

UFO

NEWSCLIPPING SERVICE

U.F.O. NEWSCLIPPING SERVICE

ROUTE 1 — BOX 220

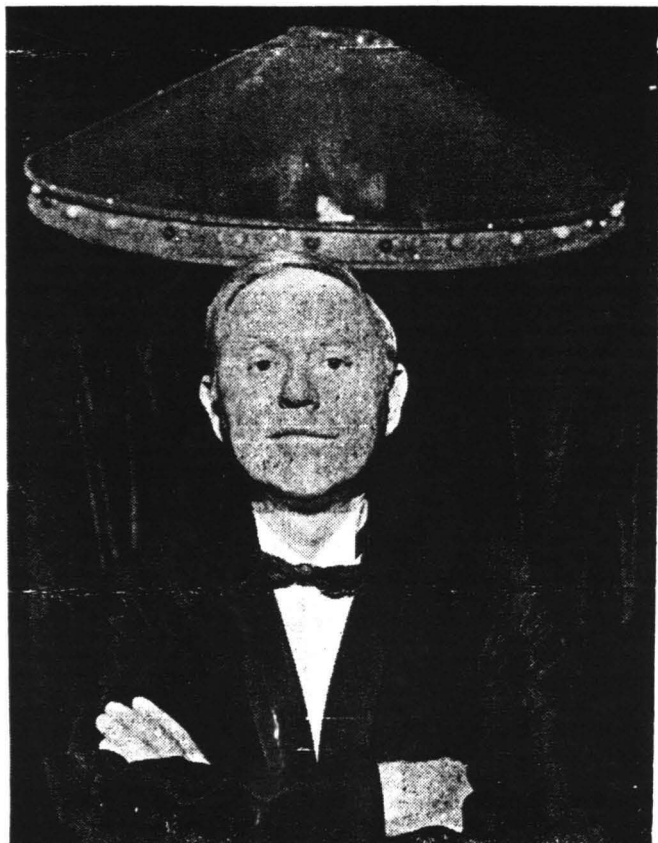
PLUMERVILLE, ARKANSAS 72127 U.S.A.

CO-EDITORS: LUCIUS FARISH
ROD B. DYKE

JUNE 1984

NUMBER 179

CHRONICLE, Houston, TX - April 22, 1984 CR: M. Hall



Larry Reese / Chronicle

Bob Baker, popularly known as the UFO scientist, says UFOs can't be explained as natural phenomena or as extra-terrestrial activity. The distinguished astronautics engineer was in Houston to address the ARCS (Achievement Rewards for College Scientists) Foundation.

UFO expert confident man not alone in galaxy

By ERIC LAWLOR
Houston Chronicle

Scientists trying to locate life on other planets might consider an equally perplexing problem: locating the distinguished astronautics engineer Bob Baker.

I had arranged to meet Baker, popularly known as the UFO scientist, in northwest Houston — a part of the city in such flux that much of it has yet to appear on any map. More is known about the surface of Mars.

And to complicate things, I was given conflicting directions.

"Take 290," one said. "Take I-10," said another.

I tried to take both — with the result that I turned up nearly three hours late for our interview.

It is a tribute to Baker's grace that he didn't meet me at the door with a shotgun.

He was even gracious enough to say that he, too, lacks a sense of direction.

"That's why I let my wife do the driving," he says. "Then I can blame her when we get lost."

Baker became involved with unidentified flying objects in the 1950s.

"I became interested while working at Lockheed," he says. "Back then, I was a young engineer without a reputation to protect. I didn't have to worry about tarnishing my image. Anyway, science is like acting: There's no such thing as bad publicity."

His interest grew and, with it, his renown — with the result that he was one of six scientists asked to serve on the Senate committee investigating UFOs — or anomalous observation phenomena (AOP), as they are known in the scientific community. The committee was to produce the famous *Blue Book*, a document that is to UFOs what *The Nowhere Directionary* is to esoterica.

Baker hadn't finished yet: He went on to co-write what is regarded as the definitive report on UFOs — this one commissioned by the U.S. Air Force.

The upshot of all this study is that UFOs — or AOP, if you will — continue to baffles.

"In one film I saw, the 'object' looked like an airplane reflection — but there was no airplane," says Baker. "In another, it looked like a flock of birds — but at that height, birds would have needed G-suits. So we're able to say pretty much what they aren't. What we can't say is what they are. These things can't be explained as either natural phenomena or as evidence of extra-terrestrial activity."

"The only generalizations we can make is that, whatever they are, they usually come in pairs and they're usually elliptical."

He says he has seen some 60 films — most of them shot by private citizens — purporting to corroborate UFO sightings. Why just 60? Aren't UFOs seen all the time?

"People claim to see them all the time," he says, "but it's comparatively rare that they have cameras with them. And I'm talking about movie cameras. You can't work with single-frame pictures: They're too unreliable."

Unreliable, too, are eyewitness reports. "These people aren't lying, but they delude themselves. And when more than one person is involved, they delude one another. They talk themselves into believing that what they've seen really is out of the

ordinary."

He shows me pictures of UFOs. They're disappointing in their ambiguity.

"I'm inclined to think," he says, "that when we see one — a real one — we'll have no trouble recognizing it."

What does it say about people that so many of them would want to believe in the existence of other civilizations?

"I find it rather touching. People are looking for a Messiah. The belief is that any civilization that succeeds in contacting us has to be a lot smarter than we are and, being smarter, can possibly solve our problems."

If extra-terrestrials were genuinely interested in making contact with us, isn't it likely that they'd have made their presence known and that we wouldn't have to guess whether UFOs really are spacecraft?

"Well, let me ask you this: When is the last time you had a conversation with an ant? If there are extra-terrestrials, we don't know their level of intelligence or their social and mental processes. It's possible that we appear to them as ants appear to us."

"It's possible, too, that, like *Star Trek II*, it's their policy to observe — not to interfere."

Baker says we need just one example — in addition to our own — to tie down the theory that other civilizations exist. And, so far, we have none. Yet he remains optimistic.

"The galaxy has been around for four billion years, so there's been plenty of opportunity for life to spring up. Life moves rapidly. The universe can't be a little bit pregnant: Either there's plenty of life around — or none. And I doubt the latter. I just can't swallow that we're alone."

"Then there's the time element. Suppose there is life out there interested in locating other civilizations. How many launchings does it take before they get around to us? Were they to launch one craft a year, they'd reach us only once every 100,000 years. And that assumes they're interested!"

Turning our backs on space would be the ultimate isolationism, he says, and he applauds SETI, NASA's Search for Extra-terrestrial Intelligence. SETI employs "a very large radio developed as a listening post. It will be like sitting at your radio and twiddling the dial to see if you can pick up anything. If anything unusual is detected, we'll marshal scientists to analyze it."

"Listening for signals is more effective than sending signals. And the cost is minimal."

Now president of West Coast College, Los Angeles, Baker is a recipient of the UCLA Physics Prize and, in 1976, was honored by the American Astronautical Society for his contributions to astrodynamics and flight mechanics. He was in Houston to address the ARCS (Achievement Rewards for College Scientists) Foundation.

The National Enquirer — with its weekly stories of people being "kidnapped" by extra-terrestrials — make the subject of UFOs "a comic strip," he says. "They make it a laughing matter, a side-show."

He takes a more benign view of science-fiction movies.

"Sci-fi doesn't hurt our efforts any more than *Splash* is going to hurt oceanography."

WAYNE CO. HERALD, Waynesboro, TN - May 11, 1982

Letters to the Editor

UFO Data

Recently I have begun investigating several "missing time" cases. One involves a couple over in Knoxville. They had missing time back on July 27, 1952, while on their honeymoon. It happened near Gatlinburg, where some 15 miles are a blank memory, except for the husband who recalls the car headlights and dash lights being off and a light shining on the road ahead from behind some trees.

But that's all that's consciously remembered. Then beginning on July 30, 1952, 3 days later, the wife had her first nightmare, which became a chronic pattern over the years. In the nightmare it is as though she is trying to escape from something dreadful.

In the 1960's they had a series of spectacular low level UFO sightings, and they came to feel that the sightings were not by accident, but were deliberately staged for them. In fact they even observed white grapefruit sized lights floating into their bedroom

On another occasion the husband saw a small 14 to 15 inch tall black man-like figure peering in at him through a window.

So far this couple have not sought hypnosis. They realize anyway that hypnotic recall is a controversial area anyhow with critics who point out that the power of suggestion can trigger fantasies that the subjects may think are real.

The effectiveness of hypnosis is an unresolved area. However, conscious testimony is sufficiently abundant to indicate that the hypnotic testimony may not be so far from the truth.

More on my investigations later.

Thank you,
Brent Raynes
Waynesboro

CR: B. Raynes

It Was A "Different" Kind Of Day

by Dan Townsend

April 10 dawned much like any other day to Jim Motley of rural Southwest City; it ended like no other he has ever experienced.

And he is not sure he wants to go through another one, anytime.

In the evening of April 10th, Motley was talking on his citizen's band radio as he often does. In fact, Motley has a CB in his small foreign made pickup truck and a bigger base unit in his home.

At this particular time, around 9:30 in the evening, he was sitting in his pickup talking when he noticed something strange at the back of the property. There appeared to be two very large lights shining, much like two large floodlights.

The lights appeared to be seven or eight feet off the ground, and were extremely bright.

He hobbled into the house (he has a broken foot from an auto accident) and told his wife someone must be either poaching some of the abundant deer or trying to steal some cattle.

This particularly worried Motley for he serves as caretaker to the property and cattle, which is owned by Burl Harris of Gravette.

He picked up a shotgun and drove his pickup out through the wet grass (it had rained most of the week) towards the lights, which appeared to be shining from a northeasterly direction. The property lies almost midway between Noel and Southwest City, some three miles or so from each town, off MM Highway. Thus driving northeast would be driving towards Noel.

The back property line runs east to west and is mostly pasture, except for a deep, tree filled hollow which cuts through the property north to south. The hollow extends from the back of the property and beyond, to the north, and almost to the front part of the property in the south. There are two pastures, one east of the hollow and one west. To go from the east pasture to the west pasture, one must drive almost to the front of the property, passing right by the house, then back to the west where the hollow is not so steep.

There is a back gate on the property and Motley headed towards it, fearing the poachers were entering through the gate to the property.

As he neared the gate, about a quarter of a mile from the house, the lights remained stationary and very bright. Motley recalls they appeared to be coming from a stand of trees not far away.

Then everything went blank.

When he came to, he was disoriented, confused. "It seemed like I had vertigo, or something," he said, "I was dizzy and couldn't keep my head up."

"I didn't know where I was, and was really confused." Finally gathering his senses Motley attempted to start his truck, but it would not start. For two or three minutes he fumbled in confusion trying to make sense of things and clear his head.

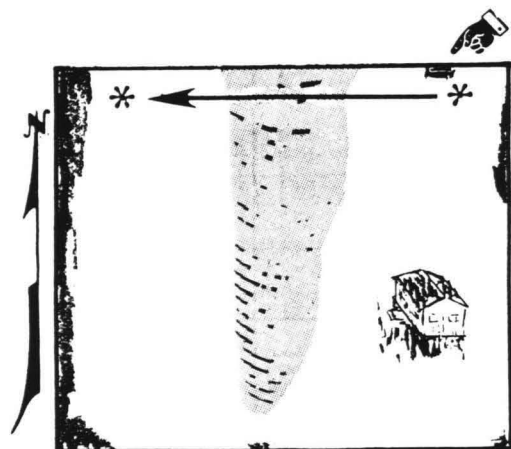
Finally, he got the pickup started but was so disoriented he could not figure out where he was. He reached for the CB and said, "I don't know where I am."

He repeated the statement, forgetting to use his CB



POINTS THE WAY HOME--Jim Motley points to his home (arrow) from where he first came to after 'passing out' after checking for poachers. This point is about a half mile to the northwest from his home, and about a half mile west of where he said he fainted.

(Staff photo, Townsend)



LAYOUT OF THE LAND--This map shows the layout of the property in which Jim Motley of rural Southwest City had a "strange encounter."

(Map by Pogue)

'handle'. Thumbsucker. However, his wife and friend, Connie Pendergrass, who was visiting, recognized his voice.

"Jim, you're out by the back gate," Joyce said on the CB. Again Motley, his head still spinning, said he didn't know where he was.

Arnold Spencer of rural Anderson, heard Motley on the CB. Spencer, known as

Feed Hauler, said, "Thumbsucker, are you lost?" Again, Motley said he didn't know where he was.

Joyce Motley then told Feed Hauler and others who were listening in, that Motley was out in the pasture. "Turn on your lights," said Feed Hauler.

Thumbsucker did so, and his wife replied she could see his lights, but he was now in the west pasture, a half mile west of the back gate.

"How did you get there," asked Joyce? "I don't know," said Motley.

Although Spencer (Feed Hauler) had never personally met Motley he had talked to him numerous times on the CB and said Motley sounded "scared, confused." So he decided to go to Motley's and see if he could help. He, his father-in-law Louis Herring, two brothers-in-law, Robert and Billy Herring and another Cber, 'Whipporwill' joined together and all drove to Motley's.

When they arrived Motley

had managed to drive back to the house, and appeared to be less confused than before. Mostley said he noticed, despite his confusion, that he had lost twelve minutes somewhere.

Before leaving, Spencer was concerned enough to call the Sheriff's Dept. Undersheriff Don Schlessman was dispatched to the scene.

The five Anderson men listened to Motley's story then drove out to the back gate to check out his story. Spencer said they were very careful to check the number of car tracks in the wet pasture. There was only one set.

"I don't care how good a driver you are," said Spencer, "no one can exactly drive over the same tracks."

They even felt Motley's head to see if he had been struck and knocked out. He had not, nor had he been drinking.

Robert and Billy Herring walked back to the house from the back gate to check if perhaps Motley had driven through the trees in the hollow to reach the west pasture. There were no tracks.

"If anyone had driven around, it would have been easy to see, because the grass was so wet," said Spencer.

After examining the area, Spencer and the others were mystified, but convinced Motley had not purposely driven to the other side to perpetuate a "tall tale."

Nor had he driven through the back gate and around the north side of the hollow.

In talking about the incident, Spencer is convinced something very extraordinary happened that night.

Deputy Don Schlessman also checked the property and found the same physical evidence as had Spencer and the others. He too, is mystified.

His wife is mystified. "For certain, Jim did not drive back by the house to go from one pasture to the other. I would have seen him."

As for Motley, he does not know what to say, except that something very strange happened.

He said he saw nothing more than the two bright lights. There is nothing else in the area where the lights were shining from that would indicate anything was there. Since the incident, his truck's alternator ceased to work, as has his voltage regulator.

"I don't know if they just went bad or were a result of that night, all I know is they don't work anymore."

UFO's and Missing Time

submitted by Brent Raynes

Jacques Vallee, a French mathematician, computer expert, astronomer, and occasional NASA consultant, is also a dedicated researcher of UFO (unidentified flying object) data. In his controversial book, "Passport to Magonia" (1969, Henry Regnery Co., Chicago), he chronicled 923 UFO accounts from 1868 to 1968, involving low-level flights, landings, and even humanoid entities! In ancient French folklore, by the way, Magonia was the heavenly abode of supernatural beings.

American UFOlogists Ted Blecher and David Webb reported tabulating over 1,500 cases of humanoid-type entities from available UFO data. Not only does this data go back to 1868 (and much earlier if you are to consider other accounts), but these reports are being made all over the world, with numerous cases in Venezuela, Australia, Italy, Sweden, Japan, and Chile, to name a few. All of which explodes the common myth that so-called flying saucers are a relatively new American fad.

One of the most controversial and disturbing aspects of several hundred known cases involving landings and entity sightings has been what has become known simply as "missing time." The classic scenario often involves someone driving a car when they see a "flying saucer" approaching, or perhaps they are taking a night stroll along a deserted lane. Then suddenly it may be two or three hours later, and sometimes several miles distant in a different place, unable to account for what transpired. But some 200 or more people now claim, through the use of regressive hypnosis, to have "relived" scenes from their "missing time." The hypnotic scenario often involves the "humanoids" many times shorter than an average human with snow white skin, large, bulging eyes and extra large heads. The witness often recalls being reclined on a table while a medical-type examination is conducted by the entities.

How long has such a possible UFO abduction scenario been going on?

There's no way to tell, for sure. But last year I came across a suggestive story. It happened along Beech Creek Road one Sunday evening back around the mid-1930's. I verified the account from four different people who had known the now deceased witness. All agreed he was reliable and had been shaken by the experience. One of those I spoke with was his brother. Basically, the story goes that as the young man was returning home alone a brilliant white light appeared along the roadside. He was astonished to see a group of dwarfish men - perhaps 8 or 10 - looking at him from around what appeared to be a round table. Terrified he began to run frantically, and the next thing he knew he was picking himself up off the ground at the bottom of Smith Branch Hill, several hundred yards from the site where he had encountered the "little men."

Was he so frightened that he simply repressed the memory of his getaway or was his mind, as in more contemporary UFO accounts, seemingly manipulated through some form of trance induction? Also interesting is the memory of a table, and the exam table of recent UFO

(original clipping incomplete)

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

Another case of "missing time" I have under investigation, this one up in Manassas, Virginia, involves another subject with numerous UFO experiences and an episode of Missing Time. He believes that on April 18, 1979, he was abducted onboard a UFO. In 1980 he was hypnotized by Dr. R. Leo Sprinkle, a Wyoming psychologist who has hypnotized dozens of other men and women in efforts to further recall what happened to them during their strange experiences.

"Their skin color was white," he has informed me. "Such as the bottom of a fish white. The appearance of the skin was such as the hide of an elephant. The texture of the skin was as soft leather. Their eyes were very large. Their heads were huge, bulging at the forehead. They were shorter in height than the average man, with the exception of the leader. I am approximately six feet. The leader was only a few inches shorter than I, but quite taller than the other three. The leader's head was of a different shape. Having a crevice from the top of his head down through the forehead with huge bulges on each side, such as a double sized brain. He did most of the communicating by the means of telepathy only. They had no hair. The leader's power is great. When I was on the table he put his hands on my shoulders to calm and relax me. I could sense a strong feeling of compassion in him and he did calm me."

Visitation of alien space technology, or a return to Magonia type fantasies? What can we hope to learn from continued studies of these bizarre UFO cases, and what impact, if any, will this phenomenon have on the course of human history?

Sincerely, Brent Raynes
Waynesboro

WAYNE CO. HERALD, Waynesboro, TN - May 18, 1982 CR: B. Raynes

UFO Prober Seeks Reports

For three decades, people the world over have reported seeing strange and seemingly unexplainable objects that remain a mystery to this day. "I believe this is something that needs to be studied and investigated," says Shirley Lynch. A resident of Decatur, Mrs. Lynch was recently named to coordinate investigations of Unidentified Flying Objects sightings in Rockdale, DeKalb and Gwinnett counties for the Mutual UFO Network of Seguin, Texas.

"We hope that with enough information someday we'll break the mystery (as to whether UFOs) are something of an unknown nature on this planet or something from elsewhere," said Mrs. Lynch.

MRS. LYNCH describes the Mutual UFO Network as a 15-year-old scientific organization devoted to UFO research.

Interest in UFOs probably reached a high point in the 1960s when, among other organizations, the U.S. Air Force was investigating reported UFO sightings.

The Air Force studied nearly 13,000 UFO cases before it closed its 22-year investigation in 1969, concluding there was no evidence that any UFOs were extraterrestrial vehicles, as some had claimed, or that any presented a danger to national security.

"There's a belief held by different organizations that the government was covering up information they may have had on the subject," said Mrs. Lynch.

FOR SOME unknown reason, said Mrs. Lynch, relatively few UFO sightings are reported in Georgia.

Many more are reported in the Midwest and the Southwest "and there are about five times as many sightings" in North Carolina as in Georgia, said Mrs. Lynch.

She added she did not know if any sightings had ever been reported in the three counties she now oversees.

One reported UFO sighting in Georgia was in

January 1984 when "a strange lighted object" was seen by several people in the sky above Waycross, said Mrs. Lynch.

MANY PEOPLE tend to dismiss those who report UFOs as kooks.

"From what I've read, very very few are considered cranks," she said. "Most reports come from credible persons, from teachers, pilots, engineers, military personnel and police."

Once her organization receives a report, an investigator is sent out to collect whatever scientific information he can, including possible water and soil samples.

Mrs. Lynch said some people "are afraid people will ridicule them" for reporting seeing a UFO. She said her organization will keep names confidential. Those wishing to report information should write Mrs. Lynch at 1256 Mayfield Dr., Decatur, Ga. 30033. People can also call a UFO "hotline" number at (206)-722-3000.

Decatur's Shirley Lynch Leads Local Group That Takes UFOs Seriously

By GARY MC DANIEL

In the final scene from the 1952 motion picture classic, Howard Hawks' "The Thing From Another World," a scientist sends out an urgent warning to the American people to "look to the skies."

In DeKalb County, Shirley Lynch would like to send out the same message, not as an urgent warning but as a request to help her organization.

Mrs. Lynch of Decatur was just selected state section director of the Mutual UFO Network, Inc. (MUFON), a nonprofit corporation dedicated to the research and investigation of the phenomenon called UFO.

"MUFON has been around since 1969," she said, "and I've been a member since October. I'd just finished the requirements to become a field investigator when I accepted this new position."

As director, she will be responsible for coordinating research and investigations in DeKalb, Gwinnett, and Rockdale counties. It is also her goal to organize study groups and monthly meetings for people interested in resolving the UFO question.

SHE BELIEVES the group has suffered from lack of publicity.

"I think the director before me didn't publicize our group because of a fear of not being taken seriously. It's my duty to make the public aware we have an organization where anyone who has sighted an UFO can make a report."

If a sighting of a UFO is reported in the three county area, a field investigator will be sent to interview witnesses and document evidence. From the data received, the investigator determines if the report was a hoax or a misperception of an identifiable object (moon, planets, meteors, aircraft, etc.). If the reported object cannot be easily explained then information is sent to MUFON headquarters in Seguin, Texas where it will be compared by computers with other sightings.

The type of information MUFON gathers for its files is eye-witness testimony (from which direction did it appear, description, how near the ground), a sketch of the area where the object was seen and soil samples if ground contact was made.

ALTHOUGH MRS. Lynch has yet to investigate her first sighting, she hopes within the large populations of her section there will be people who can share information about UFOs with her. But if things are slow in her area, she's not against checking out incidents from the past and in other counties.

"I found a news clipping in a book I purchased at a garage sale recently. A UFO was seen by several people in Habersham County back in 1964. In fact, according to the article, one girl received radiation burns from the object. If I have time, I'd like to go interview any witnesses still around."

MUFON works closely with another organization, the Center For UFO Studies. Mrs. Lynch became an associate of the center two years ago. The center is a free association of scientists, engineers, and other professionals, and the goals of both organizations are similar.

One organization with which MUFON doesn't work with is the U.S. government.

"THERE'S A lot a controversy concerning the government's involvement with UFO's," she said. "Our belief is that they know a lot more than they're telling. In fact, there is a group called Citizens Against UFO Secrecy which filed suit against the government under the Freedom of Information Act. They believed the government was withholding evidence of a UFO crash landing in which extra-terrestrials were discovered. But the court ruled against the group."

Despite the claims and reports that have been made from "close encounters of the third kind" concerning aliens from other worlds, MUFON as a group hasn't made any judgement about their existence.

"We don't necessarily believe there are beings from other planets, but we certainly like to keep an open mind about it. We would just like to solve some of the mysteries behind UFO's."



Mrs. Lynch moved to DeKalb County in 1959 and has raised six children from two marriages. She became interested in UFO's in the 1950s but was too busy raising a family to really expand her knowledge.

"IT WAS DURING the 1950s that an unprecedented amount of UFO's were sighted around the world."

Now that her youngest child is a student at Shamrock High School, Mrs. Lynch is able to devote more time to MUFON. Fortunately, her husband and family are very supportive.

"I've always been interested in astronomy and my husband gave me a telescope for our anniversary in 1970. He's already promised to go with me when I go on my first investigation."

You may or may not believe in extra-terrestrials or flying saucers from other planets, but rest assured there's someone in DeKalb who will be more than happy to investigate if you should happen across something — perhaps while you're looking to the sky — that you can't explain.

MUFON has a "hot line" phone number, 1-206-722-3000, if anyone would like to report an UFO sighting. If anyone would like to contact Mrs. Lynch should write to: State Section Director, 1256 Mayfield Drive, Decatur, Ga. 30033.

The latest on UFOs and E.T.s

By Steven Findlay
USA TODAY

NEW YORK — Do UFOs exist? Can people bend spoons with psychic power? Is there life on distant planets?

Scientists usually don't dwell on such questions. But Tuesday at the American Association for the Advancement of Science meeting here, the USA's largest annual science get-together, eight experts in such matters discussed:

■ **UFOs.** Scientifically, says Houston space engineer James Oberg, most UFO sightings have been explained; many recorded in the 1960s were traced to Russian spacecraft tests.

But J. Allen Hynek, head of the Center for UFO Studies in Evanston, Ill., and a professor emeritus at Northwestern University, says a computer analysis of 400 well-substantiated sightings has shown that the reported properties of UFOs are "totally inconsistent with those of everyday objects and phenomena."

The consensus: There is no proof that a spaceship from another planet has visited Earth.

■ **Psychic phenomena** (telepathy, ESP, psychokinesis, clairvoyance). Most psychic reports are hoaxes, very often blown out of proportion by the media, says magician and skeptic James Randi.

But Stanley Krippner, of the Center for Consciousness Studies in San Francisco, says it's wrong to assume that psychic phenomena are "non-ordinary." They may be extensions of our senses that scientists can't yet understand, he says.

The consensus: Still no proof, but we should keep looking.

■ **Extraterrestrial intelligence.** "As best we know now, life on Earth is not unique," says Cornell University astronomer Frank Drake. In fact, scientists now think there could be as many as 10,000 civilizations in the universe.

The problem: If there are 10,000, where are they; why haven't we found them, or they us?

Our nearest neighbors could live within 100,000 light-years from us. It shouldn't have taken them this long to get in touch, says Eric Jones of the Los Alamos national laboratory, Los Alamos, N.M.

The consensus — "Keep searching," says science fiction author Isaac Asimov. "I think we all hope there will be somebody out there."

Have UFOs returned? Ask the folks in Jesup

By Jingle Davis
Special To The Constitution

JESUP, Ga. — Warren Purvis says it was as tall as a skyscraper.

Purvis said someone later tried to convince him he'd seen Northern lights. "It was not," Purvis said emphatically. "That thing was round and that sucker was moving, and I was not drinking, but I did shortly thereafter." Purvis said he even had a dream this week about what he saw that night.

Dozens of sober, reliable Wayne County citizens, including a deputy sheriff, an auto mechanic and Purvis, a former county commissioner, can't seem to quit talking about the unidentified flying objects they saw on a recent evening just after dark.

Wayne County Sheriff Jim Poindexter said Wednesday that on the night of April 26, nearly 30 people called to say they had seen brightly lit objects of spectacular dimensions which made no sound but cruised above the treetops at speeds of around 100 mph.

All of the callers insisted the objects were not airplanes, helicopters or any other recognizable flying machines.

"Most people described them as something with amber lights flying

over the tree tops," Poindexter said. "I know it was something, but we haven't been able to find out a thing about what it was."

The sheriff's office checked with the Army's Fort Stewart, about 30 miles away, to ask if the military was testing anything that might account for the strange sightings.

"We don't believe it was anything from the base," said Fort Stewart spokesman Dean Wohlgemuth.

Screven resident Ray Poppell said he and his family saw two large objects hovering above the treetops on the far side of a field. "All of the sudden the field in front of our house got real bright, like it was on fire," said Poppell, an auto mechanic. "I went to the door and saw these two objects shaped like big Vs with lights on every point."

Poppell said he called his wife, his 13-year-old son and 10-year-old daughter and his parents.

Poppell said he believes the objects were either "something from outer space or something our government is experimenting with that they don't want us to know about."

DISPATCH, Clay Center, KS - May 1, 1984

Agvices Plus



Jim Hoobler

By Jim Hoobler
County Extension
Agricultural Agent &
County Extension Director

X MARKS THE SPOT - Do you believe in UFO's? Only if I see one land was my reply. Well, one did land on my place and I'd like for you to look at it.

The above conversation took place in my office a week ago. My first reaction was the same as any other UFO watcher - I've got to see this!

I've been in the county long enough that I hope I can sort out some of the loonies, the prime candidates for practical jokes, and the heavy fishermen who bait the hook and wait to see if you'll bite. When Bill Steffen sat down and told me about this landing site, I knew he wasn't any of the above.

Now tell me, how would you react if you saw a large crater the shape of an X in the middle of your milo field? We're talking a good foot deep, about 20 feet long, and dirt thrown 15 feet away from the hole. The curved sides of the X are almost identical.

There were no foot marks, no animal tracks, or any other signs of "real life" to make the puzzle easier to solve. And the site is located near the center of the section, out of sight from any farm house or road.

When you mention to someone in a rural area like Clay County that you have looked at a UFO landing site and that you have pictures as proof - stand back and expect the obvious.

"Oh yea, and what color were they? Did they take you for a ride? Do you feel OK? What have you been drinking?"

I took two K-State specialists (who were here for our wheat plot tour last Thursday) out to the big X so they could see for themselves. They quit laughing and started taking pictures when they saw it.

This "landing site" will probably always be a mystery. There are always some things that go unanswered.

Lights Prompt Sightings

Jesup Bureau

JESUP — What were described as unusual-looking lights in the night sky caused several people from Jesup to call local radio stations and police stations Wednesday and Thursday with reports of sightings of unidentified flying objects.

A spokesman for the Wayne County Sheriff's Office said that "a number of calls" were made to the office about 8:30 p.m. Wednesday and 9 p.m. Thursday.

One of the observers, Darrel Burnett of Jesup, said he spotted unusual lights in the sky Thursday night at about 8:30.

"I was going towards the (ITT) Rayonier mill and saw eight yellow lights in the air moving toward the mill," he said. "At first I thought it was just lights from the mill, but they were moving."

Burnett said he chased the lights in his car on U.S. Highway 301.

"The traffic started getting pretty bad because everybody was trying to look up at the thing and drive at the same time," he said.

He said what he followed was traveling at least 95 to 100 mph, "floating at treetop level."

Burnett said that he followed the object to the Wayne County-Long County bridge on the Altamaha River, where the "lights on it went out."

"When I called the sheriff's office, they said I was the tenth person to call about it," he said.

At least that's what I thought until Sunday, when my son Matt asked me "Dad, would you think I'm crazy if I told you I saw a UFO?" "No, what did it look like?"

"Well, I saw it take off and it had these real bright lights underneath," I said. "Draw me a picture." Matt drew two large Vs on a paper pointing to each other.

What do I do now!! Do you believe in UFO's?

Minister Scans Skies For UFOs

By Katherine Boyette

Special To The Star

SHUBUTA — The Rev. Ralph Savarese spends most of his time as minister to three United Methodist churches, but in the future he may also be investigating the sightings of objects that are out of this world.

Savarese, 61, was recently appointed state section director for the Mutual UFO Network, Inc. The non-profit organization, known as MUFON, is dedicated to the scientific investigation of UFOs. Savarese's job as Clarke and Wayne county director is to investigate local sightings and to relay the information to MUFON's headquarters in Sequin, Texas.

Savarese said most people do not believe in UFOs unless they have seen one. "I didn't believe in them before January 1967 when I saw one in Clara, Miss.," he said.

According to Savarese, the UFO was visible for 15 minutes and was also witnessed by several friends and family members. When he reported the sighting to Wayne County authorities, they did not take him seriously. "He just hung up on me," Savarese said.

Later, Savarese gave a ride to a hitchhiker who reported seeing a similar UFO on that same night.

"I know they exist, but I'm not sure where they come from," said Savarese. "Personally, I think they come from outer space." After serving 20 years in the Air Force, he does not believe the UFOs he has seen could have been developed by the military.

Savarese has seen two other UFOs since the 1967 sighting, but he did not report these to anyone. "After being laughed at for so long, you quit talking about it," he said.

He hopes to be available to anyone in the area who has seen a UFO and can be reached by calling 687-5785. When someone reports a sighting, Savarese plans to record statements from those involved, investigate the site and report to MUFON. Sightings are reported to MUFON by directors from all over the United States. Other countries have similar organizations that provide for the investigations of UFOs worldwide.

"Some people think you are crazy when you say that you have seen a UFO," Savarese said. But the people who belong to UFO-spotting organizations come from all social levels. "We have some astronomers, medical doctors, and military officers in these organizations."

Savarese said he has received no reports of UFO sightings since he was appointed local director, but he still plans to investigate each report.

U.F.O. Authority Speaks To Club

Members and wives of the Granite Falls Rotary Club Tuesday night were given an overview of the worldwide UFO enigma at their "Ladies Nite" meeting.

The speaker, George D. Fawcett of Lincolnnton highlighted his talk with the showing of a large selection of UFO photographic slides from the United States, Canada, Europe, South America and Australia.

Fawcett, a UFO investigator, researcher, writer and teacher of the state-of-the-arts of UFO encounters for the past 40-years told his audience that, for the military UFO's carried the dangers of an Accidental World War III; for the scientific community UFOs represented the potential for an advanced scientific technology and for theologians UFOs carried the possible confirmation and/or falsification of the Christian religion.

Describing himself as the "Curious George of UFO land", Fawcett detailed recent Freedom of Information Law revelations that indicated that as far back as 1950 that UFO's were classified higher in secrecy than the Manhattan Project at that time.

And in May of 1982, the Supreme Court upheld a

lower court ruling in Washington, D.C. that the scientific community could not have access to the National Security Agency (NSA) UFO files, because UFOs were a threat to national security. This represented a complete reversal of the government position on UFOs over the past 35-years.

Fawcett documented time and time again-the nuts and bolts UFO technology, that included radar tracings, UFO photographs, landing marks, shooting incidents, severe animal re-actions, electro-magnetic interferences, occupant encounters, pilot reports, radiation increases, etc.

He said these cases would have to be balanced with the UFO incidents, which involved the 'Alice in Wonderland' aspects of materialization, dematerialization, telepathy and teleportation.

Other important repetitions documented from UFO encounters were the case histories of medical injuries due to UFO incidents, continued law suits against Federal agencies for more information, global UFO symposiums, computerized UFO data, and specialized UFO studies.

Fawcett's talk brought out many other revelations.

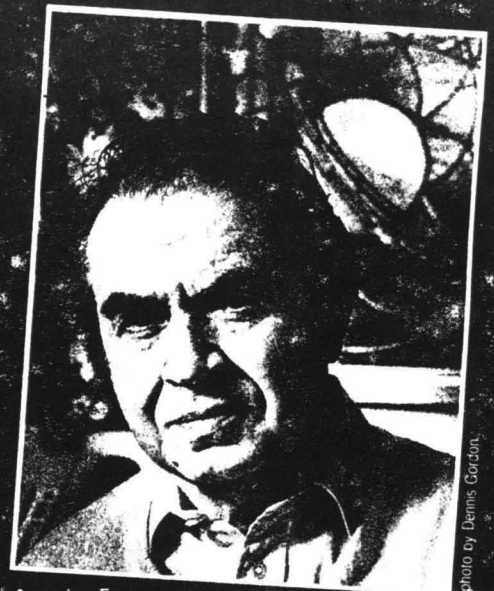
Keeping an eye on UFOs

by Bob Downing

It's been nearly 19 years, but Americo E. Candusso is still baffled by a mysterious circle in a wheat field in Carroll County. Yes, Candusso believes in unidentified flying objects.

But he is enough of a skeptic not to believe every report of little green men and flying saucers he has investigated over the years. He is serious about his UFO work, even proud of it, but he has a fear of being seen as a quack, a nut, someone ready to put away in a padded cell.

Candusso has been a mainstay of the Akron-based Flying Saucer Investigating Committee for more than 22 years; he and



Americo E. Candusso has been examining the mystery of UFOs for more than 22 years.

Photo by Dennis Carlson

Larry Moyers of Akron, who died last year.

"There's growing evidence that something unexplained exists out there," says Candusso, who lives in Cuyahoga Falls and teaches sixth grade at Akron's Harris Elementary School. "The reports keep coming on, keep coming on. The whole thing just won't die. What it is is unknown, open to speculation and guessing, and that's all it is. But I don't believe it is the result of known earth forces. It could be civilizations from somewhere in space, ones that are totally beyond ours, possessing techniques that look like magic to us. It could be extra-terrestrials, interdimensionals or something out of our own past or future. No one knows what it is and anyone who says they have the answer doesn't."

The puzzle in Carroll County, as outlined by Candusso, began in June 1965 when John Stavano, an elderly Hungarian-born farmer, noticed something out of the ordinary across the highway from where he sat on his tractor.

It appeared to Stavano that the wheat had been cut — in the middle of his field, lying between Carrollton and Delroy. He stopped his tractor and walked over to investigate.

The hair on the back of Stavano's head stood on end as he approached the area. What he found 60 feet from the road was a circle, 52 feet in diameter. The ground was bare, stripped of wheat and all vegetation in the inner part of the circle, about 26 feet across.

The wheat remained in the outer part of the circle, also 26 feet in diameter, although it had been flattened.

At the center of the circle was a hole, about five inches deep and 30 inches across. The dirt was packed and shaped like a mound, although the field had been plowed only weeks before.

It appeared that the soil in the area of the circle that was bare had been sifted or sipped to a depth of 15 inches. One could pick up handfuls of dirt. It was not packed like one would expect in a field.

Stavano brought a neighbor over to marvel at the mysterious circle. Stavano, a superstitious man, attributed the mystery to the devil. He was more than a little alarmed.

The phenomenon was investigated by the sheriff, who attributed the circle to a dynamite blast. Articles appeared in the local newspapers.

Eight days after Stavano's discovery, Candusso, Moyers and others in their group began their investigation. They shipped soil samples to labs at Ohio State University. The analysis: no evidence of explosives, yet there were abnormally high levels of zinc and iron in the samples. There was no evidence of singeing or burning.

The wheat that had been laid down appeared to be blown open from the inside, as if the pressure on the outside of each stalk had been removed as in a tornado. The wheat had exploded from the inside.

Stavano's neighbors — 26 in all — recalled hearing a sonic boom at night a few days before the discovery of the circle.

A member of Candusso's party called the Air Force, and two days later, a team of men in blue fatigues from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton took samples from the circle in the field.

"The whole thing is still a mystery to us today," says Candusso.

Candusso, in his 60s, is equally puzzled by a 24-year-old account of four teen-agers encountering a strange phenomenon while camping at what is now Firestone Metropolitan Park in Coventry Township.

The four were camping on a spit of land in August 1960. They saw a meteor overhead about midnight. A couple of hours later, one of the campers saw a bright blue implosion of light — the source

went from large to dot-like to dying out — in a nearby swampy area. He awoke his friends.

They heard cans rattle in a nearby dump. Rising up from that spot was a bell-shaped, metallic-looking robot-like object. It was about 9 feet high. It was without arms. It had a square head and black face plates instead of features. It appeared to have a black belt or sash.

It floated above the ground toward the campsite, then disappeared. Then, 40 yards away, three similar objects appeared, moved up, disappeared and then reappeared.

Heat seemed to be emanating from the objects, which were otherwise silent.

The four thoroughly shaken campers gathered up their gear and got out of there fast. The objects followed them at a distance, all the way to Wilbeth Road, although they never appeared to be threatening.

"To my mind, that is one of the strangest and most unexplainable stories," Candusso says. "I hardly believe it myself, yet the boys seemed very sincere. We talked to them within 24 hours and interviewed them separately and they stuck to their story. Even the little things matched up in all the accounts. They swore it was true at the time and even years later."

"If the account is true, the phenomenon (the ability to move instantly from site to site) is just stupendous. Yet it's incredible to think that somewhere up there in space, a force would travel trillions and trillions of miles just to bedevil four teen-agers."

(continued on page 6)

(continued from page 5 - BEACON JOURNAL
("Beacon"), Akron, OH - May 27, 1984)

Perhaps the most noted UFO report from Northeast Ohio occurred on April 17, 1966, when two Portage County sheriff's deputies chased a humming "dome-shaped object as big as a house" for 86 miles along U.S. 224 from Randolph to Conway, Pa.

Dale Spaur and W.L. Neff estimated the object to be 40 feet across, moving swiftly eastward at heights ranging from 150 to 800 feet off the ground. They said they drove in excess of 100 miles an hour to keep up with it.

That same night, Mantua police chief Gerald Buchert also reported seeing something that looked like "two table saucers put together." He photographed it.

The Air Force investigated. Its conclusion: Spaur and Neff were chasing the planet Venus, a theory that sounded a bit off the mark to even many neutral observers.

Less dramatic was a mass sighting in Twinsburg in 1969. About 20 people, including three policemen, watched "a bright white light with small red lights" hover overhead for nearly 60 minutes.

"It was the screwiest thing I've ever seen," said a police sergeant. "It was only 500 feet up and it made no noise. I kept referring to it as 'the object' over the police radio. I wouldn't have said 'flying saucer' for anything."

Candusso's desire to learn more about UFOs has become something of a quest.

"I honestly don't know why I got hooked doing this," he says. "I guess I've just been driven by an urge to find out. I've just kept at it through thick and thin."

His basement is filled with reports, books, magazine articles, newsletters and clipping services on UFOs around the world.

He has scrapbooks of fading photos, some that could be legitimate and some that are obviously faked, Candusso contends. And he has drawings of UFOs by artists from around the world.

To Candusso, the most convincing evidence for the existence of UFOs are the 1,000 "trace" cases in this country over the years. Those are, he says, cases with physical evidence: singed marks on the ground, traces of radiation, fused rock. The UFOs, he said, are seen on the ground in about 30 percent of the cases.

His work has also reached the point where Candusso says he can discard eight of every 10 reports he gets, simply by posing a handful of questions over the telephone.

He has, he says, "been through the mill," learning about astronomy, advertising planes, landing lights and the other varied and not always identified heavenly bodies.

"I've learned. Things which were unidentified at the time could be identified with the expertise we have now," says Candusso, who was a weather observer in the Air Force.

He soberly accepts the fact that one of the hazards of his job is dealing with the kooks and crackpots. But it isn't enough to deter him from continuing his study.

"Eighty to 90 percent of all reported sightings are explainable. The people making the reports are sincere in their belief that they've seen something out of the ordinary."

"It's too big and too widespread and has been popping up all over the world for far too many years to be a hoax. If it's a hoax, who could pull it off?"

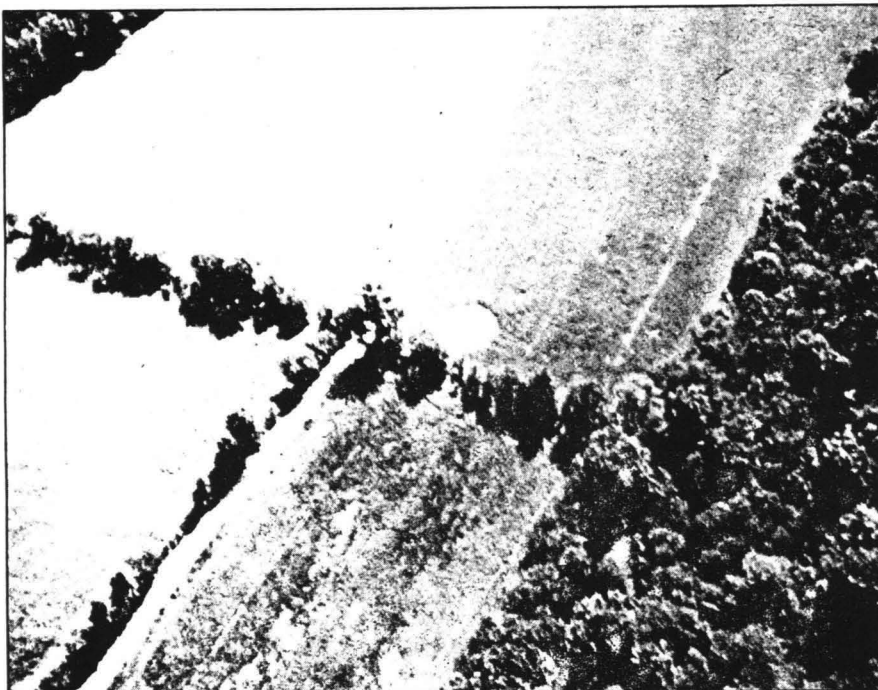
He says "non-scientific" talk about UFOs can be downright embarrassing. "I'm sensitive to ridicule about my interest in UFOs because I'm a serious guy," he told one interviewer.

His club began in 1961. It was an offshoot of another local group, the UFO Research Committee headed by George Popowitch of Akron.

At its peak, in 1966 and 1967, Candusso's organization had a mailing list of 800 and drew 200 people to meetings. Today membership is down to a hard-core 15, Candusso said. Interest, he said, runs in cy-



John Stavano stands in the 52-foot circle of flattened wheat he found on his Carroll County farm in this 1965 photo from Americo E. Candusso's UFO scrapbook. Below is an aerial photo of the circle taken about the same time. What caused the circle has never been determined.



cles, related to the number of UFO reports. Things have been quiet in Northeast Ohio for several years. As a result, club membership is again down.

"If the whole answer to the question of UFOs is a bucketful of water, then maybe the government has a glass filled with four ounces of water. The lay investigators and the few scientists seriously interested in UFOs, we have maybe one to two ounces of water. That's all."

Government material, obtained by UFO groups through the Freedom of Information Act, shows that the federal government knows more about UFOs than it led the American public to believe, according to Candusso.

"The government lied," he said. "It didn't tell the truth. It did its best to keep a lid on the whole question. The government must have had its reasons for doing that, but this world of ours has changed so much in the last 50 years, that I honestly can't believe that a panic

would set in if we were to find out that we aren't alone."

Candusso challenges the conclusions of the Air Force-sponsored Condon Committee in 1969, after a three-year study, that there was no evidence that UFOs are from outer space.

"I'm not trying to impart any ideas about UFOs except this one: that the Air Force, the government and the Condon Committee have not been able to explain these things away," Candusso said.

"A lot of investigators have invested so much time, money and work in UFOs that if it were proven tomorrow that there's nothing to it — something I don't think is going to happen — they would have such a letdown that it would probably hurt them psychologically. That wouldn't happen to me. I love a mystery, but if you proved that UFOs don't exist, I'd just find another mystery. There are plenty of unsolved mysteries." □

Bob Downing is a Beacon Journal staff writer.

(continued on page 7)

One man's objects of continuing curiosity

(continued from page 6 - BEACON JOURNAL

("Beacon"), Akron, OH - May 27, 1984)

er, indicated that the objects were about 13,000 feet away. He estimated that six to eight of the objects would have fit in his binocular's field of view. That led to his estimate of the objects' length.

"I remember it like it was yesterday," says Candusso. "I was reluctant to call someone official that night. I was afraid of ridicule, I guess, although that's something I'd do today."

"Oh, I heard people say that I saw helicopters or aircraft descending to a little airport, but I know that's not what I saw. I've never been able to explain what I saw. I can't deny myself. I don't feel that I'm living out a hallucination or a dream. There's just no rational explanation for what I saw."

—Bob Downing

projected upward from a bank of lights."

A second UFO — with only one band of lights — appeared from the same hole in the clouds. Then came a third, similar to the second. The first stayed in the sky. A fourth appeared after the second moved off out of sight to the north, and a fifth appeared as the third object disappeared.

All of the objects — three were all Candusso saw at one time — descended at 15 to 20 degrees to the horizon toward the north and west. He described them as "moon-like objects of quicksilver or mother of pearl."

He later checked maps and made some calculations. There were no airports or landing strips in the area where the objects would have come down.

His calculations, completed lat-

sion on the underside of the clouds, he says.

June 20, 1960

Shortly after midnight Candusso saw five mysterious aerial objects, each between 187 and 240 feet long, in the air above Steels Corners and Wyoga Lake roads in Stow.

It was an overcast night, with clouds at about 5,000 feet. An object, he says, came out of the clouds from the southeast as he headed east over East Steels Corners Road. It appeared to be "heading north just under the skirts of the clouds," he said, referring to the lowest part of a cloud formation.

The object stopped over the road about 4,000 yards away, Candusso said. It appeared to be "an elongated craft with two banks of lights: red, white and green, in addition to one golden bronze light and one blue light on a lower standard that

was going on and off with "perfect timing," he recalls.

Suddenly, a twin object appeared from the north. Candusso held his arms out in front of him. The objects, as he viewed them, were about 14 inches apart. The second object started moving toward the first, then got smaller and smaller until it became a pinpoint of light. It passed in front of the first object and moved to an equal distance to the south before reforming to match its twin.

The second object then turned itself off and on, before dropping one-tenth of the way to the ground and stopping.

Candusso hurried to a telephone seeking someone else who could join him to see what he was viewing. He couldn't find anyone. When he returned, the twin UFOs were gone, although there was a light impres-

duccio half-muttered that he wished it would come back. It did, about a minute later. As the object hovered over his car, Candusso could see its front end, which was rounded. A short time later, it disappeared.

The same night, Candusso says, Brecksville police investigated a sighting of an orange aerial object along Ohio 21 about 8:30. The police chief in Bentleyville in southeastern Cuyahoga County also said he saw something in the sky about 9.

May 27, 1959

Candusso was alone around 9:30 p.m. in northern Stow when he saw two deep red-orange objects that looked like "paving bricks, only thicker." He saw the first object shortly after a thunderstorm. It appeared right under the clouds, perhaps 1 to 1½ miles away, about 3,000 feet in the air and about 45 degrees above the horizon. Its light

Americo Candusso says he saw UFOs three times between April 1959 and May 1960. He rattles off the dates and particulars almost as if they had happened last night. Yet, at the same time, he is almost reluctant to discuss his own sightings, fearful that such revelations will destroy his credibility.

April 6, 1959

About 10:45 p.m. Candusso and a woman friend saw a mysterious bluish-white light in the sky near Ohio 91 in Twinsburg. It looked like a glowing, white fuselage of a B-29 bomber. It came from the south and turned toward the northwest at about 35 degrees above the horizon. It was between 1,000 and 1,500 feet high.

After about 30 seconds, the object started to disappear, and Can-

MORNING HERALD, Decatur, IL - May 22, 1984

UFO is sighted downstate

By United Press International

BLOOMINGTON — County and local officials are trying to pin down the nature of a UFO seen by more than 100 central Illinois residents, one who described it as "absolutely fascinating."

McLean County Sheriff Steve Brien said a brightly colored unidentified flying object was reported over the county around 9:30 p.m. Sunday.

Other law enforcement agencies in other central Illinois counties also reported numerous calls about the UFO and a Britt Airlines pilot reported seeing an aerial display.

"There were numerous sightings last night of an object passing over and around McLean County. It was brightly colored and we even received reports from state troopers," Brien said Monday. "Right now, there is speculation from all fronts. The calls really started coming around 9:30."

Brien said his department received nearly 30 calls and he estimated another 50 calls each for Bloomington and Normal police departments.

Stan Chapman of Paxton, in Ford County, said the object looked like an aircraft without noise. He said he spotted it as he was taking out the trash and went inside to get his wife Debi.

"It was four separate lights," she said. "It looked like a Roman candle, then went off into the distance. It was absolutely fascinating."

Brien said the sighting was reported to the National UFO Center in Seattle, but "we still don't know what to make of it all at this point. It's been reported and we're all trying to get things back to normal."

Local officials tried to calm callers and said they believed the sighting could have been part of a satellite or a meteor re-entering the atmosphere.

James Kaler, a University of Illinois astronomy professor, said the descriptions fit that of a meteor. He said meteors often travel 10 to 20 miles a second at an altitude of 30 to 50 miles.

But Robert Gribble of the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle said neither was a likely cause.

Gribble said he also received reports of sightings in seven states Sunday. In those reports, witnesses described the object as moving west to east, but local officials said the apparent UFO was on a different course and traveling north.

CR: P. Norman

NEWS-TIMES, Danbury, CT - June 15, 1984

25 Carmel callers report sighting of UFO

CARMEL — Police last night said they had received about 25 calls in a half hour from residents spotting what they described as a UFO.

Police said residents from Mahopac, Carmel and towns "up and down" the Taconic Parkway described the object as "V-shaped, rather large, quiet, with numerous lights — the usual UFO stuff."

CR: H. Peatfield

STANDARD OBSERVER, Irwin, PA - June 5, 1984

UFO sightings still mystify the experts

By The Standard Observer

Numerous sightings of Unidentified Flying Objects continue to be reported from many sections of Pennsylvania during 1984, according to the Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained (PASU).

PASU, based in Greensburg, serves as a statewide clearinghouse for reports of UFO's and other strange incidents.

The all volunteer, non-profit research group notes that observers of the phenomena have reported lights in the sky as well as large physical objects at close range.

According to information provided by PASU, numerous observers, including police officers, have reported bright fireballs over Eastern Pennsylvania during the first two months of this year.

Many of the cases which have been investigated have been found to have a logical explanation.

But, incidents involving the sighting of UFO's in at least three Pennsylvania locations continue to defy explanation, the group says.

A young woman walking her dog in Mechanicsburg during the early evening hours of February 29 reported the sighting of a large, solid, diamond-shaped object about 50 feet above the ground.

Described as being the length of a tractor trailer and said to contain several red and white lights, the object made no sound.

It rose to a height of about 300

feet and disappeared over a group of pine trees, the witness reported.

A couple driving down a road in Grantville April 6 reported the sighting of a metallic gray, solid appearing object with a double band of rotating lights seemingly hovering in place.

On top of the object was a tip which appeared to be translucent and was of a rosy luminescence.

The object hovered in place for about four minutes before moving off toward the Northeast.

At 4:15 in the afternoon of April 26, near Philadelphia, under clear and sunny skies, two people heading West on the Pa. Turnpike observed a silver, glowing, flat disc about 500 feet directly in front of them.

The object moved directly toward their car, made a sharp right, and travelled out of sight over a meadow.

PASU has also received a number of reports of mystery animal sightings including Bigfoot and Black Panther reports this year.

Those who have witnessed such phenomena and wish to report their experiences to PASU without fear of ridicule or publicity may contact the group at 6 Oakhill Avenue, Greensburg.

PASU was founded in 1981 by Stan Gordon, an electronic technician.

The group works closely with the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) of Seguin, Texas.

CR: S. Gordon

Last-Day Debate

Scientists' Session Peers at the Far-Out

By Charles Petit
Science Correspondent

New York

The country's biggest science meeting ended yesterday with a look at the "edge of science," the realm of flying saucers, parapsychology and alien civilizations where theories abound, facts are scarce and argument is fierce.

Participants agreed that more research is needed to sift fact from fables and rationality from wishful thoughts, but that was the only agreement produced by the morning-long session at the close of the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Science fiction writer Isaac Asimov sought to explain that there are realms of thought clearly outside science, and others within it, but that the edge is hard to pin down.

"Anybody can make up a theory," said Asimov. "If you see a broken tree, one can theorize that an elephant climbed it and broke its branches. That explains the tree. But, you must then unexplain all the physiological reasons why elephants can't climb trees."

Such theories, he said, are clearly beyond science, for they unexplain more than they are worth in explanation. Creationism, he said, is therefore beyond the edge of science because its biblically inspired ideas on evolution and planetary history "explain nothing, and unexplain everything."

The presentations that followed proved how far apart sensible, sober researchers can find themselves when passions run high and data run low.

UFOs got extensive attention. A longtime booster of UFO studies, J. Allen Hynek, an astronomer and former Air Force consultant who is now director of the Center for UFO Studies in Evanston, Ill., declared that clear patterns of consistency are evident in the 80,000 reports gathered by his organization. He said about 10 percent of the reports, which came from 100 nations, cannot be explained by known phenomena and so may reveal events or processes new to science — possibly including visiting spacecraft.

"Whether or not UFOs are spacecraft or anything else, the UFO phenomenon does exist," he said. The phenomenon — the existence of UFO reports from virtually all cultures — "deserves our most careful study."

Science fiction writer Arthur C. Clarke, a one-time UFO enthusiast, sneers at them now. "What UFOs need," he said, "is not a period of benign neglect, but malign neglect." He compared the reports to those in the last century that Mars has canals — the claims may come from honest observers, but are "no less false."

The search to pick up signals from possible alien civilizations got more sober treatment all around.

All agreed that the lack of evidence one way or the other puts the field in the outer vestibule of science, but that the 35 searches already undertaken for signals, and the far more ambitious ones now being designed such as one announced this week at Stanford University, are justified.

Whether they are likely to find anything, however, draws sharp disagreement.

Astronomer Frank D. Drake of Cornell University reviewed arguments frequently cited that if Earth and mankind are typical, the galaxy should contain anywhere from a few dozen to millions of high-technology societies.

These distant creatures may have found it economically unfeasible or technically impossible to migrate through the galaxy and visit Earth, but their radio and television signals should be detectable given a broad enough hunt, he said.

Eric M. Jones, a physicist at the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico, used many of the same arguments to conclude that if such civilizations are common, "Where are they?" Although the energy requirements are enormous, advanced technologies should permit at least some spacefaring species to have spread virtually throughout the galaxy in a few million years — "an instant on the scale of the age of the Milky Way."

Because none is apparently visiting Earth, he said, the most likely explanation is that "We are the first."

We're 20 years behind the times

Editor, *The Journal*:

Newspapers that make fun of persons who are looking seriously at the worldwide UFO problem reveal those papers' mentality to be at least 20 years behind the times.

Your "Fit 2 Print" columnist recently took that trite editorial approach in what I presume was a knee-jerk response to the growing plea that the UFO problem be taken seriously by everyone.

NEW YORK (UPI) — People who report UFOs have definitely seen something, but whether it's because of a psychological condition, an unknown earthly phenomenon or alien spacecrafts remains to be determined, a UFO specialist said Tuesday.

J. Allen Hynek, head of the Center for UFO Studies in Evanston, Ill., and a professor emeritus at Northwestern University, said thousands of unidentified flying object reports — many by credible observers — have been collected from around the world.

He said the descriptions of the objects display a "strange consistency" and cannot be explained by any ordinary means. They therefore constitute a phenomenon worth studying.

"If I were writing an encyclopedia, I would replace the entry 'UFO' with 'UFO phenomenon,'" he

fit² print

✓We probably need more, not less, dingbatteries in our society, for it is the amiable, faintly goofy eccentrics of the world who make it possible for dull, phlegmatic, pedestrian, boring and unimaginative people to feel good about themselves. Still, there may be some question whether a pending reprise of the flying saucer nonsense is going to do much toward improving public discourse.

Be that as it may, however, it does look as if we are in for a new epidemic of crazy fat women bedeviling cops, civil defense drones and sleepy lobster shift city desk people with word that monocular little green men with long ears are deplaning in their back yards. Mind you, all this may come to pass some day, and let it come, but to date evidence backing flying saucers is as flimsy as a motel coat hanger.

But realism has never dissuaded pinwheels from seeing things others do not see, from hearing voices others do not hear, and from experiencing mystical revelations denied to the rest of us, and early indications are that reports of unidentified flying objects buzzing America's chimney pots will be a staple item of news between now and the onset of autumn.

Just the other day, J.

Allen Hynek, the head of the Center for UFO Studies in Evanston, Ill., opened the summer campaign by noting that thousands of flying saucer reports — some of them made by "credible observers" — display "strange consistency" and cannot be explained by ordinary means. People claiming to witness the phenomenon, he said, have definitely seen something, even if no one knows what, and he speculated the sightings were a consequence of some psychological condition in witnesses, some unknown earthly phenomenon, or, of course, spacecrafts piloted by alien beings.

Hynek, a professor emeritus at Northwestern University, told a discussion panel at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in New York. "If I were writing an encyclopedia, I would replace the entry 'UFO' with 'UFO phenomenon.'"

"We don't have any UFOs to study, but we most certainly do have a UFO phenomenon."

"For example, some of the best-investigated and well-documented UFO reports describe objects or luminous phenomena that can hover noiselessly close to the ground and then almost instantaneously take off with tremendous speed," he said.

Hynek said it would be hard for psychologists and psychiatrists to explain how witnesses separated geographically and unaware of the others' observations could be so misled "as to imagine simultaneously, for example, that

a meteor could stop, hover, and then reverse direction."

There eventually may be such a psychological explanation, however, he said.

"The whole UFO phenomenon may tell us more about ourselves than it does outer space," Hynek said.

That may be so, given the nature of the goat milk and kelp salad cult that provides most of the recruits for the UFO movement, but what seems a more sensible view was advanced by Arthur Clarke, a scientist celebrated for his well-crafted and believable science fiction. Clarke said the whole question should be ignored until there is hard physical evidence — such as a UFO landing.

"When there really is a landing, the fact will be known a half an hour later," he said.

It will, too, despite the inevitable attempts by self-important *fonctionnaires* to classify the whole business top secret on the theory that ordinary people can't handle such high-octane information.

They can handle it, of course; look at how many dingbats already know about landings and still manage to raise kids, cut the grass and make timely mortgage payments. When the first visit by extra terrestrials is confirmed it will be a great wonder for a few days, but soon enough the invaders will become commonplace, to be taken up by the right-thinkers, victimized by mail-order scams and told by the zoning authorities they can't park that damn thing in a residential neighborhood.

Don't get me wrong, now. For I accept the notion that every serious subject — and UFO's seen flying with impunity near sensitive Air Force bases back in the mid-seventies can hardly be dismissed as non-serious — ought to have a humorous side. Indeed, I take pride in possessing what I regard as the world's largest collection of UFO-related cartoons.

But, unfortunately, the orthodox press seems to have a fixation on relegating the subject of UFO's to the category of entertainment — you know, the stale old tongue-in-cheek treatment that somehow serves as an easy way for the reporter/editor not to bother with asking the right questions of the right people.

For that thankless chore, the public must turn to a handful of UFO researchers spe-

cializing in defining, analyzing, and clarifying the UFO problem.

Lately, two such researchers — Lawrence Fawcett and Barry J. Greenwood — not only have asked the right questions of the right people but also have published the results in a book due out in mid-July.

Their *Clear Intent: the Government Coverup of the UFO Experience* (Prentice-Hall, Inc.) ought to be strong enough to pull your "Fit 2 Print" ostrich's head from the sand long enough to realize that the clothes of the emperor in this case (the UFO policy-makers at the Pentagon) are as transparent as the customary rationale for denying the reality of unidentified flying objects.

Larry W. Bryant
Alexandria

UFOs Fact, Fantasy? Experts Divided

said during a panel discussion at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

"For we don't have any UFOs to study, but we most certainly do have a UFO phenomenon."

Hynek said a computer analysis of 400 well-substantiated cases has demonstrated that the reported properties of UFOs are "totally inconsistent with those of everyday objects and phenomena."

"For example, some of the best-investigated and well-documented UFO reports describe objects or luminous phenomena that can hover noiselessly close to the ground and then almost instantaneously take off with tremendous speed," he said.

Hynek said it would be hard for psychologists and psychiatrists to explain how witnesses separated geographically and unaware of the

others' observations could be so misled "as to imagine simultaneously, for example, that a meteor could stop, hover, and then reverse direction."

There eventually may be such a psychological explanation, however.

"The whole UFO phenomenon may tell us more about ourselves than it does outer space," Hynek said.

Arthur Clarke, a scientist well known for his science fiction, said the whole question should be ignored until there is hard physical evidence — such as a UFO landing.

"When there really is a landing, the fact will be known a half an hour later," he said.

James E. Oberg, a Houston space engineer, said nearly all UFO sightings can be explained by ordinary means and those that cannot merely constitute a normal residue of unsolved cases.



COWICHAN LEADER, Duncan, B.C., Canada - March 15, 1984



THE SKY IS FALLING ... David Thompson scoops up some of the mystery substance which fell flaming from the sky and landed in

the middle of Beverley Street near Quamichan school.

Karen Hausch photo

Mystery of mass unsolved

It was not exactly an encounter of the third kind, but David Thompson, 15, certainly saw a mystery fall from the sky Sunday night.

He was returning home along Beverley Street in Duncan at 8:30 p.m. when he spotted something that looked like "a soccer ball burning" high over the trees across from Quamichan Junior Secondary.

By KAREN HAUSCH

"I was about 200 feet away," he explained, "and I heard it hit and it sounded just like a light bulb popping."

The flaming object landed on a yellow line in the middle of the street.

"There was a flame for about three seconds and then it went out. I kind of ran up to it and I could hear it sizzle.

"When I got to it I could hear it sizzling like an egg because the pavement was wet."

Once the flame disappeared, Thompson kicked the mass and found it completely hard. It was yellow, about one-half inch thick, almost circular, and concave.

He went home for a knife to scrape the mass from the road. In all, he returned to the road three times and eventually found a paint scraper did the trick.

"I got most of it off except for bits around the outside and they were washed away by morning by cars and the rain."

Next day the only sign was a 12 inch circle from which most of the road's paint and surface appears to have been either burned or scrapped.

The odorless, rock-like substance was left outside overnight and when Thompson went to look at it Monday morning it was soft and starting to melt.

Within 24 hours most of it had melted. Chunks of asphalt mixed in with the mystery mass were also melting.

The three science teachers at Quamichan are completely baffled, said Thompson. And the finding is receiving attention from experts.

A representative of the astrophysics observatory in Victoria has asked for a sample to send to Ottawa for examination.

Thompson's parents, Liz and Fred, are also eager to discover the nature of the mystery and plan to send a sample to UBC for testing.

LANCASHIRE EVENING TELEGRAPH, Blackburn, England - May 3, 1984 CR: T. Good

US interest in night sky 'UFOs'

By JOHN HARGREAVES

DESPITE a formal denial from Government ministers of reports of UFO sightings in Rossendale and the suggestion they should not be taken seriously, there is little doubt in the Valley and the towns that surround it, that "something" is certainly going on late at night in the sky.

Only a few days ago, there was another mystery sighting, Mr Muncaster of Highfield Road, Norden, saw a UFO heading over Edentfield village.

He reported to Bacup police that "white balls" with tapering streams passed over his house travelling south to north.

There has even been interest

from American reporters in the UFO Valley, Rawtenstall police had an inquiry from a Los Angeles newspaper, asking for "the Captain" of police and requesting information about a number of incidents over the last few years.

While Rossendale people are sceptical about "beings from space" actually dropping in for a visit, many have now seen objects

in the sky that cannot be explained by such things as aircrafts or satellites.

Like the Sharneyford man who would not leave his name with the police after reporting a "red cigar shaped object" over his village, most people prefer not to talk about their experience for fear of ridicule.

STANDARD, London, England - May 4, 1984 CR: T. Good

P-c: The flashing blue light I saw in the sky

A POLICEMAN told today how he watched a domed UFO flash its lights for an hour over North-West London.

P-c Richard Milthorpe said: "I watched it through a pair of binoculars. It seems to be circular in the middle with a dome on top. The people in the neighbourhood were convinced it was a UFO."

The sighting came after 22-year-old P-c Milthorpe and P-c Paul Isles were called to a house in Stanmore by a woman who had spotted a strange object flying over her house.

P-c Milthorpe said: "She took us into her back garden and we saw an object which I estimated to be about a mile away—over Mill Hill or Elstree. The object appeared to be flashing."

Neighbours and five other police officers from a patrol car joined the two policemen from Wealdstone station in the back garden of Mrs Teri West's house and the object continued flashing.

"The middle section of the object had blue lights and there were red lights on the right hand side," P-c Milthorpe said. "It was moving erratically, up and down and to and

fro. The dome on top seemed to have blue flashing lights and underneath there was another dome flashing blue, green and red."

Police chased the object to nearby Brockley Hill as it disappeared eastwards. P-c Milthorpe said: "You can say I was astonished."

"Air traffic control have told us there were no aircraft in the area. And as the prevailing wind was easterly and the object disappeared flashing into the east, it's unlikely that it was a balloon."

Wealdstone police have passed P-c Milthorpe's report on the sighting to

Scotland Yard who will in turn forward it to the Civil Aviation Authority. Photographs and a sketch made by police officers are not being released.

On Wednesday, April 25, Mrs Muriel Woodcock, of Princes Avenue, Acton, was walking with a friend across Hungerford Bridge from Festival Hall when they saw people looking down river. The two women joined the crowd and saw an elliptical glowing light zig-zagging across the Thames towards Greenwich.

The CAA will pass the police report to the Ministry of Defence.

Fireball Buzzes Soviets

MOSCOW (Reuter) — A blazing comet-like fireball that swept over the Siberian city of Tomsk is puzzling Soviet scientists, who have found no trace of its debris, the government newspaper Izvestia reported Monday.

The Tomsk fireball, which appeared in the night sky over the city on Feb. 26, recalled a much larger phenomenon witnessed in 1908, Izvestia said.

A scientific team had been set up to search the nearby Tunguska forest region for debris left when the fireball exploded in a flare of red sparks that was so bright it activated the switch-off mechanism on automatic street lights.

So far no traces had been found and scientists speculated that the fireball might have consisted totally of a condensed mixture of inflammable gases, Izvestia said.

ASAHI EVENING NEWS, Tokyo, Japan
May 1, 1984 CR: Y. Matsumura

Out of space! — out of mind?

by
Jonathan Confino

FLYING saucers are buzzing Devonport Naval Base and its sensitive £100 million nuclear submarine refitting complex, according to a local expert.

Chairman of the Plymouth UFO Research Group, Mr Bob Boyd, said a dockyard worker had reported seeing an object pulsating with lights hovering above the dockyard just weeks ago.

The unidentified craft was seen the same evening by scores of people throughout the city and the Evening Herald was inundated with calls the next day.

Mr Boyd said Plymouth is a major centre of UFO activity and one of the main reasons is the position of the dockyard, which is the largest in Europe.

"UFOs are known to frequent defence establishments and there is a higher-than-average number of sightings in the city compared with the rest of the country," he said.

But a dockyard spokesman said there was no record of flying saucers being seen over the base and said there was no



Bob Boyd with a book he has written on sightings of UFO's over Plymouth.

management concern. He said there had been a sighting of an object in Plymouth on March 27, but said it had not been near the naval base.

But the object seen on that evening was described by Mr Boyd as "excellent and very rare" because of the number of witnesses from different areas of Plymouth and from surrounding areas such as Yelverton.

The first person to report the unusual lights in

the night sky was ex-RAF flyer Mr Tom Bignell, 64, of Palmerston Street, Stoke, who was walking his dog.

He said the craft had two powerful main lights about 100ft apart, but as it approached he could see a collection of smaller ones which formed a semi-circle.

"It was coming towards me at about 100 miles an hour and after a few minutes disappeared," he said.

"As soon as I got home I phoned the police and

they told me to contact the Plymouth Rescue Co-ordination Centre at Mount Wise.

"They made me fill in a detailed questionnaire which they passed on to the Ministry of Defence in London.

"I will keep my eyes firmly fixed on the sky from now on."

Mr Bignell stopped passing motorist Mrs Iris Wannell, of Outland Road, to ask her if it was making any sound because he wears a hearing aid.

She was so intrigued by the UFO, that she chased it through the streets of Stoke in her car but eventually lost sight of it behind some houses.

"We were totally amazed by the craft," she said. "It is the first time I have seen anything like it."

"It was definitely not an aircraft and it had a very faint droning noise."

Mr Harry Hockin, from Plymstock, who is a retired Civil servant and ex-Navy man, said: "It came over my house at 10.48 pm from the Stoke area."

"It was about 2,500 feet up, about the size of a jumbo jet and was travelling around 60-70 knots."

"There was no noise, it had two main lights and then an arch of lights — the two

bigger ones suddenly separated and went different ways."

Mrs Anna Stevenson, of Gypsy Lane, Liskeard, who was visiting friends in Menheniot for the evening, said:

"My husband and I were petrified when we first saw it."

"The two main lights separated and it was totally quiet."

Mr Boyd said the sightings were almost identical to a series of reports about two years ago.

He is now preparing a dossier on the incident which he intends to send to all the major UFO investigation groups round the country.

But copies will not land on the desks of the Ministry of Defence.

"I am not bothering with them any more," he said. "I don't believe they are interested if a flying saucer goes over the dockyard."

"Thirty years ago all the Western Governments were paranoid about UFOs seemed to be in a state of panic."

"But now they seem totally disinterested and it is because they must know they are not a threat. I believe the Government must have had more form of high-level contact."

FUFORG receive up to 30 sightings every year from the public.

'We saw UFO' — police

POLICE Officers have officially backed claims about a UFO which was spotted by residents of Stanmore, near Harrow.

P-c Richard Milkthorpe and P-c Paul Isles have both filed reports on the incident, which is to be investigated by the Ministry of Defence.

Chief Supt. Ronald Poole of Harrow Police Station said he was quite satisfied about the validity of their reports. "They are two normal sensible men who are confident they saw a UFO," he said.

They were called to Belmont Lane, Stanmore, by Miss Terri West, who spotted a mysterious object in the sky above her home last Thursday night. Up to 20 police officers also witnessed the UFO at various stages.

Neighbours Bruno and Ruth Novelli and Gerrie Ashworth stood with policemen observing the UFO for about two hours. They described it as a spinning multi-coloured object which gave off little balls of light.

Miss West said that at one stage, a huge great white ball with a long flame behind it shot out of the sky from the object.

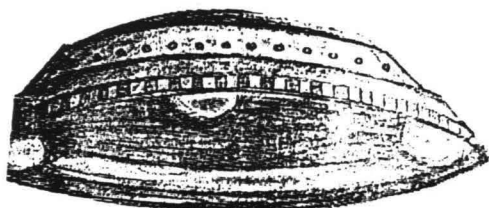
She said it was glowing red, white and blue with little white flashes shooting off it. "It was zapping about all over the place," she added.

Mrs Novelli, 37, said that at first she thought the object was a star. "But it was changing colour and moving up and down and from side to side. It was quite scary. I felt very strange. I've never seen anything like it."

Mrs Novelli, who watched through binoculars, said the UFO was round shaped and was a long way off.

CRAVEN HERALD, Skipton, England
March 30, 1984 CR: T. Good

Official U.F.O.



A moving object photographed near Bolton Abbey has been officially classified by American U.F.O. experts as an "un-identifiable image."

It was pictured by the North Yorkshire investigator for the Leeds-based Yorkshire U.F.O. Society, who lives in Grassington, and has seen over 60 similar objects in the Craven area during the past five years.

He spotted the object as he was travelling along the Bolton Abbey to Addingham road one dark evening last November.

It was in flight just beyond a distant hill, and he quickly made use of his camera which he always keeps on the back seat of his car.

Two sets of his photographs were sent to the Ground Saucer Watch centre in the U.S.A. by Graham and Mark Birdsall, who head the Yorkshire U.F.O. Society. And scientists at the centre have given the prints the "unidentifiable image" classification following analysis.

Naturally, the Birdsall brothers are delighted, for out of 1,400 photographs of purported U.F.O.'s only 42, including the two of the Bolton Abbey sighting, have been listed in this category.

And it all helps to confirm their belief that "something mysterious" is occurring in Craven.

Their local investigator saw his first object at Cononley Lane End in 1978. It is unlikely he was mistaken about that before his eyes, as he was only 100 ft. away.

OVER 60.

"The ones I have seen do differ, but the same shape pattern is there. I have seen over 60 in the Craven area, and always with witnesses," he says.

According to him there are several different types of craft, but the drawing the Herald has published is of the type common to Craven.

In fact, the society received 140 reports of sightings throughout Yorkshire last year, the majority of which were in Craven.

"I think these objects stay out in this sort of area as it is remote, and they are less likely to be detected," the investigator said. "They are mostly seen at night. They have been sighted during the day, but I think it is pure accident if they are."

The interest in U.F.O.'s is world-wide, with the society's magazine being asked for from abroad. And the Birdsall brothers' wish is that people at home would take the subject seriously, and not dismiss anything that they might have seen.

"People are reluctant to come forward, and the reports we get probably only make up 30 per cent of all the sightings," Mark says. "We would appreciate it if they did contact us, and then we can really form a proper picture of what is going on."

Those wanting to get in touch with the society can reach Mark at 67, Lovell Park Towers, Leeds 7.

Did you see this UFO?

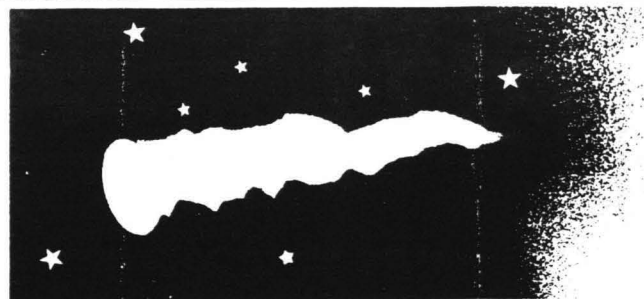
Two more sightings highlight mystery...

An unidentified flying object hung over Adlington for several minutes sometime between 8.40 p.m. and 8.55 p.m. on Monday, March 26.

Last week's Guardian ran a story on the UFO after Adlington villager Mr. Joseph Mackay told us of a "golden ball with a light shining all round."

CURIOUS

Mr. Mackay, who had been watching the sky for air traffic over his Huyton Terrace home said the object was about a quarter of a mile up and about 40 feet across.



Graphic artist Jeff Warwick has produced this impression of the UFO from the evidence so far provided.

I'm just curious to know if anybody else saw it," he said.

At least two other people did see it — whatever it was.

One of them was Mr. Barry Halliwell, a 35-year-old personnel officer for British Telecom.

Mr. Halliwell, who lives on Highfield Road, Adlington, prompted by last week's Guardian exclusive by GRAEME FRASER describes what he saw:

"It was about five to nine. I was in the garden having

just put the car away when I saw, moving across the sky from north-west to south-east, a sort of fire-work trail.

"It flared up and then died down and began to glow at the end."

ZIG ZAG

"It just hung there for a few minutes and then moved off in a south-west direction."

"Then it moved off in a jerky, zig-zag pattern."

"It must have been in view for about three or four minutes."

Mr. Halliwell also said that shortly after the UFO disappeared there was a flash of light which he would normally have put down to lightning had it not been for the unusual sight he had just witnessed.

"In fact, the next night there was a thunderstorm," said Mr. Halliwell.

LYNN, TOO

Like Mr. Mackay he is not claiming to have seen a spacecraft from another solar system — just something he can't explain.

"I called my wife out towards the end," he added. "It was something we didn't understand. It didn't fit into any pattern."

Twenty-two-year old Lynn Sharrock of Ridge Road,

Adlington, also saw the UFO at about the same time on the same night.

She was sitting in her car waiting for her boyfriend when she saw a flashing light which lit up the whole sky.

She said that it was like a ball and it moved across the skyline.

Can anyone solve the mystery? If you think you can, ring the Guardian's special UFO hotline — Chorley 64911 extension 12.

CR: T. Good

CUMBERLAND NEWS, Carlisle, England

April 27, 1984 CR: T. Good

UFO 'invasion' riddle

DOZENS of baffled people claim to have seen a UFO invasion as the night sky lit up in the west.

But the Workington Coastguard Office said the bright lights were probably a meteorite storm.

Geoff Hall, aged 28, of

29 Longdyke Drive, Carlisle, said he and his wife and a neighbour saw two UFOs and several bright moving lights.

He first saw something in the sky at about 9.30 p.m. and Mr Hall informed the police who arrived to witness the scene.

Awakened by noise Saw flying saucer sail across sky

SCHOOLGIRL Amanda Holmes believes she's seen a flying saucer! It hurtled across the Sutton skies at around 3.20 last Monday morning, she claims.

So loud was the noise it was making that it shook her out of slumbers and she dashed to the window to see what was happening.

Imagine her astonishment when she saw in the moonlight an alien craft, shaped like conventional science fiction saucers but without lights, sailing through the skies towards Croydon.

"I have always believed that there were things like flying saucers," she said. "But never that I would see one. I don't believe that it was a plane because they don't make the same noise. They're smaller and have lights on."

Amanda, 13, of Benhill Road, Sutton, was so thrilled by what she saw that she immediately called her mother into her room.

Mrs Elizabeth Holmes said: "I heard the noise it was making which was very strange, but didn't actually see it. Amanda was so excited by it that I can only assume she saw something really odd."

Next morning Amanda was straight on the phone to the Ministry of Defence to report her rare sighting.

And she's certainly got a good story to tell her fellow pupils at Wallington High School for Girls next term.

Did anyone else witness the bizarre occurrence on Monday of last week?



Amanda and her mother

CHORLEY GUARDIAN, Lancs., England - May 3, 1984

UFOs: THE MYSTERY DEEPENS

ADLINGTON'S UFO mystery took another bizarre twist this week. Local baker Mr. Alfred Glover (33), of Bolton Road, Duxbury, told the

Guardian that he saw the same sight as was reported in last week's Guardian — five years ago!

Our latest report on the UFO told the tale of Mrs. Joan Lawrenson of Coppull who said that she saw "a line of light in the sky" from her car whilst travelling home from Manchester on the M61.

CR: T. Good

Now Mr. Glover has added his story to the ever-growing dossier on this latest close encounter.

"When I picked up this week's Guardian I realised that the lady in the paper described exactly what I saw about five years ago", said Mr. Glover.

It was midnight sometime in November 1978 when Mr. Glover saw his UFO. He had driven back from a night out in Eccles and was getting out of his car when he saw the object.

"I saw this thing gliding along from north to south. It was a beautiful moonlit night", said Mr. Glover, who added that the object was quite clearly defined against the background of the Anglezarke and Rivington moors.

Mr. Glover reckons that the object was in sight for about 10 minutes because he had time to wake up his wife and ask the question "Are you seeing things?" Mr. Glover's wife confirmed his sighting.

Mr. Glover added: "It was completely silent and it didn't seem to fly so much as glide. I worked for some time in South Manchester quite near to the airport so I know a plane when I see one. It definitely wasn't a plane or a helicopter."

As to what it was that Mr. Glover saw, he says: "It was something totally alien to anything I had seen before."

The Guardian's special UFO line is open on 64911, extension 12.

TELEGRAPH, Sydney, N.S.W., Australia

May 8, 1984 CR: J. Magee

Gordon's blow: no UFOs

UFOs appear to be a back number with Defence Minister Gordon Scholes.

He announced recently that from now on the RAAF would only investigate sightings which have implications for national security and defence.

Any future information on UFOs (or UAS, Unusual Aerial Sightings, as he calls them) will be recorded and the information passed on to

a civilian research organisation, which can check on them if they wish.

Seems the pilots are getting dirty on all the time wasted in following up frivolous reports.

So from now on, if a flying saucer browses through your neighborhood without making any threatening pitstops, change your name to Eric Von Daniken and write a book.

WEST AUSTRALIAN, Perth, W.A., Australia - May 3, 1984

RAAF gives up chase for UFOs

CANBERRA: The RAAF in future will bother with UFOs only if they appear to be dangerous to national security.

The investigation of every sighting—the RAAF prefers to call them Unusual Aerial Sightings (UAS)—has proved too expensive for Australia's aerial defence force.

The Defence Minister, Mr. Scholes, said yesterday that the RAAF would now investigate fully only those UAS which suggested "a defence or national security implication."

While the RAAF would continue to be the first point of contact, UAS reports considered not to have defence or security implications would not be investigated further.

Instead, they would be recorded and the observer of the UAS

would be given the address of civilian research organisations.

Mr. Scholes said that in the past the RAAF's investigations of all reports of UAS had often proved "time-consuming, unproductive and had led to many man-hours of follow-up action by the RAAF and other agencies such as the Aviation Department and the Bureau of Meteorology."

In the past decade, there have been between 110 and 150 sightings reported to the RAAF each year.

A Defence Department spokesman said last night that of these all except about three per cent had been explained.

DANGER CITED

UFO could be rocket, say RCMP

The mysterious substance which fell flaming from the sky to land in the middle of Beverley Street last month is thought to be a home-made rocket, the first of two to land in the area, and police want know who is responsible.

David Thompson, 15, watched the first object land and sent samples to the Saanich observatory for identification.

A call from the observatory reported the item was composed largely of phosphorous, said Thompson's father,

Fred, adding that the analyst thought it was probably a sophisticated home-made rocket.

Sgt. Len Doyle, of the Duncan RCMP detachment, said Tuesday that police were told a second flaming object landed in the same area on Beverly — near Quamichan school — during the week of April 1.

"We're hoping the school (Quamichan) might come up with some information for us," said Doyle, explaining that a teenager had been heard bragging about making

rockets.

All the necessary equipment for building rockets is available in the science labs, continued Doyle, and if that is what landed on Beverly, it was probably launched from somewhere nearby, such as the schoolyard or the pavement.

Most rockets don't travel far, he said, adding he has seen some go 10 feet and others as far as 300.

The object is dangerous, said Doyle. Phosphorous is highly inflammable; if it landed

on a building there would probably be a fire.

RCMP are asking anyone with information on the rockets to contact the Duncan detachment

FURTHER U.F.O. SIGHTING

ADLINGTON'S U.F.O. mystery deepened this week after another phone call to the Guardian office.

It is now two weeks since the Guardian ran a story on a "golden ball" which hung over the town for about 15 minutes, some time shortly before 9 p.m. on Monday March 26.

Last week two more baffled Adlington residents said they had seen something "bright and inexplicable" in the sky.

M-WAY VIEW

Now Mrs. Joan Lawrenson (44), a housewife from Coppull, has spoken up. Her account is the most detailed yet. She watched the object while journeying from Manchester to her home.

"I had just visited my son Craig at Pendlebury Hospital, and just as I got onto the M61 at about 8.45 p.m. I saw a line of lights in the sky which seemed to be over Chorley," she said.

Mrs. Lawrenson could see the lights throughout her 25-minute journey home. "It looked at first like a large aircraft all lit up, but it seemed to hang there — an aeroplane would have moved," she noted.

The Guardian's special U.F.O. line is still open on Chorley 64911 ext. 12.

Valley UFOs brought down to earth

By DAVID PERRY

THE Government has issued a formal denial of a report of UFOs over Rosendale and of a claim that aliens have landed.

Junior Defence Minister and Pender MP John Lee's early predecessors may have had trouble with witches — but he is determined to give nothing to do with beings from outer space.

He delivered a blunt "No, Sir!" in a written response to a question in the Commons from Beverley Tory MP Sir Patrick Wall asking "whether there have been any unusual radar traces of airborne objects in the area of the Rosendale Valley."

Junior Transport Minister David Mitchell was even more abrupt.

He answered a mere "No!" to Sir Patrick's written request for information on "whether he has received any reports of unauthorised landings from the air in the area of the Rosendale Valley."

Clearly Transport Ministers at least have no time for little green men.

Indeed Sir Patrick hedged his bets a little asking about landings "from the air" not "from outer space."

The MP was not available for comment when the answers came up to his questions — no doubt hoping that all will have been forgotten by the time he returns from a month's visit to South Africa.

But his curiosity may have been sparked by a "sighting" early in March from a witness who refused to give his name to police (for fear he would be thought mad) who claimed to have seen a "bright red cigar-shaped object" hovering over the village of Sharneyford, near Bacup, before suddenly flying off at speed.

COWICHAN LEADER, Duncan, B.C., Canada April 26, 1984

DAILY MIRROR, London, England

May 4, 1984

CR: G. Conway

PCs spot a UFO

TWO policemen have filed an official UFO report after seeing a mysterious object glowing red, white and blue in the sky.

About 20 officers based at Wealdstone, London, watched the UFO for an hour after receiving dozens of phone calls.

Secretary Terri West, 25, also saw the UFO. She said: "It was zapping about all over the place."

The police report is to be studied by the Defence Ministry.

UFO puts the police in spin



Gerrie Ashworth (left) and Ruth Novelli see the funny side after their close encounter

MORE than a dozen policemen spent two hours staring at an unidentified flying object which hovered over Stanmore last week.

Residents called the police after spotting the UFO above their homes in Belmont Lane. They described it as a "rotating, multi-coloured object" giving off balls of light.

Miss Terri West said that at one stage, a long flash of bright light shot from it. "I was standing in the garden watching when out of the sky came a huge great white ball with a white flame behind it."

She said the object was glowing white, red and blue with white flashes shooting off. "It was zapping about all over the place," she added.

Ministry told

Pc Richard Milthorp and Pc Paul Isles have filed official reports of the sighting, which occurred on Thursday last week from about 9.45pm.

Chief Superintendent Ronald Poole said he was satisfied about the validity of their reports. "They are two normal, sensible men who are confident they saw a UFO," he said.

Chief Supt Poole said the Ministry of Defence had been notified about the incident.

Miss West said the residents and the police watched the UFO from her back garden in Belmont Lane.

She contacted air traffic control at Heathrow, who said they knew of no

By Vic Gibson

aircraft over Stanmore area at that time.

Neighbours Bruno and Ruth Novelli are also convinced they saw a UFO. "I saw what looked like a star initially," said Mrs Novelli, 37.

"But it was changing colour and moving up and down, and from side to side. It was quite scary and really weird. I felt very strange. I have never seen anything like it."

Mrs Novelli watched through binoculars and noticed balls of light coming from the object. She said it was round shaped and was a long way off.

"It was very difficult getting to sleep that night," said Mrs Novelli.

Secretary Miss Gerrie Ashworth also saw the UFO after being called into the garden by her friend, Miss West. She was watching it between two trees when she saw a 100 foot long white trail shoot from it. "We both screamed," she said. After two hours, the object began to fade into the sky.

A Ministry of Defence spokesman said details of the sighting would be checked to see whether it had military implications. He said a questionnaire would have to be completed by witnesses, giving precise details of their observation.

"These are confidential," he said. Beside the police report, the ministry may also need further information from the public, he added.

STANMORE & HARROW OBSERVER, England - May 11, 1984 CR: T. Good

Policeman tells of night he had a close encounter



Pc Milthorp: "Object had two domes".

ONE OF the policemen who saw the UFO above Stanmore has given a description of the mystery object.

Pc Dick Milthorp, 22 said the UFO, which was first spotted by residents in Belmont Lane, was circular in the middle with a dome on top and below.

The middle section contained blue lights with a red one on the far right-hand side. "The dome on top had blue and white flashing lights, while the dome underneath was blue, green, white and pink," he added.

The incident has interested the British UFO Society, which investigates and searches mystery sightings.

Chairman Deirdre O'Neill said it was the best corroborated case in London in recent years.

Erratically

Pc Milthorp, stationed at Wealdstone, watched the object for about an hour on Thursday, April 26. He estimated that it was more than a mile away. "It was moving erratically up and down and to and fro."

He was on night duty when he was called to a house in Belmont Lane by the occupant, Miss Terri West.

"She took me through to the back garden and pointed to an object in the sky. It was at an angle of about 45 degrees from where I was standing and appeared to be flashing," he said.

"I had been looking at it for about ten to 15 minutes when it moved up to about 50 degrees to the right," he added.

Pc Milthorp and his colleague, Pc Paul Isles, watched the UFO through binoculars along with Miss West and four neighbours. Another seven policemen also saw the mystery object.

Pc Milthorp said the UFO gradually

By Vic Gibson

got further away until it eventually faded away altogether. His report has been sent to Scotland Yard and the Civil Aviation Authority.

Asked what he thought the object might have been, Pc Milthorp said: "I can't really come to any firm conclusions. I can only say what I saw."

But he dismissed suggestions that it might have been a weather balloon, explaining that the wind was blowing in the opposite direction to the way the object was moving.

Pc Milthorp made a sketch of the UFO, but the police have refused to release this or a copy of it. Photographs were also taken by the police, but these could not pick out the distant shape in the dark.

Open-minded

Pc Milthorp's "close encounter" brought a mixed reaction from colleagues at the local police station.

"Some of the chaps thought it quite funny and I have had the mickey taken about it," he said. "Others were quite interested."

He said he remained "open-minded" about UFOs and was curious about what he had seen.

Miss O'Neill, from the UFO group, has spoken to eye-witnesses Ruth and Bruno Novelli, of Belmont Lane, about the sighting.

"It is obvious they have seen something very unusual," she said. She was impressed not only by their accounts, but by the reaction of the police. "It is a case I am going to pursue," she added.

BARRY POST, Cardiff, Wales
May 16, 1984 CR: T. Good

Did anyone else see that UFO?

SURVEYOR Chris Doble doesn't believe in flying saucers - but he's sure he saw one hovering high above his Barry home!

And when he checked out his sightings of an unidentified flying object with Cardiff Airport, they reported no aircraft anywhere near at the time.

"I've got to admit it's got me baffled," said 38-year-old Chris, whose wife, Jean, also saw the UFO at 9.35pm on Sunday, May 13 from the garden of their home in Morningside Walk, Barry.

"It's not my normal scene looking for UFO's and I hadn't been drinking Brains SA that night, but I definitely saw something very strange which, at the moment, cannot be accounted for."

The craft Chris saw was cylinder-shaped with a white light on each wing tip and the whole of the underneath was lit up with single white lights.

There were no flashing or red lights always used by aircraft flying at night. It was completely silent and travelled very

slowly before gradually disappearing.

"I'm still very sceptical," said Chris. "But I'd love to hear from anyone else who may have seen it."

UFO evidence to support pleas for action

EVIDENCE of UFO activity in Rossendale and district will soon be sent to the Government and Ministry of Defence with an urgent plea for action.

Last week Pendle MP and Defence Minister John Lee denied anything was going on in the night sky over the Valley and he said he had not seen any documentary evidence.

"It's not surprising," said

local tailor Mike Sacks, "we haven't sent any yet. They jumped the gun by mentioning it in Parliament, but they should have documentary proof in about three weeks."

Mr Sacks, of Miles Avenue, Stacksteads, is the main investigator of UFO activity in Rossendale and part of the team from Manchester UFO Research As-

sociation that covers the whole area.

"He said: 'We have been collecting evidence for seven years now. We want the Government involved - it is time the subject was taken seriously and a proper investigation started.'"

He said an isolated sighting could be dismissed

easily, but not when a number of responsible people saw an object within minutes though miles apart. A flight path could be worked out.

For instance, an object was spotted at Blackpool. Minutes later police at Leyland logged the same object, two minutes later it past over a field in Stacksteads and was spotted by

a farmer and then within minutes by Mike himself.

"These are not just lights in the sky," he said, "somehow, something is manifesting itself and passing regularly over the Valley."

"I think many people in Rossendale have seen something and when the subject gets credibility, with a proper investigation, more people will come forward."

He said an 15-year-old girl Collette Addy, of Rawtenstall, had watched an object only a few days ago over Rawtenstall. As she watched with a relative she saw a red/orange glow in the sky. It then produced different coloured lights underneath and disappeared behind Torr View behind the Hall Car estate.

MORNING HERALD, Sydney, N.S.W., Australia

May 19, 1984 CR: J. Magee

RAAF now has correct UFO policy

SIR: The Defence Minister's recent announcement of the RAAF's "new" policy on UFOs (or UASs) (Stay in Touch, May 3) is a logical and inevitable expression of the RAAF's 34-year involvement in the UFO controversy.

As the first civilian researcher to have been permitted direct access to the entirety of the RAAF's UFO files, I can confirm that the whole history of the RAAF's activity in this area has been based on two criteria - logically, national security and, predictably, political expediency.

In the main, the RAAF UFO investigations have served their publicly stated purposes. That is, they may have allayed possible fear and alarm by the general public and satisfied the Government that there is no apparent defence implications.

The RAAF has stated "nothing that has arisen for the 3 or 4 per cent of unexplained cases gives any firm support for the belief that interlopers from other places in this world or outside it have been visiting us". It is my contention, having examined many of those unexplained cases, that surprisingly many of them contain extraordinary details which do not lend themselves to easy explanation. These deserve to be the stuff of scientific scrutiny.

In the great majority of cases that make up this unexplained residue, national security implications were not clearly apparent. However, in a few, violations are apparent. For example, on October 25, 1973, a UFO hovered near the sensitive North West Cape US Naval Communications base. It was observed by a US Lt-Commander and a base fire captain, before it "accelerated at unbelievable speed and disappeared to the north". The US experience is similar. For example, an alleged UFO ostensibly showed "clear intent" (according to previously classified documents) when observed hovering near weapons storage facilities at Loring Air Force Base late in 1975.

Therefore, I believe the recent change in policy is an appropriate one

for the RAAF to adopt. It will allow the RAAF to weed out those rare occasions in which national security violations are suggested and also allow civilian groups to attempt scientific investigations of the infrequent "close encounters" that the RAAF prefers to ignore.

Bill Chalker, UFO Research, Cardinal Avenue, West Pennant Hills.

May 9

SUN, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

May 17, 1984 CR: G. Duplantier

'Monster UFO' shakes farmer

BRUNKILD, Man. (UPC-Special) - Farmer Karl Wroblewski wonders if it was a "monster of a UFO" that left a circle of holes and compressed grass in his field.

There are 10 holes, the largest about 30 inches in diameter, and they are 18 inches deep, says a puzzled Wroblewski, 66. The compressed grass covers 100 feet in diameter.

"According to what people are telling me, it must have been a monster of a UFO," says Wroblewski, who wants an expert from the Manitoba Planetarium to investigate.

Wroblewski said he didn't think too much of one large hole he found in the snow in mid-winter after his German shepherd dog howled strangely one night.

The farmer said he put his hand in the hole and found a rim around the edges. He also smelled sulphur but forgot about it.

"It was no interest to me, but when the thaw started I saw the other holes. Some of the ground is completely burned and that ground is still black today."

"I wouldn't believe it if I didn't see it."

Howard Bennett, publisher of the nearby Carman Valley Leader and longtime UFO researcher, said he has never seen such markings before.

"I don't know what the heck it is," said Bennett. "You have to put it down as a UFO. There were numerous UFO sightings 15 years ago in the same area."

SUNDAY INDEPENDENT, Perth, W.A., Australia

May 6, 1984 CR: M. Heelas

UFO watch will still be kept

INFORMATION on UFO sightings in WA could improve now that the RAAF has backed out, says the WA UFO Investigation Centre.

"Many people who have reported sightings haven't been happy with the attitude of the RAAF," said centre spokesman Michael Borley.

The Defence Department this week said the RAAF would only investigate UFO reports if they appeared to threaten national security.

Instead, reports will be handed to civilian research groups for investigation.

"This means we'll get

more information on UFOs," Mr Borley said.

"Reports given to the RAAF for investigation often got lost in the system, perhaps because they don't believe what observers say."

"But with sightings coming to us for investigation, research will be more accurate."

The centre has received 78 reports of sightings in the past four months.

"Half can be explained, but there are enough left to baffle the government," he said.

The department says UFO investigations are too expensive, time-consuming and unproductive.

UFO visits denied

THERE have been no official reports of alien beings landing in Lancashire, says the Government.

After a flurry of alleged sightings of UFOs in the Rossendale Valley, Tory MP Sir Patrick Wall quizzed the Ministry of Defence.

He was told that there have been no unusual radar traces of airborne objects in the area and no reports of unauthorised landings.

There have been 32 sightings of UFOs reported recently.

A Salford police inspector claimed he saw an "earthly white object" in the sky and coalman Tom Schofield, aged 48, said he spotted two silver-suited aliens who loomed behind him when he was returning home from work.

EVENING NEWS, Manchester, England - May 2, 1984

WINSFORD GUARDIAN, Cheshire, England - April 26, 1984 CR: T. Good

Mystery sightings

STARGAZERS in Winsford thought the town was set for an alien invasion on Sunday night.

For several people reported seeing a strange unidentified flying object hovering across the town at 11.00pm.

Most descriptions of the mysterious UFO refer to the strong beam of light emitted from the front, and lack of similarity to a helicopter or aeroplane.

"It just seemed to drift slowly over the town with various strange lights going on and off. I've never seen anything like it," a Grange estate resident said.

Another resident claimed the UFO was preceded five minutes earlier by another similar craft which disappeared from sight in the Whitegate area.

And Winsford was not the only town to apparently experience close encounters. There were a total of 45 sightings reported throughout the North West on Sunday evening.

TIMES, London, England - May 30, 1984 CR: T. Good

Russia prepares for a close encounter

From Richard Owen Moscow

The Kremlin, once sceptical about the existence of flying saucers, has finally succumbed to the unshakable Russian belief in close encounters of the third kind. The newspaper Trud (Labour) yesterday reported that a special commission for the investigation of unidentified flying objects (UFOs) has been set up under Pavel Popovich, the former cosmonaut.

The UFO commission is a victory for Trud which has been at the forefront of the battle to prove that alien invaders are not a figment of the Russian imagination.

There was a time when the Kremlin used to insist, as Pravda put it in the 1960s, that "all objects that fly over the territory of our country are identified either by scientists or by those who stand guard over



Pavel Popovich: Cosmonaut in the 1960s.

the security of our homeland". But the Russians are incorrigible believers in the occult, and were delighted last year when Trud carried a series of articles and letters reporting strange bright lights seen travelling across the sky above Byelorussia and Central Russia, terrifying the inhabitants below.

The incident which has finally convinced the authorities that there are more things in heaven and earth than are dreamed of in dialectical materialism occurred in Gorky in March last year. Gorky is closed to foreigners (and hence a convenient place of exile for Dr Sakharov and his wife), but is apparently not closed to visitors from outer space.

According to Mr Popovich, air traffic controllers at Gorky airport spotted a light-grey steel object shaped like a cigar flying towards them on the evening of March 27. It was about the size of a conventional airliner, and like the Korean Air Lines jumbo which strayed into Soviet airspace last September failed to respond to radio contact.

However the air defences at Gorky, unlike their colleagues at Kamchatka, did not open fire, possibly because the

intruder had no wings and was flying at an altitude of 3,000 ft at a speed of up to 125 mph. The object behaved erratically, flying 45 miles to the south east of Gorky before turning to head back towards the airport and finally vanishing 25 miles north of the city.

Mr Popovich said his newly formed Commission for the Investigation of Abnormal Atmospheric Phenomena was taking the flying cigar of Gorky very seriously indeed. It had been sighted by reliable and well-trained aviation experts who had given precise and scientific observations, and who had seen the mysterious object on their radar screens for a full 40 minutes.

Trud disappointed some readers by revealing that other phenomena witnessed by less well-trained observers would not be taken up by the commission.

DAILY TELEGRAPH, London, England

June 1, 1984 CR: T. Good

Elementary UFO

THE KREMLIN'S decision to set up a special commission investigating unidentified flying objects reminds my colleague John Miller of a close encounter in Moscow of the first kind.

In the 1960s, when he was the DAILY TELEGRAPH correspondent there, the Russians established such a commission under a general to deal with UFOs. Miller tracked down the body to an office in a building near the Soviet Air Force Academy, but a secretary said the general was out. An appointment was made for the next day.

When Miller returned there was no general, no secretary and the office was completely bare. He questioned a Soviet official working in the building about the commission and asked what had happened to it.

The man shrugged and said: "You are imagining things, comrade. Everybody knows UFOs do not exist."

Many UFO reports are taken very seriously

By FRANK CRANSTON

IT APPEARED off Bass Point, NSW, early in the morning on July 16, 1950 and stayed in sight for about one hour and 45 minutes.

To three people who reported "it", it appeared like two lights which kept circling and was moving from north-east to south-west.

"It" was not travelling very fast — just at an estimated speed of about 25 kilometres an hour. They did not all agree with that description, one believing that the lights were red and green and that at one point they were stationary for some time.

Just what "it" was was never satisfactorily settled but whatever "it" was "it" had the honour of being Australia's first officially recorded Unidentified Flying Object (UFO) or Flying Saucer as they were once known.

Despite common belief to the contrary, it was taken seriously and was advised to the Directorate of Air Force Intelligence, which investigated it as best it could given the scanty information and the disparities in what was reported.

In his summary of observations, Mr O. H. Turner, of the Department of Defence, was still not satisfied and was somewhat scathing in his observations of the initial approach by the RAAF.

"If it is assumed that the report is genuine and that it is sufficiently accurate to warrant analysis one is aware of an incongruity in the description", he wrote. "On the one hand red and green lights that circle an area of about a mile in length for about 100 minutes are most unusual according to most UFO reports and far more indicative of an aeroplane, particularly as the red light is to port and the green to starboard."

"On the other hand the estimated time for one circuit gives a speed of only 15mph [miles per hour]. Further the lights were reported to be stationary at one period for five minutes and that at no time was any noise of an aircraft heard. Civil and Air Force authorities were unaware of the presence of any aircraft."

"If an unauthorised aircraft were to be flying between 0150 and 0335 hours it is suggestive of subversive activities."

"For this reason alone further action should have been taken by EAHQ [Eastern Australia Area Headquarters]."

"If the report proved to be a hoax, litigation could have been invoked to deter future potential hoaxers."

With that sort of admonition in mind both EAHQ and the RAAF in particular began to take very seriously indeed the "Flying Saucer" reports which it has now been decided will be further probed only if some national-security interest is involved, the rest being referred to interested civil observers.

But at that time the Cold War was hotting up. People were asked to be on the alert for anything suspicious. The immediate thought was that perhaps somebody — obviously the Russians — might have developed some super aerial machine with which to spy on us or from which to rain death into our midst.

There was another school of thought as well that perhaps these just might be visitors from space though most serious-

minded military observers put this thought to one side.

The first reports of a Flying Saucer had come from the US and they seemed to spawn their kind around the world as the advent of mass aviation and the war time development of long-range (for the time) rockets made people more aware of what went on overhead. It was natural that this interest would arise in Australia.

Back then, almost 35 years ago, space travel was still in the realms of Buck Rogers and company and flying through the air was still as remote to most people as the possibility of walking on the moon. It was a world still very much of the edge of technological developments which would render blasé future generations who would not be totally astonished when men first did walk on the moon and when the "Brave New World", which had so recently been mightily fought for, seemed to be slipping away. Earth's leaders had failed to come up with the Utopia into which we all thought we had been moving. Perhaps it was from outer space that we might expect the improvement.

The next report to make Mr Turner's 1954 summary of sightings was not until November 29, 1950 this time from Queensland and NSW. This one turned up at 7.10pm, lasted only eight or 10 seconds, was a green-blue light trailing flame and appeared to disintegrate as the reporters observed it. But this time there were more reliable observers, Captain Herman and First Officer Flynn plying their airliner off Nambour and Captain Boyd of the Citizen Military Forces in Sydney. This, though there were some doubts, was ascribed as being most probably a meteor, or possibly two meteors, the issue being further confused by a similar report from Victoria the following night.

The Directorate of Air Force Intelligence summary of its next investigation was on February 2, 1951, when two witnesses at Condamine, Queensland, described "eight rockets" which had the speed of a tracer bullet, trailed an exhaust, made a "loud swish" and disappeared over the horizon.

That one was the first to be formally designated "UFO".

Most of the "glowing light" phenomena of various colours were put down as probable meteors but things took on a more serious turn on September 27, 1952, when from the then-secret weapons testing station at Woomera, South Australia, came the report of a "light grey cigar" labelled "UFO" and from the same source on October 8 a radar echo which was attributed as an "ionised cloud".

The sightings came and whizzed and flashed and disappeared but the Woomera observations, obviously the most worrying of them all, continued to come in, "UFO" being the description given the "white oval light-detected by doppler" detected on July 24, 1953.

It must have been galling for the Woomera observer to be told of his sighting a week later that the "white round objects" which he had observed high up with his binoculars at 10.30am was a cloud of thistles.

The reports poured in, the more interesting making Mr Turner's summary an October 15, 1953 sighting being confirmed as the tail light of a TAA airliner and another on January 9, 1954 to the planet Jupiter.

"Exploding fire, smoke" (no interpretation), "mushroom" (UFO?), "silver square" (balloon with tin reflector), another "mushroom" (UFO, is not a hoax) and "silver oval" (UFO?) earning their place in the DAFI files for posterity.

The "two black saucers joined by a span" which disappeared over a hill at St Morris, South Australia, on January 17, 1954 earned a UFO label, no decision being made apparently on the "log or short telegraph pole" from Kingaroy, Queensland, on September 9, 1953.

But the observers were becoming keener-eyed. On June 5, 1954 an East Dandenong, near Melbourne, sighting described a "rotating disc with a wind-dow canopy, 3 wheels, 3 ports etc" glowing yellow, about 12 metres in diameter and making a "noise like a motor bike also ticking".

By 1960 the investigation of the Unusual Aerial Sightings, as they were by then called in official quarters, had become a skilled if time-consuming art. Nor was the RAAF prepared to consume even further time by arguing with people about its solutions.

"The foregoing summary of information prepared in the public interest includes the final assessment of each sighting reached by the Department of Air, Canberra, and it is regretted that no further correspondence can be undertaken on this subject", the file noted. By that time there was a well-developed "plot" thesis and the belief in some quarters that officialdom was "covering up" information.

Thus a "spherical, silvery object elevation 80 degrees-65 degrees over Canberra, ACT" on February 1, 1960, was written off as an "astronomical" phenomenon while the "slow-moving cigar-shaped object similar to aircraft — bright orange rear portion, rest dull grey" was attributed to a TAA Viscount VH-TVG.

"Orange-coloured balls", "blue-grey objects", "long white glowing object flaming tail buzzed train", "dark glinting object" and the rest were attributed mostly to astronomical sightings and some to aircraft.

Even the RAAF itself got involved. From Darwin on Christmas Eve, 1963 it reported "marks on negative of photo taken at RAAF, Darwin" which was put down to a static charge on the paper during camera loading.

As satellites began to orbit the earth they added their mite to the mass of reports where for a while they vied with meteorological balloons as the instigators of reports. Aircraft continued to be another source of material.

One sighting on June 16, 1969 from Melbourne was put down to "aircraft and imagination".

Throughout the saga there have been a fair number of reports simply put down as inexplicable but usually on the grounds of incomplete or tardy information.

Birds, lightning, space debris, planets, and temperature inversions have been among the explanations for the hundreds and hundreds of sightings investigated. Even the RAAF itself does not have the full total.

But there have been others, particularly in northern Australia, which have been assessed as quite probably the incursions of drug runners and in fact some have been caught. And the closure of the RAAF version of the USAF "Blue Book" does not signify that it is not interested any longer in receiving the reports. It will accept them and will still welcome them but those which do not appear to have a direct impact on national security will not be further investigated.

It has been an exhausting task and a relatively thankless one. Many of the reporters have been unsatisfied with the explanations despite the magnitude of the effort which has gone into it all.

It has been a long task and in many ways an interesting if not particularly rewarding one. The files are copious and the detail which has gone into the project will now be diverted to what is perceived to be areas of more productive defence interest.

DAILY SUN, Brisbane, Qld., Australia
May 22, 1984 CR: J. Magee

UFO spotted hovering over town

TWO policemen and a Mt Isa couple claim they watched a UFO above the town for more than 30 minutes on Sunday night.

They said a spherical, white object surrounded by flashing red, blue and green lights hovered south-west of

the town from 10pm. Mr Alan Davies, 47, and his wife Pat watched it from their yard and Constables Darryl Reay, 20, and Frank Bebernitz, 22, watched the object from about 8km outside Mt Isa.

Soviets set up probe on UFOs

MOSCOW (Reuter) — The Soviet Union has set up a commission to investigate unidentified flying objects after an incident last year involving a "flying cigar" near Gorki, a Moscow newspaper reported yesterday.

The trade union daily Trud said the commission had been established in February and was headed by Pavel Popovich, a former cosmonaut. Its role is to examine all sightings of moving objects or flashing lights in the sky.

Mr. Popovich told the newspaper there were hundreds of reports each year in the Soviet Union and that most could be explained away. But scientists had been disturbed by the events in Gorki, which defied rational analysis.

In the evening of March 27, 1983, air traffic controllers at Gorki's airport had located a craft flying toward them which did not respond to radio signals, he said.

The controllers saw the object with their own eyes as it approached the air field and said it was a steel-grey "cigar" about the size of an airliner but without wings or a tailfin.

The craft was flying at an altitude of about 900 metres and at a speed of between 175 and 200 kilometres an hour.

Mr. Popovich said the craft was visible on radar screens for about 40 minutes and then vanished after it had gone about 40 kilometres north of Gorki, which is about 400 kilometres east of Moscow.

The cosmonaut said the sighting was being taken seriously because the witnesses were trained aircraft experts who could be relied on to give an accurate and dispassionate account of what they saw.

He said the new organization, called the Commission on Abnormal Atmospheric Phenomena, had found a much more straightforward explanation for a phenomenon witnessed by hundreds of people nearly six months ago.

On Dec. 2 a bright sphere followed by several smaller lights swept across Byelorussia and central Russia. Trud reported that it had struck terror into the hearts of some of those who saw it.

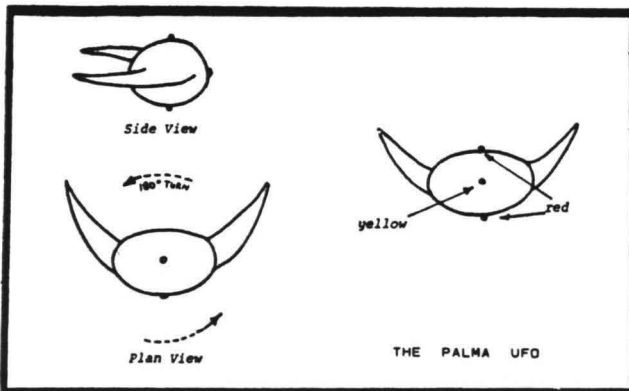
But Mr. Popovich told the daily that exhaustive analysis had revealed that the object they were seeing was a satellite burning up after re-entering the Earth's atmosphere.

Recent unexplained sightings include another strange phenomenon in the Gorki area on Feb. 6. Several people saw "bright spheres" cruising through the air and one witness said two of them united to form a "flying saucer."

Trud quoted Anatoly Logunov, a vice-president of the Academy of Sciences, as saying that most UFO reports provided too little information to be of any real value.

But he added that Soviet scientists took the subject seriously and accepted there were occasional well-documented sightings for which they could find no plausible explanation.

Both he and Mr. Popovich avoided comment on the possibility that such cases might involve spaceships from another world, and said only that it was necessary to improve research methods.



The illustration above is from a 1981 edition of 'UFO Research Australian Newsletter', used to show similarities between a sighting in far north Queensland in 1980, known as the Palma UFO, and one in Mexico in 1973, known as the Cocoyoc Incident. The descriptions tally to a marked degree.

GLOBE AND MAIL, Toronto, Ontario, Canada - May 30, 1984 CR: G. Duplantier



DAILY WORLD, Aberdeen, WA - April 4, 1984

Bigfoot may be a big joke, but what if he's real?

PRODDED BY canny old Roy Craft, who founded the weekly *McCleary Stimulator* with his brother Ray nearly 60 years ago, the Skamania County Commissioners are mulling an ordinance making it a misdemeanor to kill Sasquatches.

Culprits could face up to a year in jail and a \$1,000 fine, which strikes us as lenient in light of reports that Sasquatches are basi-

cally shy, humanoid beasts who'd wear size 99-D Nikes. Bigfoots (Bigfeet?), moreover, haven't hurt anyone lately and most likely would like to be left alone to clomp through the lush green forests munching berries.

What's abominable is that some bozo in fatigues wants to track one down with a high-powered rifle. One can imagine the poor critter plopped over the hood of the Great White Hunter's pickup truck like some lamentable elk who deserved a more dignified funeral.

"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.

The ordinance would make Skamania County a preserve for Bigfoot and put it on the county's endangered species list.

Craft, now retired as editor of *The Skamania County Pioneer* and an expert on Sasquatches, lobbied the commissioners in the wake of news reports that a former sergeant with the Army Rangers in Vietnam is planning a shoot-first, make-friends-later Bigfoot expedition somewhere in the Northwest this spring.

The man's plans have prompted a group called the National Cryptozoological Society in Seattle to promise to trail him and play loud rock music and bang tin cans to disrupt his hunt. (Bob McCausland, we hope you're taking notes on all this!)

"THESE PEOPLE are planning to come up here with a bunch of sophisticated weaponry and do a lot of hunting at night," said Craft. "Quite aside from the creature itself, this poses a real danger to a lot of people who might be wandering around loose in the woods.

"Equally scary is this bunch that wants to bring in the rock music and beat on tin cans. God knows what we can do about the rock music," Craft lamented.

Can't you just see a Sasquatch hot-footing it up a hill with a squad of bandoliered guerrillas on his heels, followed in turn by two dozen Cryptozoologists playing Michael Jackson's *Beat It!* and old Iron Butterfly albums on those portable "boom box" stereos?

But is all this as funny as it sounds at first blush? Suppose there really are Sasquatches.

IN THE '60S, when the editor was a young reporter, he interviewed a Grays Harbor Sheriff's deputy who claimed to have encountered a Sasquatch late one night along a lonely road in the North Beach area. The poor man absorbed insufferable ribbing from his peers, but he swore that the creature mesmerized for a moment by the headlights of his car seemed as much man as beast.

"They're all laughing at me," he said. "But no one has stopped to ask themselves, 'What if he's right?'"

Maybe the Grays Harbor County Commissioners would do well to outlaw Sasquatch hunting. Just in case.

Our view

REVIEW, Lake Oswego, WA - April 5, 1984

Sasquatch hunt points to humanity's dark side

Just when you think you've seen Homo sapiens at its most stupid and disgusting, a fresh specimen oozes up to surprise you all over again.

For a glimpse into the dark side of humanity, meet Mark E. Keller, a Eureka, Calif., postal employee who is embarking on a five-month pursuit of the legendary Bigfoot. Keller, a three-tour Vietnam veteran, will quit his mail-throwing job to go crashing through the Cascade underbrush with two hunting buddies. If he succeeds in meeting up with the western wilderness' most elusive mammal, his accomplishment is more likely to be chronicled in *Field and Stream* than *National Geographic*. General Keller, you see, is taking no prisoners.

"If you get that one opportunity to obtain a Sasquatch, you had better make it stick," Keller said in a recent newspaper account of his quest. "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."

Keller reasons that shooting Bigfoot would be OK because Bigfoot is not a human. But if it exists, it is the closest thing to a human that we will ever know.

You would think that the scientific community would bitterly denounce this rifle-toting nimrod, plead with him to stay in Humboldt County and mis-sort the mail. But incredibly, Keller enters the forest with the blessing of Dr. Grover Krantz, a Washington State University anthropologist. Krantz, who has been tracking Bigfoot himself for 15 years, agrees that the best way to determine whether the creature exists is to kill one so it can be examined.

From the same newspaper article: "Sightings of the foul-smelling, hairy, manlike beast believed to stand as tall as eight feet and weigh as much as 800 pounds go back more than 100 years, said (Krantz)." The writer does not specify if Krantz is referring to Bigfoot or Keller.

I wish the newspaper article had included a photograph of Keller. I visualize beefy primate features, a billed cap and a down vest. There is sure to be evidence of copious beer consumption around the belt. In the background is a four-wheel-drive pickup with a gun rack in the rear window, and a gun in the gun rack.

I used to live on the coast, not too many miles from Keller's Humboldt County home. The people there spend their lives beside one of the last great forests in the continental United States, the California redwoods. To many of them, tragically, a forest is only so much property to be exploited, so many million-board-feet to cash in on. Their approach to the land is the same as their approach to women: "What can I get off her and how soon can I get it?"

Discussing how the discovery of Bigfoot tracks convinced him that something was out there, Keller said: "I started to think, by God, this is a first, one of the few firsts left in the world, and it could fall into my grasp." And if by chance such a creature should come to him, what would Keller do with it? Certainly you don't believe that inquisitive scientific intellect drives Keller on his Sas-



ON THE RECORD
Jeff Landers

quatch safari; or that he would surrender the corpse to science without demanding a little something to make it worth his while.

Fish and game authorities are powerless to stop Keller because Sasquatch does not appear on the list of species that are protected by regulation. No agency officially recognizes the creature's existence. However, a private group of environmentalists armed with noisemakers has promised to follow Keller and his hunting party into the woods, driving Bigfoot into hiding with bangs and shouts.

I would lay odds that Keller the jungle fighter gives them the slip in nothing flat. Which leaves him and his pals alone in high Cascades with their quarry. With the legendary Bigfoot.

There's no sense in flaying the obscene symbolism of a Keller success. Either you automatically appreciate the shameful message it sends to God and nature or you don't. The rationale for gunning down an inoffensive member of an endangered species — Bigfoot is thought to number between 2,000 and 20,000, if it does exist — ranges from lame to despicable. The upper end, the lame, touts the expansion of scientific knowledge and the settlement of an age-old mystery. Lower down is Keller's probable motivation, naked avarice and glory-seeking.

As Bigfoot is thought to be a nocturnal creature, Keller will no doubt be up nights with one eye glued to his rifle-mounted infrared scope. For the next few months, from time to time, I will lie awake in bed and wonder: at this very moment, is that fool making history?

Maybe he'll draw a bead on the foul-smelling, hairy, man-like beast and hesitate, struck by its similarity to his own kind. Will he find himself paralyzed by conscience? And will he be able to shake it off?

I think I know how Keller can bring himself to pull the trigger. He can think back to his days in the jungles of Vietnam, where no one talked any blather about "the sanctity of life," human or otherwise. He can allow himself a moment of *deja vu*: crouched in the foliage, rifle at the ready, nervously waiting in ambush. And down the opposite hillside lumbers his adversary, the target everyone has been waiting for.

If Keller needs to stretch his imagination a little more, he can pretend that Bigfoot is wearing black silk pajamas and a straw hat.

When he isn't touting the causes of endangered Bigfoots, Jeff Landers writes entertainment news for the Review.

UNION BULLETIN, Walla Walla, WA
May 6, 1984

Reader gives his thoughts on Bigfoot

This is a response to Mark Keller and companions, planning a Bigfoot hunt.

First off, I doubt that you and your companions have the expertise to trail a Bigfoot. And secondly, just because this critter lives out there, what gives you the right to feel that you can go out and kill it?

If you are so good in the woods that you can find one of these, which I doubt, it looks like you should be satisfied with pictures, plaster casts and maybe some Bigfoot bones.

I used to be a pretty fair tracker but due to illness, am somewhat out of practice. But I would almost wager that even now I could beat you and your companions. Yet I am sure that I don't have the skill to track one.

I do hope, if you insist on going after the

Bigfoot with a rifle and hostility in mind, that you find one and wind up wearing your rifle home without the companionship of the Bigfoot in any form — except maybe a long-time dead one that died of natural causes.

I have been in the woods all of my life and really enjoy the outdoors for hunting, fishing, camping and prospecting for gold. I have never ever seen a Bigfoot, but I have not seen very many cougars either and we know there are several of them out there.

To kill something out there just to be killing it even if it isn't doing you any harm and cannot be eaten is shameful as well as immoral. The only other occasion that I feel unwarranted killing can be excused is mounting animals for display purposes so that people may have a chance to see them, or squirrel or rock chuck hunting, as long as they aren't endangered species.

The Bigfoot would surely qualify as an en-

dangered species in anyone's book.

I said once before that I had never seen a Bigfoot, but I have heard some sounds that I couldn't identify. Then again, I have never seen a wolverine in the wild either and we know there are a few out there.

I do want to commend the Walla Walla County commissioners and the Umatilla County commissioners on the Bigfoot ordinances and wish that maybe Walla Walla and Union counties could also get into the act. All of these counties have some pretty wild country which could be the habitat for some of these Bigfoot if there are any out there. I really believe there are, but this is quite a controversial subject.

I really hope we get all of Oregon outlawed for killing the Bigfoot, if there is one. These are my thoughts on the Bigfoot.

Leonard E. Snider Jr.
Box 296
Weston, Ore.

Don't anyone dare shoot a sasquatch around Skamania

By John O'Ryan

P-I Reporter

STEVENSON — Shoot a sasquatch in Skamania County and you might face a murder charge under an ordinance passed by the Board of County Commissioners yesterday.

At a meeting held in a courtroom to accommodate an enthusiastic crowd of sasquatch sympathizers, the board voted unanimously to declare the mysterious hairy creatures to be an endangered species in Skamania County.

Commissioners also declared the entire county to be a "sasquatch refuge."

Willfully slaying a Bigfoot "with malice aforethought" became a gross misdemeanor in this county, punishable by a year in jail or a \$1,000 fine, or both.

Pursue the case

Merely killing a Bigfoot in the southern Washington county near the Columbia River is a misdemeanor punishable by a \$500 fine or six months in jail, or both.

However, if the Skamania County coroner determines that a slain sasquatch is a "humanoid," the prosecuting attorney is directed to "pursue the case under existing laws dealing with homicide."

The new law protecting the sasquatch from hunters was widely favored by residents of the county who relish this area's reputation as a Bigfoot habitat and appreciate the tourists it attracts.

"Let's change the name of the county," suggested resident Dallas Forest. "Let's call it Bigfoot County."

A 9-foot sasquatch, fashioned from plywood and synthetic fur, stood in the courtroom as the commissioners took testimony and voted on the new law.

The sasquatch "replica" was the work of Datus Perry, 72, a retired diesel engineer, who said he has sighted 10 of the creatures, mostly in the Wind River Valley, where he claimed they abound.

"There are two big ridges there which buffer the prevailing southwesterly wind in winter," he explained. "They like the shelter."

He said he has heard their cries from as close as 100 feet. He threw back his head and gave the courtroom crowd his version of a sasquatch sound.

"Y-eee-T-ee," he wailed. "That's why the sasquatch, or Bigfoot, is sometimes called the yeti. It's their cry."

Perry testified at the hearing that he once flushed a sasquatch out of his bed in a huckleberry patch. He said he examined the bed less than five seconds after the Bigfoot left it.

"It was dug in soft soil to fit his body, with dirt that was removed being piled at the head to make a pillow," Perry said. "He was using a deer skin for a blanket."

Perry said the deerskin blanket had small handles on it, indicating that the sasquatch buckled it over his shoulders like a raincoat in winter.

"There was no hair in the bed because they don't shed," he said. "There wasn't any odor, either."

The bearded, gray-haired retired engineer told the county commissioners that each sasquatch he has sighted was covered in front with dark fur that rendered the creature difficult to see in deep woods.

"The only thing that shines on them is the white in their eyeballs," he said. "They have black velvet faces and ears."

He turned his sasquatch replica around to show its back, which had various shades of brown fur.

"They are camouflaged on their backs so they can blend in with dried grass and vegetation," he explained.

Heard them walking

Perry said the sasquatch eats deer, rabbits and small rodents. He said they move swiftly and silently.

"I have often heard them walking over dried leaves and twigs in August when I couldn't see them," he said. "But they won't move when you are looking at them."

Fred Langbehn, a Seattle contractor, also took the stand to describe past experiences with sasquatches, which he said appeared on his 117-acre ranch near Lake Stevens "every August when the cherries and blackberries were ripe."

He said that six years ago his wife was picking blackberries when suddenly she discovered that a sasquatch was picking berries on the same bush right alongside her.

"How frightful," remarked commissioner Ed Callahan.

Langbehn said that three years ago he was burning stumps on his farm when suddenly he saw a head looming up above the pile. Then a sasquatch walked out from behind the pile and gazed at him calmly.

"He wasn't the least bit afraid of me," said Langbehn. "But when I ran toward my pickup truck to get my rifle, he took off."

Langbehn's description of a sasquatch differed from Perry's description. Langbehn said the sasquatches he saw were wearing what appeared to be a deerskin garment over their shoulders and sort of an apron hanging from their hips. Their midribs were bare skin, and the skin was an off-white color, he said.

Furthermore, they had an odor, Langbehn said.

Erik Beckjord, director of the National Cryptozoological Society of Seattle, then took the stand to explain why the descriptions differed.

"There are two varieties of sasquatch, Type A and Type B," he said.

Brakeman captured

Beckjord said Perry was describing Type A, a very hairy sasquatch, and Langbehn was describing Type B, a hairless Sasquatch, which must wear deerskin garments to keep warm.

He claimed a group of 7-foot hairless sasquatches kidnapped a Burlington Northern Railroad brakeman, Ken Smith Sr., and held him captive on Mount Hood for a day, releasing him unharmed.

Beckjord said that both types of sasquatches should be classified as "erect primates," or humanoids, and a great majority of anthropologists vigorously object to the idea of shooting at them.

Crowd cheers

When the hearing ended, the commissioners, Callahan, Bill Benson and Eric Wedin, unanimously passed the new law, replacing an older one ruled illegal because it made the shooting of sasquatches a felony, which is beyond the authority of county commissioners.

The crowd cheered, TV cameras rolled and photographers' strobe lights flashed.

"This sasquatch publicity doesn't hurt a bit," said Rudy Hegewald, president of the Skamania County Chamber of Commerce. "It brings tourists here."

The pyramid mystery

It's been some 60 years since the opening of King Tut's tomb dazzled the world with the riches of ancient Egyptian royalty — and later intrigued it with the legend of King Tut's Curse, when all the people involved in the opening died later in mysterious ways. Now, there's a new Egyptian thriller — gas seeping up from underneath an ancient pyramid to sicken tourists crawling through the interior.

So the stories from Egypt say. The pyramid is Pharaoh Chephren's, and it isn't one of the famous three situated near Gizeh, which feature, as a side attraction, the equally famous Sphinx.

Chephren's is one of the 40 or so other remaining Egyptian pyramids, and though newstories don't give its historical period, the thing is adequately ancient to support a mystery.

Call it a double mystery. For on top of word of the gas comes the thrilling declaration from San Francisco's SRI International that hidden chambers almost certainly exist beneath the pyramid — and that the gas is coming from them!

SRI's senior research physicist, Lambert Dolphin, says that seismic studies of the pyramid made eight years ago indicated the existence of two subterranean chambers — one 63 feet and the other 99 feet below the pyramid proper — and adds that the researchers pronounced themselves 80 per cent sure that they are really there.

Dolphin says that they found no entrance then but that the likeliest places to look for one are in the pyramid's floor or outer walls.

Who can resist the thought of a properly equipped expedition's making sure whether those chambers exist or not? If they do, what possible gas could endure for 3,000 years or more, how deadly is it and what treasure might it guard? The very mortuaries of long-vanished pharaohs?

We'll know. Just stay tuned. There's a chance, Dolphin says, that the "chambers" are only rifts in the underlying bedrock and that the gas is therefore "natural," and that would indeed be an unhappy ending. But Egyptologists won't rest until there is an answer to the pyramid mystery — and neither will many of the rest of us.

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT, Little Rock, AR - April 21, 1984

GIANT LAKE SNAKE?

By CARRIE MISHIMA
Staff Reporter

A "monster challenge" is brewing in central B.C.

Duncan Myers of the Thompson-Shuswap Tourist Bureau said if there are more sightings of a serpent-like "creature" in Shuswap Lake in the next few weeks, he would consider offering a reward for anyone able to find it.

"There have been reports of a strange thing in the lake for several years now. I think there is every possibility of some unusual life in the lake," Myers said.

A reward would challenge the offer by the Okanagan-Similkameen Tourist Association of \$1 million for the capture of the legendary Ogopogo in Okanagan Lake.

The most recent sighting of a Shuswap creature was made by a Kamloops family last Sunday afternoon.

"I never believed in things like monsters in the water but I believe it now," said Linda Griffiths, a mother of three. She was sailing with her husband Peter and three children near Captain Village Marina when they spotted churning water about 100 metres (325 feet) away.

"I grabbed the binoculars and watched for about two minutes," Griffiths said. "I could see seven dark greyish bumps out of the water. It looked like a snake but it moved in

a straight line. It was about 20 to 25 feet (six to eight metres) long and was moving quite fast.

"I was flabbergasted. It took a while for me to calm down. That's it for me as far as swimming goes."

Griffiths' two sons, David, 15, Robert, 12, and a family friend, Gregory Plummer, 13, saw the creatures' bumps without binoculars but no one could see a head or tail, Griffiths said.

The creature kicked up a 20-cm (seven inch) wake and crossed in front of the boat before disappearing into the water.

"I'm embarrassed talking about it," Griffiths admitted. "I feel like a person who has seen a flying saucer."

The movement in the water was all the more noticeable because the wind had died down and the water was like glass, she added.

Griffiths' friend, Heidi Candido, also of Kamloops, recounted being one of a dozen people on Seymour Arm beach about three years ago to witness unusual movement in Shuswap Lake that looked as if something large was moving under the water.

Local historian Helen Akridge, who lives on the lake, confirmed hearing of other queer sightings but nothing like the Ogopogo stories which have made Okanagan Lake famous.

PROVINCE, Vancouver, B.C., Canada - June 8, 1984 CR: G. Conway

What's happened to the vicious beast of Exmoor?

FIRST thing every morning farmer Eric Ley goes out to his fields to check on his flock of sheep. With the spring lambs playing and the sheep grazing, everything is peaceful.

And Mr Ley is keeping his fingers crossed that it stays that way. For this time last year the scene which greeted him day after day was one of carnage.

Time and again, he came across the dead bodies of his sheep and lambs, their throats ripped open and bleeding.

Targets

For Mr Ley's flock was one of the chief targets of the mysterious Beast of Exmoor. Now the big question is: *Whatever has become of the savage animal which terrorised farmers in North Devon and Somerset and slaughtered more than 100 sheep and lambs last year?*

And will it return? For the last killing was more than six months ago and nothing has been seen or heard of it since.

Has it failed to survive the winter?

Or has it found some other source of food for the time being?

All the farmers know is that their lambs appear to be safe at the moment. Mr Ley, who lost more than 50 sheep and lambs worth £2,000 at his 180-acre farm in South Molton, Devon, last year, said: "At this time last year, things were getting very hectic. The killings started at the beginning of March and I have lost count how many must have died by now."

"But this year I am glad to say I have nothing whatsoever to report."

"It is quiet and peaceful, which is just as it should be. I'm very relieved."

by MARK ELSDON-DEW

Could the animal have been shot since last summer?

It is very unlikely. No farmers have reported killing such a beast and no body has been discovered.

Theories still abound as to what the vicious Beast was.

Some people say it was a wild dog but eye-witnesses say it had some of the features of big cat with bulging, green eyes.

But despite an intensive search involving expert marksmen from the Royal Marines, posses of farmers

mounting watches through the night and even a Rhodesian big game hunter, it was never tracked down.

It seemed to have an incredible capacity to survive.

Which makes the animal's apparent disappearance all the more extraordinary.

Several farmers fear it has not gone for good, but is feeding on rabbits and deer until it is ready to strike again.

Island riddle of a giant cat

On the run living wild

by MARK ELSDON-DEW

IT WAS evening and Miss Elizabeth Dowers was just setting off for a walk in the countryside with her Alsatian dog Sabre when she noticed a strange movement some 40 yards away on the hillside. Stopping in her tracks, she stared across the field to the hill.

And there, staring back at her, was a cat-like animal. But it was no ordinary cat. It seemed to be more the size of a large dog and had strange, pointed ears.

Then it began, very slowly, to move towards her.

Miss Dowers, 26, immediately called her dog and ran to the safety of her car.

She is just the latest in a long line of people who have reported seeing the creature.

And the sightings have created a double mystery. Not only is nobody sure what the animal is, there is another key question: How did it get there?

For this is not some huge barren part of Britain where large predators might live wild after escaping from zoos. It is the Isle of Wight, completely cut off from southern England and barely 20 miles across at its widest point.

There are only two places where such animals are exhibited on the island, a zoo and a wildlife park, and neither has reported any large cats missing.

But there have been so many sightings recently — more than five in the past two weeks — that few islanders are in any doubt about the animal's existence on the island.

Even the leader of the Isle of Wight County Council, Mr Maurice Barton, has seen it.

Creature

Mr Barton, 42, said: "I was driving with another councillor home from a meeting at about 10.45 at night when the creature loped across the road in front of us."

"It was caught right in the centre of the headlights and we could see its shape clearly. It was just like a large cat with a bushy tail. It was about the size of an Alsatian dog and had a mottled greeny-brown coat."

"I've lived in the country all my life and it was definitely not a fox. Nor was it a domestic cat or a dog."

Mr John Roberts, owner of the Robin Hill Country Park on the island, says he believes there is only one possible explanation.

He said: "Before the Dangerous Wild Animals Act of 1976, anyone was allowed to keep a wild animal as a pet. I can only assume that this animal got on to the island as a cub and has now escaped and is living wild."

What is the animal? Mr Roberts has a theory on that too. He said: "I think there is a real possibility that it could be a lynx."

"I had a visit about 10 days ago from a man who said he had been only yards away from this animal. He gave me an absolutely perfect description of a lynx."

■ KLAMATH FALLS

Klamath County is considering the request of a Chiloquin woman to protect the legendary creature known as Bigfoot, county commission Chairman Roger Hamilton said yesterday.

"If this creature exists, as far as I'm concerned, I have a stake in it and you have a stake in it and it should be protected," Hamilton said. "If it doesn't exist, somebody running around in a monkey suit should be protected."

Hamilton said Donna Young, who claims to have seen the big, hairy beast three times and is publishing a book on the subject, asked the county to enact an ordinance barring hunting of the man-like creature also known as Sasquatch.

Citizen sights a Whatsit

What's eight feet tall, hairy, doesn't wear clothes, and has a masculine face?

Nobody's saying sasquatch. Nobody's saying a tall, hairy, naked man, either.

What the Pierce County sheriff's office is saying is that a caller reported spotting such an apparition early yesterday morning about six miles south of Spanaway.

Sgt. Bill Dunbar, one of three from the Pierce County Sheriff's office who investigated within 15 minutes of the report, said the man who made it "seemed perfectly legit. He wasn't a weirdo or anything."

The man, according to Dunbar, saw the creature come out of the woods near what is known as the Lincoln Tree Farm and walk around his trailer.

"At about the same time, a neighbor reported his dog had been frightened by something, and frightened so badly the neighbor had to bring the dog inside," Dunbar continued. "This guy's turkeys had also gone bananas about something."

But an investigation of the area, near 276th Street and State Route 7, revealed nothing, Dunbar said. He described the scene as recently developed but still wooded.

"Obviously something went through that area," the Pierce County sheriff's official said, "but we don't know what."

"And nobody ever mentioned the word sasquatch," Dunbar concluded.

Sheriff's personnel plan a follow-up investigation this week.

POST-INTELLIGENCER, Seattle, WA - June 19, 1984 CR: D. Johnson

IT'S RAINING FISH

REPORTS OF FISH OR FROGS FALLING FROM THE SKY DURING TORRENTIAL RAINS ARE COMMON.



SCIENTISTS BELIEVE THEY WERE SUCKED UP INTO THE CLOUDS BY TORNADOS OR WATERSPOUTS. THERE ARE MANY UNEXPLAINED FACTORS: THE TRANSPORTING MECHANISM OFTEN SEEMS SELECTIVE OF A SINGLE SPECIES OR SIZE, NO DIRT OR PLANT DEBRIS ACCOMPANIES THE FALLING CREATURES, AND SALT WATER FISH DROP IN RAINFALLS THAT DON'T HAVE A SALTY TASTE!

© O.F.E. Synd., 1984

It's a REALLY Big Game Hunt — for Dinosaur

By STEVE HARVEY, Times Staff Writer

LOS ANGELES—Despite the strong possibility that he was 65 million years or so too late, Altadena engineer Herman Regusters persuaded the People's Republic of the Congo to co-sponsor a 1981 expedition into that country in search of a live dinosaur.

Talk about the big one that got away. Regusters claimed the group saw a creature the "size of two hippos" in a remote lake. But when he returned with no photos of the animal, he got a hostile reception from the press and the scientific community.

The skepticism only made Regusters more determined to find the animal called *mokele mbenbe* by Congolese villagers. And to disprove one theory that *mokele mbenbe* is a running joke pulled on Westerners by the Congolese.

This December, with help from various foundations and the Congo, Regusters, 50, will lead another expedition into the same area in search of the elusive creature, mindful that some scientists will assert that he is now 65,000,003 years late.

"I know what I saw," insisted the soft-spoken, pipe-smoking Regusters, who has since had papers on his trip published by Caltech and the Leakey Foundation.

Interviewed Monday at his home, which is filled with unicorn figurines, Regusters wore a shirt that bore a patch of a green, long-necked dinosaur with a satellite in orbit above it.

When the Congolese villagers saw the patch on the first visit, he recalled, "they would ask how we had gotten a picture of the dinosaur when we hadn't seen it yet."

Regusters says the serpent he spotted was about 36 feet long and weighed about 10 tons in its bare feet.

"However, despite what our patch shows, it was grayish, not green," he said with a laugh.

Regusters' account of his closest approach to the creature in Lake Tele—he was in a small boat with five other people about 200 feet away—seemed like something out of Fred Flintstone.

No photos were taken because his first reaction was to "make a rapid exit. We did not know the aggression habits of the animal," Regusters admitted.

"Hopefully, it's a vegetarian," Kia, his wife and fellow explorer, added uncertainly.

This time, to make picture-taking a less unsettling experience, Regusters plans to approach the creature in an amphibious plane.

His crew of six, plus guides, will have more sophisticated camera equipment—but no plaster of paris for footprints. The jungle around the lake is one huge swamp—the only hard surface being tree roots—so the creature leaves no footprints, Regusters says.

The swampy area also rules out the use of a mammoth pooper-scooper to collect physical evidence.

While Regusters brought back no clear pictures of a dinosaur, he did return with what he said was a tape of the creature's roar. "It was almost enough to knock us off our boat," he said.

Tests have shown that the voice print differs from that of any known creature, he claims. Even if he hasn't found a dinosaur, Regusters believes he may have found a previously unknown animal, a possibility echoed in the Caltech publication, *Munger Africana Library Notes*, which published his account of his trip.

Regusters points out that the okapi, a giraffe-like animal in the Congo rain forest, was unknown to science until early this century.

The dilemma of the dinosaur photographer, Regusters lamented, is that "even if we got very good photos (of the dinosaur), some people will not believe them."

One solution, of course, would be to catch the dinosaur.

"But then what would we do with it once we caught it?" he asked.

TIMES, Los Angeles, CA

June ?, 1984 CR: D. Clements

Odds And Ends

WHEN YOU'RE HOT

by Brent Raynes

In the Transactions of the Medical Society of Tennessee for 1835, the volume 17 of the American Journal of Medical Science, Dr. John Overton, M.D., described the puzzling "partial spontaneous combustion" of a 35-year-old mathematics professor in Nashville.

The subject, whom he refers to simply as Mr. H, stated that the episode had occurred on January 5, 1835. He had just walked about three-fourths of a mile from the university to his home. It was a chilling eight degrees above zero. Shortly upon arriving home H had stepped outside again when he became aware of a pain in his left leg. The pain was steady and the intensity of a hornet sting, with a sensation of heat. Glancing down H perceived a bright flame several inches in length with a width of a dime. He slapped at it several times but it kept burning. Then with his bare hands, he cupped his hands over it, figuring he could cut off the oxygen, and that extinguished the flame.

Gradually the pain lessened. Returning inside H. removed his

trousers and underwear, and inspected his leg. He found a small abrasion-like burn, about three-fourths of an inch in width and three inches in length. The trousers were not burned at all, although a small hole had burned through his underwear. Although the burn was like any ordinary burn in appearance, it was deeper and did not heal as quickly as such burns normally do.

And, of course, there was the fundamental question of what caused Mr. H's flesh to ignite in the first place? He was outside in freezing weather and no where near any source of heat.

Scientists cannot explain this phenomenon known as "spontaneous human combustion." In these cases, the body is reduced to ashes. The sort of heat it takes a crematorium hours to accomplish at about 3,000 degrees fahrenheit! Also odd is how nearby objects, even chairs the deceased had been sitting in, could be hardly or not at all affected! Usually the only parts of the body that remain partially burned are the feet, hands, and head.

Larry Arnold, director of Para-Science International in Harrisburg, Pa., states that slightly over 200 cases of spontaneous human combustion (called SHC for short) are on file thus far. Researchers wonder how many puzzling SHC cases may have simply been written off as a careless smoker or "cause of fire unknown."

For whatever the reasons, most victims have been elderly, and most have been women. The cases have been concentrated in northern regions and to the winter season. But the real mystery is the absence of an explainable fire source, and the tremendous intensity of the fire that burns the victim but leaves other nearby objects and furniture virtually untouched.

Is there something in our body chemistry that can possibly account for these bizarre fires that a zoologist named Ivan Sanderson declared reminded him of atomic heat more than anything?

Perhaps the case of Mr. H. contains a clue to this odd and distasteful subject.

Does a 'monster' lurk in Lake Conway waters?

(Editor's note: The following appeared on the front page of the Log Cabin Democrat on March 7, 1952.)

By Walter Ed Scales

"I don't expect anyone to believe it, and I wouldn't have if I hadn't seen it with my own eyes—up close."

That is the way a Mayflower fisherman prefaced his description of the "mystery of Lake Conway."

Much conjecture has evolved since reports circulated that a strange phenomenon was sighted in Lake Conway about two weeks ago.

Popular demand has branded the mysterious animal "Frogman," and the mystery has only been heightened and distorted by sportsmen and other tale spinners who have tried to laugh off the matter as a minor hoax.

To begin with, natives of Mayflower and Saltillo, near the lake, have whispered about mysterious goings-on in the Palarm Creek brakes for 30 years—before the lake was even a dream. The whispers never

matured into man-sized rumors because the "thing" could not be accurately described. It had been seen as splashes in the water and heard as a guinea-like squeal or scream. But none had ever been—or cared to be—near enough for a description.

Last week, rumors began that a fisherman had hooked the "Frogman," pulled it to the boat, and had an eye-to-eye view of it. The story grew that it tried to get in the boat, later that it spoke. Confirmed jokesters have further expanded the tale for a laugh, passing it off as an object of the imagination.

But for the man who found it on his trotline, it is no laughing matter.

In a boat-to-shore interview yesterday, George Dillon of Mayflower gave this account of his experience.

About 8 a.m. Feb. 25 he was running a trotline a few hundred yards southeast of the Narrows bridge. It was snagged in about 8 feet of water, and he pried the line free with his paddle, thinking that a catfish or grackle had fouled his hooks in the brush.

When he raised the line, the

"thing" floated slowly to the surface.

Dillon lifted it partly out of the water, and it began moving its head from side to side, trying to free a hook from its mouth with its tongue. Two other hooks were imbedded on the sides of its face.

He described the animal as weighing about 75 or 80 pounds. It had green spotted skin similar to a frog's, and a head which resembled a monkey's, with its temples pinched in, and a monkey-like mouth with blue lips and no teeth. Its mouth was bleeding.

It had fairly broad shoulders, more stooped than a man's, and its back was humped. The chest was concave.

The "thing" placed a hand over the gunnel of the boat, and Dillon said it was as large as a man's with similar fingers, all webbed, and having clawlike nails. The arm was large at the elbow and above, sinewy and powerful looking.

"I first thought it was a man who had tangled in the line and drowned. That's why I didn't club it with my paddle," Dillon said.

According to Dillon, the animal

suddenly pushed the boat around with a hind foot or tail, and Dillon dropped the line to steady the boat. He paddled back to the end of the line, with intentions of getting up close again and calling to a companion running a nearby line. Before he could trace the line the "Frogman" began swimming away, and one hook broke loose and two were straightened out as the animal swam into a clump of elbow bushes and went out of sight.

"I have never been afraid of anything," he said, "but you notice I am not fishing there any more." He was setting lines about two miles away from the

scene of his experience.

Dillon won't try to prove that there is a small "monster" in Lake Conway, but he has been convinced.

"As for me," he said, "seeing is believing and I wasn't drinking good whiskey nor was I drinking any bad whiskey when I saw it."

(This is the first of two stories about the "monster." Next week's "Story From the Past," which originally appeared in the Log Cabin on March 19, 1952, will be a compilation of speculation and comments from around the state regarding the first report.)

LOG CABIN DEMOCRAT, Conway, AR - May 20, 1984

Nessie—still one of the great unsolved mysteries

UNQUESTIONABLY, the ultimate experience for most visitors to Loch Ness would be a sighting of the famous monster.

There can be no other stretch of water anywhere in the world which has warranted such searching appraisal by so many for so long.

Every ripple on the surface, every object animate or otherwise to appear between the waves, is cause for question among the tourists who flock to the almost 23-mile long loch which is the focus of one of the great unsolved mysteries of modern times.

Whether or not the dark depths of Loch Ness hide a monster or monsters remains to be proved. There are believers and there are sceptics—and in both camps are men and women who have made scientific study of the subject.

Few of the thousands upon thousands of people who make for the shores of Loch Ness each year do spy "Nessie" but a high proportion go to the Loch Ness Monster Exhibition at Drumadroit to see the wealth of material showing the history of the search.

At present the exhibition is undergoing change (while the work is in progress admission charges have been reduced) and an enthusiastic Mr Tony Harmsworth, its curator/co-founder, is certain that when completed the result will be a more comprehensive and interesting attraction than ever.

He explained that the re-thinking regarding the exhibition was in no way a backing down on pro-monster views, nor was it caused by recent articles advocating the no-monster theory. It had been planned since last year.

New material

"We set up the exhibition in 1980 and wrote the text at that time. We have added more new material over the years but the existing text and layout has remained the same.

"We felt that some of the things we said were a little bit dated and in the light of new

material we should make some changes.

"So we are re-setting out the exhibition. The older material is still there—the various pictures, from the first one taken in 1933 by Hugh Gray, and the people talking about what they saw and where they took their photographs.

"A lot of what we're doing is bringing it to life, and we're planning four short videos.

"We're also allowing the anti-monster camp to have their say."

The videos sound an intriguing blend of old and new data.

"We have an old sequence of movie film of the monster taken in the 1930's and are making the

by
a "Courier"
reporter

comment in the video that the Loch Ness Bureau during the 1960's spent a lot of time and effort on surface surveillance but weren't able to repeat the sequence.

"We are also negotiating with Tim Dinsdale who took a famous piece of motion picture in early 1960. That was analysed by the R.A.F. in 1966 and their final conclusion was that what he filmed was probably animate. They ruled out boats and submarines.

"Tim's been coming back to Loch Ness for almost 25 years to try to film it again at closer range.

"We are hoping to get a video copy of film taken by Dick Raynor for the Loch Ness Bureau which shows an object, at a range of approximately one mile, moving through the water.

"When the R.A.F. studied the film, they estimated the object was doing more than five knots and the visible part that broke the surface was in excess of seven feet long. That would rule out otters, of course.

"Visible on the loch in that film is Scot 2, a passenger vessel which appears in the foreground, and which gave something to home in on regarding size. We're hoping this film will transfer on to video.

Loch bottom

"The fourth video is a sequence showing the bottom of Loch Ness, taken at 720 feet depth by the Loch Ness Project, the major British expedition working here over the last few years.

"It shows conditions on the bottom of the loch and that there are small fish living down there, so far unidentified."

This time last year the exhibition took delivery of a panel illustrating the whole biology of Loch Ness and it represents the entire work of the project over five years.

"It shows there's definitely a food chain that could support a large predator," commented Tony. "It would be almost surprising if there was not a predator there using the food supply—and the otter is not a deep water predator."

One of the most frequently reproduced photographs in the "Nessie" controversy is that taken by Colonel Wilson in 1934 and known as the Surgeon's picture.

This shows what appears to be a tiny head on a long neck rearing out of the water and sceptics have often said it must be an otter.

Also to be part of the revamped exhibition are various



Tony Harmsworth (left), curator of the Loch Ness Monster Exhibition, and Adrian Shine, field leader of the Loch Ness Project. In the background is the sonar search vessel whose equipment has yielded some exciting results.

displays at present under construction.

One of these revolves around what has come to be known as the Rines flipper photograph. There has been a lot of argument over the picture which perhaps shows the flipper or fin of a fish.

"We are having a model of this made and a taxidermist has been working from the photograph. At first he said it was either the Loch Ness monster or a turtle.

3D model

"Later, he said it's not a turtle, it's something completely unknown. In making the 3D model he discovered some things in the picture he hadn't noticed before.

"Where the flipper joins the body there is a series of folds in the skin. If anyone was going to fake a picture like this, it's not something they would know about.

"The taxidermist also says the flipper is on an upstroke not a downstroke."

In what way does the exhibition present the case for the other side?

"We stock the anti-monster books for a start," said Tony. "And we do mention where there is argument against any particular picture."

There is also an early sequence about the possibility of a "water horse" being seen at the time of St Columba and reference is made to the fact that one of the anti-monster writers has done some research work on this and can't justify it.

The exhibition is part of the Loch Ness Centre, of which Tony is director, and a disastrous fire in January at the nearby Drumadroit Hotel (another part of the centre) has held up the alteration programme, which should have been finished by the end of March.

Within a few weeks, the new look exhibition should be complete.

Translations

Around 100,000 visitors a year see the exhibition, one-quarter of these being foreigners for whom free translations are provided.

The busy centre provides

quite a bit of employment with over 80 people, including casual and part-time labour, ensuring its smooth running.

It isn't surprising to learn that Tony is a monster believer, though he says it would make no difference to the exhibition's success if he weren't—people would still come.

Has he ever seen the monster?

"I saw something once that might have been, but it was too brief and at too great a range to be sure. I have very close friends who have."

Tony Harmsworth is a great supporter of the Loch Ness Project.

"While we (the centre) are a commercial enterprise, the project is not and they need a lot of volunteers," he remarked. "We gave the project sufficient money to buy £10,000 of sonar equipment two years ago and the result is probably the most important evidence there has ever been.

"The problem is that it's so technical, it's difficult to put over to the general public."

BEE, Newtown, CT - June 22, 1984 CR: H. Peatfield

Local Man Spots Bigfoot in NY State—

An Encounter With A Yeti

FEW PEOPLE GET TO SEE a bald eagle in the wild. Fewer still, a snow leopard. And all the people who have seen a yeti could trade stories around a single bonfire and still feel the heat. Fred Ranaudo of Woodbury says he is now among the few who have encountered the yeti, which goes by some other more recognizable names—Sasquatch, Bigfoot, the Abominable Snowman.

It happened at 4 am on June 4 in the woods of Lawrenceburg, N.Y. about a half hour north of Lake George. Mr Ranaudo, a 34 year-old carpenter/cabinetmaker who lives in Applegate Acres, was in the Lake George area earlier this month to work on a couple of houses he owns there. He decided to spend a Sunday night sleeping in the woods on property owned by a friend.

"I lit a fire, my truck was parked right beside me, and I was sort of laying there in my sleeping bag. I was on sort of a knob, a high part of the terrain. Down below me toward the road was a creek and a beaver pond. I let the fire go out, and I went to sleep." It would not be a restful night.

At about 3:30 am, he was awakened by a howl—a wolf or a coy-dog he speculates. At first he wasn't concerned. Such howls are common in the night in the New York wilderness. But when the cries led from the creek to a wooded area about 30 yards away, he took note.

"I sat bolt upright, and I was looking around. There was no moon, but the stars were out. I didn't have my glasses on, but I could see pretty well. I'd been awake for a while, and my eyes were adjusted to the night." While he was looking around for the source of the howling, loud crashing sounds came from a brushy

area across an open field in another direction. The wolf, evidently, would not be the only creature he was to encounter that night.

"I was sitting up, and I turned around to look in the field, and I heard this thing coming through the underbrush. It was making loud thuds. I could hear its feet hitting the ground. I could hear it coming for quite a distance before I saw it, but finally I saw this white shape coming out of the darkness. It was walking at a pretty good pace, but the thing was that it was breathing real hard, like it had asthma, or it had been running real hard. They were big heavy noises, you know, big noises, very loud. My eyes were popping open. It got to be—now I didn't measure the distance; I should have—probably 50 to 75 yards away.

"I SAW IT AS a large vertical white shape. About the size of a sheet of plywood, so I figure it must have been about nine feet tall. Anyway it was coming up, and it didn't see me yet. It was downwind of me, and the fire had gone out. All of a sudden, it sees me, and it hops up in the air. It was cruising along, and all of a sudden it stops and jumps. It made a big hop, and then it made two little hops after that. It didn't make any other noises other than continued heavy breathing. But when it made its big hop, I hopped too; I jumped out of my sleeping bag and got into my truck.

"You know this thing was big. It was very large, and it was white, and it was furry. I was looking at it pretty closely, and even though I couldn't see it that clearly, I definitely had a feeling about what it was. Anyway, I got in the truck. I rolled the window down and stuck my



Fred Ranaudo shows the raised outline of a 15-inch footprint on a plaster cast made at the site in New York State where he says he encountered a yeti, more commonly known as Bigfoot. —Bee Photo, Clark

(continued on page 20)

(continued from page 19 - BEE, Newtown, CT - June 22, 1984)

head out, and I could see it fading back into the darkness. And then it disappeared, and I didn't hear it anymore."

Mr. Ranaudo says that during the encounter he never thought his safety was threatened. In fact, he got out of the truck and went back to sleep after the large white night visitor had disappeared. "I was tired," he explains. That is not to say he wasn't apprehensive.

"To tell you the truth, when I was sitting there, and it was crashing up on me, I was a bit concerned. When it hopped up and down, the earth shook. I could feel it from 50 yards away. I could feel the thud sitting on the ground in my sleeping bag."

After he got into his truck, Mr. Ranaudo says he instinctively knew what the creature was. "I knew it was a yeti, or whatever you want to call it. I knew it wasn't a bear, and it wasn't a person. And in the morning, I got up and went over where it hopped up and down, and there were these huge footprints. They were about fifteen inches long and five or six inches wide."

EXTRAORDINARY EXPERIENCES are memorable in themselves, but often become imprinted indelibly in the mind through a repeated accounting of the details for friends and family. Fred Ranaudo has told his story about the events of June 4 many times. He even tried to reach someone at Yale's Peabody Museum of natural history, but failed to find an expert who knew much about yetis. "I didn't pursue it much," he admits.

"I didn't really know what to do at first. I told a few people about it. I was excited, and yet I was pretty calm about

it at the same time. The amazing thing is that I go up there and sleep out one night — it was the first time I'd been up there in a long time — and this yeti comes pounding through the field."

The following weekend, the owner of the site went to the property and, following Mr. Ranaudo's directions, found the footprints. Plaster casts were made and brought to Woodbury. Similar tracks have been found in that area of New York State, according to Mr. Ranaudo.

The official search for the yeti, or Bigfoot as the creature is commonly called in the northwest United States where most sightings occur, has been chronicled in a book, *Bigfoot All Over The Country*, written in 1978 by Marian T. Place. The book claims that Bigfoot has been spotted before in New York State, but north and west of Lawrenceburg in regions bordering Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River.

Bigfoot skeptics abound, however. In the *Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature*, articles about the creatures are listed under "Mythological Animals."

"I've had a lot of different reactions to the story," says Mr. Ranaudo. Some people have been into it — almost in awe of me. Other people are one step from calling the men in white jackets to tell them to put me away."

Back in Woodbury, Mr. Ranaudo says he is ambivalent about the varied reactions to his extraordinary story. He says he wouldn't mind if no one took him seriously; there wouldn't be a rush to the area to search for the yeti. "I'd just as soon they leave him alone. I know I believe it. I don't really care if anybody else believes it."

—CURTISS CLARK

FREE PRESS, Burlington, VT
June 16, 1984 CR: J. Zarzynski

Cattle Deaths Still a Mystery

MINOT, N.D. (AP) — Three calves have been found dead since April, each with one ear missing, and authorities say they don't know what killed the animals or how they lost their ears.

"It's really a strange case. ... It's just the idea that they were dead, and there were no bullet holes, just the ear cut off clean," Ward County Sheriff Arthur Anderson said Friday.

The calves belonged to Jeff Martin, who ranches about 15 miles southwest of Minot. He reported the latest death Tuesday, Anderson said.

The first dead calf was found in mid-April, and the second one later that month, Martin said.

"This has been under investigation since April, but no leads so far," Anderson said.

The carcass of the last calf was taken to a veterinarian in Minot for an autopsy, Anderson said.

STAR, Indianapolis, IN
June 9, 1984 CR: C. Jones

London flying fish?

"I've heard of it raining cats and dogs," said Ron Langton, but his lawn in London was swimming with rained-down fish.

Langton, 67, found five flounders and a whiting on his lawn after a storm earlier this week. Experts guess a rare whirlwind picked them up from the River Thames, five miles away, and dropped them on his lawn.

There would have been more fish to count, but his cat ate several before he could pick them up.

"This is the first recorded incident of flying fish in London, although it has happened in other parts of the world," said a spokesman of the natural history museum. "Freak winds can scoop them up and lift them high into the sky."

USA TODAY, Arlington, VA - May 29, 1984

Also across Offbeat USA...

A 2-foot-wide chunk of ice, apparently from a passing airplane, crashed through the roof of Shirley Cialini's home in West Chester, Pa. No one was hurt and she went ahead with a back yard Memorial Day picnic.

CR: R. Schiller

LOG CABIN DEMOCRAT, Conway, AR - May 27, 1984

Skeptics voice disbelief in story that 'monster' inhabits Lake Conway waters

(Editor's Note: The following appeared on Page 2 of the Log Cabin Democrat on March 19, 1952. Speculation continues to this day as to what a Mayflower resident caught on a trotline one morning in early 1952. Some have said the thing was a huge turtle. At least one person theorizes that it was a large otter. But, there is no doubt, says one Mayflower resident, the fisherman saw something. Whatever it was remains a mystery.)

Varied comment, not altogether local, has arisen since publication of a report that a "monster" was sighted and almost caught at Lake Conway two weeks ago.

Skeptics seem to be in the majority, expressing conviction that the whole story was a product of over-stimulated imagination, and a parallel has been drawn between appearance of this tale and the annual story originating at Loch Ness in Scotland — conveniently on schedule with the opening of the tourist season each spring.

Already magnified out of proportion, the story was further expanded this week: Two fishermen built a fire on the lakeshore. After gathering more fuel, they returned to the scene to find the "monster" warming its hands over the embers.

One irate editor threatened to sever his connection with the press service which circulated the tale. Another preferred to believe it "on dull afternoons."

A group of sportsmen from Atkins went to the expense of a telephone call to the Log Cabin Democrat to learn what bait should be used.

Editorially, Alex Washburn of the Hope Star said:

"I am always distressed by having to read unbelievable reports in print, especially when they appear in my own paper. You read 'em and you squirm. Then your friends start debating 'em and you feel a sharp sense of outrage."

"Like the AP dispatch about the Conway 'monster' The Star published yesterday. I quote:

"Dillon was running a trotline one day when the thing floated to the surface as he raised the line. The creature stared at him. It had green spotted skin similar to that of a frog and a monkey-like head. Its lips were blue. It had no teeth. Its hands were the size of a man's but it had web fingers and clawlike nails."

"I've never been afraid of anything," said Dillon, "but you notice I'm not fishing there anymore."

"That's the sort of thing that makes a scrupulous editor feel like reaching for the telephone,

calling up Associated Press Bureau Chief Justin Anderson in Little Rock and uttering that shopworn cry, 'Dear Andy: Please cancel our subscription!' But it's not that easy. It takes two years to resign from the AP. Besides, Andy would only argue: 'If we didn't run it the United Press would.' And he would say: 'They read it, didn't they?'

"Yes, they read it..." An Arkansas Gazette editorial was more merciful in its criticism, saying:

"There will no doubt be a number of skeptical souls who will view the announcement that Lake Conway has its own monster as merely another enterprising effort to lure tourists into the area. They will point out, of course, that Scotland's famed Loch Ness monster has the habit of making his appearance just as the tourist season opens. And they will probably conclude with the usual flat statement that there isn't any such thing as a sea monster, or even a lake monster, so the least said about Lake Conway's piscatorial varmint the better."

"We yield to no one in our interest in sea monsters, however, and we disagree with the narrow view. In the first place, if there really were an effort afoot to crowd the lake region with paying customers it has already

defeated itself to some extent here in Little Rock. The morning the story appeared we overheard five ladies comment that THEY weren't doing any fishing in Lake Conway under those conditions, and we have little doubt that they are going to make it difficult for their husbands to fish there. In the second place, we have the authority of one George Dillon of Mayflower, who says he caught the thing temporarily on a trotline and that he isn't doing any more fishing in that particular spot, either. Mr. Dillon may have been spoofing us newspaper folks, of course, but if he is, his description of the monster demonstrates the greatest imagination in Faulkner County. In the third place, while admittedly no one has ever proved satisfactorily that there are sea monsters, no one has ever proved that there aren't some slithering around and, for all we know, getting caught on trotlines."

"So until we are otherwise convinced, we prefer to believe in this particular beastie — at least on dull afternoons. And if Mr. Dillon ever runs across it again we hope he'll get a picture for use. We'll put it on Page One. Pick up a few more paying customers ourself."

From a Pine Bluff authority of the Arkansas Board of Health came more encouraging

correspondence. He wrote:

"The monster story was good and can be true. Our 'Commercial' (paper) carried it."

"We have an animal that fits the picture. Its common name is 'hellbender.' Proper name — Amphibia, Mutabilia, Crytombrachidae."

"In China and Japan I have seen them over 5 feet long and about the size of a small pig. In the eastern United States they grow to 24 inches and 4 to 6 pounds. In marshes and muddy places they feed on crawfish, mullusks and small fish. In South Louisiana they are called 'Congo Snakes.' They have spotted frog skin and possess two pairs of small legs."

"We also have a 'mud eel,' which has three pairs of gill slits and four toes. It reaches the length of 2 or 3 feet. They are non-poisonous, but when you first look at one it will make you move."

"I hope this will help you find the monster."

The consensus in Conway is that only capture of the animal or definite expert refutation of its existence will halt spread of the tale.

Perhaps it was best that the Little Rock women decided against a trip to Lake Conway. That would have only added to the Sunday traffic jam which clogged a one-way stretch of road leading to the lake at Narrows Bridge.