

UFO

NEWSCLIPPING SERVICE

U.F.O. NEWSCLIPPING SERVICE

ROUTE 1 — BOX 220

PLUMERVILLE, ARKANSAS 72127 U.S.A.

CO-EDITORS: LUCIUS FARISH
ROD B. DYKE

MARCH 1984

NUMBER 176

REGISTER-STAR, Rockford, IL

Dec. 21, 1983

More in area report sighting lighted objects

By Mike Mooney

The Register Star
Mike and Jeff Goodwin and their friend, Robert Blanchard, weren't the only northern Illinois residents to see an unidentified flying object Monday night.

At least a half dozen other people called the Register Star newsroom Tuesday to report they, too, had seen strange lights in the sky.

The Goodwins and Blanchard sighted a triangular-shaped object about 6:30 p.m. Monday north of Byron. The three teen-agers followed the lights for about a half hour and, at one time, stood underneath one of the objects.

Another Byron resident, who asked not to be identified because of his position in the community, said he, too, saw an unidentified object at about the same time a spokesman for the Federal Aviation Authority said he had an unexplained blip on his radar screen over Byron.

The FAA spokesman thought the blip might be a helicopter because of its erratic path, but couldn't say for sure. According to police transmissions in Oregon and Byron, there was no helicopter in that area at that time Monday.

The Byron resident described his sighting as "a bright, white, flashing light where there shouldn't have been a light." He said he was driving near the Kysor Plant on the north edge of Byron at the time of the sighting.

Jennifer Jannisch, a Belvidere resident, also saw strange lights in the sky about 6:45 p.m. Monday in the Poplar Grove area.

"I didn't talk about them because I was afraid people would think I was nuts," Jannisch said. "But after reading about what was seen in Byron, I had to call."

Jannisch said she was traveling north on Poplar Grove Road when she made her sighting.

"I saw two bright lights coming toward us," she said. "Then they flew away. I didn't hear anything. Of course, I had all the windows rolled up because of the cold. But it was weird. I've never seen any strange flying objects before, and I probably wouldn't have thought of it if I hadn't read about those people in Byron. What I saw was just the same."

Angie Turner, a Rockford resident who works as a Register Star driver during the early morning hours, said she, too, sighted strange lights about 1:30 a.m. Tuesday.

"They were coming from the direction of Byron," she said. "I travel this route all the time, so I'm used to seeing airplanes land and the lights from the Byron (Nuclear Power Plant) towers. But this was different."

She said she first sighted the lights on Banks Street and described her sighting as "pinkish, yellow rays." She said she saw the lights for about 10 minutes before losing sight of them. She did add that she has seen moving lights she couldn't explain on other nights, too.

This is not the first time possible UFOs have been seen in Ogle County, Sheriff Jerry Brooks said.

"There were sightings throughout the county several years ago," he said, "and about 15 years ago, when I was still a deputy, there were other sightings in the county."

Brooks added that he has no explanation for the sightings.

Chuck Geddes, radar unit supervisor at Greater Rockford Airport, said there have also been unexplained radar sightings in the past. He recounted a case where radar operators sighted fast-moving objects several nights in a row.

"But just because something unexplained appears on a radar scope doesn't mean you have a UFO," he said. "People have a misconception of radar. What you get is a green blob on your scope. It's not something that's clearly identifiable."

Geddes added that snowstorms, flocks of flying birds and many other objects can suddenly appear on a radar scope and just as quickly disappear.

"You can even get a bounce off a truck or car that passes an area of high ground," he said. "There are many times you can't tell what you have on the scope."

Robert Griddle, a staff member of the National UFO Reporting Headquarters in Seattle, Wash., said the cold, crisp weather and cloud cover can also lead to light reflections which are reported as UFOs.

"There have been cases where lights from many miles away have been seen clearly in another area," he said. "There are many factors which can lead to a possible sighting that turns out to be nothing."

Griddle added, however, that the triangular shape reported in northern Illinois is common throughout the United States.

JOURNAL, Lakeville, CT - Jan. 12, 1984 CR: B. Greenwood

Neighbors Insist UFO Sighting Was 'Nothing Like A Plane'



ILLUSTRATION BY JULIANNE DOMM

By Rae Eastman

CORNWALL — Polly Calhoun was not the only person who saw a UFO on Monday, Dec. 26.

At about 11:30 p.m. that night, as he was about to retire, Eugene Beeman looked out his window and thought his barn was on fire. Mr. Beeman lives in Cornwall Hollow, just east of the Calhoun farm. "Had I not seen the notice in the *Journal* of Polly's report, I wouldn't have said anything about it. People would say I was just seeing things," he said.

According to Beeman, the object was going toward the northeast from the southwest as Mrs. Calhoun said.

"I'd guess it was about 8 feet long and 8 inches to 10 inches in diameter — long and tapered. It was absolutely silent," Beeman said.

Beeman said he was not alarmed or frightened by the experience. "I spend a lot of time out of doors at night watching for deerjacksers and I see so many peculiar things in the sky I didn't pay any particular attention — just put it down to Army experiments or some such."

He said he watched it for a few minutes and, once he was sure his barn wasn't ablaze, went back to bed.

Barbara Farnsworth, who lives in West Cornwall and did not feel so casual about her sighting of the same sort of object two nights earlier, on the 24th. It was near midnight on a night that was "clear as a bell and freezing cold."

"I wish someone could tell me that what I saw Saturday night was a harmless collection of electricity or gas. I wish what I saw wasn't what in my bones I know it was. There are people who would love to be picked up by a UFO and taken for a ride, but I'm not one of them. No thank you. Just seeing the thing was frightening enough," she said.

What she said she saw was a ball of light moving very slowly, from the east up route 128. It was like a planet; fiery, unearthly and it seemed to be tracking something, making minute course variations.

"To me it was nothing like a plane — in fact one happened by at the same time, its head and tail lights blinking. The thing passed in absolute silence and went out of sight," she said.

A half hour later it came back, she said, but by the time she put on a jacket to go outside, it had crossed the trees behind her house and disappeared.

Paula Holmes of Cornwall Bridge, the Connecticut director of APRO, Aero Phenomenon Research Organization, reported the sighting to her headquarters in Tucson, Ariz., as a "nocturnal light with two witnesses" a category fairly low on the scale of civilian sightings that ascends to the level of "close encounter."

"Generally speaking," she said, "we need more witnesses to authenticate a UFO sighting." By coincidence I had seen earlier the same morning an industrial helicopter hovering near the helipad at Livingston Castle, midway between Route 45 and the Ripley Farm, close to a construction site on the top of Bald Mountain. I did not see the object Beeman and Mrs. Calhoun saw, but from their description it was definitely on the normal flight path toward Bradley Airport. It can't be checked though, because helicopters fly too low to be caught by radar. But I have seen some planes and helicopters with exceedingly bright lights for night time landings."

"Sightings are increasing, there's no doubt about it," says Lawrence Fawcett, a lieutenant with the Coventry Police Department and a former member of APRO. He is the co-author with Barry Greenwood of a forthcoming book called *Clear Intent: The Government Cover Up of the UFO Experience* to be published in May by Prentice Hall.

"I don't do civilian reports any more. I'm more concerned with the government's efforts to keep the true experience out of the public's hands. These things are real and the proof is in government documents I obtained as a result of lawsuits I instituted with various intelligence agencies," he said.

To Mrs. Calhoun, the most frightening aspect of her experience was the effect on her dog. In conversation with Barbara Farnsworth who also called her as a result of the note in the *Journal*, she suggested that if it should ever happen again, she take her dog outside with her

and Mrs. Farnsworth said she certainly would.

Peter McEachern described his sighting of a UFO over Tyler Lake a year ago as exciting.

"I was drawn out of the house by a very strange feeling that something was going on. I looked toward the Lake and there it was, a round ball of light hanging low and motionless over the lake."

Nancy Lawson of West Cornwall was with him. "We watched for about 15 minutes and then it suddenly took off. It gave me a really funny feeling." Later she talked with six of McEachern's neighbors who had also seen the object. "All of them said they'd experienced strange sensations in their stomachs which they attributed to vibrations from the object."

UFO Spotted Over Cornwall

JOURNAL, Lakeville, CT - Dec. 29, 1983 CR: B. Greenwood

Polly Calhoun of Cornwall, a woman not given to extraterrestrial flights of fancy, saw an unidentified flying object (UFO) Monday night and wonders who can explain it.

As she was walking her dog in near-zero temperature about 11:30 p.m., she looked up to discern a "very bright" yellow object that seemed about 2 feet long and 8 inches wide moving across the sky from west to east over the First Church of Christ. The object appeared to be a complete rectangle and moved noiselessly at about the speed of a helicopter, she said.

The hackles on the neck of her dog stood up, and the shaking animal leaned against her for protection.

Mrs. Calhoun went to the home of a neighbor, Lori Beecher, but by the time Mrs. Beecher came to the door the object had disappeared over the horizon. Mrs. Beecher called television Channel 3 and learned that no one else had reported the UFO, and Mrs. Calhoun telephoned the State Police with the same result.

"It was a very peculiar sensation," she commented.

UFO investigators report local sightings

MESSINGER, Clio, MI - Dec. 28, 1983

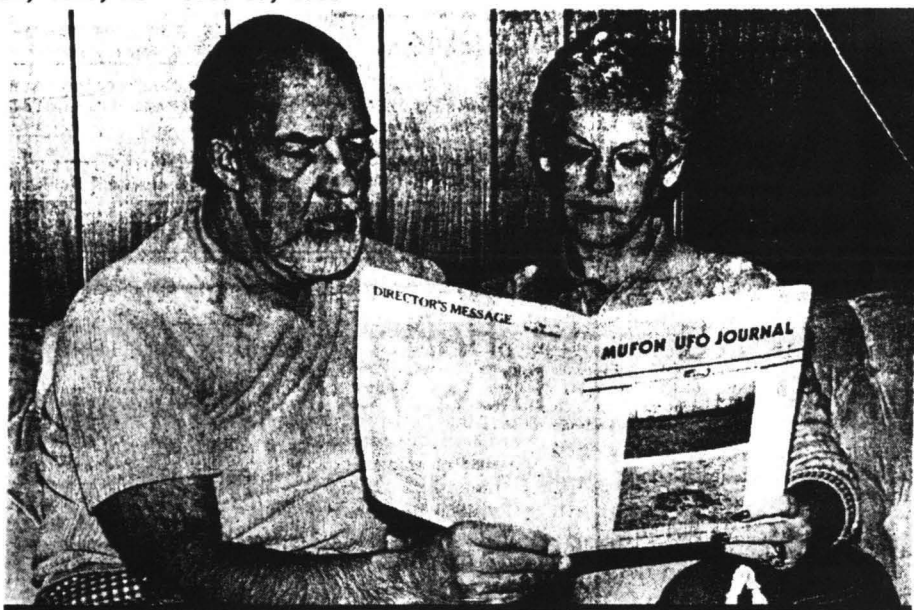
"On Aug. 19, 1983 my cousin Marion Hillaker and I were sitting on the patio visiting. We were discussing the sighting of a UFO by my husband, George and I, which occurred on Aug. 10, 1983, at 1:10 a.m. We had placed our chairs so we could look west toward a tree line and cornfield. We were watching this area because that is where George and I first sighted the object.

Suddenly, there just a few feet above the tree tops, a light came on. It was approximately 650 ft. from where we were sitting. Marion and I saw it at the same time. The object was not moving at all, it was just hanging in the air just above the trees. There was only one white light shining, bright but not glaring, nor did it hurt our eyes to look at it. There were also red lights, but there was no definite pattern that I could see. The red lights seemed to be reflecting on the bright metal or whatever the craft is made of.

The craft started moving slowly north toward where we were sitting. We jumped from our chairs and started running south toward it. The lights seemed to be getting larger as it came. I said to Marion, "Get the guys, Marion. They will want to see it. I'll keep watching it."

We stopped running and Marion was about to turn back to the house to alert the men. All of a sudden, another light came on and whipped sideways (I will call this a 90 degree turn) and headed east. The men had already heard us and were coming from the house. They saw it moving toward the east and it went from our view behind some trees. The thing was only about 25 to 30 ft. above the ground. There was no noise or any sound that we could hear. As it moved east, we could see the red lights reflecting off the shiny metallic finish. The total time of the sighting was approximately three minutes. When the object went behind the tree, I checked by watch--it was 11:20 p.m."

--reported by Shirley Coyne of Flushing, Mich.



They have no fear

BY LAURIE V. PROCHAZKA

George and Shirley Coyne can tell stories that are out of this world--stories of UFO (Unidentified Flying Object) sightings right in the Flushing area.

Since Aug. 10 when Mrs. Coyne experienced her first UFO sighting, the Flushing couple have become deeply involved in researching this phenomena.

They now serve as UFO investigators for Genesee County, having been appointed by the state director of MUFON (The Mutual UFO Network), a national organization founded in 1967 and dedicated to the study of UFOs.

The above account details the second sighting Mrs. Coyne experienced on Aug. 19. Between Aug. 10 and Sept. 23, she reported five UFO sightings and her husband three.

"Unless you see this yourself, it is hard to believe," Mrs. Coyne acknowledged. "A lot of people who have had similar experiences with UFO sightings don't talk about it because they think people will make fun of them."

"It is easy to think that someone is just 'spreading it on rather thick'," her husband agreed. "A fair share of reported sightings turn out to be a star or a manmade hoax--but these cases were different."

"The things I saw were definitely not hoaxes," Mrs. Coyne stressed, adding that she has no fear of UFOs and believes in life on other planets.

"To me, it is a normal and natural thing that there would be life elsewhere," Mrs. Coyne remarked. "It is rather mind-boggling, but I am comfortable with it--I have no fear. It's like you wait and wait and there it is!"

GEORGE AND SHIRLEY COYNE of Flushing, Genesee County investigators for the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) reviewed their latest issue of the "MUFON UFO Journal". Between them, the couple have seen five UFO sightings.

Her husband also acknowledged his belief that other life forms exist in the universe.

"Why should we be so egoistic to think we are the only ones around?" he questioned.

"Everytime I see the UFO, I try to free my mind in hopes of receiving some form of communication. Our goal, and the goal of MUFON, is basically information. We want to get answers as to why they (the UFOs) are here and what they are looking for."

Both the Coynes stressed their belief that the humanoids (the term for life forms operating the UFOs) are not interested in harming the human population.

"If they wanted to do that, they would have done so years ago," Coyne said. "It appears that they are so far advanced compared to our capabilities. I believe we could learn a lot from them, if we could establish communication."

The Coynes became involved with MUFON after their Aug. 10 sighting at their home on River Road, between Elms and Beecher Roads.

"I remember seeing a UFO as far back as 1968, but I never saw another one until this summer," Mrs. Coyne reported. "George and I knew our neighbors had seen something in July, but we did not anticipate seeing something ourselves. It was Aug. 10 and we were sleeping in our motorhome because it was so hot inside the house. It was between 1 and 1:10 a.m. I had been reading and sitting on the edge of the bed looking out. Suddenly, I saw lights along the tree line. I thought, 'what is a car doing in the cornfield?' The lights just started rising approximately 10 to 12 ft. off the ground. They came over the trees, hesitated and slowly began floating down. Then they started moving at an angle toward our house. I thought it had landed behind our barn. So, I woke George up, and we went outside. We ran out behind the barn and could see nothing--no evidence of the lights."

After that sighting, the Coynes contacted Dan Wright of Lansing, the state director for MUFON. They knew about MUFON because the organization had made contact with the woman in their neighborhood who had experienced the previous UFO sighting. He came and talked with them about their experience, and helped them to write up reports. Then, picking up on their interest, he asked them to be investigators for Genesee County.

Coyne noted, as investigators, he and his wife are not trying to supercede the responsibilities of law enforcement agencies or airports.

He has written to these agencies in the Genesee County area to inform them of his role as investigator and to offer to handle any investigation of sightings, thus relieving the law enforcement agencies of such work.

"We are not trying to take over their position," Coyne stressed, "but we want to be helpful."

The Coynes have been trained by MUFON in methods to use in investigation reported sightings.

"Hopefully, we have proven ourselves capable of conducting an objective investigation, which includes contacting police agencies and airports to confirm if there were any sightings," he said.

The Coynes fill out a questionnaire on each sighting, describing the environmental situation, the object seen (size, changes of direction, light pattern, noise, etc.). They also take soil samples, measurements and photographs of the area and talk to as many people as possible who experienced the UFO sighting. They then send this information to MUFON's state headquarters in Lansing.

Since August, the Coynes have been called on one UFO sighting in Grand Blanc Township.

"We think this is really exciting," Coyne said, adding they would like to hear from anyone in the county who has had a sighting or anything unexplainable.

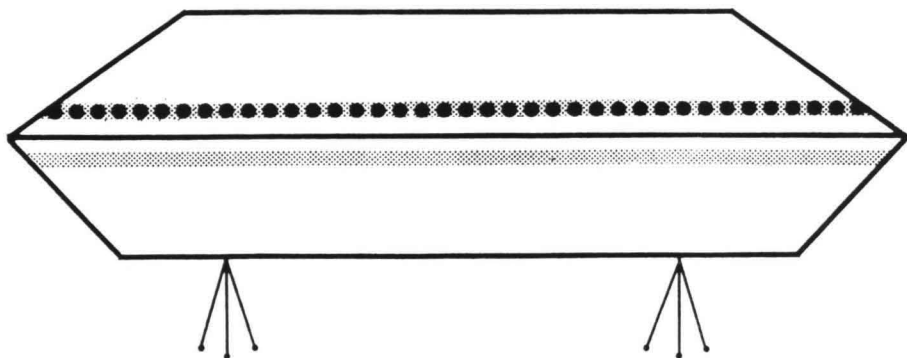
According to Coyne, 85 to 90 percent of the reported sightings have been around water, and UFOs have also been reported near power lines. Mrs. Coyne was able to place a shape on one of her sightings and described the craft as being shaped like two inverted pie tins, one on top of the other, with two tri-pod struts underneath the craft.

"The lights were like big headlights--very bright but not glaring," she said. "It didn't hurt your eyes to look at them."

And never in any of the five sightings (which all occurred near their home on River Road) did she or her husband hear any noise from the UFO.

Even though the couple has experienced no sightings since Sept. 23, Mrs. Coyne said she is still looking.

"I can't get her to go to bed until after 2 a.m.!" her husband smiled, referring to the times of the previous sightings. "She wants to stay up all night watching for the UFO to return!"



UFO's have been described as resembling two inverted pie plates with tripod struts underneath the craft. Pulsating lights have been reported as well as lights resembling headlights.

UFO believer fights against 'cosmic Watergate'

'The object itself had a pulsing red light on top and a bank of blue lights underneath. The object was hovering or on legs. As the patrolmen approached the object, it maneuvered through the trees and disappeared. At this time the animals on a nearby farm went into a frenzy'

By Steve Fagin
Day Staff Writer

It was not a dark and stormy night, nor was it a fog-shrouded swamp, nor a cornfield at dusk.

It was a bright, midsummer afternoon in Manchester, across the street from an auto dealership.

"I got out of my car and there were all these people looking up in the sky and pointing," Lawrence Fawcett recalled.

"What do you do when you see people looking up and pointing? You look up," he said.

What Fawcett saw changed his life, and converted him from a "non-believer" to a "believer." As the crowd watched and gasped, a shiny metal object shaped "like a stretched-out football" dropped rapidly to earth.

"It had no wings, no windows. It was about the size of a 747 (jetliner)," Fawcett continued.

The object hovered a few feet above an electrical substation, and then a spark jumped up from the wires. Seconds later, the craft shot skyward and disappeared.

For a few moments the crowd of about 25 was speechless. Then, Fawcett remembered, people started turning to each other, saying, "You saw that, right?"

Before that incident, which took place in 1965, Fawcett believed in unidentified flying objects about as much as he believed in the Easter Bunny.

"If you would have come to me and said you just saw a UFO, I would have asked, 'What have you been drinking?'" he said.

Today, Fawcett — a police lieutenant from Coventry — is assistant director of a national organization called Citizens against UFO Secrecy, and he claims to have proof the U.S. government has been suppressing reports on spacecraft sightings for decades.

"The cover-up goes all the way to the White House," he charged. "We call it a cosmic Watergate."

During an interview recently at his home

in Coventry, Fawcett talked about the roadblocks he has faced while attempting to uncover the secret documents.

A familiar pattern emerged, Fawcett said: He would request reports from a government agency, and at first the agency would deny any reports existed. Then Fawcett would file a complaint with the Freedom of Information Commission, and a few months later the documents would "magically" materialize.

More often than not, words, paragraphs and whole pages would be blacked out, with the explanation the information posed a threat to national security.

In response, Fawcett filed lawsuits. Some have been successful, others — as in a recent challenge that the U.S. Supreme Court declined to consider — were not.

Through it all — after hundreds of phone calls, scores of Freedom of Information requests and half a dozen lawsuits — Fawcett's organization has accumulated what he claims is the country's largest private file on UFOs.

"We've now generated more than 4,000 documents never before seen by the public," he said.

These form the basis for a book Fawcett is writing with author Barry J. Greenwood, "Clear Intent — the Government Coverup of the UFO Experience," which is due to be published by Prentice-Hall in April.

"Clear intent" refers to a term used by the North American Air Defense Command (NORAD) in a report on a series of sightings in 1975. During October and November of that year, UFOs reportedly were seen flying over six Strategic Air Command bases in the United States and Canada at which nuclear weapons are stored.

According to the NORAD document, "the unknowns demonstrated a clear intent in the nuclear weapons storage area."

Equally sensational is a series of incidents involving bright lights which reportedly took place at the Woodbridge Royal Air Force base in England in December 1980.

At first, Fawcett said, officials released a "cover charge" claiming a plane had crashed, but through persistent efforts he obtained a report prepared by a U.S. Air Force lieutenant colonel who made one of the sightings and later examined the area.

The report states "unusual lights" were seen about 3 a.m., and three patrolmen dispatched to the scene said they saw "a strange glowing object in the forest."

"The object was described as being metallic in appearance and triangular in shape, approximately two to three meters across the base and approximately two meters high. It illuminated the entire forest with a white light."

"The object itself had a pulsing red light on top and a bank of blue lights underneath. The object was hovering or on legs. As the patrolmen approached the object, it maneuvered through the trees and disappeared. At this time the animals on a nearby farm went into a frenzy."

The Air Force officer reports the next day he observed depressions in the ground where the object apparently landed. In addition, traces of radiation were detected, the report notes.

"Later in the night," the report continues, "a red sun-like light was seen through the trees. It moved about and pulsed. At one point it appeared to throw off glowing particles and then broke into five separate white objects and then disappeared."

"Immediately thereafter, three star-like objects were noticed in the sky. . . . The objects moved rapidly in sharp angular movements and displayed red, green and blue lights. . . ."

"The objects to the north remained in the sky for an hour or more. The object to the south was visible for two or three hours and beamed down a stream of light from time to time," the report notes. "Numerous individuals" witnessed the incident, the report concludes.

Details of this case have been released only recently and are generating banner

headlines in British newspapers, according to Dot Street, an investigator for a UFO organization in that country.

Mrs. Street, who works for the British Unidentified Flying Object Research Association, is in this country to gather more information on the air base sightings.

She had met Fawcett at a recent conference in Nebraska, returned with him to Coventry and plans to conduct additional research in Florida before going back to England next month.

Mrs. Street said the American colonel was extremely upset when he learned his report had been made public through the efforts of Fawcett's organization.

Fawcett said he believes defense officials historically have been secretive concerning what they know about UFOs.

"They want the technology. UFOs would make a beautiful weapons delivery system," he said. "Whoever possesses one would have air superiority over the world."

Fawcett said the reports he has gathered leave little doubt that "UFOs are real. They're somebody else's machine."

In addition, he said, "Their technology is way beyond ours."

Fawcett said there have been about 90,000 reported sightings of UFOs in this country over the last 20 years, adding that the number is increasing because people are more willing to come forward now.

Years ago, he said, anybody who claimed he saw a UFO "would be considered a nut." Fawcett admitted some of his friends initially kidded him about "little green men," but now most people — including his fellow police officers — take him seriously.

The most recent Gallup poll, Fawcett noted, showed 57 percent of the public believes in UFOs.

Fawcett said by continuing his research he hopes to learn exactly how much the government knows about UFOs.

Paraphrasing a character in the movie "Close Encounters of the Third Kind," he said, "All we want to know is, what the hell is going on?"

TIMES-ARGUS, Barre, VT - Jan. 2, 1984 CR: B. Greenwood

A Dark, Eerie Glow

By SUSAN ROBERTS

Stephen Cody and Michele Trudel didn't quite know what to make of the pulsating orb flying low, and slowly out of the night sky near Westwood Drive in Montpelier at 12:50 a.m. Sunday, but, Cody said, they were both alarmed.

Cody, 19, described it as "just a dark, eerie green color," about the size of a spotlight.

Cody was driving Trudel, 17, to her home when they saw the unidentified flying object.

"It was weird. I was just going up (to Trudel's) and we saw it. It was coming down really slow. We watched it for about 10 seconds, then we went to find the police."

Cody said the object appeared to be heading toward a heavily wooded area near Murray Road.

After contacting police, the two were questioned by James Gricci of the Civil Air Patrol.

Cody said a police officer suggested the couple had seen a meteorite, but, he added, "that's what he said to reassure us."

Cody said if it was a meteorite, it would have come down faster than the object he and Trudel saw.

According to the Montpelier police, Gricci listened on his aircraft monitor at home and suggested that what Cody and Trudel saw might have been an aircraft.

Heidi Nikolaidis, squadron commander of the Central Vermont Composite Squadron, said Monday the CAP had ruled out the possibility of an airplane or other low-flying aircraft.

"From all indications it definitely wasn't an aircraft," Nikolaidis said. "I can't speculate on what it was, but it was described as a big luminous green light, and that's definitely not an airplane."

She said the CAP gets reports of UFO's "every once in a while," but the sightings usually remain a mystery because nothing physical is found later.

Cody said he planned to go back to the sight Monday to scout around and see if he could find anything.

"I've been up that way a lot," he said, "and I've never seen anything like that before."

CHRONICAL, Clinton, SC - Jan. 26, 1984

Seen By Police

UFO Spotted Near PC

An unidentified flying object landed in a field near Presbyterian College early Saturday morning and took off again when PC security officers and Clinton police approached, according to Gray Mason, chief of campus security at PC.

Described as "a light, 18 to 24 inches in diameter," the UFO was seen by at least five PC students, two PC security officers and two Clinton policemen. At 12:05 a.m. Saturday, it came down over the fraternity houses at PC and landed in a field across from the PC athletic field, known as the "Ponderosa."

Sgt. Joel Nelson and officer Eddie Longshore of campus security saw the light coming down and went to the area. They joined five PC students who were watching the light and they called two Clinton policemen who were in the area, Sgt. Joe Hairston and officer Jimmy Jenkins. As the officers approached the light, it took off again, heading in a southeasterly direction and later changed to an easterly course.

Chief Mason said, "We've been sort of chuckling about it but we don't have any explanation. It's all written up on our incident report and there are several reliable witnesses. We have reported it to the national UFO Reporting Service."

Mason added, "This UFO, or whatever you want to call it, reportedly appeared to be a very bright light with no particular form distinguishable."

UFOs or IFOs? Who knows?

By DAVE SCHAD

"They may be among us... even now."
— Anonymous lecturer from the Institute of Cosmic Knowledge, 1957.

Don't laugh because it may be true. We just don't know it yet.

Depending on who one listens to, the phenomenon of UFOs and the hordes of little green men generally associated with them are evidence of the world's gullibility or an indicator of things to come.

According to those who claim to be authorities on such matters, the scads of UFO sightings that are still with us today began in June of 1947 when an Idaho businessman reported seeing nine "saucer shaped objects" near Mount Rainier.

He saw them first

Kenneth Arnold was flying near the queen of the Cascades when, as he described later, he sighted the UFOs nimbly dodging among the foothills in a steady, constant formation.

While Arnold's reported sighting may have been innocent enough, he couldn't have imagined the craze that was to follow both here in the Northwest and around the world.

Life beyond our planet has always been a popular subject for speculation. Terrence Dickinson, the former editor of *Astronomy Magazine*, said "Galaxies and star systems other than our own would seem to hold the most promise of harboring life."

In a taped lecture, Dickinson explained that some people believe the best chance of meeting our galactic neighbors lies in direct contact (UFOs). He feels that radio messages have the most potential but, unfortunately, very little money and resources are currently being committed to this.

UFOs abound

Shortly after Arnold's report, there was a sharp increase in the number of UFO sightings.

One local insisted that the space visitors had personally invited him aboard their laser-swift space craft for trips to Venus, Mercury and other mysterious destinations.

A man from Vancouver, B.C., said that he had been able to capture the aliens'

music and voices on tape and produced a cassette as evidence. The music turned out to be a Chinese instrumental piece played backwards and the "space speech" was a reversed message spoken by a Lummi Indian in his native tongue.

No fraud here

More credible are the sightings reported by people with at least some background in astronomy and other sciences.

Tacoma's Steve Mackey, a draftsman with Boeing and a long-time amateur astronomer, says he's seen two things that might be characterized as UFOs.

The first occurred in 1966 when he saw two objects moving at a steady pace across a late night sky in a tight formation. "They had sort of a diamond shape and were heading north," Mackey recalls. "They were maintaining parallel courses until — all of a sudden — they crossed paths and were gone. I've never seen or heard about anything that can turn that sharply at that rate of speed."

His second sighting was in the early 1970s when he once again saw a lighted objects moving erratically across the sky. "I'm not real sure about my second time. It may very well have been a bird," he said. "But I find it hard to image a good explanation for my first sighting."

Come on down

More recently, a fellow named Wayne Aho and a detail of dedicated followers gathered at a Rainier Park campsite for a week-long vigil. They set up a "spaceport" and broadcast invitations for any UFO pilots that might be in the area to drop down and say "hi." As far as we know, none stopped by and the only thing that they managed to attract was a throng of curious onlookers and a substantial amount of media coverage.

Al George, a member of the Tacoma Astronomical Society and owner of the Pettinger-Guiley Observatory, says that he gets six to eight calls a month from people who believe they've sighted a UFO.

"I will usually go out and have a look for myself," George said. "Most of the time it's Venus or something else that's easy to explain."

He added that about 10 percent of the time he can't find an explanation for what he's seen. "But just because I can't explain it, doesn't mean that it's a UFO."



Tacoma News Tribune photo

Idahoan Kenneth Arnold points to a representative picture he drew after making the first UFO sighting in June 1947.

CR: S. Gordon
GAZETTE, Bedford, PA - Jan. 25, 1984

'UFO' Sightings Head List Of Unexplained Pa. Phenomena

By Nancy Wylie
Staff Writer

GREENSBURG—The Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained notes that low-altitude sightings of unidentified flying objects led the list of strange phenomena reported to it by Pennsylvania residents during 1983.

Other items include: sightings of Bigfoot, also known in some places as Sasquatch, a large, hairy, anthropoid creature; reports of mountain lions, officially extinct in the eastern states since the 1800s, and black panthers, which are not common in this area; unexplained sounds and physical disturbances; unearthing of strange artifacts, and one poltergeist.

According to director Stan Gordon, the nonprofit organization's policy is to look into such reports with an "openminded attitude" and "try to find a logical explanation, if possible."

Gordon did not mention any specific reports from Bedford County recently, but said that over the past 10 years there have been "quite a lot" of local calls.

This past year, he added, there were reports of strange phenomena from Blair, Cambria and Somerset

counties, and the association's field investigators looked into "dozens" of cases during the year.

According to Gordon, close to 95 percent of all UFO sightings turn out to be explainable through known factors, but the others "still remain baffling."

An association news release notes "a massive wave of UFO sightings" in western Pennsylvania and other sections from June through October 1983. "Many" were explained as misidentification of planets and stars, but not all, for example, this one dated Oct. 15 from Blair County:

A woman in her 60s driving at night on Route 220 near Bellwood reports seeing a large, silver object rise out of a field, emitting a loud, high-pitched sound. It passes over her car. The headlights go on and off, and the motor stalls.

She reports the two wheels on the right side of her car are lifted off the ground for several seconds, tilting the vehicle. It is let down, then partially lifted again. It takes her 25 to 30 minutes to restart the motor and leave the scene.

There was no damage to the vehicle, but the woman, described by Gordon as a "very stable" person, says since the incident she has lost

hearing in one ear, suffers from a spinal injury and has had constant headaches.

Other UFO sightings were reported around the area that same night, plus a Bigfoot sighting near Tyrone.

An Oct. 19 report comes from Pandora, Westmoreland County, according to the release: A bright light passes over a car. At the same time the car's headlights change color and there is interference with the car motor and radio.

Within a few seconds, several round lights seem to fall from the sky just ahead of the car, and hit the road, disappearing on impact.

Aug. 30 near Derry, Westmoreland County: A giant, round, metallic, gray object drops from the sky and hovers 40 feet above a car. The driver speeds up to get away, but the object moves ahead and twice hovers low over the road, forcing the car to pass underneath it.

The release mentions two Bigfoot sightings last year:

Jan. 2, Greensburg, Westmoreland County: Two men observe two huge, hairy creatures in a field for more than 20 minutes during daylight hours.

March 19, Armstrong County: Over 20 people see a Bigfoot-type creature walk out of the woods and approach to within 30 feet. Police arrive at the scene a short time afterward and describe witnesses as very frightened.

Also listed as still unexplained is a March 30 incident in Pittsburgh: A mechanic working on a car is frightened by a black panther that leaps over a fence and lands six feet away. Several other people see it before it disappears into the woods. The Pittsburgh Zoo reports no missing animals of that description. A massive search by police with dogs fails to locate the panther.

Gordon had no explanation for the black panther incident, but he said mountain lions, although officially extinct here, have been seen in Pennsylvania since the 1940s, including by at least one game officer. He feels they may be migrating back into the area.

Regarding UFOs and Bigfoot, he noted it's not uncommon for sightings of both to occur at the same time in the same general location. "We are not saying that Bigfoot comes from the UFOs, but there seems to be a strong tie-in of some kind," he explained.

"I'm convinced some may be flesh and blood creatures not identified yet," he went on, saying that on occasion what is taken for Bigfoot turns out to be a large dog or a bear, but in other instances footprint casts can be taken, for example, and the

(continued on page 5)

integrity of witnesses is hard to dispute.

He observed that while Bigfoot prints elsewhere typically show a five-toed creature, those in the East tend to have three-toed feet.

He also noted UFO and Bigfoot sightings are more common around various types of energy sources, such as water, oil fields, radio towers and high-voltage electrical lines.

Gordon said of his many personal investigations into UFO reports. "I saw no positive proof of vehicles from outside the earth." But then, he added, both UFOs and Bigfoot are phenomena that don't stay around very long—they seem to almost "dematerialize."

An object may "land and leave impressions on the ground, but you can't catch it," as he put it. "With Bigfoot too—the trail suddenly disappears."

He notes there have been Bigfoot sightings in Pennsylvania since the 1800s.

In 1973, he said, there was a major wave of UFO sightings nationally, and in that year Pennsylvania also produced more Bigfoot reports than any other state.

The association's files, he said, do contain a report of an incident on Aug. 19, 1973, in Bedford County: Residents of Buffalo Mills were scared when they saw a large creature, eight or nine feet tall and dressed in strange clothing, walking the streets.

Gordon, who said he's investigated thousands of incidents himself, believes, "For every report we get, there are probably nine or 10 others we don't hear about." He added, "We get extremely few hoax calls."

Reports have come to their attention from police, doctors, lawyers, trained observers, housewives, people in all walks of life.

"We've tried to educate the public," he continued, and he believes that overall the association and its work are "not laughed at" today as they once might have been. He said some of the best witnesses are people who formally were total skeptics.

He contends, "People who've had these experiences are sometimes terrified and have no one to turn to. A lot don't know where to report it, or they fear ridicule and just let it go."

"It is much more involved than the public is aware of—the general public may have nothing to fear as a whole, but there have been some very serious, deep, psychological effects on individuals."

Gordon described the association as an all-volunteer group of doctors, scientists, veterinarians, PhD's, etc. with access to laboratory testing facilities and computer information processing.

When a report is received that requires a followup, he explained, a team of trained researchers is sent to the scene to gather physical evidence and firsthand accounts.

All names are kept confidential, he pointed out.

Cases that remain in the unexplained category are exchanged with other research organizations, which in turn notify PASU of Pennsylvania reports that come to their attention.

Two major groups PASU works with are the International Mutual UFO Network based in Seguin, Texas, and the National UFO reporting Center in Seattle, Wash., according to the news release.

PASU can be reached at its hotline number, 412-838-7768, or by writing to 6 Oakhill Ave., Greensburg, Pa. 15601.



Jerry Bledsoe

Student of UFOs eager to meet space creatures

It had been a long time since I'd talked with him, so I called my friend George Fawcett a while back to find out if he'd run into any creatures from outer space lately.

I was disappointed that he hadn't, knowing how much George wants to meet one of those characters; but, of course, he had talked with some people who had, which is, I guess, the next best thing.

First, let me point out that this is no joking matter with George. He is perfectly serious about it and has been for a long time. He is a bona fide investigator of unidentified flying objects and alien creatures, one of the most active in the world.

George was growing up in Mount Airy, making World War II scrapbooks, when he ran across his first mention of American pilots seeing strange objects in the air over Germany. He became fascinated when a pilot reported another one over Washington's Mount Rainier in 1947, thus touching off the UFO era. He began collecting everything he could find about UFOs and has been doing it ever since.

So far, George has collected and read more than 500 books on the subject — and written one of his own. He has personally investigated thousands of reported UFO sightings, gathered thousands more reports and documents and hundreds of photos. He recently got 600 previously classified documents from the FBI, CIA and Defense Department about UFOs, including one which describes an Air Force recovery of a crashed craft in New Mexico containing the bodies of three alien creatures.

House holds UFO material

George's house in Lincolnton is absolutely brimming with UFO material, including models of UFOs and sculptures of the creatures who fly them. George's dream is to build a big research center and museum somewhere in North Carolina, but for now, he is making do with regular exhibits and an information board in the UFO Room of his wife's Super Sub Sandwich Shop on Main Street in Eden.

George, who makes his living selling newspaper advertising, also lectures widely, conducts an annual UFO conference in Winston-Salem and even teaches a credit course on UFOs at Gaston Community College.

I told you he takes it seriously. Anyway, George told me about the recent sightings around the state, none of which involved landings or creature encounters, but then we got to talking about crashed UFOs that have been recovered, including bodies. George said that as best he could document, there had been at least 20 crashes in six states and seven countries in the past 40 years, with 30 bodies recovered.

These creatures are all pretty much alike, George says, three to four feet tall with large, hairless heads, wrap-around eyes, puncture-like holes for ears and nose, no lips, hands that hang below the knees, some with webbed fingers. More like the creatures in "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" than E.T.

Incidentally, George didn't think much of either of those movies.

"Both did a disservice to the public," he says.

Aliens may not be friendly

That was because they depicted the aliens as being friendly. George doesn't believe that's always the case.

"Some seem to be friendly; others are hostile, completely demonic. They manipulate human minds."

The hostile ones, George believes, may be fallen angels.

No crashes or bodies have been recorded in North Carolina, George says, but there have been 23 reports of landings, some with occupants sighted outside the craft. One of the earliest was in 1930, when two retired teachers in Greensboro (George couldn't put his hands on their names right away) reported a flying saucer landed in their garden and several little creatures got out and prowled around while they cringed in terror.

Some have reported being temporarily paralyzed and given blood disorders by flying saucers, while others have told of having their fishing bobbers and livestock sucked right into the air by them.

By LAWRENCE BUDD
Staff Writer

Physicist says UFOs 'keeping tabs on primitives'

ODESSA — UFOs in Midland? Maybe so — but probably not — although a sighting was reported to the Reporter-Telegram by a young caller last week.

While government studies show that 70 percent of sightings are identifiable flying objects and another 10 percent had not supplied sufficient data to be investigated, they indicate this local sighting could have fallen in the remaining 20 percent that "remained unexplainable after detailed investigation."

Stanton T. Friedman, a nuclear physicist who has been involved in several space program projects for the United States, believes that there are extra-terrestrial beings in what are reported as UFOs "keeping tabs on the primitives in the neighborhood" all over the world.

"There is an enormous amount of data showing that extra-terrestrial beings are visiting the planet and that governments have known about it for a long time," said Friedman. He points to a 1947 incident (which he calls the "Cosmic Watergate") outside Roswell, New Mexico, in which he says the government covered up the crash of a spaceship containing ETs.



Stanton Friedman

In town to speak Thursday at the University of Texas at the Permian Basin, Friedman points to the efforts of Citizens Against UFO Secrecy, in which he and other members obtained reams of classified government documents. Using

the Freedom of Information Act and legal action, the group got 800 pages of UFO writings from the CIA and National Security Agency released.

THE GROUPS attempt to obtain 18 documents NSA refused to release ended up before a judge who ruled that, due to the "sensitive nature of the materials" and national security, the documents should remain out of the public's hands.

A 21-page affidavit submitted by NSA to the judge detailed why the materials should not have been released. Entire pages, about two thirds of the contents, were blotted from a copy given to the group that Friedman displays as proof of the government's policy.

Friedman is not critical of the government's decision not to release their findings in New Mexico at that time (before the United States had even flown at supersonic speeds). But he does question this being continued today, when the possibility of other worlds is more plausible with advances in space technology.

"The initial reason for the coverage was 'we've got to see what's cooking here,'" he said, suggesting the government was "mining the technological gold for a long time."

"There would a small number of people that would panic," said Friedman in defense of the government's position.

"But to keep it up for so long, to keep ridiculing people, seems to be inappropriate," he said.

"WE HAVE to be careful of how we release the information. I think most people would go on about their business."

"It's almost as if you need the new generation in that it doesn't have the old prejudices, the old idea of what is impossible," said Friedman, calling for the government to admit that some UFOs are space ships from other worlds.

He called for a "earthling orientation," rather than nationalism, as a way to prepare for dealing with these other worlds. But Friedman points out that "nationalism is the only game in town," suggesting that the power structure has no desire to change the order of things on Earth.

"Moses wasn't allowed to enter the Promised Land," he said, but Joshua did lead in the next generation.

"What you're really talking about is a power struggle," he said of the present sentiments against admitting other worlds. Friedman also suggested that religion could be

threatened as the presence of other worlds could explain what had been considered an unexplainable religious happening.

"If you take away faith without replacing it with something, you may have some problems," he said.

Noting that this is the first age in which the new generation has never known a world without space travel, the nuclear physicist suggested that earthlings need to prepare for the future and the possibility of encountering beings from other worlds.

"THE FUTURE is going to happen whether we like it or not," he said. "We might as well be prepared for it, rather than fight it."

Friedman also suggests that people need to consider that earthlings are not the highest form of life, so that if this is true, earth will be prepared.

"What worries me is that there are some things coming in the future that we won't be ready for because we think we're on top of the heap."

Why aren't the powers trying to contact the other worlds? Friedman suggested that philosophy springs from three ways of thinking: — Before meeting other worlds, the powers want to have matching

technologies and understand the other world's capabilities. — They prefer to keep the edge of not letting the other worlds know that earth does have the technology and is aware of other life forms.

Any change caused by the other worlds would upset the order of things.

Research is going on in secret, said Friedman, listing military applications studied by the Air Force Office of Special Investigations.

While earth may talk at meeting the other life forms, Friedman predicts that the other worlds will come to the earthlings.

"I think the approaching's going to be done by them," said Friedman, who received a master's degree in physics from the University of Chicago and has published articles in a wide range of scientific journals.

Because they are likely to be more advanced than earthlings, he suggests that the meetings need to be peaceful. "What we really need to do is get our act together here and I don't think we have that many years to do it."

"We're all better off cooperating than if we waste time fighting with each other and someone comes along and grabs the ball," said Friedman, calling for the meeting of the worlds.

George knows that it's hard for some people to believe these things, but he's confident that his 40 years of trying to convince them will soon pay off.

"It's a fascinating subject," he says, "and a lot of stuff is coming from the scientific community now."

He's also hopeful that someday he'll get a close-up look at a flying saucer himself — and maybe meet one of its occupants. Preferably a friendly one.

No simple answer to the mystery of UFOs

"The appearance of the wheels and their work was like unto the colour of a beryl ... and their appearance and their work was as it were a wheel in the middle of a wheel ... when they went, they went upon their four sides, and they turned not when they went."
— *The Book of the Prophet Ezekiel*
Chapter 1:16-17

By **JIM CORBETT**
Staff Writer

Was the biblical wheel-in-a-wheel some kind of heavenly craft as Ezekiel so artfully describes? Was it a flying saucer captained by angelic visitors bearing heavenly messages?

Or was it an extraterrestrial spaceship piloted by highly intelligent beings from another world, another galaxy, sent here to keep a watchful eye on the fertile blossoming of mankind?

"There may not be just a simple black or white answer to that," says Hamilton Township's Tom Benson, director of the New Jersey Mutual UFO Network (MUFON). "And one doesn't have to question his belief in God or Scripture to accept the possibility that UFOs do exist, either."

"That's a general misconception that many people have," Benson adds. "They think it's a contradiction but it really isn't. It's perfectly OK to believe in God and UFOs at the same time."

"It's a fact that UFOs have been

around since Biblical times, and the Ezekiel sighting is just one of many examples," the UFO expert says. "Going back even further, there have been drawings found on the walls of caves in France and Spain dating back 25,000 years. Those drawings suggest that man very likely was in fact visited by some sort of extraterrestrial life form," Benson says.

BENSON IS A leader in a unique international organization comprised of about 1,500 select consultants, research specialists, field investigators, and other professional men and women all dedicated to the serious study of the UFO phenomena; the study also known as "UFology."

"UFology is the scientific study of unidentified flying objects," says Walt Andrus, international director of MUFON from his Sequin, Texas, headquarters in a recent telephone interview. "That is, unidentified flying objects of which we do not know their source or origin."

"Our whole purpose," the 63-year-old retired Motorola executive adds, "is to solve the mystery or phenomena of UFOs."

MUFON was officially organized in May of 1969, shortly after the release of the controversial "Condon Report," a \$540,000 scientific study financed by the U.S. Air Force, and formally known as the Colorado Project.

'It's a fact that UFOs have been around since Biblical times, and the Ezekiel sighting is just one of many examples. Going back even further, there have been drawings found on the walls of caves in France and Spain dating back 5,000 years. Those drawings suggest that man very likely was in fact visited by some sort of extraterrestrial life form.'

— Tom Benson, UFO expert

In its final form, that report ended up as a 1,438-page document put together by a Colorado-based scientific group who had been studying the UFO mystery for more than two years. The group was headed by the late, Dr. Edward U. Condon, a noted physicist and former director of the National Bureau of Standards.

But for all its rhetoric, the bottom line of the report concluded, "there is no evidence that flying saucers come from outer space and no scientific justification for pursuing the matter further."

Following the release of the Condon report, all government funding into the further investigation of UFOs ceased. "Because of that," Andrus says, "MUFON was born."

ANDRUS IS quick to point out a

strange irony of the study; "In the text of the report, 19 percent of the cases studied by the Colorado Project were still classified as UFOs. What were those UFOs?" Andrus asks.

Tom Benson has been searching for the answer to that question since his own UFO sighting on a warm July night in 1953.

Calling the sighting "a close encounter of the first kind," Benson says he didn't become actively involved until 1974, about the same time he became a member of MUFON.

But getting into MUFON is no easy task, and potential members are screened carefully. According to both Benson and Andrus, the membership is by invitation only, usually on the recommendation of a state director or another member. "This is our way of obtaining competent people for membership," Andrus says.

"We have 67 consultants worldwide and they all have doctorates in their own fields of expertise. Our research specialists all have either bachelors or masters degrees in their own fields as well, and all of us do this on a purely voluntary basis," he adds.

In addition to being MUFON director for New Jersey, Benson is also a research specialist and field investigator who holds three degrees. He is a writer and lecturer and has published numerous works on the UFO phenomena. He has appeared on many radio and television talk shows in an effort

to "better educate the public" of the UFO mystery.

Benson says that, as a rule, UFO sightings are looked into as quickly as possible, but ordinarily, "we prefer to investigate when there's more than one witness involved" not only for the obvious reason of added credibility, but also because of the potentially high costs which can be incurred by the field investigator.

"**TIME AND** money are two very important factors," says Benson, "and both can add up quickly. That's why investigating a sighting with more than one witness involved will generally warrant a more in-depth investigation. Unless of course, we're talking about a close encounter of the second or third kind."

Benson says close encounters of the second and third kind are special because unlike a close encounter of the first kind — merely a "visual" sighting of an unidentified flying object — the other two produce some kind of physical evidence.

"A close encounter of the second kind means a UFO has actually landed or left behind some kind of physical evidence of its being here," Benson explains. "Evidence such as burns in the ground in the area where the craft has landed, for example."

"A close encounter of the third kind means that a witness or witnesses have actually seen or even made contact with the life form of a UFO. Or even robots," he adds.

"Either way," he says, "close encounters of the second and third kind are the strongest types of UFO experiences."

In his years as an investigator, Benson says he's come into contact with more close encounters of the first kind than he has of the second and third. He describes his own UFO experience as "unforgettable."

"It was July, very warm, and I was inside the house watching television," Benson recalls. "I heard this noise ... like the humming of a refrigerator. I

listened for a few seconds, and then finally went outside to investigate."

HOVERING OVER his Hamilton Township home, Benson said, he observed "these elliptical shapes — there were two of them, each about 30 feet in diameter; 10 to 15 feet high. There were portholes in the midsections of them. At times they were within 200 feet of one another, and at other times, within 30 feet," he said.

"There were bright white lights emanating sequentially from each porthole in a counter-clockwise motion; the objects were glowing. I witnessed this for about five minutes before they finally took off very abruptly, at a 45 degree angle, and shot right out of sight," Benson says.

Benson said that during the time he witnessed these two UFOs, they passed over his Hamilton Township home several times before taking off.

He says in the last two years he's investigated at least two dozen UFO reports. Last year, he says, two of those "in-the-field investigations" took him to Fairlawn and Ocean City.

"After an intensive investigation into the Ocean City sighting," Benson recalls, "I determined that the sighting was really just an airliner, and identifiable after all."

"But the Fairlawn sighting we are treating as an UFO — one that cannot be explained as a man-made object or as natural phenomena."

Benson says the Fairlawn sighting was classified as a close encounter of the first kind, ordinary. "Not the most exciting type of UFO sighting," Benson says, "but one definitely not to be ignored."

Benson insists that his work, and the work of MUFON will continue despite the skeptics.

"UFology is a legitimate science," Benson says, "and wherever there is mystery and the unexplainable, there is generally a natural human fear of the unknown. MUFON will work to solve those mysteries, and alleviate those fears."

SUNDAY TIMES, Trenton, NJ - Feb. 12, 1984 CR: MUFON

It's a bird, it's a plane, it's not a Longhorn but...

By ROB LEIBOLD
STAFF WRITER

What's burnt orange, shaped like a cigar or a saucer and is sometimes seen in the skies over the La Vernia area?

It's probably not a flying Longhorn on its way to Austin trailing the school colors, but no one knows for sure.

Several La Vernia residents spotted an unidentified flying object Feb. 15, drifting at school-zone speed over the quiet town of about 1,000 people 15 miles east of San Antonio.

Several residents gave different descriptions of the mysterious object, but all were adamant that they observed something out of the ordinary.

John R. Cockrell said he was standing in the doorway of his home, a little before 7:30 p.m. when he saw "this thing going over. I didn't hear any sound, so I knew it wasn't an airplane. It was three or four feet long, kind of pointed on both ends, but

larger in the middle. The middle was four or five inches in diameter."

Cockrell said he walked out into the yard to get a better look. "It was a real bright orange light with little dabs in the middle that were the same color but with a little more intensity."

"It looked like the light made the shape. The ends weren't sharp, it tapered out at the ends. It was a burnt orange color."

Cockrell said the object was moving fairly slowly from the southeast to the southwest.

He said it appeared to be going about as fast as a car traveling about 20 mph on Highway 87, which is about 150-200 feet from his house.

Cockrell said it took about 30-40 seconds for the cigar-like object to leave his vision when it passed over the Koepp Chevrolet building.

Jaime Santos, 11, said he and his parents saw an object when they were pulling into the parking lot of their restaurant at about 7:30 p.m.

His description differed somewhat from Cockrell's.

"We were coming back from volleyball practice when I saw something move around in the sky," Santos said.

"It was all different colors, and they changed constantly. Red, orange, yellow."

"It looked like an airplane, but it was round so I knew it wasn't. It wasn't making any noise. It was about 1,000 feet high." He said it seemed to be heading toward San Antonio.

Santos said he watched the UFO for about two minutes before he lost sight. His parents, Norma and Alfred didn't see it real well, his mother said because they tended to their business while he watched.

"I never even thought about it being called a UFO or anything," Cockrell said. "I came to the conclusion

that it wasn't an airplane, but I didn't know what it was."

Several other residents said they had heard a peculiar noise, but did not see anything out of the ordinary.

One resident said the noise was like a giant weedeater. Another said it sounded like a big whoosh.

The Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) in Seguin is investigating.

Walter Andrus Jr., MUFON director, said he has visited with several of the people who claimed to have seen the UFO, but added that the investigation is still under way.

"We're still collecting information," Andrus said. "Jaime (Santos) watched it longer than the rest of them, but I don't know if this was a different object. ... We've got to do some more checking."

Andrus said the object, which was

flying at an altitude of about 1,000 feet was not picked up on radar in the control tower at the San Antonio International Airport.

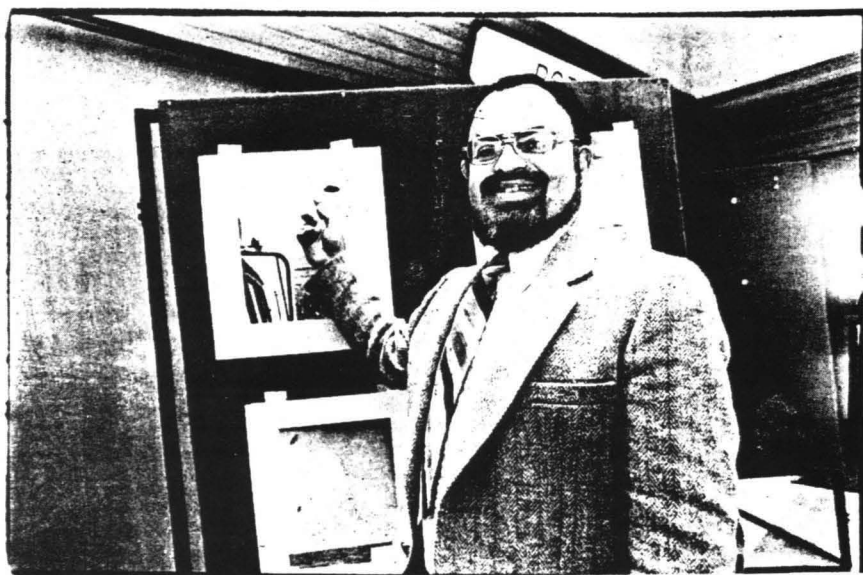
The last major sighting of UFOs in the La Vernia area was Feb. 22, 1981, three years ago yesterday, when 30 residents claimed a UFO knocked out television signals, disrupted telephone lines and set off a false fire alarm at a supermarket.

In that sighting the object was said to be a triangular-shaped craft with two white lights in the front and a red light in the back.

The explanation for that sighting was later described as a C-5 transport plane. Some, Andrus included, don't believe the C-5 was in the La Vernia area when the UFO was sighted.

That sighting still remains a mystery.

READER, Los Angeles, CA - Feb. 3, 1984



Stanford T. Friedman

If You Were Piloting a UFO, Would You Hover Around L.A.?

□ By Margy Rochlin

Standing in your backyard staring into the night, you suddenly see tiny blinking lights in the distance and you're too far away from your television for that loud beeping sound to be someone playing your Donkey Kong. You have two choices: Either write it off as a vagrant, well-lit Frisbee or report it to the Los Angeles Chapter of MUFON (Mutual UFO Network), a national organization based in Seguin, Texas, dedicated to the collection of data and the investigation of the sightings of unidentified flying objects.

Founded in 1969, MUFON is a state-by-state organization, with each headed by a state section director who is responsible for coordinating investigations in each county. MUFON hosts monthly meetings for both members and interested parties.

But you do not have to have actually witnessed a UFO to participate in MUFON. You can just have a healthy interest. "I can't say that I know aliens are out there watching us because I have never actually seen one," admits Johnny Holland, the state section director of the Los Angeles chapter. "On the other hand, it's an intriguing subject. Besides, I have never seen an electron, but if I plug in a light I know it will work."

Since last September, the Los Angeles chapter of MUFON has worked on four different cases. One was in Woodland Hills; another, in North Hollywood; the third, in the L.A. basin; and the fourth sighting was received from an anonymous caller

who did not specify a location, so MUFON subsequently dropped the case. Of the other three, the only one that has been explained was the call from North Hollywood. The alleged UFO was actually a helicopter flying near the Hollywood-Burbank Airport.

Holland says there's a reason for the lack of reported hard sightings in

In UFO circles, 'the Roswell Incident' describes the time the government allegedly covered up an event by carting off the spacecraft and replacing it with a weather balloon and radar reflector.

Los Angeles. "On the one hand, you would think that a city the size of Los Angeles, with many million people, would have a certain percentage [of people] looking at the sky who would see something. On the other hand, if indeed UFOs are craft of some sort, and I was piloting one of those little suckers, I would probably stay away from large metropolitan areas."

So why don't we know more about UFOs, if they generate enough interest to boast large national and international groups such as MUFON? "We are dealing with a cosmic Watergate," claims Stanford T. Friedman, a nu-

clear physicist and guest lecturer at MUFON's seminar last weekend entitled What's New in UFOs? Friedman says that the U.S. government has been tracing UFOs since 1947 when it picked up the remains of a demolished spaceship. It is known in UFO circles as "the Roswell Incident," and Friedman, who was research consultant on a book of the same name written by William Moore, says that the government covered up the event by carting off the spacecraft, replacing it with a weather balloon and radar reflector to be identified as such by a weatherman for the press.

"What they [U.S. government officials] are really afraid of," says Friedman, "is that, if the announcement of this type of information was to be made, it would be an immediate push for our Star Trek generation to believe in the universe. While they think that nationalism is the only game in town, it would make us take the [view] that we are actually all earthlings."

And what of the people who refuse to believe that intelligent life on other planets could exist? "There is a question as to whether there is intelligent life on Earth," jokes Friedman. "But that is another lecture..."

■ MUFON holds public meetings on the second Tuesday of every month at 8 p.m. at Fratello's Restaurant, 10433 National Blvd. Info: call Johnny Holland at 346-3286. To report a UFO, call Holland or Walt Greenawald at (818)887-6632. □

OXFORD CO. CITIZEN, Bethel, ME
Dec. 29, 1983 CR: B. Greenwood

Upton

— Mrs. Arline Bernier, Corres. —

Several in town enjoyed a sighting of a UFO in the western sky Wednesday. This light remained stable for several moments at a time—then travelled rapidly horizontally in one direction or the other, sometimes disappearing like a grin from a Cheshire cat, only to reappear much high or lower in the sky.

EXPRESS, San Antonio, TX
March 8, 1984 CR: R. Morgan

UFO buff reports mystery objects

A mysterious ring and a glowing angular object in the sky were sighted this week near a North Side subdivision, a local unidentified flying object enthusiast said.

Tom Deuley, president of the local chapter of the Mutual UFO Network, said he received a report from a man who said he, his son and his son's friend had seen what they thought was a UFO.

The sightings occurred Tuesday night near the Brookhollow subdivision.

The boys reported being distracted by a light in the sky coming from a long angular object that brightened the area around them for about three minutes.

They rushed to the home of one of the boys and told his father what they had seen.

The man then went

outside and discovered another object in the northwest sky. The object looked like a ring and moved counterclockwise and to the right.

Deuley said the first sighting was not a typical sort of UFO.

"It was kind of odd even for the UFO business as we know it because they saw it up close and it was an odd shape," he said.

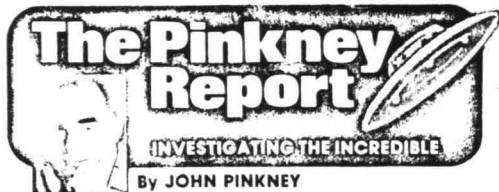
"The second object they saw in the distance for about five minutes and sounds more like a typical UFO. It might have been twinkling stars or a plane, but the unusual thing was it did not sink into the horizon like stars but went to the right."

Spokesmen at Kelly and Randolph Air Force bases said they had no planes in the air at the time of the sightings.



FOREIGN NEWS

PIX-PEOPLE, Sydney, N.S.W., Australia - Dec. 5, 1983



UFO turns clock back

ADARWIN COUPLE believe they travelled backward in time after encountering a gigantic UFO on an outback road. They are also convinced that an indelible footprint, which has appeared on their bathroom wall, is somehow connected with the sighting.

By phone from Alice Springs this week, Mr D.E. (full name and address supplied) told me the extraordinary story: "The chain of events began on April 19, 1979, when my wife and I were driving toward the Katherine Gorge National Park," he said. "At about 6.55 pm, as daylight was fading, we

spotted two very bright lights in the sky ahead.

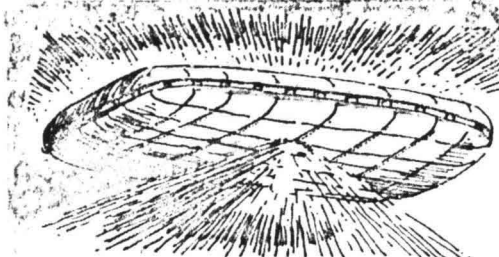
"At first we thought they were on an aircraft preparing to land. But then they began to behave in a most erratic manner, shooting up, down and sideways, like no plane we'd ever seen.

"We were puzzled, but at that point we weren't even thinking about UFOs. We decided the lights must be part of some exceptionally high radio tower.

"But we soon dramatically changed our opinion.

"As we drove up the long, straight incline toward Maude Creek Bridge, we saw what seemed to be a brilliantly-lit platform floating about 100 metres above the ground.

"It was huge — about 70m long and 20m wide. Dazzling white lights were moving



An artist's impression of the craft seen by a Darwin couple. Above the UFO was a green haze while dazzling lights moved around its waist and a red light shone downwards.

around its perimeter. There was a green haze around the top and a red light spearing from the underside.

"We stopped the car and stared, hardly believing, at the thing, hovering silently there in the twilight.

"Just at that moment, a ute full of drunks came hurtling past us, but they were so sloshed they didn't even see the UFO.

"We were now more scared than curious, so I moved the car back on to the tar-seal. As I did, my wife said: 'The thing's gone! It just vanished!'

"That encounter started a sequence of weird events which we feel are connected with the UFO.

"One night, after doing her weekly scrubdown of the shower recess, my wife went to bed. I sat up and fell asleep in front of the TV set.

"The hissing of a channel that had gone off the air woke me at 1.03 am — a time I particularly noticed (because it was so late) on both my digital watch and the videorecorder clock.

"After washing, I walked to the bedroom. The time on the bedside digital clock was

1.07 — and I set the alarm to wake me early. I then went straight to sleep.

"Some time later (or earlier!) my wife and I sat up simultaneously and agreed that something was burning. It smelled like bakelite in an electrical fire.

"I turned on the lights. The entire house was filled with a misty haze. We searched, but could find no fire anywhere.

"It was then I noticed the time on the bedroom clock. It read 11.45. Thinking the clock had malfunctioned, I checked my watch and the VCR. They said 11.45, too — yet I'd gone to bed at 1.07.

"Next morning we both felt a strange, light-headed sense of well-being. Everything was distinctly odd. The wallabies outside the window (as we both agreed) seemed to be moving in slow motion.

"Then I went out to have my shower and got the shock of my life. High on the shower recess wall was the clear outline of a human footprint.

"It was obviously my wife's print. She has hammer toes from years of dancing. But she denied she'd ever put her foot there.

"When we tried to scour

the mark off it refused to budge. It has been in that shower recess for 18 months now — resisting every solvent we've used against it.

"We're convinced the footprint and the apparent timeshift must have something to do with our UFO sighting.

"We reported all the details to the RAAF UFO investigating officer in Darwin, but he never replied."

● Researchers have studied many accounts of time distortion — a phenomenon which seems inextricably associated with UFOs.

In one fascinating American case, a clean-shaven soldier reappeared 10 minutes after he was abducted. He had grown a straggly black beard and was convinced he had been away for weeks.

Strike a light — It's another UFO!

AMAN who saw a bright object in the evening sky believes it might have been an alien spacecraft.

Father-of-three Mr. David Barlow said the light appeared to be stationary in the sky and yet diminished in size even as he watched it.

He is now hoping to contact UFO experts because he can think of no acceptable explanation for the episode.

Mr. Barlow (40), of St. Andrews Way, Frimley Green, was collecting his daughter from work when he first noticed the light, apparently above the Little Chef in London Road, Camberley.

He said: "It was about 5.30 p.m. and the car was parked. I was waiting for Tania (15) when I saw a light that was obviously larger than a normal star. It was larger than any star I have seen.

"I watched it for a minute or so. I expected it to be the headlight of an aeroplane. It did not appear to move. After a minute or so it seemed to diminish in size by about half."

FLARE

At that stage Mr. Barlow's daughter joined him. He asked her to watch the light while he drove home for his binoculars.

As Mr. Barlow drove towards home the light continued to get smaller and smaller, but his daughter lost sight of it behind clouds before they reached the house.

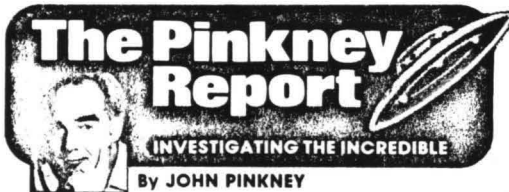
He said the light was the colour of starlight and otherwise featureless. Tania said she thought she could see a "sort of haze" around it.

Mr. Barlow, who works at the parks department of Rushmoor Council, said he would recognise a flare if he saw one.

"I used to live near Ash Ranges. In my youth I used to go over at night so I am pretty certain I would recognise a flare if I saw one," he said.

Asked if he believed in UFOs and life on other planets, Mr. Barlow said: "I don't disbelieve in things from outer space. I think it is quite possible, but I have no reason to believe it or disbelieve it."

PIX-PEOPLE, Sydney, N.S.W., Australia - Dec. 12, 1983



Shy UFO seeks cloud cover from speeding vehicles

ASEEMINGLY TIMID UFO, which ran for cloud-cover whenever a car appeared on the road below, is described by Windsor, NSW, reader Janelle Kent. "I saw it when I was 12," she recalls. "My mother, who had gone outside to fill the rubbish bin, suddenly urged me to hurry outside.

"Above us in the sky was a brightly-lit object, shaped like a huge cigar, hovering over the park at the end of our street.

"Several times it moved lower, as if about to land on the grass. But on every occasion, a car would roar around the corner — causing the UFO to dart back upward.

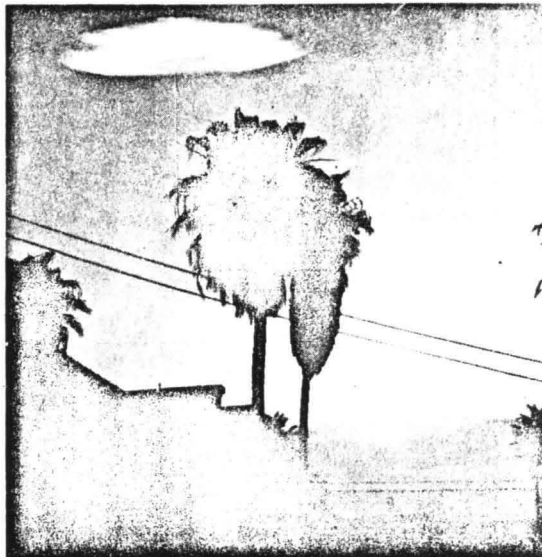
"After 20 minutes of trying

to park itself, and seemingly taking fright, it streaked off.

"We later heard on radio that the authorities had been besieged with calls."

● Inexplicable, zeppelin-shaped craft have been reported over Australia since the mid-19th century. An 1896 edition of the Melbourne Argus shows an artist's impression of a cylindrical "ship" hovering over Port Phillip Bay.

In the 1930s, according to Melbourne advertising executive Durham Garton, an immense, brilliantly-lit cigar-shaped object caused a sensation in Sydney, when it hung, like an aerial colossus, over the harbour. "My parents talked about



A reader describes a reluctant UFO, similar to this one.

that cigar-shaped machine all through my childhood," Durham recalled. "They said it just hung there, motionless above the water, seemingly

unaffected by winds or air-currents.

"That was in an era long before UFOs entered our vocabulary. But the 'cigar' met the three UFO criteria: It was an object, it was flying — and it was most certainly completely unidentified."

EVENING NEWS, Bolton, England - Nov. 16, 1983

UFOs seen for 15 years

SIR — In regard to the "Object in sky" (BEN: Nov 4) there have been definite sightings of UFOs in the same area of the sky over a period of 15 years, and I have seen a "mother ship" and its accompanying attendants which, first sighted one day about tea time and for a full five minutes, then merged on to the "mother" ship and sped away.

Another sighting was at night when the UFO did a lot of complicated manoeuvres before chasing off after a jet passenger plane.

Farnworth.

Ex-RAF

OBSERVER, Keynsham, England - Jan. 13, 1984 CR: T. Good

Close encounter on walk to work

A pink triangle in the early morning sky certainly cheered up one man's walk to work.

For Mr Albert Prior of 40, Cherwell Road, Keynsham, spotted a strange moving object in the sky on his way to the Keynsham Paper Mill.

"I was walking along Bridges Lane and was about to turn right when I saw something out of

the corner of my eye. I turned round and thought at first it was a shooting star," he said.

He said the object shot off at a tremendous speed in another direction. "I couldn't describe the speed but it was easily as fast as a meteorite," said Mr Prior.

He described the object as triangular and a dull pinkish-red with an aura around it.

Mr Prior, aged 60, was

curious to find out if anyone else had seen the object so he rang around the Keynsham police station and the Lulsgate airfield. But neither had any reports, although Lulsgate logged Mr Prior's sighting.

Mr Prior also contacted a UFO organisation who informed him that there had been some sightings recently but not in the Keynsham area.

As for Mr Prior's

theories on what the object was, he couldn't say.

"Previous to this incident I always thought such things were figments of people's imagination. Whether there is a logical explanation for it or not I do not know.

"But people in work think I am going mad. All I know is I saw what I saw with my own two eyes."

YORKSHIRE EVENING PRESS, York, England Dec. 14, 1983

UFO spotted over Malton

POLICE officers in the Malton area are watching the skies after an unidentified flying object was spotted near Rilling-ton.

A person, who wishes to remain anonymous, yesterday reported a sighting of a UFO in a field near his home on the edge of the Wolds. He said the object was barrel-shaped and that he saw flashing lights with white strips in the middle.

A police spokesman said today: "The interesting thing is that two of our traffic patrol officers in the area saw lights in the sky at about 11.45 that night, so we don't think this report is a hoax."

Close encounter down 'UFO alley'

GIRLS FLEE FROM SILENT VISITORS IN THE SKY

TWO terrified Bacup girls claim to have made the town's latest UFO sighting.

The two youngsters' close encounter came last Friday evening in a field where they were looking after their horses.

Tracy Brown, 12, of Bankside Close and Sandra Phillips of Sowclough Farm had just finished grooming the animals and were on their way home when they saw mysterious silent objects started hovering over their heads.

Five of them seemed to be circling above them and Tracy was so frightened she threw herself to the ground. Her friend Sandra started running out of the field, but the UFOs followed her and she also lay on the ground.

Silent

The duo lay motionless for a few minutes while the UFOs continued hovering and then ran for their lives when they finally disappeared over the hills surrounding Bacup.

After the ordeal Tracy said: "At first we saw some lights above us and then there were about five of these things above us."

"They were totally silent, but the horses knew they were there and started running."

"It was very frightening and I just did not know what was happening. The most frightening part of it was that they did not make any noise and we had no idea what they were."

The girls say the UFOs were about 30ft above them and were about the size of an average-sized room in a house. Each had red, white and blue lights and was totally silent - even when it moved.

Flashing

Sandra said: "They had round circles at the bottom which were black while the rest of it was white in colour."

"The lights were flashing and because they made no noise I don't think we had seen a helicopter or something like that."

When the girls arrived at Tracy's home, Mr Dennis Brown did not



SANDRA Phillips and Tracy Brown gaze into space looking for their UFO

(A8337)

believe them until other people who had been in the area told him they had seen lights in the sky.

He got his daughter and her friend to draw pictures of what they had seen and says he is now convinced they are telling the truth.

Mr Brown said: "At first, I did not take too much notice of what they were saying, but they were so frightened that I started to believe them."

"I still thought they had seen an aeroplane, but after talking to other

people round here who saw lights, I am convinced they are telling the truth."

Mr Brown added he had seen lights a couple of nights earlier, but had dismissed them from his mind until the girls told their story.

"Looking back on it, I could have seen the same thing earlier in the week," he said.

Mr Harold Mattam, who lives in the Bacup village of Weir, and is a member of the Todmorden UFO Group said he had not received any other reports of sightings last Friday evening.

The last time a UFO was spotted in the area was around seven weeks ago when one was seen above the Burnley-Todmorden road.

But Mr Mattam says the area round Bacup has a considerable reputation for UFO sightings and has been dubbed "UFO alley."

He said: "The Bacup, Todmorden, Calder Valley area is well-known in UFO circles and there have been a lot of them seen in the region around Bacup. "This one sounds very interesting and I will be in touch with these girls."

PRESCOT & KNOWSLEY REPORTER, England - Jan. 13, 1984

U.F.O. seen over Whiston

A BRIGHTLY-LIT U.F.O. caused a stir in Whiston on Tuesday evening.

The mysterious object, according to two separate sightings, hovered high above a school field in Weyman Avenue, at about 7.30pm on Tuesday.

One young woman, who asked not to be named, but lives in Weyman Avenue, said: "I was in my car on my way to work when I saw this thing in the sky. I couldn't really see what shape it was but it was very brightly lit and had two red lights underneath."

"It seemed to be just hovering quite still. I drove on after about two or three minutes so I didn't see where it went."

"I saw a group of people standing about in the road so I don't know whether they might have been watching it as well."

"I told my family when I got home but they wouldn't believe me."

A man out walking his dog in the Whiston area also reported seeing an unusual object in the sky although later in the evening.

"It definitely wasn't a plane," he said, "it was completely silent."

A spokesman for the police said sighting of U.F.O.'s were often reported to them but on this occasion there had been no reports.

KENT EVENING POST, Maidstone, England - Dec. 14, 1983

The night I saw a UFO

I READ your story about the "UFO" over Rochester airport and the explanation that it was nothing more than a Jumbo jet passing overhead.

Readers may be interested in my own experience in the same area.

The only part of the date I can give with certainty is the year, 1969. The time would have been 6.40pm.

□ □

I was working nights in the AEI Division of Elliotts (as it was then). It was a cold dark night and there was very little other traffic on the road as I drove my motor cycle combination to work up the Chatham Maidstone Road.

Pulling over from the Medway Technical College side of the road, to filter into the



Rochester Maidstone Road, on the opposite of the island, I saw a bright light in the sky.

It was above the level of the line of the street lighting and seemed to be over the centre of the airfield. Stopping the machine, I removed my crash helmet and visor for a clearer view.

The light now appeared to be a collection of colours in bands, giving the impression of a child's musical spinning top.

A spot of orange, a band of darkness and an orange strip below

it, was parted from a band of individual rotating red blue and green lights, by another band of darkness.

Yet another dark band separated the coloured lights from a shorter pulsating light of a lighter, more yellowy orange base.

□ □

Although hovering in the same position for a few minutes the lights seemed to tilt about an axis at an angle of 90 degrees to me. The light at the top was rolling in my direction, as the one at the bottom rolled away almost out of sight. Both returned

to a central point and through it, to tilt the other way.

When I arrived at work soon after, I mentioned what I had seen to the people I was working with, none of whom had seen these lights.

I also made a sketch in a note book to remind me of what had been seen, but the book has since been mislaid. I have not previously mentioned what I saw in public.

I only mention my experience publicly now as it appears that other people have witnessed a similar sight in the same location. - Fred J. A. Hall, Hawthorne Avenue, Gillingham.

FLEET NEWS, London, England Jan. 31, 1984 CR: T. Good

UFO 'bigger than jet aircraft'

ANOTHER Ash resident has reported seeing strange lights in the sky after reading of UFO sightings in the "News."

Mr. Andrew Roberts was turning from Farnborough Road, Aldershot, to Cranmore Lane when he saw a large, blue object flying west over the town.

"I stopped the car to reassure myself that this was not a trick of light," said Mr. Roberts, of Oxenden Road, Ash.

He said the apparition was in view for about 10 seconds. It was four times bigger than a jet aircraft which was also in the sky.

"I am usually very sceptical about such sightings but I have no explanation for what I saw," he added.

'CLOSE ENCOUNTER' FOR GEORGE..

A PAISLEY man claims to have spotted an unidentified flying object hovering over the town — and it wasn't Santa Claus on his rounds.

George Fisher, 41, first spotted the object as he got off a bus in Crookston Road on his way home from a dance.

He says the triangular object stayed with him through Ralston and past the Barshaw Park. But it had vanished by the time he reached his home at 55 Caledonia Street.

Mr Fisher said: "It was a clear moonlit night with a few light clouds."

He described the object as "a triangle divided into three smaller triangles". These were coloured red, yellow and green. In the centre there was a bright, crystal-like light. This was accompanied by three bright lights in triangle formation some distance from the main object.

"One of the lights disappeared. It appeared to go behind clouds. Then the other two lights went. But the main

triangle stayed with me for at least 15 minutes.

And he added: "It constantly hovered over my left hand side some distance up. And I felt a strange heat coming from it. My legs and arms were warm."

"I wasn't scared — more curious. I decided to keep an eye on it rather than try and get away from it."

Mr Fisher is anxious to hear from a taxi driver and three young people who were on the same road at the same time —

UFO mystery

in Paisley's

East End



George Fisher

By MIKE HIGGINS

DAILY EXPRESS, Paisley, England

Dec. 31, 1983

YORKSHIRE EVENING PRESS, York, England - Jan. 4, 1984

UFO report at Elvington

WITH reference to the many media reports of unidentified flying objects of the evening of 12th December (Monday), 1983, at approximately 8.30pm, and to your own news reports which appeared on the following day.

After interviewing many local residents who observed the phenomena, which was described as a glowing blue and red ball of light which exploded into a multitude of coloured lights, we initially thought the object was a fireball.

However, subsequent inquiries have revealed that no natural phenomena was recorded by Jordell Bank, the radio tracking station. We also received a report from a resident living near RAF Elvington near York, who witnessed at 7.00pm (same date as above) a large circular craft, displaying numerous lights. The witness estimated the object to be in the region of five aeroplanes in length.

Therefore, we have good reason to believe something extremely unusual occurred on the night in question, which could not be related to natural phenomena.

We would ask any other members of the public to come forward with further details of this sighting.

We will supply the newspaper with a complete dossier of the above case as soon as our investigation is complete. The Yorkshire UFO Society welcomes any help you may give regarding this sighting.

Mark Ian Birdsall,
Research Officer,
YUFOs Research Division,
87 Lovell Park Towers,
Leeds.

U.F.O. in Christmas night sky?

MYSTERY SURROUNDS the source of an unidentified flying object which three residents of Rangeworthy saw in the sky on Christmas Day.

The object was seen by Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Ellis, of "Westways", Wotton Road, and Mr. Roger Townsend of "Nobel", Patch Elm Lane.

All three were out walking when they spotted a strange light in the sky about 5 p.m.

A retired senior Telecommunications Superintendent in the Post Office, 67-year-old Mr. Ellis was returning with his wife along the drive towards his home, and Mr. Townsend, a depot supervisor for Littlewoods, was walking with his dog along a cart track off the north side of Patch Elm Lane.

All three were struck by the strange yellow

light's resemblance to local sodium street lights, both in colour and intensity, and its complete silence.

"It was low down at an elevation of about five degrees and moved across my field of view from right to left and appeared to be approaching obliquely," said Mr. Ellis. "It might have been half a mile away and travelling in level motion at 40-50 mph, moving down-wind, but much faster than the wind."

When the light went behind a Dutch barn, Mr. Ellis ran up the drive and saw it reappear and then sputter and go out.

Bearings taken since show that it moved from about 147 degrees to 140 degrees magnetic and when Mr. Ellis plotted them on a map he

found the light had disappeared at Goose Green, north of Yate.

Mr. Townsend had also returned to the spot by daylight and said the light was on a magnetic bearing of approximately 124 degrees.

Mr. Ellis believes the object was about 1,000 feet above ground and travelling at not less than about 100 m.p.h.

Both he and Mr. Townsend say they have never seen anything like it before and could think of no normal explanation for it.

There were no planes flying from the nearest airfield at RAF Filton, as these stopped on December 19.

If anyone else saw anything similar, Mr. Ellis would be delighted to hear from them, or have any explanation of the strange occurrence.

GAZETTE, Northavon, England
Jan. 6, 1984

UFO sighting ... then a huge yellow patch on the ground

A space-age mystery crashes down to earth

A 'SPACE-AGE' mystery that has been baffling people at Two Gates was finally solved this week.

Residents had been puzzled by the mysterious appearance of a giant yellow patch of ground on land opposite Bright Crescent.

The yellow area — about 60ft long — appeared to come from nowhere in the middle of the night. And at least one resident believed a UFO may have caused it.

The suggestion of 'extra-terrestrial' activity came from Christopher Hare from Bright Crescent.

He linked the appearance of the patch with an alleged flying saucer sighting by a Two Gates woman just a few days before.

Even the police could shed no light on the origin of the patch.

But this week a council official confirmed that the yellow area has nothing to do with UFOs, ET or Martians. It was caused by weedkiller.

The great patch mystery was explained away by parks superintendent Mr Len Appleyard. "The area of land in question needed to have all the grass killed in preparation for new trees," he said.

"We sprayed some herbicide on the area but I suppose

what confused people is that the patch appeared a while after the spraying, so it must have seemed to come from nowhere," he said.

Curious

The patch had fascinated Christopher Hare since he discovered it one frosty morning. "I saw the patch for the first time when I took the dog for a walk. The night before I had not noticed anything and it seemed really curious."



Mrs Gladys Smith — "I definitely saw a UFO."

"I knew it could not have been a tent or a marquee because the night it appeared was one of freezing fog. I asked people in the area if they had seen anything like it before and they hadn't, so it all seemed rather strange."

A few days after spotting the patch, Mr Hare heard that Mrs Gladys Smith, from Parkfield Crescent, had claimed she had seen a flying saucer pass over the roof of her house.

And even if the yellow patch mystery has reached a rather unexciting conclusion, the same cannot be said for Mrs Smith's claim that she saw a saucer.

Her sighting came in the early hours of the morning. She had been finding it difficult to sleep, so she got out of bed and moved towards the window. Outside she saw something which left her



Christopher Hare by the giant yellow patch.

stunned and speechless.

"I saw in the distance what appeared to be a very low-flying plane coming towards me from the Birmingham area.

The closer it came, the more I realised that it could not have been a plane. There were red and white lights all round and it had a very strange shape."

said Mrs Smith.

Although she only saw the object for a matter of seconds, Mrs Smith is convinced it was a saucer.

"At first I never told anyone because I was convinced people would think I was barmy, but I know what I saw," said Mrs Smith.

HERALD, Atherstone, England - Jan. 6, 1984

Rage in 1950s, UFO 'sightings' just faded away

By JAMES RUSK
Globe and Mail Reporter

OTTAWA — "Starting at his nose where a plane has a propeller, he had a green light. It worked up and down."

"Next came two guns painted a bright red. Their action was up and down like a human arm. ... Next he widened his tail slightly and out popped three fins."

In the early morning of Oct. 9, 1951, a First World War veteran thought he saw three space ships near Barrie, Ont., and he wrote the Department of National Defence to report his findings.

The 55-year-old army veteran's description of one of the space ships, quoted above, is the most vivid in the Defence Department's files on Unidentified Flying Objects, which are now declassified in the National Archives.

The files cover the period from 1947, when UFO fever started in North America with a widely publicized report about a sighting in Boise, Idaho, to 1964, when the annual number of

sightings in the file had tapered off.

They do not cover all the incidents reported to the Government during the period. Those which observers wished to be confidential are being kept under lock and key until the year 2000. Other reports are to be found in the records of meteorological landings kept by the National Research Council.

But, even so, the Defence Department records make fascinating reading. While the names of those who reported UFOs are blacked out because of privacy provisions in the law, their occupations are recorded.

They range from scientifically unsophisticated observers such as Inuit in the North to housewives and to those with a great deal of experience with aerial phenomena, including a surprisingly large number of Royal Canadian Air Force personnel and the chief test pilot for Canadair, the Montreal aircraft manufacturer.

The papers are an equally

interesting record of what the air-men, bureaucrats and ministers thought they should do about the good citizens of Canada who persisted in seeing mysteries in the sky and about those who wrote letters to complain that the Government was keeping the "truth" about UFOs from the public.

Like so many other fads coming up from the south, flying saucers and the like got to Canada a bit late after their start in Idaho. The U.S. Air Force had already wrapped up a two-year investigation of UFOs when Canada started to get serious in 1950 and 1951 about investigating the phenomena that an increasing number of Canadians were reporting.

In April, 1952, the year when sightings seemed to have peaked, the Defence Research Board met to approve a formal reporting system in which RCAF intelligence officers were to interview those who had reported sightings and to fill out a monstrous form, which the military labelled Project Second Story.

The bureaucracy sprang into action. Only two days after the DRB let the form-fillers loose, N. R. Ronberg of the RCAF security police at Camp Borden was dispatched to find out more about what the Barrie veteran had seen the night of Oct. 9, 1951.

He found the three spacecraft were fuelled by alcohol. In the words of the report, when Mr. Ronberg arrived, the observer was "stretched out on his bed, fully clothed and under the influence of alcohol. The kitchen was littered with empty beer bottles and a number of full beer bottles were observed in the bedroom. It was not possible to interrogate him."

Two days later, when the observer was sober, the interview finally took place but the air force decided it did not have a reliable report.

On April 21, 1951, the Lindsay, Ont., Post had triple-headlined a report by a member of the editorial board who had just happened to look skyward as he was observing his flower beds on a quiet Sunday morning.

"Flying Saucers over Lindsay? Mystery Craft Sighted over Lindsay Sunday. Made Sound Like Rushing

of Wind," the headline screamed.

But Squadron Leader J. N. Nalty, who was sent to Lindsay posthaste to interview the editor of the paper, for it was he who had been diverted from his tiptoe through the tulips to the parachute-shaped objects leaving vapor trails in the sky, was not impressed.

He described the editor as "an apparently sincere but definitely unreliable observer" and added "the interrogator could not avoid the impression that the observer, as editor, may have been unduly influenced by the fact that flying saucers made an excellent headline for a dull Monday morning."

If editors were not always the best observers, flyboys could also get overly excited by what they saw in the sky in 1952. On Aug. 21, the lads who were manning the control tower at Trenton air base, one of the largest RCAF bases in the land, were aroused when they saw a brightly lighted object shimmering and wavering in the distance. They even got a radar echo from it.

But they cooled off and took a precise measurement of its location and found that it was the planet Jupiter and decided that the radar reading was an "anomalous propagation caused by temperature inversion."

By 1954, after intelligence officers had filled out page after page of the forms, the Government's scientists decided it was not worth the effort. In a letter to the RCAF, the chairman of the DRB said that the "most of the observational material does not lend itself to a scientific method of investigation."

But that did not stop the public from writing about what they found. Typical was a Hamilton woman who eagerly wrote to say that at 2:50 a.m. on Feb. 6, 1959, she had been lying in bed and looking out a nearby window when she saw "this vehicle come into view from the mountain, proceeding from south to north, steadily, noiselessly, seemingly at tree-top height."

"It looked to be passing over Gage Park. Its flashing intermittent lights were orange in color with a bigger light on the front extension. I only saw it when the lights were on. I couldn't see the shape but it was not like an aero-

plane."

The Hamilton woman received an acknowledgement but no RCAF intelligence officer went to interview her.

By then, the letters were starting to come in from those who wanted to know what the Canadian Government knew about UFOs but would not tell the public. The most persistent writer of such letters was Ken Klaasen, a Vancouverite who billed himself an investigator for the "National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena."

In the 1960-1963 period, Mr. Klaasen carried on a series of correspondence with senior RCAF officers and two ministers of defence, Douglas Harkness and Paul Hellyer.

In the summer of 1962, Mr. Harkness tried to tell him all was well. Of UFOs, the minister wrote: "If this term is used to mean artificial objects which are directed by an intelligence other than human, and of extra-terrestrial origin, then we can state that there is no evidence of the existence of such objects and that if any evidence becomes available, it would not be withheld from the Canadian public."

But the files show that those who believed in UFOs and flying saucers and the like were not only representatives of groups like NICAP and the Intercontinental Aerial Research Foundation.

The late Wilbert B. Smith, who rose in the bureaucracy to be superintendent of the Radio Regulation Engineering section at the Department of Transport, was a believer as well.

The longest portion of the DRB minutes for the April, 1952, meeting that approved the systematic collection of UFO data is devoted to his explanation of the extra-terrestrial theory for the origin of UFOs.

In the end, Ottawa seems not to have taken Mr. Smith too seriously. Rather, it followed the advice that it got from the Americans in 1950 when Canada first started to look into UFOs: ignore them as far as possible, for every report of Government interest in the sightings will only increase the number of sightings that are reported.

A UFO visit in Glen Williams?

A UFO visit in Glen Williams?

Did someone else besides Santa Claus visit Glen Williams last month?

One Glen Williams resident told of an unusual experience she had Dec. 20.

It was about 10 p.m. when the resident was putting out the family dogs. Her attention was caught by what she thought was a rather large star, or a light atop a radio tower — until it moved.

The resident said the light moved to the right

and then stopped, hovering over the tops of some nearby trees. When the light appeared to be getting closer, the resident ran indoors. Since that night, she said, she has heard that others watched the light as well.

The dogs behaved normally throughout the whole time, she said and there wasn't any noise from the area of the light, which might suggest a plane.

Had a similar experience? Call our newsroom, 877-2201.

HELP!

Our national press clipping bureau has recently sent us some foreign-language articles and we need translators for them. We currently have translators for French and Spanish clippings, but we have some Swedish items and we may receive clippings in other languages. Can anyone help? The only "pay" we can offer is some free issues of UFONS and our appreciation. -- L.F.

WE ARE NOT ALONE, ASTRONOMER CLAIMS

By NAOMI LAKRITZ
Sun Staff Writer

Chris Rutkowski is a UFO investigator who's never seen a UFO, but that hasn't dimmed his enthusiasm for the subject.

"I've talked to thousands of people who've made sightings and I'm convinced they've seen something," said Rutkowski, an astronomer who spoke on UFOs yesterday at the University of Manitoba's Celebration '84.

He's catalogued about 600 sightings in Manitoba dating from the late 1940s and early 1950s, and says 10 to 15 per cent of those incidents remain unsolved.

"There seems to be no explanation for these even after careful examination. We just have to say we don't know what they are," said Rutkowski.

Many of the sightings occur over remote northern areas where the natives surprisingly seem to take them for granted.

of it are said to be little balls of light bobbing around," he said.

Things have remained fairly quiet on the home front the last few years, but Rutkowski says a couple of unusual incidents have been reported in the southern part of the province.

"A woman in Selkirk saw a disc shaped object hovering at the edge of town not long ago. And there have been some nocturnal lights reported in the Virden area," he said.

Some of the more bizarre unexplained sightings in the province include:

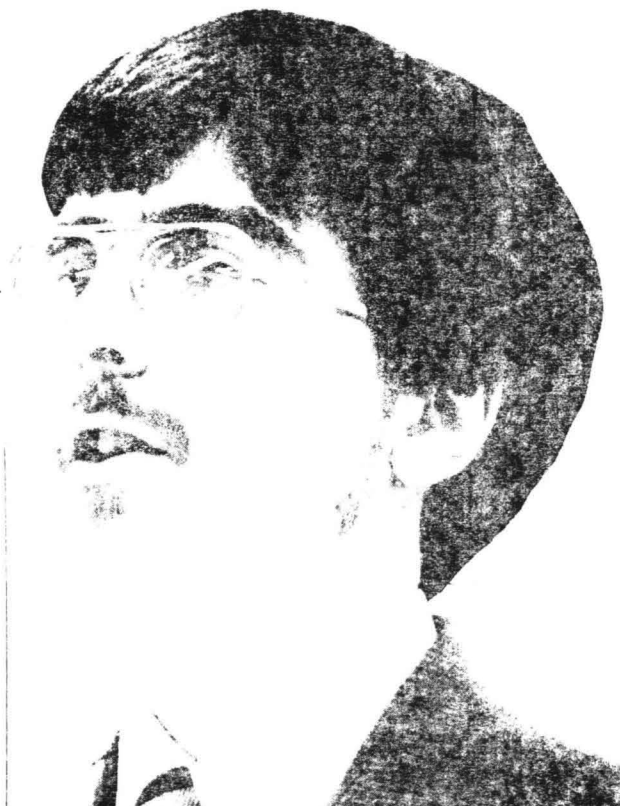
• Two "aliens" in silvery suits seen after UFOs landed in separate incidents in the 1970s near MacGregor and Beausejour.

• A 1967 incident where a Winnipeg man

sustained strange burns after approaching a UFO which had landed near Falcon Lake. The burns were later discovered to be chemical and thermal, and the man's chest was also branded with an unexplainable red grid pattern which later faded away.

• A mysterious ball of light nicknamed Charlie Redstar which bobbed about in the sky over Carman for five days in May, 1975 and was filmed by television camera crews.

• A UFO with searchlight beams and orange windows observed near Sundown Man for the better part of a night by a farmer's wife. At sunrise, the lights disappeared and two UFOs rose up out of a nearby swamp, flying away in different directions.



Manitoba sightings provide strong evidence of UFOs, says Chris Rutkowski.

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE UFO KIND

Course tackles alien visitors

By BOB THOMPSON
Staff Writer

Lawrence Fenwick has a vision — an alien vision that has more to do with the *The Twilight Zone* than the Wonderful World of *E.T.*

He's a ufologist — a hobbyist who studies extraterrestrial encounters — and a Metro man accustomed to the cynical smirks from skeptics who think they know better.

Fenwick, who will teach a Humber College non-credit course on the subject starting Jan. 31, has a few suggestions for those who mock his UFO claims.

"Before you criticize, study then investigate and see if you're still laughing," said Fenwick, 47, who believes in but won't elaborate on an alien master plan.

Students of the UFO mystery might find out what that is when he lectures on the phenomena.

Called UFOs — Fact or Fiction, the two-hour Tuesday classes will run until Feb. 28.

Fireballs

"The subject is very intriguing and he's not a flaky person," said Renate Krakauer, Humber's director of continuing education. "We offered the course because it seemed a lot of people wanted to learn about it."

But Dr. Allen McNamara, head of the National Research Council's planetary science section, discounts UFO sightings, which average about 150 across the country every year.

And he rejects outright Fenwick's charge that the government is "hiding ominous information" about what the aliens might be up to "because all reports are made available to the public."

He said most UFOs are meteor fireballs, landing lights from aircraft or the planet Venus, which can cause optical illusions just before sunset and dawn.

But Fenwick is a UFO believer. He's also despondent over the rose-colored pictures of aliens painted in films like *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* and *E.T., the Extraterrestrial*.

"Sightings have dropped in the last four years because people accept that image and want to believe aliens are benevolent so they don't report what they see," said Fenwick, who has been doggedly recording "events" since 1952.

That's when he stumbled upon a book by U.S. Marine Corps. Major Donald Keyhoe called *Flying Saucers Are Real*. He read it and was hooked.

About 200 books and many file reports later, the co-director of the Canadian UFO Research Network has a dramatic sighting of his own to recall.

"It is scary, but it is no longer a mystery and it is difficult to decide what to do with the information," he said.

It was about 11 p.m., Nov. 16, 1977, that Fenwick had his major encounter. He was outside his house near Bathurst St.

and Lawrence Ave. when he saw a UFO.

"It was something about 100 feet above the trees going about 3 mph. It was long, lit up, yellowish and white," he said. It slowly headed north then disappeared.

Those and other UFO events will be outlined in his two hour classes during discussions of case histories.

The sessions will be educational, he said, but added the lectures will back his point of view because "seeing is believing."



—Stan Behal, Sun

PROOF IS IN THE PICTURES, OR IS IT?

Lawrence Fenwick displays a collection of photographs he believes are UFOs.

Fenwick is a devoted ufologist and teaches a course on the subject at

Humber College, called UFOs — Fact or Fiction. He says they're fact.

MYSTERY OF THE 'SPACE VISITORS'

by MARK DOWNING

UFO experts say yet another mysterious sighting in the skies confirms their theory that the area is the centre of attention for alien beings from outer space.

In the latest incident two women were driving towards Camberley when they saw three lights in the sky near the Little Chef on the A30 at Blackwater.

Mrs. Carol Broadbent, of Mendip Road, Cove, contacted the "News" after reading of Mrs. Cathy Harris's close encounter at Ash.

Mrs. Broadbent was being driven by her friend Mrs. Ann Clark, of Sunnybank Road, Cove, when she saw two lights and a "blob" stationary in the sky ahead.

"As we got nearer I realised it was three lights," she said.

The women turned off by St. Michael's Church and saw the main light then the other two send out a beam of light across the night sky.

"There was a smoky kind of circle around it," Mrs. Broadbent said. "It started to fade. We seemed quite near by this time."

They ran back, but the apparition faded away.

Frightening

Mrs. Broadbent said she called police, who suggested she contact the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough.

"The RAE seemed to think it could have been a helicopter, but I am absolutely certain it was not a helicopter or aeroplane," she said. "It never moved."

"It was quite frightening, but I am glad I have seen it. I will probably never see anything like it again. I am so excited about it."

Mrs. Broadbent said she

used to be sceptical about UFOs, but now the incident has converted her to believe in them.

"I don't know about little green men or anything like that, but I definitely believe there's something besides us," she said.

Mrs. Broadbent has contacted UFO expert Mr. Omar Fowler about her experience.

After speaking with Mrs. Broadbent he confirmed: "It does appear to be UFO activity she saw at Blackwater."

Mr. Fowler said there were similarities to Mrs. Harris's sighting.

His group will be interviewing Mrs. Clark and Mrs. Broadbent to gather more information on what they saw.

"It does confirm our theory that we are now in the middle of a period of intense UFO activity in the area," Mr. Fowler said.

He is anxious to hear from anyone else who has seen anything unusual in the sky but has been reluctant to report it.

EVENING NEWS, Manchester, England - Feb. 23, 1984



Schoolboy Paul Reed, on UFO watch at Minera Mountain, near Wrexham.

Paul's close encounter with a Welsh mountain

SCHOOLBOY Paul Reed has been delving into strange happenings around Wrexham.

His investigation has revealed a series of reported UFO sightings.

Paul Reed, aged 16, of Berwyn Drive, Marchiel, has been fascinated by

the unexplained since he read a book on UFOs four years ago.

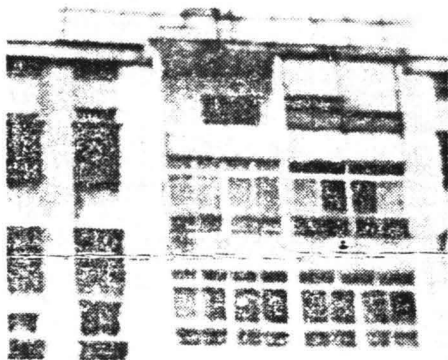
He decided to write an article for his school newspaper. And when he interviewed fellow pupils at Bryn Offa High, he heard of a pattern of close encounters around Minera Mountain.

Children and parents told of seeing bright objects flying through the sky, hovering and disappearing.

Said Paul: "I'm not sure I believe in UFOs. I've never seen one myself, but I think it's more likely they do exist than they don't."



(See "A UFO OVER SAN CARLOS" in the next column)



Mrs. Martinez remembered that "during the night we had two short blackouts, but we did not worry about them and went to bed. Next morning, I discovered a perfect circle in the grass of the garden. It was the first time I saw anything like that. I also found the branch of a tree near the circle, completely torn off and several plants around were absolutely dried up." Several neighbors heard strange noises. "Our neighbor at the bottom of the field heard a strong humming noise around 2:00 or 2:30 a.m. The lady beside us heard murmurs, like those of puppies, around the same time. We, due to the layout of the bedrooms, heard nothing." Mrs. Martinez also explained: "Surprisingly, the nearest plant to the circle began to die 2 or 3 days after the incident. Another tree appeared clearly cut by something very sharp." The night after the incident, the family cat seemed quite upset and nervous; one of the dogs refused to enter the house again. The night of the incident, dogs in the area kept barking all the night long.

Two people from separate places, one a driver entering San Vicente, and the other from the local hospital, said that between 2:00 and 2:15 a.m., a bright white light took off vertically from the center of the town.

City and country of incident: Chillan, Chile
Date of incident: December 7, 1983
Name of paper and date of clip: TIEMPO ARGENTINO, December 22, 1983
City and country of newspaper: Buenos Aires, Argentina

HE TOOK A UFO PHOTOGRAPH WITHOUT KNOWING. TECHNICIANS RULED OUT HOAX

Santiago de Chile. - The photo of a UFO was taken by a businessman when filming his son on the hot springs of Chillan. This was revealed by the witness himself, Andres Ferrada, who was photographing his son Alvaro against the background snowy mountains of Chillan, 500 kilometers south of Santiago. They saw or heard nothing, but after developing, the clear shape of a UFO appeared over the mountains.

Mr. Ferrada took the photo to an optician and to several members of the University of Concepción. All of them agreed it was a UFO, ruling out any hoax.

Mr. Ferrada remembers that when he took the photo, the sky was cloudy, but he affirms: "I saw nothing strange." His son confirms his father's words and added: "It is a strange event."

City and country of incident: Málaga, Spain
Date of incident: January 18, 1984
Name of paper and date of clip: SUR, January 19, 1984
City and country of newspaper: Málaga, Spain

A UFO OVER SAN CARLOS

Yesterday about 11:30 a.m., a UFO flew for a few seconds over the area of San Carlos. Its evolutions were witnessed by about 30 people. Among them, Mr. Antonio Romero Rodriguez and Mr. David Romero Bonilla, who had a camera at hand. They had time enough to take the following photo.

City and country of incident: Buenos Aires, Argentina
Date of incident: February 4, 1984
Name of paper and date of clip: CLARIN, February 5, 1984
City and country of newspaper: Buenos Aires, Argentina

A UFO FLEET MOVED QUICKLY ACROSS OUR SKY

The passing over the Greater Buenos Aires area of a UFO fleet was observed last night at 2:50 a.m. by several people around the city, despite the Ezeiza radars not showing anything. Gustavo Fernandez was at the bus station of Retiro broadcasting the strike when he discovered the strange formation of 8 UFOs flying over Buenos Aires from east to west, leaving a luminous trail. He quickly broadcast the news, pointing out that "the UFOs move at high speed, much higher than any aircraft landing or taking off from Jorge Newbery airport."

Two witnesses informed us that they saw the UFOs from Parque Patrias and described them as "horizontal and parallel trails of bright yellow lights--2 at the head and 6 more following behind--that crossed the sky in about half a minute, disappearing at the horizon."

- In Córdoba

At the International Airport of Córdoba, they denied that their radars had showed any UFOs around 2:40 a.m.

- An explanation

Space experts suggested yesterday that the "UFOs" were likely to be parts from Westar VI, the satellite launched by the Space Shuttle which was lost and possibly disintegrated.

City and country of incident: Buenos Aires, Argentina
Date of incident: February 4, 1984
Name of paper and date of clip: LA TERCERA HORA, February 5, 1984
City and country of newspaper: Santiago de Chile, Chile

UFO FLEET OVER BUENOS AIRES

Hundreds of people witnessed last night the evolutions of a UFO fleet over Buenos Aires, which was also broadcast directly by a radio commentator.

Gustavo Fernandez, who works in "Radio Splendid," a local radio station, commented on the sighting from the streets, after receiving several calls of people observing "no less than 8 UFOs."

These UFOs moved from east to west, leaving a luminous trail, traveling much more quickly than aircraft, according to Fernandez. Nevertheless, the radar screens of Ezeiza airport showed nothing! Several firemen at "La Matanza" and "Lanús," southern Buenos Aires, also witnessed the UFOs. "Eight or nine objects moving at high speed and flashing green, yellow and white beams. They disappeared toward the west."

These accounts agree with many others from all over the city, including those of policemen patrolling the harbor.

CREDIT: Irene Granchi

City and country of incident: Chapecó, Santa Catarina, Brazil
Date of incident: December 14, 1983
Name of paper and date of clip: O ESTADO, Florianópolis, S.C., Brazil, December 18, 1983
City and country of newspaper: Florianópolis, S.C., Brazil

CABALÁ, THE MESSENGER, GIVES EARTHLINGS A WARNING

Journalist Marcos Redin of O ESTADO was the first to obtain Cabalá's entire message as received by Antonio Nelson Tasca. He was given the message after a long interview with the abductee, who promptly sat down and tapped it out on the machine--50 lines of it. This is it:

Cabalá, of the world of Agalí, giving all Earthlings a warning. All war weapons capable of exterminating life on Earth must immediately be destroyed. Total nuclear war will set Earth off its course in the heavens, thus causing serious trouble to life on other worlds, some of which are of a size as yet unknown to man.

All political, economical and financial rule of nations over nations must be abolished. Imperialism is contrary to a nation's rights of equality, and has been turned into a novel scheme of slavery.

The essence of human life and its natural reproductive functions must be preserved. In stars that lie close and others unattainable by man,

(continued on page 14)

UFO sightings at Morte Point

There have been further reports of UFO sightings in North Devon.

This time people have seen bright lights in the sky around Morte Point.

Mr. Richard Summerfield, from Woolacombe, described the lights as being very big and bright.

He said they looked like helicopters flying in formation, one of them seeming to be hovering.

TIMES, Koweit, Kuwait
Jan. 28, 1984

UFO found

Abu Dhabi: An Unidentified Flying Object (UFO) was sighted on Thursday night at high altitude over oil fields in Sharjah Emirate, according to Al Khaleej newspaper yesterday. The grey-coloured cylindrical body soon vanished leaving no smoke or noise, eyewitnesses were quoted by the Sharjah-based local daily as saying.

TRANSLATIONS

CREDIT: Jane Thomas (Translation Credit: Luis Gonzalez)

City and country of incident: Romang, San Javier, Argentina
Date of incident: November 14, 1983
Name of paper and date of clip: LA RAZÓN, November 16, 1983
City and country of newspaper: Buenos Aires, Argentina

A UFO IS SAID TO HAVE LANDED IN A FIELD OF SANTA FE

Santa Fe. - A UFO has landed on a farm near Romang, San Javier, 307 kilometers east of this city. The discovery was made last Friday at Mr. Omar Edgardo Samseyer's home, 1 kilometer north of Romang along Road 1. According to known data, there were found 2 circles of 3 and 1 meters respectively. They consisted of a broad strip (15 centimeters) where the grass became gray-colored on its upper part due to some kind of ashes. The incident was investigated by the police. Curiously, five years ago, similar imprints were found in a field of School No. 6098 at La Brava.

City and country of incident: Oruro and Araní, Argentina
Date of incident: December 6, 1983
Name of paper and date of clip: LA RAZÓN, December 8, 1983
City and country of newspaper: Buenos Aires, Argentina

THEY SAW A UFO OVER URURO FOR ALMOST TWO HOURS

La Paz (UP). - In Oruro and Araní (Cochabamba) was observed a UFO, according to news arrived today. Our man in Oruro said that he could follow it through a telescope. "It had a luminous body, like a ring with reddish lights." The UFO appeared at 17:30 last Tuesday and was in view for almost 2 hours, moving slowly toward the northeast. There were many witnesses from the roofs of their houses. About 20:00, the UFO disappeared at high altitude towards Chile. Journalist Humberto Caero said that the inhabitants of the small village of Araní could see, alarmed and amazed, the apparition of a strange UFO, about 14:30, flying over the region for several minutes at high altitude, moving toward the northwest. Afterwards in Sacaba, a town in this direction, it was also observed moving toward the northeast.

City and country of incident: San Vicente, Buenos Aires, Argentina
Date of incident: November 29, 1983
Name of paper and date of clip: DIARIO POPULAR, December 17, 1983
City and country of newspaper: Buenos Aires, Argentina

A UFO STIRRED UP SAN VICENTE. A FLYING SAUCER LANDED IN A BIG FIELD. SOME IMPRINTS LEFT

In a farm at San Vicente, 50 kilometers from Buenos Aires, something strange happened during the night of November 29. According to some neighbors, a UFO landed in a big property nearby. The landing took place between 2:00 and 2:30 in the morning, without any noise or witnesses. Nevertheless, the UFO left a circular imprint, 4.5 meters in diameter on the grass where it landed. The exact landing place was 30 meters from the nearest house and surrounded by trees.

Thursday evening was a rainy day in the small village of San Vicente, but we succeeded in finding the head of "El Pueblo" magazine, where the first news of this case appeared. He confirmed the sighting and assured us that there were impressive coincidences among the neighbors concerning the strange happenings of that day.

The garden where the alleged landing took place belongs to the old and big Martinez house (a family well known in the town). The property has an "L" shape and is frequently used for parties and other cultural activities. There are also several week-end houses, some of them inhabited permanently. A manor house completes the scene, the home of the Martinezes and their two older sons.

(continued from page 13)

life sprang from the eternal creative spirit of He who created all things--God--therefore it should not be the reason for carrying out experiments with unforeseeable results, as they would end by leading to irreversible genetic disaster.

Population control and the biological improvement of man must be established by natural, scientific means, within the most rigorous criteria of justice and morality, having the purpose of solving the social problems that have arisen from the disorderly proliferation of human beings.

Man must set out to conquer other worlds in the universe, finding proper locations for future emigrations and new sources of energy and survival. But before doing this, he should conquer his own world, uncovering the secrets that still exist on Earth, in the sea and in the air, and learning how to preserve the natural elements, which are of vital importance. He must learn how to protect himself from the subtle piracy coming in from outside, and to heal himself of human imperfections of body, mind and spirit.

Mankind must be prepared for a period of extraordinary events which will be staged on Earth within a short period of time. Once these exhortations have been attended, these great events will be preceded by strange types of earthquakes and heavenly signs of magnificent splendor and troubling beauty. Masters of high wisdom will return to Earth, renewing their marvelous teaching and helping towards the establishment of a new political society. It will be Paradise on Earth once more, full of light and love. Then, by means of sources of energy as yet undreamed-of, man will learn to know the concave-convex dimensions of Earth, and travel to the depths of the universe, not suffering the tiredness caused by the passage of time. Then, as the final and supreme conquest of the creative power of man, he shall activate the machine of absolute power which, among other prodigies, will give mankind a most rewarding prize, by obtaining the most astounding experience in all history: the resurrection of the dead in the wave of 4 x's.

This is the warning given by Cabalá, the messenger, of the world of Agalfí, to all the peoples of Earth.

TRANSLATOR'S NOTE: According to Luiz Gonzaga Galvão, of C.E.E.F., Florianópolis, S.C., who sent me the newspaper excerpt, the case is genuine. He spoke to the journalist who wrote the article, who told him that Dr. Julio Zanadski confirmed the fact that Antonio's burns were indeed strange. However, the case requires a more in-depth study as a whole. - Irene Granchi.

City and country of incident: Perth, Australia - Malaga, Spain
Date of incident: January 20, 1984
Name of paper and date of clip: O DIA, January 21, 1984
City and country of newspaper: Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

FLYING SAUCER APPEARS IN AUSTRALIA AND IN SPAIN

Two police agents of Perth said they saw a luminous object lift up off the ground at great speed. It was lost to sight when they tried to approach it in Middle Swan, a suburb, early yesterday morning. The incident took place at 3 a.m., and the Royal Australian Air Force declared there were no flights at the time. Several witnesses observed the UFO. In Malaga, over 30 persons watched a UFO from the Malaga suburb of San Carlos. It was seen for only a few seconds at midday the day before yesterday. David Romero was taking a picture of his dog at the moment with his 16mm camera, so he took a shot of the UFO. The picture is being examined by experts.

CREDIT: Walter Langbein

City and country of incident: Hemer, West Germany
Date of incident: January 1, 1984
Name of publication and date of clip: ALTENAER KREISELATT, January 4, 1984
City and country of publication: Altena, West Germany

Hemer - The pharmacist-couple Denck, living in the town of Hemer, had a strange beginning of the Orwell-year 1984. While firemen had trouble with fireworks in the Westiger-Ernst-Strenner Street, the Dencks wanted to watch the New Year spectacle over Hemer and Iserlohn from the guesthouse "Trichter" in Iserlohn. At about twenty minutes after midnight, their attention concentrated on a single object: from the sky of Letmath, a UFO was flying in a straight line through the night sky.

The flying object is described as a flying saucer with shining black stripes at the side, heading in the direction of Arnsberg at a height of about 2000 meters. The Dencks followed the course of the UFO on a map afterwards.

No, it was no rocket or a firework, that is the conviction of the Dencks.

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

City and country of incident: Ienissei region, Siberia
Name of publication and date of clip: LES NOUVELLES DE MOSCOU (French edition of MOSCOW NEWS), No. 46, 1983

EXTRA-TERRESTRIALS AGAIN?

A large Bronze Age cave painting has been discovered in the northern part of the Ienissei region, in southern Siberia, by an expedition from the Archaeological Institute of the Soviet Academy of Sciences.

An enormous meteorite fell in this region three to four thousand years ago. Experts compare the damage to that left behind by the Tunguska catastrophe. This seems to be the reason that the area was considered to be sacred. Cave paintings and mysterious symbols cover the surface of rocks that form gigantic stone stairways.

One photograph portrays an astonishing face or mask. It is impossible to ignore its resemblance to the depictions of "extraterrestrials" that were found in the Sahara.

According to Mr. Devlet, the head of the expedition, "The resemblance is indeed striking, but the fact is that it is a ritual mask."

City and country of incident: Provencal, France
Date of incident: January 8, 1981
Name of publication and date of article: FRANCE-SOIR, January 4, 1984
City and country of publication: Paris, France

RENATO'S UFO: "AN UNEXPLAINED EVENT OF GREAT IMPORTANCE"

By our special reporter Francois Corre.

For the first time, scientists are taking the statements of a "flying saucer" witness seriously. Their report, which has just been made public, does not formally draw the conclusion that these mysterious aircraft exist. However, it does confirm that "an event of great importance" has taken place.

Renato Nicolai, 55 years old, indicates two pine trees behind his house. "The flying saucer came from this direction. It landed just in front of where we are, then took off towards the east."

Renato is a retired mason who lives at Trans-en-Provence in the Var region. He claims that a phenomenon took place near his house three years ago, on January 8, 1981. His story resembles those of many so-called witnesses of UFO landings.

What is so interesting about Renato Nicolai's case is that a series of scientific analyses carried out under the supervision of the National Center for Space Research has just concluded that all the evidence indicates that at the location precisely indicated by Renato Nicolai, "an unexplained event of great importance" took place.

Renato says, "It was about 5:10 P.M. I saw a mass like a stone falling about 150 feet in the air. However, it came down lightly on the ground right near my house. I approached it and clearly saw the craft. It was a flat circular object, bulging slightly above and below, about 6 feet in height and 7 1/2 feet in diameter. It was a dull gray, like lead. I had advanced about thirty paces toward the craft when it took off at very high speed, producing the whistling sound I had already heard. I then saw the object from beneath. It was round, and I could see four port-holes."

On the ground at the place where the mysterious object landed, government officials noted the existence of a circular outline 7 1/2 feet in diameter, with skid marks at two places. The circular outline was impressed about half to three-quarters of an inch into the ground, as if there had been a certain amount of pressure.

Nicolai says he did not believe in flying saucers. That evening, he described what he had seen to his wife Jeanne, aged 52, when she got home from work. The next morning, she went with him to see the markings, then told a neighbor about it. The frightened neighbor told the police. That was the beginning of the "Nicolai Affair."

First the police took samples at the site, then GEPAN personnel took samples on two other occasions. GEPAN is the Group for the Study of Unidentified Aerspatial Phenomena, which works under the supervision of the National Center for Space Studies.

On June 17, 1983, after two and a half years of analyses, a bulky preliminary report was turned in which contained the results of examinations by several different laboratories. Other examinations have been conducted since then. The astonishing results have just been made public.

Concerning the circular outline, the scientists attribute it to "a soil fracture that may have been caused by the combined action of strong mechanical pressure and heat."

According to the SNEAP laboratory at Broussens, the contact of the object with the ground produced a heat of about 600 degrees Centigrade (about 1100 degrees Fahrenheit). But without a doubt, the most interesting results came from the analyses of plants.

According to Dr. Bounias, of the National Institute of Agricultural Research at Avignon, alfalfa plants taken from the vicinity of the mysterious markings had undergone inexplicable changes. He explains: "I had samples of wild alfalfa taken by the police along an axis at different distances from the center of the impact site. Then I examined the different pigments in the alfalfa, such as carotene, chlorophyll, and xanthophyll. These pigments had undergone very important changes near the site, which diminished as the distance from the site increased. Some of the plants collected by the police according to my instructions were dried up but not burnt. The site had the aspect of a circular stain, being darker in color than the surroundings. The police also noticed skid marks somewhat like tires might have made. The vegetation at the impact site was dried, but not burnt or carbonised. This year I took control samples from the site, which confirm the changes made in the vegetation."

Thus it is certain than an event of sufficient importance to have brought about rare and mysterious changes in minerals and plants took place behind Nicolai's house. But does this mean they were caused by a flying saucer? None of the scientists involved makes such a statement. Dr. Bounias says: "We have acknowledged the facts, but we make no statement about their cause. We don't see any confirmation of the existence of flying saucers. We don't give any explanation. That's all."

TRANSLATION CREDIT: George Andrews

City and country of incident: Racine, Estrie, Quebec, Canada
Date of incident: July 7, 1972
Name of paper and date of clip: LE JOURNAL DE QUEBEC, December 31, 1983 & January 7, 1984
City and country of newspaper: Quebec, Quebec, Canada

HE SAW HUMANOIDS!

Careful research recently established evidence of UFO activity at Racine in the Estrie region. Although the case itself is not a recent one, having taken place on a Tuesday evening in mid-July of 1972, Mr. Joly will never forget the experience. Here is the information we gathered from him on December 18, 1983:

"It was about 8:30 P.M. I was at home with my wife. Suddenly the cows began to charge the fence between them and the road, bawling loudly without stopping. When I went out to see what was going on, I noticed that they were all looking in the same direction, toward the far end of the field, about 2,000 feet away. When I looked that way, I saw what I believe to be a flying saucer. Two small beings were involved in some activity near the reddish aircraft. All my life I had dreamed of such a moment. My wife saw what I did, but tried to get me to return to the house in fear that I would be abducted. I remained calm and walked away from the house, closing the door behind me. The cattle were still bawling as loudly as possible. I walked towards the craft, plainly visible in the open field, a couple of thousand feet from my house. However, I had not taken two steps before the two beings noticed my presence and got back into the craft. A third being, whom I had not previously noticed, was about a hundred feet away from the craft, and traveled at lightning speed toward it. The beings seemed to be at ease in our atmosphere and wore no helmets. They were of a greenish color.

"A door closed behind them and the flying saucer rose vertically into the air at medium speed, then disappeared or dematerialised at slightly above the level of the tree-tops. A few seconds later, the cattle stopped bellowing and calm was restored."

After this extraordinary night, Mr. Joly went to the area where he had seen the flying saucer. He was accompanied by his two sons, who were at the time only 7 and 9 years old. He found what Ufologists call a "saucer nest." It was this that confirmed to him that the scene he had witnessed was physically real. The "nest" was about 25 feet in diameter. The wild grass, which was about 3 feet tall, had flattened in a spiral, with an upright tuft about 2 feet in diameter quite obvious at the center of the circle. I remind our readers that a similar "nest" was described in the Marieville case.

Mr. Joly's older son found a piece of very shiny metal. No other piece of such metal has been found in the field. Its shape is roughly spherical and it is rather heavy. It is so hard that no ordinary saw can cut it in two. We asked the witness to give us a few flakes from it to be analysed. The analysis was carried out at Laval University, and the result indicated three possibilities: a) manufactured product, b) natural slag, c) meteorite. X-ray analysis indicated a composition of approximately 72% silicon and 27% iron, with traces of other elements. It was neither radioactive nor magnetic. These results are still on file at Laval University.

Mr. Joly's adventure confirms a strange fact I have often noticed in my research: the witness always seems to arrive on the scene of UFO activity in such a way that it is directly in front of him, so that port-holes, door, entities are clearly visible. In case after case, this happens again and again, and seems to me to confirm the hypothesis that UFOs are a way of manipulating the collective unconscious. But for what purpose? It is precisely to find this out that I devote most of my time.



A SEMINAR in London, Ont. centred around the theory that the Crystal Skull is really from the Lost City of Atlantis.

Was Atlantis home of the Crystal Skull?

By SHARON SINGER

Almost 60 years have elapsed since Anna Mitchell-Hedges saw something sparkling under a collapsed altar in a remote Mayan temple in the jungles of British Honduras. It was her 17th birthday, Jan. 1, 1924, on an expedition with her father, famous archeologist-explorer, F.A. Mitchell-Hedges, that Anna found the Crystal Skull — an artifact of such beauty and power that it has been an object of reverence and the centre of intense speculation ever since.

Who created the Skull and why? There are no toolmarks visible even under a high power microscope. It cannot be carbon dated, but its age has been estimated anywhere from 20,000 to 500,000 years. The original block of quartz from which it was fashioned, must have weighed over 50 lbs. Such a crystal of clear transparent quartz is impossibly rare.

Featured recently on T.V. shows *That's Incredible* and *That's Life*, the Crystal Skull had never been put on public display in Canada until a recent day-long seminar in London, Ont., hometown of the organizer Carol Fazakas.

Erich von Daniken is convinced the Skull comes from outer space, but the speakers at the seminar, Caroline Boddie, Rochester based crystal instructor, and Joseph Jochmans, author of *Rolling Thunder, The Coming Earth Changes*, both experienced psychics, suggest the Skull was created in the vanished legendary kingdom of Atlantis. No other culture since Atlantis, including our own, they argue, had the technological capabilities to produce the Skull.

Scientists, archeologists, and various university departments have come to a dead end trying to explain the unique construction of the Skull with its inner light pipes, lenses and prisms. A crystallographer at Hewlett-Packard, the world's largest manufacturer of electronic equipment, having conducted batteries of tests on the Skull, remarked in frustration, "The damn thing simply shouldn't exist!"

In the world today, only five crystal skulls have come to light. Museums in London and Paris house two of them. Two are in private collections in California and Mexico. Still in Anna's possession in her own home in Ontario, the Mitchell-Hedges Skull is the largest and finest in workmanship, detail and design.

The Skull was on display for two hours for the group of over 200 present at the seminar, some of whom came as far as Texas just to see it. Now almost 77, Anna Mitchell-Hedges sat at its side on the dais. Psychics have told her it is her life's purpose to be the Guardian of the Skull.

Priceless, singular, the Skull is insured at \$1 million, and was protected by two Brinks armed guards.

Consider these conclusions of psychics who have worked with and studied the Crystal Skull. Carol Fazakas, Caroline Boddie, Joseph Jochmans and Carole Davis, a Toronto clairvoyant, interviewed later, independently concur that the Skull is a "big crystal data bank." Concealed by Atlanteans, it was programmed with the sum total of their knowledge as a time capsule for the future. The object symbolically represents this knowledge — the human brain box. Implicit in its form however, is also a warning. This knowledge improperly used could result, as it did in Atlantis, in the mask of death. It is perhaps for this reason that F.A. (Mike) Mitchell-Hedges called it, *The Skull of Doom*.

According to these four psychics, this awareness awaits those who can decipher it. The Crystal Skull could be the single greatest source of Ancient Knowledge yet found on the planet.

Protect 'Champ'

Call it a myth or a legend, an optical illusion, a big fish, a whale-like zeuglodon or plesiosaur that has survived from prehistoric times.

Whatever, he, she, it or THEM may be, it's time for the Vermont Senate to heed the plea of the believers in 'Champ,' Lake Champlain's answer to the Loch Ness "monster."

Champ investigator Joseph W. Zarzynski has urged the Vermont Senate to join with the Vermont House, New York State Senate and Assembly in passing a resolution to protect Champ and encourage further scientific inquiry into the phenomenon.

Zarzynski's plea takes on added significance with his latest report that 24 sightings reported in 1983 included five by witnesses who said the 15-25 foot long serpentine creature is not alone.

They reported they saw the head, neck and humps of more than one "monster" gliding side by side through the lake waters confirming, at least to the Wilton, N.Y. investigator, that Lake Champlain is the habitat of a colony of the elusive animals.

The multiple glimpses of Champ are not far fetched when you consider that sightings on both sides of the lake date to 1609, bolstering the believers' arguments that the 372-year-old creature and its progeny have flourished.

Let's hope the Senate joins the House and champions the cause for Champ — and his family.

CR: J. Zarzynski

Big year for monster watching

LAKE CHAMPLAIN—Champ, Lake Champlain's legendary "monster," apparently is alive and in good health if the past year's sighting reports are to be believed.

Joseph W. Zarzynski of Wilton, who heads the Lake Champlain Phenomena Investigation, said Champ was reported seen 24 times in 1983, the largest number of sightings in one year reported so far.

Zarzynski released the information last week in the third edition of his newsletter, "Champ Channels."

"To date Champ has been seen 200 times with undoubtedly many sightings going unreported," he noted. He pointed out there were 12 reported sightings in 1982 and 21 sightings of the legendary Champ in 1981.

"Approximately 40 per cent of the sightings are ones in which Champ's head and neck are reported seen," Zarzynski said, "but the most startling aspect of the 1983 crop of Champ sightings is that in five of the sightings the eyewitness of eyewitnesses reported they saw at least two of the animals at the same time."

The 33-year-old cryptozoologist, who has been investigating the Champ phenomenon since 1974, said he feels the multiple animal sightings help confirm that Lake Champlain is the habitat of a colony of Champ animals.

"We hope that 1984 shall see the Vermont State Senate pass a resolution already passed in the Vermont House, New York State Senate and New York State Assembly that protects these animals and encourages further scientific inquiry into the phenomenon," Zarzynski said.

CR: J. Zarzynski

TV INSIDER/BY MONICA COLLINS

'Extra Dimension' pilot is a spacey, flaky 'ET'

Extra Dimension is wild, just wild. One might call it the *Entertainment Tonight* of the supernatural set. A slick, half-hour pilot produced by Westinghouse Broadcasting, it has been airing quietly — very quietly — on all Westinghouse-owned stations this week. If it's successful, *Extra Dimension* will come back, reincarnated as a full-fledged daily series. Its fate will be determined next month.

Extra Dimension has all the trappings of "info-tainment," with several interesting kinks. The set is an extravagant apparatus, a vision from 2001: *A Space Odyssey*. It dwarfs anchors — yes, there are anchors — Nancy Nelson and Alan Frio. And when the glamorous "resident astrologer" Ruth Revson makes her predictions, she looks as if she could blast into hyperspace at any minute. Besides the astrologer, *Extra Dimension* also has a "resident palmist."

The stories on *Extra Dimension* (ED as opposed to *Entertainment Tonight's ET*) concern numerology, voodoo, Ouija boards, ghosts, psychics and mediums. And we get to see stars' other dimensions — their flaky dimensions. Actress Linda Evans, for instance, is interviewed about her belief in numerology. Rambling on about "ones," "eights" and "10s," she sounds positively spacey. Then we're told to look out for another actress in a future ED — "Susan Strasberg believes she definitely had another life."

Extra Dimension is a must if you believe there really are ghosts in the TV set.

CR: B. Greenwood

Drillers to seek Moodus Noises

HARTFORD (UPI) — Crews will drill deep into the earth in East Haddam to study an area where small earthquakes have caused the "Moodus Noises" heard by inhabitants since pre-colonial times.

The project will involve drilling two holes 3 inches in diameter 1,000 feet into the earth, Sidney Quarrier, a geologist with the state Department of Environmental Protection, said Monday.

He said the holes and rod of rock removed from them would be studied to help determine why the area is hit by frequent small earthquakes and to learn more about rock formations and underground water flow in the area.

The Moodus section of East Haddam gets its name from an Indian word for "place of noises," Quarrier said, noting Indian legends dating to before pre-colonial times tell of noises in the area.

'There is something around that doesn't belong'

By Mary Niederberger

The Pittsburgh Press

WHEN SAM and Ruth Frew moved into the two-story house they rent on a wooded hillside near Route 819 in Bell Township, they were ready for a life of peaceful seclusion.

For a year, their lifestyle matched their expectations.

Then, one day in spring 1979, Mrs. Frew said, a barrel-shaped object fell from the sky and landed in the woods behind their home. Since then, their lives have been disrupted by eerie noises, visits by strange creatures and unexplained happenings.

"Pretty soon, you get to thinkin', 'Am I going crazy?'" said Mrs. Frew, who realizes most people are skeptical of the couple's reports.

Shortly after they sighted the mysterious barrel, which was never found on the ground, the Frews said they and some of their neighbors began to hear strange noises and see alien creatures in the woods and on the creekbank near their homes.

Two different types of animals have been spotted by the Frews: a 10-foot tall Bigfoot-type creature which walks on two legs and is covered with dark hair; and a panther-like animal about 4 feet tall and 8 feet long, with pointed ears and long hair.

Bigfoot was spotted by Frew and his 14-year-old stepson, J.D., on the creekbank several years ago. The Frews never saw the creature again, but the panthers frequent their property occasionally, they said, with the most recent sighting occurring three weeks ago.

The noises made by Bigfoot are shrill, high-pitched shrieks, they said. But the panthers, who appear only at night, reportedly make a low, hissing gurgle. The Frews said they hear the panthers about once a week.

In addition, Frew said his house has gone dark in the daytime and has been surrounded by a

bubble of light at night.

The Frews said their life in Bell Township was peaceful before the barrel-shaped object fell from the sky.

Diane Enion of Pittsburgh, a self-proclaimed expert on the unexplained who has investigated UFO reports, haunted houses and other strange phenomena for the past 20 years, said UFO sightings often are followed by reports of appearances of strange creatures.

"It's not unusual for these creatures to be seen in an area where there has been a UFO sighting. But we've never seen one actually exit the craft," said Mrs. Enion, who often is called by state police who receive UFO reports.

The Frews said they reported the strange happenings to the state police at first, but neither the police nor a state game warden were able to catch any of the creatures described to them. Also, the Frews said they are tired of being ridiculed by people who think the reports are fictitious.

A state trooper from the Greensburg barracks, where the Frews said they took their original report about the creatures, said he could not verify a report was ever made.

"We get reports, but we don't pay much attention to them. We give out the UFO hotline number (Mrs. Enion's phone number), and if the callers really make a fuss, we send a car out. But nothing ever comes of it," the trooper said.

Mrs. Enion, who has been working with the Frews since their first sighting, said she received a report two weeks ago from a motorist who said he saw panther-like creatures run in front of his car as he drove along Route 819, near the Frews' home.

"There's something out there that doesn't belong there," Frew said. "I don't care what anybody says. It's no panther and it's no bear. I've been in the woods all of my life and I know a bear and I know a mountain lion when I see one, and this thing is neither one."

Frew said he has fired rifle shots at the creatures several times from distances of between 50 and 100 yards.



Diane Enion, Sam Frew and stepson J.D. check area where "panther" was sighted

John Sale/The Pittsburgh Press

"I know I hit it. I even heard it whimper after the shots — like it was injured. But when I went over to look, nothing was there."

Frew has been instructed by Mrs. Enion not to shoot at the creatures because they might be alien.

The Frews and other neighbors have found three-toed paw prints on the ground. Usually, there is only one print, rather than two or four. If there is a group of paw prints, there is no trail of prints leading to or from them.

Mrs. Enion said it is common for alien creatures to leave only one paw print or to leave an isolated group of prints. Because of this, she said, scientists theorize the creatures may be "interdimensional" — meaning they can walk in and out of the human dimension.

Although he doesn't like being ridiculed, Frew said he understands why some people are skeptical of the reports.

"I heard about Bigfoots being seen in the woods and I figured that those people were just trying to get their names in the paper. I said 'there is no such thing,' until I saw one for myself."

A neighbor, who asked that her name not be used, said she has seen and heard the strange creatures on her property, too.

"The Frews are not crazy. I back them up 100 percent," she said. "There is something around here that doesn't belong here."

The woman said she no longer reports the incidents to police "because everybody laughs at you."

"There's something out there that doesn't belong there. I've been in the woods all of my life and I know a bear and I know a mountain lion, and this thing is neither one."

— Sam Frew

Mrs. Enion said most of the reports on mysterious creatures she has received have come from Westmoreland County residents.

"We can't explain this. It may be because of the high number of abandoned mines and caves where these things could live, but we're not sure."

The property on which the Frews live runs into the Kiskiminetas River, which is the border between Westmoreland and Armstrong counties.

Although they admit they are scared, the Frews said they won't move. They like the area and it has become an obsession with them to learn the origin of the creatures.

"At first, I was really scared. I'd go to bed at night and I'd shake," Mrs. Frew said. "Even now, when I go anywhere at night, I practically run out to that car."

But her husband, who spends most of his spare time hunting for the creatures, said he now thinks they are harmless.

"If this thing was gonna hurt anybody, it would have done it by now. It would have hurt me because I'm the one who's always after it."

PRESS, Pittsburgh, PA - Dec. 11, 1983 CR: P. Johnson

Wild Men Wandering In China?

PEKING (AP) — The Chinese Wild Man Research Institute claims there is new evidence of at least eight giant hairy creatures roaming the forests of Hubei Province — the elusive "wild men" of history and legend. Known in Chinese as *Ye Ren*, the wild men have been described as 10 feet tall with tufts of red hair and clodding five-toed feet. Some say they have apelike heads, others claim they have bulls, like giant ducks.

In most accounts, the wild man walks upright as humans do. As with America's Big Foot and Scotland's Loch Ness monster, witnesses have failed to provide convincing photos or other absolute proof. Areas where the wild men are said to roam are off limits to foreigners. The search for these purported man-beasts, which started hundreds of years ago and is recorded in old Chinese history books and poems, occasionally is reported by China's state-run Communist press.

Li Jian, secretary-general of the Chinese Wild Man Research Institute in Wuhan, Hubei's capital, published his claims in an article in the Friday *Worker's Daily*, seen yesterday in Peking.

Li claims researchers at Wuhan Medical College recently examined "hairs of eight kinds of red-haired wild men" and concluded eight of the creatures exist in the back country of Hubei, a province of central China.

An ape-man is found in old Chinese writing. A famous statesman-poet named Chu Yuan, who in the third century B.C. lived where searchers are hunting now, wrote of "mountain ogres" in his verses.

A seventh-century historian wrote that a tribe of "hairy men" thrived in the same region. Later accounts spoke of a "monkeylike creature" that roamed neighboring Shaanxi Province.

The Wild Man Institute claims more than 200 large footprints up to 19 inches long were found on Hubei's Jiongdao Mountain.

Although wild men have eluded scientists, Li's article said that in 1980, Hubei commune member Pu Xiaogun caught a "little wild man" in an animal trap.

"Unfortunately, the superstitious-minded Pu thought the beast was a reincarnation of a friend who had died two months before and was now visiting him, so Pu set him free," the article said.

Li wrote that his institute has extended the search for wild men nationwide because of witness sightings of monsterlike creatures from the wild forests of Sichuan to the desolate plateaus of Tibet.

In 1980, the newspaper *Guangming Daily* said two weather station workers on the China-North Korea border shot at strange duck-billed, cowlike creatures swimming in a volcanic lake, but missed.

POST, West Palm Beach, FL - Feb. 26, 1984 CR: N. Josephsen

SOUNDS IN THE NIGHT

by C. W. Gusewelle

Just more than 10 years ago, five of us—three journalists, a lawyer and an insurance man—set out to investigate the accounts of strange occurrences near the town of Murphysboro in southern Illinois. We sought evidence. We pretended, in a fabulous way, to seek the creature itself, even as we disbelieved that it existed. Our expedition failed, and some reticence, some slight embarrassment, has prevented me from writing about it until now. It has taken all this time for me to understand that the point of the story is not what we may or may not have seen and heard there in the swamp, but rather what happened in our minds.

In past millennia the Mississippi River changed its course some 15 miles to westward, leaving where it formerly had run a lowland wilderness of muck and water-tolerant trees and bamboo thickets. Ten miles in length, 40 square miles in whole extent, it is a silent and hostile place crept over by vines, crept through by snakes and other things.

The people who eventually came to settle the area built their town atop the limestone bluff that once had defined the primal river's eastern bank, at its confluence with a lesser stream named the Big Muddy, overlooking that wilderness they called The Scatters.

In winter, when the snakes were sleeping, a few men set their traps there, or shot the ducks that used the shallow pot-holes of the swamp. But most counted it a place to be avoided. Anyone whose night-running hound followed game into The Scatters waited until morning to try to find the dog and fetch him out.

As it happened, I had flown across the Mississippi in the spring of 1973. It was a season of ruinous floods. Engorged by rain and by snow melt on its upper tributaries, the river had overspread its banks by miles in every direction. From the air, it seemed less a river than a vast and turbid sea. As far as one could see from the plane's window, farms and woodlots and whole hamlets had been swallowed up.

It is possible I might even have spied Murphysboro, perched dry atop its bluff, safe from the flood's harm. But I didn't know to look. And so it would not have registered in any case.

"It came just to the edge of the yard," the young woman said. "And stopped there, looking at us."

Came how? Shambling, perhaps, as a bear might move?

"No, not like that. It walked the way a person walks, arms swinging at the side."

She was 17 years old, a leader in her high school class—pretty, a good scholar, a cheerleader. Not a girl desperate for notice. Her parents' house was in a development at the westernmost edge of Murphysboro, backed up directly to the bluff that fell

away through thickets and broken ground down to The Scatters. Cheryl Ray and her friend, Randy Creath, had been sitting in the breezeway of the house, the dusk deepening, when they heard a sound of something moving in the bushes at the end of the yard.

She stepped indoors to switch on the yard lamp. When she came out again, Randy had gone near the edge of the brush and faced the thing at near quarters.

Seven feet tall, they guessed it to be. Covered over with tan or dirty white hair, except the face, which was smooth. The eyes gave back the lamplight in red reflection. And the smell of it, borne to them on the warm air, was unspeakably foul.

With a boy's bravado, Randy snatched up a decorative stone from the lamp's base and flung it directly at the creature, which did not react at all but only continued to inspect them levelly—then turned in an unhurried way and walked back as it had come, back into the undergrowth and down the steep incline toward the lowland and the swamp.

"Walked," Cheryl Ray said again, "like a man walks."

Earlier that afternoon, at another house in the outer rank of homes in that same development, a child of 4 years had come breathless to tell his mother about something he'd spied at the yard's edge. A big man in a furry coat, he said it was. The mother, busy in her kitchen, familiar with the extravagance of a toddler's imagination, sent him back outside to play and thought no more about it—until she read the newspaper account of what Cheryl and Randy had seen.

In a small hour of morning—at 2 a.m. in Riverside Park where a traveling carnival was quartered—four carnival workers heard a commotion among the ponies and, going with flashlights to investigate, found the thing standing outside the pen, watching the ponies milling in alarm. Their cries sent it off. And they did not immediately speak of what they'd seen, thinking it might frighten the paying clientele away. Only after the show had closed and they were ready to travel on to play some different town did they report the incident to the police.

Those are seven who saw. And there were two others, although these last two must remain unidentified here.

At the public boat ramp after dark, a young man and an older woman—another man's wife—were seriously occupied with whatever it was their urges commanded and the privacy of the boy's parked car allowed, when a cry from the direction of the river chilled their ardor. A cry like neither of them had ever heard: a cross between an eagle and an elephant, the youth would describe it later. Starting high, and sliding down to a roar.

Sitting up and switching on the car lights, he saw it standing thigh-deep amid the floating brush and sodden logs and other flood wrack in the swollen Big Muddy. Its eyes shone red in the sudden headlight beams. It made another horrendous hoot like the first.

Patrolman Jim Nash of the Murphysboro police department was on night duty when those two arrived at the station, their clothing still in disarray, gibbering with terror at what they'd just seen—a vision they had to report to someone, even if by doing so they might risk discovery by the lady's husband.

Patrolman Nash wrote out their statement. And with a fellow officer he went down to the boat ramp. Flashlights in hand, they made their way through thickets along the river bank, following the splashing noises made by some large creature that kept always just outside the reach of their lights. Then came a scream. Very close, it seemed, and exactly as the boy had described—a cry altogether unknown to Mr. Nash, although he had hunted and trapped the creatures of the area for years and believed he knew all the sounds they made.

"We ran," Jim Nash would say afterward. "I don't mind saying it, we plain ran. My partner lost his revolver and had to go back the next day to find it. Now, when a policeman drops his gun and runs, you know he's scared."

But there was more work that night. Officer Nash took the department's German shepherd attack dog from its pen and returned with other officers to the river. The dog made trail, and the track led first along the bottoms, then up a ravine toward higher ground in the direction of a ruined farmstead and an unused barn. At the door of the barn the dog stopped—went flat on its belly against the ground. They prodded the beast through the door, but it instantly crept out again, whimpering.

The police radioed for support. Sheriff's deputies came. The barn was surrounded while they waited for morning.

The day broke and they went inside and nothing was there. All they found was some evil-smelling scum that, on analysis, turned out to be from the municipal sewage lagoon, which lay on a direct line between the river and the barn. Evidently something had waded through the lagoon on the way to the abandoned farm. But what had done that?

"I wish I knew," said Tobias Berger, the Murphysboro chief of police. "And I'll bet you wish you knew, too."

That was our initial task, to hear the testimony. Nine people had seen something they were at a loss to explain or to name—nine people, most of them unknown to one another, whose accounts were consistent in every important detail. Some of them—the carnival men—were no longer anywhere about. The compromised wife, for obvious reasons, preferred not to speak. Their stories had to be gotten from the police reports.

The recitations of those who did agree to talk had a certain quality of polish. There had, after all, been telephone calls from *The New York Times*—calls from Europe, even. A tale too many times repeated begins to have a practiced sound. And yet...

Ross Lillard, the lawyer in our group, is a man of disciplined mind. By nature, by professional habit, he sifts testimony and evidence with ingrained caution. Like the others of us, he listened to the stories, asked several oblique and unexpected questions—subtracting the glibness of the replies to hear what else remained.

"They would," he said afterward, "make good witnesses in a court of law."

Then, in a borrowed Jeep and with the light of that first day failing, we clawed our way down a rutted track from the bluff on which the town stood to the beginning of The Scatters. And finally, in full darkness, entered in.

At the start, we were to have been a party of four, not five.

Michael Fancher was a reporter for *The Kansas City Star*. Rick Solberg was a *Star* photographer. I was the newspaper's editorial commentator on foreign matters. I had noticed the small item in the Murphysboro paper and, conspiring with Mr. Fancher, had instigated the lark.

Harlan Sorkin, a St. Louis insurance broker, agreed to join the expedition as a consultant, having previously investigated similar reports, from the state of Washington to Boggy Creek, and been interviewed on the radio and quoted in print and by that means having acquired a certain cachet as an authority in these matters.

Mr. Lillard, my lawyer friend, was an accidental addition.

Our families had had dinner together on the eve of the departure for Murphysboro, and Ross had found the notion of our venture hugely amusing. Returning home, he spoke of it to his mother, who was visiting from out of state.

That was indeed interesting, she said. Because his father had seen such a creature once as a boy in the woods of Tennessee.

But his father had never mentioned it, Ross said, amused.

(continued on page 18) 17

Except to her, she replied, he'd never spoken of it.

My telephone rang that night at a late hour. It was Mr. Lillard, of course, and he no longer was just amused. He was on fire to enlist.

Even in the pursuit of Chimeras, one goes equipped. Or else the enterprise, whether serious or only a game, becomes hollow and without either humor or point.

The job of quartermaster had earlier fallen to me.

"That has a breaking strength of 2,000 pounds," the man in the marine supply store had said, fingering the braided nylon rope on the spool. "For water skiing it's way too heavy."

"It's not for skiing."

"Well, then, what do you have to tow?"

"Not tow," I said. "To tie up. We may need to tie something up."

"A boat or a plane or something?"

"An animal."

Interest quickened in his eyes. "Yeah?"

"On the order of a gorilla, but maybe bigger. A gorilla can stretch a truck tire like a rubber band."

"Jeezus!" the clerk said. And stripped 70 yards of the finger-thick rope from the spool.

The zoo director had not laughed. Nor had the zoo's veterinarian. The latter presented two loaded darts in a small case, and a third dart, empty, for practicing with the rifle.

"Nicotine is faster," he said. "But you have to be very specific about weight, which in this case you can't be. With nicotine there's hardly any margin for error. Too little, and there's no effect at all. Too much, and you kill the animal."

"What I've put in these"—he took a dart from the case and turned it carefully in his fingers—"is more forgiving. It's a controlled substance. A hallucinogen, actually, and for veterinary use only. But I'm letting you take it because of the problem about weight. One of these will put a 400- to 600-pound animal down for five hours, a little more or less. But it does have one disadvantage."

And that is . . . ?

"Well, we generally use it only on dangerous animals that are caged. And there it makes no difference. But keep in mind, after you've gotten the dart in properly, it will take about 30 minutes to work."

We thought, together, about the implications of that.

"Do you have a radio?" the zoo director asked. Our plan had not called for one. "Send one of your party out to a telephone, then," he said. "If you get something on the ground, I'll fly in a cage. You'll have it down and tied, and if it begins to come around you can always use the second dart. That gives you 10 hours in all, which should be plenty. All this assumes that what you've tied up is not just some feeble-minded guy who's been roaming the woods over there in Illinois."

("There's this to think about," counselor Lillard would say later, during the long cross-state drive. "Suppose we do find something out there. We can't know exactly what it is. And if it should turn out to be a hominid, it may very damned well have civil rights.")

The zoo director had an afterthought.

"I'd take a fire extinguisher. We find them useful in zoo work. The hiss and sudden discharge of vapor will usually turn a charge. Beyond that, I can't think what else would be helpful. Evidently it's a primate of some sort, and primates, besides having intelli-

gence, also are curious. So there's no point tramping around hunting for it. Just make your camp and wait. You're the bait."

I wished that he might have put it another way.

"Oh, yes," he said. "And you might try burning a can of chocolate in your fire at night. All primates are fond of chocolate."

Thus, before even arriving on the creature's own ground, the parameters of its probable weight had been considered. And the mechanics of subduing and restraining. Something of its nature was suspected. And its possible standing in law. Something known even of its dietary predilections.

Out of the thick smoke of fantasy, the Chimera had suddenly begun to exhibit palpable character and shape.

Now, laboring in the Jeep's headlamps, we winched aside fallen trees and maneuvered between standing ones until we came to the chosen place—unmarked on our topographic map—that would be Mud Camp.

Indian summer had ended abruptly and the weather had turned raw. Several gasoline lanterns were hung out on branches to make a hundred-yard perimeter of light. Tents were put up and provisions stowed. Mike Fancher and Harlan Sorkin, as I remember, volunteered to take the first watch.

The others of us crawled warm inside tents and bags as a cold rain began to fall. And soon slept. And, sleeping, sank away a foot at least into the *terra infirma*. Then woke, immediately it seemed, in a sodden dawn, tents sliding away from under us, bedrolls soaked.

Mud Camp had no bottom. A forest grew there. The dropped leaves gave an appearance, a similitude, of substance and support. But that was all illusion. Trees sprang from, and leaves lay upon, the merest crust atop the deposited alluvium of the ancient river. Wet that crust and then disturb it, as we had done, and the patient bog below opened instantly to receive you.

Mr. Fancher and Mr. Sorkin, the night watchers, had waited and listened beside the smoking fire through a night that had revealed to them nothing except the outer limits of discomfort—until the fire, too, sank hopelessly and died with a hiss. They came now in their ponchos to help deal with the wreckage of the camp.

Mr. Sorkin held up his sleeping bag, a mess of mud and wetness without having yet even been slept in.

"Who cares what lives here?" he said. "Let's all go home." Of the five, he was the one true believer in the beast. We supposed he said it for a joke, but in his trembling misery it was impossible to be sure.

Logs were dragged and positioned side by side to make a platform on which to re-erect the tents. More logs and sticks and chopped brush were laid as corduroy walkways to still another platform that supported our stores of food and equipment, chiefly contained in the Tanganyika Box—a great hinged crate that many years before had followed me home on a boat from East Africa. The Tanganyika Box held all our edibles, our lantern fuel, the portable stove and the hallucinogenic darts, so its security was paramount.

But the mud, as I have said, was deep. Who knows how deep? The logs gradually sank away and the platforms and walkways vanished. Each several hours new materials had to be gathered and the whole operation repeated.

By these exertions, concerned

chiefly with various failed strategies for comfort, we managed to waste all of the second day.

I cannot remember the exact order of the second night's watches. We stood by twos, so either Mr. Lillard and Mr. Solberg or Mr. Lillard and Mr. Fancher must have been first—from dark until midnight—for one of them shook me awake and I went then with Mr. Sorkin to keep vigil at the fire. The others were in their tents.

We refilled and pumped the lanterns, brightening the lighted perimeter.

A can of chocolate syrup, forgotten until now, was dug from the Tanganyika Box and opened and put to warm and bubble in the edge of the flames, smelling chocolaty and companionable.

But the cold came seeping and the drizzle commenced again. Mr. Sorkin's boots were wet inside. His misery had grown profound. "Christ!" he said. "Why am I here?" And this time it could not be mistaken for a joke.

Far away an owl hooted. Followed by a thin, laughing call of some unknown small night animal.

Mr. Sorkin peered at his watch, the hands of which scarcely moved. One hour of our scheduled six had elapsed.

A twig snapped, an improbable sound in that wetness. Nearer there were more rumblings. Our interest quickened. Out of the darkness came an opossum, dazzled by the lanterns, which proceeded stately across the lighted circle of the camp. It was an event.

We returned then to working our cold toes in our boots and imagining the sensible comfort of distant beds. Hunkered there with backs against trees, breathing the fire's smoke and praying for time to pass, we fell away into a distant state between hopelessness and dreaming. And time did pass, for it got somehow to be 3 o'clock in the morning.

Three o'clock exactly. The hour would afterward be fixed in all our minds.

Like an eagle's scream. It's how the sound began, but not as loud as you would expect—if you were able to expect it at all. Not at first. Then growing in volume until it seemed to fill the head. Then sliding down—what, three octaves, four?—to a rumble, vast and guttural, resonating inside some great cavity. This last seeming not just to fill the head but the world as well.

All taking place over an eternity of seconds. Enough time that we were able to turn, Mr. Sorkin and I, and each record, as in the slow moment before an automobile collision, the exact sequence of expressions that passed across the other's face: confusion, followed by denial, then crazy alarm.

There was a plan. We had refined it in the car, and rehearsed it in the wet camp the day before.

One watcher was to activate the tape recorder while the other quietly roused the sleepers. The five of us would then wait facing outward toward the perimeter of the lanterns. As the thing hove into view, Mr. Solberg, the photographer, would begin making pictures. If the flash of his strobe light did not turn it—if it still advanced—Mr. Sorkin would bring the fire extinguisher into play. Then, when it did turn, I would fire the tranquilizing dart into the creature's fleshy hindparts. Or, in case it kept coming in spite of all, Mr. Fancher and Mr. Lillard would have shotguns loaded with .00 buckshot, lethal at close range but very much a last resort. We meant to catch, not kill. And the creature, remember, might have civil rights.

That was the plan. In the instant of opportunity it was forgotten altogether.

As the enormous sound passed to silence, Mr. Sorkin and I shouted the camp awake. Mr. Lillard afterward remembered the vexing urgency of our calls: "Get up! Something's out here! Something's coming!" He remembered his irritation at being disturbed so soon—only moments it seemed—after managing to achieve sleep in his wet bag and collapsing tent. His instinct was to ignore the commotion.

Then the second cry came, perhaps 15 seconds after the first. It may have been nearer. Certainly it was louder.

Mr. Lillard's next memory is of being outside his tent, fully dressed, shotgun loaded, standing with four other thoroughly unnerved grown men in the line at the fire.

We waited, our curious array of armaments at the ready. The chocolate bubbled and stank as it burned. "At least we have the sound on tape," someone whispered. But in the first panic I had failed to switch on the machine.

Night paled to morning. The far circle of lanterns guttered and went out. The Chimera did not reveal itself. Nothing ever came.

Emboldened by daylight, we prospected outward from camp in the direction of the cries.

We found several impressions in the swamp floor that could, with effort of imagination, have been large footprints, but which, because of their indistinctness in the muck and leaf litter, are safer reported to have been nothing at all. The best of those we duly photographed.

But something else we found I am even now at a loss to explain.

At a distance of 200 or so yards from the tents, we came upon a part of the lowland forest that had suffered a peculiar sort of violence. In a roughly circular area some 20 feet across, every tree had been bent, torn apart at its branchings or entirely broken off. Not chewed off; broken, as you might snap a wooden pencil.

Living saplings, these were—some no larger than your wrist, but others as thick as a man's lower leg. Much of the bark had been stripped from them, and flung about to lodge in standing trees at the edge of the circle, as if in a furious display. And the damage plainly was fresh, for the bark still was pliant and greasy-slick on its inner side.

Some of the saplings had been snapped two or three feet from the ground, some a good deal higher. Can you imagine the strength required simply to lay hold of a living three-inch tree and break it off at face level?

No freak wind had done that, for the night had been uncommonly still. What might have, then? I don't pretend to know, or care to guess.

It was necessary on that third day, the last one, to go to town for water. I stayed behind to keep the Tanganyika Box from sinking and, if time allowed, to explore.

The rain had stopped. The swamp was very empty, very still.

At a crevice in the bluff, I found a cave, but had no proper equipment for going in—or, to be truthful, much desire to. (Mr. Sorkin's theory had been that the creature might actually live in caves, and that, driven out by the previous spring's floods, it had made its way to higher ground. There, like an opportunistic raccoon, it had discovered the easy delights of Murphysboro's garbage cans.)

In early afternoon, I was surprised to see at a distance through the trees the figure of

(continued on page 19)

another man. I called to him, but he did not hear, or in any case made no reply.

Soon the Jeep could be heard bouncing and spinning along the muddy track, and the others came back—or three of them did.

Mr. Lillard, it turned out, had telephoned his law office and had learned that a friend's father had died and that the funeral was to be the next day. Still crusted with the dried goo of Mud Camp, he had gone directly to the airport.

I told of having sighted another prowler in the swamp.

Yes, the others said, they'd seen him, too. While in town, they had gone to the police station to describe for Patrolman Nash the previous night's cries and compare them to the ones he'd heard. One of the witnesses had been there, the heavy-breathing young lad of the boat ramp episode.

He had listened to the conversation with Officer Nash. They had asked where our camp was, and rushed out in great excitement. On the Jeep trip back in, they had met him again, afoot with a rifle.

He was goddamn tired, he

said, of being laughed at and called "Monster Man." He intended to look for the thing until he found it and lay it out dead on the ground. Then, he reckoned, the laughing would stop.

Mr. Lillard's gear was packed. Supper was cooked and the tin plates stowed unwashed. Two nights of lost or interrupted sleep had numbed us. The afternoon shortened. Shadows fell long across the litter of the swamp.

By some process of consensus that I do not now recall, it suddenly was decided that camp should be struck and that we should move at once 50 yards or so up a brushy incline to relocate ourselves against the face of the eastern bluff. So the rest of the equipment was packed away, all except the sleeping bags, and we accomplished this hasty transfer in the last half-hour before dark.

Some of the others remember that final night for its bitter coldness. I remember it for the sense of the imaginary become utterly real, for the intimation of some unbearable strangeness about to draw close and perhaps to manifest itself. I thought, lying in my bag, of that flinched piece of woods—of things that rage and

break, and fill the solitary places with their cries.

I considered, too late, that there may be things in this world better unfound. Better not even looked for—not even in a joke.

Our backs were to the overhanging limestone cliff. To the front, between us and the lip of the declining slope, we had built a line of fires. For warmth, we told each other. Not at all for protection. Not at all to deter something that might ascend the slope toward us. Not to reveal it—face first, then torso—as it mounted the rising ground.

We tried to keep a watch. Two men at first, then one gave up to exhaustion. Then the remaining one slept, his loaded shotgun on the ground beside him pointed outward toward the edge, sparks from the fire burning a thousand pinholes in the shell of his bag.

And that was the end of it. There was no second watch.

We woke in the morning, fires burned down to cold ash. And came directly out of The Scatters and back to our various places of reason.

There is fine currency in any adventure, even a failed one.

A dry length of a sapling's trunk with the bark peeled from

one side makes a weight for my papers on this desk. Rick Solberg's photographs curl and yellow somewhere in a drawer.

The story, though I have not written it before, has made good telling at 10 years of cocktail parties, and around the cooking fires in several hunting camps. And Ross Lillard still gives a fine imitation of the cry, when he can be persuaded to.

But as I hear the laughter rising—and even as I join it—some part of me stands uneasily aside.

I used to do a fair amount of packing alone through big woods, carrying a blanket roll and a little food, bedding wherever darkness overtook me. I have done that since, a time or two. And likely will again.

But on a night a decade ago my feeling for wilderness places forever changed. I go less comfortably, a bit less certain of what may be met there.

I offer no conclusions here. For where is the evidence? And without the evidence, where's the case? Some sounds in the night, some broken trees. Beyond those, nothing was found.

Something was lost, though. For me, it was the power ever again to surely, safely disbelieve.



We found impressions in the swamp floor that could, with effort of imagination, have been large footprints. (Here, the author, at right, and Michael Fancher size them up.)

photos
by Rick Solberg

(additional photos on page 20)



We had come prepared to The Scatters: tents, a fire extinguisher, heavy rope and a dart gun armed with a hallucinogen (left). We had beaten the creeping mud, moving to higher ground near the bluff (above). But we weren't prepared for what we found—in a lowland forest about 200 yards from the tents, every tree had been bent, torn apart at its branchings or entirely broken off (far left).

A mystery deep in the heart of Texas

By Derral Mulholland

SCIENCE 84

By day, U.S. 90 between Alpine and neighboring Marfa is indistinguishable from the rest of west Texas. It is 26 miles of emptiness, peppered with mesquite and cholla.

At night, there are cars along this route, but they are parked, their occupants staring off into Mitchell Flat to the south. These people are looking for the Marfa lights.

In the distance, a disc of light moves across a field. Suddenly it bounces, then seems to hover for a moment or to zigzag around. Maybe it divides into two discs, each of which cavorts around. Sometimes there are several.

People report being chased by them. Descriptions differ, but no one disputes that the lights are real. They can be seen almost any night.

No one knows what is different about that handful of miles around the Nopal, Antelope Springs and Escondido ranches, but the lights aren't seen anywhere else.

There is no want of theories about what they are. Most, however, are non-scientific. While few people believe in Indian ghosts anymore, lots of folks are credulous enough to associate the lights with supernatural forces or extraterrestrial visitors.

According to one tale, World War II aviators from the Marfa air base, in the haunted area, went out at night and bombed the lights with sacks of flour to mark the spots for investigation. It is a common story, but false. No trace of the markers ever was found.

Fritz Kahl, then an instructor at the base, said flatly, "It never happened. Sure, we chased them, but no one ever dropped flour sacks."

At least four possibilities do not require

belief in the supernatural. Phosphorescent minerals, for example, absorb ultraviolet light. Even after a radiation source is gone, these minerals will glow for a time as energy is released from within. Geologists who have examined the Marfa area, however, say there are no phosphorous deposits in the vicinity.

In some localities, methane (commonly known as swamp gas) escapes from the ground and produces eerie lights, probably from spontaneous combustion. Confirmed cases tend to be in swampy areas where methane is produced by rotting vegetation. There hasn't been a swamp in west Texas for several million years, and there is no known gas near Marfa.

Kahl and Curt Laughlin, superintendent of nearby McDonald Observatory, have considered another source: the electrical phenomenon called St. Elmo's fire. But what is there about one isolated patch of rangeland that would generate high-

voltage static electricity to the exclusion of similar pasture for miles around?

A more attractive hypothesis has to do with the peculiar paths light can take. Astronomer Eric Silverberg speculates that the Marfa lights simply may be automobile headlights carried over great distances and along writhing paths by atmospheric tunneling, also known as the Novaya Zemlya effect.

Large, abrupt temperature variations above the Earth cause sharp changes in the density of the air, bending light in funny ways.

The headlight theory, however, encounters two problems: South of U.S. 90 and east of Marfa is empty country for a long, long way. In addition, the first recorded report of the lights was made in 1883.

But, Silverberg is quick to point out, starlight also may be subject to atmospheric tunneling. Stars appear a likelier source for the phenomenon at Marfa, but no one has proven it.

Out on the range, the lights continue to bounce, divide and disappear. Every theory yet proposed seems to have flaws. Perhaps a definitive test would be to analyze the color spectrum of the lights, which would determine the chemical elements involved.

To make such measurements, however, would require a large portable telescope and a suitable spectrograph. No one has volunteered.

Residents accept the lights as a fact of life. Laughlin's remark is perhaps typical of local feeling: "I hope we never find out what the Marfa lights are. Some things in our lives need to remain mysteries."

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

PLAIN DEALER, Cleveland, OH - March 13, 1984 CR: J. Cook

Vanishing goo baffles scientists in Mass. town

USA TODAY, Arlington, VA
Dec. 22, 1983 CR: R. Schiller

NORTH READING, Mass. — Blobs of jelly-like goo scattered across the west end of town last week have a state laboratory stumped — but officials say there's no cause for alarm. The first blob — two feet in diameter — was found by Thomas Grinley in his driveway. He thought something was leaking from his car until he drove to a gas station and found the same blobs on the pumps and on Main Street in front of the station. Town officials originally thought the blobs might have dropped from a plane, but state officials have discounted that theory. The samples collected are being studied at the state's Department of Environmental Quality Engineering. Preliminary results show they're not toxic. Investigators don't have a whole lot of goo to test. By the time they got to the scene, most of the blobs — grayish white and oily smelling — had been absorbed into the pavement.

HERALD, Everett, WA - Feb. 17, 1984

CR: L. Williford

Seems like yesterday

50 YEARS AGO (1934)

Sea serpent sighted! Two Burlington men swore they saw the elusive serpent while fishing at Rosario near Deception Pass. Their attention was attracted by seagulls following the serpent, they said, and that from about 200 yards they got a fairly good look at the monster. They said they saw about 25 feet of brown body, and particularly noticed the large head, which appeared to be about the size of a beer barrel, with a long tongue. The creature disappeared toward Canoe Pass, they said.