

# UFO

## NEWSCLIPPING SERVICE

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ROUTE 1 — BOX 220

PLUMERVILLE, ARKANSAS 72127 U.S.A.

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APRIL 1984

NUMBER 177

### Odds And Ends

*Did E.T.'s Phone Home  
From Beech Creek?*

by Brent Raynes

Recently, in the course of gathering local folklore from Wayne Countians, I came across a ver-ry intriguing story.

The setting was Beech Creek Road, sometime around the mid-1930s. Joe (as we'll call him) was attired in his Sunday best as he was returning home to Leatherwood Branch after a visit with his girl on Green River.

It was probably early autumn, and around 9 o'clock as Joe traversed the first stretch of Beech Creek Road from Highway 13. A sound like a bullet passing close by his ear disturbed him to think that someone might be shooting and have come so close. Then Joe noticed two small lights up ahead, just over the ground, on the right side of the road. He rationalized that they were probably just fire flies, although marvelled at how they remained level, like a pair of eyes. Then the two lights seemed to merge together and become a single "washpan" sized light. It was

at about this time that Joe heard another curious noise. Something like the motor of a saw mill shutting down.

Then, when it was too late to turn back, a brilliant white light appeared at the roadside, and Joe was astonished, to say the least, to see a group of dwarfish men--perhaps 8 to 10--who were looking at him from around what appeared to be a round table. They were, he would later decide, the ugliest men he had ever seen. Their faces were slightly flushed or reddish in complexion, and their skin was wrinkled and whiskered, and some had beards, and apparently they all had pretty long noses. They also, by the way, had some sort of clothing on.

In terror, Joe threw his walking stick at the "little men". Although the "men" did not make any threatening moves, Joe didn't think they looked too friendly. After that he ran like the devil was on his heels

because, quite obviously, at that moment he wasn't too sure that he wasn't!

Several hundreds yards later Joe's next fully conscious recollection was of picking himself up off the ground at the foot of Smith Branch Hill. His clothes were badly torn from his frantic escape from the unknown.

"Since then I've thought if there are such things it could have been people from another planet," a niece of Joe's told me as she related the remarkable account. "He died wondering about it." I later interviewed Joe's brother who also recalled the "little men" story and how his brother had returned home that night, badly shaken and hurt. Unfortunately, Joe can't tell me the story himself for he passed on some ten or so years ago, but living family, friends, and relatives well recall his bizarre tale of terror and also wonder.

Don't you?

Joe, by the way, was described as a Christian and truthful man. He was first troubled by this experience for he thought it might have been an "omen". For years he had nightmares about the experience.

Although Joe and his brother visited the location of his encounter soon afterwards, in daylight, his walking stick was no where to be found.

Perhaps it is on display at a museum on a planet light years away?

BENNETT CO. BOOSTER, Martin, SD - March 9, 1984

### Unidentified Lights Bring Attention to Rural Area

Several reports of unidentified hovering lights have drawn attention to a small area just inside the Bennett-Todd county line.

The lights have been seen by several people in the vicinity of the Clayton Merchen and Jerry Grass places in extreme northeast Bennett County.

The Merchens first saw lights about 7:30 or 8 p.m., Wednesday, February 8, about three-and-one-half-miles west of their place when they were going to Vetol to a meeting.

They saw two large bright lights, one larger than the other. The lights hovered, then turned to the south quickly. The Merchens did not recall seeing the lights appear; they just suddenly became aware of them. They estimated the elapsed time at about 15 or 20 minutes.

On Monday, February 27, Clayton Merchen was checking cows at about 11 p.m. when he saw lights. He shined spotlights towards the lights, and they appeared to come towards him. He went to the house to tell other family members, who saw the lights.

The family also saw lights again Tuesday and Wednesday, February 28 and 29.

Tuesday night, March 6, Deputy Sheriff Tom Jensen and Martin Policeman Gary Myers drove to the area to see if they could find any evidence of the reports.

Jensen said they were probably within two miles of the Merchen home at about 10 p.m. when they became aware of hovering lights about 100 to 150 feet above ground. He said they appeared to be as close as five miles.

As the lights moved closer, the distance between the lights widened. The slow-moving lights drew closer to the car and one went off. The light eventually came parallel to the car and then turned southeast.

Jensen, who described the lights as red and white, said he and Myers were probably aware of the lights for about five minutes -- from the time they were seen to the time they were lost over the skyline. He also noted a brief engine sound.

Later in the evening, Sheriff Ed Rolfe and Martin Policeman Jeff Finney drove to the area, but saw no sign of activity.

Tied into the spotting of the lights was a report of cattle mutilations on the Grass place.

The county sheriff's office has had no report of mutilations, but area media outlets have reported that a Colorado pathologist was contacted. The Merchen family reported a tribal police officer had been called to investigate.

The Booster was unable to call through to the Grass home Wednesday morning.

The reported sightings and mutilations have attracted a great deal of attention from area news sources. Jensen was called several times Tuesday, and the farm families have been contacted.

### Women seek damages in UFO sighting

BY NANCY STANCILL  
Chronicle Staff

Betty Cash and Vicki Landrum say they don't believe in flying saucers or "little green men from Mars."

But they both agree they saw something definitely out of the ordinary three years ago, something that wrecked their health, and to a large extent, their lives.

The women have filed a federal lawsuit seeking \$20 million in damages from the U.S. government. They believe the government is responsible for injuries they received from "an experimental device of a hazardous nature."

"We don't believe in UFOs (unidentified flying objects) but I tell you, honey, I don't laugh about those things any more," says Mrs. Cash. Mrs. Cash and Mrs. Landrum haven't been laughing much since the night they drove along a deserted stretch of road from New Caney to Dayton.

It was Dec. 29, 1980, and the two Dayton women and Mrs. Landrum's 6-year-old grandson, Colby, were returning from an outing to a New Caney restaurant.

As they were driving along FM 1485, Mrs. Landrum said she sighted "a diamond-shaped object about three miles away in the sky above the trees."

Mrs. Landrum, 60, a longtime Dayton resident, recalls, "It was the size of a city water tank and it had flames shooting out of the bottom."

She screamed for Mrs. Cash to stop the car

and the two women and little boy got out of the car and stared in wonder. Mrs. Landrum says Colby tried to run away in fear, but she grabbed him and got back in the car.

"We were afraid we were going to die," Mrs. Landrum recalls. "I told Colby that if he saw a man coming out of the object, it would be Jesus."

Mrs. Cash, 54, who now lives in Birmingham, Ala., stood outside the car about five minutes. She describes the object in much the same way and says the heat emanating from it was intense.

The women say that as they watched, the object, which was hovering in the trees, "lifted off" and a number of helicopters appeared around it.

"We drove to a graveyard nearby and watched for a few minutes and I counted 23 helicopters, most of them the double rotary type," said Mrs. Landrum.

Mrs. Landrum says the helicopters did not bear government insignias but were of the type used in combat.

The women and Colby returned home and later that evening, began suffering from blisters, nausea and diarrhea.

Four days later, Mrs. Cash went into the hospital for nearly a month while physicians tried to determine what was wrong with her. She says doctors have told her she was exposed to radiation.

"Within four months, every hair on my head came out," Mrs. Cash says. "Then, in June 1982, I was diagnosed as having cancer."

Mrs. Cash, a few months after the mysteri-

ous incident, had to close down the store and cafe she operated in Dayton and went to live with her relatives in Birmingham because of her ill health.

She says she hasn't been able to work since that time. Last year she had a breast removed and she's still being treated with chemotherapy.

Mrs. Landrum says she and Colby did not suffer as many serious problems as Mrs. Cash because they stayed in the car during much of the December 1980 incident.

But she says she still has vision and skin problems that prevent her from working as a waitress or grocery clerk, as she formerly did.

Colby, now 10 and in the fourth grade, still has nightmares about it, Mrs. Landrum says.

The women say they sought medical help from the government and state agencies, but were largely unsuccessful.

The U.S. government has denied knowledge or involvement in the incident.

Peter Gersten, a New York attorney handling their case, said the Air Force reported in October 1983. "Our investigation has revealed no evidence of involvement by any military person, equipment or aircraft in this alleged incident."

Frank Conforti, an assistant U.S. attorney here, said he will request all of the government files about the alleged incident.

Still, Mrs. Landrum believes the mysterious object "was something owned by the government or the government knew about it. It was something that probably flew off course. It shouldn't have been there."

# Ware Teens Terrorized By Low Flying UFO

By JACK WILLIAMS III

A 19-year-old Ware County man and his teen-aged girlfriend were terrorized Sunday night by a low-flying, unidentified flying object which followed their car along the Swamp Road for about 100 yards, illuminating its interior with an intense red light before disappearing into the night.

Danny Edward Thrift, 19, of Route 3, Waycross, told the Journal-Herald this morning that he and Janet Curry, 17, also of Route 3,

Waycross, were frightened into hysteria by the low-flying UFO.

He said the incident occurred at about 7 p.m. Sunday while he and Miss Curry were heading for his unidentified grandmother's residence on the Swamp Road.

Thrift said his girlfriend and he both spotted the object flying at tree-top level perpendicular to the Swamp Road. He said he stopped his car thinking that the object was an airplane in distress. But he said the object "started moving fast"

and changed course toward his car.

"It scared me so bad I cried," said Thrift, who claimed that he attempted to flee the object as it pursued and caught up with his car.

Thrift claimed the UFO followed his car for approximately 100 yards, hovering soundlessly above his vehicle with its L-shaped lights shining downward into the car's interior. "It was like something burning red hot," Thrift said in a shaken tone of voice.

He said his car performed okay

and that his car's electrical system did not go haywire.

Thrift said the object's L-shaped lights included two red lights and one green. He said the lights were illuminated the majority of the time, but blinked on and off on several occasions.

"I've lived out here all my life and I've never seen anything like it. I've never been so scared in all my life," he said, adding that the experience left Miss Curry and he in tears.

"I was trying to speed away and it kept up with me. It got right over the car and glided over us. It lit up the whole inside of the car. I felt I was in danger. I felt like it was after me," Thrift said.

He said he called the Ware County Sheriff's Department and reported the sighting, after which an unidentified deputy (Thrift said he could not recall the deputy's name) came to his house and heard his account of the sighting.

Thrift said the deputy told him that about six persons had reported sighting the object along the Swamp Road Sunday night.

The Swamp Road resident said he believes the object is a new secret weapon being tested by the U.S. military. "That's what its got to be. It didn't make any sound," he said.

Chief Deputy Harold Guinn of the Ware Sheriff's Department confirmed today that the sheriff's office received several reports about a low-flying aircraft in the Boggy Bay area Sunday night.

"We do get frequent reports of low-flying aircraft in that area," said Guinn, who noted that many Waycross-Ware pilots use that area of Ware County to practice for their pilot's licenses because of the area's low population density.

Guinn said the sheriff's department was first notified of a low-flying aircraft by Deputy Randy Moore at about 6:50 p.m. Sunday. He said Moore, who was off-duty, called and reported the sighting of a large, low-flying aircraft in the Boggy Bay area that was flying with its landing lights on.

Chief Deputy Guinn said Sgt. W. T. Cady and Deputy Carl James were dispatched into the area to look for the airplane. Guinn said no plane was ever spotted by the two deputies.

Some 24 minutes later, said Guinn, the sheriff's department was contacted by Thrift, who reported to Deputy James that someone had attempted to land on the swamp road and almost hit his vehicle.

"I don't know what he saw," Guinn said of Thrift's reported encounter.

COMMERCIAL APPEAL, Memphis, TN - Jan. 27, 1984

## Mysterious Light Descends On College

From Staff Reports

CLINTON

A mysterious light that recently descended onto the Presbyterian College campus has several people wondering what it was and where it went.

What was described as "a very bright light with no particular form" was spotted at 12:05 a.m. Saturday by two members of the campus security force, two Clinton police officers and at least five students, said Gray Mason, chief of security at the college.

The students and Sgt. Joel Nelson and Officer Eddie Longshore of the campus security force said they saw a ball of light 18 to 24 inches in diameter above the college fraternity houses. It then descended to a field opposite the campus athletic fields.

Sgt. Joe Hairston and Officer Jimmy Jenkins of the Clinton Police Department said that when they arrived, the light departed toward the southeast, then moved east and out of sight.

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

He added that the incident has been reported to a national reporting service that collects information on unidentified flying objects.

Could the light have been the result of some weather-related phenomenon?

"Pardon the pun," said Bernie Palmer,

meteorologist in charge of the National Weather Service in Columbia, "but I can't shed any light on it."

John Saffo, a professor of physics and astronomy at the University of South Carolina, said the light probably was a ball of charged atmospheric gas called a plasmoid, which is most common in areas of faults in the earth's crust.

A plasmoid, he said, is produced in the earth by the pressure of rocks or is created by ball lightning — a rare form of lightning that consists of luminous balls that move along as solid objects or float in the air.

A plasmoid moves erratically, Saffo said, and it can exist from a few minutes to an hour.

DAILY NEWS, Iron Mountain, MI - March 12, 1984

## Did you see recent UFO?

Did anyone happen to see the UFO that visited the Iron River area at about 7 p.m. Thursday, March 1? One of our well known and reputable citizens and his wife observed the object for about 20 minutes. His identity will not be divulged because I don't know how many people he wants to discuss it with. He claims the object first appeared as a bright star to the northwest but as it moved closer it displayed blue, green, red, and white lights and moved back and forth both laterally and up and down in shaky motions before moving away. The couple were so engrossed in observing the phenomena they thought did not occur to them to contact others to take a look.

Having more than a slight interest in UFO's through the years, I have made it a

Don  
Maki



special point to keep my eyes toward the skies. On clear nights I keep the lights low and position myself next to the picture window while watching television so I can keep on eye focused on the heavens. So far, nothing. It would be my luck, wishing to see something so bad, when my turn for an encounter comes it might be closer than I would like. The recent sighting is just one of many reports I have had from people I know to be reliable

lending credence to the notion that there really is something out of the ordinary out there.

JOURNAL-RECORD, Hamilton, AL - Feb. 23, 1984

## Saturday's 'Downed Plane,' Ball Of Fire Never Found

Whether it was a downed plane, an unidentified flying object, or a jet kicking in its afterburners, whatever it was, it was never found.

Saturday night at 8:30 Marion County Civil Defense Coordinator D.D. Real received a call from the Haleyville Police Department concerning a downed plane in the Grace Baptist Church area on Highway 129, about three-tenths of a mile from the Marion-Winston Counties line.

Real said that a Haleyville officer reported spotting a big ball of fire going south toward the church, and the Haleyville PD began to receive

telephone calls concerning the fireball as well as reports of a loud noise accompanying it.

The Haleyville Police Department assumed a plane had crashed, Real said, in the strip mine area south of Grace Baptist, and he was called to the scene, along with the Phil Campbell Rescue Squad, the Marion County Sheriff's Department, the Bear Creek Fire Department and Rescue Squad, and the Haleyville Police and Fire Departments and Rescue Squad.

After interviewing as many local residents as possible who had

reported seeing the fireball, Real and the other rescue, law enforcement, and fire personnel on the scene began searching for the downed plane, but the effort proved to be fruitless, and it was called off at 2:00 Sunday morning and resumed later that morning.

Real obtained a plane and pilot and continued the search through the air, looking throughout the hilly area. By this time the Civil Air Patrol had also joined in the search, and searchers again combed the area on foot. Again, the search was in vain, and at 1:00 p.m. Sunday,

the search was called off.

The Coordinator said that he later learned that the Alabama State Troopers had called the Muscle Shoals Airport to ask if any of the planes they had been monitoring had gone off radar, and, in turn, the Muscle Shoals Airport had apparently called the Memphis, Tenn., Airport concerning the downed plane.

Real said that he was told Monday that Memphis stated that it was probably a jet which had kicked in its afterburners, blowing out a ball of fire and breaking the sound barrier.



## Odds And Ends

BY BRENT RAYNES

Recent reports of UFOs (whatever they are or are not) continue to be made. I have met a family on South 48 Creek who have described some interesting experiences. A 10-year-old boy, back around May, stepped outside his home about 9 p.m. to investigate a rumbling noise, and says he saw a 20 foot wide saucer shaped something with various colored flashing lights hovering just a few feet over a nearby

chicken coop. Then in June, his 28-year-old mother and his grandmother were startled late one night as a glowing white beachball sized object cruising only 2-3 feet over the ground silently glided down the gently sloping hillside toward their home. The grandmother, fearing that it might crash into the house, grabbed a flashlight and beamed it at the strange object. When she did this the object stopped and then



Your intrepid reporter pictured with his daughter in front of one of Wilhelm Reich's actual cloudbusters. Taken last year at the late scientist's lab in Rangeley, Maine. It is open to the public during summer months.

reversed its direction, and then gained altitude and flew away.

Weirder still though, on at least three separate occasions, evenings from April to June, the children (three) and their grandmother, and once their great-grandmother, saw white human-like figures coming down the hill toward the house. They always mysteriously seemed to disappear at about the same spot. The adults speculated that they may have been "angles".

"It's hard to explain," the grandmother said. "I got the feeling that it was something holy." She noticed that the nights these beings were seen the UFOs did not appear, and they have reported seeing many odd lights.

"I am a skeptic of Martians or people being on other planets," the grandmother stated. She preferred to believe that perhaps they were witnessing secret government tests, of some sort.

This reminds me of an interesting story of a woman on 48 Creek who years ago saw a ball of fire roll into her home! That is, this small fiery ball barged in through the back door, rolled through the house and out the front door! Within a day or two someone in the family became ill and died, and so it seemed to have been an "omen". My informant (it was his late grandmother) says the woman was a truthful

and religious person.

Scientists are just getting where they can accept so-called "ball lighting" as real. But reports and folktales of rolling and floating balls of fire during clear weather seem to be another phenomenon, though similar in appearance. But science isn't too keen on omens these days either.

But such odd stories are not just native to this soil. Originally I am from the state of Maine, and it was there that a man from a town known as Palermo told me this intriguing story. Back in the early 1930s, he and his parents (his mother, alive then, confirmed this) had repeated sightings of pulsating balls of light for about two years. "The last time anyone ever saw it was the night my grandfather died and it was sighted by my father on a stone wall, a line between our farm and the next. This was the closest it ever got to our property. It was never seen by anyone after that."

Speaking of odd things, it's a good time to mention a Maine scientist who claimed back in 1954, to have caused UFOs in the skies around his Rangeley lab to dim out and even move when he aimed his invention, called a "cloudbuster", at them. Consisting of a number of hollow metal tubes mounted on a platform that could be swung about in various directions, the cloudbuster was brounded by flexible BX tubing to water or

moist ground. Therefore, it was set up like a lightning rod, except that Wilhelm Reich (the scientist) had built it to draw energy from the atmosphere.

Reich had a complex theory regarding what he called "orgone", an invisible energy essential to all living things. He felt that with our understanding of it we could do great things, like control weather and even cure cancer. But the Food and Drug Administration had Reich jailed for distributing some of his specially built boxes called "Orgone accumulators", which he felt could be used to cure cancer, and with an ailing heart he died there, in prison, in 1957.

Not all scientists get the Nobel Prize!

Was Reich a misguided, deluded scientist, or a misunderstood genius? Did he have some genuine insight into the mysterious forces of the cosmos?

Time will tell. Today a handful or so of other researchers have continued to follow up on Reich's earlier studies and experiments. Orene, Reigh, and Eros by W. Edward Mann (Touchstone, New York, 1973) probably best presents a detailed and objective summary on Reich and other experimenters.

If any of you would care to share any personal experiences you may have had with UFOs, or have any of your own ideas you'd care to voice, please feel free to write me: Route 1, Box 66, or call 722-9422.

## Barrington woman spots UFO

By BRIAN McEVROY  
Democrat Staff Writer

BARRINGTON — A local woman reported to police Friday night that she had seen a UFO.

Describing it as "a group of lights in the sky," Elizabeth Horning of Green Hill Park said that the UFO "wasn't moving fast enough for a plane." She went on to say that "it was just like an oval, but not perfectly round. It was very visible to me."

She further described the UFO's movement saying that "you couldn't follow its motion with the eyes, but it was nevertheless moving."

When asked to describe the UFO's color, she said that "it was a little bit more yellow than the stars. It could've been a group of stars but I've never seen them before." She added that the UFO's lights seemed to be blinking.

A Federal Aviation Administration spokesman in Concord said that "we don't have too much information" on the sighting, adding that the FAA advised Ms. Horning to call "the UFO people in California."

Officials at Pease Air Force Base in Newington could not be reached this morning.

Ms. Horning said that the UFO was "in the Dover direction," adding that she made the report to police at "around 10 or 10:30" Friday night. She said that she saw it from her bedroom window as she went to bed, adding that "it wasn't very high in the sky, but it was higher than the treetops."

This is not Ms. Horning's first experience with UFOs. She said that she saw one in Kingston "two or three years ago" as she went to work early one morning. She said didn't tell anyone about it then because she thought that no one would believe her.

JOURNAL-HERALD, Waycross, GA - Jan. 27, 1984

## UFO Thought To Be Plane

By JACK WILLIAMS III  
J-H City Editor

A Ware County man who was frightened into hysteria Sunday night by what he thought was a low-flying UFO now feels that what he and his girlfriend saw was a low-flying aircraft containing four Ware County men who were traveling with their plane's engine switched off and their landing lights on.

Danny Edward Thrift, 19, of Route 3, Waycross, said he contacted the Federal Aviation Administration at Savannah Thursday to report the alleged infraction. "They said they would see that their licenses were taken away from them," Thrift said.

Thrift claims he called Ronnie Dixon, of Route 2, Central Avenue, this week and learned that Dixon and Wilbur L. Jackson, 610 Walker St., were flying a light airplane over the Boggy Bay community Sunday night at about 7

p.m.

He said Dixon confirmed that he and Jackson were flying over the Swamp Road area with their plane's engine switched off and their landing lights on — an allegation which both Dixon and Jackson deny.

"I think they owe everybody an explanation. I feel they owe the entire Boggy Bay community an apology," said an angered Thrift.

"There's going to be something done about it," Thrift said. He said his girlfriend, Janet Curry, 17, of Route 3, Waycross, was listening to his telephone conversation with Dixon and overheard him confirm the switched-off engine and illuminated landing lights. "He's lying. He knows he's in trouble. There were two people on the phone," said Thrift.

Thrift said the Savannah office of the FAA has requested that he write a

report of the incident and send it along to them for investigation. He said he is now writing the report for the federal agency.

When contacted at his home this morning, Jackson confirmed that he, Dixon, "Jay Bird" Vining and Dixon's son, Ron Dixon, were flying over the Boggy Bay area Sunday night in a Cessna 172 airplane owned by Wayne Vining of Waycross.

Jackson claimed the airplane was being piloted by young Vining, but denied that the airplane's engine was ever switched off during the flight. He said the foursome landed at the Waycross-Ware County Airport at approximately 7:30 p.m. Sunday — some 30 minutes after Thrift and Miss Curry sighted what they thought was a low-flying UFO.

"I think the gentlemen (Thrift) better check in a little deeper and find out

more about it before he accuses someone. I've got proof it wasn't me," said Jackson.

"I did not glide over anyone's car. I wasn't flying the plane myself," Jackson claimed.

Ronnie Dixon, who was contacted this morning at his business, also confirmed that "Jay Bird" Vining was flying the aircraft. But he said the light airplane never dropped below 1,500 feet during its flight.

Dixon claims that he never told Thrift that the airplane was being flown with its engine off and its landing lights switched on. "He (Thrift) is telling a lie there," Dixon said.

"You cannot glide at tree-top level with your engine switched off. It would be dangerous to do this. You can't see those power lines," said Dixon.

# Citian Doesn't Believe In UFOs, But Then...

She doesn't believe in UFOs.

Still, a Stillwater woman would like to know what almost hit her car head-on late Saturday night on the bridge crossing the Cimarron River near Perkins.

"We were coming back from Cushing about 12 or 12:30 from visiting my sister," the woman told the *NewsPress* Monday. "We'd been playing Scrabble and other games — and we don't drink."

Her daughter was driving and an 11-year-old grandson was asleep in

the back seat. The night was cold and cloudy.

"As we were crossing the bridge, a great big, huge object swooped down from the sky and almost hit the car," she recalled. Within a yard or so of the vehicle, the object veered upward and passed over the car.

It didn't make a sound. It didn't have flashing lights. It didn't glow in the dark. It was just suddenly there — and gone.

"My daughter speeded up and I

stuck my head out the window to look back. It was like a huge ball, cut in two in the middle. The thing was wobbling from side to side on the bridge. It looked like the bottom was to us," she said.

Curiosity got the better of the woman. She urged her daughter to turn the car around and head back toward the bridge, under the strong impression that the object had gone over the west end of the railing.

The women found no trace of the unexpected object, but reported it to

the sheriff's office when they reached Stillwater.

The more she thinks about it, the more convinced the woman is that the object was man-made. And she agreed it could have been a runaway weather balloon.

"We could have been killed," she said. "If someone was playing a prank, it didn't work. Maybe they'll think twice before trying it again."

She still doesn't believe in UFOs.

STAR AND TRIBUNE, Minneapolis, MN - March 10, 1984

## Officers unable to get second look at UFO

Two law enforcement officers who had a close encounter with a UFO Tuesday night in the barren hills of Bennett County South Dakota failed in their attempt Thursday to find the object — or have it fland them.

"What we found was all kind of cars, several carloads of people out there," said sheriff's deputy Tom Jensen. "There were TV cameras out there and reporters. And nothing showed up."

The scene was a little different Tuesday night when Jensen and Martin City police officer Gary Myers were asked to check out reports from ranchers about strange lights they had sighted four or five times in the hills.

Jensen and Myers drove out to the desolate area near the southern edge of the state just east of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. A few minutes later, while standing outside their patrol car, something with two lights and hovering silently about 150

feet off the ground began moving toward them from about 2 miles away.

The object came within 150 yards of the officers, with more lights becoming visible, then moved away quickly to the southeast, making a quiet, jet-like sound. Neither officer could make out the shape of the object, despite the clear, starry night.

The sighting was termed impressive by J. Allen Hynek, founder of the Center for UFO Studies at Northwestern University, who interviewed the officers.

Jensen said he still doesn't know what it was he and Myers saw, but at this point it really doesn't matter.

"My investigation has slowed way down," Jensen said. "We're kind of letting this drop. If somebody says they've seen it again, we'll check it out. But we're a two-man office and we can't spend a lot of time running

around on this.

"We've seen it and I know it's out there," he said. "It hasn't hurt anybody or done any property damage. If it's a hoax, it isn't harming anybody, and if it's a UFO,

we aren't going to catch it anyway." After the publicity dies down, Jensen said, he and Myers might drive back out to hills.

"We're kind of hooked on this," Myers said.

## UFO hunt yields no close encounters of any kind

Dick Willis  
Outdoor Writer

MARTIN — Spotting flying saucers is a lot like coon hunting. The woods may be full of raccoons and flying saucers, but on dark nights when misty clouds blow past a slivered moon, people seeking either spend most of their time standing around in the dark.

On a hill between Martin and Norris on Thursday night, a crowd gathered and looked toward the heavens. Some hoped to see pretty lights come flying over the prairie-covered hills in this desolate region of South Dakota. Others were more interested in the technology of an advanced spacecraft from another world. And a few dreamers had faint thoughts about meeting a few aliens.

For this is Bennett County, population 3,000, where UFOs have been reportedly been seen several times during the past two weeks. Two ranch families have seen the red and white lights that most frequently hop across the sky around 10 p.m.

And it was here that a Bennett County deputy sheriff and Martin policeman came to check what they thought was a ridiculous story of spaceships in the skies of western South Dakota.

Tuesday night they'd seen enough to make them wonder. Enough to make a few more Bennett County residents seriously search the skies with their eyes, or at least look on in amusement. Deputy Tom Jensen and Gary Myers,

the policeman, say they saw the red and white lights move across the sky, stop and hover as close as to them as 200 yards away. They're not sure what they saw. And they won't say what they may think, that there is a good chance the lights were attached to an alien craft from another planet.

There is the problem of having people think you are nuts. Jensen, for one, has had about all he wants of it.

He has been besieged by telephone calls from newspapers, television and radio stations.

"That's all I did Wednesday, answer the phone," he said. "I'm getting tired of getting teased about something I didn't believe in. I'm still not sure it is an alien spacecraft, but when people don't even believe you saw the lights

... One problem is that there is absolutely no physical proof that any craft have been flying over the ranches of northeastern Bennett County. There are no photographs, no burn marks on the ground, nothing that can be pointed to as tangible evidence.

Ellsworth Air Force Base says its radar has picked up nothing. And about the only comment the Air Force will make is that it concluded a major UFO study in 1969 without finding proof that flying saucers exist, and "never a shred of evidence to indicate a threat to our national security."

Jensen now wishes he had said nothing about what he saw until he got pictures of the mysterious lights and tape recordings of the noise that came from the craft.

Sitting in a squad car on a dark hill Thursday, both Jensen and Myers waited with a reporter for the lights to show up again. They didn't.

"I really want somebody else to see it," Jensen said. "Everybody says what you saw. Well, I saw lights in the sky."

Myers still thinks about the few minutes when he saw the lights with Jensen several nights ago.

"The worst part of it is, if you were out there by yourself, it would scare the hell out of you," he said.

Just where the mysterious flying lights of Bennett County may appear on any given night is anybody's guess.

But as long as there are those who dream, those who've seen the lights and those who hope they're out there, somewhere, people will stand on cold, windy hills gazing into the heavens.

JOURNAL, Rapid City, SD  
March 9, 1984

## Fawcett: Nine UFOs Reported Last Year in N.C.

By TOM MINEHART  
Associated Press Writer  
Only nine unidentified flying objects were reported in North Carolina in 1983, compared to a dozen or more in previous years, but a Lincolnton man who compiles the reports says he expects sightings to increase in 1984.

"I think it's the calm

before the storm," said George D. Fawcett, 54, a field investigator for the Mutual UFO Network Inc. "UFO sightings usually occur in cycles of every five years, 10 years and 26 years," said Fawcett. "This was a year before a large number of reports, and it built up in the latter part of 1983."

Fawcett said he com-

piled the following UFO reports in North Carolina for the year:

— On Jan. 4 near Albemarle, draftsman David Blanton watched a dome-topped UFO pass over his head very slowly, then draw away rapidly. He said the Saturn-shaped object was silent and had purple, gray and amber lights and small rods around its circumference.

— On Jan. 8 near Vale, Susan Cook saw a large dish-shaped object in the sky change color from red to orange to blue to white. She said a smaller UFO appeared and both disappeared after about five minutes.

— On May 2 near Newton, insurance salesman Joe Ikard, his wife Carolyn and their 5-year-old son Trent spotted an oval-shaped object drop under the tree line, rise and drop again. The UFO changed color from blue-white to red-orange, Ikard

reported. — On July 7 near Stanly, Carolyn Sturgh was returning home from about five minutes, it disappeared. — On Nov. 15 near Vale, Mel and Sandra Huffman were awakened by barking dogs and saw a white, oblong object hovering outside their house. They said the UFO had points of light and one red light. — On Nov. 17 near Murfreesboro, Ronald E. Wood saw a bright white, cigar-shaped object flash with light for about three minutes and fly silently to an altitude of about 3,000 feet, where it faded out. — On Nov. 27, a farmer in Wingate saw a blue ball of light with flashing lights above the treetops for about five seconds.

Fawcett, the former state director for MUFON, is an advertising sales representative for newspapers in Maiden, Newton, Denver and

like those already existing in Michigan, Florida and California. "I've had five people will me their collections," he said.

colleges on the subject and has written several books. Fawcett said his ultimate goal is to establish a UFO museum in North Carolina, He said he lectures at

Hickory. He said he has studied UFOs for 40 years and spent \$27,000 on his quest. He said he lectures at

LINCOLN TIMES-NEWS, Lincolnton, NC

Feb. 24, 1984 CR: G. Fawcett



# Terror Tale Greet Ohioans in Nicaragua

Beacon Journal reporter Bill Sloan is in Nicaragua, traveling with a group of Ohio residents who are observing the border conflict between that country and the U.S.-backed "contra" rebels operating from Honduras. The members of the group are witnesses for Peace delegates. They are an interdenominational religious corps organized to provide American observers in the border region.

By Bill Sloan  
Beacon Journal staff writer  
JALAPA, Nicaragua — The mountain campesinos were in the midst of a Lenten tradition.  
It was just after nightfall last Fri-

The Reagan administration won't abide by World Court decisions on Central America. Page A6.

day and the peasants had finished their chores and the evening meal. Now, they had gathered in a procession and were moving through the town's narrow dirt streets in a Roman Catholic rite, the Stations of the Cross.

At the head of the procession was a crude, bamboo crucifix. Behind it, two men carried an ornate statue of Jesus in a red robe. As they marched, they sang in Spanish, "If my faults are great, greater is your kindness . . ."

Mercy, Lord, mercy."  
Suddenly, Jalapa erupted with fire from automatic rifles. Tracer bullets tore flashing trails through the darkness. Then, a heavier weapon opened up and added loud, booming noises to the barrage.

The targets of all the ammunition were in the sky — two mysterious objects with flashing red lights. The objects had drifted overhead from neighboring Honduras, frightening people and unleashing the defensive firing. Some people climbed up on rooftops to shoot at the strange lights.

Many who watched the slowly moving lights gave descriptions of them

that sounded remarkably similar to accounts of UFO sightings in the United States. But nobody thinks the objects came from anywhere but the United States.

The Nicaraguans in Jalapa are tense because the "contras" — guerrillas who want to overthrow the Sandinista government — and the CIA have bases on the Honduran side of the frontier.

The Jalapa district juts out from Nicaragua like a triangle, and on three sides it is embraced by 60 kilometers of hostile territory. What happens on

the other side is hidden from Nicaragua's view by peaks of a mountain range, the Cordillera Entero Rios.

Doug Spence, an Ohioan who has lived in Jalapa since January, told the story of the strange objects in the sky after Ohio's 20-member Witness for Peace delegation reached the city. The newcomers had traveled from Cleveland to the remote border town last week as part of an ongoing, privately organized observation program.

Spence is a former Peace Corps

volunteer who was born in Dover in Tuscarawas County and who graduated from Lorain High School and Ohio State University.

He said he watched the flashing red lights floating in the sky for seven to 10 minutes while he stood on his patio. He said he has never seen anything like them before.

"Nobody knows exactly what they were," he said. "They might have been observation balloons sent over the border. Or they could have been some kind of pilotless observation craft. Or they might have just been glowing objects in the sky, something made by the CIA to cause psychological tensions."

Spence said the appearance of the objects after dark was designed to frighten the common people in Jalapa, while at the same time harassing the military authorities. "The people were worried that the lights may bring a bombing, and the military had to stay up all night on alert," he explained.

Local Sandinista officials say they are not going to shoot at the blinking lights if they appear again. They decided too much ammunition was wasted.

By the time the Ohio Witness for Peace group reached Jalapa, people were saying they no longer felt frightened. One man said, "They may come and kill us, but we are not going to be intimidated."

Christine Schenck, a nurse-midwife from Cleveland Metro General Hospital, was appalled when she heard the story of the unidentified flying invader. "I'm really upset about how my taxes are being used down here," she said.

The city has about 6,200 residents and the district, which is roughly the size of Portage County, has about 30,000. It is in Nueva Segovia province, where there was fighting last week.

Earlier this year, on Jan. 11, Sandinista Army and militia units in Jalapa opened fire on a U.S. helicopter that had entered Nicaragua's air space. The chopper was downed and the pilot, Jeffrey Schwab, was killed.

JOURNAL, Rapid City, SD - March 8, 1984 CR: T. Church

## Bennett County families, officials report unidentified flying object

Dick Willis  
Outdoor Writer

MARTIN — An unidentified flying object has been reported swooping over the sparsely populated hills of northeastern Bennett County for the last two weeks.

Members of at least two ranch families and two law enforcement officers are among those who have seen it.

And three cattle have been mutilated on the Jerry Grass ranch near Norris. Some people believe the mutilations and the UFO sightings are linked.

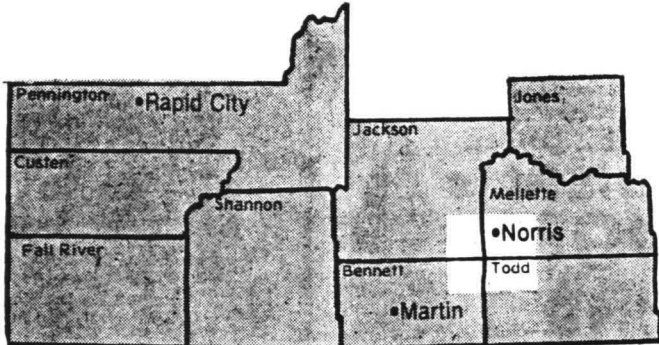
Wednesday night, Bennett County Deputy Sheriff Tom Jensen and Martin city policeman Gary Myers went out to check on the UFO reports, which they didn't believe were authentic. Now they're not so sure.

"I seen some lights in the air that were about 100 to 150 feet off the ground," said Jensen. "They were hovering above the ground. They were three to five miles away. We didn't see the craft, just the lights; red and white lights. The lights approached us at a slow rate of speed. They got within 100 to 200 yards of our vehicle, and then flew off."

"I don't know whether it is alien, or something the government might be fooling with. I'm not ruling anything out."

Wednesday night was clear and calm. The spot was remote.

"I was scared," said Jensen. "Tomorrow is my birthday, and I didn't know if I was going to be home for my birthday. When it comes at you and gets that close to you, you begin to wonder. You hear stories about alien ships and



Blue area shows where people have reported seeing UFO

you don't know what is going to happen. Yes, I was scared."

He said the UFO made no sound except when it started away from the two lawmen. Then, it made a soft noise somewhat like muffled jet engines.

Jerry and Charlene Grass, who ranch in the Norris area, have seen the UFO more than once.

"We were out the other night and saw the big red lights," said Charlene Grass. "We sat for five hours. We would spotlight them and they would come at us, and then go away. At first there was one, and then an hour before we came home, we got bored, and then this big one showed up. So we watched it for awhile. It is spooky; I don't know what it is."

Three of the Grass cattle have been mutilated recently. Some people are speculating that aliens have cut up the animals to study them, Charlene Grass

said. One of the animals was missing its ears, an eye, the tongue, the udder and all of the skin of its face.

There is "no way" a coyote did it, she said.

"It is weird, but every time it shows up, my phone and Sheila's (Merchen) phone gets a noise on it," she said. (The Merchen family ranches nearby.) "There is the noise on the phone, and then it shows up that night."

She said the lights have been spotted most frequently between 8:30 p.m. and 1:30 a.m.

"It moves like a boat on the ocean," she said. "It goes up and down. It has come to within about 200 feet of people who have seen it. If you shine a spotlight on it, like Clayton (Merchen) does, it . . . seems to come right in. I can't tell the size of it, there is too much light. It hangs in that one spot and then moves into the hills. It takes the same route every time."

Deputy Jensen said he'll go out again to look for the UFO, despite the fact that some local folks think the idea is preposterous.

"Everybody wants to know what I was either smoking or drinking last night," he said. "I'm still not too sure it is some kind of alien ship, but it is awful hard to get people to swallow the story that you have seen something they have never seen."

"Until it hit the news media Sunday, there was a little bit of talk about it. Everybody was like me; I was a non-believer of these lights. We thought they had seen something. And we went out there to determine whether it was a helicopter or what."

"If it is a helicopter or an airplane, somebody has went to an awful lot of trouble to disguise the appearance. It does not look like any kind of aircraft I have seen. From talking to Clayton Merchen . . . it has to be the same craft each time. We are talking about the same ship that has been seen on numerous occasions."

"I don't really recommend that anybody go out there on a sightseeing tour," he said. "There is a history that when there are a lot of cars in the area, it doesn't show up; just when there is one vehicle."

JOURNAL, Rapid City, SD - March 10, 1984



## Ron Bender

### Weekender

Some of the folks out in Bennett County, it has been reported, are getting a little testy at all the attention they've been getting. It seems they don't appreciate the fun being poked at them just because they've been seeing mysterious lights in the night sky.

But they have no cause to be embarrassed or defensive about what they've seen. Unidentified flying objects have been spotted — and written about — for decades in western South Dakota.

And hundreds of people, even Journal reporters, have endured raised eyebrows when they admitted seeing something that doesn't seem to belong there.

A thick file in the Journal library is even labeled "flying saucers." It contains dozens of yellowing newspaper clippings dating back to 1952 about people, from Kadoka to Hot Springs, who've reported UFO sightings. Judging by the clips, there was a rash of sightings, here and around the world, in the mid-50s. Another flurry came in the mid-60s and a third in the early 1970s.

Up until this week, the most recent story was one I wrote in December 1977 about a Piedmont-area man who frequently saw strange lights at night above the Interstate 90 corridor.

Staff Writer Dick Willis didn't spot any UFOs in Bennett County Thursday night. But catch this earlier first-person

account: "From personal experience, I can vouch for the fact there's something mysterious prowling the heavens — call them flying saucers if you wish. For half an hour last night, this writer observed a light which displayed various colors of the rainbow, darted about in non-sensical patterns, moved through a relatively large arc in the sky and then rapidly faded out of sight."

Editor Jim Kuehn was a Journal reporter (who obviously needed a good editor, heh, heh) when he penned that breathless prose in September 1952. But his account was just one of many in the paper. Here's some headlines from saucer sightings past:

"Rapid City family wonders just what they did see . . ." (Jan. 1, 1953).

"Hills residents tell of shining objects" (Nov. 26, 1956).

"Nebraska grain dealer says space people look like him" (Nov. 8, 1957).

"Silvery object in sky creates interest here" (July 30, 1964).

"UFO near Hisega 'very large, low'" (Oct. 28, 1966).

"We all can't be nuts," say police of UFOs" (July 2, 1967).

Here's my favorite: "Several saucers seen in skies, sighters certain" (July 3, 1970).

Very few of those old stories contained any reasonable explanation of what

people saw, so it's anybody's guess what's been floating or swooping about the skies, either in 1952 or 1984.

But one thing's certain: The vast majority of the people who report UFO sightings don't do it just to get attention but because they saw something they don't understand. So, Bennett County residents, don't worry about the scoffers. There's also a solid corps of believers out there.

APRIL 19, 1984 CR: A. Candusso  
BEACON JOURNAL, Akron, OH

# Local Woman, Daughter Report 'Close Encounter'

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The following article is written from an interview with a Claxton woman who reported that she and her daughter saw three Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) March 21. Although The Enterprise has had other such 'reports' over the years, we have chosen not to print the accounts. However, in considering the prominence of the individuals involved, and the woman's position of responsibility at her place of employment, we have made an exception in this case. Still, The Enterprise does not suggest in this report that we believe in the existence of beings or flying objects from worlds other than our own. We suggest that our readers form their own opinions).

By MITCHELL E. PEACE  
Editor and Publisher

While many people are skeptical about the origin or existence of such things, a Claxton woman and her teenage daughter are now convinced that they had a close encounter with an unidentified flying object (UFO).

Almost a week after the two say they witnessed three objects hovering in a field in the southwestern area of Evans County, the mother, who holds an executive position with a prominent Claxton business firm, spoke with The Enterprise only on the condition that she not be identified.

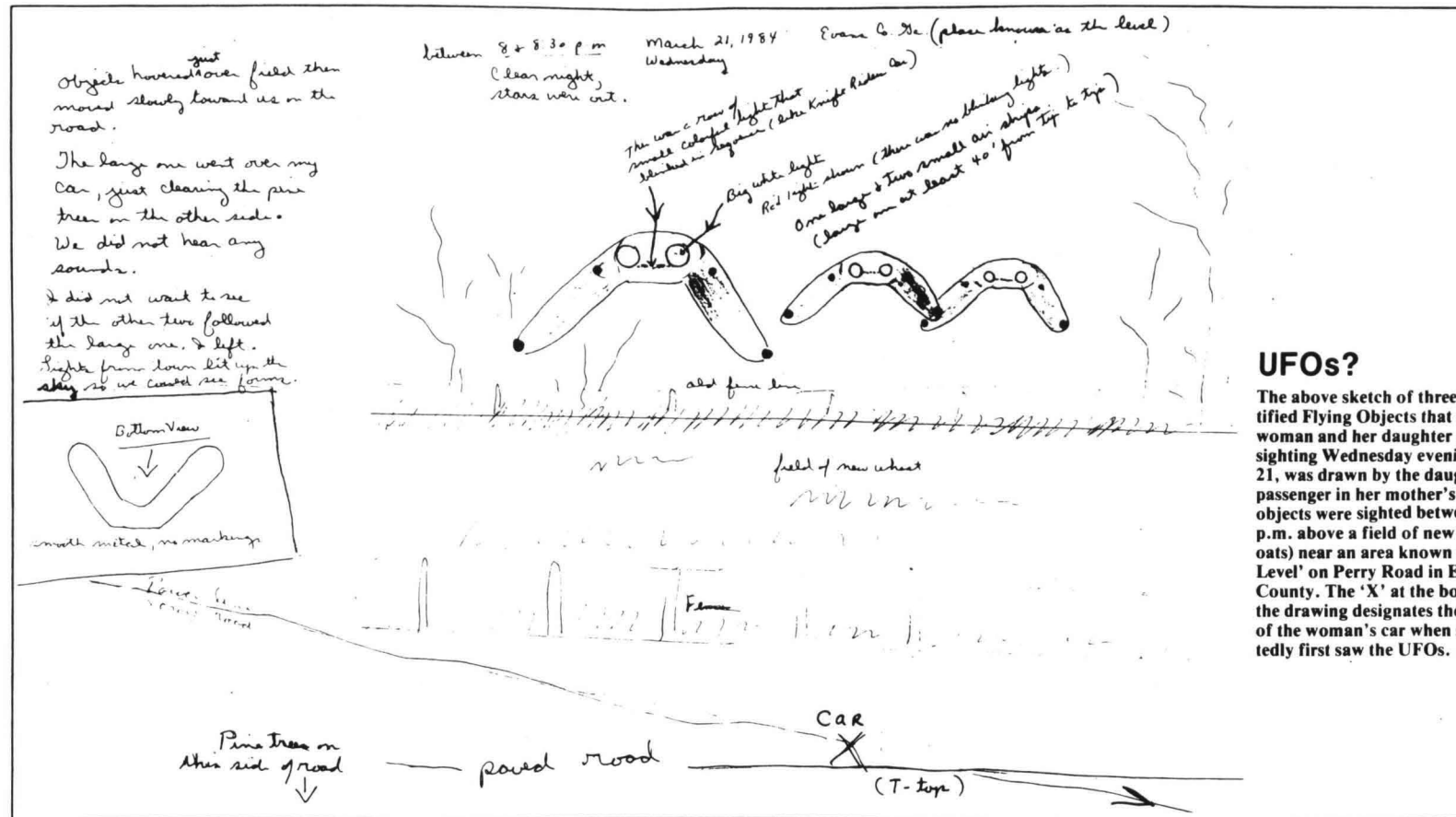
The 'encounter' occurred sometime between 8-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 21 as the two were traveling South on what is known as the Perry Road.

What started as a leisurely drive in the country turned into a night the two will never forget.

Mrs. Betty West and her daughter, Cynthia (not their real names), decided to go for a drive while her husband was attending a meeting. The two had approached an area of the Perry Road that is known as 'The Level' when Mrs. West said she noticed an unusual light through the trees on the left side of the road.

ENTERPRISE, Claxton, GA - March 29, 1984

CR: G. Fawcett



## UFOs?

The above sketch of three Unidentified Flying Objects that a Claxton woman and her daughter reported sighting Wednesday evening, March 21, was drawn by the daughter, a passenger in her mother's car. The objects were sighted between 8-8:30 p.m. above a field of new wheat (or oats) near an area known as 'The Level' on Perry Road in Evans County. The 'X' at the bottom of the drawing designates the position of the woman's car when she reportedly first saw the UFOs.

"As we topped the hill, I slowed to a near stop, and out hovering above the field were three unidentified flying objects," she said. "There was one large one and two smaller ones."

She said that each of the objects was "boomerang" shaped and had

two large lights in the center. The front (or nose) of each object was flat and had a row of small, multi-colored lights that blinked in rapid sequence. Two red lights were on the 'wings' of each object; one on each side of the large white lights, and one larger red light at the tip of each 'wing'.

"We could see the form of the objects," she said. "It was between 8-8:30 at night and we could tell the form because the light from the town (Claxton) lit up the sky."

Her first reaction, she said, was one of curiosity since "I had never seen anything like it in my life." She said she kept exclaiming to her daughter, "Look at that!" as the largest object began moving in the direction of their car.

"After I saw them moving I became terrified," she said. "I pushed the gas down and was trying to look and steer at the same time. My daughter was watching. She said, 'Mama, slow down, you're going to wreck us,' because I was swerving. I did slow down, but I kept going, and 'it' kept coming. The first one - the large one - went over the car. There were some pine trees just on the other side of the road, and it just cleared the tops of the pines."

Mrs. West said that as the object passed over the car her daughter was able to look directly at its underside because their automobile has an open T-top.

She said the bottom of the object was of a dark metal, and she

estimated its 'wing span' to be at least 40 feet.

"It just floated over the car," she said. "There was no sound at all. I didn't notice any heat, I didn't notice anything (sound) other than it just quietly floated over the car."

Although terrified, she said she fought the impulse to pull over and run inside a house she saw at the side of the road. The two smaller objects had not passed over the road at this time, she said, and she just "kept going."

"When I looked back over my shoulder the last thing I saw was the 'wing' passing over the car," she said. "I don't know where they came from but I know they could defy gravity. And they didn't make a sound. Something that big, moving that slow, that close to the ground, and didn't make a sound."

Mrs. West said that she never saw the two smaller objects pass over the road. When the objects were first sighted hovering above the field, they were not as high as the surrounding trees. She said when they started moving in the direction of their car, the objects gained altitude, made a sharp turn towards their car, then straightened up and resumed a straight path in their direction.

After the sighting, she said that they (she and her daughter) continued traveling on the same road until they reached the Bay Branch road, turned and went to Bellville and drove back to Claxton.

She said that she returned to the vicinity of the sighting the following day and has since returned at night, but has seen nothing unusual. A

powerline that runs alongside the road where the objects were first observed is the only thing she noticed in the daylight that she was not aware of on the night of the sighting.

Mrs. West said she has had an interest in UFOs for a long time and has heard various reports of others seeing such phenomena.

What does she believe she witnessed that night in Evans County? Is there a simple explanation for the UFOs?

"Personally, I feel that I have seen something from another world," she said. "It's the kind of thing you don't get out and advertise. It's a personal thing. When you see it happen, you know what you've seen, but you can't make the whole world believe what you've seen. You just have to accept it for what it is."

She said that her daughter had been told by others that Ft. Stewart was conducting some type of aircraft maneuvers on the night of the sighting. The Enterprise contacted several spokesmen at Ft. Stewart but was unable to learn whether or not any type military aircraft was operating in Evans County airspace last Wednesday night. The Evans County Sheriff's Department reported no calls concerning UFOs.

"If the United States has something like that, and that's what we saw," Mrs. West said, "then I'm proud for our country because we're so far ahead of everyone else, we don't have anything to worry about."

She said that if she had observed the objects from a "great distance" she may have attributed them to being helicopters. "But this was just as much there as my car was there. It was just there and it's the strangest thing I've ever seen in my life."

Although she has discussed the incident with friends, she did not want to attract "outside" attention.

"I don't care if my friends know who saw these things," she explained. "They know me, and they know the way I am. I just wouldn't want people who don't know me to know who I am because they know nothing about me. I've lived here all my life, people trust me and believe what I say. After all, I have a job that requires a lot of trust."





# FOREIGN NEWS

STAR, Auckland, New Zealand - Jan. 18, 1984 CR: R. Collyns

## U.F.O. sighting at Christchurch?

THE sighting of a mysterious object in the sky by a woman motorist and her 15-year-old son last weekend sounds remarkably like other U.F.O. sightings in the area in recent years.

That is the reaction of U.F.O. specialist, Mr. Phillip Shaw, of Fern-down, to the rocket-shaped object observed by an astonished Mrs. Maxine Allenby and her son, Robert, on the main Lyndhurst Road at Hinton Admiral near Christchurch.

Mrs. Allenby, who was driving to her home in Ash Road, Ashurst, thought at first she was looking at a low flying aircraft. It took a steep dive as it passed across

the road ahead and went out of sight behind trees in the Walkford direction.

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

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

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

A mass of cone shaped light was coming from the front part.

## Theories in the bottom of the garden

PARIS. — Fresh interest in unidentified flying objects is being sparked in France with attention focused on a man's claim that he saw a flying saucer land in his garden.

A spate of recent sightings in France have been largely explained away but the country's space agency (CNES) say these have renewed interest in the man's claims.

His story has gained more credence than most because an official group staffed with scientists devoted to investigating unexplained phenomena has concluded something really did happen.

The group is known officially as GEPAN, the Groupe d'Etudes des Phenomenes Aerospaciaux Non-identifies (the study group on unidentified flying objects).

Most sightings are easily explained, but GEPAN, which is a subsidiary of the space agency, says "a major event" took place

near the village of Trans-en-Provence in southern France three years ago.

What made the claims of Renato Nicolai, a 55-year-old stonemason, different from most UFO reports were the strange clues the "object" left behind in his back garden.

A GEPAN report quotes Nicolai as saying he saw a flattened circular object land in his garden. There was no smoke or flame, just a slight whistling.

He watched the object he thought was a new type of military craft for about 40 seconds in all.

Then, suddenly, the craft he described as 2.5 metres wide and 1.7 metres thick took off vertically, leaving, according to the scientists, a circular mark on the ground.

GEPAN said Nicolai was at first reluctant to report what he had seen but his wife convinced him he should and he eventually spoke to police and the scientists.

The report said soil analysis of the circular mark showed that friction and a temperature of up to 600 degrees centigrade had been applied.

Even more startling, the report concluded from analysis of surrounding vegetation that grass was affected as if it had been submitted to high temperatures without burning and to an unusual level of radiation.

A CNES spokesman said there was no reason to doubt the mason's testimony. However, the GEPAN report acknowledged its findings posed more questions than it answered.

The spokesman said an average of 100 serious sightings are reported each year to GEPAN but, like those in southern France recently, the UFOs often turn out to be satellites re-entering the atmosphere or weather balloons.

— NZPA—Reuter.

## Mystery of UFO and the man who saw it

AN unidentified flying object has been spotted by a Rossendale man who feared for his sanity if he gave his name.

Bacup police received a call from the man who spotted the "Object" in the night sky above Sharneyford village in Bacup. He would not leave his name "because everybody will think I'm mad."

He described the UFO as a bright red cigar-shaped object hovering above the village. It then started flashing and flew off at speed.

## Boys spark UFO alert

SCHOOLBOYS sparked a UFO alert when they spotted a dazzling light hovering above their Basildon homes.

Jeff Ash and Matthew Oldfield, both 12, of Merricks Lane, Basildon, saw the glowing red object at about 7 o'clock last night.

Jeff, a pupil at Woodlands School, said: "It had a big red light in the middle, and was travelling across the sky. The light went out for a while, then came on again in a white flash."

WEEKLY NEWS, Leeds, England - Jan. 19, 1984

## Close encounters of a Yorkshire kind

Yorkshire is one of the busiest areas for UFO activity — and in this district alone there has been a number of unexplained events.

A Leeds UFO group aims to uncover the mystery of those strange lights in the sky. Sheila Holmes reports.

Strange lights have been seen several times hovering about over different parts of the city, and a few years ago there was the most important report of disc-shaped objects over Leeds/Bradford Airport. But according to the Leeds UFO Research Group, a further 45 per cent of sightings are never reported and it is cases like these which the organisation hopes to uncover.

"We are trying to find out the truth about UFO phenomena in this area and wish to receive reports from people who have seen these objects," said Stephen Hart, the group's chairman and general co-ordinator.

### EVIDENCE

"Eventually, we hope to gather enough evidence to publish a report, or even a book, to draw people's attention to this enigma," he said.

The group has about 20 investigators who interview witnesses and if the result of their findings cannot be explained as a natural phenomenon like meteors or a plane it is filed as UFO.



● A scene from "E.T." — But what about the unexplained UFO sightings over Yorkshire?

About 15 cases have been investigated so far, but the group would like many more.

All names and addresses of witnesses are treated with the utmost confidentiality.

Stephen, a pupil of Intake High School, has first-hand experience of UFO's himself, for he has seen strange lights in the sky on a couple of occasions.

"I was astonished the first time I saw them," he said. "I didn't know what to think and there was nothing to explain their presence. But it did look as if the lights were being guided in some way."

He formed the group in October and its headquarters are in Nora Place, Bramley. The members also meet at the city's Coal Hill Observatory once a month.

Many theories have been put forward to explain the presence of UFO's, but the Leeds group is keeping an open mind on the subject.

"Some people believe they are from outer space, others that they are top secret military machines," explains Stephen.

"It has also been suggested that they are pockets of psychic energy which are linked to the earth's geographical formation."

"Because Yorkshire, and North Yorkshire in particular, has numerous geographical faults this is the reason for the sightings in this area."

"But we don't subscribe to any particular theory. We are a scientific group which adopts

objectivity. The group can be contacted on Leeds 563912 after 4 p.m. on weekdays and any time at weekends.

## Mystery UFO is sighted

ANOTHER mysterious UFO has been spotted.

Now Mr. Simon Quilter (24) is wondering if anyone else saw the bright blue light he spotted near his home in Cox Avenue, Weybourne, at 10.45 p.m. on Wednesday, December 14.

He had just been dropped off from a friend's car when he saw the light, hovering silent and star-like.

"It just belted off towards Aldershot," Mr. Quilter said.

"It left an electric blue trace like a shooting star."

But he says the British Interplanetary Society told him no comets were due that night.

"It was unreal — quite silent," said Mr. Quilter, who works for Thames Television in London.

## UFO was also seen in Huyton

THE BRIGHTLY-LIT UFO seen in Whiston last Tuesday evening was also seen in Huyton at about the same time at 7.30pm.

Miss Jenny Jackson, aged 24, of Oxford Road, Huyton, saw the mysterious object hovering overhead as she was going along Longview Drive, but did not think anything of it at the time.

But when she read the article in last week's Reporter stating that two other people had seen the object as well she was shocked and now believes it was a UFO.

Jenny and her sister Angela, also 24, were travelling by car to a darts match when they saw two white lights and two red lights in the sky. They knew it could not have been a plane because it was too low in the sky, but they had no idea what else it could have been.

Said Jenny: "When I read the article in the Reporter I was shocked that someone else had seen it. It must have been some kind of UFO. I'm going to start looking out for them now."

The object was also seen by a Whiston woman at the same time. She saw it over a school field in Weyman Avenue near her home.

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

STAR, Harlow, England - Jan. 12, 1984 CR: T. Good

## Jason sees a big, blue, glowing UFO

A SCHOOLBOY claims he saw a UFO hovering above Harlow at midnight on Thursday.

Thirteen-year-old Jason, of the Morningtons, told the Star: "I was lying in bed, half asleep, when I heard a bang and a loud droning sound. I looked out of the window and at the back of

the Morningtons I saw a big blue saucer-shape in the sky about 200 metres above the houses.

"There was a glow all round it. Then it shot off towards Millwards and then over to Parn-don Wood."

Jason, who does not want to

be identified because of being teased by school friends, said he watched the UFO for about five minutes. He called his father, but by the time he went into Jason's bedroom the object had disappeared.

Jason says he is a great believer in UFOs though he knows many people would be

sceptical about his claims.

His mother said: "I heard a funny humming noise about midnight and Jason called his dad and said he'd seen a UFO. I've heard that several people in the area lost their electricity supply at around the same time and some people's TV aerials were affected."

# 'I felt a mixture of fear and excitement' MOTHER AND SON IN UFO SIGHTING

by MARK DOWNING

## UFO on Stansted flight path?

**TWO local men were mystified by a wierd sight in the sky last Wednesday night.**

The perplexed pair spotted a strange large shape up above the Harlow sky escorted by two aircraft — on the Stansted Airport flight path.

Michael Barham and his father David of Abbotswood, Harlow, immediately stopped the car and leapt out to get a look at the fascinating vision flying in formation in the sky.

Michael, a cellarman at the Playhouse, spoke later of his close encounter with space: "The aircraft were lighted, but the strange shape sandwiched between them was not."

"The planes seemed to be in formation — and they were flying quite fast. There were flying very low, speeding across the sky towards Stansted."

"In the middle was the mysterious black blob."

In only a few seconds the unidentified flying object and the planes had disappeared.

When he got home, Michael contacted Stansted Airport to find out what the peculiar plane was ... but they said they knew nothing about it. Michael thinks the odd ob-

ject could have been a UFO from outer space, and wants to know if anyone else spotted the bizarre phenomenon in the sky last Wednesday night.

If so, give us a call at the Gazette. We're waiting to hear from you ...

DAILY NEWS, Perth, W.A., Australia  
Jan. 20, 1984 CR: M. Heelas

## Eerie light stuns police

They were startled by a bright flash of white light that appeared to be inside the van with them. Seconds later there was another flash.

Constable Fleskens, who was the passenger, began to search the van and had his head down when Constable Moffitt shouted out to him.

He told his superior that he had seen a large green and white light hovering for seconds above Midland. By the time Constable Fleskens looked it had gone.

It is believed that the police radio in the van failed at the time.

Officers with the communications headquarters in Perth said they could not raise the constables for some time.

They were trying to direct them to the home of Mr Sidney Bell, in Bishop Road, who had reported a frightening sighting behind his home.

Still shaking from his experience, and unable to get back to sleep, Mr Bell described what he saw.

"All of a sudden I woke to see two forks of light come out of the sky," he said.

"Then in the middle there appeared a huge green, white and blue light—about 30m high and tapered to a point at the top. "The thing was sitting on the ground on a base which was about 6m wide.

"An alsatian dog over the road began crying as if it had been hit by a car."

Police checks with the SEC, weather bureau, Perth airport and the RAAF base at Pearce have revealed no likely cause for the phenomenon.

Three men, including two policemen, had a strange encounter with eerie lights hovering in the sky early today.

One of two policemen in a van on patrol saw a large green and white light hovering above Midland.

He saw it seconds after two bright flashes of light in the cab of the vehicle in which they were travelling.

About the same time Mr Sidney Bell of Middle Swan said he saw a giant cone-shaped green, white and blue light in his backyard.

Another policeman who lives in Midvale said he woke up for no apparent reason to find his clock radio had stopped at the time of the other sightings — just after 3am.

Constables Tim Moffitt and Mark Fleskens, both from the Midland station, were travelling north on the Roe Highway near Hazelmere.

**A WOMAN and her teenage son were "dumbstruck" when they were confronted by what they are convinced was a spaceship.**

"Honest to God it was a spaceship there," Mrs. Cathy Harris (35) told the "News."

Mrs. Harris described how she and her son Paul (13) left their home in Winchester Road, Ash, to walk to a nearby video shop at 6 p.m. last Tuesday.

"I caught up with him and he was standing there dumbstruck," she recalled. "He said, 'look' ... and there it was."

She said the electric blue craft was cigar-shaped with three or four hatches.

"I am not telling a lie," she added. "I have never seen anything like it."

After hovering over Shawfield First School, it headed towards Guildford, said Mrs. Harris, a part-time school cleaner.

"I felt a mixture of fear and excitement at the same time," she added.

She said the craft made no noise.

Now Mrs. Harris has contacted Mr. Omar Fowler, a local UFO expert, about the incident.

He has dealt with a spate of sightings from the Aldershot area in recent weeks.

### Visitors

After meeting Mrs. Harris he said: "It does seem to be an authentic report."

The sighting had much in common with established classes of unidentified flying objects.

Mr. Fowler would like to hear from anyone else who may have seen the object which was about the size of a double-decker bus.

He will be compiling a report for the UFO Studies Centre in Illinois, USA.

Mr. Fowler has paid a return visit to Mr. Alfred Burtoo in Pegasus Avenue, Aldershot, the pensioner who reported meeting visitors from outer space on the banks of the Basingstoke Canal last year.

"Mr. Burtoo has lost a bit of weight and he's not sleeping at nights," Mr. Fowler said. "The experience is preying on his mind."

## Puzzle over light

A STRANGE light spotted over Midland yesterday will be investigated by the Perth UFO research group.

The light was seen at 3am yesterday by two policemen and a Middle Swan resident.

It has baffled the State Energy Commission, the Weather Bureau and the RAAF base at Pearce.

It was spotted by Constables Tim Moffitt and Mark Fleskens as they were driving north along Roe Highway towards Midland.

Constable Moffitt said that the car was approaching a floodlit intersection when he saw a big flash on the horizon that resembled a sunburst or sunrise.

The light vanished after two seconds. Constable Moffitt said that the lights flashed on and off, as if there was a power surge.

Sidney Bell, of Bishop Road, Middle Swan, was looking out over his backyard at 3am when he saw two streaks of fork lightning.

"Next minute this huge green, blue and white light appeared at the end of the garden," he said.

George Hume, the acting president of the UFO research group, said that the lights might have been remote control devices sent out by a UFO.

WEST AUSTRALIAN, Perth, W.A., Australia - Jan. 21, 1984 CR: M. Heelas

## UFO sightings probe

A 13-year-old South Humberside newspaper delivery boy got a surprise on his round early today — when he believed he had spotted an unidentified flying object.

Michael Dable of 35 Cumberland Road was out around 7.30 am in Whitehall Road.

His attention was caught by what he described as a round object, slightly smaller than a plane which was "hovering" in a cloud.

Michael immediately telephoned Cleethorpes police to report the sighting and they launched an investigation.

A police officer with a keen interest in aircraft discovered that only minutes before Michael's call, four aircraft had been in that area — a Boeing 747 and three A10 Thunderbolt American military planes. However, the police have passed Michael's report on to RAF Binbrook.

EVENING TELEGRAPH, Grimsby, England - Dec. 30, 1983

HANSARD (House of Commons Report), London, England - March 1, 1984 CR: T. Good

### Unidentified Flying Objects

Sir Patrick Wall asked the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many alleged landings by unidentified flying objects have been made in 1980, 1981, 1982 and 1983, respectively; and how many have been investigated by his Department's personnel;

(2) how many unexplained sightings there have been in 1980, 1981, 1982 and 1983, respectively; and which of these had been traced by radar and with what result.

Mr. Lee [pursuant to his reply, 9 March 1984, c. 728]: For the years in question, the Ministry of Defence received the following numbers of reports of sightings of flying objects which the observer could not identify: 350, 600, 250, and 390. Reports of alleged landings are not separately identified. The Department was satisfied that none of these reports was of any defence significance and, in such cases, does not maintain records of the extent of its investigations.



# It's official: there are UFOs

by MARTIN BAILEY

**THERE are Unidentified Flying Objects.** That's official: the Ministry of Defence has finally come clean.

Copies of 16 reports on sightings over Wales have been sent by the MoD to the British UFO Research Association.

If it's only a small step forward for Whitehall—which stresses that there is no suggestion they come from outer space—it's a giant leap for the hitherto-ridiculed alien craft watchers.

Until now, the Government had always refused to release details of UFO incidents passed to it. Six years ago, the Earl of Clancarty—who founded the UFO group in the House of Lords—did launch a debate, but then the government line was that it was not prepared to release information.

Now, following more pressure from the Lords, the MoD has finally relented. A ministry spokesman confirmed yesterday that the department was now willing 'to consider providing reports on specific incidents to serious inquirers.'

The Observer has been given a copy of the first list of 'sightings' and has looked into a typical incident which figures in the Ministry of Defence documents.

At 9 p.m. on 14 September 1982, David Mason, a 32-year-old printer, was watching television when he saw a bright light from the window of his Cwmbran home. He called his wife Angela, and together they went outside into the back garden.

Mr Mason said the light was 'as bright as the sun and about half the size of the moon.' The couple watched for 15 minutes as it hovered more than a mile away, just above a hill range that surrounds the town. The white light then sped off northwards along the ridge at speed and disappeared.

The Masons called the police and two officers arrived to record details of the UFO sighting. This was the last contact that the couple were to



Photograph by BEN GIBSON

**Looking up:** Cwmbran UFO spotters Angela and David Mason and their son Paul re-enact their experience.

have with officials over the case.

The police report into the Cwmbran incident was forwarded to the Ministry of Defence in London, where operational staff in the air division examined the case. An MoD spokesman said that following these inquiries, 'we are satisfied that there were no defence implications.'

Mr Mason says he was surprised not to have had any further inquiries from officials. 'I do not understand how the Ministry of Defence could have investigated the case without contacting me with further queries.'

## Unusual cloud formations

The Cwmbran sighting is typical of the hundreds of UFO reports which reach the Ministry of Defence every year. Some incidents are reported directly by members of the public, but most come via police, airport authorities and armed forces.

Only a proportion of total British sightings filter through officialdom and ultimately reach the MoD. The numbers fluctuate considerably, and between 1978 and 1983 they

amounted yearly to 750, 550, 350, 600, 250 and 390.

Mrs Jenny Randles, investigation director of the UFO research association, said that crucial information was still missing from the government reports. The final sections, containing the results of the MoD's own investigations, had been excised.

The ministry says it is not concerned with what UFOs are—only to ensure that they do not have any 'defence implications.' In practice, this means that the main question which interests the MoD is whether they are hostile aircraft.

It emphasises that many UFO sightings could be caused by 'satellite debris, ball lightning, unusual cloud formations, balloons or aircraft.' The spokesman added: 'There is no evidence that alien spacecraft have landed on the planet.'

Other cases covered in the MoD reports include an incident on 20 September 1982 when a 'beam of green light' was seen near Abergavenny and a 'cottage-loaf shape with bright porthole lights and a pulsating red light beneath' near Caerleon.

Four sightings which were made within a couple of miles were reported on 30 September

the same year during a one-hour period. These included 'two white flashing circular objects' (Pontypool), a 'white/blue flashing light' (Pontnewydd), a 'bright blue light' (Cwmbran) and a 'narrow green band

of light' (Pontypool). Nine incidents were reported on 19 January 1983 between 5.30 and 7.45 p.m. in the Swansea area. This unusual flurry of UFO sightings included a 'very large elongated shape with two pulsating white lights at front and

yellowish steady lights at rear,' an object which was 'very large, possibly saucer-shaped, four or five lights flashing in rotation' and 'one object split into two parts—three white lights at front and three at back, massive in size, oblong in shape.'

TRUTH, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia - March 3, 1984

# Valentich in missile claim

**PILOT Frederick Valentich, the centre of UFO speculation since he went missing five years ago, may have been blasted out of the sky in a secret**

**US weapons test.**

By ADRIAN TAME

CR: P. Norman

This is the latest theory in a mystery which has baffled scientists since Valentich and his light aircraft disappeared over Bass Strait.

A leading American scientist puts forward the theory in an unpublished book, written 18 months ago.

'I haven't been able to find a publisher, and the reason could have something to do with my theory,' Dr Richard Haines said.

## Half

Dr Haines is a Ph D and research scientist consultant at the Centre for UFO Studies in Evanston, Illinois, and has published two highly-respected books on UFOs.

The first half of his unpublished book on Valentich is a minute-by-minute breakdown of the young pilot's last day, on October 21, 1978.

The second section details four theories Dr

Haines puts forward for the disappearance.

One of these claims Valentich's Cessna could have been hit during a missile test.

'My theory is that it was an American test, carried out from one of our defence bases within Australia,' Dr Haines said.

Mr Guido Valentich, Frederick's father, said he could have evidence to support Dr Haines' theory.

'We received an anonymous phone call at home three years after Frederick disappeared,' he said.

'The caller said Frederick had been blown up in a weapons test from Pine Gap or somewhere similar.'

Minutes before Frederick disappeared on a flight from Moorabbin to King Island he contacted flight service at Tullamarine and reported a 'shiny, metallic object hovering over him.'

STANDARD, Warrnambool, Victoria, Australia - March 8, 1984 CR: P. Norman

# District evidence in UFO group display

Evidence gained from the Warrnambool district about the mystery disappearance of 20-year-old pilot Frederick Valentich in 1978 will be put on public exhibition on Saturday.

The Victorian UFO Research Society has organised a Melbourne

display of photographs, reports and other information about reported sightings of UFOs. Information about missing people whose disappearance is believed to be associated with UFOs will also be displayed.

Vice-president of the research society Mr Paul Norman said information gained from seven people in the Warrnambool area

shortly after Valentich's disappearance over Bass Strait would be included in the display.

Two people had come forward with eye-witness accounts of the UFO reported in Valentich's case, Mr Norman said.

He said a number of people in the Warrnambool area were awoken by a loud noise on October 21, 1978.

The radio in Valentich's single-engine Cessna 182 cut out seconds after he told air traffic controllers a large object hovering

above him was 'not an aircraft'.

An air and sea search between King Island and the Victorian coast failed to find any trace of the missing plane.

Mr Norman said Saturday's display would include a report from the Department of Transport—produced three and a half years after Valentich's plane vanished—which says the cause of the disappearance is unknown.

The display will be at the Royal Society Hall, 9 Victoria St, Melbourne from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m.

HALIFAX EVENING COURIER, Yorks., England  
March 9, 1984 CR: T. Good

## UFO seen

A 14-year-old Halifax girl claims to have seen an unidentified flying object in the sky over Bradshaw, Halifax.

Tracy Smith, of Green Lane, Bradshaw, says she saw the oval-shaped object hover for almost 15 minutes before disappearing on Tuesday night near her home. Tracy was with her friend Angela Lorrimer of Green Way, Bradshaw, when she saw the object.

Down-to-earth tricks that keep the Russians looking up

# KGB takes to the flying saucers!

FOR several years now, whole areas of the Soviet Union have been in the grip of "flying saucer" hysteria — and, according to American intelligence sources, it is all part of a plot to cover up military secrets.

In June, 1980, for example, a great crescent-shaped UFO streaked over the skies of central Russia, glowing bright red. It was seen by hundreds of thousands of people, many of whom panicked in the belief that American nuclear rockets were descending on them.

In the following days, the mysterious "thing" received a lot of Press coverage in the USSR. Some of the more way-out pseudo-scientific journals — of which there are quite a number in Russia — even hinted that aliens had been seen in the streets of Moscow and other Russian cities.

But it wasn't just the Russians who saw the strange object. An hour later it was sighted by people in Chile, Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay — still crescent-shaped, but apparently much smaller now and not glowing so brightly.

More important still, it was tracked by the big radars of the United States Air Defence Command —

and they showed it up for what it really was.

The thing that had terrified half the population of the central Soviet Union was nothing more than a Cosmos military reconnaissance satellite — or rather, the rocket that launched it.

## A brilliant crescent

The RD-107 booster rockets that launch Russia's military satellites consist of 20 rocket engines, strapped around a central body to provide the massive initial thrust and acceleration. Once this has been done, the boosters are jettisoned and stage two takes over, increasing the acceleration to orbital velocity.

When they are all firing together, the clusters of rocket motors that surround the launch vehicle's first stage

produce an odd effect. Instead of seeing the ribbon of fire that trails in the wake of America's space launchers, the observer on the ground sees a brilliant crescent-shaped flame pouring from the rocket exhausts as the launcher thunders into the sky.

This is what the Russians saw on that night in June, 1980, following the launch of a Cosmos satellite from Kapustin Yar, north of the Caspian Sea. The booster rocket's north-east trajectory, inclined at 71 degrees to the Equator, took it over Sverdlovsk and across the vast wastes of Siberia. What the peoples of South America saw, an hour later, was probably the second stage of the launch vehicle re-entering the atmosphere and burning up.

As a matter of routine, flying saucer scares are carefully fostered by the KGB to divert attention

from what is happening in so-called "sensitive areas".

For example, anything unusual seen in the skies around Sverdlovsk — a town barred to all foreign visitors because it is an important centre of missile production — is invariably put down to UFO activity.

## Stories of strange lights

In 1979, there were reports of intense UFO activity over the mountainous areas of Kazakhstan, north of Tashkent. There is a lot of nomadic movement in the region, and despite attempts by the Russians to seal off their southern frontier, tribesmen move freely through the mountains that separate the Soviet Union's southern republics from India and Pakistan.

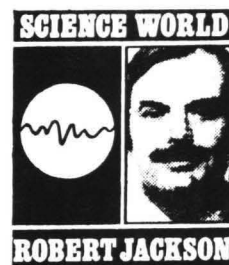
It was not long before stories of strange "lights in the sky" had spread

over a wide area and soon afterwards Soviet newspapers began to carry cautious tales of UFO sightings over Kazakhstan and its neighbouring republics. What was actually happening, however, was much more down-to-earth.

The mountains of southern Kazakhstan conceal one of the most top-secret military installations in the USSR. It is sited at Sarishagan and is cut off completely from the outside world.

There, within a giant scientific complex that includes 12 high-energy particle generators, the Russians are engaged in what the American Central Intelligence Agency has called Project Tora — the race to produce laser beam weapons capable of knocking out enemy satellites or the warheads of incoming missiles.

Whenever experiments were carried out, a mysterious glow could be



seen lighting up the sky for miles around. Because of the security blanket that surrounded Sarishagan, the Russians could afford to ignore any local speculation about what caused the glow — but when stories of what was going on at the complex began to spread farther afield, they invented a deliberate cover involving UFOs.

So flying saucers became part of the KGB's arsenal of deception, and the Russian security service received unexpected help from the Russian people themselves. The Russians love science; millions of them are science fiction addicts, and seize eagerly on anything that seems a little out of the ordinary.

So, even if the KGB-sponsored UFO reports don't fool all the people for even a fraction of the time, at least they help to brighten up some of the world's dullest newspapers.

PIX-PEOPLE, Sydney, N.S.W., Australia - March 19, 1984 CR: M. Heelas

## The Pinkney Report

INVESTIGATING THE INCREDIBLE

By JOHN PINKNEY

# Mark, 13, fights off alien kidnappers

PERTH schoolboy claims that ugly alien beings tried to drag him from a tent on the front lawn of his parents' home.

While Mark Davies, 13, of Midland, had his brush with the unknown, Mr and Mrs Sidney Bell, who live only two streets away, were alarmed by a huge green and white cone, hovering over their garden.

The strange encounters came at the peak of a 12-hour UFO scare in January.

The flying saucer flap involved dozens of Perth families whose digital clocks stopped and car engines, refrigerators and ovens failed.

A police van cruising near the scene had a radio blackout. The patrolmen, Constables Tim Moffit and Mark Fleskens, later reported that an eerie white light had appeared inside the van, behind the driver's seat.

For Mark Davies, the ordeal began about an hour after he had bedded down for the night in a makeshift tent on the front lawn of his parents' house.

"Mark's still in shock," his mother Eileen told me. "After that first night, when he rushed into the house screaming, he's clammed up completely and refuses to discuss it further."

"It was a hot, sticky night. Mark had asked if he could sleep outside, so we rigged up a rough tent for him with old sheets and steel posts."

"Soon after midnight, he burst into the bedroom, screaming. He told me and my husband, Malcolm, that horribly ugly beings with guns, had been trying to tear off his blankets and drag him from bed."

"At that moment we knew nothing of the UFOs appearing right then in the district — we

naturally assumed Mark had been having nightmares. But it was impossible to calm him down.

"First I tried putting him in his own bedroom, but he screamed so much I finally brought him into bed with me."

"I noticed the clock radio had stopped. Next morning I discovered that the fridge had shut off, too."

"At about 1am, Mark seemed to be getting worse. He was shaking so violently and so much saliva was running from his mouth, I finally presumed something on the lawn had bitten him."

"We took Mark to a doctor, who told us it was probably a touch of the sun. But when he examined Mark, he was puzzled by a large red scratch on his stomach."

"When the doctor asked how he'd come by that, Mark replied that it was where the creature had clawed him during his struggle."

"We accepted the doctor's sunstroke theory until the next day, when the radio news was full of reports of strange lights over our suburb."

"We then started questioning Mark more seriously about what had happened — but he totally refused to communicate."

"He burst into tears, saying the creatures would take his 12-year-old brother Kevin if he said any more."

That same night of the alleged kidnap attempt, police were called to the house of artist Sidney Bell, two streets behind the Davies' house.

"I woke to see two forks of light coming out of the sky," he said.

"Then, in the middle, there appeared a huge green, white and blue light, about 30 metres



Aliens couldn't drag Mark from his parents, Mal and Eileen.

high and tapered to a point at the top.

"The thing was sitting on the ground, on a base about 6 metres wide. An alsatian over the road began moaning, as though it had been hit by a car."

Constable Moffit, 23, was assigned to investigate — and he, too, saw the cone of light. Travelling north along the Roe Highway, he shouted to his officer Constable Fleskens, 21, that he had spotted the extraordinary object hovering above Midland.

"A bright flash of white light then appeared inside the van," Const Fleskens said.

I understand that, after the flash, the police van's radio failed — severing their contact with the Perth communications centre.

Theirs wasn't the only equipment breakdown on Perth's night of the UFOs.

Mark Heelas, director of WA's UFO Investigation Centre, told me: "Many people in the suburb say their digital clocks (even those with battery backup) went off during the sighting."

"The remarkable thing was that all the clocks came back on several minutes later, showing the correct time, instead of flashing 12."

One woman told Heelas she religiously unplugs her microwave oven every night in case there's a power surge. During the sightings, the unplugged oven switched itself on.

"The UFO seems to have emitted some kind of force," Heelas said. "During the time it was seen, a fence was pushed over and two trees were bent to a 45-degree angle."

● Mark Davies is not the first witness to describe an attempted abduction by clawed creatures.

During the 1970s, two fishermen in Pascagoula, Mississippi claimed that beings with talons had wafted them aboard a hovering flying saucer. Hypnotists and lie detector experts were unable to shake the men's story.

REPORTER (City Unknown), W.A., Australia - Jan. 24, 1984

## UFO over Midland

Investigations are in progress following several reported sightings of a mysterious light in the sky over Midland last week.

Mr Sid Bell, of Bishop Road, Middle Swan reported seeing a strange light hovering in the sky about 3.00am last Friday morning.

Sightings Co-ordinator of the W.A. U.F.O. Investigations Centre, Mike Borley, of Greenmount, said he has since received five more reports of similar sightings on the same night.

CR: M. Heelas

He said two police officers also saw the light at the same time as Mr Bell.

Perth police headquarters were unable to contact the police in the mobile unit, Mr Borley said, because all communications were out for seven to ten minutes.

Mr Borley said his investigator was to see Mr Bell this week.

Two Coolbellup families have also reported an incident which happened about 2.30am the same night.

They said they saw what they thought was an electrical discharge like static lightning caused by a tree touching nearby overhead high tension cables.

"But taking into account the still, dry weather conditions at the time, it seems unlikely that a tree could blow into a cable," Mr Borley said.

"But if it had, the tree would have burst into flames, and neither family saw any fire."

## UFO sighting

A HEBDEN Bridge disc jockey claims to have seen an unidentified flying object for the second time in three weeks.

Mr David Redman said at 1.15 am, on Saturday, he was about to drive his van away from the car park of the Shoulder of Mutton Inn, Blackshaw Head, where he had been playing, when he saw the UFO.

"There were two bright lights at a height of 100 yards moving over the houses across Burnley Road. I got out of the van thinking it might be a helicopter or an aeroplane."

"But there was no noise. It was eerie, but I was not scared. The lights did a 'U' and travelled over the car park and disappeared in clouds in the direction of Todmorden. My mate Ian, who was in the van also saw the UFO," he said.

"I saw a similar object when I arrived at my home in Heptonstall after a late night disco three weeks ago. It is very strange," said Mr Redman.

DAILY TELEGRAPH, Manchester, England  
March 7, 1984 CR: T. Good

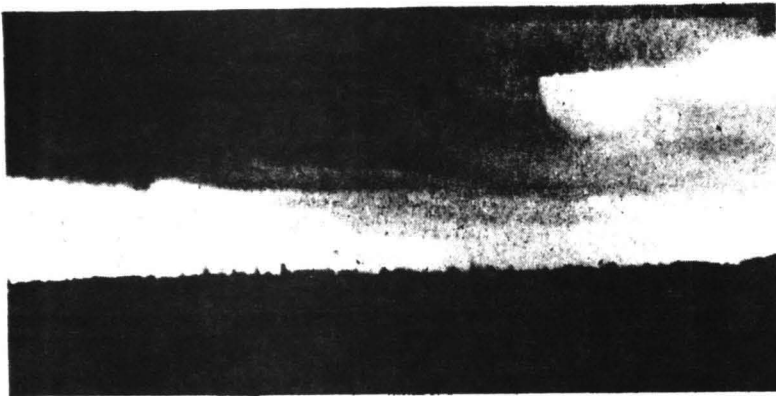
## UFO SIGHTING

By Our Staff Correspondent in Peking

People living in China's Shen-zhen economic zone have reported seeing an unidentified flying object circling the area on March 3. It was described as a dazzling light "shining like gold" but emitting no sound.

HALIFAX EVENING COURIER, Yorks., England  
March 6, 1984 CR: T. Good





**Mysterious object in Lansdowne**

This unusual picture of a field at Ralph Smith's farm, north of Lansdowne, was taken in October, 1979 and some local residents think it is just one of many unknown objects spotted in the area over the years. — McCullough

# Unexplained sightings mystify area residents

A number of unexplained sightings of mysterious objects in the farm fields north of Lansdowne over the past years have left some residents wondering just what kind of things are happening in their backyards.

A number of residents in the area claim to have seen flying objects, which have not, and perhaps cannot, be explained away by traditional science.

And many other residents believe them. For Phillip Blancher, a 68-year-old who has farmed a 132-acre piece of land north of

Lansdowne village for the last 19 years, the unusual events started last November.

On the night of November 5, he was sitting in his kitchen with his wife at about 10 when they heard a thumping noise and saw their furniture vibrate.

Four neighbors later told him they had seen a "terrible explosion of lights" in his field. The police said they received a number of reports of the incident. Many residents said they were frightened.

At the time, Gananoque OPP dismissed the events as part of a fireworks display put on in a nearby field by a group of partiers celebrating the British holiday, Guy Fawkes Day.

But Mr. Blancher and other residents are still not sure of that explanation.

"They watched it at Watertown, so it certainly wasn't any fireworks that they could see from Watertown," said Mr. Blancher.

Donald Horton, who has lived on a farm northeast of the Blancher's since 1935, was one who saw the brightly-lit object that night.

"So bright you couldn't even look at it," said Mr. Horton, in a recent interview.

"Then it took off, right down east, that's the last I saw of it. I don't know what they were."

And that wasn't the first time for such an occurrence for his family.

Last July, his daughter saw a similar brightly-lit object flying in the fields, and did not know what it was, he said.

Sixteen years ago Mr. and Mrs. Blancher saw something which they could not explain also.

"Something landed down here in what they call the pond. It burnt up I think because there was a tremendous bright glare from it," said Mr. Blancher.

He said numerous people have spoken to him about similar sightings but are afraid to come forward.

"There's a lot of people come and say they've seen them but they don't want their names given because of what people say to them."

He said since his name was in the newspapers after the incident last fall, he has been harassed on the street and by telephone.

"We wish we had never reported it," he said.

Perhaps Mr. Blancher would be willing to forget the episode, except for another interesting aspect of the tale.

Another neighbor, Ralph Smith, who has lived all his life on a farm north of Lansdowne, has pictures of what appears to be an unexplainable object in the sky.

The pictures were taken of Mr. Smith's field and show a bright, round object in the clouds surrounded by a glowing ring. There appears to be three knobs at the top of the object.

However, Mr. Smith said he did not see the object in the photograph until after it returned from being processed at a photography store.

Although he does not believe the object is a space ship, he is at a loss to explain its appearance.

"It wasn't trick photography on my part. I have to think it was some object reflected," said Mr. Smith.

But the mystery continues for some.

None of the residents interviewed said they were afraid of the unknown objects, but neither are they sure just what is happening.

All they know is what their eyes see.

REPORTER, Gananoque, Ontario, Canada

Feb. 15, 1984

## Cwmbran couple tell of mystery object in sky

### UFOs over Gwent—but no little green men!

The Ministry of Defence have admitted for the first time that UFOs have flown over Gwent.

The government have previously refused to comment on UFO sightings, including the claim by a Cwmbran couple that they saw a mystery object flying over a mountain near their home.

The MoD have at last made public a number of reports referring to sightings in Gwent. And in each case they have added their own conclusion that whatever was seen "had no defence implications."

A spokesman was at pains to make it clear they are not saying they believe in "close encounters"—style little green men. Just that some sightings could not be explained.

"There is no evidence that an alien spacecraft has visited or landed on this planet," he said.

He said as long as officials were happy there was no threat to the country's defence, the MoD was not interested in investigating sightings any further.

Mrs Jenny Randles, investigation director of the British UFO Research Association, says the move does not take mat-

ters very far.

She complained that while the MoD dismissed all sightings as "no threat", they did not release any details of their own investigations.

The Cwmbran couple, printer David Mason, 32, and his wife Angela, of Gileston Walk, St Dials, think the men from the ministry may have something to hide.

"They said what we saw was not a Ministry of Defence vehicle," said Mr Mason. "But I am sure they know more about it than that. It might not be from outer space, but there was definitely something—it could have been from another country, or a top secret new aircraft."

He said the UFO, which they spotted hovering and then flying along a mountain visible from their back door 18 months ago, was larger than a house, disc-shaped with a huge light on it.

They saw it for 15 minutes hovering 100ft above trees on the mountain.

Details of other reported sightings have also been released including lights and "spacecraft" over Abergavenny, Pontypool, Pontnewydd, Cwmbran and Caerleon in recent years.



David and Angela Mason with a rough drawing of their UFO sighting

## Maureen baffled by bright lights

THE bright lights held no attraction for UFO sceptic Mrs Maureen Kilgallon until she took a late night drive on Sunday.

For it was while driving home from a visit to friends in Giggleswick on Sunday that Maureen and her son, Mark, saw something they thought impossible . . . a UFO.

By  
**ANN MUNDY**

"It was around 10 pm and a very clear night", said Maureen of Windermere Road, Carnforth.

"I was driving home when I noticed a very bright light hovering in the sky, then it suddenly shot off across the sky and disappeared. My son saw it too."

Maureen who says she was a sceptic when it came to unidentified flying objects, wanted to find out more.

"The light was very bright, like magnesium. I know it wasn't a plane because the object was very still for quite a while before shooting across the sky and vanishing."

Maureen was so disturbed

she rang the police when she reached home and they suggested a nearby school might have been carrying out an experiment.

"I didn't let it rest, though my family thought I was barmy," said Maureen who rang the school next day and was told they knew of no experiments.

"I didn't believe in UFOs at all before this, now I want to find out more," she added.

"Since this has happened its surprising how many other friends and acquaintances have said they have seen similar things. I think most people keep quiet because they feel embarrassed to admit it."

Maureen wants to hear from any readers who know of a group or body who collect information about sightings. "It was an odd experience and it must be of use to someone," Maureen said.

GUARDIAN, Morecambe, England

March 23, 1984 CR: T. Good

## Official help for the great UFO hunt

UFO watchers will soon have some official help in discovering more about those strange lights in the sky.

The Ministry of Defence's reports of unexplained phenomena are to be declassified and released to the public.

The move means a lot to the British UFO Research Association which has been fighting for access to Ministry records for years.

The association has already received details of eight sightings in South Wales but has been unable to get any help over an incident in 1980 when a large triangular object was seen in a forest near RAF Woodbridge in Suffolk leaving holes in the ground and traces of radiation.

# 'CONTACTED'— AND THE ILLNESSES BEGAN

**A** SEAFORD (Vic) grandmother claims that illnesses and allergies have racked her body since the night a UFO beamed blue light into her bedroom.

Mrs Dell Bunyard, 65, told me: "It happened in 1956. My husband Arthur and I were woken from sleep by what we first thought was a plane taking an extraordinarily long time to pass over our house.

"But then, the room was suddenly flooded with brilliant blue light — and we assumed some kind of helicopter was hovering outside.

"We were too scared to investigate — and the incident remained a mystery to us until the next day.

"It was then I met an old friend, a railway guard, who said he'd seen a UFO at 1.30am — exactly the time we'd been woken.

"He said the thing had spun above him like a top — and sent down a beam of blue light, which made him feel extremely sick."

(The day after the sighting, the Melbourne Sun published a photograph of a large circle of burned grass near the railway station.)

"Until that morning, my friend and I had both been healthy people," said Mrs Bunyard.

"Now we're crocks. My friend has had 12 operations — one for a serious bowel complaint which I've now got, too.

"Shortly after the UFO incident, I developed allergies that no medicine will clear up."

Mrs Bunyard's doctor has confirmed that she is now allergic to a broad range of substances, ranging from antibiotics and aspirin to eggs, pineapple, pork, lettuce, tomatoes, alcohol, flowers and rubber. Her husband, Arthur, seems to have been unaffected.

The Bunyards say they have had five other sightings since 1956.

On one occasion (December 21, 1981) she was able to take a blurry photo.

"It was about 10.30pm," she said. "We'd just got home and were putting the car away when we saw a light over the house.

"I rushed inside for the binoculars — and the light was so bright it lit them up, as though someone was shining a torch in my face.

"The thing was orange and

## The Pinkney Report

INVESTIGATING THE INCREDIBLE

By JOHN PINKNEY

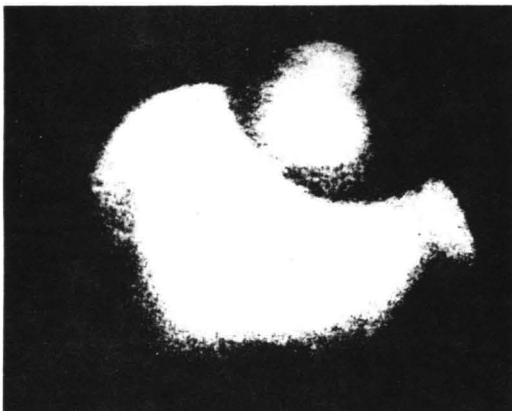


Arthur and Dell Bunyard: blue light started her sickness.

circular, with black, pulsating holes — and I got a shot of it with my instamatic, just as it was moving off.

"But the strangest sighting

was in May 1983, just after the UFOs were seen over Bendigo. I felt as though some force was drawing me magnetically outside.



The UFO sighted by a French teenager in November, 1974 (above). Dell sees a remarkable similarity in her shot (left).

"When I got into the garden, I saw an object formed from coloured rings spinning inside other rings.

"Kerrie, my 23-year-old granddaughter, said it looked just like a time-tunnel from TV."

● Dell Bunyard is not the first witness to become ill after a UFO encounter. Investigators in the US have studied dozens of cases in which "contactees" have suffered from hair loss, severe blistering and a nauseous illness whose symptoms resemble radiation sickness.

CAMBERLEY NEWS, Surrey, England

Feb. 3, 1984 CR: T. Good

A LOCAL UFO expert is calling in outside help following a spate of mysterious sightings in the night sky. He is convinced that the area is the centre of attention for alien beings from outer space.

There have been so many sightings recently that Mr. Omar Fowler has contacted Britain's leading lecturer on the subject, Mr. Timothy Good.

"It is important that we log all the information as quickly

as we can and I have called him in to help with interviewing the people who have reported sightings," said Mr. Fowler.

### Power

"Our theory that we are in the middle of a period of intense UFO activity has certainly been confirmed during the past two weeks."

Numerous sightings of unusual objects in the sky have

been reported in the "News." Three more calls were received this week.

Mr. Samuel Malaband, of Grove Farm, Mychett, was driving along the M3 towards Frimley when he saw a "huge, oval shape" which was giving off an aura of colour.

He said it was blue/grey in colour and travelling across the sky at an extremely fast rate.

What was even more strange was that about eight minutes afterwards he lost all

power in his car. The lights went off and the radio emitted a loud hum.

"I had the car serviced the next day and there was absolutely no fault with the electrical system," said Mr. Malaband.

"I don't know what it was in the sky but it certainly wasn't an aeroplane or a shooting star."

"I do not believe we are the only people in the universe and I definitely saw some-

thing I had never before seen in my life."

### Startling

Mrs. Lilian Warren and Mrs. Eileen Dawson were driving along the M3 near Fleet when they experienced their close encounter.

"They could not believe their eyes when they saw a large, strange object surrounded by five little ones."

They were stationary and ringed by panels of light. After a while, the lights went out and the objects disappeared.

"It was really startling," said Mrs. Dawson, of Albert Road, Aldershot. "I have never seen anything like it."

"People think I'm mad but I don't care if they laugh. I know what I saw and I believe it was a UFO. It looked just like these little objects were guarding the mother ship."

Mrs. Warren, who runs a newsagents in Aldershot High Street, says she has always been sceptical about UFOs.

"Even now I've seen one find it hard to believe, but I was certainly very strange."

The third report came from Mr. David Barlow, of St. Andrew's Way, Frimley, who says he saw an unusual object in the sky over the town which looked like a "very, very big star with aero plane landing lights."

## Strike a light — It's another UFO!

A MAN 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."

YATELEY NEWS, Hants., England

Feb. 21, 1984

## The right time and place . . .

IN REPLY to John Kay's comment of February 14, may I say that spotting of UFOs is not a popular pastime . . . it just happens to persons who are in the right place at the right time, and I have yet to hear of someone having had a second sighting.

I, as the person involved in the canal bank encounter at Aldershot, will say that I am sure that other people did see that bright light in the early hours of August 12, last year.

But, due to a Government cover up, the full facts of that encounter have not been disclosed.

I do not claim to be an expert on this subject, but am ready at any time to talk to anyone who might be interested in this subject.

And please note . . . I have stood by the courage of my convictions and entered my name and address. — Alfred J. Burto, Pegasus Avenue, North Town, Aldershot.

Area 'may be focus for alien beings'



# Paul's encounters of the UFO kind

DAILY POST, Liverpool, England  
Feb. 23, 1984

A SCHOOLBOY has been delving into strange happenings around Wrexham.

His investigation reveals a series of sightings of UFOs.

Paul Reed (16), of Berwyn Drive, Marchwell, Wrexham, has been fascinated by the unexplained since he discovered a book on UFOs about four years ago.

So he decided to write an article on his pet subject for his school newspaper.

And when he came to interview fellow pupils at Bryn Offa High School, Wrexham, an uncanny story unfolded.

He discovered a pattern of close encounters around Minera Mountain.

Children and their parents related stories of seeing

brightly lit 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 is more likely they do exist than they don't."

"I try to keep an open mind but the stories I heard suggest we are being watched by an alien force."

"Who knows why they should choose this area. Perhaps it is because this is one of the highest places around and quite deserted so the UFOs might run a lesser risk of being spotted while they can watch the surrounding area even from the ground."



Paul on his watch at Minera Mountain near Wrexham.

## View of UFOs too light

Your reporter James Rusk's article *Rage in 1950s, UFO Sighting Just Faded Away* (Jan. 21) seems to have been a little late in discovering that the National Archives contain the Defence Department's files on UFOs. The files were placed in the archives a year ago.

The person who wrote your editorial headed *Your Unidentification Papers, Please* (Jan. 28) preferred to quote an unnamed Pentagon spokesman concerning the lawsuit against the U.S. Air Force seeking to have them release the remains of humanoids being secretly held. If the editorial writer had bothered to read the court decision, he would have found that the reasons for dismissing the suit were that "the writ was not properly filed because (1) it does not

pertain to bodies of extraterrestrials, and (2) the plaintiff was not personally harmed by the government's failure to produce such items." The Pentagon spokesman misquoted a legal document. The Globe failed to do proper reporting in order to make a humorous point in a matter which is rather serious.

Your editorial writer also failed to point out that the members of the so-called citizens group which launched the lawsuit work for such agencies as NASA and the Pentagon. Indeed, Larry Bryant works in the Pentagon and is a veteran officer of the U.S. military forces.

Lawrence J. Fenwick  
Canadian UFO Research  
Network  
Willowdale, Ont.

BOREHAMWOOD & ELSTREE POST, England  
March 22, 1984 CR: T. Good

## UFO mystery

DID Borehamwood have a visitor from another world last week?

Mr Arthur Clowes, 67, of Alexandra Road, Well End, spotted what he thought was an unusually bright star from his living room window at 9.16 pm on March 12.

"I thought it was a star, but it suddenly got bigger and then shot over my house at incredible speed," he said.

"It made a sort of whooshing sound you could hardly hear, so I don't think it was an aircraft."

## TRANSLATIONS

CREDIT: Robert Girard

City and country of incident: Moscow, USSR

Date of incident: ?

Name of paper and date of clip: EL TELEGRAFO, February 23, 1984

City and country of newspaper: Guayaquil, Ecuador

### TINY EXTRATERRESTRIAL MAY HAVE BEEN ALIVE IN MOSCOW

Madrid (AFP). - An extraterrestrial child was alive for three months in Moscow, according to the magazine "Lecturas," after being found in a metallic capsule.

The article described how the baby, which was male, had purple pupils surrounded by shades of violet, and lacked eyelashes and eyebrows. It also had membranes between the fingers and toes.

It said that at first glance he appeared like a human being, and that his soft and measured respiration gave the impression that he was sleeping peacefully.

According to the report, during his three-month stay on Earth, he was fed normally and never cried. He appeared to be about one year old, weighed 11½ kilograms and was 66 centimeters tall. He did not close his eyes, not even to sleep.

The story went on to reveal that little Kosmik, as he was called, was baptized by the medical team caring for him. He traveled in an oval-shaped metal capsule 1½ meters long, with small landing feet and a hermetically-sealed door.

The story ended when an infection took the life of this space visitor, who seemed to make his escape from a troubled planet, as we humans have imagined in films.

CREDIT: Daniela Giordano

City and country of incident: Alava, Italy

Date of incident: January 19, 1984

Name of paper and date of clip: IL GIORNALE D'ITALIA, January 21, 1984

City and country of newspaper: (City Unknown), Italy

### FOR YEARS, EXTRATERRESTRIALS LIVE AMONG US

Vittoria - Extraterrestrials have been coming and going for many years and they have been communicating on a regular basis with our scientists and observers of the subject. This is the surprising statement by a Spanish ufologist, Luis Jimenez Marhuenda, made during a meeting concerning flying saucers and their mysterious passengers, held in Vittoria. To confirm the validity of this statement, a UFO hovered over Alava Thursday night. The UFO was traditionally shaped, a disc with a cupola on top of it. The unidentified object ("OVNI," in the Italian ufologist literature) hovered in the sky of Alava for an amount of time sufficient to have pictures taken. The meeting of yesterday could not have had a more dignified ending.

Let's go back to the statements made by Jimenez Marhuenda concerning alien visits. According to the Spanish expert, aliens continue to come to Earth from their planet "Ummo," which is 12 light years away from our solar system. They began coming over three decades ago. The ufologist has taken advantage of this occasion to clarify once and for all how wrong is the public opinion which pictures aliens as being midgets or giants, having a monstrous look, with green skin (some people said they ran into them and described them in this fashion). Nothing like it. Extraterrestrials, at least the people who have come from Ummo, don't look like E.T., star of the science-fiction movie who has amused children and adults. They could possibly have a human resemblance, and more specifically, they would look like populations of the north.

According to the Spanish ufologist, they visited our planet in 1950. They landed in the French Alps with their spaceship. Since then, they have explored practically all our civilization, secretly communicating with dozens of scientists and people involved in research all around our planet, especially

during the 1970's, Marhuenda said.

Obviously, the secret services of powerful countries are aware of the visits by these beings from another world and would pay gold to capture a model. Until now though, no matter how hard they've tried, they dug a hole in the water.

City and country of incident: Frosinone, Italy

Date of incident: ?

Name of paper and date of clip: PAESE SERA, January 27, 1984

City and country of newspaper: Rome, Italy

### THREE UFOs, BIG AND BRIGHT, SEEN AT SUNRISE by Enrico Franco

Frosinone, 27 - This time there were three in a perfect triangular formation. Three mysterious objects, three "UFO" like three huge spheres. A little earlier than 6:00 a.m., just before sunrise, they were seen on the hills along Anticolana road which connects Frosinone to Fregene. A lot of people observed the phenomenon which emitted a dazzling bright light. The witnesses included nearly all the workers who come to Rome to work and who catch the train at Anagni station.

Accountant Giorgio Pacetti, 50, employed at Italcable of Rome, lives at Fregene, a small town near Fregene, famous for its wine. He was waiting together with other residents on the Anticolana road. "Suddenly," said Pacetti, "a shining light appeared high in the sky. Everybody looked up and was astonished. It seemed that we were watching a scene from a science-fiction movie; one of the scenes that are so common because of the continuous propaganda made by certain TV stations." When he reached Rome, Mr. Pacetti called the number 46.67, telephone number of a bureau which collects these reports.

The objects were in perfect triangular formation and were moving close to each other, without any sort of variation, in horizontal or vertical direction. Once on the train, Pacetti and the others followed that bright triangle until they got to Anagni station. Suddenly, as the sun rose, the formation broke up. The three mysterious objects separated one from the other. One disappeared to the north (Rome), the second one took off to the east and the third one flew toward Latina. According to Pacetti, it was not a matter of planes or helicopters. He thinks so because of the shape and brightness of the objects. They could have been at 5,000 meters altitude, maybe more, maybe less. It's hard to say.

The sighting of mysterious objects in the Lazio sky is a frequent and worrying matter. The most sensational case was reported on April 3, 1980. The place where the event took place is called Campocattolico, a skiing resort at 2,000 meters above sea level in the region of Guarcino. At 2:20 a.m., all electrical equipment went crazy because of the arrival of a huge bright object in the sky. There were blackouts throughout the area. Telephones rang constantly, light meters ran at high speed, TV sets turned on and off by themselves and interphones and intercoms of houses, offices and hotels rang non-stop. The whole thing went on for a couple of minutes until the "ball of fire," as it was later called by the farmers of Campocattolico, took off in a vertical direction, disappearing in the sky and leaving behind it a bright trail of light.

The so-called experts said at the time that the object could have been a secret weapon which was intended to disturb magnetic fields of the area or to paralyze sophisticated weapons, factories, transportation systems, electronic plants, etc. But all these suppositions never found an official confirmation, of course.

The 2nd of March, 1983, No. 2 of the magazine "SCIENCE 83," in an article written by William J. Broad, said that an electromagnetic impulse was found (called EMP) which was able to interrupt all kinds of magnetic fields in a distance of thousands of kilometers. He went on to say that this object could be produced and transformed in a "ball of fire" by a nuclear explosion. As it happened on July 7, 1962, at 400 kilometers above a Pacific atoll, at 1300 kilometers southwest of the Hawaiian Islands.



OREGONIAN, Portland, OR - Sept. 6, 1983 CR: R. Schiller

## Vortex owners lean to mystery

GOLD HILL (AP) — No planes have vanished over Sardine Creek, and history has left behind no giant pyramids in Southern Oregon at which modern architects can marvel.

The only physical evidence the Oregon Vortex can add to the world's store of unexplained phenomena is the "House of Mystery," a ramshackle old mining shed said to have slipped 30 feet downhill four years after it was built.

But what the Oregon Vortex lacks in romance and tragedy is made up by the enthusiasm of its longtime owners, Ernie and Irene Cooper and their daughter, Dody. They won't be swayed from their belief that this 165-foot circle of land ranks with the famed Bermuda Triangle as a scientific aberration.

"Some people don't believe it, and you can't do anything with them because they just refuse to see what they see," Dody Cooper said. "But there's something here. It's not something we know about. But there's something here."

What's there costs \$3 for adults to see, with a discount for children. A four-mile drive from Gold Hill, it's a 50-minute guided walk in the woods that's part physics, part fantasy and part fun.

The vortex, Cooper tells a small group of tourists, is actually an anti-gravitational electromagnetic field — one of 11 known in the world.

Within its sphere, people and objects lean slightly but perceptibly toward magnetic north, Ernie Cooper says. Everything that faces the south appears shorter.

"This is contrary to all laws of physics," Irene Cooper explains to a larger tour group. "As light enters the area here, it tends to refract and distort images just like water in a glass."

To demonstrate the properties of the vortex, two visitors are asked to stand several feet apart on a level surface and their heights are compared. When the two trade places, the difference in their size seems greater.

In the "House of Mystery," tourists are shown a golf ball that appears to roll uphill. Ernie Cooper is quick to point out that the trick is merely an optical illusion and has nothing to do with the vortex.

As the Coopers tell it, the vortex was well-known to Indians before white settlers came West. They called it "forbidden ground" and shunned it because it frightened their horses.

Later, the Old Great Eagle Mining Co. centered its search for gold on the banks of Sardine Creek. When a mud slide sent the company's assay office and toolshed downhill in 1907, the building landed smack in the midst of the Oregon Vortex.

What's left of the old structure was dubbed the "House of Mystery" by John Litster, a physicist and

engineer from Scotland, who bought the property in 1914, opened it as a tourist attraction in 1930 and lived there until he died 24 years ago.

Irene Cooper said Litster conducted 14,000 experiments on the vortex and corresponded on the subject with Albert Einstein — assertions that are impossible to prove. "Litster burned all his records before he died because he didn't think the world was ready for what was here," she said.

The Coopers bought the unusual property in 1959 and have escorted thousands of visitors through it each summer since. Some tourists claim a visit to the vortex eases their arthritis or gives them a feeling of peace, Irene Cooper says.

It used to give her a headache, but that sensation has passed. Now, it provides her an income and something inexplicable to ponder.

PROVINCE, Vancouver, B.C., Canada - Jan. 16, 1984

## Comet fades in photo finish

United Press International

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — What may — or may not — have been a blazing new comet, the first this year, has disappeared without a trace, leaving astronomers scratching their heads but now believing it was just a blemish on a photographic plate.

The sighting report looked good, said Dr. Brian Marsden, director of the International Astronomical Union's bureau here. Comet 1983 was sighted by two Australian astronomers Jan. 5 and 7, but astronomers in Tennessee couldn't locate it. The consensus now is that the comet was a photographic blemish.

CR: G. Conway

## S-burg man shoots to explain

STROUDSBURG — "Basically, it's a quest for the truth," says Chip Decker.

Decker's work is photography; he has a studio in Stroudsburg, and he's become established here since graduating from Penn State as an art education major.

But he brought with him an interest in the kinds of things that lie a step beyond the everyday world. And today he is an active researcher who combines his talents with other members of the Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained.

The interest developed at Penn State. "I probably just read an obscure article somewhere," Decker says. "Or maybe I was just talking to a friend."

Decker has a healthy curiosity and a predilection for open-mindedness. He was soon exploring the great Penn State library system for more material about UFOs and Bigfoot sightings. He found enough to strengthen his curiosity.

Then, he says, "I just started talking to people. It was surprising how many people had an Uncle Harry or Aunt Sue who had a story."

And he heard stories here. "The Delaware Water Gap area, especially around the vista, seems to be especially active," Decker says. In the late 1960s, a friend who had done some bird calling got into a hooting exchange with something in the brush there.

Another acquaintance experienced a sensation of pressure in that area, followed by the noise of something moving through the brush. (He left quickly.) And when Decker recounted this story to a third acquaintance, the listener turned white, Decker says; he then told Decker of movement and growling in the vista brush that sent him quickly on his way.

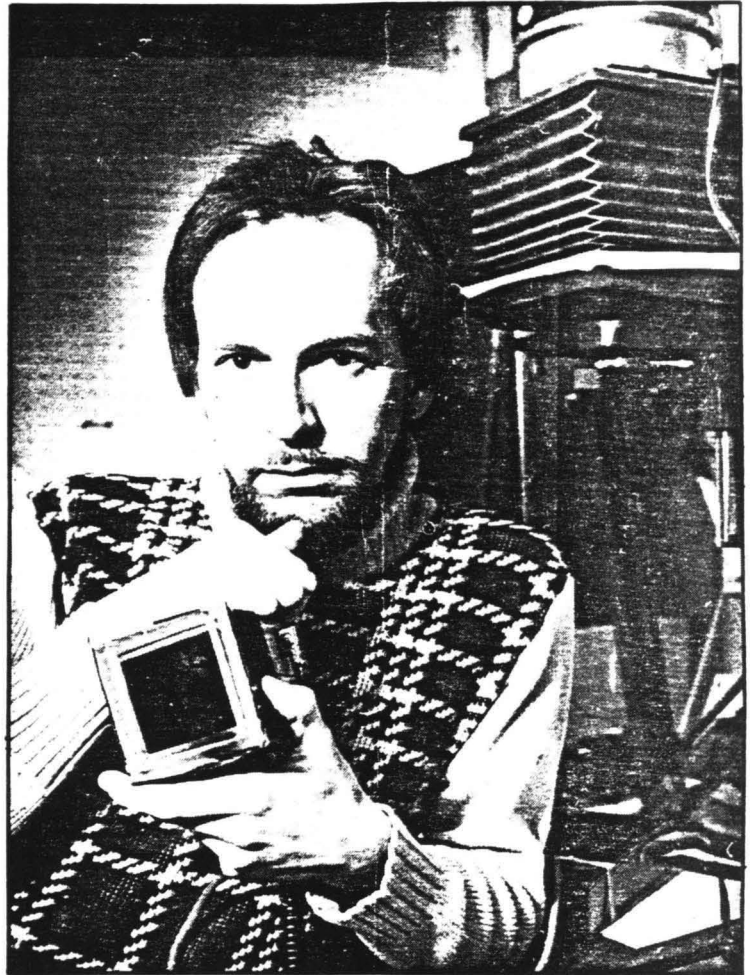
Two of these people had others with them. All of them, Decker says, are reasonable, reliable people.

Soon Decker was in touch with Stan Gordon of Greensburg, director of the Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained (PASU). Gordon pointed out the similarity between the reports of the Hooter and those about other Bigfoot-type creatures in other areas. It was part of a pattern that members of the group believe has been growing more apparent.

PASU is a small group of people interested in unexplained phenomena. They bring different disciplines to their research, including physics, astronomy, medicine, biology, theology, archaeology and, with Decker, photography.

Decker believes that his contribution, as a photographer, could be significant. A good picture of a UFO or an apparition would help researchers study it at their leisure, and perhaps identify a UFO as a balloon or a Hooter as a prankster. Or, it could add evidence to the possibility that these things might really come from somewhere outside the realm of normal experience.

A few years ago Decker began experimenting with infrared photography. Infrared photography is similar to visible light photography, except that the film is sensitive to radiant heat. It responds to different temperatures somewhat like normal films respond to different shades of



Bob Raikes/The Pocono Record

Chip Decker displays infrared filter used in some photographic research

light and dark. Under the right conditions, this film will form images of objects invisible to normal films.

Decker used the film early this year when a report of a poltergeist brought police, Decker and other researchers to a Stroudsburg house. People and objects were being wetted with water from no discernible source.

Neither the infrared film nor the visible light film registered anything significant. But Decker had another experience after the incident that helped to stoke his interest. A psychic who was asked to look at the pictures examined prints from both the infrared and the visible light film; by touching their backs, he was able to tell there was a difference — something he shouldn't have been able to do.

Decker has continued his study of reports from other parts of the world. Researchers are beginning to believe, he says, that there is a connection between reports of UFOs and Bigfoot-type creatures. They often occur in proximity in area and time. "Why do these things happen and why are they so similar?" Decker asks.

Some interested people have theorized that both kinds of reports are caused by extraterrestrial visitors who get to where they are through a kind of window in space that allows them to travel great distances through the universe in apparent conflict with the laws of physics. Others think that both reports are caused by a manifestation of mental energy on the part of people who have unusual mental capabilities.

Whatever the case, a proximity of time or space is not unusual. The most notable occurrence in the Poconos is probably the UFO sighting on March 1, 1973, at Saylor's Lake.

Eleven people, including a state trooper, reported seeing as many as 40 UFOs near the lake, although two area radar stations detected nothing. Three days later another resident reported a sighting near that area. And, on that day, in Uganda, there was a report of a UFO splashing down in Lake Victoria.

Although Decker had an unusual opportunity when he was involved in the examination of the reported poltergeist, he has never had a remarkable experience himself. At one time, he would have been frightened by one, he says, but he doesn't believe that would be the case now.

"I know more about it now," he says. "Of course there would be caution." After all, people have seldom reported being injured when having such an experience.

He wants to separate the explainable from the truly unexplainable. Most reports can be explained as the result of a natural occurrence; the possibility that there's something strange about the Bermuda triangle, for example, has been thoroughly debunked, Decker says.

"Our imagination is our own worst enemy," he says. So he tries to control his as he searches. "I want to satisfy my curiosity," he says. "I'd also like to say to someone who's been skeptical, 'Hey, you told me it couldn't happen.'"

"I also hope that I'll be big about it if we explain something away."

POCONO RECORD, Stroudsburg, PA - Jan. 1, 1984 CR: S. Gordon

ARKANSAS GAZETTE, Little Rock, AR - April 8, 1984

## 'Snow Beast' Doesn't Exist, Tass Declares

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviet news agency Tass declared Saturday that the abominable snowman, thought by some to stalk the Himalayan Mountains, does not exist.

Quoting arguments advanced by Vadim Ranov, described as a well-known Soviet explorer, Tass said that no remains — skeleton, skull or individual bones — had ever been found.

Nor has other evidence of the existence of an abominable snowman, such as shelters, caves or traces of food, ever been unearthed, Tass said.

Alleged yeti tracks spotted in the mountains are more likely to be those of other animals distorted by bright sunrises in the high Himalayan range, Tass said.

"Accounts by 'eyewitnesses' are the fruit of their imagination," Tass said.

The news agency quoted Ranov as saying that the hypothesis about an abominable snowman being a primitive man surviving until modern times "is wrong and is easily refuted." Humans, he was quoted as saying, have never reverted to a less developed form.

"It is impossible to imagine that a group of Neanderthal men suddenly forgot how to make stone tools, necessary for their life, and returned to living in the wild, since this runs counter to the entire course of human evolution," Ranov said.



# The unexplained

## Poconos has its share of mysterious occurrences

By BOB RAIKES  
Pocono Record Reporter  
STROUDSBURG — A historian determined to write a comprehensive work about the notable occasions in the Poconos' recent past would find plenty to fill his book.

Some things, like the development of the business community and the growth of the tourist industry, would be easy to write about. But the region has, from time to time, been the locale for an occurrence that will probably give that historian fits.

The region might be richer than most in its experience with unexplained phenomena.

Some of the odd goings-on have received little notice, except for an occasional description at a party or during story-telling time.

There's the Delaware Water Gap Hooter, for example. For many years people have come back from hikes to the vista high on the Pennsylvania side of the gap with tales of a strange stillness in the surrounding forest, and a troubled feeling, and then perhaps a thrashing in the woods or a strange hooting that sounded like neither man nor beast.

Some of these events have caused enough consternation to bring out newspaper reporters, police and gawkers, like the UFO sightings at Saylorburg in March 1973 and an apparent visit to a Stroudsburg home of a poltergeist early this year.

People say they have seen the Jersey Devil near the Delaware River in New Jersey, and unusual animals, like black cougars, in the Pennsylvania woods.

But there's one thing about people who say these things: they don't usually say them for long. Those who say they've seen strange things are often regarded as pretty strange themselves, and, after they get a few odd looks, they often keep their experiences to themselves.

Sometimes, however, these tales make their way to the ears of people who are curious about these strange reports, and who want to learn more about them. Perhaps they hope to learn that our world is richer in possible experiences than most people believe; perhaps they are challenged by a desire to explain away such reports as error, hallucination or hoax.

Whatever their own beliefs, they want to hear these stories, and examine their circumstances, and, if they're lucky, reach a reasonable conclusion of some kind. Such a person is Chip Decker, a Stroudsburg photographer who is a member of the Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained. (Decker describes his research in the article at left).

Decker isn't at all alone in his interests. On a national level, quite a few respected scientists have risked ridicule by making public their interest in unexplained phenomena.

There's a group of scientists called the Society for Scientific Exploration that is composed of people who are professors, department chairmen and even deans at major universities. They look into UFOs, telekinesis, astrology, Bigfoot sightings and just about any-

thing else that is at the edge of classical science.

And there are other groups. Most bring to the field a rigid application of knowledge designed to weed out explainable phenomena from those that can't be explained so easily.

Some of these events are almost surely real, according to available evidence, such as some of the powers of a hypnotic trance, and physical phenomena like ball lightning. Others are probably real, such as high-alti-

... quite a few respected scientists have risked ridicule by making public their interest in unexplained phenomena.

tude unidentified moving lights and unrecognized creatures.

And some of these unexplained phenomena — even the ones that are almost certainly real — will be explained only through significant restructuring of scientific thought, scientists say.

The reported events that interest Decker generally have a unifying thread. Some people believe they may be caused by visitors from another world, as UFOs may be. Or these events may be an appearance of a rare, uncataloged species, as the Loch Ness monster may be.

They may be caused by some unusual but natural force: UFOs may sometimes be the result of magnetic forces active along a fault in the earth's crust, for example. Or these events may be a product of unexplained powers of the human mind: researchers have reported, for example, consistent evidence that some people can influence the movement of small objects with thought, or sense the whereabouts or welfare of a person who is out of sight.

Some people believe that unexplained events such as poltergeist activity may be a function of the human mind: thought is, after all, electrical energy, they reason.

Others believe that poltergeist activity and reports of other unexplained phenomena may be a result of the energy of the mind, but that the mind in question may be one that remains after the death of the body. They may be particularly interested in reports of hauntings, demonic possession and reincarnation, as well as reports of unexplained powers of living people, like prophecy, telekinesis or healing.

Such a person is Barrett Vincent Ravenhurst of Stroudsburg, who also uses the name Barrie Schlenker.

Ravenhurst, a magician who has performed widely in eastern Pennsylvania, believes that spiritual phenomena do occur. But, he points out, there's a lot of fraud among mediums who claim to put people in touch with the dead, and there's a magician's trickery in stage acts that portray the use of mental powers.

Ravenhurst wants to eliminate fraudulent claims of spiritual or unexplained phenomena with his magician's knowledge, but he does expect to find that some incidents are real.

MONROVIA NEWS POST, Los Angeles, CA - Jan. 29, 1984

## African government gives support to claims made by local explorer

By JULIAN LOEWE  
Special Correspondent

Altadenan Herman Regusters, who attracted widespread attention last year with claims he had sighted a large, unknown creature in a remote African lake, has gained unexpected support from an African government report and from the JPL.

"This report supports our finding," Regusters said of accounts from a People's Republic of the Congo expedition to Lake Tele.

In a recent interview, Regusters gave the Star-News a copy, in French, of the official Congolese government report of the expedition, headed by Comrade Marcellin Agnagna, which arrived at Lake Tele in April 1983.

"It must be noted that 'Emiantuka' is alive and well in Lake Tele," Agnagna wrote in the report. (Emiantuka is another African name for Mokele mbembe, the creature the Regusters claim to have seen.)

On May 1st, the report says, Agnagna and his group set out to film some swans when "the dogs took off in pursuit of an animal."

The group followed, hoping to film the object of the dogs' concern, when one expedition member fell into one of the estuaries leading from the lake. The group continued, leaving the man to get out himself, the report says.

"Five minutes later," Agnagna wrote, "he (the man) started calling for us. At first, I thought he was in a panic and wanted help."

"But, he insisted: 'Marcellin, come quickly with the (camera) equipment, come and get a photo.'" Agnagna recounted.

The leader said that at first the expedition's members couldn't see much, but then "one could make out the very long neck and head of a very strange animal."

Agnagna said he managed to run his camera until the film ran out, and

that the creature was visible for about 20 minutes. He said the animal came toward, then backed away from the expedition's members, approaching within 180 feet at one point. When the animal became aware of the humans, it submerged.

The film is now in France being developed, Regusters said.

The Congolese account of estuaries in the lake dovetails with data recently culled from radar images returned years ago by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory's Seasat oceanographic satellite, Regusters said. The radar images show the lake is far larger than previously thought, with much of its extent hidden by a jungle canopy, he said.

"The creature had plenty of places to hide," said the explorer, who now works for JPL as a consultant.

Regusters said the shore illusion at Lake Tele is created where the lake becomes shallow enough for trees to root. Leaves, falling from above, create floating pads — sometimes several feet thick — on which his and the Congolese expedition camped.

"This monster has a refuge out of the lake and can take one of these arms (of the lake leading into the jungle), which serve him as a canal to come and go to feed and bathe in the sun," Agnagna's report said.

Regusters and his wife, Kia, attracted attention in early 1983 when they went to the lake some 500 miles from the Atlantic Ocean just south of the Sahara Desert in the African nation.

There, they said, they spotted a creature resembling a living dinosaur. It was unknown to the Western world, they said, but was a fact of life to natives in the area. Their report was questioned when the couple failed to produce photographs of the animal after weeks of slogging through swamps and camping on the edge of the lake.

POST-GAZETTE, Pittsburgh, PA - Feb. 26, 1984

## 'Bigfoot' nature site established in China

PEKING (UPI) — China has set up a nature preserve for "Bigfoot"-type apemen that researchers believe exist in the central Shennongjia mountains, a Chinese science journal says.

The latest edition of "Science and Man" said the Shennongjia mountains in central Hubei province have been declared a wildlife preserve because of persistent reports and circumstantial evidence of the existence of a half-man, half-ape creature.

Chinese scientists took such evidence seriously enough to form the "Wildman Research Association," which periodically sends teams of trackers into Hubei province.

But "Science and Man" said the trackers have amassed considerable evidence, including fecal droppings and oversized human-like footprints, to suggest some sort of creature does exist.

Descriptions of the creature furnished by peasants who claim to have seen it are strikingly similar, speaking of a creature at least seven feet tall with reddish hair and long arms.

Footprints discovered by researchers range from 12 to 18 inches in length and outline a human-like foot with a slightly turned-out big toe.

CR: S. Gordon

## Giant 'Face' on Mars Landscape Stirs Argument

By Randy Ellis  
Dozens of Oklahoma City's finest young scientists were buzzing with curiosity Friday after viewing a slide that clearly revealed a human-like face on the surface of Mars.

The three-dimensional face, a mile in diameter, was photographed by a Viking probe in its 1976 journey to the planet, according to Walter Scott Jr., aero-

space engineer with National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Scott was the featured speaker at an awards banquet for high school and middle school students who participated in the 35th annual Oklahoma City Science and Engineering Fair.

"The photograph was largely ignored by the scientific community when it was first taken,"

Scott said. "Half of the face was in shadow and it was dismissed as an interesting visual phenomenon relating to the camera angle, angle of the sun and reflection off of some rocks."

Examination of a second photograph that showed the face was symmetrical caused the surface feature to draw more attention, he said.

"Computer enhancements have concentrat-

ed on the eyes. They not only show the eye sockets, but show what could be perfect circles in the middle."

The eyes and nose look remarkably human, but the jaw is more ape-like, he said.

Tests have verified that the photographs are authentic and have not been "doctored" Scott said.

He said the scientific community is now about

evenly divided as to whether the face is a natural phenomenon.

"A photo is not conclusive evidence. Until the first person gets down there and looks at it, we will never know for sure."

Adding to the speculation that the face may have been created by extraterrestrial life is a pyramid-shaped geological feature located 10 miles from the face.

The pyramid is covered with dust and none of its features are sharp, but Scott said it is almost perfectly shaped and is 1 1/4 mile by 2 miles at its base.

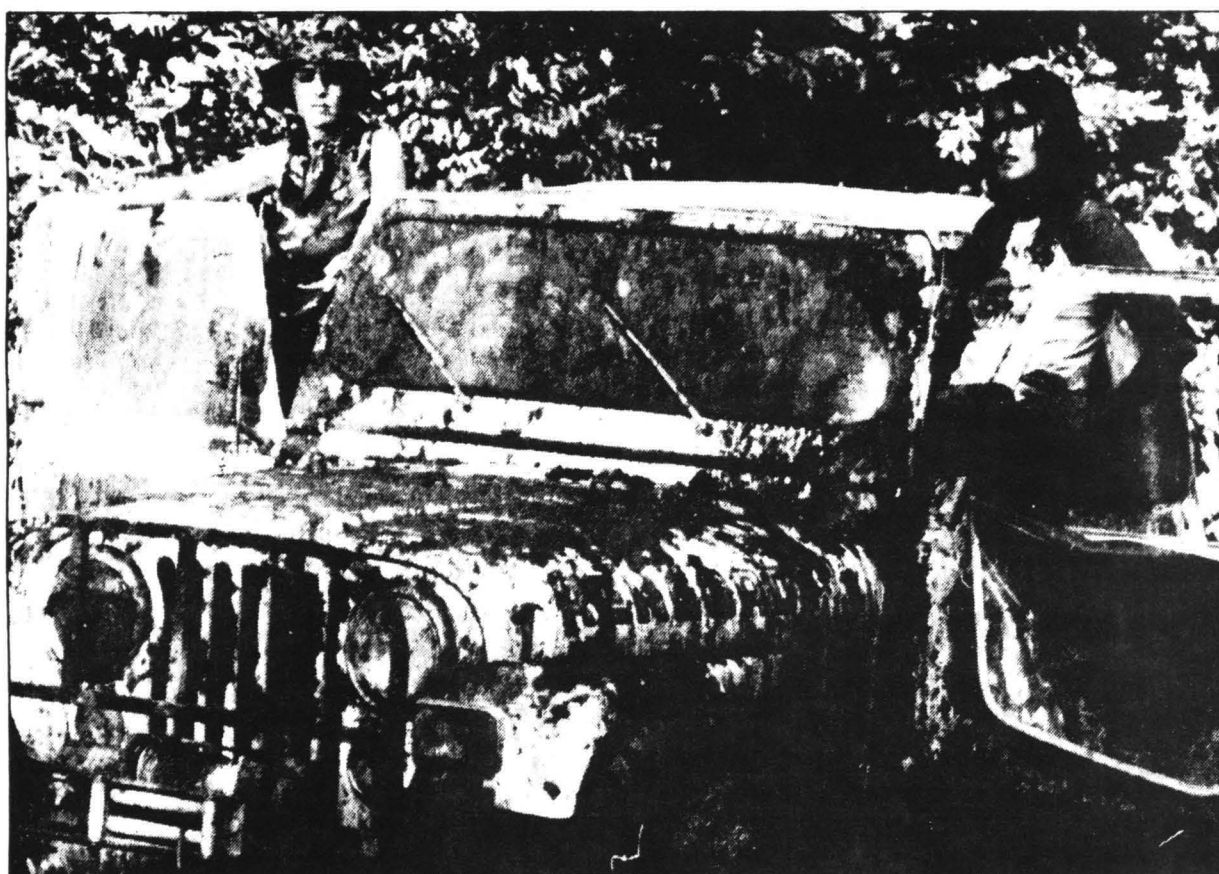
"It's thought provoking if nothing else," Scott said.

CR: T. Adams

# 'Boggy Creek II' - the creature matures



In "Boggy Creek II," Charles Pierce (right, above) encounters a hostile swamp resident in Jimmy Clem. Cindy Butler (left, below) and Serene Hedin find it's easier getting in the swamp than getting out.



By ROBERT KERR  
Gazette Features Editor

In "Boggy Creek II," Texarkana's Charles B. Pierce has made a film that tells perhaps as much about him as it does about the so-called Fouke Monster.

The sequel to his 1973 \$20-million-earner, "The Legend of Boggy Creek," continues the story of that half-human creature long said to haunt the Sulphur River swamps around Fouke, Ark. It's proven to be the hottest Christmas picture in town.

Not that that should come as any surprise here. The sequel's story begins at the University of Arkansas, where a research team is preparing to go study the creature. But just where the action is headed is pointed out early on by Cindy Butler's character.

"Yep," she says. "Tex-AR-kana!" And "Boggy Creek II" is very much a Tex-AR-kana film.

Besides the many identifiable landmarks it features - virtually the entire film was shot here - a number of area residents make appearances. Most are cleverly done, some hilariously so.

But the picture still wouldn't have

worked nearly so well if Pierce hadn't lifted it above the low-budget, monster-flick genre with an inventive script and some philosophical conclusions that he didn't have to invent.

When his character, UA professor Brian Lockhart, is about to enter the swamp, a scraggly bearded storekeeper (played by Texarkana actor and motel owner James Tennison) in a dirty t-shirt tries to discourage him and his fellow city folk. Lockhart looks him dead in the eye and makes one thing clear: "I believe there is a creature out there."

That's not just theatrics. "I definitely do believe there are some creatures that exist," Pierce says. "I believe this type of creature has roamed the earth for many, many years, from some generation of wild people."

"Scientists tell us if we take our clothes off, hair is gonna cover our bodies before too long. If we could make it through the first winter, you or I could go down there in the swamp and we could survive, and we'd be some pretty woolly looking things after a period of time."

"Now, I don't believe in monsters. I guess that's why I always disliked the name people put on it - the Fouke Monster - and I never would call it that."

Cinematographer Shirak Khojayan gets to strut his stuff as the film opens with several long, slow shots of remote swampland, sunsets, butterflies and flocks of egrets. His fine camera work keeps the film flowing throughout.

The creature first appears at a distance and down in the corner of the screen, just one more resident of the teeming swamp. He stoops for a drink of water, then stalks a swimming deer.

As the film rolls along, Lockhart comes to realize, "These river bottoms are truly a sight to behold. This country should remain unspoiled." Later, he goes even further and decides, "I just feel for some special reason that what I saw here I want to keep to myself. That creature is a part of nature, living in harmony with one of America's last great wildernesses."

Here again, Pierce is speaking as much for himself as for his character.

"Yeah," he admits, "if you get that feeling in the picture, it's because I do feel that way and I try to put that across, without just point-blank coming out and saying it."

(continued on page 17)



"But it's just like with any endangered species. I would like to see these creatures researched and protected. Obviously, they don't mean anybody any harm."

The store scene also contains some of the best examples of the picture's gritty, Southern feel. Tension and the rest of his store regulars deliver the same hick accents and mannerisms any city slicker who stumbles into such a backwoods hangout will encounter.

A few lines in the film do fall rather flat. So do a few lines in most of life's conversations. Sometimes the lines even fall flat in film reviews.

But most often in "Boggy Creek II" they ring delightfully true for Southern ears.

Pierce's drawl comes naturally, from his own country roots in Hampton, Ark., and his narration and dialogue establish the film's backbone of authenticity.

When his character levels his .45 revolver and screams at the creature lurking somewhere about him in the woods, "I can smell 'ya! You better say something!" the audience knows without any doubt that he does have that scent.

And when he holds the same pistol to the head of a character named Crenshaw — to stop him from shooting the creature — and bellows, "Don't make me tell you again, old man!" neither Crenshaw or the audience even considers calling his bluff.

"I don't do pictures that I don't know anything about or that I don't understand," Pierce says of his 10 films. "I wouldn't attempt to shoot a picture, say, on the New York crime syndicate. Or a love story on the French Riviera. There'd just be no way."

"But I can do westerns. I can do Southern pictures, earthy pictures. Because I was born and raised in this part of the country, and this is what I know. I'm not an educated filmmaker; I just came up through the ranks."

Certainly not a Hollywood intellectual is

(continued from page 16 - GAZETTE, Texarkana, AR - Jan. 1, 1984)

Jimmy Clem, the Texarkana rancher and builder who turns in a gem of a performance as Crenshaw. When he first appears on screen, stomping suddenly around the corner of his river shack, he's so huge and hairy and wild that audiences may wonder if he's some sort of creature himself.

"He did look like some kind of woolly booger, didn't he?" Pierce laughs.

Clem also has the best line in the film. After offering a dip of snuff to Tanya (Serene Hedin), one of Lockhart's students, Crenshaw turns back to the professor and leers, "That shore is a ma-a-n's kinda' woman." He does it so well that when he repeats it a few minutes later, it's even funnier.

"If Jimmy Clem lived in Los Angeles he could work all the time. No question about it," says Pierce, who has featured Clem in seven of his films now. "But he never has, I don't think, even tried to work anywhere else. In fact, I've had calls from other people with parts for him, and I don't think he ever even went to the interviews."

Several flashbacks provide the film with some nice transitions and a historical perspective that the creature has been around for a long time. Pierce also uses the flashbacks for two scenes he put together, probably with a sly grin, for a couple more of his Texarkana friends.

In the first, attorney Charles Potter plays a clod of a character, described as "a retired lawyer who has been known to have a drinking problem." He has a close encounter with the contents of his privy when the creature grabs at him through the outhouse door.

"What was it, Oscar?" his wife asks him afterward as she cleans him up with the garden hose.

"Damned if I know, Myrtle," he replies. "I thought it was you."

But what has to be the picture's most deviant inside joke walks on screen in the next flashback when Texarkana's

Rick Hildreth makes a most improbable appearance as a Miller County Deputy. Even a passing acquaintance of Hildreth's can testify the only way he could ever really get into a cop's uniform would be to steal it.

"That is hilarious," Pierce grins. "Just casting him as a deputy sheriff is what's funny."

Besides all the local citizens on screen, "Boggy Creek II" features plenty of recognizable sites — State Line Avenue, the intersection of Blackmon Ferry Road and Highway 71, road signs over Interstate 30, Crystal Springs Beach (though depicted as the "Sulphur River Swimming Hole"), the downtown post office, Pinkerton Pharmacy and the Casa Rosa Restaurant, to name a few.

And very early in the film, the Arkansas Razorbacks make an appearance that will console any Hog fan still brooding over the dismal 1983 season. If Brad Taylor and Bobby Joe Edmonds had ripped off yardage more often the way they do in "Boggy Creek II," Lou Holtz wouldn't be exiled to Minnesota today.

The on-field footage was shot at the Arkansas-Tulsa game in September, but whenever the scene cuts up to the professor and his friends cheering in the stands, they are actually sitting in the bleachers of Arkansas High School's empty stadium in Texarkana last summer.

An even niftier trick than that is the picture's use of a portable computer terminal, employed by the research team to monitor the area around the campsite. One of the most dramatic scenes is played out on its tiny screen, when a video blip representing the creature chases another blip representing Tanya.

"You know, kids today are into computers and the electronic age, and here we are out in the middle of a swamp," Pierce says. "So I wanted to do something to

bring the film up to modern times."

Although Pierce and Clem have the meatiest roles, Serene Hedin and Cindy Butler do have their moments. Butler comes across well as a blithe city-type, suddenly terrified by the uncompromising reality of the swamp. Hedin plays a bolder character, whose dark eyes flash like a thunderstorm when she's angry.

Pierce's son, Chuck, has a supporting role, and his daughter, Pam, appears in the beach scene. Faubus Griffin, a former Texarkana semi-pro football player so strong he didn't have to fake the scene where he shatters Crenshaw's cabin door, plays the creature.

"I think it would have been a mistake to cast name actors in this type of picture," Pierce says. "But in the bigger parts you couldn't put a total amateur in it either. We had to have people who had acted before and knew how to deliver dialogue."

"Overall I'm pleased with the picture. The main reason is because of the acceptance I see in audiences. Most filmmakers have forgotten the fact that what we're in this business for is to entertain people."

"Boggy Creek II" falls short in some areas because it's not a big spectacle and we didn't have millions of dollars to blow up half a town. But money doesn't make a picture. The proof of that is there's a lot of multi-million-dollar pictures that you can't sit through."

"Naturally I see some things I might change, but then again, I don't know. It is playing. And an old gentleman who's been successful in this business a long time once told me, 'Charley, if it's playing, and the audience is having a good time, and the picture's making money, well then, you didn't do anything wrong.'"

"Don't dot any i's or cross any t's, because everything is just fine."

TIMES, Seattle, WA - March 26, 1984 CR: J. Beckford via W. Thompson



Mark Keller sights the .338 Winchester magnum rifle he plans to use to kill a Bigfoot.

## Vietnam veteran to hunt sasquatch in Northwest

by Jeff Bernard  
Associated Press

Equipped with a night-vision telescopic sight, a big-game rifle and the experience of three combat tours in Vietnam, Mark E. Keller plans to slip into the forest somewhere in the Pacific Northwest to do what no one has ever done — bring down the legendary Bigfoot.

"If we get a sasquatch, we will have brought to life King Kong," said Keller, 33, of Arcata, Calif.

He is quitting his job in the Eureka, Calif., branch of the U.S. Postal Service to mount the five-month expedition with two other men.

"Pictures have been taken before, but nobody cares about pictures," said Keller. "If you get that one opportunity to obtain a sasquatch, you had better make it stick. Tranquilizers and drugs are not feasible. That leaves us with either trying to invite it nicely with roses and a card, which will not work either, or treating it as an animal and putting it down with a rifle."

Sightings of the foul-smelling, hairy man-like beast believed to stand as tall as 8 feet and weigh as much as 800 pounds go back more than 100 years, said Grover Krantz, a physical anthropologist at Washington State University.

"I am convinced it exists," said Krantz, who has tracked the beast for 15 years without seeing one. "Several years ago we

got some very good footprints with dermal ridges like fingerprints. Only the higher primates, apes, monkey and man, have these. The fingerprint experts almost unanimously believe these are real. There is no way they could have been faked."

Krantz agrees that the best way to settle whether a sasquatch exists is to kill one so it can be carefully examined.

He attributes the failure to get one to several factors.

First, they are scarce, with only 200 to 2,000 roaming the western forests of Washington, Oregon and Northern California, he said.

Second, they are nocturnal, roaming the woods mostly at night.

"The third reason is they look so disturbingly human," he said. "I've talked to a few people who had this experience. They put a gun on them and waited, not quite sure if they ought to shoot it." Before they could make up their minds, the animal was gone.

For the past two years he has been actively preparing the expedition and plans to set out May 15 with Vince Thomas, 21, of Sacramento, Calif., and James Wyatt, 27, of Gasquet, Calif. Thomas was chosen for his specialized training as an Army Ranger and Wyatt for his woodsmanship.

Taking up half the budget is a Smith & Wesson MK 700 Startron night-vision telescopic sight being provided by the manufacturer at reduced cost.

HERALD-EXAMINER, Los Angeles, CA - Jan. 9, 1984 CR: F. Kron

## NEWS FOCUS

### War games and mind games: Exploring ESP for espionage

Pentagon spending millions on research?

By William J. Broad  
New York Times News Service

**N**EW YORK — The Pentagon has spent millions of dollars, according to three new reports, on secret projects to investigate extra-sensory phenomena and to see if the sheer power of the human

mind can be harnessed to perform various acts of espionage and war — penetrating secret files, for example, locating submarines or blowing up guided missiles in midflight.

Further, one of the reports says concern about a psychic arms gap has reached as high as the White House in at least one instance. In

1977, by this account, President Carter ordered the CIA to conduct a high-level review of psychic research behind the Iron Curtain in an attempt to assess a possible Soviet threat.

The Pentagon denies that it is spending money on psychic research. The assertions to the contrary appear in a trio of new books, one just published and two scheduled to be released this spring, and in a series of interviews in which past Pentagon officials and scientists who study the paranormal have discussed what they contend is the military's decades-long psychic quest.

What emerges is a picture of both superpowers trying to master such esoteric arts as ESP (extrasen-

sory perception), telepathy (thought transfer), clairvoyance (seeing things that are out of sight), and psychokinesis (mental influence over objects or events) — all in the name of national defense.

For more than a century, scientists have clashed over what is now called parapsychology. Some praise it as a legitimate study led by bold visionaries, while others decry it as a pseudoscience rife with charlatans and naive researchers mired in self-deception. The assertion that the Pentagon, with its sober mandate of maintaining the nation's security, is a leading patron of psychic research has brought the controversy to a boil.

(continued on page 18)

(continued from page 17 -  
HERALD-EXAMINER, Los Angeles,  
CA - Jan. 9, 1984)

Advocates such as Rep. Charlie Rose, D-N.C., a member of the Select Committee on Intelligence, say the possibility of psychic warfare is all too real and might one day call for a crash program of development similar to the Manhattan Project that built the first atom bomb.

But skeptics say psychic power is so much hocus-pocus, and that scientific verification for it has been impossible to obtain. "You can't get it in the open laboratory," said Dr. Paul Kurtz, a philosopher at the State University of New York at Buffalo who is chairman of the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal. "What makes the military think they'll get it behind closed doors?"

Despite their doubts, Kurtz and other skeptics reluctantly endorse such research if only so the military can keep ahead of the remote possibility of enemy breakthroughs.

"The Defense Department would be derelict in its duty if it didn't pay attention to the long shots," said Dr. Marcello Truzzi of the Michigan-based Center for Scientific Anomalies Research. "But it's paradoxical, since the fact that they're looking into it doesn't make it real."

A Pentagon spokesman went so far as to deny that the Department of Defense today "spent a nickel" on psychic research, but he also suggested that he could not acknowledge the existence of highly classified projects.

The most detailed study of an actual set of psychic experiments comes from "The Mind Race," by Dr. Russell Targ and Keith Harary, to be published this spring by Villard Books, a division of Random House.

Targ, a physicist with expertise in lasers, optics and microwaves, worked for a decade at SRI International on what he calls a "multi-million-dollar" program of psychic research financed by the Defense Department and intelligence agencies.

The key experiments had to do with what Targ calls "remote view-

ing," in which gifted individuals were said to be able to describe distant locations, events and objects. In 1976, for instance, a "viewer" in California tried to pick up sensations Targ was experiencing thousands of miles away in New York City. The site was chosen only minutes before the test.

On a computer tied into the network of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, the viewer in California typed an impression. "The first image I got was of a cement depression — as if a dry fountain — with a cement post in the middle or inside. There seemed to be pigeons off to the right flying around the surface of the depression." Indeed, writes Targ, the test site — the central fountain in Washington Square Park — was dry, had a post in the middle from which water could be sprayed, and was surrounded by pigeons.

In "Mind Wars," to be published this spring by St. Martin's Press, Ronald M. McRae contends that psychic research was used to evaluate the MX missile "shell-game" mode, a \$40 billion or so basing scheme in which each missile would be secretly shifted among a bevy of concrete bunkers so that Soviet planners would never know which shelter to aim at in a first strike.

Quoting a former White House aide as his source, McRae says the Pentagon set up experiments in which psychics guessed the position of targets, and that results were positive enough to suggest increased MX vulnerability. The former aide, Barbara Honegger, who holds a degree in parapsychology and left the Reagan administration this fall, confirmed the experiments in a telephone interview. But she said she did not know whether the psychic findings had any bearing on the Reagan administration's decision to scrap the shell-game mode.

Such episodes, according to McRae, are part of a "30-year record of psychic research in the CIA, the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, NASA and the Defense Intelligence Agency." McRae, a former reporter for Jack Anderson, the syndicated columnist, says his research indicates that the Pentagon has spent about \$6 mil-



Barbara Honegger  
Confirms MX psychic guessing game

lion annually on psychic research in recent years, including studies of whether the human mind can send and receive radio waves of extremely low frequency.

Lt. Gen. Daniel O. Graham of the Army, retired, former head of the Defense Intelligence Agency, said in an interview that the \$6 million figure sounded too high, but he acknowledged that the military had spent considerable sums on psychic research. "There's enough suggestive evidence around so that you want to keep your eyes open," he said.

Whatever the amount of money, McRae says tracking it is difficult because of government secrecy. The CIA conveys some money for psychic research through private institutions, says McRae, citing one agency memorandum warning that the funds should "carry no identification and raise no questions." In the Pentagon's reports, it avoids the word "psychic" and relies instead on euphemisms such as "novel biological information transfer systems."

In one recent case, he says, a Navy official with a briefcase handcuffed to his wrist repeatedly visited a professional psychic over the course of 11 months. Showing the woman top-secret photographs and charts, he had her try to predict the position of Soviet submarines off the East Coast. And she was not alone. McRae said that the Navy has employed at least 34 psychics, an assertion that the Navy denies. McRae says he based his information on government documents and interviews.

All of those who say that the

military is engaged in psychic research contend it stems largely from fear that Soviet psychic breakthroughs might mean the American armed forces could be quietly put out of commission.

Jimmy Carter was worried about the Soviet threat in 1976 before he was inaugurated president, according to McRae, and had a private audience with Uri Geller. The Israeli mentalist told him that the Soviet Union screened all children for paranormal powers. In 1977, McRae says, Carter ordered a high-level review of Soviet psychic research. The secret report, completed in 1978, found no evidence of a massive "psycho-warfare" project such as Geller had warned of, but it did find definite Soviet interest. White House officials in office during the Carter administration say either that they had no knowledge of such presidential concern or that they can neither confirm nor deny that it existed.

The Soviet side of the parapsychology story is emphasized in "Psychic Warfare," by Martin Ebon, published this fall by McGraw-Hill. Ebon says the Soviet Union was goaded into action in 1960 by false reports that the U.S. Navy conducted telepathy experiments to try to keep in touch with the Nautilus, the world's first nuclear-powered submarine, as it cruised under the Arctic icecap.

Those reports touched off a flurry of Soviet projects, according to Ebon.

Are the superpowers, in fact, on the verge of a psychic arms race? Reputable researchers have doubts. "Most parapsychologists are skeptical of any alleged military or strategic uses of psychic phenomena because the available evidence is that these effects are subtle, weak and highly unpredictable," said Dr. Stanley Krippner, a former president of the Parapsychological Association.

Further, some skeptics say there is a temptation for a government to fake psychic results in an attempt to mislead its enemies. "Some cynics believe all U.S. government involvement with psychic research is simply disinformation, misleading propaganda to make the communists waste resources on such projects of their own," said Truzzi of the Center for Scientific Anomalies Research.

MERCURY NEWS, San Jose, CA - March 29, 1984

CR: R. Beere via W. Thompson

## Man gets death threats for plan to kill Bigfoot

McClatchy News Service

SACRAMENTO — An Arcata postal clerk said Wednesday he received about 150 telephone calls — including five death threats — since his plan to track and kill an elusive Bigfoot became public knowledge Monday.

"There's been a tremendous reaction ... with about 50 percent of the callers saying, 'Go for it,'" Mark Keller said in a phone interview.

He said about 30 of the calls were from the news media, including radio stations and newspapers across the nation.

Keller announced this week that he plans to quit his job at a Eureka branch Post Office this spring and spend five months looking for one of the legendary apelike creatures — which have not been proven to exist. The beast supposedly roams through Pacific Northwest forests.

The 33-year-old scholar of Bigfoot lore says he hopes to shoot one of the creatures, then bring back parts of it for scientific study.

Keller said he reported the death threats to the Arcata

Police Department. He said two of the death threats came from callers identifying themselves as members of a Seattle organization. "They figure Sasquatch (an Indian name for Bigfoot) is half ghost and sacred. Anyway, they've called two newspapers saying they're going to interfere with my expedition as much as possible," he said.

"I don't see how they figure they're going to follow me, much less keep track of me. Then some bow hunters organization up in Washington (state) called and said if I go out and try and kill their Bigfoot, they will 'get me.'"

"There have been a couple of miscellaneous calls, you know, saying, 'If we get a hold of you, you're dead. You know, that kind of thing. Really sophomoric.'"

Arcata Police Sgt. Jim Dawson said Keller reported receiving "a variety of suspicious telephone calls, some of which appear to be threatening in nature."

"All I can say is we're investigating," Dawson said.

SPOKESMAN REVIEW, Spokane, WA - April 3, 1984

## Bigfoot protection ordinance pondered

STEVENSON, Wash. (AP) — Skamania County commissioners aren't sure Bigfoot exists, but they don't want anyone coming in their county to shoot the smelly man-like hairy beast if it does.

Commissioners voted 3-0 on Monday to consider an ordinance making it a misdemeanor to kill the legendary creature also known as Sasquatch, punishable by up to a year in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

A public hearing on the matter is scheduled for April 16, with final action to follow two weeks later.

Commissioner Eric Wedin said it's going to pass.

"It's serious," he said.

The idea came from Roy Craft, the retired editor of the Skamania County Pioneer and a local expert on Sasquatch.

"If indeed they do exist, and I'm 99 percent sure they do, I don't think they ought to be murdered just to have a specimen," said Craft, who has never seen the beast, but has talked to many people who claim they have.

He said news reports that a California man who served three combat tours in Vietnam was mounting an expedition to bring down Bigfoot prompted him to urge commissioners to revise an ordinance on the books since 1969.

"The original ordinance made it a felony to kill a Bigfoot, which really exceeded the jurisdiction of the county commissioners," said Coun-

ty Prosecutor Robert Leick, who wrote the proposed ordinance. "We revised that to make it a gross misdemeanor or a misdemeanor, depending on whether or not it is done with mamice."

The ordinance would make the county a preserve for Bigfoot and put it on the county's endangered species list, making it the only animal so honored.

The measure also provides that if a Sasquatch is killed in Skamania County, the remains will be examined by the county coroner. If he determines they to be humanoid the killer could be charged with murder.

Mark E. Keller of Arcata, Calif., a former sergeant in the Army Rangers, has said he is heading into the woods after Bigfoot with two other men late this spring. He plans to stay as long as five months to bag his prey.

Keller hasn't said where he's going to find the legendary beast, other than somewhere in the Cascade Range, which stretches from Canada to California.

But there have been a number of Bigfoot sightings in Skamania County, which is also home to the volcano Mount St. Helens.

Keller's plans have prompted a group called the National Cryptozoological Society in Seattle to promise to trail Keller and play loud rock music and bang tin cans to disrupt his hunt.



# Photographers pursue Loch Ness monster

By MARNIE SAMUELSON  
News Correspondent

ACTON — An American team, trying to resolve a 1,400-year-old controversy, has trained a new breed of underwater photographer which they hope will lead them to the Loch Ness monster, a scientist told a new generation of "Nessie" enthusiasts Sunday.

One of the world's most popular and mysterious creatures, the Loch Ness monster — often described as a long-necked sea animal about 30 feet in length — has remained elusive in the deep, murky waters of a north Scotland

lake since it was first reported in 565 A.D.

Dolphins will join a group of scientists and explorers from the American Academy of Applied Science trying to photograph the monster, Charles Wyckoff, a team member, told about 50 children and their parents at the Children's Discovery Museum in Acton. Nessie was so popular that Wyckoff repeated his slide show and lecture four times.

Dolphins, possessed naturally with the "right stuff," will bring not only intelligence, but great speed and dexterity to the chase, Wyckoff said.

Until now, Wyckoff and colleagues have relied on stationery underwater cameras triggered by remote control. The all-volunteer crew, headed by Robert H. Rines, a New Hampshire attorney, includes Harold E. ("Doc") Edgerton, professor emeritus at M.I.T. Team members mostly fund expeditions "out of our own pockets," according to Wyckoff, although the group received \$25,000 from the New York Times in 1978.

The old system of trying to photograph the elusive Nessie left everything to chance and wasted

hundreds of thousands of photographs, Wyckoff explained. "We kept waiting for Nessie to come and pose in front of the camera."

Wyckoff believes dolphins carrying sophisticated camera equipment and trained to find Nessie-like targets will greatly enhance the chances of obtaining a more definitive portrait.

A perfect shot — a detailed photograph — would convince a lot of skeptics and non-believers, said Wyckoff, who was a doubter himself until a few years ago. But the best photograph in the world would not provide the hard

evidence needed by zoologists trying to unravel the earth's past, Wyckoff said.

"If you dumped a body of an unknown creature on a zoologist's doorstep, he would still have to look at the bones inside" to identify the animal, Wyckoff said. Bones, which Wyckoff called "the bottom line" in the search, have never been found, despite sonar traces showing "something about the right size" on the lake bottom.

American Academy scientists working in Florida a few years ago trained North Atlantic dolphins to wear "voluntary" harnesses carrying automatic camera

equipment. The dolphins were motivated by the promise of a "free lunch," a helping from a bucket of fresh fish always close by.

Directed by hand signals from the scientists, the dolphins would first swim into the harness, which slipped just behind the eyes. The rig has metal cannisters on either side packed with special cameras for underwater photography, a sonar device to detect a target between five and 12 feet away and a small computer to verify the subject and then trip the lights and shutter.

In a period of only a few weeks, the scientists succeeded in training the dolphins to swim along the surface or underwater just ahead of an accompanying boat. Using their own sonar that Wyckoff called "far superior" to man-made devices, the dolphins could recognize targets about Nessie's believed size. Then the automatic equipment took over to make the photograph, Wyckoff explained.

At first, the dolphins were wasting film photographing each other, Wyckoff recalled, but the absence of rewards quickly changed their behavior.

Calling the dolphins "the best underwater photographers we could think of," Wyckoff said he is pleased with the initial trials. But because of transportation problems (one of the first dolphin graduates died en route to Loch Ness a few years ago), the scientists will be using "locals" when they return to Scotland about one or two years from now. "We still have a lot of work to do," Wyckoff explained. Among the problems: building a salt water holding tank for the dolphins who can survive only for short periods in fresh water.

In 1934, a photograph by an English surgeon stirred renewed interest in the Loch Ness monster from thousands of people around the world. The photograph showed only a silhouette of a small head and long neck, however, and offered no detail.

Wyckoff showed a 1972 American Academy underwater photograph of a diamond-shaped flipper about three feet long. Two other Academy photographs — one that looks like a three-quarter length view of a body about 20 feet long, according to Wyckoff, and another that he said appears to be a head — are grainy and inconclusive. Wyckoff described the animal as looking like a giraffe without legs.

Sonar traces "showing three animals of the right dimensions" were enough additional "soft" evidence to convince Wyckoff "there is no question" that the Loch Ness monster exists. Wyckoff believes there are as many as 20 to 30 animals, each about 30 feet long. They could be long-necked mutations of sea otters, Wyckoff said.

## Mythical beasts draw fact-minded scientists

By Eric Palmer  
staff writer

Searching for dinosaurs in the People's Republic of the Congo. Looking for the Loch Ness monster. Trying to find sasquatch in the north-west United States.

Once the province of adventurers and dilettantes, the hunt for the "unexpected" has been taken on by the International Society of Cryptozoology, a 2-year-old organization of scientists, explorers and amateurs.

The society searches for the truth in the myths, according to Richard Greenwell, secretary-treasurer and editor of the group's scientific journal. The soci-

### Journal printed in Kansas traces search for monsters

ety, based in Tucson, Ariz., conducts its search in a field, cryptozoology, which involves the study of animals that science knows little about—or which may not exist at all.

Mr. Greenwell, a former instructor of arid land ecology at the University of Arizona, was in Lawrence, Kan., last week to see the second issue of the society's journal, which had just been printed by Allen Press Inc.

"Some people think it is not scientific to look for unknown animals but if you look back 100 years or more, zoology was cryptozoology then," Mr. Green-

well said in the British accent he has not shed after more than a decade in this country. "Back then scientists were going to Africa looking for animals that they thought were bizarre. We are just following the old-fashioned Victorian zoologists."

Bernard Heuvelmans of France, the society's president, says in the journal issue just printed that animals discovered in the last 160 years have included some of the largest among their species: the whale shark in 1828, the Kodiak bear in 1899 and the Komodo dragon—a 9-foot-long, flesh-eating lizard—in 1912.

A coelacanth, a fish believed to have disappeared 65 million years ago, was captured in 1938, Mr. Heuvelmans said.

Just five years ago, Philip Humphrey, University of Kansas museum director, discovered a new species of duck in Argentina.

But do dinosaurs, sea serpents and ape men really exist?

"Some of our members believe in some of these animals and some believe in others, and some are complete skeptics and don't believe in them at all but believe the reports should be investigated," Mr. Greenwell said.

In some cases the society funds its own expeditions to places such as New Guinea and Africa. The society's journal also prints reports from investigators who are not members.

"We are collecting more and more evidence," said Roy P. Mackal, an associate professor with the Department of Biology at the University of Chicago. "The only satisfactory solution is to capture a specimen."

Mr. Mackal, the holder of a doctorate in biochemistry who spent 10 years looking for the Loch Ness monster, is the society's vice president.

While society members have yet to lay their hands on the most notorious of

their prey, Mr. Greenwell believes that two discoveries reported in the latest journal lend credence to the existence of some of these bizarre creatures. The first is the sighting by Congolese biologist Marcelin Agnagna of a dinosaur-like creature known as "Mokele-Mbenbe." The second concerns forensic evidence supporting reports of the existence of the ape man creature called sasquatch.

Two earlier expeditions in search of Mokele-Mbenbe had turned up evidence of the creature and one possible sighting. But Mr. Agnagna, who had been trained by the society, claimed to have seen the animal feeding in an African swamp last May 1.

"One of the villagers, Dinkoumbou, fell into a pool of muddy water, and went to the edge of the lake to wash himself," Mr. Agnagna wrote in the journal. "About five minutes later we heard his shouts to come quickly. We were then able to observe a strange animal with a wide back, a long neck and a small head. . . . It can be said with certainty that the animal we saw was Mokele-Mbenbe, that it was quite alive. . . ."

But the biologist said that in the excitement he forgot to take the lens cap off his movie camera.

"I think this evidence is very strong," Mr. Greenwell said. "We have a sighting by a trained biologist—not a native pygmy—but a biologist."

As for Sasquatch, a Washington State University professor examined recent casts made by U.S. Forest Service personnel of three large footprints. He decided the prints must be authentic because the skin ridges and sweat pores were so perfect, he said. In all there have been 11 casts made that are believed to be made by four individuals. The size and skin ridges of the prints suggest human-like creatures weighing 800 to 1,000 pounds.

"There has been a lot of sensationalism about these things," Mr. Greenwell said. "But what we are trying to do is take a very hard-nosed look in a cool and effective manner. When scientists see that, they are more receptive."

The society is as interested in debunking the legends as it is in proving them, Mr. Mackal said. Membership is open to anyone with \$25, Mr. Mackal said, but members of the governing board must have scientific credentials. He said this keeps the "imamatic fringe" from controlling the organization.

"Not that they can't be members," Mr. Mackal said. "A lot of good work has been done by dedicated dilettantes."

Relying heavily on the reports of natives, the group explores where it believes it can find the best data. The expeditions are harder work and less glamorous than movies from the 1940s might suggest—the mosquito-bite rate on the Congo expedition was reported to be 1,000 an hour. But to the members, there is no question about the importance of their work.

"It is legitimate science," said Mr. Greenwell. "It may be a little bizarre or sensational. We are looking for the unexpected and, sooner or later, if one exists, it will happen."

STAR, Kansas City, MO - April 1, 1984

CR: V. White

## Odds And Ends

By Brent Raynes

Bigfoot in Tennessee? Most everyone associates this hairy bogeyman with the familiar legends of the yeti beast of the Himalayan mountains or the Sasquatch of the Pacific Northwest. But Tennesseans claim to have seen just such a critter too!

Not that far away, up in Benton County, at Big Sandy, two men, back in 1980, stated that they saw such a beast. "I was coming from Paris, which is about thirty miles from here," Larry Ross told me in an interview shortly after his experience. "I was coming up through this little hollow and my lights shined up on top of the hill and we seen something standing right over on the left hand side of the road, and it kind of had its head hung down, and it kind of looked over towards me, and as soon as the lights hit it it acted like the lights might have hurt its eyes or something. It took off kindly in a fast trot and went over in the bushes beside the road, and I didn't know what to think so I kept on going and went on down the road about quarter of a mile and decided I would turn around and come back and see if I could see anything of it again. It looked to be about seven foot tall. The best I could tell its shoulders were about three foot wide and its chest was maybe 16-18 inches

thick, and it kindly had its shoulders stuck up high and its head was hanging low. It looked like it was real coarse hair. It was kind of a dark brown, and maybe a black, the best that I could tell. It looked like it had long arms."

Ross is a carpenter, and was then 20 years old, with a wife and little girl. His experience happened at about 10:30 p.m., Saturday, October 11th 1980. Then a few days later, also around 10:30 p.m., on Sunday, October 19th, Bobby Jackson, 26, a TVA employee, also of Sulphur Creek Road, allegedly encounter the creature about a mile from the spot where Ross had seen it.

"This thing was standing in the middle of the road," Jackson told me. "It had its back turned to me and it just turned around and looked at me, and his eyes looked like a ball of fire, just as red as they could be. I started to stop my jeep and I started to get out, and when I did the thing ran out of the road. It was anywhere between 6 or 7 feet tall. It looked like to weighed anywhere from 300 to 400 pounds. The shoulders looked like they might have been at least three feet apart. The head was down around his shoulders. Black looking from what I could tell under the lights."

Back in 1976 I

investigated some big-foot type reports in Lincoln County, and I also have heard such stories over in Giles County. But so far none from Wayne County (alas, I can imagine many readers are sighing a sigh of relief to hear that!) But there is a bit of odd folklore that is interesting in this regard, and it seems to have its roots down Rayburn hollow way. Apparently old timers talked about monkey-like critters!

But fear not. Bigfoots are described as extremely shy. They are usually seen on the run. So don't worry. There are only a few reports of where they have kidnapped people!

Nave a nice day....

UPDATE:

Shortly after I submitted this article to the news office, Grace Holt of Collinwood, interviewed a young man (age 27), considered quite sane and sober, who, while stating he knew nothing of the Rayburn Hollow folklore just cited, described a personal sighting of a hairy primate. "In the early 1970s, I was hunting in the woods behind my father's farm for squirrels. I was standing under a tree when I saw a monkey like creature leaping from tree to tree. I was so astonished I just stood and looked. I did not tell anyone at the time for I was afraid they would call me crazy."

This sighting occurred along Indian Creek, not far from Cromwell Crossroads.

## Marfa, Texas, Finds A Flickering Fame In Mystery Lights

Curious Glow Out on the Mesa  
Stirs Curious Theories:  
Illuminated Jack Rabbits?

By DAVID STIFF

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL  
MARFA, Texas—Steven Spielberg, eat your heart out. When it comes to close encounters and strange things that go blink in the night, residents of this little West Texas town are a lot closer to the action than Hollywood.

For more than 100 years, mysterious lights have been reported flickering at night in and around a sparsely populated stretch southeast of here called Mitchell Flat. Many who say they have seen the lights describe them as looking like lanterns twinkling among the foothills of the Chinati Mountains, 30 miles away. Others say they have seen brighter, closer lights that blaze up and cast shadows for a few seconds before fading. And then there are the reports that movies grow out of, like Samuel Whatley's story.

About 10 years ago, Mr. Whatley was driving home a little before dawn from his night job as a computer operator when he saw what he thought were car lights speeding toward him on a road east of town. The next thing he knew, he says, a cantaloup-sized globe of orange-red light appeared and hovered a few feet outside the rolled-down window of his pickup.

"Hell, I was scared," he says. "I was crawling out of my skin." Mr. Whatley says he floored the accelerator, but the globe stayed with him for about two miles, then suddenly disappeared.

Although most sightings aren't that exciting, a great many people near this town of 2,500 are convinced they have seen something. The lights have been chased from the air and ground, gawked at by tourists, photographed and even televised. Since first being reported in 1883, they have inspired folklore, song lyrics, quite a bit of tomfoolery and some hard scientific head-scratching. No one, however, has nailed down the explanation.

Who Is Gullible?

To be sure, there are skeptics here who say the source of all the fuss is just ranch and car lights perennially mistaken for something more mysterious. But those are the kind of folks who will believe anything, other Marfans say.

"The people who don't want to believe in the lights figure out that they're car lights," says Charlie Henderson, the local county judge. "But they're not, I assure you they're not."

Judge Henderson says he has seen distant lights that split up and go in opposite directions, bob up and down and move in other ways car lights aren't known to. Once, he says, he was hunting rabbits on Mitchell Flat when "about midnight I saw a light shining right down a little canyon I was in. It looked like the headlight on a freight train." It looked, in fact, a good deal like the lights he had seen on other occasions, only closer.

There is also the matter of a report drawn up by two geologists who prospected



for uranium here in the 1960s and early 1970s. The two, John P. Kenney and Elwood Wright, became fascinated with the lights and spent a number of nights on Mitchell Flat investigating. They recorded their observations in a journal.

On March 19, 1973, according to the handwritten account, the two were sitting in their car near a county road 10 miles east of Marfa about 10 p.m. Suddenly some horses in a field whinnied and bolted. Moments later, the two saw a ball of light rapidly moving in from the southwest, with another one behind it. The lights, which "appeared to be about one-half the size of a basket-

ball," moved "behind some bushes and in front of other bushes" and hovered briefly a few hundred feet away before vanishing. Messrs. Wright and Kenney wrote.

The two never figured out what the lights were, but they agree that they weren't car or ranch lights. They also say they have never heard of Mr. Whatley's similar report, and he says he didn't know of the geologists' sighting.

Though such tales provide fertile ground for occult speculation—and Marfa has produced a bumper crop of stories identifying the lights as ghosts or extraterrestrials—most people here think there must be a natural explanation. This isn't to say the explanation must be down-to-earth. One resident proposed that the lights are caused by jack rabbits with glowworms clinging to their fur.

Another theory has it that the lights come from phosphorescent minerals, even though no such minerals have been found here. Some theorists propose St. Elmo's fire, the static electricity known to light up ships' masts or airplane wings, although Mitchell Flat hasn't any obvious source of such electricity. Others lean to swamp gas, the vapors from rotting vegetation that occasionally burst into flame, but the aridity of this rangeland lends little support to that notion.

John Derr, a geophysicist with the U.S. Geological Survey in Denver, thinks that what are seen may be "earthquake lights," softball-size globes such as have been reported in places prone to tremors. Unfortunately for this theory, Marfa hasn't had any earthquakes. In any case, earthquake lights themselves stand in need of explanation. (Mr. Derr thinks they may be small clouds of charged particles.)

A lot of area residents believe odd atmospheric effects have something to do with the lights. Fritz Kahl, the manager of Marfa's airport, says he has often seen mirages in the area, such as false mountains shimmering in the distance. He says Marfa is in a basin between mountain ranges and has lots of unusual weather.

An astronomer who once worked nearby at McDonald Observatory has a theory built along such lines. Eric Silverberg says that when he looked down toward Marfa from his perch on Mount Locke, 30 miles to the north, he used to see "twinkling lights well above the horizon where there shouldn't have been any. It was one of the most convincing UFO phenomena I've ever seen."

Mr. Silverberg believes that what he saw were light beams bent and carried over great distances by what is called the Novaya Zemlya effect, a "tunneling" of light due to adjacent layers of air at sharply different temperatures. The source could be either car lights or bright stars. Of course, it couldn't have been car lights in the case 100 years ago; and it could hardly be stars in the numerous sightings on cloudy nights.

Such considerations offer no difficulty for Gabriel Green, the president of the Amalgamated Flying Saucer Clubs of America, in Yucca Valley, Calif. He suggests that the lights are due to atmospheric ionization around spacecraft piloted by extraterrestrials. "They zigzag around to get our attention and expand our awareness," explains Mr. Green. The presence of mountains 30 miles away also is telling, he adds, because "it's fairly typical that they (the extraterrestrials) will set up their bases under mountains."

In a way, the lights of this small West Texas town are like the footlights of a stage that never quite became a scene of major drama. Marfa once was expected to explode at the center of an oil boom, back 50 or 60 years ago, but the oil was never found; an outside hotel built to accommodate the boom still dominates the downtown area.

During World War II Marfa swelled when an air base was built nearby; it shrank again when the base closed after the war.

In 1955 the town soared into prominence as the setting of the movie "Giant"; today, the only sign of the film industry is the former theater, which has played its last picture show and is now an electronics store.

There was anticipation of a uranium boom in the 1960s, when the geologists who saw the Marfa lights were in the area; it went the way of the oil boom.

So the elusive lights—Marfans often describe them as "friendly" lights—are the town's only reliable source of ennoblement. And old-timers aren't pleased when nonbelievers scoff at the mystery. "We all got kind of mad when a reporter from Houston said they were just mercury-vapor lights on ranches," says Julia Plumley.

If anyone in these parts can qualify as an authority on Marfa's lights, she is probably the one. It was her father, Robert Ellison, who first noticed the strange flickering in 1883. "The light I've seen over the years isn't a ranch light," Mrs. Plumley says firmly. "It's a soft, small kind of ethereal-looking light. You can't get close to it. And there's really nothing to say about it except that it's real and it's there."

CR: D. Connelly

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT, Little Rock, AR - April 18, 1984

## Mysterious gas seeps from pyramid's depths

The Associated Press

CAIRO, Egypt - A mysterious gas seeping from the depths of a 4,600-year-old pyramid kept tourists away from the tomb of the Pharaoh Chephren on Tuesday. Egyptian army experts crawled through the ancient shafts to hunt for its source.

"There is something down there," muttered one of the army chemical experts, "But we're not sure what it is."

Fifteen tourists complained of eye irritation and had difficulty breathing Monday after gas apparently filled the burial chamber in the center of the pyramid, built in 2640 B.C.

Because of the complaints, the pyramid was closed at midday Monday, said Nassef Mohammed Hassan, director of antiquities for the Cairo area.

One of the army experts said the gas had largely dissipated by Tuesday, but he said more tests were needed to determine its origin. All the army experts spoke on the condition that they not be named.

On Tuesday, Egyptian tourist police and guides shooed

tourists away from the pyramid, which is about 435 feet high and is the second largest of the three pyramids on the Giza Plateau on the western edge of Cairo.

"I think the effects (of the gas) are decreasing," Hassan said, "and there will be nothing in two or three days. We can open the pyramid to the public after we have the results of the tests."

Reporters who crawled through the narrow passage to the burial chamber suffered no ill effects Tuesday.

Hassan said it was the first time that any gases had been detected in the pyramid. An estimated 15,000 to 20,000 people visit the pyramid sites daily, he said.

Hassan said archaeologists are certain there are no undiscovered secret chambers from which gas could have come. But he speculated gases could have seeped into the chamber from subterranean pools of water or sewage beneath the Giza Plateau.

One of the army experts also speculated that a stink-bomb might have been left in the chamber "as a child's prank."