock & Wilcox Alliance Research Center, believes the creatures may bury their dead. He said the dense woods in the area with many abandoned strip mines is probably an ideal habitat for Bigfoot.

Researchers say the creatures may live underground. Others say they are "paraphysical," existing in another dimension, and able to disappear.

Does this all sound strange, like something from a comic book or the figment of an overactive imagination?

Regardless, there are hundreds of sightings around the world, and Bigfoot plaster footprints lend credence to the argument that something may exist. To bring it closer to home, here are some of the local sighting details:

• About two months ago, a woman said at a study

group meeting she was camping in 1973 with her family near Coshocton. She had just bedded down when she looked up and saw one standing 10 feet from her.

• Last summer, in a park near Akron, campers saw one walk to a tent. It was scared away, but about an hour later, two "black panthers" were seen running towards another tent. Within 10 feet of the tent, the animals disappeared, and when the viewer looked in the other direction, a Bigfoot with glowing eyes was standing there.

• In the spring of 1981, a man was driving at night on Knox School Road. A figure appeared in the road and the auto's headlights only reached as high as its chest. The creature ran into a thicket and disappeared from sight.

• Two men saw a huge creature along River Road northeast of Alliance in 1979. They found footprints nearly 10 inches long and seven inches wide in a swampy, mossy area.

Only a few days later in Nelson Township, about 35 miles north of Alliance, three people claimed to have seen another creature. They fired a 12-gauge shotgun as the creature fled.

• Also in 1979, a woman saw one coming from a field toward Atwater Avenue here. It stepped over a 4½-foot fence.

• In the fall of 1981, two hunters saw one along state Route 165, just west of Greenford. The creature broke off hundreds of saplings while running away from them.

• Near Palmyra north of Deerfield, a farmer saw one just outside his bathroom window after he heard peculiar noises against the house. He went for his gun but when he returned, it was gone. Two large scrape marks were found on the house.

Two other creatures were also spotted in the Palmyra area.

Both Rozich and Rastetter urge hunters not to shoot at Bigfoot if they see it. They should simply observe, because the creature is not known to be hostile.

Be aware of such things as smell — they emit an ammonia or sulphur odor — the creature's height and weight, and any physical evidence it leaves behind.

The investigators give their mailing address at Box 2, Sebring, 44672, and ask that all sightings be reported. They say they have received no hoax or prank reports in the past.



INSPECTING EVIDENCE — Paul Rozich (left) and James Rastetter, co-chairman of the Tri-County UFO Study Group which covers Stark, Mahoning and Columbiana counties, inspect a plaster cast of a Bigfoot print taken from the ash after the eruption of Mount St. Helens in Washington. It is 18 inches long. Rozich said there were several Bigfoot sightings in the eruption area and hundreds of foot imprint casts were made.

DAILY OKLAHOMAN, Oklahoma City, OK
Jan. 5, 1984 CR: T. Adams

Was It Thunder Or Cracking Ice?

By Manny Gamallo
McAlester Bureau

McALESTER — An explosion-like noise that rattled much of McAlester Wednesday morning may have been caused by the magnified sound of ice cracking in waterways.

At least that is the best guess advanced so far.

The concussion, which hit at about 9:15 a.m., shook homes and rattled windows throughout much of the city, and was felt the strongest in the northern part of town.

No damage was reported, although the police department said it received several calls from residents wanting to know what happened.

Phil Bothwell, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Oklahoma City, said McAlester was the victim of a "substantial inversion" at around 9 a.m. and that may have led to the thundering boom.

According to Bothwell, the inversion — a layer of warm air over cold air — has a tendency to trap sound waves, magnify them and channel them to a location.

He said the sound of cracking ice may have been what McAlester heard.

Bothwell also said shifting ice would cause a rumbling sound, similar to one residents here heard for five minutes after the initial boom.

Clyde Pigg with the Corps of Engineers at nearby Lake Eufaula said much of the lake is frozen, although it is beginning to thaw and crack in spots.

He also said that ice along the Canadian River is beginning to thaw.

But, Pigg, whose office is about 30 miles from here, said he didn't hear a boom.

Many residents first thought the nearby Army Ammunition Plant was detonating ammo.

However, a spokeswoman there said there was no blasting at the plant Wednesday.

Others thought the noise may have been a sonic boom caused by military aircraft that occasionally fly over McAlester.

One man reported seeing a high-flying F-15 fighter streaking over the city at about the time of the boom.

"If it was a sonic boom, it was the loudest one I've heard," he said.

Mayor Steve Taylor said he heard the noise at his law office, "and it just about knocked my socks off."

James Ramsey, a supervisor with the Federal Aviation Administration office here, said the noise could have been a sonic boom, but he couldn't explain the rumbling noise afterward.

A similar explosion-like noise occurred in

GLEN ROSE, Tex. (AP) — A \$3.5 million international creationist museum modeled after Noah's Ark will be built near the site where a group says it found evidence that knocks down the theory of evolution.

Plans for the museum were announced Thursday during a meeting of the Bible Science Association. Members of the group also showed

fossilized human bones that they said prove evolution is a hoax. Carl E. Baugh, the museum organizer, said the facility would be the exact size of the ark described in the Bible as carrying Noah, his family and animals to safety during the great flood.

"It will be 450 feet long, 45 feet high and 75 feet wide," said Baugh, a Missouri minister who has been active in creationist groups. Baugh said financial backers include Fort Worth millionaire T. Cul- len Davis, a born-again Christian who supports creationist theories. "Cullen has given us both financial and moral support," said Baugh, who is president of International Baptist College, a small school in Crystal City, Mo.

Plans call for the museum to be built near the Paluxy River, west of Glen Rose, where numerous fossilized dinosaur tracks have been found.

Baugh gained attention last year when he said he found human footprints in the same limestone as dinosaur tracks at Glen Rose. Although his findings were rejected by many scientists, Baugh said finding the human and dinosaur

prints in the same limestone stratum proved the evolutionary theories are wrong. Scientists say dinosaurs had been extinct for 70 million years before the appearance of man.

Baugh said the two fossilized human skeletons he displayed were found in a rock layer near Moab, Utah, which by standard dating methods would make the human

fossils 136 million years old. Evolution theories say man evolved about 5 million years ago.

"Our own opinion is that these fossils are less than 5,000 years old, and that the finding of these two skeletons are another major evidence of Noah's flood," Baugh said. "We believe these two human beings were covered by the silt from the flood."

Fort Smith, Ark., last week, rattling homes and jarring residents in that city of more than 70,000 people.

The National Weather Service there blamed an inversion for amplifying the sound of cracking ice on the Arkansas River.

There were no planes flying over Fort Smith when the boom occurred.

\$3.5 Million International Creationist Museum in Texas to Duplicate Noah's Ark

ARKANSAS GAZETTE, Little Rock, AR - Dec. 31, 1983

Stone's Throw From Town: Rock-Hurler Torments Family

Someone — or something — has been hurling rocks at a Tucson home for weeks while eluding all who would catch him. Weird. But then, what of the hunters? This report was prepared by Edward Humes, Douglas Kreutz, Charles Bowden and Kevin Dayton of the Tucson Citizen.

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) — The bounty hunters had just finished adjusting the blanket covering the two 12-gauge shotguns and the Uzi submachine gun when the parapsychologist arrived.

He dug \$30 from his leisure suit, paid the cabbie who had hauled him from the airport, and turned to the flannel-shirted bounty hunters, who already had put on their look-at-the-city-boy smirks.

"I'm Scott Rogo. I'm here to investigate the rock throwing," the San Francisco parapsychologist said. "I specialize in investigating these cases. . . I took the first plane I could from Los Angeles."

The bounty hunters were unimpressed. And unhappy.

They wanted no competition in their search for whoever — "whatever," corrected the parapsychologist — had resurrected man's most ancient weapon, the rock, and laid a 10-week siege upon a home in the Santa Catalina foothills.

"We came here for the excitement," proclaimed one of the hunters, Kini Ra of Marana. "It's not often you get to hunt man. And we're going to get him."

"I'll make you a bet. You won't catch anyone," Rogo challenged. He planned to stay outside during a rocky barrage and observe "the phenomenon," which he said could possibly be attributed to a "poltergeist."

"You ever been hit by a rock?" Ra asked him.

"Yes. I've been hit by many things."

Ra's partner, Jerry from Texas, rolled his eyes, but Rogo continued: "This kind of thing is age old. . . You can find Egyptian papyrus that discusses cases like this."

The home is owned by Richard Berkbigler, a 45-year-old trucker, and his wife Mary Berkbigler, who were out at the moment. It was early afternoon and all was quiet.

Later that night, rocks hurled by some mysterious and angry stranger would begin pelting the house and the frustrated people outside it. It's been that way every night for weeks, a cacophony of rocks from an ever-elusive source.

Before the night ended, others arrived, including a bow-and-arrow-toting Indian tracker named Apache, an ex-Marine who conducted "search and destroy" missions in Vietnam but who tried to talk the rock thrower into surrendering, and a half-dozen helmeted Berkbiglers and family friends who pounded through the desert terrain, beating the brush to end the bombardment.

Watchers shivered through the winter eve, hidden in bushes, squatting in washes, or crouched in cars with windows protected by plywood. Not a shot was fired, and not a sign of the mysterious thrower was seen or heard, except for the rattle and clunk of rocks flying in the night.

But earlier, in the afternoon, everyone agreed the

rock thrower hadn't a chance. The only person home then was a Spanish-speaking carpenter, sawing away at some cabinets for the Berkbigler's new home, occasionally muttering about *las rocas*. When the telephone rang, the carpenter asked Ra to take the call.

"Get this," Ra said a few minutes later. "A three-man team of ex-Green Berets from Laos and Vietnam want to come and blow away this guy throwing the rocks. They said they are a three-person mercenary team. I told them to call back in half an hour."

The mercenaries have their own fatigues and weapons, Ra related, and would accept whatever payment the Berkbiglers decide upon if their mission is successful. If the rock thrower eluded them, no charge.

Ra said he and his partner Jerry, who drove up from Texas to hunt the rock thrower for kicks and possibly a meal, would have a better chance than the mercenaries because of their prodigious skills. (The mercenaries never called back.)

"I think if it's a person, we can catch him," Ra said. "We know how to hunt."

"I don't think it's a person," Rogo said.

"Then what is it?"

Rogo hesitated. "A force."

Ra laughed. "Like, beam me up Scotty? The mercenaries are here, Scotty, beam me up?"

The Berkbiglers say they are mystified, that their enemy is unknown, a crazy — who else but a madman?

Friends and relatives have been struck, windshields and windows broken, cars damaged. Pima County sheriff's officers, they and their cars pelted, have conducted several searches, including the use of helicopters, to no avail.

Berkbigler's son, Ricky, 20, estimates total damages at \$7,000.

Anita Berkbigler, 19, said men, not women, seem to be his targets. Others said that the senior Berkbigler, and his 15-year-old son David, were the most hated targets.

Neighbors and members of the Berkbigler family recalled an altercation of some kind between David and a transient or "mountain man" living in a nearby shack, and suggested that as a possible motive for the attacks. Several people are believed to be living in nearby caves, shacks and rock shelters, and the remains of fires and campsites have been found, Ricky said.

But no rock thrower.

No neighbor has been rocked, nor has any seen the marauder, Richard, David and Ricky all claim to have caught fleeting glimpses of him. To the rest, he is a formidable phantom, a Goliath who throws stones.

The family sees their quarry as a skilled, crazed survivalist and woodsman, able to move through the dark desert landscape with frightening ease. They say he taps on windows and doors, appears 10 yards from the house to hurl rocks, then vanishes even as family members give chase.

Utah Lake 'Monster' A Mystery

Legend Says Creature Carried Off Indians

BEAR LAKE, Utah (AP) — Sparkling like a powder-blue jewel on a clear sunny day, Bear Lake doesn't look much like the lair of a people-gulping Utah cousin to Scotland's Loch Ness Monster.

But since the Bear Lake Monster was reported by Louis Rich in the July 27, 1868, edition of the *Deseret News*, there have been recurring sightings at the 100-square-mile lake that straddles the Utah-Idaho border.

Rich's story, which recounted Indian legends about a monster carrying away tribe members, sparked more than 20 "sightings" during the next two years. It was described as everything from an alligatorlike creature with a horse's head to a sea serpent that roared like a bull.

More reports have surfaced in the 115 years since, most recently in 1981. Although many lakeside residents recall tales of sightings, it is hard to find witnesses.

Beatrice Hansen, 82, has spent her life at the lake without seeing the monster. But she said her late brother thought he saw the creature "years and years and years ago" while tending sheep.

"He said he saw something that looked like a big, long black log, then he looked away for a moment. When he looked back, it was gone."

Ross Peterson, 42, a history professor at Utah State University in Logan, heard of several sightings as a child. "But I think it had more to do with people having too much to drink . . . and seeing things."

Still, Peterson said some stories about the monster ring truer than others.

"Wilford Woodruff and John Taylor, who later became presidents of the (Mormon) church, both recorded in their journals (in the 1870s) that they saw the monster silhouetted against the sunset," he said.

For years, the legend was perpetuated by a belief that Bear Lake was bottomless. One theory arose that the Loch Ness Monster and the Bear Lake Monster were related, or thanks to a hypothetical underground passage connecting Utah and Scotland, the creatures were one in the same.

Geologists have found the lake is about 200 feet deep.

Burt Wilson, director of the Utah State University folklore program, believes the legend's survival perhaps is because of the need to objectify life's real terrors.

"There are still monsters that lurk out in the dark," he said. "Sex maniacs. Killers. We tell about people kidnapping children at shopping malls . . . girls being hacked to pieces in college dorms."

Residents of the tiny communities around the lake enjoy a good jaw about the creature and sell T-shirts to tourists emblazoned with "Bear Lake is for monsters."

They also keep watch from shore.

C.R. Matthews, proprietor of the Pickleville Country Store, said the monster is in the back of his mind whenever he strolls the beach.

"I've been looking for that varmint ever since I got here," he said.

Down the road, mechanic Glen Hansen, 24, said he hasn't seen the monster and isn't eager to get a glimpse.

"My dad told me once he came back off the lake and he was pretty scared," Hansen said.

"He didn't know what he saw. But he saw something making the water choppy."

Lake residents share 'monster' stories

By JOHN OMICINSKI
Gannett News Service

PORT HENRY — Walter "Shakes" Wojewodzic won't forget the October day in 1974 when he saw "Champ," the monster of Lake Champlain.

"We were out duck-hunting, and were pulling the boat ashore when I see this thing out in the bay, Bulwagga Bay. A great big thing with three giant black humps."

"It thrashed around for a good minute or so. Had to be 40, 50 feet long. Then it went under water and the wake, when it splashed on shore, looked like a yacht just went by."

Despite what he'd seen, Wojewodzic told no one but his wife for a long time. "Small town like this, they'd think you're drunk or crazy. Maybe lock me up in Ogdensburg (a state mental hospital)."

But nine years later, outside this village of 1,450, at a spot where some little towns would place a war monument, Port Henry has erected a sign listing the names of 107 people who swear they've seen "Champ." Few Port Henry residents regard any of them as crazy.

After Jane Sullivan saw "Champ" in 1981 from her veranda high above the lake, she received a letter from Leo Duval in Ruskin, Fla. "I'm glad someone's finally seen it as I did in 1947," wrote Duval. He said he saw something that looked like a "huge black snake" 20 feet long.

"It didn't slither like a snake," he wrote, "but 'humped' up out of the water, then it straightened straight out with a snap like a rope pulled tight."

"That," said Sullivan, "is a perfect description."

Theodore Rushby of Port Henry is 79 and has lived and fished in the lake all his life, hasn't seen anything resembling "Champ" in all that time. "But there's got to be something out there," he said. "Lot of reliable people have seen him."

Meanwhile, scientists who once dismissed such creatures as "Champ," the "Nessie" of Loch Ness, or the "Bigfoot" of the Pacific Northwest as hoaxes or nonsense are taking a new look.

Roy Mackal, a biologist at the University of Chicago, believes "Champ," "Nessie" and probably "Chessie," the reputed monster of Chesapeake Bay, are primitive whales, thought extinct, called zeuglodon. Others place their bet on the plesiosaur, a reptile-like creature with flippers, thought to be extinct for 60 million years.

"There is an animal in Lake Champlain," said Mackal. "The sightings by reputable people and the excellent sonar contacts we have take this thing out of the goblin world."

Indeed, he believes there may be a "family" of 11 or more "Champs" in the lake, which is more than 100 miles long and as deep as 400 feet. That's about five times the length of Loch Ness in Scotland, though Champlain is shallower.

"Looking for 'Nessie' is like finding a needle in a haystack," said Joseph Zarzynski, formerly of Endicott, one of the chief "Champ" enthusiasts. "Finding 'Champ' would be like finding a needle in a pasture."

But Zarzynski said 1983 proved to be a busy year for "Champ" sightings. In all, 22 people reported spotting the lake creature, he said.

Richard Greenwell of Tucson, Ariz., secretary of the International Society for Cryptozoology, believes there is increasing "closet" acceptance of "Champ" and "Nessie" among scientists.

A University of Arizona poll of about 180 chemists, biologists and anthropologists, he said, found that 39 percent of aquatic biologists thought "Nessie" existed.

There isn't a lot of money available to prove or disprove whether the creatures exist. "Can you imagine," said Greenwell, "if the National Science Foundation gave us \$50,000 to go look for 'Champ' Senator Proxmire would give us the next 'Golden Fleece' award."

But hobbyists and scientists continue to pursue the unknown, frequently bankrolling the search out of their own pockets.

Zarzynski, 32, who teaches social studies at Saratoga Springs High School, has put \$30,000 of his own money into the search for "Champ" and "Nessie." He's made six trips to Loch Ness and last summer, spent 31 days diving and sonar-hunting in Lake Champlain.

"Yes, I'm obsessed with it, but I try to take a balanced approach," said Zarzynski. So far, he hasn't spotted "Champ," but while diving, he's discovered the wrecks of several 18th century ships. He also publishes a newsletter called, "Champ Channels."

"I think this study has turned the corner from a pseudo-science to a side discipline of zoology," said Zarzynski. "The academic community seems to be looking at this with something more than just blind skepticism."

Texarkana Writer-director Expects 'Boggy II' to Do Well

By JOHN FOOKS
Special to the Gazette

— TEXARKANA.

Nobody was more relieved than Charles B. Pierce when Tulsa University missed a field goal on the last play of the game and allowed the University of Arkansas to escape with a 17-14 win in the Razorbacks' football opener this fall.

Pierce is the Texarkana director of 10 films, including "The Legend of Boggy Creek" about the so-called Fouke Monster, and a sequel to that to be released this week. The film has opened this week in Texarkana and other Southwest Arkansas cities.

The sequel opens in Fayetteville's Razorback Stadium, where a UA anthropology professor is cheering the Hogs to victory. While at the game he gets a message that a creature has been sighted again near Fouke. The film's script called very specifically for the Arkansas gridders to win before the professor sets off to investigate the report.

"I was very fortunate the Hogs won," Pierce said. "I would have had to change a lot of the script, because a lot of things were written about them winning the game."

His crew filmed from the press box in the first half and from the sidelines at halftime. That footage is used to create the setting of the game, but close-ups of Pierce and his friends at the game actually were filmed at Arkansas High School's stadium in Texarkana.

The original "Boggy Creek" film earned some \$20 million on a \$160,000 investment. It was based largely on true reports about the half-human creature that is supposed to haunt the Sulphur River swamps around Fouke in Miller County, but "Boggy Creek II" is strictly a work of fiction written by Pierce.

It features Pierce as the professor, who leads a research team down into the swamps to study the creature. What they find tops anything the researchers ever came across back in the lab. The creature they discover becomes particularly violent when the team captures his "child," a major character in the sequel.

"I will probably show more of the little one, at least in close-ups, than I do of the big one," Pierce said. "Because, I think the audience is going to be very sympathetic to the little one. You know, like 'E. T.' had a little creature that the audience loved."

Still, audiences won't be short-changed on the big guy either. In the first film, Pierce had to show him only in glimpses and at a distance, because all he could afford was an old gorilla costume with five wigs glued on its head. This time, he's had an elaborate creature suit custom-built.

"The first one worked out all right, because I think basically in a horror film what scares people most is the unknown, what they really can't see. Once an audience sees something, they're no longer all that much afraid of it really," Pierce said.

"Of course, you can't cheat an audience all the way through. Eventually, somewhere, you have to show it to them, let 'em have it. And I will, but I'm going to be very careful in how much I show in close-ups until we get to the climactic stuff."

Pierce's son, Chuck, 18, already has appeared in four of his father's films. In this one he plays a student, as do actresses Cindy Butler and Serene Hedin.

Butler is a Texarkana native who has appeared in two other

Pierce films. In "The Town That Dreaded Sundown," she portrayed the girl who got stabbed to death with a trombone. Hedin, a Lake-wood, Col., actress now living in Texarkana, appeared in Pierce's "Sacred Ground," and also in Keith Merrill's "Windwalker."

Pierce says he doesn't expect to win any Academy Awards with his film, but that the sequel should do well at the boxoffice. To ensure that, he's specifically targeted it at the 18 to 25 age group found most heavily in movie audiences today.

"If I could make a film for myself, very few people would go see it. It might be entertaining for me and my age group, but my age group does not go to the movies," he said.

"Boggy Creek II" is technically superior to the original, Pierce said. "We've grown a lot since that first film. We've learned more each time out, and I can certainly say this film will be better technically," he said.

The film features a more convincing creature than its predecessor. The monster's suit was body-cast to fit Faubus Griffin, the 6-5, 230-pound former semi-pro football player from Texarkana who plays the creature.



Charles Pierce (left, foreground) sets up a scene with cast members (from left) Chuck Pierce, Hedin and Butler.

Griffin has had bit parts as a native in "King Kong" and a weight-lifting prisoner in "Penitentiary." The suit he wears in "Boggy Creek II" was so elaborate it took a couple of hours to get everything in place, but once suited up, Griffin cut a figure menacing enough to scare anything in the swamp.

Pierce said the filming for the sequel was one of his smoothest de-

spite working in the oppressive July and August heat and fighting off hordes of bugs in the woods around Texarkana where most location shots were done.

"Everything really went well. We had to shoot a lot at night to beat the heat, but we didn't have any major disasters," he said. "I think the film is going to work. I think we've got a winner."

PROVINCE, Vancouver, B.C., Canada - Jan. 23, 1984 CR: G. Conway

Ed Fletcher 'freezes' a videotape at his picture of Ogopogo that was included in a television program on water monsters. He says his boat was lifted up by the huge serpent.

Staff photo
by Colin Price

HE 'SHOT' OGOPOGO

By JON FERRY
Staff Reporter

Forget Lotto 6/49. A North Vancouver businessman figures he's found the monster that will make him an instant millionaire.

Ed Fletcher, 51, has pictures of what he claims is Ogopogo, the fabled serpent believed to lurk in the murky depths of Okanagan Lake.

And he sees no reason why he shouldn't collect the \$1-million prize offered by The Okanagan-Similkameen Tourist Association (OSTA) in conjunction with Lloyd's of London.

"I can't see that there's any other proof that's required other than witnesses, scientific information and photographs," Fletcher said.

It was in the summer of 1976, while Fletcher was holidaying on the lake at

Westbank near Kelowna, that he first saw the Canadian answer to the Loch Ness monster.

He was in his high-speed runabout boat with his 14-year-old daughter Diane.

"We were two or three blocks out to sea in Westbank Bay when, all of a sudden, this huge creature swam in front of the boat," he said.

"I saw that it was 80 feet long and it was three feet higher than the bow of the boat. It was like a huge eel or snake and it was swimming very quickly. It was sort of brownish in color and its skin was smooth like a shark or whale."

Fletcher believes the monster was attracted by high-amperage electrical currents from the boat's rudder — the result of newly-installed steel motor mounts.

Since then, he says he and his friends have witnessed "40 or 50" sightings of Ogopogo. His findings have been written up in prestigious Washington publication, The Smithsonian.

One time, Fletcher claims his boat was lifted up by the sea monster. Another time, a friend of his daughter Jill was water-skiing in the bay when Ogopogo pulled alongside. She dropped her towline and fell into the water, about a metre away from the beast.

"She was in complete shock for more than two hours and has never water-skied since," he said.

The OSTA says Fletcher will have to wait a while before learning whether he'll collect. A spokesman says he's waiting for Lloyd's to send a contract, specifying what proof is needed.

It came from the North

By SHERRY SIMPSON
Staff Writer

Alaska doesn't merit a place in the "Twilight Zone," but there are plenty of unexplained or unusual scientific phenomena here to intrigue observant residents.

Reports of unidentified flying objects, noisy auroras, strange animal behavior, fireballs and northern lights dancing on the ground have collected in University of Alaska-Fairbanks geophysicist's Neil Davis' files over the years.

Davis began collecting reports of strange events and sightings from Alaskans after earthquakes in 1958 in Huslia and Lituya Bay.

"I found a lot of people who reported on the earthquakes wanted to report other things," he said.

Reports from people can be useful for a couple of reasons, Davis said.

"There can be a lot of personal satisfaction if people report it, because scientists will often look into it and try and report back. At least I did," he said.

Beyond that, the information can often be valuable to scientists, he said. Probably the most important and useful events reported in the sky have been meteors, Davis said.

Some meteors, "junk" from space that glow from the intense heat of entering the earth's atmosphere, generate so much light that they cast shadows or can be seen in daylight.

On Halloween night in 1978, a brilliant fireball was sighted around 6 p.m. by several people in a 75- to 200-mile sweep south of Fairbanks from Big Delta to Healy, and as far southeast as Tok, he said.

"Each one thought it fell to the ground right near them, but there's no way you can judge distance," Davis said.

Estimates of angle and direction are more valuable than distance judgments, according to the geophysicist. Because so many people reported the meteor, scientists were able to extrapolate the point of impact as south of Delta, north of Black Rapids, west of Tok and east of Fairbanks. The meteor itself was never recovered, though.

"It undoubtedly broke up," Davis said.

Meteor sightings in Alaska haven't always been so innocuous. Davis dug up the case of a lower Kuskokwim sighting in 1929 from an unpublished manuscript in the university archives.

In this incident, a group of reindeer herders had their camp destroyed by the wind accompanying the passage of a fireball.

"It came by sufficiently close and sufficiently bright so that it was seen in daylight," Davis said. One of the men estimated that the fiery visitor passed no more than a thousand feet above their heads.

"There's a lot of meteorites in Alaska, but it's very difficult to recover them," Davis said. One meteorite was raised by a gold dredge in 1942 on Aggie Creek on the Seward Peninsula. The iron nickel meteorite is now at the University of Alaska Museum.

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS are the most common of reports, Davis said. Unusual cloud formations, aircraft lights, jet contrails and satellites may account for most observations, but sometimes it's hard to tell.

"I've never seen anything myself," Davis said. "There's been times I've been confused as to what I've been seeing."

He remembers at least one case he was never able to satisfactorily resolve. A woman wrote and told him she had seen a "funny light in the sky" near Gulkana. They corresponded several times, and he was able to at least rule out a satellite. The report still has him stumped though.

"It may have been an airplane," he said.

The planet Venus is often the culprit in UFO sightings, he said. Every 19 months, it approaches Earth and its apparent brightness increases. First it appears as a morning star, he said, and then 72 days after becoming its brightest, it becomes brilliant as a morning star.

EARTHQUAKES, WHILE COMMON in Alaska, often provoke a lot of calls to the Geophysical Institute, Davis said.

For six months to a year after a big quake, people are more conscious of phenomena around them and report all kinds of new things, he said.

Sometimes those observations are valuable. Several memorable reports came after the 1958 earthquake in Lituya Bay, near Yakutat.

Two Natives living near Huslia had at observed during an earthquake there that water sloshes around strangely, Davis said. That piece of knowledge came in handy during the Lituya earthquake, when one of the Natives, a woman cleaning fish on the Koyukuk River, noticed the water was moving strangely and correlated it with an earthquake. The earthquake was 800 miles away, and her report, along with the other man's, made it possible to verify the long-distance effects of the quake, Davis said.

The Lituya earthquake also sparked reports of strange animal behavior. Before the quake struck, Davis said, some people picking berries in the area suddenly noticed that birds were flying very high and were agitated. Another woman noticed the leaves moving in a "funny" way. A group of nearby fisherman began getting bites with every cast at the same time.



CHECKING REPORTS—

David Stone, a geophysicist at the University of Alaska, examines seismic data at the Geophysical Institute. Stone is one of two correspondents at the university who report primarily volcanic activity to the Scientific Event Alert Network, an international reporting system.

(Photo by Mike Belrose)



EXTRATERRESTRIAL VISITOR—University of Alaska museum technician Gary Selinger displays the Aggie Creek meteorite, which was raised by a gold dredge on the Seward Peninsula in 1942. The meteorite is apparently the only known Alaskan specimen in the state.

(Staff photo by Joe Correia)

"There are small ground tremors too weak for people to sense, but animals can," Davis said. "Fish are particularly sensitive."

China, which has a great many earthquakes, has "used every technique they can think of (to predict earthquakes)," Davis said. Those techniques include observing animal behavior.

NOT ALL UNUSUAL SIGHTS occur aboveground.

Earthworms are generally thought not to live in Interior Alaska, according to Davis and biology professor Carol Feist. Feist said one type of worm does live in Interior Alaska, but "you don't find typical earthworms," she said. In 12 years of digging in her garden, she's never seen anything resembling an earthworm.

But Davis said there have been reports of earthworms, particularly around hot springs and where people live. Florence Weber, a geologist with the U.S. Geological Survey, thinks she spotted one of the elusive creatures while studying glacial deposits on the upper Salcha River in late summer 1980.

While on her hands and knees, leaning over a hole dug on a south-facing bank, she says she saw a little earthworm squirming around near the top.

"It's a wonder we didn't cut it in half," she said. She described it as a little over an inch long, about as thick as a pencil lead, segmented and pinkish in color.

"So help me Hannah, it looked like

any old earthworm to me," she said. "I don't know what else it could have been."

She didn't collect the worm, though now she says she wished she had.

ONE UNSOLVED MYSTERY of the North is the phenomena of hearing the aurora.

"There's no question that people have the sensation of hearing the aurora," Davis said. "Lots of people do."

Davis has never heard the aurora himself, though his wife has, he said.

People's eyes often fool them when it comes to the aurora, too. Davis has received many reports of pilots seeing the aurora below their wings, or of people seeing the aurora touch the ground or dance between them and trees, for example.

"You can't convince them that they didn't see it," he said.

The earth's curvature can make the aurora appear to touch the surface, he said.

One night in 1969 an elderly Athabaskan woman living at Dot Lake saw a barium cloud released by a rocket from Poker Flats. The brilliantly colored cloud suddenly appeared, expanded and then disappeared.

"I know what that was," she said. "It was God opening up a hole from heaven so he could look down from the sky and see the people here on earth. He didn't like what he saw, so he closed the hole back up again."

"She wasn't bothered a bit by what she saw," Davis said. "She knew right away what it was."