

UFO

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Commentary

A new look at how government views UFO phenomenon

By Terry Hansen

In late 1973, a close friend, then working for a Montana radio station, reported that the Air Force was having problems with unidentified flying objects (UFOs). According to monitored police radio reports and civilian witnesses, elusive, lighted objects were appearing over the Minuteman missile silos and launch facilities around Malmstrom Air Force Base.

As is customary in such incidents, the Air Force attempted to reassure local residents and the media by explaining that the UFOs were just unidentified helicopters. But closer examination of the incidents raised nagging questions.

Reports on the police radio did not seem consistent with the helicopter explanation. There were very few civilian-owned helicopters in the area and all were accounted for at the time of the sightings. And weather conditions during some of the incidents were such that even military helicopters were grounded.

But even if the helicopter explanation was true, why couldn't the Air Force, with all its considerable might, identify, intercept or shoot down these purported light aircraft hovering over some of the nation's most sensitive nuclear-weapons facilities?

Soon the public will get a chance to learn some disturbing answers to these questions, thanks to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and the persistence of a team of independent researchers. For the first time, roughly 3,000 pages of formerly classified, UFO-related government documents have been brought together in one place, along with eyewitness accounts and news reports, to provide persuasive evidence that the U.S. government has consistently lied about its knowledge of and attitude toward the UFO phenomenon.

In "Clear Intent," a book published by Prentice-Hall, authors Lawrence Fawcett and Barry J. Greenwood provide a sensational but not sensationalized account of how UFOs consistently managed to intrude into sensitive Air Force facilities across the United States during the 1970s. According to the government's own documents, the UFOs that set off Minuteman security alarms in Montana also haunted bases in Maine, Michigan, North Dakota, New Mexico, Florida and elsewhere. After each visit the UFOs escaped, leaving behind frightened and puzzled Air Force witnesses.

Except for the occasional, isolated report in the popular press, the general public has found it increasingly difficult to learn about UFO developments. Since 1953, when the CIA's "Robertson Panel" ordered its co-

vert, mass-media program of public "training and debunking" to reduce the number of UFO reports, fewer and fewer such reports have made it into major newspapers.

The news blackout became so complete that the UFO controversy seemed to have reached a frustrating stalemate. Whenever a new series of sightings occurred, an official spokesman would appear, give a plausible explanation, and reporters would go back to covering more "ordinary" news.

The public was left to decide between the often incredible accounts of eyewitnesses and the calming, seemingly more rational explanations of the government. Many chose to believe the government.

Those who were interested enough to dig deeper, however, remained convinced they were not getting the complete story. Former military personnel sometimes approached UFO researchers with incredible stories, occasionally in the face of what they said were threats of severe punishment. But without documentation, it was still their word against the government's.

The Freedom of Information Act made it possible for researchers to begin a protracted but fascinating paper chase that provided fresh insights into the government's handling of the UFO issue. While government agencies resisted releasing their documents (the National Security Agency case went all the way to the supreme court), and censored many documents before releasing them, enough information was eventually obtained to confirm many of the incidents that had been denied. Many UFO documents remain classified for national security reasons.

"Clear Intent" removes any credible doubt that U.S. defense and intelligence analysts have, since the early 1950s, regarded the UFO phenomenon as real and a potential threat to national security.

Documents from the State Department, the Army, Navy, and Air Force, the CIA, the Defense Intelligence Agency, the National Security Agency and the FBI reveal the global extent of the phenomenon and systematic attempts by government agencies to identify its causes. Time and again the documents describe simultaneous radar-visual sightings by military personnel. Often, military jets were scrambled to intercept UFOs.

Of particular interest to civilian researchers are the occasional descriptions of still and motion-picture film reportedly taken of UFOs by government personnel. Unfortunately, attempts to retrieve this evidence via the Freedom of Information Act have been unsuccessful.

Why all the secrecy? According to a 1953 CIA document, a number of dangers were seen to arise from UFO reports, which in the late 1940s and early '50s began streaming in at a shocking rate.

First, there were perceived psychological dangers. Government officials were concerned that the reports could touch off mass hysteria and panic or be used by an enemy government, especially the Soviet Union, for psychological warfare. By claiming that UFOs were secret weapons, for example, an attacker could send the U.S. public and the military establishment into disarray.

Second, since the military had no way of determining if the many UFOs being tracked on radar were enemy aircraft or missiles, the phenomenon made it very difficult to detect a genuine enemy attack. Judging from recent documents, this problem still exists.

In addition, assessments of the phenomenon in the early '50s concluded that UFOs were of extraterrestrial origin. Government spokesmen later publicly discounted this possibility, but the hypothesis apparently was still taken seriously in some quarters by the late '60s.

A 1968 National Security Agency document, "UFO Hypotheses and Survival Questions," gave careful consideration to the extraterrestrial-intelligence hypothesis, warning of "serious survival implications" for the human race.

Although Clear Intent is an important step forward in helping the public understand the government's role in the highly complex UFO controversy, many tantalizing puzzles remain. For example, there's the problem of the "mystery helicopter" phenomenon. In areas where large numbers of UFO sightings or cattle mutilations have occurred, residents often report sighting many black, unmarked helicopters with dark, tinted windshields. Yet no government agency will admit to operating such vehicles.

In 1960, for example, three Texas travelers reported an encounter with an intensely bright, diamond-shaped object accompanied by about 23 black, unmarked helicopters. The witnesses, who came very close to the object, later had to be hospitalized for what appeared to be serious radiation sickness.

Subsequently, John Schuessler, a UFO investigator and space shuttle flight operations project manager, attempted to determine the source of the helicopters without success. Were they military helicopters attempting to capture a UFO or were they accompanying some classified

government experiment gone badly astray? No one is talking, but lawsuits have been filed.

The authors suggest, based on an incident in New York, that the black helicopters may be part of a highly classified "rapid deployment force" set up to intervene whenever UFO or animal-mutilation activity heats up.

Another intriguing question is whether the government has actually captured a UFO. For some years, former military personnel from various parts of the country have claimed to have been involved in very secret UFO capture or recovery operations. Although these witnesses apparently didn't know each other, details of their reports are remarkably consistent.

So far, however, such witnesses will not make their claims in public, citing fear of government retaliation. UFO researchers are cautious about accepting such claims. The whole thing could simply be an elaborate attempt to lead researchers astray or discredit them by drawing them into a clever hoax.

In relation to this, a 1950 FBI memo from an agent in the Washington field office is of some interest. Agent Guy Hotel reported to the FBI director that he had been told by an Air Force investigator of three flying saucers that had been recovered in New Mexico, complete with human-old bodies. As is typical of FOIA-obtained documents, the name of the FBI informant was deleted from the released version, frustrating attempts by UFO researchers to follow up on the matter.

Many UFO encounters suggest that powerful electromagnetic fields and microwave energy is emitted by the phenomenon. Civilian researchers who have studied such reports with an eye to understanding their physics argue that this evidence is consistent with a machine capable of making itself immune to gravity and, therefore, inertia — in short, an "antigravity machine" capable of essentially instant acceleration.

Somehow, theorists suggest, the creators of UFOs discovered the link between gravity and electromagnetism and put this knowledge to good use. This line of reasoning is now being pursued by scientists in this country as well as in Europe, especially West Germany.

Here again, the government documents provide some tantalizing but inconclusive support for this idea. An almost entirely censored CIA document, dated Jan. 26, 1976, and titled "International Congress of Space Medicine," refers to "oscillating magnetic fields and possible propulsion systems of UFOs."

In a separate case, a request for

information on Defense Department support for antigravity research brought an interesting response from an Army research and development group commander. Although the officer said the Army had no such project underway, he described an Air Force program called "Project Bluebolt," described as "an ambitious effort to understand gravity" (that) "of necessity addressed antigravity."

Even if this project really exists, the connection with UFOs is only tenuous. Attempts to verify the existence of such an antigravity-research effort have been unsuccessful.

Any effort to understand how UFOs work would have to proceed under the tightest possible secrecy because of the obvious military applications such technology would have. Perhaps this is another reason why the government keeps UFOs such a tightly guarded secret.

A 1950 Canadian Department of Transportation memo that dealt with using the Earth's magnetic field as an energy source provides some support for this idea. The formerly top secret memo said that "discreet enquiries through the Canadian Embassy" in Washington revealed that the U.S. government knew "flying saucers exist" and regarded them as "the most highly classified subject in the United States Government, rating higher even than the H-bomb."

In the face of continuing government obfuscation, it may be many years before these questions are resolved. There danger in attempting to draw conclusions from the scattered and highly censored documents the FOIA has made available. But researchers believe that where there's such interesting smoke, there is also fire.

For those who have preferred to believe official government spokesmen rather than eyewitnesses, "Clear Intent" will be a sobering read. Whether it will be sufficient to incite public pressure for an unbiased, well-supported civilian UFO research effort remains to be seen.

Many researchers, both here and in France, where such governmental support has already begun, believe the implications of the UFO phenomenon are so profound and disturbing that security agencies will continue to keep a very tight grip on the situation.

Whatever the case, "Clear Intent" should throw cold water on those who have chosen to ridicule UFO witnesses rather than listen to them.

Terry Hansen, managing editor of *Twin Cities Computer User*, has studied the UFO controversy for years and has produced a documentary on the subject broadcast on National Public Radio.

News Notes by the Staff

Strange Sight
"I'd have to think I'm losing my marbles, having seen that thing. That definitely was not an airplane," said Nancy Rudolph of Spring Valley Road in Ridgebury, who saw the "UFO" that was widely reported in parts of Danbury last Thursday night.

Mrs. Rudolph called The Press this week to ask if any other Ridgefielders thought they'd seen the UFO, which she described as "the shape of a boomerang" and "as wide as my house," with "evenly spaced lights all around the object." She said it made "a low motor sound" that was "definitely not a plane sound" and moved slowly

across the sky.

"My husband called me out to look at this thing going over, extremely low," Mrs. Rudolph said. "I'd have to call it a UFO, now."

She added that both she and her husband are quite accustomed to planes overhead, since they live close to the airport.

Maybe Wiltonians?

Officer Biagiotti of the Ridgefield Police, who was on duty last Thursday when the sighting took place, said the Ridgefield Police Department received no calls about UFO. But he said he recalled hearing Wilton police talking on their radios about UFO reports.

CR: B. Greenwood
PRESS, Ridgefield, CT - July 26, 1984

Mysterious flying objects sighted in county

DAILY TRIBUNE, Columbia, MO - June 25, 1984

By FORREST ROSE
of the Tribune's staff

Five people reported seeing mysterious unidentified flying objects in Boone County early yesterday morning, though Federal Aviation Administration and Whiteman Air Force Base authorities recorded no official sightings.

"We got about four or five calls in regard to it," said Boone County Joint Dispatch Director Keith Doornbos. He said the objects were sighted at about 2 a.m. yesterday.

"All the reports were basically similar," Doornbos said. "Indications were that there was no sound and that they were slow-moving."

The four or five objects, flying in formation, were sighted by people on Route K south of Columbia, on Green Meadows Road near Providence Road, at the Columbia Hilton Inn on Interstate 70 and on Highway 40 between Columbia and Rocheport, he said.

Cooper County Deputy Sheriff Ron Arnold said he could identify what he saw about 2 a.m. on Highway 5 in Boonville. Arnold said "they were helicopters."

"You could hear their propellers chopping the wind," said Arnold, who was on duty at the

time. "I saw the lights, about three on each copter. We ain't had no reports of any UFOs flying over."

Neither Whiteman nor FAA authorities in Columbia and Kansas City, however, offered any earthly explanation for the lights, Doornbos said.

Joe Aguirre, a former Columbian who now lives in Denver, said he saw the lights while driving on Highway 40 from Rocheport to Columbia about 2 a.m. yesterday.

"I'd just crossed the intersection of Route J and Highway 40," Aguirre said. "From a distance, they looked like the lights that would be on a high tower to warn airplanes. I used to live in that area. There's no tower."

Aguirre spotted five objects, each with a pulsating green light in the front and a pulsating red light in the back. The craft "could have been the size of a station wagon, or they could have been the size of a school bus," he said. "They were about four or five telephone poles high."

Between the lights was "a black band," he said, with no recognizable shape. "I stopped when I saw them moving."

"I pulled into a driveway and flashed my

lights at" the objects, which were about two or three hundred yards from the highway, on the south side of the road, and moving almost due west, Aguirre said.

Aguirre said he turned around and started following the objects west on Highway 40, driving about 70 miles per hour. "I was about fifty yards behind them," he said. "They were gaining distance on me, without noticeably gaining speed."

Aguirre stopped the car again, "got out and stood in the middle of the road. There was still no sound, and they were still in perfect formation."

"I was ready to go," he said. "I was thinking, 'If they come and get me, should I leave the keys in the ignition?'"

He started following the lights again, but lost them behind a ridge that blocked the horizon. When he once again regained a clear view, the objects had disappeared. Aguirre had viewed the craft for 12 to 15 minutes, he said.

"It was the most tangible thing I've ever seen that I can't explain," he said. "I could have reached out and touched them, if my arm would've been 200 yards long."

INGHAM CO. NEWS, Mason, MI - July 4, 1984



UFOs: Mason incident one of many sightings

First of 3-part series

By RICK MILLS
Staff writer

Jane and Tony were working late on their new house in the Mason area a couple of weeks ago and Jane sat down on the couch to relax. Through the small window on the wooden front door, a flash of light caught her eye. She investigated.

"There was a big, very white, crystal-like light ray shining in the northwest," said Jane, who lives on Ferris Road. "My boyfriend saw it, and he couldn't figure it out either. All of a sudden it disappeared."

Jane and Tony (not their real names) are like most people who see an Unidentified Flying Object (UFO). They believe what they saw, but don't want their names used in public for fear of public ridicule.

Jane and Tony called the Ingham County Sheriff Department last week to confirm that they had seen the same light reported last week by another Mason-area resident.

The initial report came from a man who lives near Edgar and Plains Roads, southwest of Mason. The man said he saw two spotlights shining steadily from the west towards Edgar Road for about 15 minutes. He said he could see an arch-shaped craft and that the lights dimmed very slowly after several minutes.

"When it shut down, it went down slow," he said. "Then 20 to 25 lights started blinking back and forth like on a computer for about 15 seconds. Then it went dark."

All three of those who reported seeing the UFO have something in common. They know what they saw and don't care what other people think.

Next week: Some UFOs that were identified and the problems of people who see UFOs that aren't identified.

"We kind of feel nobody will believe us," said Jane. "But I don't care if others believe us or not. We know what we saw. You'd have to be pretty narrow-minded to say 'no, that's not possible.'"

Disbelief on the part of non-viewers is common.

"We used to have some deputies see them, but not any more," quipped Capt. Richard Abbott of the Ingham County Sheriff Department.

Dan Wright, state director of the Michigan UFO Network, takes UFO sightings seriously. His job is to investigate sightings and try to identify them. Those that are not identified are classified as true UFOs.

"The Mason sightings were slightly different," said Wright. "But it stands to reason that if one sighting was further away and at a different angle, than anybody could see the two spotlights as one."

The UFO Network has closed its investigation of the Mason sighting, classifying it as DE-1 — a distant encounter of the first kind. DE-1 is the least verifiable of several kinds of sightings. For comparison, CE 3 is an encounter that is closer than 500 feet and includes some kind of communication between humans and the UFO.

Disproof is the first step in investigating a UFO sighting. The UFO Network checked with Capital City Airport and radar operators and was unable to disprove the recent sighting.

Wright, a Lansing resident who works for the Michigan Department of Social Services, is a firm believer in UFOs. He became interested in the phenomena several years ago when his father reported seeing a UFO.

Most UFO Network members are people who have seen UFOs and became interested enough to join the group.

ALTHOUGH NOT frequent, UFO sightings do occur often enough in the mid-Michigan area to provide well-documented past cases:

- Reports of 14 sightings over the Lansing area between Oct. 7 and 30, 1978, were received by the Lansing Police Department. At about 8:30 p.m. on Oct. 7, a 20-year-old woman and a friend reported seeing a disc at a low height moving northeast at the Lansing Drive-In. They noticed square yellow-white windows in sets of three. Above the windows was a large red light on the top of the object.

- Between 9:30 and 10 p.m. the same evening, a 26-year-old woman saw an object shaped like a hamburger bun from her apartment on Creyts Road. It was glowing completely green on its right side and red on the left.

- At 8 p.m. on Oct. 11, a 10-year-old boy and his 9-year-old friend heard a droning-hissing sound from a backyard near Holmes and Pleasant Grove. They spotted a large shoebox shaped object overhead which went out of sight at treetop level.

These Lansing-area sightings continued for three weeks and included sightings in Grand Ledge and Haslett. The Haslett sighting was on Oct. 17 by a suburban couple who noticed an object approaching from the west. It spiraled in a tight loop, then moved off again. It was reported to be shaped like a hamburger bun with a large white light at the top and a small red light within the white one.

- A few minutes before 9 p.m. on Monday, March 10, 1980, Betty Carlisle, of Laingsburgh, was standing at her rear doorway when she realized a light was shining down on her. The light, which was eventually seen by a friend and eight children, was described as a misshapen sphere that occasionally transformed into a boomerang shape. It was viewed for several hours.

- On Nov. 21, 1980, at 9 p.m., DeWitt police received a report of a white round light in the sky that moved along at stopped, then sped off. The craft was said to cross Airport Road at Jason Road. Disturbed farm animals, a nauseating smell, and a loud echoing screech, were also reported before the craft disappeared into the clouds.

UFO groups set to hover in Brewster

By Janet Higbie
News-Times staff

BREWSTER — Two groups dedicated to the study of UFOs — unidentified flying objects — are sponsoring an Aug. 25 conference in Brewster.

Citizens Against UFO Secrecy and the Illinois-based Center for UFO Studies have scheduled an all-day series of lectures and discussions at the Henry H. Wells Middle School.

Events are scheduled for 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Peter Gerstin, one of the organizers of the conference, said the purpose is to gather information about sightings reported over Putnam, Westchester and Fairfield counties in the past year.

"The point is to get all the people who seen something to share their experiences and try to determine for once and for all what we are seeing," Gerstin said.

Local police departments, newspapers and airports have been flooded with calls about flying objects, usually a large circular or triangular formation of lights.

Many authorities — including the New York State Police — say people are seeing small airplanes flying in formation. An East Fishkill police officer said he saw a single engine Cessna break off from a formation of planes and land at the Stormville Airport in Dutchess County July 25.

Gerstin said his group — which uses the federal Freedom of Information Act to obtain documents on government reports of UFOs — is not convinced that a group of small planes, such as Cessnas, could have been the cause of all the sightings.

(continued on page 3)

NEWS-TIMES, Danbury, CT - Aug. 15, 1984 CR: H. Peatfield

Some observers have reported seeing a object with hundreds of lights, objects that slow to hovering and then speed away, or have reported objects miles away from each other at the same time.

Gerstin contends the Cessnas might be a military surveillance team trying to search for the cause of UFOs, or an attempt to come up with an explanation for unidentified sightings.

Citizens Against UFO Secrecy maintains a hotline — (914) 739-6830 — to record calls and information about UFOs.

This is the schedule for the free conference:

10 a.m. — opening by Gerstin.

11 a.m. — Philip Imbrogno of the Center for UFO Studies on local sightings during 1983.

12 noon — Lawrence Fawcett of Citizens Against UFO Secrecy on government cover-ups of UFO sightings.

2 p.m. — Imbrogno and Chris Clark on local sightings during 1984.

3 p.m. — Various witnesses of "close encounters."

4 p.m. — J. Allen Hynek of the Center for UFO Studies on "The UFO Experience."

8 p.m. — Panel discussion.

10 p.m. — finale.

Video presentations, slides and sketches will be available throughout the day.

Residents report more UFOs

International group to study mysterious local sightings

By JIM LENANE
Gazette staff writer

Haverhill area residents continue to report unidentified flying objects allegedly shooting down balls of light.

Salvatore Amari, 78 Washington St., reported such a sighting at 10:50 p.m. Sunday.

"It was over Boxford way," Amari said. "I went out to bring in the lawn chairs and my mother was out there with me and we both saw a bright object in the sky, high in the sky, over Boxford. This was big, bigger than any star, or even the moon, much bigger. It shot out a smaller object and then it just vanished; the whole thing."

Amari reported he recorded the time as between 10:50 and 10:55 p.m. "That's all the time it took. Just about five minutes and it was gone. We looked for awhile but there was nothing else."

A Kenoza Avenue woman, who

asked that she not be identified, reported she saw a similar object in the southeast sky around 11 p.m. Sunday.

"I remember the 11 o'clock news had just come on the television, so it was 11 o'clock. I was on my porch on the second floor and I saw this large bright object come out from the tower of the house next door."

"It was high up; way up in the sky," the woman said. "I wouldn't say it was a ball of fire. It was lighted, but not on fire, and it seemed to get brighter just before it shot out these other, smaller bright objects. It seemed to energize itself just like it had too much energy and had to get rid of it, and then it would shoot out this smaller object. They weren't balls of fire, just lighted objects, one red, the others just the same light as the big object."

The woman said the large lighted object gave off four smaller ones while she watched and the fourth one broke up into three parts.

"I don't want to use my name," she said. "People will think I'm a nut, but I really saw this. I never saw anything in the sky I couldn't explain before, but this was really something."

She said the bright UFO "moved away slowly. It just went away and it was gone. It didn't fly away fast. It just moved slowly out of sight behind the trees and building and it was gone," she said.

Written reports of UFOs over Haverhill have come in to the Gazette newsroom since the newspaper began reporting sightings of the phenomena early last week. One such report said, "Saw my first UFO high in the N.W. sky, Aug. 2, 9:25 p.m. A brilliant orange ball, about the size of a quarter. It was going east and about every five or six seconds it dropped a brilliant orange ball which descended a short way and then faded out."

Another report said, "Did anyone else see what I saw Thursday night? It was a large lighted thing in the sky over Bradford and it shot out red, blue and green balls of fire over there. They sort of burned out like the pieces left by a skyrocket; like it was leaving a cinder, but you couldn't see a cinder. It was way up in the sky. This wasn't anything that was down here close to the earth. It was in the sky, up there with the stars."

The Mutual UFO Network, an international group with headquarters in Seguin, Texas, is studying the rash of UFO sightings in Haverhill.

Marge Christensen, a Beverly school teacher who is the national director of publicity for the network, said the local sightings will be carefully studied by members of the organization. She said the reports are the first case of multiple sightings of unexplained objects in the sky in several years.

Balls of fire in the sky

International UFO study group probes night sightings in Haverhill

By JIM LENANE
Gazette staff writer

The several unidentified flying object (UFO) reports made to the Haverhill Gazette in the past two weeks are being investigated by an international UFO study organization.

The Mutual UFO Network, which has its headquarters in Seguin, Texas, has said it will probe the half dozen reports the Gazette has received from area residents.

Walt Andrews, international director of the network, said yesterday he would notify Marge Christensen of Beverly, a national director and director of public relations for the group, which Andrews

said has members all over the world.

Christensen said the reports, all involving large bright objects in the night sky shooting "balls of fire" downward, displayed "an interesting consistency" and she would look into them.

Some of the witnesses say they saw the vivid object late Sunday night near Kenoza Lake. Some witnesses insist it couldn't have been meteors or planets, despite the speculation of an astronomer contacted earlier this week by the Gazette.

Christensen, a Beverly public school teacher, said, "Reports of phenomena in the sky have been coming in rapidly in recent weeks," but she had not heard of any from the Haverhill area until called by the Gazette.

The latest report came from Joseph St. Jean of 118 Primrose St., who said he, his son, James St. Jean, and a neighbor, Russell Arseneault, watched a bright object. He described it as "quite bright and way up in the sky, not near the ground, in the west."

The elder St. Jean said, "We watched for a few minutes and it shot balls of fire downward and then it just shot away from us, toward the west."

Christensen said she wants to get the names of others who have seen unidentified objects in the sky. She said she will redistribute the Mutual UFO Network's card with a hotline number to area police departments.

She asked that anyone with such a

sighting call the hotline at 1-944-0680 to report it.

Andrews said the number of reports from a specific part of the country can change rapidly from time to time. He said reports from Massachusetts had fallen off drastically in recent years, "but at one time, it was quite an active area in regard to sightings. The trend may be reversing. We will investigate."

Andrews said the Haverhill reports come at an opportune time, since the organization is having its national convention in the Beverly Community Center Aug. 12. Andrews and Christensen said internationally known experts on UFOs will speak at the gathering.

CR: B. Greenwood

COMMENTARY/SCIENCE

U.S. intelligence agencies secretly research UFOs

For almost four decades reports of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) have been perceived as everything from the butt of jokes about "little green men" to a Hollywood scriptwriter's heaven-sent dream. Just ask Steven *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* Spielberg, who made millions from the idea.

From 1947 until December 1969, UFOs were also the subject of official Air Force scrutiny under, variously, Projects Sign, Grudge and Blue Book. Despite public denials, UFO reports continue to be collected and secreted away by various military and civilian intelligence agencies, according to Barry Greenwood, a postal inspector at Boston's Logan International Airport.

Greenwood is co-author with fellow ufologist Larry Fawcett of *Clear Intent*, scheduled for national release this month by Prentice-Hall. He was in San Antonio last weekend to address the annual symposium of the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) and publicize his and Fawcett's findings.

The Air Force publicly closed Project Blue Book following the conclusions of a University of Col-

DENNIS STACY

orado study of UFOs completed in 1969. The controversial report, under the direction of the late physicist Dr. Edward U. Condon said the interest of science would not be served by further study. According to the press release, there was no evidence to indicate that UFOs were of extra-terrestrial origin or represented a threat to national security.

Since then, the outward government and military attitude has been one of benign neglect (or studied negligence, depending on the viewpoint). In other words, "Don't call us, E.T., we'll call you."

"*Clear Intent*," said Greenwood in a telephone interview, "lays the fallacy to rest once and for all. They've studied and been baffled by the phenomenon for the past 37 years, ever since 1947."

Gov't involvement

Greenwood said "they" are not just the Air Force, but practically every government agency involved in intelligence-gathering activities, including the FBI, CIA and super-secret granddaddy of them all, NSA, the National Security Agency.

Following passage of the Freedom of Information Act, more than

4,000 pages of previously classified UFO-related documents have been released by the government to individuals like Greenwood and civilian organizations like the Fund for UFO Research and CAUS, Citizens Against UFO Secrecy.

When first queried, Greenwood said NSA denied that it possessed any documents pertaining to UFOs. "The only way we found out they did," alleged Greenwood, "was because Peter Gersten, the attorney for CAUS, had brought suit against the CIA for their UFO documents and they said that 18 of them would have to be cleared through NSA first."

Later, Gersten and others learned that the NSA had nearly 300 such documents in its files. Efforts to pry those papers away, however, have been thwarted by the agency's lawyers in federal courts. Their argument hinged on a 21-page *in camera* brief that cited reasons of "national security" as cause for the refusal to make the information public. A copy of the brief itself was later obtained in which virtually every page was completely blacked out by NSA censors.

Greenwood said the chance of

anyone outside the agency ever seeing the documents is practically nil. "It's been through several stages of litigation," he added, "and on every occasion the courts have sided with NSA, citing the national security clause. But it must be dynamite information for them to sit on it so hard."

Asked to speculate what such documents might contain, Greenwood said he had no way of knowing for certain, but that they probably related to overseas sightings of UFOs. "There may be some local material, but generally, the NSA is involved in the electronic surveillance and decoding of foreign intelligence communications, so I suspect most of it would be in that area."

Greenwood added that while he thought the NSA might have better quality sighting reports than public organizations like MUFON and Dr. J. Allen Hynek's Center for UFO Studies, they probably did not have the full picture, either.

"I don't believe that they have answers," said Greenwood, "that they know what the UFO phenomenon is all about, where these things might come from, or who or what might be in them. I'm not sure anyone has enough evidence to say

that, but they do very positively have some very good sightings, some very high-quality reports.

'High strangeness area'

"To know this is true, you only have to look at some of the documents that have already been released," Greenwood advised, citing military reports of several landings of unidentified objects at Kirkland AFB, New Mexico, in summer 1980. "There's something strange going on there when that kind of activity happens and they can't deal with it. You can project a sighting like that a degree or two further into an even higher strangeness area and that's probably the type of material they're in possession of."

What does Greenwood feel is behind the mysterious UFO reports that have plagued and baffled post-war, cold-war planet Earth?

"I think the UFO phenomenon is a real, physical phenomenon. It's not imaginary or hallucinatory. There's a clear intelligence behind it. Some biological entity is responsible for these things, but where they come from, I don't know."

"The one thing certain is that there's been an enormous amount of secrecy surrounding the subject, and that two agencies in particular, the CIA and NSA, are still intimately and actively involved in UFO censorship."

Dennis Stacy is a freelance science writer from San Antonio, Texas.

By JERRY MOSHER
News-Press Writer

Is the government covering up information about the nature of UFOs?

That's the contention of Lawrence Fawcett and Barry J. Greenwood, two leading UFO researchers who have used the Freedom of Information Act and the courts to obtain thousands of pages of documents from the CIA, FBI, National Security Agency and military regarding UFO investigations.

Their new book, "Clear Intent," reprints many of these documents and provides convincing evidence that the government is not telling all that it knows about UFO phenomena. Several of the documents, in fact, conflict with official public statements released by the military.

"I believe that the government knows what the phenomena is and it's sort of like the Big Brother effect — they feel that we're not grown up enough to know, which I object to," said Fawcett in an interview in Los Angeles last week. "I feel the Constitution is very explicit that we have a right to know and they have a duty to tell us."

Fawcett, a police lieutenant in Coventry, Conn., is on the National Board of Directors for the Center for UFO Studies and is the assistant director and chief investigator for Citizens Against UFO Secrecy (CAUS). He has been researching UFOs since 1965, when he had a UFO sighting.

"I was on my way home one day and I stopped in an automobile dealership," Fawcett said. "I saw a number of people outside looking and pointing to the sky. Being a policeman, and nosy, I went out to see what they were looking at and what I saw was what looked like a small plane that was very high up and shiny."

"This thing was coming down and was getting bigger and bigger until finally it was directly across the street ... above an electrical substation. It stopped and hovered, and at this time it was equivalent in size to a 747. It was completely circular. It had no wings, no engines, and no sound came from it. The only sound I could hear was the electrical substation."

"A rod came out of the bottom and lightning jumped from the electrical substation to this thing and subsequently the whole town of Manchester went black. The rod retracted, and the thing went straight up in the air and disappeared."

Fawcett and about 25 others that evening witnessed a UFO, one of thousands of sightings that have been documented since the late 1940s.

After the incident, Fawcett reported the sighting to Pease Air Force Base in New Hampshire. He was told that he would be contacted by investigators from Project Blue Book, an Air Force program for the investigation of UFOs.

Fawcett never was contacted, and Project Blue Book officially was terminated in December 1969. A statement released at the program's termination said that no evidence had been found "that sightings categorized as 'unidentified' represent technological developments or principles beyond the range of present day scientific knowledge."

Having seen a large circular object without engines hover in mid-air and disappear into the sky, Fawcett found this hard to believe.

The statement added that no UFO "has ever given any indication of threat to our national security." Why then, Fawcett now asks, has the government withheld hundreds of documents pertaining to UFO sightings and investigations due to "national security reasons"?

"We can be pretty much assured that the Air Force knows the phenomenon is very real, and to keep the public's finger out of it, they attach National Security implications because that way you have no access to the files under the Freedom of Information Act," Fawcett said.

"We find that happening more and more now when we file requests," he said. "They keep throwing National Security status on it so we can't get our hands on excellent cases that have come to light."

One such case occurred north of Lake Houston, Texas, on the evening of Dec. 29, 1980. Two women and a child were driving down a quiet road when they spotted a bright light in the distance. Suddenly the bright light was near them in the form of a large, diamond-shaped craft that occasionally emitted a blast of flames. The temperature in the area rose dramatically and the car became hot to the touch.

The UFO rose up and disappeared to the southwest,

where a number of helicopters were spotted near the craft. The women drove off, but within five minutes they again saw the UFO with more than 20 helicopters swarming around it.

The witnesses started to get symptoms of radiation sickness almost immediately after the encounter, and one is now suing the government for damages. Investigations into these mystery helicopters and another incident in New York involving black, unmarked helicopters have turned up no answers.

"During the Eisenhower administration some information was coming out from the government that there was a strategic force, 'Force 54-12,' that was a rapid deployment force that could be put together at split-second notice and deployed anywhere in the country for retrievals of crashed UFOs," Fawcett said.

In "Clear Intent," the authors suggest that a special UFO retrieval team could still be in operation.

Evidence that UFOs have been captured by the government also turned up in the authors' investigations.

An FBI memo dated March 22, 1950 was sent to FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover by agent Guy Hottel, who heard from an Air Force informant that three UFOs had crashed in New Mexico and had been recovered. In each of the 50-foot diameter saucers were three bodies of human shape but only 3 feet tall.

"Those bodies were removed to one of the Air Force bases in the country," Fawcett said. "All attempts to retrieve documentation on that incident were met with denials, and they wouldn't give us access to Guy Hottel, the special agent, or the Air Force informant who told Hottel about this."

Fawcett said congressmen and senators have been cooperative in helping to get documents released, but not even Sen. Barry Goldwater, R-Ariz., could get information about the crashed UFOs.

"At one time we tried to get him into Wright-Patterson Air Force Base (Ohio) where supposedly one of the crashed discs were," he said. "Goldwater was a reserve general and senators have carte blanche when they show up because they pull the purse strings for the military. It just so happened that the head of Wright-Patterson at the time was Gen. Curtis Le May, who was a very good friend of Goldwater's on top of that."

"Goldwater went in and asked permission to see the UFO artifacts and was told that not even the president of the United States could see them. I have that in a letter from Goldwater himself," Fawcett said.

Another mystery discussed in "Clear Intent" deals with possible UFO involvement in more than 10,000 cattle mutilations that have occurred in the United States and other parts of the world. Cattle have been found with their blood removed and organs expertly carved out, possibly for experimental purposes, Fawcett said.

Fawcett said he has talked with law enforcement officials who have found mutilated cattle with no tracks in the snow around them, indicating that they may have been picked up and dropped by a UFO.

He said few of the lawmen believe the government explanation that predators are responsible for the mutilations.

The possible experimentation done by other life forms is one reason why the authors called the book "Clear Intent."

"These life forms are here for a purpose," the book says. "A 'clear intent' has been demonstrated numerous times."

Information about research on the technology employed by other life forms in UFOs has been difficult to obtain. Fawcett said a 1976 CIA document titled "International Congress of Space Medicine" suggests that the builders of UFOs may have discovered a link between electro-magnetic fields and gravity.

The use of electro-magnetic fields might explain the weird effect UFOs have had upon airplane instrumentation, he said.

Fawcett said the CIA document "talked about a meeting of scientists in New Mexico and talked about new means of propulsions...then the rest of the document was blank, so we couldn't read what they were talking about."

"I filed for that specific document again and I got back that it was classified 'National Security' and we couldn't get it intact. I say this: If there are no UFOs, then why all the secrecy?"

"You have to remember it is not me or my co-author talking, it's the government, and they're the authority — it's their own documents," Fawcett said.

Sightings convince UFO investigator

By SHARON BUCKHEIT
Telegram staff writer

DANBURY — When you talk to Philip Imbrogno, it sounds like the Danbury area might be the filming location for a sequel to "Close Encounters of the Third Kind."

A Fairfield resident and a UFO field investigator, Imbrogno said that sightings of unusual objects in the sky have been reported in great numbers, especially during the last two weeks of July.

"Just in the Danbury area alone, from Danbury, Brookfield, Newtown and Sandy Hook, between July 12 and 31, there were between 500 and 600 witnesses to UFOs," he said. "And that is a conservative estimate."

But what have the witnesses — many of them police officers, engineers and pilots — seen?

The latest unexplainable sighting involves a large circular object that pulsates red, blue and green lights and at times emits a beam of white light, Imbrogno said. He said that 50 to 60 people saw the same object in the Candlewood Lake area on the same night.

Imbrogno is convinced that some type of craft has been seen. The great number of witnesses and the amount of "multiple sightings," which means many people said they saw what seems to be the same object in the same area at the same time, has helped convince Imbrogno, a science teacher at a private high school in White Plains.

The UFO researcher said that the object, which was reported to have been seen hovering for about 40 minutes above Danbury Airport on July 12 at 10:30 p.m. was described as the size of a football field.

"It was called a 'city in the sky.' It was that big and that bright."

A pilot near Danbury Airport reported that he started to get close to the craft, but "he got upset, scared," Imbrogno said, and turned back before identifying the object.

Imbrogno is impressed with the type of people who have notified him about sightings.

"It is always the same. It is people who have never reported an unknown aerial object before." Advertisements and stories in newspapers have invited anyone who had seen UFOs to call the researcher.

Most who report sightings, including some members of the Danbury police department, do not want their names released. He said that 12 officers, many high ranking, have reported UFOs.

Danbury public information officer Lt. Arthur Sullo confirmed that an unnamed high ranking police officer reported seeing a UFO over Candlewood Lake about three weeks ago while off duty.

He said that the department has received dozens of calls about UFOs in the past few months and added that the city's airport administrator, Paul Estefan, was conducting an investigation.

Some of the UFO sightings have been explained, both Estefan and Imbrogno said.

Six small planes, with the undersides of the wings painted black and small lights attached, were flown in the greater Danbury area in July. Imbrogno said that the planes flew after a series of sightings had been publicized.

"They were trying to perpetrate a hoax," he said. Some of the pilots were flying from the Stormville, N.Y., airport and others from the Dutchess County airport, he said.

Most of the pranksters were arrested in New York, and Estefan said that he had received no more reports since the arrests.

Estefan said that he had no information of crafts hovering over the airport, which closes at 10 p.m.

CR: B. Greenwood

POST, New York, NY - Aug. 15, 1984

CR: J. Zarzynski

UFOs BUILD SECRET WESTCHESTER BASES



It's not the first time. This UFO was photographed back in 1967 hovering over Ohio.

RECENTLY there has been a rash of UFO sightings in the Westchester, Putnam county areas. A friend of mine, who lives in Brewster, said she saw one along with many of her neighbors. The next day several military helicopters were noticed flying around the area.

My theory is, that since a small part of Brewster and a neighboring village were built over some old mines, these mines are

being used by the UFOs for at least part of a base. Either they are studying something, mining something, or setting up advance reconnaissance posts.

Of course, there is one more possible explanation. They've seen the I Love New York commercials and are vacationing here for the summer.

TOM DIROMA
Norwalk, Conn.

STAR TRIBUNE, Casper, WY - July 22, 1984

Writer has reasons for UFO sightings

LARAMIE (AP) — A London writer who describes himself as a "nasty, skeptical kind of person," says there are four possible explanations for incidents that prompt reports of UFOs, or unidentified flying objects.

Hilary Evans, who is in Laramie this weekend for the fifth annual Rocky Mountain Conference on UFO Investigation, said secret government projects could be the source of some of the reports.

And, he said, psychological or

physiological causes provide other instances of seemingly inexplicable activities, while a third cause could be natural phenomenon.

The fourth, he said, is that some sort of extraterrestrial power is really making itself known or creating effects that are noticed.

About 60 people from around the region are attending the conference, which is featuring lectures on scientific evidence which supports various claims of contact with UFOs as well as discussions on telepathic contacts with UFO

occupants.

Evans, who authored the book, "Evidence for UFOs," said that despite the fact reports of UFO sightings have been declining in recent years, he believes "we are on the verge of a real breakthrough" in understanding them.

Another speaker, Bertrand Meheust of France, noted that a number of reports of modern sightings or contacts have much in common with early-day science fiction stories.

by Steve Coe
Boomerang Staff Writer

Dr. Richard Haines presented the results of his study of a picture taken on Vancouver Island to the Rocky Mountain Conference on UFO Investigation Saturday night on the Uni-

CR: MUFON

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CR: B. Greenwood

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Residents report UFO in skies over Brookfield

BY LINDA BRUDER and
ROY BERENDSOHN

Was it an ultra-light glider, weather phenomena, an aircraft formation, an elaborate hoax or an unidentified flying object straight out of "Star Trek"?

The Brookfield police department was reportedly swamped with approximately 75 calls in about one hour last Thursday night from residents who reported seeing strange lights in the night sky.

Police officer Kevin Brooks, who was acting as dispatcher at the time, said the Danbury and Bethel departments had also received numerous reports of similar sightings.

The reports were the second of their kind in the area in the last two weeks.

On July 12, at about 11 p.m., six people at Down the Hatch Restaurant watched as a brightly lit, "huge," elliptical object moved silently across the sky, heading northwest over Candlewood Lake.

The object hovered, "almost standing still," above Candlewood Orchards for at least five minutes, according to restaurant patrons. Then it disappeared behind some trees, not to reappear.

"I don't believe in UFO's, but it was very strange," says waitress Yolanda Tomascak, adding, "I don't drink and I wasn't dreaming."

Tomascak had finished work and was sitting at a lakeside table on the restaurant's terrace with design engineer Vinny Giustino, realtor Barbara Held, Bob Denton, and fellow employees Bill Noyce and Conrad Sawmill.

All six agree that the unidentified flying object was silent, had eight to nine white lights, appeared to be "massive," and was unlike any aircraft they have ever seen.

Giustino feels the object may have been at an altitude of 15,000 to 20,000 feet, but stresses it was difficult to estimate.

At least two members of the group observed that a plane with red lights was going in the same direction and seemed to be following the UFO.

Ed Anderson, a staff artist for Bradley Air Museum who has painted many types of aircraft, witnessed the pattern of lights from his studio on Station Road.

He dismisses the possibility the lights were caused by a planet, reflection of the moon, balloon or atmospheric phenomena such as northern lights or heat lightning.

A glider possibly?

"Not at night, nobody's that stupid," quips the former WWII bomber pilot.

"First I thought it was just some clown with aircraft flying too low, but I didn't hear anything," says Anderson, noting a power-glider would sound similar to a lawnmower.

"I watch aircraft all the time, this wasn't aircraft," he said, describing the lights as a "strange visual experience."

Last Thursday's sighting occurred at about 10 p.m., when Planning Commission Chairman Jan Howard and her family observed a "V-shaped" triangular pattern of lights in the night sky. The lights appeared to be one object which came from the south, went over Burr Farm on South Obuse, and then very slowly curved toward the northwest.

"I was astounded by the thing," recalls Howard, "It looked huge, much bigger than a plane, and had six or seven individual lights as bright as stars."

"If it's a glider—he's got some machine," she adds, "It was the most beautiful thing I've ever seen in the sky!"

Howard's description of the UFO differs in shape from the one sighted on July 12, and, unlike previous observers, she did hear a sound which

she recalls as a constant hum or drone.

The two sightings share one similarity, for Howard also observed a plane going over, headed in the same direction, right after she saw the lights.

None of the observers interviewed recalled being particularly frightened by the objects they spotted, and they did not report their sightings to the police.

Although it was the first time Tomascak had ever seen an unexplained object in the sky, she admits, "I didn't get any goose bumps because there were too many people around."

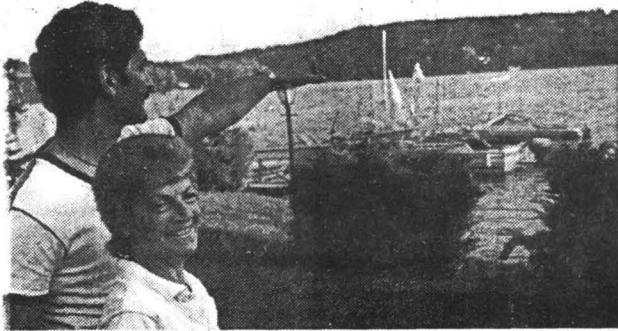
"We made jokes about it," she laughs, "saying if they came in Down the Hatch we'd give them a beer."

Anderson was so unperturbed by the sighting that he had almost forgotten about it, "Pilots are used to seeing strange things," he explained.

"We were stunned, just standing out there staring at this thing" admits Howard, noting "The light drew your eyes and mesmerized you."

"If these are illegal glider pilots," she adds, "they are causing a lot of furor."

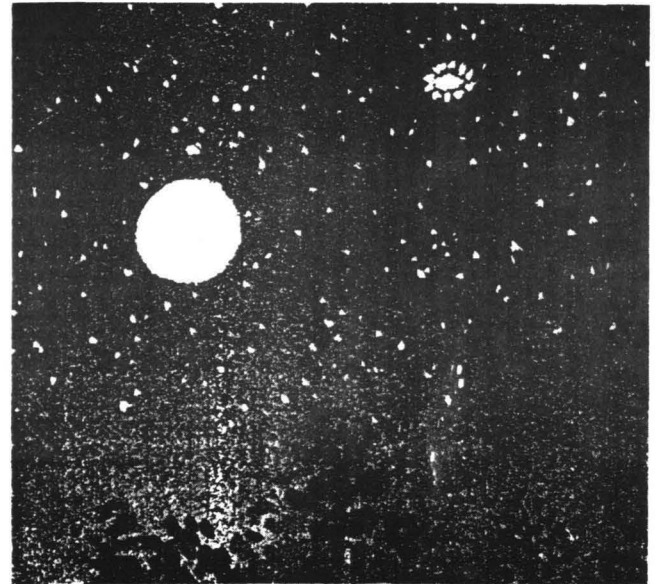
But, she concludes with a smile, "I really want to believe it's a glider."



Staff photo by LINDA BRUDER

Are we alone?

Vinny Giustino and Yolanda Tomascak point out the area in the sky over Candlewood Lake where they sighted a UFO on July 12.



Sketch by ED ANDERSON

Artist Ed Anderson has recreated a scale version of his July 12th UFO sighting on paper. The unidentified flying object is pictured to the right of an almost full moon, high above the trees on Station Road. The artist counted ten white lights around the elliptical object.

UFO sightings

Don't panic, just grab the 12-gauge



Mark Robinson

Don't look now, but we're being watched.

Several Brookfielders have seen strange things in the skies above our town recently. I, for one, would like to believe that some extraterrestrials have designs on Brookfield.

It would make great copy for The Brookfield Journal. It might even make the front page provided the sewer situation gets resolved.

Think of the "Epicurean Adventure" column Linda Bruder could do on Klingon cuisine.

UFO sightings are not all that unusual. But, almost always, it's some toothless guy in Alabama who was fishing with his hound dog at three in the morning who says he saw a spaceship. Then, in an interview with The National Inquirer, he'll swear he was kidnapped and they melted his fingernails off or something. Have another sip of white lightning, right?

UFO sightings in Brookfield, however, are another story.

If, indeed, we are being watched, you would have to wonder what these aliens make of life here in Brookfield.

Before anyone gets insulted, let's understand where these aliens are coming from.

Many people who spot UFOs say they do all sorts of stop and go stuff. How about the ones that are said to be going nine million miles per hour, and then stop on the dime. That's pretty nifty technology in my book.

So when these guys are spying on us they must get a kick out of traffic jams on Route 7. I imagine lots of them fighting for window space to get a good look.

With that kind of know-how, it would probably be a piece of cake to invade us. So what is it, Brookfield's not good enough for them, huh? I guess if they were planning to set up a colony here, they're worried about getting past the inland-wetlands commission.

UNCOMMON SENSE

By Mark Robinson

But anyway, if we do come up a bit short on the gadget stick, I bet we have it all over them on aesthetics and the arts. I know I'm only speculating, but I don't imagine these space guys really caring about how they dress. They probably haven't even heard of Michael Jackson or Boy George.

Of course, if they wanted an accurate depiction of life in Brookfield, they should subscribe to The Brookfield Journal. If they can't afford the \$16 (actually, in this case, \$21 for out of state), or if logistical problems would rule it out, they could always monitor the morning conversation at the Village Store.

What kind of reception would Brookfield provide for extraterrestrial visitors if they decide land? Would we greet them with a barrage of buckshot, risking the possibility of being vaporized, or would we play it smart and invite them to some kind of official town reception? First Selectman Ken Keller could proclaim it "Alien Day."

Maybe we could set up some sort of exchange program. It would certainly add a new twist to the "what-I-did-on-my-summer-vacation" school assignment.

Actually, it does seem unlikely that we would be all alone in the universe. So having an occasional UFO fly by really doesn't surprise me.

So if anyone has a spaceship land in their backyard, please give us a call here at the Journal.

Mark Robinson is managing editor of The Brookfield Journal.

UFO's: What on Earth . . . ?

By KEN KOSTIK

MOUNT KISCO — "Look! Up in the sky! Is it a bird? Is it a plane?" No, it's just Northern Westchester's version of "Close Encounters of the Third Kind."

On Tuesday night, more upcounty and Putnam County residents got a chance to see this summer's rage. However, unlike the hula hoop, Mickey Mouse ears and Davey Crockett coonskin caps, you don't have to pay a cent to be chic in 1984. All you need are a pair of eyes and a little patience.

The story got a new twist this week when, for the first time, witnesses said the UFO was circular in shape. In the past, all reports stated the flying object was shaped like a "flying wedge" or V-shape.

Eleanor Moon of Purdys had just stepped outside her home when several neighborhood youngsters called her attention to the strange object hovering above her.

"It was a circular thing. Maybe 10 or 12 white lights going around — then a dark patch and then a single red light trailing behind," she said.

"It wasn't going too fast. And, there was no noise at all — it was very quiet, very eerie," Mrs. Moon explained. She added that the craft was no more than 200 feet above her and that it "was huge."

Hers was not the lone sighting of the new UFO. Several calls were made to Patent Trader offices from residents wondering just what "it" was.

On July 22, a member of the American Aerial Phenomenon Research Association reported spotting six Cessna airplanes landing at Stormville airport. He claims the pilots

were flying their planes in a V formation.

He told a local radio station that he "was amazed that they could fly this slow and keep the rigidity of the formation. These guys were excellent."

He added that he was planning to notify federal authorities.

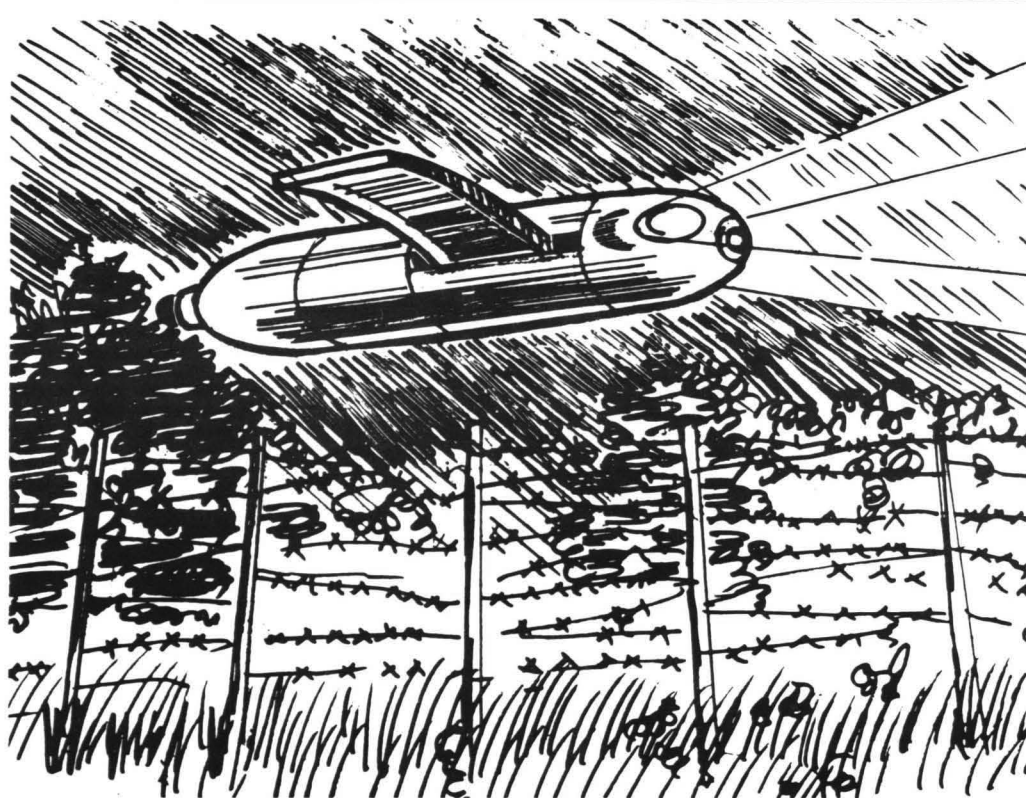
However, the idea of six pilots causing such a furor has some people skeptical.

In each of the sightings, witnesses have said the object was not that high off of the ground and that it ranged in size from "big" to "huge" to "enormous." It is highly unlikely that six Cessna single-engine planes, even when placed wingtip to wingtip, could be described as "enormous."

In addition, since the object was not flying at a great altitude, the noise emitted from the six engines would be easily identifiable to the witnesses.

There is another theory — one that has been making the rounds of Northern Westchester for the past several months. This theory is that the Army may be working on a hovercraft and basing it at either Camp Smith in Peekskill or Stewart Air Force Base in Newburgh and practicing in southeastern New York state during the evening.

Camp Smith and Stewart AFB officials, both of whom asked to remain anonymous, said nothing of the kind was going on.



Evening Herald sketch by Walter Crome Jr.

UFO spotted

Lesslie woman and son see cigar-shaped object

By CHRIS HORN
and STEVE SMITH

Evening Herald staff writers

LESSLIE — On Monday afternoon, Cathy Winn of Lesslie would probably have laughed if someone told her that flying saucers were real.

But this morning, Mrs. Winn, 27, walked around a pasture beside her house where Monday night she said she saw a 60-foot-long cigar-shaped object hovering in the field and along a fence line that passes within 50 yards of her house.

Forget the jokes and hocus pocus usually associated with UFO sightings.

"I think definitely it was a spaceship. I believe in them now," she said this morning.

Around 9 Monday night, Mrs. Winn said she was pulling out of her gravel driveway off Hopewell Road with her seven-month-old son Benjamin and four-year-old son Jonathan in the car with her. Looking up above a stand of pine trees about 150 yards from her house, she said she saw about 20 multi-colored blinking lights.

At first, she thought it was an airplane, but then noticed how close the lights were to her and realized they weren't moving.

Stopping the car, she and Jonathan watched while the blinking lights moved closer to the ground and stopped by a lone tree in the pasture.

The blinking lights went out, she said, and were replaced by two intensely bright beacons on the front of the bright silver object, which now became visible. At this point, she began backing the car up, beeping the horn continuously to attract the attention of her husband Rick who was inside the house with their seven-year-old son Micah.

A wing, about 12-feet-long, extended from the smooth, windowless exterior



Evening Herald photo by Chris Horn

UFO SIGHTING

Cathy Winn and son Jonathan point to the spot

of the object and — as Mrs. Winn and Jonathan stood outside the car — the object turned its lights in their direction. One light shone on the rear of the object.

"The lights didn't really shine on us but I was scared," she recalled.

Mrs. Winn continued to yell to her husband inside as the object noiselessly began moving along a barbed wire fence extending along the perimeter of the pasture. Mrs. Winn and Jonathan ran around the side of the house and spotted the object again as it continued along the fence beside a pen where the Winns keep two goats. The goats remained in their shed and made no

noise, she said.

At that point, she said the lights went out and she could no longer see the object. Rick Winn came out of the house just in time for Mrs. Winn to hear a low whirring sound like an electrical motor starting up. That was the first noise the object had made, she said, and after that the object did not reappear.

Mrs. Winn, who says she has never seen a UFO before, said she called Bryant Field Airport and was informed that no airplanes had filed a flight plan with airport officials. However, an official with Greer Flight Service, which is

EVENING HERALD, Rock Hill, SC
Aug. 1, 1984 CR: G. Fawcett

responsible for flight plans filed for Bryant Field, said this morning that any number of aircraft could have flown to the airport and departed by filing a flight plan at another airport.

She then called the sheriff's department and received a number to call for UFO sightings. After calling the number, the official told her that what she described was probably a UFO, she said.

Bernard Groseclose, chief of the control tower at Douglas International Airport in Charlotte, said he received no UFO calls around the time that Mrs. Winn saw hers.

"This is the first UFO report we've had in years," he said.

Meanwhile, Rick Winn and his father have inspected the site where Mrs. Winn said the object "landed" in the pasture. She said they saw a place where the grass appeared disturbed but saw no trace of the object's path along the fence line.

Four-year-old Jonathan was a little bashful about discussing what he'd seen Monday night but asked his mother if "the spacemen were coming back" this morning.

Tuesday night, Mrs. Winn said she watched the skies around her house again but saw nothing.

"I'd love to see it again," she said.

UFO probe closed — but mystery continues

By NICK LACKEOS
Journal Staff Writer

The Air Force closed its Blue Book on unidentified flying objects 15 years ago, but UFO buffs still claim officials haven't told the whole story.

This week two longstanding Air Force critics reiterated their charge that the government's investigation suppressed evidence of extraterrestrial visitation.

They referred to a 1950 memorandum they say came from the FBI and reported a crash landing of three "flying saucers" in New Mexico in 1947. Each vessel was said to contain three human-like bodies about 3 feet tall.

But in the official report on UFOs — known as Project Blue Book — the Air Force denies there were ever any UFO crashes or landings. Material crammed into case files 37 feet high and on to 94 reels of microfilm fails to show that aliens have visited the planet, officials say.

Project Blue Book, once housed at Maxwell Air Force Base, was moved about

five years ago to the Modern Military Branch of the National Archives and Record Service in Washington, D.C. The files are now open to the public, said Edward Reese of the service.

They include descriptions of UFOs reported to the Air Force as well as the government's explanations for the sightings, said Capt. John Whitaker, a spokesman at the Pentagon.

THE UFO INVESTIGATION extended from 1947 through 1969 and included studies of photographs taken of so-called UFOs.

Such photographs have undergone "intensive photographic analyses and none have provided evidence to substantiate the presence of extraterrestrial vehicles," the Air Force report says.

Of the project's 12,418 reported sightings, 11,917 were caused by balloons, satellites, aircraft, lightning, reflections, stars, planets, the sun, the moon, weather conditions or hoaxes, the report says.

No explanations were given for the

remaining 701 sightings.

Last summer one of the project's critics — Larry Bryant, a technical writer for the government in Alexandria, Va. — sued Air Force Secretary Verne Orr in an attempt to get more information on several UFO sightings. He filed "a writ of habeas corpus extraterrestrial" in the Federal District Court in the District of Columbia, said Whitaker.

"He wanted us to turn over the bodies of the little green men," Whitaker said. The case was thrown out of court.

In a telephone interview this week, Bryant said the Air Force is not telling everything it knows about UFO sightings.

Though a member of a group called Citizens Against UFO Secrecy, Bryant said he has never seen a UFO.

He said he has researched the subject as a hobby since the early '50s and has obtained a copy of the government memorandum, dated March 22, 1950, about the three UFO crash landings in New Mexico.

BRYANT SAID HE got the copy from Bruce Maccabee, a research physicist for the Navy in Silver Spring, Md.

Maccabee said he obtained the memorandum from the FBI under the Freedom of Information Act.

The memorandum quotes an unidentified Air Force investigator who described the "so-called flying saucers ... as being circular in shape with raised centers, approximately 50 feet in diameter. Each one was occupied by three bodies of human shape but only 3 feet tall, dressed in metallic cloth of a very fine texture."

Bryant says he heard of the incident from other sources.

"One of the bodies was said to be alive" at the crash site, he added. "Whether or not that creature is still alive is anybody's guess."

Bryant said he also heard that the bodies and wreckage were taken to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in

Ohio, the headquarters at the time for Project Blue Book.

Air Force spokesmen at Wright-Patterson have said that no spaceship fragments or frozen remains of aliens were stored there or anywhere else.

But Bryant, who introduced a copy of the memorandum in his suit, claimed the government has "secret custody over one or more occupants of crash-landed UFOs of apparent extraterrestrial origin."

Such UFO sightings make no sense to John Wolfe, program scientist at the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence at NASA's Ames Research Center in Mountain View, Calif.

THE ORGANIZATION is in its second year of a five-year research-and-development program in which probing equipment is being developed to receive radio signals from space, he said.

Scientists already are receiving broad-band radio waves from deep space, but they are transmitted by natural phenomena such as stars and quasars, said Wolfe.

The probing equipment, however, will be designed to receive narrow-band radio waves, which Wolfe said can only be produced by some form of intelligence — "we think."

If a civilization from another solar system wanted to contact earth, it would probably do so by transmitting radio signals rather than sending a space ship, Wolfe said.

"Our galaxy is 100,000 light years across," said Wolfe. "And the nearest star is four light years away."

A light year is the distance light travels in one year at a velocity of 186,000 miles per second.

"To travel to the nearest star at, say, 20 percent the speed of light, would be incredibly expensive from an energy-consumption point of view," said Wolfe.

Just to go to the nearest star and back would cost the equivalent of the entire country's electrical energy consumption for 100,000 years, he said.

EXTRATERRESTRIAL BEINGS "would have to have a darn good reason to go to that expense, like survival," said Wolfe. "And if they did, I think they would land on the White House lawn."

"They wouldn't land in a Mississippi swamp and talk to a fisherman."

But Wolfe added, "We believe the possibility for extraterrestrial intelligence is pretty big."

People, according to some behavioral scientists, want to believe there is life beyond Earth. And that may be why UFO sightings continue, said Dr. Joyce Brothers, a nationally known psychologist.

Ms. Brothers said surveys indicate that 9 percent of the adult population in the United States have seen something that fits the category of a UFO.

She noted that researchers have found similarities in the accounts of people "who reported experiences of being abducted by beings from UFOs" and people who told of out-of-body, near-death experiences.

Those who were technically dead but later revived have spoken of meeting small beings similar to those described by people who said they were taken aboard flying saucers, she said.

"So maybe there is something already in our brain that is triggered by illness or death," she said.

UFO STORIES, whatever their source, sometimes come from credible sources.

Maj. Ann Crum of the Air National Guard's 187th Tactical Fighter Group at Dannelly Field tells of a aircraft commander of a B-52 bomber who came into her office back in 1968 and asked what the procedure was for reporting a UFO.

Mrs. Crum at the time was the wing executive officer at Carswell Air Force Base in Texas.

The commander was a major and a seasoned aviator, she recalled, and his crew had returned from a flight across the Pacific Ocean.

"He swore something flew with them," she said. The crew's instruments got a reading of something following the bomber for a long way after takeoff in Hawaii en route to Alaska, the B-52 commander said.

"He said it hovered over the aircraft and then underneath, but it stayed with them," Mrs. Crum said.

Despite reports like these, the Air Force maintains that "no UFO reported, investigated, and evaluated by the Air Force has ever given any indication of threat to our national security."

UFO mystery solved?

BY LINDA BRUDER

A down to earth explanation has been offered for two recent sightings of unidentified flying objects over Brookfield, but those who spotted the UFO's aren't sure they are ready to accept it.

The UFO's viewed from Brookfield on July 12 and July 19 were among numerous sightings reported over Fairfield, Westchester and Putnam counties recently, particularly on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

Last week a Dutchess county police officer reported that he had spotted eight planes flying in circular formation toward a private Stormville, N.Y. airport. He observed that the planes were at high altitude and made very little noise.

One of the planes was identified by police as a small single-engine Cessna 152. Unlike ultralights, which have also been suggested as a possible explanation to the mysterious sightings, Cessnas are allowed to fly at night.

But those who actually viewed the strange lights in the Brookfield sky are not ready to accept Cessnas or ultralights as an explanation of the phenomena.

"I would know a Cessna immediately," says Brookfield artist Ed Anderson. "As a pilot your life depends on it," he added. Anderson was a bomber pilot in World War II.

"I've been around airplanes since I was 19-years-old, and that's not what I saw. One of the more spookier things about it was it was absolutely silent." Anderson viewed a circular object with ten white lights from his studio on Station Road on July 12.

"I don't know what it was, but I don't believe it was a group of pilots," says Yolanda Tomascak, who, along with six friends, spotted a similar circular object over Candlewood Lake the same night.

Seated at an outdoor table at Down the Hatch restaurant, the group watched as a "huge" elliptical object, outlined by eight to ten white lights, silently headed northwest across the sky.

The UFO then hovered over Candlewood Orchards for five minutes until it disappeared behind some trees. Although the six watched, it never reappeared.

A group of Cessnas or ultralights? "It was too quick, you saw it and then you didn't see it," says Tomascak.

Jan Howard, chairman of the planning commission, was one of those who observed the July 19th sighting of a pattern of triangular "V-shaped" lights over Brookfield.

She is also not sure she accepts the Cessna explanation, and notes, "To me it looked awfully large, but then at night you don't have a concept of distance."

Her main concern is that whatever it is could possibly cause an accident by colliding with planes in the area.

Howard says she would be glad to accept a reasonable solution to the mysterious lights that have plagued the area.

But, she notes, "I think they're jumping too quickly on explanations that seem feasible."

SUNDAY EAGLE TRIBUNE, Lawrence, MA
Aug. 5, 1984 CR: B. Greenwood



Brian McCarthy holds sketch of UFO

Great balls of fire; youth, others, claim UFO passed by

HAVERHILL — Brian McCarthy was sitting at his desk Friday night when he saw it — a red blur in the sky shooting balls of fire.

It hung in the air for a few minutes, then "took off real fast," he said.

"I said 'Come on, Brian, you didn't see a UFO. You saw an airplane or something,'" his mother said last night.

But McCarthy insists he saw a UFO.

McCarthy, 14, son of Gerald and Ida McCarthy, Edgelawn Ave., is not alone.

Several people have claimed to have spotted UFOs over Haverhill in the last week or so.

Local authorities aren't concerned, but an international UFO watchdog organization is sending

investigators to Haverhill.

Walter Andrus, international director of the Mutual UFO Network, said it's not unusual for a series of sightings to be made in one area in a short period of time.

"They usually run in batches like this," Andrus said.

Marge Christensen, the organization's Massachusetts director, said she'll get in touch with McCarthy.

"You can't just write things off until you talk to the people," she said.

However, she said, "it sounds as though it may be meteors."

About 80 to 90 percent of the reports made to the UFO Network turn out to be things like weather balloons, Andrus said.

No answer to UFO mystery

By JIM LENANE
Gazette staff writer

Weather researchers and Air Force officials say they are not responsible for the numerous reports of unidentified flying objects (UFOs) in Haverhill during the past nine days.

The Haverhill Gazette has contacted the U.S. Weather Service, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the U.S. Air Force, and all three agencies deny any knowledge of tests or any activities which would explain the consistent reports from Haverhill residents of bright lights in the sky

dropping off or shooting down balls of fire.

A Haverhill resident who spoke with Dr. Alan Hynek of the Center for UFO Sightings in Evanston, Ill., a recognized expert in the UFO field, suggested that the U.S. Weather Bureau was sending up rockets to test the ozone layer with periodic firings of flares, but the weather service said this morning it is not performing any such experiments.

Spokesperson Tina Saarlac in Washington said, "I have checked with our agency and nothing of this type is going on at this time. I suggest that you try the Air Force or NASA."

James Elliot, public relations contact for NASA said he was unaware of any NASA testing which could be seen regularly in the North of Boston area, but he referred the reporter to NASA's Wallops Island test center in Wallops Island, Va.

Joyce Milliner, public relations officer at the Wallops Island center, where periodically rockets are sent up distributing barium or sodium clouds to form colorful displays in the sky as part of various experiments, but Milliner said nothing has been sent up which could be seen in the Haverhill area.

"We sent up a rocket last night but it carried no chemicals, and it could not be seen with the naked eye

and certainly could not be seen in your area."

She said a rocket with a load of chemicals for space display was sent up Aug. 1, "But they could not be seen without special equipment also."

The Wallops Island rockets, classified as "suborbital" can seldom be seen over wide areas. "But when we do have one with a large, colorful cloud we try to send out a notice through the media two weeks in advance," she said. "Nonetheless, we still receive UFO reports when we send these up."

Meanwhile, Barry J. Greenwood of Stoneham, an officer of the Mutual UFO Network, an international UFO study organization with its home office in Seguin, Texas, is planning to have an investigator come to Haverhill to study the rash of UFO sightings.

Greenwood, who is co-author with Lawrence Fawcett of a new book on government involvement with UFOs, "Clear Intent," said his group will reserve opinion on the Haverhill sightings until a complete study is made and its results evaluated.

"We try as hard as we can to be objective and scientific in our approach. We first try to discredit the reports, to see if there is any readily apparent falseness involved. A certain number of reports are eliminated in that way."

The many reports which are not related to explainable causes then become Unidentified Flying Objects. "Many reports lead to identified flying objects, aircraft, balloons, natural phenomena, and no longer are of interest beyond being background for future investigations," Greenwood said Monday.

All reports said the lighted object and exuded lights have moved slowly across the sky. Some reports described the objects sent off by the larger light as fiery, and others have said they were lighted but not fiery.

TIMES, New York, NY - Aug. 25, 1984 CR: L. Bryant

Strange Sights Brighten The Night Skies Upstate

By JEFFREY SCHMALZ

Special to The New York Times

NEW CASTLE, N.Y., Aug. 24 — The public hearing was plodding along routinely at the Town Hall one night last month.

"All of a sudden, a cop burst in yelling: 'The U.F.O.'s here! The U.F.O.'s here!'" said Peter A. Brandenburg, a 43-year-old real-estate developer. "Everyone jumped up and jolted out. We went flying down the stairs to see this thing, just staring at it."

On a night before that, William A. Pollard was driving along Interstate 84 near Brewster.

'Whoa! Wait a Minute Here'

"My neighbors said they had seen something," said Mr. Pollard, 29, the manager of an automobile service center. "I said, 'Yeah, yeah, yeah.' I never believed in that stuff. But off in a field I saw this gigantic triangle with lights, about 30 feet off the ground — hovering. Then it turned off its lights and shot straight up — straight up. That's when I said, 'Whoa! Wait a minute here.'"

Throughout northern Westchester County, Dutchess and Putnam Counties and western Connecticut this summer, thousands of residents have reported strange objects in the sky — each usually in a V-shape or a circle, about the size of a football field, absolutely noiseless and outlined in brilliant lights of white, red or green.

At night, the curious sometimes crowd the Taconic Parkway, a prime site for viewing. A hot line has been set up in Westchester to field inquiries. And in shopping centers and at parties, the talk is of a secret weapon or of close encounters.

The Police Call It a Hoax

The state police say the "object" is really five or six small planes flying in tight formation as part of a hoax. Some residents are not so sure. And others say that if that really is the case, authorities ought to put an end to it.

"If it's not a U.F.O.," said Irene Lunn of Mahopac, "I want to know exactly what it is and what it's doing around here. And I want it stopped."

Mrs. Lunn was among those who reported the most recent sighting, this past Monday night. She was coming home from the supermarket at 9 P.M. with her 5-year-old daughter, Erica, when, she said, "I saw it over a pond on a nearby farm, high enough to just clear the trees, traveling south."

"It wasn't an airplane, it wasn't a helicopter, it wasn't a hang glider," Mrs. Lunn went on. "There was no sound at all, you could hear the crickets."

She described an object "about three-quarters the size of my house, with an L-shaped structure suspended underneath it."

"It actually stopped over the house," Mrs. Lunn said. "At one point, all the lights went green, then red, then they went back to a pattern of green and red and white. I felt like it was letting us know it knew we were watching it. That was scary. It went on for about 10 minutes."

The state and local police are flooded with calls every time the objects are seen. Many of the sightings have been reported by police officers on patrol.

One officer, according to Sgt. Kenneth V. Spiro of Troop K of the state police, which is responsible for the area in which sightings have been, followed the object.

"He tracked it to Stormville airport," the sergeant said. "It was a group of light planes. They fly in formation. The undersides and under the wings are painted black, so they can't be seen from the ground. The planes are rigged with bright lights that they can turn from one color to another. It's the lights that give the shape to the U.F.O."

"The trooper spoke to a couple of the pilots, and they're getting a big kick out of it. There's no violation of the law



The New York Times/Suzanne DeChillo

William A. Pollard of Carmel, N.Y., says he was skeptical of U.F.O. reports until he saw a huge flying object while driving one night near Brewster.

here." He refused to give the name of the trooper or of the pilots the trooper spoke to. The airport, a small field in Dutchess County, was deserted the other evening. Neighbors said they had seen no activity on recent nights.

But for many people, questions remain. Some wondered how airplanes could hover over an object or how they could shoot straight up into the air. Others said that they had seen the hoaxers but that they had also seen something different.

"I've seen those jerks five or six times," Mr. Pollard said of the pilots flying in formation. "They were nothing like what I saw the first time, nothing like it at all."

Mr. Pollard said that "the first thing I saw was rigid — absolutely rigid."

F.A.A. Seems Uninterested

Many residents want a thorough investigation by the Federal Aviation Administration. But the agency does not seem interested.

"Why would we care about a U.F.O.?" said Louis Achitoff, a spokesman for the Eastern region of the F.A.A., in an interview. "If the pilot's up there with a clearance and at the right altitude, we don't care what planet he comes from."

Residents were angry when told of the F.A.A. comment.

"That's horrendous," Mrs. Lunn said. "That thing's not flying over the F.A.A. Well, it's flying over my house and my treetops and I want to know for sure what it is."

Pressed for additional comment, Timothy L. Hartnett, the deputy director of the Eastern region of the F.A.A., said of the hoaxers that there were no regulations prohibiting planes from flying in formation.

"They can fly as close together as they feel safe," he said. And in areas of sparse population, planes could fly as low as 500 feet, Mr. Hartnett said.

Conflict Over Reports

Although some residents say they have reported sightings to the F.A.A., including flights below the 500-foot limit, the agency said it had received no such reports, and therefore had made no investigation.

In an effort to pull together information, Peter A. Gersten, a criminal lawyer who has made sightings from his Peekskill apartment, has organized a meeting for Saturday at the Henry H. Welles school in Brewster. He has invited U.F.O. experts and local officials.

Among those attending will be Dr. J. Allen Hynek, who is a retired head of the astronomy department at Northwestern University, former associate director of the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory and former consultant to the Air Force on U.F.O.'s.

Dr. Hynek, the head of the Center for U.F.O. Studies, a private group that acts as a clearinghouse for U.F.O. reports, said, "When you have highly trained technical people, lawyers, C.P.A.'s, government people seeing what they're seeing, you have to look into it."

The experts should have plenty of photographs to study at the meeting.

"We're seeing quite a few U.F.O. pictures," said Greg Dunlap, 22, the manager of CPI Photo Finish in Yorktown. "People come in and hand you the film and say: 'Be careful with these. We ran outside with our camera because something was flying over our house.' It breaks up the day for us. You get tired of seeing Hawaii."



The New York Times

Irene Lunn of Mahopac, N.Y., with camera she is using in her watch for an object she has seen hovering near her home. Left: Photo of lights in sky made by James H. Brooks last month in Peekskill.

Lights And 'No Noise Whatsoever'

Callers Report Seeing Strange Object In Sky

By ALAN M. BOLCAR

Several Kiski Valley residents claim to have spotted an unidentified flying object shortly before 12:30 a.m. today, but there exists speculation the sightings may have been that of a small airplane.

Rainbow Control received a report of green, blue and white lights in the sky from an anonymous caller at approximately 12:25 a.m., prompting Vandergrift Police to investigate the matter.

After Vandergrift Police arrived, Leechburg Police Captain Ray Fiorina was notified the object was moving toward the Armstrong County borough.

Fiorina traveled along Market St., toward Vandergrift, when he saw the object he described as having white, red and green lights.

Fiorina notified Parks Twp. policeman Jim Rairigh and Allegheny Twp. officer Richard Coleman, who both arrived at the scene within minutes.

Fiorina, observing the object alone while waiting for the other two officers, said the two back lights on the craft -- the red and green lights -- disappeared and the object hovered in place for approximately three minutes.

When Coleman and Rairigh arrived, Fiorina used a spotlight to signal the craft, thinking the object might be an aircraft experiencing trouble landing. Fiorina said the object began moving in a northwesterly direction once the spotlight was shone.

"What was unusual about it," Fiorina said, "it didn't move until we turned the light on it. It wasn't moving at all when I first saw it."

"I've never seen anything like it. It was hanging low and you couldn't hear engines," he said, adding that it was making "no noise whatsoever."

Rairigh, however, said he was sure the craft was a Cherokee airplane. He based his belief on the fact that he watched the craft with a spotting scope for approximately 30 seconds.

Gilbert Querio, owner of Leechburg Airport and Querio Aviation Company, said several small airplanes were possibly out at the time of the sightings.

The West Vandergrift resident and the three policemen weren't the only witnesses to the strange object in the sky this morning.

A Parks Twp. woman, who asked to remain anonymous, also called Rainbow Control about the flying object.

She said the object was hovering over Leechburg, but couldn't make out a shape. She claimed she saw red and blue lights.

The woman claims she went to get a pair of binoculars and the object vanished. She also claims she heard two gunshots when the object disappeared.

Vandergrift councilman Jack Jewart also claims he spotted an object flying above the Kiskiminetas River. Jewart said he saw flashing lights and a large white light.

"In my mind...I think it was a helicopter," Jewart said.

Diane Enion, from the Pennsylvania Center for UFO Research in Pittsburgh, a non-profit organization, agreed with the Parks Twp. woman's sighting description. "That's how the sighting usually goes. It's there one minute and gone the next."

Enion, who has been involved in UFO research since 1965 and the Pennsylvania Center for UFO Research since 1966, said sighting in the Kiski Valley are nothing new.

She said since April, 1981, sightings of Bigfoot, panther-like creatures and UFO's have been common "all in the same area of Bell Twp."

She said a report similar to this morning's occurred in December in Bell Twp. She said a large, lighted object was hovering over Rt. 819 as recently as December.

Enion said reports of Bigfoot sightings often follow reports of UFO's. She said 88 to 92 percent of UFO sightings are found to be easily explainable, but the remaining eight to 12 percent remain unexplained.

"We treat all our cases the same," Enion said. "We want to find out what it isn't."

To get to the bottom of the Kiski Valley sightings this morning, Enion said she will contact Greater Pittsburgh International Airport, Oakdale Air Force Base, the F.A.A. in Cleveland, O., Buhl Planetarium, the National Weather Bureau, Allegheny Observatory, and numerous other organizations and astronomers in the area.

Enion asked that anyone who spotted the object this morning call her at 884-3064.

UFO research goes scientific

PHOENIX, Ariz. (AP) — An expert on unidentified flying objects is moving his research headquarters to Phoenix, where he hopes to shift the study of UFOs "from the crackpot era to respectable science."

Astronomer J. Allen Hynek, 74, who spent 20 years working with the Air Force on UFO research and heads the Center for UFO Studies, plans to spend \$2 million a year studying the best reported sightings.

'More-open attitude'

With the backing of a sponsor he declined to identify, the former Northwestern University astronomy department chairman and director of the Lunar Surveillance Project — part of the Apollo program — said he will move the center's research operations from Evanston, Ill.

Hynek said he chose Arizona because it is a center for astronomical research, has a burgeoning high-technology industry and "people in general have a more-open attitude."

"I think the time is ripe for massive research into the UFO phenomenon," said Hynek, whose book "The UFO Experience" was the basis for the movie "Close Encounters of the Third Kind."

"The job has to be taken from the crackpot era to respectable science. That's going to be my contribution. I don't expect to solve the problem. I don't know that the solution will come within the next century, but a start must be made..."

Valley Forge example

Hynek, a former associate director of the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, said that part of the problem in explaining UFOs is that to arrive here from the nearest star is beyond the capabilities of Earth's current technology.

"I think we're much in the position George Washington would have been in if a helicopter had hovered over Valley Forge, landed and two men got out and began talking to other helicopters overhead," he said.

He suggested that UFO sightings are part of a conditioning process by beings "smart enough to realize they didn't want to scare us."

"I think someday that what we now regard as UFOs will be as common as TV is today. I'm not saying they're flesh and blood. They do know something we don't."

WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL, Madison, WI - Aug. 22, 1984 CR: R. Heiden

Several claim to see UFO near TRF

By Mike Brue
Herald Staff Writer

What's green and white and occasionally red and hovers in the sky?

Don't expect an answer from Leslie Arlt, a Red Lake County deputy sheriff, even though he said he saw such an object east of Red Lake Falls, Minn., between 3:30 and 5 a.m. Monday.

"I'm not sure what it was. I'm sure it was something mechanical up there," Arlt said in a telephone interview Monday afternoon. "But whether it was something we had up there or something somebody else had up there, I don't know."

In nearby Pennington County, several people claimed to see a similar airborne object several miles east of Thief River Falls early Monday morning, Sheriff Charles Richards said.

The object was green in color and "zipped back and forth in the sky," according to witnesses' reports.

They mentioned the sightings to Deborah Hams, night clerk at a 7-Eleven convenience store in Thief River Falls. Hams later informed law enforcement officers when they made a routine stop at the store

shortly after 3 a.m.

Officers sent to the site found nothing, Richards said.

"I know these people who came in believed they saw something," Hams said in a telephone interview. "You could tell. They weren't drunk or anything like that." She did not know the witnesses' names.

The Grand Forks Air Force Base confirmed seeing a "blip" briefly on an air traffic control radar screen early Monday. But Air Force officials called it "impossible to confirm or deny an alleged UFO sighting" near Thief River Falls, according to a press release from Lt. Bonnie Saunders, deputy chief of public affairs for the base.

"The air traffic controller on duty, Sgt. Tom Buzzard, indicated the radar was detecting ground clutter and temperature inversion, and no other air traffic control targets were present in the area," Saunders said.

The area where the sightings occurred is beyond the base's designated radar space, Saunders said, so the radar "is unreliable" in that area.

Lyle Wicken of the Grand Forks Flight Service Station at the airport said radar there detected no unidentified "blips." Also, the station's new

weather radar does detect ground clutter but not aircraft, Wicken said.

Arlt, an eight-year deputy sheriff, was on duty Monday morning when he heard from a Pennington County sheriff's dispatcher about the Thief River Falls area sightings.

The deputy began to look around, and soon he spotted the unusual lights in the clear sky while driving on Red Lake County Road 1, east of Red Lake Falls.

"Actually it wasn't much," Arlt said. "It was green and white light to begin with, what I'd seen. I took it for granted it was a plane. I kept watching and watching, and it never seemed to get any further away from me, like it was staying in one spot."

The lights "seemed to be on some type of beacon or something" and moving, Arlt said. Occasionally, a red light would flash.

Arlt said he tried driving east, toward the lights, to get closer. But the lights seemed to remain the same distance away, he said. He couldn't tell how far away the lights were because no form or shape accompanied the lights, which "were really high in the sky."

The deputy used a spotting scope, a small telescope-like device used of-

ten to check target practice results, trying to get a closer look at the lights.

"I watched it for about an hour or more," Arlt said. "Finally, it did start getting smaller and smaller and smaller, and then it disappeared."

Arlt said he never felt concerned for his safety, and he did not request assistance.

"At first, I was too interested in trying to find out what it was," Arlt said. "After I watched it for so long, it kind of got monotonous. But then when it disappeared, I said, 'Oh boy, I don't know.'"

Hams said Monday that two young couples entered the 7-Eleven store together between 1 a.m. and 1:30 a.m. to report their sighting.

"One of the guys said, 'You're going to think I'm crazy, but I've got to tell somebody.' He said, 'I think we saw a UFO,'" Hams said.

After describing what they had seen and where, Hams said, the couples left with two other people to return to the site where they spotted the object.

One man returned sometime around 2:30 a.m. to say that the group had spotted the object again, Hams said.



ADVERTISER & MESSENGER, Droitwich,
England - June 28, 1984 CR: G. Conway

Mysterious caller sees strange UFO

DROITWICH is not the only place where mysterious flying objects flit across the skies...

Last week, our sister paper the Droitwich Advertiser reported that two women from the town had spotted mysterious flashing lights speeding across the heavens late at night.

Now a Bromsgrove caller - who prefers to remain anonymous - has revealed that late last Monday night he saw a similar sight.

He said: "It was about 11.40pm when I saw a bunch of two white lights and three red going roughly east to west across the sky at about 1,000 feet".

"They were just cruising, and must have taken 30 or 40 seconds to disappear. There was no noise at all."

Our caller declined to give us his name and address - other than that he lives on the Stourbridge side of Bromsgrove - for fear of being labelled 'a crank'.

U.F.O. — OFFICIAL PROBE!

By Michael Vinter, Science Correspondent

WHEN ANYONE or anything is able to penetrate the defences of a strategic NATO airbase in the front line of European defences, and moreover staffed by anti-tank bombers and alerted by one of the tightest radar networks in the world, surely questions must inevitably arise in high places?

Following The Advertiser's report last week of an officially confirmed UFO landing within half a mile of the Ipswich station, I am reliably informed that American security agencies have been forced into releasing formerly classified memoranda.

One of these states plainly that the UFO problem "transcends the level of individual responsibility and is of such importance as to merit cognisance and action by the National Security Council."

It is now admitted there were actually TWO close encounters in the Rendlesham Forest, one of which lasted three hours.

Alien pilots allegedly held a long conversation with one high ranking American officer, he then sought advice from Squadron Leader Donald Morland, Commander of RAF Woodbridge, which lies alongside the US tactical base.

While the alien craft was cordoned by a military guard, the occupants were able to

make hasty repairs and depart. Irrefutable traces of their presence were later destroyed by their authorities.

Amazingly, only one major British paper, apart from The Advertiser, appears to have published the story. But I understand that Jenny Randles, co-author of Sky Crash, and account of a UFO landing in 1980, near Ipswich, will be discussing the Rendlesham contact on the BBC Television programme Weekend, scheduled for transmission on May 25th.

While a Ministry of Defence spokesman, in conjunction with the Pentagon, confirms the details of my report, I have learned that an investigation into a further spate of over thirty sightings in Lancashire is proceeding with the utmost seriousness.

Chief Inspector Norman Collinson of CID Salford explains that many of these, occurring in the region of the Rossendale Valley between Todmorden and Burnley, may be explained by misobservation or rare meteorological phenomena.

At the same time he is compelled to report having watched a brilliantly lighted circular object that made 90-degree turns and other impossible manoeuvres in the sky over Heywood.

Pausing a moment, it accelerated from a standing start and crossed from horizon-to-horizon in under two seconds.

Sir Patrick Wall, a prominent MP and member of the Government select committee, is waiting to table a question in the House.

In a future article I shall be looking at the implications of rare meteorology, also at one startling possibility — fully supported by NASA evidence — as to the origin of those silver suited aliens!!

STAR, Auckland, New Zealand - May 11, 1984 CR: R. Collins

Someone out there likes us

From CHRIS BRICE

LONDON. — The world, it seems, is not doomed. We are to be saved in the nick of time by a kind of extraterrestrial fairy godmother.

The fact that we are not alone — until now known only behind the Iron Curtain — has been "leaked" to the Western world by the Moscow correspondent of the London Times.

He reports that Dr Boris Fesenko has told the joyful readers of the Moscow News that world peace and a "bright future" will be brought about by beings from outer space, who are at this moment trying to get in touch with us by intergalactic telephone.

Dr Fesenko says that the gently pulsing and glowing nebula, known as NGC 6543, is not merely a ball of greenish gas with a white hot core but also a signal from extraterrestrial beings.

Since the nebula is something like 1000 light years away from Earth, it will take some time for the signals to reach us, but Dr Fesenko is convinced we will receive them.

The nebula, he writes, has obviously been designed by intelligent beings who, looking down on our planet, could foresee that by the end of the 20th century man would enter

the technological age and be in a position to receive a message from a superior civilisation.

Dr Fesenko is a bit vague about what the supreme intellect is trying to tell us, and says the first signal we receive may be nothing more than a sign that "we are not alone, someone knows about us."

But he says we can rest assured the beings, who have been watching over us for thousands of years and sharing our joys and woes, have only good intentions.

They may even be able to "diminish the danger of a nuclear catastrophe on earth."

Dr Fesenko argues that life may originate "in different places at different moments in time," so that older civilisations are able to protect newer ones from self-destruction and show them the way ahead.

"NGC 6543 cannot be seen by the naked eye," he writes, "but I believe it forebodes the possibility of a brilliant future for our descendants."

All this has come as something of a relief for the people living in the Rossendale Valley, between Burnley and Todmorden in West Yorkshire.

For the past year or so they have been bothered by flying saucers and visits from aliens.

In fact there have been so many strange sightings — 32 in

all — that the Rossendale Valley has been renamed by locals "UFO Valley."

Coalminer Tom Schofield is one of a number of people who have come face to face with aliens in this part of the world.

Mr Schofield, 48, said he was closing his garage door when he saw something out of the corner of his eye.

"I looked over my shoulder and there they were," he said.

"There were two figures in silver suits — like the chrome of a car bumper, brilliantly polished and without a crease. I just kept looking at them.

Then suddenly I realised they didn't have any features. They didn't have faces.

"Their heads seemed to be covered with helmets.

"One of them turned towards me, and I heard their clothing rustle.

"They were carrying something between them — it looked like a metal bar."

Mr Schofield looked away for a second, and when he turned back the visitors had gone.

Teenagers Mark Ashworth and Simon Heyworth were crowd-shooting when they had a similar experience.

They saw a bright light among the trees and then came face to face with an alien dressed in a dark cloak.

"The figure was like that of a

tall man," said Mark, 19.

"A shining black gown covered him from head to foot, but the thing I most remember is his large forehead.

"We stood for only a second. The figure didn't move. It was blocking our path through the woods, so we just turned and ran."

Many other people living in the area have reported seeing bright lights and strange objects in the sky.

All the reports are being investigated by the Defence Ministry.

One of those to see strange lights in the sky was a policeman — Chief Inspector Norman Collinson, of the Manchester CID.

He said he saw a brilliant white circular object speed across the sky heading for Rossendale Valley as he drove in the area.

"Suddenly it turned at 90 degrees," he said. "I have never seen any aircraft make such a movement."

"Without warning the craft stopped, and from a standing start it flashed across the sky to the horizon in less than two seconds.

"That convinced me that whatever it was, it was never made by man. No earthly craft could disappear at such speed."

— Melbourne Herald service.

MALVERN GAZETTE, Worcs., England - Aug. 9, 1984 CR: T. Good

UFO a fireball theory

TWO UFOs, one "Chasing" the other woke residents on a quiet Malvern estate as they flew overhead in the dead of night.

The noise from one of the objects was "terrifying," said Roger Martin, aged 35, of Elgar Avenue.



Miss Rosina Marsh — heard the UFO fly over her house.

He said: "The loud noise woke me up and when I looked out of my window I saw a large, slow-moving spherical object pass by."

"It came from a gap in the hills and headed towards Worcester, it was only a few feet above the roofs of some of the houses.

"There was a very bright light coming from it and it made a very loud noise like an aircraft landing," he said.

"About 40 minutes later another object, this time a bit smaller, but with a more definite shape came over and followed the path of the other one.

Neighbour Miss Rosina Marsh, also heard the noise. "It was a tremendous sound that lasted about 30 seconds," she said.

The sightings occurred at around 2 a.m. on Tuesday Mr Martin, who is convinced the objects were not meteors, phoned both the police and RSRE who confirmed there



UFO spotter Roger Martin.

were no low flying aircraft in the area at the time.

● Worcester weather expert Paul Damari said the sighting could have a natural explanation.

"From the description, it could have been a fireball coming through the clouds as they are large luminous balls which roar," said Mr Damari.

IBERIAN DAILY SUN,
(City Unknown), Spain
Aug. 10, 1984

CR: B. Greenwood

SURVEY: Fifty per cent OF Spaniards believe there is life on other planets and 25 per cent are convinced that Earth has been visited by extraterrestrials, according to a survey published in the magazine *Muy Interesante*.

According to the survey, 35 per cent said they believed in flying saucers and 3.7 per cent claimed that they had seen one.

Is ET fed up with home?

STRANGE markings on East Sussex downland had police and sightseers going round in circles.

The mystery rings appeared overnight in a cornfield near Seaford at the weekend.

Police have been left wondering whether it was extraterrestrials or a clever hoaxer who visited the site.

A policeman spotted the circles in the field at High And Over as he drove to work on Saturday.

"They were clearly visible from the road," a fellow officer said today.

"There was one circle about 20ft. in diameter with four evenly-spaced outer circles about 5ft. across.

Elaborate

"Where they were the corn had been flattened but there were no scorch marks or foot prints to be seen.

"We had a look at it and duly logged it as a sighting but more than that we don't know. Apparently it is similar to circles found at Salisbury a few weeks ago so UFO societies might be interested in it.

"If it was a hoax it is certainly a very good and elaborate one and many members of the public went up to have a look."

The rings were on part of Rathfinny Farm owned by Mr John Mossop, who was unavailable for comment this morning.

Mysterious light puzzles Delta cottage owners

By Dan Proudley
Staff Writer

Five days after the baffling event, several Delta Beach cottage owners were still puzzled by the sighting of a mysterious bright light over Lake Manitoba.

Those who witnessed the event said Thursday there are about 10 people at Delta Beach, located about 15 miles north of Portage la Prairie on the shores of Lake Manitoba, that saw the same thing that evening.

One eyewitness, Dorothy Mulvey, who is in her sixties, was out on the sandy lake shore Saturday at about 11 p.m. with her son-in-law Richard Egan viewing the approaching thunderstorm.

"The storm was building up," she said. "We stood on the beach watching the lightening across the lake when we saw the bright light."

"It seemed the light was moving closer. I thought it must have been a boat because it was on the horizon. But, then as we watched, it started going up (into the sky) — it was moving fast — gradually it got closer."

By now the storm was upon them, and Mulvey and Egan scurried to the cottage to escape the high winds and downpour.

Mulvey's husband Morris, 69, who was back at the couple's cottage also claims to have seen the unexplained light.

"It was a strange white light," Mr. Morris said,

adding that it didn't appear to be an aircraft because there weren't any signal lights.

The glare, he estimated was about 1,000 feet high as it soared above the lake. Before he lost sight of the light, it veered to the east and looked like it was following the shoreline.

On another part of the beach that night, 71-year-old Tom Hutchinson was sitting in his cottage veranda with his wife Ann and a couple of friends watching the electrical storm.

His account of the incident is similar to that of the Mulveys.

It was about 10:30 p.m., just before the storm hit that Hutchinson reports seeing the bright glow.

Hutchinson says he first spotted the bright light on the horizon. He figured it was about 2 1/2 miles off-shore. Then it rose into the heavens and streaked toward land at about 80 mph.

"I thought it was strange," conceded Hutchinson, who was born and spent most of his life at Delta. In all the years he has lived on the lake, he said he hasn't seen anything like it.

At first he thought it was a helicopter but it didn't, have flashing beacons or emit noise. "I have no idea what it was."

The Mulveys are also perplexed by the incident and say they can't offer any explanation for what they saw.

Lights in sky — more sightings reported locally

IN the week after the popular V science-fiction series, UFO sceptics are in for a shock as reports of Selby's own sightings continue to come in.

Six local people have now come forward with reports of the UFO which passed over Selby and was seen by numerous people in Leeds.

The strange lights were seen hovering over Drax power station late one Monday evening.

Mr George Flack, who is 62, of Church Close, Hambleton, was going out to lock his car up when he saw two bright lights hovering in the sky.

"At first I thought it was a plane coming in to land," said Mr Flack. "I then realised that they don't have lights like that. They looked like two very bright car headlights."

Mr Flack got his binoculars from the house and watched the object for about ten minutes but he could not see any form to the lights. One of the lights went off closely followed by the second one as the object moved off.

Like a star

Mrs Sheila Hyde, of St Wilfrid's Crescent, Brayton was returning from a keep-fit class with her friend, Mrs

Rose Barras when she looked up and saw the lights.

"It looked like a star at first only it was much bigger and there were two lights," she said. "We watched them for a while as they seemed to rise and move off."

"I told my neighbours and family but they don't believe in things like that, but I think there is something in it, especially as there have been other people who saw it too."

Mrs Hyde is an old people's warden and one old lady was very relieved to find out that someone else had seen the lights as she was too frightened to tell anyone in case they thought that she was going dotty.

She had seen the lights from her kitchen window as she was making her supper.

Various attempts to find an explanation for the lights have so far failed.

A spokesman for RAF Church Fenton admitted that the station had no idea what the lights could have been. They had no air reports because none of their pilots were flying at the time of the sighting.

MERCURY, Leicester, England

July 2, 1984 CR: J. & C. Bord

'Flying saucer' sighted

Several people have reported seeing a saucer-shaped blue and silver object hovering low over the Clarendon Park playing field in Coventry Road, Hincley.

And now investigators from the Midlands UFO Research Centre are busy working on an explanation for the sighting, at about 9.45 p.m. last Friday.

Investigator co-ordinator Mr. Clive Potter said: "Witnesses said there was no sound as the object hovered, circled the area for approximately a minute and then shot off at a fast rate towards Nuneaton."

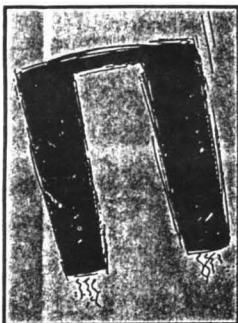
"A similar object was reported flying over the East Park Road area of Leicester only four days earlier," he added.

PIX-PEOPLE, Sydney, N.S.W., Australia - July 16, 1984 CR: J. Magee

The Pinkney Report

INVESTIGATING THE INCREDIBLE

By JOHN PINKNEY



Bob O'Brien (left) reached for his binoculars to take a closer look at the 'flying horseshoe' (right) which startled Ballarat.

CITY STARTLED BY A WEIRD FLYING OBJECT

RESIDENTS of Ballarat, Vic, are still puzzling over the antics of a huge horseshoe-shaped object which hurtled several times across their city's skies.

The aerial intruder flies at breathtaking speeds.

But radio station 3BA's news editor, Bob O'Brien, actually managed to keep it in range of his binoculars long enough to draw it.

"My family and I watched the object for about 10 minutes," O'Brien told me. "To the naked eye it looked like a double hyphen floating above the airport."

"But when I looked at it through my binoculars, I saw it was an H-shape with two fuselage-like sections joined at the top by a thin membrane."

"It seemed to be a huge construction. As we watched, it moved towards the horizon trailing vapour, which quickly disappeared."

"We first thought it might be an experimental aircraft. But the authorities said nothing was in the air at the time."

Another witness, Merv Pickford, of Wendouree, said:

"I saw the thing when I came out of my shed. It looked like two huge fluorescent tubes, emitting a strange kind of glow."

Ballarat's curiously-curved visitor is not the first horseshoe-shaped craft to have been spotted over Victoria.

On October 20, 1978, cricketers playing on a Melbourne bayside oval abandoned their match to stare at an immense, U-shaped structure hovering above their heads.

A spokesman described the intruder as "two silver cigars welded together."

The following evening, pilot Frederick Valentich radioed from Bass Strait that "a huge, silvery cigar" was tracking his Cessna aircraft. The radio went dead. Neither Valentich nor his plane were ever found.

UFO over the Amazon

MY FIRST encounter, albeit secondhand, with a U-shaped UFO came when I was talking with actress Chantal Contouri



Chantal Contouri also saw a glittering U-shaped object floating over the Amazon.

on the set of my screenplay, Thirst.

"It was in 1972, and I was cruise director on the motor vessel Romanza," Chantal told me.

"We were near Bellem, at the Amazon's mouth. The ship was so wide that it was brushing the jungle on either side — and its light was piercing ahead into the darkness."

"I was up on deck. Suddenly half the stars were blotted out by an immense object in the sky. It didn't seem to come from anywhere — it just appeared in a flash."

"It was an eerie, terrifying sight. It was glittering gold and shaped like a horseshoe."

"All around it was a bright green haze. We watched the thing for about 10 minutes until it slowly receded and vanished."

The green haze Chantal described is a classic UFO phenomenon.

A weather eye kept on UFOs

WORCESTER weatherman Paul Damari is planning a link-up with the UFO investigation group Skyscan to help explain mystery sightings.



Worcester Independent Weather Centre is to develop a section to deal specifically with "optical phenomena".

Paul Damari (pictured), who helped set up the centre more than three years ago, says the section will work closely with Skyscan in dealing with UFO sightings.

"We get a lot of calls about sightings and a section of the centre dealing with these will link with Skyscan so that we can pool information," he said.

A UFO sighting reported in Malvern this week was likely to have been a fireball — one of many recorded by the weather centre at this time of the year.

The weather centre's records, detailing astronomical and meteorological statistics for the county, date back as far as the 12th century.

"We will be keeping an eye on the sky at night and hopefully draw on our records to explain sightings," he added.

EVENING NEWS, Hereford, England - Aug. 13, 1984 CR: T. Good

'I saw UFO flame above the Minster'



● Eddie Acaster's drawing of the UFO, seen disappearing into a bank of clouds.



● EDDIE ACASTER: Bizarre theory of how Minster fire was started. Picture by Darren Hartas.

TWO York men believe a UFO attack may have been responsible for the blaze at York Minster.

One, a York taxi driver, claims he saw a fast-moving Zeppelin-like object sending down a flame-coloured charge while it was over the Minster.

The other man, a van driver, made a separate sighting of the UFO earlier that night, and produced a drawing of what he saw, which has been exclusively obtained by the Express. Van driver, 55-year-old Eddie Acaster, of 86 North Moor Road, Huntington, and taxi driver, Bill Whitehead, aged 44, of Lock Cottage, Haxby Road, said they kept their UFO sightings secret until now for fear of being ridiculed.

But they came forward with their bizarre story in the hope that other people may have seen something similar, and that the UFO theory may shed some light on the mystery of the Minster fire.

Sightings

Eddie made his sighting at 10.30pm on Sunday night last week from outside his house.

He said he saw a Zeppelin-like object moving fast in a North Easterly direction from York.

He said it was glowing molten-orange in the clear skies, and had a white vapour trail following behind.

He stood watching it for about a minute before it vanished into a single cloud in the sky.

Soon after, there was a short but severe electrical disturbance, said Eddie.

"I have never seen lightning like it. It was too straight for lightning — lightning is jagged.

"It was like a rocket directed towards a ship.

"The 'lightning' was definitely aimed," said Eddie, who was an Army crack-shot during his service with the Green Howards.

Possibilities

Eddie said the object he saw was like a Zeppelin without an undercarriage or propellers.

The description is similar to that given by taxi driver Bill Whitehead.

He was on the St Sampson's Square taxi rank at around 2am, Monday morning, when he claims he saw the UFO over the Minster.

"I thought it was a UFO. It was flame coloured.

"It looked as if there was a

Mystery 'Zeppelin' seen by York pair on night of blaze

By Nick Ingelbrecht

charge coming out of the bottom of it. To me it seemed like a flame — unless it was lightning," said Bill.

He added: "It was strange. There was no noise coming from it. I thought it was a barrage balloon at first, but they don't travel at that speed."

One of the men investigating the Minster blaze is Divisional Commander Alan Stow of York fire brigade. He told the Express: "We have not eliminated anything from our inquiries at this stage. All possibilities are being investigated."

Puzzle

Local airports said they had nothing in the air at the time of the reported sightings.

Inquiries were made at RAF Linton-on-Ouse in respect of that base and those at Topcliffe, Church Fenton, Dishforth, Elvington, and RAF Leeming: Teesside airport, Leeds Bradford and Newcastle had no aircraft coming or going at that time.

Bill Whitehead said around six other people were in St Sampson's Square at the time he made his sighting.

They may be able to confirm the story.

Report your sighting to the Express by dialling York 39929.

YORKSHIRE POST, Leeds, England

July 19, 1984 CR: T. Good

Church fire blamed on aliens

Yorkshire Post Correspondent

CLAIMS that York Minster was set on fire by an alien space ship were received with scepticism by churchmen yesterday.

Two drivers said that they saw a Zeppelin-shaped object flying over the cathedral on the night of July 8.

Mr. Bill Whitehead, 44, a taxi driver, of Haxby, York, said he was at St. Sampson's Square rank at 2 a.m. when he saw what looked like a space ship sending down a flame-coloured ray of light while over the Minster.

Mr. Eddie Acaster, 55, a van driver, said he made a similar sighting from his home in North Moor Road, Huntington, York, and quickly sketched a picture of the UFO glowing brightly and leaving a white vapour trail.

Both men said they had not come forward sooner for fear of being ridiculed.

But yesterday, a Minster official, Canon Michael Bowering, said: "Have these chaps seen opticians lately? I look forward rather more to seeing the official fire officer's report."

A senior North Yorkshire fire officer engaged in the inquiry into the blaze added: "We have certain leads about the fire which we are investigating, but a UFO attack is not one of them."

Five RAF bases and three civil aviation airfields in the area revealed that no aircraft were in the vicinity at the time of the reported sightings nor were there any official UFO sightings.

Mystery UFO: More reports

A UFO mystery grew in Oxfordshire this week with another report of a strange sighting of a fireball in the sky.

Security officer Leonard Bowers had just returned to his home in Hamfield, Wantage, after a walk with his wife, Margaret, when he saw what he thought was a searchlight in the sky.

"I saw this big searchlight coming from due east, it was very bright and it came quite close. I thought at first it was a balloon," he said.

Sure

"Then it turned sharp north towards the Oxford, Abingdon direction at great speed, then the searchlight went out and it burst into flames and all the burning debris appeared to come to the ground.

Mr Bowers, who watched the spectacle with his wife and two passers-by for about five minutes, was sure the debris burnt up before it reached the ground.

Mr Bowers spotted the lights in the sky at about the same time — 9.45 pm on Sunday — as factory manager Mr Roger Johns, of Dean Butler Close, Wantage.

Strange encounter . . .

WHEN a Potton family were returning home from holiday they had the shock of their lives as the sky suddenly turned a dark gold colour.

Two large, bright orange and gold spheres appeared over the horizon, two more appeared beneath these and two more at the sides.

"It was absolutely fantastic, we had never seen anything like it before," said an excited Mrs Ruth Walstell.

The family made their unusual sightings not far from Stonehenge and now the Ministry of Defence is investigating their claims.

Martin, aged 11, the Walstells youngest son, is still in a state of shock and refuses to go out alone after seeing what appeared to be a moving star. This happened soon after the sky changed

colour as the Walstells were travelling home on the A303 towards London. Martin saw the object change colour from white to red, then green. Further down the road, before a sign to Quarley, Mrs Walstell saw a dome-shaped object in a field.

The time was after 11 pm and, unfortunately, no other eye-witnesses were in the vicinity to see the strange goings-on.

"Whether the dome shaped object was some sort of craft I don't know," said Mrs Walstell.

Flashing

The Walstells claim there was a bright yellow-gold light coming from each of the "windows" of an object the size of a house. They drove back to the field on the opposite side of the road to investigate — but the field was empty.

Further along the A303, Martin again saw the "star" moving across the sky. It was still flashing and changing colour and increasing in

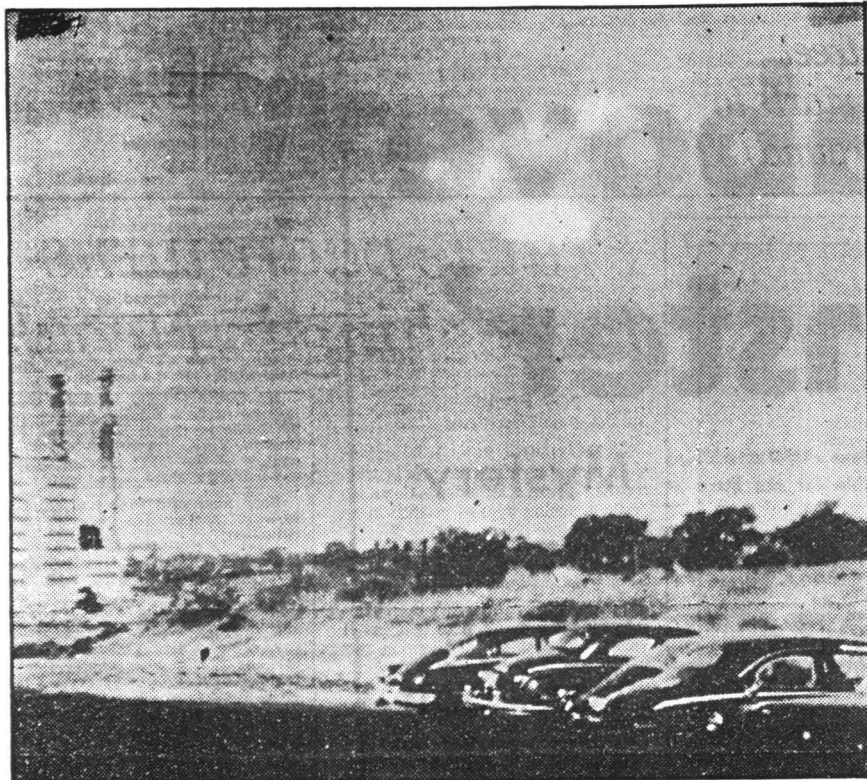
size when it split into two with each "star" turning bright yellow. The mysterious sightings joined together turning red, then white and then disappeared.

Shortly afterwards, Mrs Walstell's husband spotted more strange lights in the sky.

Martin looked through his father's field glasses and saw a strange shaped object with lights apparently coming from "windows".

Mrs Walstell added: "The star again split into two, again turned red and they appeared to be chasing each other across the sky at an unbelievable speed."

By this time it was well after midnight and the family were well down the M3. They insist their sightings were genuine and would like to hear from anyone locally who might be able to explain the extraordinary UFO s.



Many UFOs were seen in the 1950s, this year they've doubled in Manitoba.

Mystery hovers over rash of UFO sightings

By Bradley Bird

Rain threatened, thunder boomed and lightning flashed June 22 at 11 p.m. when 10 Delta Marsh cottagers saw the bright light over Lake Manitoba.

Dorothy Mulvey and son-in-law Richard Egan were among them, watching an electrical storm across the lake. They say the light swerved erratically toward them, then found the shoreline and followed it east.

This was reported in Portage la Prairie's *Daily Graphic* as an unidentified flying object, one of 12 reported sightings in Manitoba this year.

And, like 90 per cent of them, this one was explained. "It turned out to be a crop dusting plane hit by lightning. His instruments were out, and he was having trouble flying home, so he used his landing lights to guide him," says Chris Rutkowski, chairman of Ufology Research of Manitoba (Uforom) and UFO Canada, of which the former group is a member.

The 12 reports since Christmas are twice as many as Manitobans reported last year during the same time, and Rutkowski, who keeps a file of 500 UFO reports from Manitobans, says he can't explain the increase.

"Maybe it's because more people are aware of looking up into the sky," says Guy Westcott, Rutkowski's colleague in the five-member Uforom and president of the Winnipeg Astronomical Society, of which Rutkowski is also a council member.

Westcott says the space shuttle, orbiting satellites, movies such as *E.T.* and awareness that Halley's Comet is coming in 1½ years have all increased people's awareness of space.

While 10 of the 12 sightings have been explained as bolides (large meteors), satellites, planets (such as Jupiter, Venus, Mars, Saturn), aircraft, and balloons, two are mysteriously different, says Rutkowski, 25, an astronomer who earned a B.Sc. from the University of Manitoba.

Objects travel at high speed

At 6:45 a.m. on Jan. 5, two Dauphin residents, including a school teacher, witnessed several saucer-shaped objects travelling at high speed. The rainbow colored UFOs came from the northeast "at speeds 200 times faster than a jet." But for a few scattered clouds, the sky was clear.

"The winds were from the west, so that ruled out balloons," Rutkowski says, adding that Environment Canada launches weather balloons from Yorkton, Sask. He says it might have been a spectacular bolide, a meteor which takes some time to burn up in

the atmosphere, and which sometimes crashes to earth. "We have this one down as an unknown."

At 11:45 p.m. on May 27, two Beresford Lake women out gazing for satellites saw a bright orange light. The oval object hovered low for five minutes and then vanished, extinguished like a flame. "Once again, we have to classify that as an unknown," Rutkowski says.

"It's quite likely that there is life out there somewhere," he says. "With so many billions of stars, the probability is quite good that some of the planets around the stars have life on them."

Westcott agrees. "I think it would be naive if we didn't think a certain percentage of these are from other planets, because we're putting out spacecraft to other planets, so why can't somebody else do the same?"

Swing from belief to disbelief

Westcott says "we do get a lot of crazies, I'll admit that," but a lot of the people who report to us are sincere.

Robert Ballantyne, director of the Winnipeg Planetarium, says there is a Manitoba Centre of UFO Studies at the planetarium but adds that "it's not a high profile" operation. He says scientists swing from belief to disbelief about the likelihood of life on other planets.

"There was a time when scientists pooh-poohed it and said there was nothing there." In the '70s, a research institute was set up in the U.S., and belief in extra-terrestrial life increased. "Nowadays you find that scientist, led by Carl Sagan, tend to downplay the phenomenon of UFOs," Ballantyne says. Rutkowski says Sagan believes in life on other planets, but not in UFOs.

Rutkowski, a library technician at the U of M, says he has between 200 and 250 sightings on file from Winnipeggers dating back to 1896, when an airship flew over.

The oldest sighting he has on record is one by David Thompson, an explorer who in 1792 wrote in his diary that he saw a strange light. "We really have to dig to get a lot of our information," Rutkowski says. "We're pretty close to detectives in a lot of ways."

He says the RCMP, reporters, old diaries, and witnesses provide Uforom, a five-year-old organization, with leads to pursue.

Leads come from all over Manitoba, but most frequently from Winnipeg because of the higher concentration of population, he says. "We did some studies with the computer (at the U of M) and the peak time (for sightings) appears to be from 10 to 11 p.m." and the peak months are May and June.

UFO? No, I don't think so

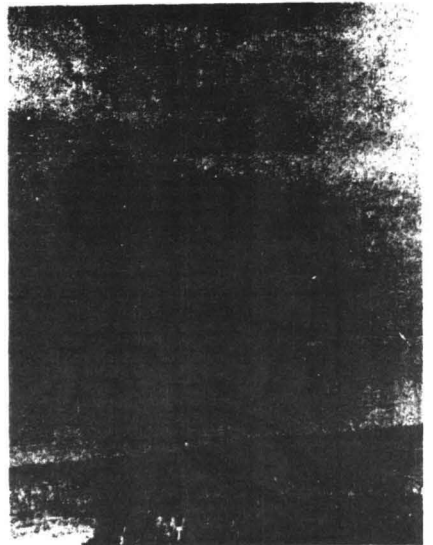
THE area's leading authority on UFO sightings has poured scorn on the idea that the 'mysterious' marks which appeared in a cornfield near Seaford (pictured right) was the result of a visit from alien beings.

Phillip Taylor, of Polegate, regional investigation co-ordinator for the British UFO Research Association, said the marks were an elaborate hoax and the perpetrators must be highly delighted with the amount of publicity their prank had received including a full page in the *Daily Mail*.

Similar marks to those at Rathfinny Farm just outside Seaford had appeared in Wiltshire for the past four years.

It was more than a coincidence, he thought, that both the Wiltshire and Seaford sites were called Cradle Hill.

It had been proved that such marks could be made by two or three people in less than an hour using chains to flatten the corn.



MAIL, Oxford, England - Aug. 23, 1984 CR: T. Good

Mystery of bright UFO deepens

THE mystery is deepening over possible UFO activity in the night skies above Wantage with yet another unexplained sighting of a strange airborne craft.

Mrs June Bourton and her husband Ronald were hosting a barbecue in their garden at Stockham Way when the object appeared.

Mrs Bourton said: "About 10.30 p.m., we saw this big ball and I thought I saw a little outline around the top. It was going very fast, there was no sound and it was as bright as the sun. We thought it might be a balloon, but surely it

wouldn't be a balloon up at night.

The Bourton's home is not far from Naldertown where former Wantage mayor Mr Peter Rolls saw an unusually bright light from the doorway of his house a week before.

Mr Rolls took pictures but the results have been inconclusive.

Mrs Burton's son, Robert, who was at the Saturday night barbecue, is now waiting to see what turns up on photographs he took of the object.

The UFO was visible for about five minutes, having appeared above nearby Wantage convent.

EVENING TELEGRAPH, Northamptonshire, England - Aug. 14, 1984

Riddle of the flying saucer

TWO RUSHDEN school-boys believe they spotted a flying saucer over the town.

Heath Bulpit, 15, of Wentworth Road, and his friend, Steven Wooding, 15, of Irchester Road, say they saw a strange-looking silvery object spiral towards them.

They dashed into Heath's house nearby for a camera, but by the time they returned to the street it was gone.

Now, the pair plan to contact the Interplanetary Space Travel Research Association with details of the sighting.

Steven said: "It was a strange silvery object which reflected the sunlight — definitely not an aeroplane. It was rotating very quickly, sort of spiralling in orbit, and it must have been travelling very fast because it was nowhere in sight when we returned with the camera."

The boys, who are pupils at Rushden Boys' School hope to hear from anyone who may have seen the UFO last Friday evening. Heath can be contacted by telephoning Rushden 50675.

CR: T. Good

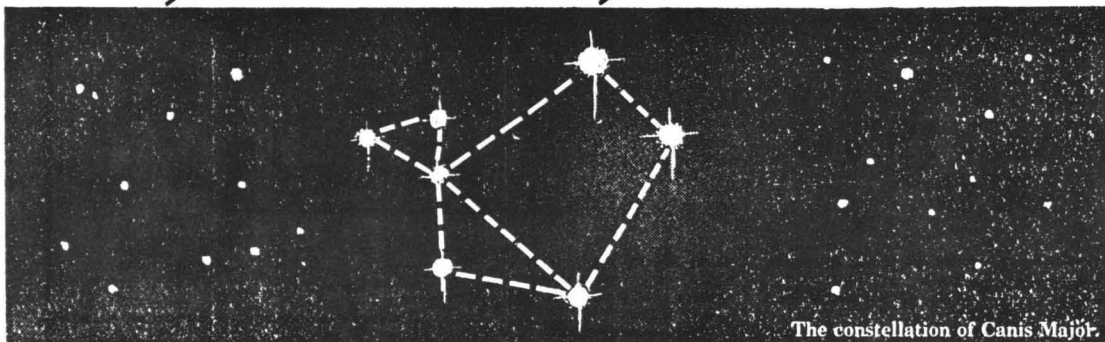
Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star . . .



Jason Wallace . . . son of Zac and a new star in his own right.



Sarah Dunn, who plays Gretchen, the major character in *Children of the Dog Star*.



The constellation of Canis Major.



Caterina De Nave . . . There was idea after idea coming in from all involved — it was marvellous.

By GRAHAM SCOTT

Few could have gazed heavenward on a clear late summer night and not wondered about that brightest star of all in the sky.

Wonder no more. Light will soon be shed on that cosmic glow so many light years away. Television New Zealand, in association with Thames Television, is about to launch an interstellar close encounter between God's Own and the constellation of Canis Major.

A space probe, it seems, was sent to earth thousands of years ago from the Dog Star Sirius B, that distant white dwarf in deep space which burns 23 times brighter than our sun.

Electrifying things

happen when three New Zealand children find pieces of the alien probe in a swamp.

Gripping

It is a story that makes gripping television, say people lucky enough to have had a sneak preview of the six-part series *Children of the Dog Star*.

Post-production work on the science fiction thriller finished in Auckland on Wednesday and the series will begin screening on TV-2 on Sunday, September 9.

Producer Caterina De

Nave believes the storyline for *Children of the Dog Star* is so good that the series will be a winner.

Adults

"It really is a good story," she said yesterday. "The thriller format of cliff-hangers and unexplained things should appeal to adults as well as to children."

Series writer Ken Catran got the basic idea for his script from Kumeu writer Marie Stutterd, who plans soon to bring out a novel based on the series.

Caterina De Nave's genuine interest in things celestial is matched by her earthly degrees in anthropology and political studies.

She has been careful to keep feet planted firmly on the ground and not let the production slip too far out of this world.

"We couldn't compete with the special effects of shows like *Star Wars*, so we didn't try," she said.

Ingenuity

"The audience is enormously sophisticated. They're used to sophisticated technology and visual excitement.

Without the untold millions with which George Lucas and Steven Spielberg make hay while the stars shine, Caterina De Nave and her team had to make do with good old Kiwi ingenuity.

Fortified by their good storyline, they tackled the problems of special effects and locations with a commendable vengeance.

Night

Many special effects had to be shot in Auckland television studios late at night when transmission was finished and machines were available.

Buildings were constructed at other locations and blown apart by a TVNZ pyrotechnics crew.

Much of the location work was filmed at Patumahoe, a sleepy hollow near Pukekohe where unidentified flying objects are not viewed as mere passing fancies.

The meetings to discuss design and concept ideas for *Children of the Dog Star* were, said Caterina De Nave, the most exciting and alive sessions she had ever attended.

Impressed

"There was idea after idea coming from all involved. It was marvellous."

Caterina De Nave was also much impressed by the star qualities of the

three young earthlings chosen from the 900 children who auditioned for the major roles in *Children of the Dog Star*. "These kids were marvellous," said Caterina De Nave of Sarah Dunn, Jason Wallace and Hamish Bartle.

Sarah Dunn, aged 13, plays the main character, Gretchen.

It is Sarah's first serious television appearance. Jason Wallace, 12, plays Ronny Kepa. Jason was "spotted" by *Children of the Dog Star* director Chris Bailey when Jason's better-known dad, Zac, was auditioning for a part in the series.

Hamish Bartle, 11, plays Bevis Elliott, a shy boy in the series whose major interest is bird watching.

Hamish has made the occasional television commercial and had a part in the television drama *The Garden Party*.

Strange lights in sky over Wantage

TIMES, Oxford, England - Aug. 17, 1984 CR: T. Good

Factory manager Roger Johns thought he was seeing stars as he stepped a beer in his back garden and watched a white light in the sky.

But as he continued to watch, the light changed colour and broke into pieces.

"I just couldn't work out what it was," said Mr Johns of Dean Butler Close, Wantage. "Then the minutes later on exactly the same trajectory exactly the same thing happened again."

"It came from the south-east over the horizon heading north-east at a great rate. As it got closer it turned orange then red and then started breaking into pieces before disappearing."

"I thought it was like a meteor but it was visible for about three minutes. Then five minutes later another one appeared."

Mr Johns' wife Tanya and 13-year-old son Stephen, though not in the garden at the time,

for Catherine, ten, and neighbour Glanville Turner also watched the lights in the sky at 9.45 pm on Sunday.

"I was glad there were some people with me. I was drinking a glass of beer and if I had been on my own I would have put it down to the drink."

"It was in the sky for several minutes, long enough for me to get my binoculars from inside the house and have a closer look."

"I keep an open mind on UFOs and the like, but I haven't got a clue what they were."

SUNDAY TIMES, Perth, W.A., Australia - Aug. 12, 1984 CR: M. Heelas

Man's 'proof' that UFOs are real

A LOCKRIDGE man says he has proof that Unidentified Flying Objects really do exist.

Mr Mark Heelas has obtained an official document from the US under the Freedom of Information act.

The document was sent from the Strategic Arms Command to the director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Washington in 1950.

The SAC, an arm of the United States Air Force, asked the FBI to investigate the discovery of three flying saucers which were found in the New Mexico desert.

Mr Heelas, a UFO buff and founder of the WA UFO Investigation Centre, said the official report said three saucers had crashed on March 22, 1950, after being picked up by a huge American radar centre stationed in the area.

"Newspapers are always after proof that UFOs exist. Well, if this isn't proof, I don't know what is," Mr Heelas said.

"An American group, Citizens Against UFO Secrecy, managed to obtain the document which I understand was not supposed to be released under the act."

"They sent it to us as proof that the American Government knows very well what is happening but is trying to hide the whole thing from the public."

The document said three bodies, similar to humans, were found in the crashed airships.

They were wrapped in special clothes, similar to those worn by speed pilots, and found in the cockpit of the aircraft.

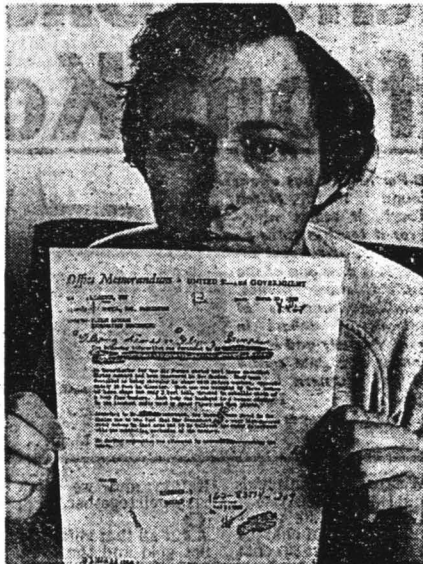
"What I would like to

By TONY BARRASS

know is what actually happened to the bodies," Mr Heelas said. "Here we have proof that UFOs do exist, but our next aim is to find out where the bodies ended up."

Mr Heelas claims he has sighted three UFOs in Perth skies. His organisation was founded last year and now has 93 members.

"We are not trying to tell people they exist, we just want them to look at the information we have and make up their own minds," he said.



Mr Mark Heelas with his copy of an official US document.

EVENING SENTINEL, Stoke-on-Trent, England

Aug. 15, 1984 CR: D. Speed

Cinema boss spots U.F.O.

CINEMA boss Steve Parry has one up on thousands of North Staffs. television viewers who saw an "alien craft" bring the Olympics to a finale.

While they were glued to their sets, Steve was watching his very own U.F.O. — hovering near his Chell Heath home.

The unusual sighting has left him completely baffled.

"I have done observation training and also keep well up on aircraft recognition, but this was like nothing I have ever seen," he said.

Steve described the object as orange, with no navigational lights and no solid outline.

It was static, although it appeared to keep changing shape. I called my wife down and she watched it with me."

He said that after about 30 seconds the shape disappeared.

Steve, assistant manager at Hanley's A.B.C., added "I'm not saying it was an alien craft or anything like that, but it was certainly an unidentified flying object."



In pursuit of Bigfoot

A unique adventure by Tom Stienstra

Gunning for a fabled beast without guns

It has many names on many continents — Abominable Snowman, Yeti, Sasquatch, Mono Grande, Ohmahah, Agachikishi — but he has come to be known here as Bigfoot, a fabled man-ape that haunts the desolate wilderness of the Northwest. Examiner outdoors writer Tom Stienstra headed a three-member team that for three weeks roamed the high country of Northern California and Southern Oregon, areas where man has rarely, if ever, traveled, to search for the legendary creature. In his eight-part series, "In Pursuit of Bigfoot," Stienstra tries to separate fact from fiction that surrounds the lore of Bigfoot.

By Tom Stienstra
Examiner outdoor writer
Second of an eight-part series

CLEAR CREEK — Michael Furniss snapped his head as if somebody had jerked him up by the hair. "There's something up there," he shouted, pointing at the high, snow-flecked terrain across a steep canyon.

For the single flash of a moment, I caught a glimpse of a large furry creature walking on two legs, perhaps seven feet tall, disappearing into the woods some two miles distant.

Then there was nothing but stillness. We stared at the mountain, searching for any movement.

"Probably was a bear, not Bigfoot," said Furniss, the scientist among us on the Examiner Bigfoot Expedition.

But even the scientist was not completely convinced. He grabbed the binoculars, and scoped the mountain. "Nothing now," he said, but he continued to probe, waiting. We set up a watch.

This is the Siskiyou Wilderness, Bigfoot Country, just below Devil's Punchbowl — a giant rock bowl that was carved out by glacial action, in which a jewel of a lake has since formed. It is remote, and judging by the complete lack of hiker tracks in the snowfields we had crossed, we are the first to explore the area this year.

These mountains are filled with mysteries and magic. One of the earliest Bigfoot sightings recorded occurred near here on Jan. 2, 1886, and was reported in the now defunct *Del Norte Record*.

"Mr. Jack Dover, one of our most trustworthy citizens," the account reads, "saw an object standing one hundred and fifty yards from him picking berries or tender shoots from the bushes. The thing was of gigantic size — about seven feet high — with a bulldog head, short ears, and long hair. He aimed his gun at the animal, or whatever it was, several times, but because it was so human, would not shoot."

Sightings similar in nature have been repeated in these mountains hundreds of times this century. The key here is the habitat. The Klamath and Siskiyou ranges have a remarkable variety of trees, plants and animals, and beyond past reports of strange sightings of giant creatures here, is a critical factor why this area was selected for part of the expedition.

"It is an established fact that this area has the greatest diversity of conifers in one place anywhere in the world," Furniss said. The area also has the food, water and remoteness Bigfoot would demand.

One of the best examples is near the trail from Trout Camp to Wilderness Falls, where the bedrock alternates from "granitic" to "peridotite," just the habitat changes we had been searching for.

"Granite gives rise to a tan, sandy soil that grows an abundance of vegetation, grasses and trees," Furniss said. "Peridotite gives rise to a red soil, impoverished, that grows a more slow-growing, sparse-looking flora."

It is on these "edges" of habitat, where granitic and peridotite meet, where wildlife is often abundant and varied — and if you want to find Bigfoot, you must first find his home. In a 30-minute span, we saw footprints from bear, deer, mountain lion — as well as a small pocket of water next to a meadow, mysteriously muddled. From what?

"Some kind of animal had been playing in it," observed Furniss. A Bigfoot, or Gigantopithecus, may roam here as well.

Tales of a giant man/beast are relatively common in the remote areas of the Pacific Northwest, the Himalayas, and even in the Soviet Union. But the Klamath/Siskiyou mountains are one of the few places in the world where the creature has shown an occasional tendency toward violence.



Photo by Jeff Patty

Tom Stienstra gets close to Bigfoot — a statue of him in Willow Creek. Related story on Page F9

One of the first episodes was recorded in 1890 in the rarely seen book, "The Hermit of Siskiyou," in which a bizarre tale was reported from a logging camp:

"One morning, our guards failed to come in for breakfast," the account reads. "That ain't like a logging man. We went out to look. The poor souls had been picked up like firewood and slammed against those big tree trunks. We armed ourselves and followed the tracks. We had no doubt that old Bigfoot had murdered them. We followed his trail far into the Siskiyou Mountains, and finally lost it in some volcanic rocks."

Truth or fiction? Tales of old-time mountain men have a way of plying fiction with truth. For instance, even the great Davey Crockett claimed to have pointed a gun at a bush, whereupon a raccoon came out with his hands up. In another story, he is reputed to have escaped an attack from the Spanish army by riding a bear down a waterfall. Such are stories of some mountain men.

Regardless, the stories of Bigfoot attacks in the Siskiyou remain, and a good many people up here believe them. It is the violence factor that has led some to question our sanity for not bringing any kind of gun along, say a .45-cal. handgun, which can provide ideal protection in the woods.

Why not bring a gun? The answer lies in Bigfoot's alleged sensory abilities, his ability to detect the smell of gun powder, oil and metal, which has a distinct scent.

"We can theorize that Bigfoot lives by his nose," said Jeff Patty, a seasoned woodsman on the expedition. "To a large extent, his nose is his brain. The forest is dense, and I personally doubt the creature's eyesight is so amazing, since it would rarely need remarkable eyesight. Its sense of smell, on the other hand, is probably so developed that it is as if we, in comparison, do not even have noses."

"Even the hint of gunpowder, or anything hinting of guns, given Bigfoot's intelligence, and it's goodbye, you'll never see him."

It is for this reason, Patty believes, that Bigfoot has never been hunted down and shot — and never will be. An planned expedition this summer by Mark Kellar of Arcata

to hunt down and kill Bigfoot will be like searching for a polar bear in the desert.

"We'll bring no gun," I affirmed before the expedition started, to keep our chances of discovery the greatest.

And now, across the canyon on the mountain side, we had seen a large creature, similar to the description of Bigfoot. At daybreak, we set up a watch, keeping the binoculars trained on the area where it had been seen. The brief glimpse the evening before had me nervous.

It was my turn at the watch, and I dropped the binoculars and just gazed at the wonder of this country for a few minutes. A glacial peak towered above the canyon, its sides studded with fir and pines, the only noise being a rustling of a light breeze through the tree tops.

Just then, bang, I saw a movement on the mountain side about two miles distant, and then a dark shape emerge on a clearing.

I raised the binoculars so fast that they banged off my eyebrows, then sighted in the creature. "What is it?" shouted Furniss.

"Take a look, I said," handing him the binoculars.

The scientist peered at the mountain, then smiled. "It's him all right," Furniss said.

"Is it Bigfoot?" Patty demanded.

Nope. Just Smokey Bear, making his morning rounds.

A warning

EDITOR'S NOTE: Readers not in peak physical condition, or untrained in wilderness travel, should not attempt to hike in areas described in the Examiner Bigfoot Expedition. In many cases, river crossings, steep terrain, animal trails and temperature conditions can put even experienced backpackers in considerable danger.



Photo by Michael Furniss

Jeff Patty checks out the size of the footprint of Bigfoot on a sidewalk in Willow Creek

Creature's part of local economy in Willow Creek

By Tom Stienstra
Examiner staff writer

WILLOW CREEK — We saw giant footprints here, and then we saw Bigfoot himself. In fact, I went right up to him and let him wear my Examiner hat. Only problem was, this Bigfoot was made out of wood.

At Willow Creek, a town of 2,800 people located 50 miles east of Eureka, Bigfoot is alive and well, even if he is wood.

There's a Bigfoot Lumber Company, Bigfoot Golf Club and a Bigfoot Campground. A giant footprint that measures about seven feet long and four feet wide has been painted on the sidewalk in front of the *Klamity Kourier*, the town's newspaper, and on the top of Page 1 of the *Kourier* itself is a drawing of Bigfoot with footprints trailing across the page.

A hand-carved Bigfoot, eight feet tall, sits in front of a restaurant called The Flame. Inside, they serve a Bigfoot Sandwich, which is a grilled ham and cheese with a tingle of Ortega peppers on sourdough bread. It costs \$4.25, and Bigfoot probably would enjoy it.

At a short-order joint called Mountain Annnies, we bought a lime Bigfoot slush, which cost darn near a buck. How about a plain lime slush for a little less money? "Sorry, we don't have any of those, just Bigfoot slushes."

At the Bigfoot Golf Course, a trail of painted footprints — that glow faintly in the dark — can lead you to the clubhouse. At the pro shop, you can buy a Bigfoot golf cap for \$3. And where do you think the golf club is located? Why on Bigfoot Avenue, of course.

Few of the people who live here will say they have seen Bigfoot or its tracks, but most believe in the creature.

"I think that there is something out there," said Jack Foster, 57, owner of Sports & Spirits and a lifelong resident of Willow Creek. "I've talked to enough people who have lived here a long time, and some rangers too, and they swear there's a Bigfoot. I mean, they talk about things that could not be explained, and in my mind, I believe they are telling the truth."

Bonnie Haynes, who dispenses tourist information, said her husband Don has seen the footprints of Bigfoot.

"He was up in the woods where he logs, went up there in the middle of winter to check some equipment, and saw the big tracks all around," she said. "You know it's something out there."

She added that Bigfoot has "brought a lot of tourists through," and added: "Especially with the logging going downhill around here, it has really, really helped the economy."

Unidentified object lands west of SV

What landed with a whistle and a bang in the ditch at the Ron LaGran residence just West of Spring Valley Sunday remains a mystery.

LaGran said Monday that the Sheriff's Department took samples of an icy blue glob that landed near where the family was gathered for a photograph about 1 p.m.

"We were in the yard, taking pictures and getting ready to go to graduation when it seemed like it was the fourth of July. We heard a whistle and a bang and whatever it was hit the ditch, breaking into pieces," the Spring Valley superintendent of schools related.

He described it as a dark blue ice. He called the sheriff's department, which took a sample, and he saved a sample for himself in the freezer.

A friend has suggested that the substance might be discharge from the rest room on an airplane, but LaGran isn't sure.

"We didn't hear a plane, but it could have been a jet 25,000 to 30,000 feet up. Whatever it was, it came down fast and made an indentation in the ground. If it had hit somebody, it would have killed them," he said.

WORLD, Tahoe City, CA - July 5, 1984

Believe It Or Not

Another Lake Tahoe Monster Sighting

Just when you thought it was safe...

For the second time within the same week, the legendary Lake Tahoe Monster has been spotted, this time off Kings Beach.

Roxane Brodnick, 28, who lives next door to the Kings Beach boat ramp, spotted the "creature" on June 21 or 22 while rowing in her 12-foot boat. She was unsure of the exact date of the sighting because she went rowing both days.

"I rowed my boat out like I usually do, and I saw this thing moving," Brodnick said. "At

first I thought it was a rock...it was very dark and black."

She said at the time she thought maybe she was imagining the "thing," but after reading the Tahoe World's account last week of two Tahoe City women who also claimed to have seen the monster, she started to wonder.

"It blew me away when I read the story today," she said last Friday. "I'm sure what I saw was the same thing."

Brodnick said she thought at first that the object was a school of huge fish, but on further inspection decided it was one living entity. It was, she reported, 17 to 20 feet long,

almost twice as long as her rowboat.

The Kings Beach woman said she was about 200 feet from the "monster." It couldn't have been a rock, she said, because it was moving. Not wanting to get too close to it, she watched for a minute or so until the thing disappeared from sight.

Brodnick's story about the monster is similar to that of Patsy McKay and Diane Stavarakis, who were hiking near Eagle Rock on the West Shore June 19 when they spotted something unusual in the lake below them.

McKay estimated the "mon-

ster's" length as at least 17 feet. "It emerged from the water like a little submarine," she said. "It popped up three different times."

Stavarakis said the object was definitely living, and seemed to undulate through the water.

These sightings are the first since the summer of 1982, when two Reno policemen reported seeing a "huge, ugly, dark object" swimming in the water near them.

Several explanations have been posed to account for the presence of the supposed monster-size fish.

Cook Keeps Eye on Recent Bigfoot Sighting

By TOM MITCHELL

CASTLETON — Recent reports of activity that is believed to be caused by a legendary ape-like creature in the towns of Whitehall, N.Y., and Kinderhook, N.Y., have sparked the interest of local anthropologist Dr. Warren Cook.

During the past year, Cook, a member of the Castleton State College faculty, has researched reports from California of a large creature known as Sasquatch.

The large creatures, who some believe are relatives of man, have also been called Bigfoot, Yeti, Swamp Ape and Bushman.

After finding a new set of tracks on May 6, Bruce Hallenbach Jr. of Kinderhook said Sunday that he and members of his family had heard sounds believed to be cries made by the creature.

The latest sequence of sounds was heard last Friday night, said Hallenbach.

Hallenbach's grandmother, Martha Hallenbach, said Saturday she heard a high-pitched sound, which she described as a "laughing cry, like a laughing hyena."

Mrs. Hallenbach said she heard a similar sound — a terrible piercing scream — several years ago on a night when she said she saw a Bigfoot creature.

Bruce Hallenbach said he found three sets of the footprints on May 6 in a remote part of Kinderhook under a bridge near a creek bed. The prints measured 10½ inches, slightly less than 14 inches and 6 inches in length.

Cook has kept informed concerning reports of Bigfoot activity in New York. Saying reports of Bigfoot encounters should not be laughed at, Cook said he wanted to know of any similar future sightings.

Cook refers to places where the creature is reported to be abundant as "hot spots." Cook said he believed the creature could exist in Vermont.

The Bigfoot creature's supposedly strong sense of smell and knowledge of its territory make it particularly elusive, said Cook. The creature is also a nocturnal one, added Cook.

Some researchers say efforts should be made to shoot one of the creatures to enable study of its body by scientists. However, Cook disagrees.

Cook said he did not think the creatures would harm humans and needed to be protected from extinction.

"Killing one for the sake of establishing the species' existence might tip the scales against survival of a limited breeding pool," said Cook.

During a recent presentation by Cook at Castleton State College, there were skeptics in the audience that came to see a variety of color films and photographs of a Bigfoot creature.

However, there were also believers present.

Paul Bartholomew, a Bigfoot enthusiast from Whitehall, mentioned numerous sightings in New York's Washington County in the 1970s.

When contacted Saturday, Bartholomew said he had visited Hallenbach to see a casting of the footprint made following the Kinderhook man's May 6 discovery.

According to Bartholomew, screeching sounds believed to be made by the creature were also heard on May 10 and May 11 by five people at the Skene Valley Country Club in Whitehall and three people at the Whitehall School.

A substantial amount of Cook's recent study has been concentrated on Ivan Marx's photographic and film work.

A brief segment of the color documentary film "In the Shadow of Bigfoot" contains photos taken by Marx of the ape-like creature in California's Shasta County.

Although he pointed out that Marx has been accused of being involved in several fraudulent Sasquatch films, Hallenbach said he was very interested in seeing the film. Cook plans to make another presentation next fall.

Cook, who advised Marx during the making of his latest Bigfoot film, said he questioned



Dr. Warren Cook

Marx extensively on his Sasquatch research. On nine occasions, Marx obtained films of the Sasquatch creature. Cook said, however, he could not come up with conclusive proof that Marx had ever made a bogus film.

There is friction among Bigfoot investigators, and Marx's pictures are ridiculed by some competitors, Cook said.

Cook said he believed the Sasquatch creature appeared to be the closest living relative to mankind.

He said the Bigfoot creature was similar to a variety of australopithecus, a genus of extinct primates, represented by a skull found in South Africa.

To save the sasquatch by killing it

If there is such a thing as a sasquatch, it belongs on the endangered species list for it is surely the rarest of animals. The sightings of Bigfoot that have been reported read like the sightings of those unidentified flying objects of a few years ago, and yet some people claim to be convinced that there is such a creature roaming the deep forests of the Pacific Northwest. One of these is a Washington State University an-

thropologist, Grover S. Krantz. Krantz is not satisfied with knowing the sasquatch is out there; he wants a corpse. He wants one of the animals killed, he says, in order to save the species from extinction. His reasoning: Humans won't know whether they are encroaching on the animal's territory, and endangering it, unless they have a specimen to study. So he is backing a shoot-to-kill posse that is scour-

ing the backwoods from a secret base this summer in search of Bigfoot. If the hunters succeed in finding and killing a sasquatch, there will be one fewer specimen of a creature which, if it exists at all, must be on the very brink of extinction. And if they do bag their quarry, thereby proving that the sasquatch is indeed real, the woods will soon be full of trophy hunters determined to eliminate every last one.

Krantz can't save the sasquatch by having it shot. All that can save it, if it is out there, is for humans to leave it alone and forget it. The anthropologist could of course prove, with a corpse, that he was right all along in claiming there was such an animal. That might please the scientist, but it wouldn't help the animal. — L. H.

8 O'CLOCK, Auckland, New Zealand - July 7, 1984 CR: R. Collins

Amorous Mrs Yeti



THE ABOMINABLE snowman is alive and well in Southern Tibet — and he has a mate, say two Chinese scientists.

They claim a young Tibetan man was awoken in a Himalayan mountain cabin by a large, hairy female form, apparently intent on mating with him.

He and a friend overpowered the Yeti and tied her to a post but she was gone in the morning, said anthropologist's Chen Naiwen and Zhag Guoying.

The scientists, writing in the magazine *China Reconstructs*, said they heard many stories of wild men while studying minority nationalities in Tibet.

One hunter told of being awakened in a cave by the sound of roaring and a hail of stones.

Menacing him at the cave entrance was a big hairy creature he later described as taller than a man but definitely not an ape.

He stoked up his fire and frightened it away.

Inhabitants of Chentang village, near the Tibetan border with Nepal and Sikkim told the scientists they often came across "wild men" while hunting in the forests.

Usually the creatures and hunters departed in opposite directions.

'Aliens' theory revived in huge Siberian blast

HERALD-JOURNAL, Syracuse, NY
Aug. 3, 1984 CR: R. Barrow

MOSCOW (UPI) — A mighty explosion that devastated 1,500 square miles of central Siberia in 1908 may have been caused by an alien spaceship crashing to Earth, a Soviet scientist says.

About 7 a.m. on June 30, 1908, an object moved over the vast central Siberian landscape and exploded with a force that flattened trees over 830 square miles, ignited forests over a larger region and produced an earthquake.

The blast was estimated at the equivalent of a 35-megaton bomb and was felt 600 miles away. About 1,500 square miles were devastated.

A scientist identified only as N. Vassiliev, who headed an expedi-

tion from the University of Tomsk, said the angle and speed of impact for whatever caused the great Tunguska explosion do not support the theory it was caused by a comet or meteorite — the most common explanations through the years.

A recent meeting of the Siberian branch of the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences concluded the explosion "cannot be considered within the concepts accepted so far," Vassiliev said in an interview with the government newspaper *Izvestia*.

Important new data undermines earlier views that the explosion was caused by a comet or meteorite colliding with the Earth, since it would have struck at a high speed

and angle, he said.

There is proof that just before it exploded, the object changed from an east-to-west direction to move north, the scientist said.

"We must admit, therefore, that the object changed its height and azimuth in the atmosphere, and made a sharp turn to the west over the Angara River," Vassiliev said.

"Phenomena produced by it may testify to the existence in space of matter unknown to us or ... a meeting with an extraterrestrial space vehicle or a probe," he said. "There are scientists who consider that objective data that is available now does not exclude this possibility."

He said lead collected previously from the area has proved to be 11 billion years old — about three times the age of Earth. The lead, however, has not been proved to be part of the explosion.

In addition, he said, "extraordinary light phenomena" were recorded that summer, long before and after the blast shook the forests of Siberia.

Vassiliev noted the Academy of Sciences has begun a program "focused on the possibility of revealing a probe of an extraterrestrial civilization placed within the solar system or even on an orbit around the Earth."

8 O'CLOCK, Auckland, New Zealand
July 7, 1984 CR: R. Colllyns

'DEATH OCEAN' MYSTERY

MORE THAN 48 craft have gone missing in a mysterious "Bermuda Triangle" which has appeared in the Pacific Ocean 4000km north of New Zealand.

All have been lost within the past ten months.

And the New Zealand Government is sending money to help solve the mystery — and ensure local sailors stay clear of the danger area.

On June 9, the 8 O'Clock ran the incredible story of

By JOHN WILSON

a fisherman who survived for 36 days in the Triangle. Tetual Bina says it was only his faith in God — and his constant prayers that saved his life.

Similar tales have been told by survivors from the original Bermuda Triangle in the Caribbean.

Almost all the survivors of the mysterious area of sea that swallows ships without trace attribute their survival to faith and prayer.

Commenting on the Pacific Triangle the latest issue of the South Pacific Commission's Fisheries Newsletter says:

"Incidents of this kind are far from rare.

"Now the Government of Kiribati is being assisted by New Zealand in trying to counter the problem."

The Kiribati Government is so alarmed at the number of vanishing craft that it is taking "urgent action" on the matter.

Most of the missing craft have come from the island of Tarawa which was a major battleground in World War II.

Some locals believe the spirits of dead Japanese and Allied soldiers who perished in the bloody battle for the islands are luring the local fishermen to their graves.

But some scientists think it is a subterranean effect, similar to that which causes underwater volcanoes to suddenly appear and disappear in the waters around Tonga.

Only a few of the lost craft have ever been traced.

In 1983, the Kiribati government spent \$50,000 vainly searching for missing craft in the area.

"And it looks as if we could top that this year," said local Marine Superintendent Beiaiti Highland.

New Zealand has pledged \$20,000 to buy safety equipment so local sailors will know when they are heading into the "Sea-of-the-Lost," as the area is known.

The local Tarawa Technical Institute is so worried about the disappearances that it is running special courses in navigation and small-boat survival for crews who find themselves in the dreaded area.

'Big Foot' — UFO stink!

UFO fever is back!

By Don Farmer

peared in 1960 after a rash of sightings.

A Christchurch man, driving near Clarence Bridge, Kaikoura, said he was temporarily anaesthetised by a UFO.

He pulled off the street to sleep but was quickly awoken by a dazzling, white fuzzy light shining into the car.

The next morning he found a set of huge footprints on the ground around his car.

Big Foot reappeared in 1974, leaving huge footprints in sand on a windswept area of the South Island coast.

This time the prints were accompanied by landing marks, said by ufologists to have been made by an alien craft.

tion for the lights. There were no boats in the area at the time," he said.

Witnesses claimed the bright light stayed suspended in the sky above Smalls Beach for at least 15 seconds, then vanished as quickly as it had appeared.

They judged it was 16 kilometres out to sea.

It is the latest in a chain of UFO sightings in Otago. Within the last month UFOs have been seen over Oamaru and Farewell Spit.

South Island space-watchers believe the current rash of close encounters could herald the return of the mysterious Big Foot specimen.

The Big Foot first ap-

Eerie, unexplained orange lights seen near Oamaru and at sea off the Otago coast have revived speculation that alien beings are keeping a watching brief on the South Island.

The latest sighting was off Smalls Beach, Dunedin, this week.

Dunedin police at first treated the report of a bright orange light in the sky as a flare sighting, but were baffled when it could not be proved that any vessel was in the area.

"We checked with the fishermen at Port Chalmers and with the lighthouse keeper at Tairāroa Heads, but we could not find an explana-

-Sexy plan to- lure Nessie

LONDON, Friday. — An inflatable, supposedly sexy prehistoric dinosaur is to be used as a lure in the latest attempt to find the legendary Loch Ness monster.

According to the Daily Star, Buckinghamshire showman Tod Cody is building the 13-metre creature which he says will "make the right noises and wriggle — we want to make it irresistible."

Mr Cody, a 34-year-old descendant of five generations of circus entertainers, is using his knowledge of animals to build Nessie's mate.

Mr Cody said he planned to lead a 10-strong expedition to the Scottish Highlands in September to track down Nessie.

But there was one problem. No one had ever been close enough to Nessie to determine the monster's sex. To overcome that, said Mr Cody, he was designing a bisexual mate for the monster.

"We are going to give the decoy both sexual attributes and exaggerate them to make it even more attractive."

The decoy, based on a plesiosaur, would hold men and equipment "hidden between the humps and on each fin there will be scuba divers," Mr Cody said. — NZPA—AAP.

STAR, Auckland, New Zealand
July 28, 1984 CR: R. Colllyns

STAR, Auckland, New Zealand - Aug. 21, 1984 CR: R. Colllyns

Hey, it'snoman, Himawoman...

PEKING, Monday. — Chinese soldiers shot and killed what they thought was an abominable snowman 12 years ago in Tibet, says a Peking newspaper.

The hairy, ape-like creature turned out to be an abominable snowwoman, the Peking Evening News reported.

The paper said the fabled Himalayan Yeti was hunted by the soldiers in December 1972 in the Zhongba region of Tibet, near the border with Nepal.

Reporter Yang Huiming, of the official Chinese news agency Xinhua, uncovered the story

when he went to Tibet and interviewed the soldiers.

Deputy regimental commander Jiang Bai told Huiming he shot and wounded the creature from 400 metres. Its mate ran away.

Without crying out, the wounded creature lifted a 150-kilogram boulder and charged toward the rifleman. But bleeding profusely, it fell down dead.

The two-legged, upright animal measured 1.54 metres and had a monkey-like head with other features resembling a human, Jiang Bai said. It had a woman-like anatomy including breasts

and was covered in dark brown hair.

"The hair on her head was about 20cm long and the hair on her face was sparse and short. Her mouth was wide with a broad lower jaw and slender, sharp and long teeth."

"Her forelimbs were long, extending over her knees, and her hands were one-third larger than a human being's. The snowwoman had no tail and her feet were about one third of a metre long."

Because an avalanche blocked access roads and the troops were dependent on air drops of food, they decided against trying to

take the creature back to headquarters. They buried it unmarked in the snow.

The hunt was organised after Tibetan herdsmen complained that two of the creatures had been stealing yaks and sheep and herding them into caves.

"They ate what they could and saved the rest, which they drove out of the caves to graze," the newspaper said. "The two watched the yaks and sheep while they were grazing. Obviously they had the ability to think."

The newspaper did not explain why it took 12 years for the story to emerge. — NZPA—AP.

Sighting of Champy draws crowd at last

BURLINGTON, Vt. (UPI) — Many people remain skeptical about Champ, a legendary sea serpent that is said to inhabit the depths of Lake Champlain.

Michael Shea, skipper of the "Spirit of Ethan Allen," isn't one of them.

Shea said his excursion boat was carrying about 70 people on a party outing Saturday when a humped creature partially surfaced alongside, swimming parallel with the boat for several minutes before veering off and disappearing.

The creature made a second, shorter appearance about 15 minutes later, he said. Both sightings occurred near Appleton Point.

"It was incredible how close it was and how real it was," the boatsman declared Monday.

"There was something there. I'm as sane as they come and I don't believe in a lot of stuff. But I saw something there."

Sightings of unexplained creatures in Lake Champlain date back to the earliest recorded history of the lake itself. The

first reported Champ-seer was Samuel de Champlain, who discovered the lake in the 17th century.

He was said to have spotted Champ in 1609.

Some 372 years later, in 1981, the Vermont Legislature responded to the persistent reports of a serpentine creature in the lake by passing a resolution declaring Champ an endangered species and protecting it, if it exists.

Shea said his excursion boat was hosting a party to celebrate the anniversary of a Massachusetts couple when the most recent Champ sighting occurred. He said the band stopped playing and passengers and crew

rushed to the rails to view the creature.

Three to five humps surfaced, he said, each about 12 inches out of the water. He estimated the length of the creature at about 30 feet, and said it paralleled the boat for about 1,000 yards.

Although the crew knew they were viewing what was presumed to be the famous Champ, many passengers — from out of state and unaware of the stories about the Lake Champlain sea monster — apparently did not.

"They didn't know anything about it," said Shea. "We were saying, 'Champ!' and they were saying, 'What?'"

However, one passenger, Bette

Morris of Grand Isle — daughter of the couple celebrating their anniversary — did realize what she was seeing.

"We hadn't been drinking all that much at the time, either," she said. "For almost 17 years I've been looking for it."

Ms. Morris reportedly snapped a picture of the elusive creature.

Shea said he is aware of speculation that Champ is nothing more than a large fish, possibly a sturgeon. He said he doesn't buy it.

"Somebody sitting on land is not going to tell me it's a fish," he said. "I won't buy that. I saw something, and 70 people can vouch for me."

NEW ZEALAND HERALD,
Auckland, New Zealand

June 11, 1984

CR: R. Colllyns

Mayan Link

NZPA-AFP Mexico City
Ancient inscriptions in Chinese and archaic Burmese have been found in Mayan ruins at Comalcalco, about 850km south-east of Mexico City.

PRESS-REPUBLICAN, Plattsburgh, NY - July 31, 1984 CR: J. Zarzynski