

UFO

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Media and public should act to end 'cosmic Watergate'

Do you believe in UFOs? Your government does. This is obvious from thousands of documents released under the Freedom of Information Act which show U.S. military and intelligence agencies deeply involved in the examination of UFO sightings and artifacts dating back to 1947 and continuing into the '80s, belying the official government stance that it ceased to study UFOs since the close of the Air Force's "Project Bluebook" enquiry 15 years ago.

Actually, belief has nothing to do with it, as exasperated UFO researchers are forever reminding the public. The phenomenon of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) is real. The nature of the phenomena — whether extraterrestrial spacecraft, misidentified earthly craft or natural phenomena, mass hallucinations or whatever — is still unclear. But thousands of people who had no particular interest in UFOs or even harbored skepticism toward them have seen strange objects in the sky and even experienced "close encounters," as testified to by thousands of upstate New York residents recently. As one mystified housewife exclaimed on TV news, "I just want to know what it is I saw."

One would naturally search for the answer through examination of hard evidence. But here another mystery presents itself, perhaps the greatest mystery of all: American armed forces and intelligence services, through their combined vast ability to monitor the earth's atmosphere, have amassed evidence which could, if not solve the mystery, at least shed a great deal of light on it. But they aren't letting us, the general public, in on it. Why?

Closing files

The Air Force, in closing the Bluebook file and in its standard response to private queries, states it has no "proof" that UFOs are extraterrestrial craft or anything other than misidentifications of natural phenomena, nor that they are a threat to national security. The newsmedia, departing from their usual skepticism toward government pronouncements, swallowed this explanation whole. Consequently the media have tended to treat UFO reports with ridicule or skepticism. Now only the disreputable supermarket tabloids deal with UFOs, making responsible UFO research disreputable by association and discouraging the more "respectable" media from investigating what some UFO researchers have called a "cosmic Watergate." For most people, the common stance is variations of, "I won't believe they exist until one lands on the White House lawn." As with the Loch Ness Monster or Big Foot, no less than an actual UFO put on public display would convince most people.

That may be already within the government's power. Rumors persist of actual crashed UFOs and even the bodies of their occupants in military custody. Evidence for this, based on sworn affidavits by

dozens of witnesses, is contained in *The Roswell Incident* by Charles Berlitz and William Moore (Grosset & Dunlap, New York).

The public is thus presented with a "Catch-22" situation: Proof of what UFOs are could be established from the data held by the government, yet it denies it has such proof, despite evidence to the contrary. This bogus "lack of proof" is then used to justify dismissing the evidence accumulated from private sources and sightings by the general public.

Such government coverups are not without precedent. For example, soon after the fall of Vietnam to the communists, thousands of refugees making their way to freedom from Laos and Cambodia told the same story: Communist planes would fly over villages spewing a yellow substance. Upon touching this "yellow rain," as it came to be called, people and animals would die a horrible death.

Toxic weapons

Westerners working with the refugees came to the obvious conclusion that the communists were using some kind of toxic weapon against these tribesmen. Some private researchers accumulated more damning evidence and even identified the toxic agent — mycotoxins manufactured in the Soviet Union.

When concerned citizens went to the State Department to mobilize government action against this atrocity, however, they met with a stone wall. The government at that time said it could not give credence to the refugee stories and accuse the Soviet Union until it had "proof." And what was the proof required? A body, and a fresh one at that, for autopsy!

Obviously, obtaining such proof was nearly impossible, since the chemical attacks occurred in remote areas and the refugees could barely get out with their lives, much less lugging a dead body. What was worse, the bureaucrats who demanded this requirement were in effect calling thousands of people liars or victims of hallucinations, dismissing their heart-rending stories because of alleged insufficient "proof."

But proof, really, was not the issue. It just so happened that under the Carter administration, detente with the Soviet Union was government policy. Accusing the Soviets of using chemical-

/biological warfare would embarrass the Kremlin and undermine detente. No doubt U.S. intelligence knew all along that Soviet client states were using mycotoxins against dissident tribes, but official policy dictated that such evi-

Rumors persist of actual crashed UFOs and even the bodies of their occupants in military custody.

dence be suppressed. Politics, not the need for proof, was the motivation for refusing to acknowledge and act upon the yellow rain issue when it first broke.

When Ronald Reagan took office, the situation changed dramatically. Since his policy was to take a harder line against the Soviets, the yellow rain evidence was publicized and used at the United Nations and other forums to condemn the Soviets. Thus, politics brought to light what politics had previously kept hidden.

So it is with UFOs. When the UFO era began in the late '40s, the decision was made, no doubt at the highest government level, to keep the evidence secret. The public was becoming increasingly concerned about UFO sightings, however, so Bluebook and other official studies were made to placate public opinion. The "conclusions" of these government studies, however, were simply disinformation used against the American public — disinformation which the major U.S. media accepted uncritically.

In short, UFOs are primarily a political issue. Private UFO groups can continue amassing scientific evidence until doomsday, but it won't change public policy until the original political decision to impose UFO secrecy is changed. That which politics has hidden only politics can reveal.

This being the case, various UFO groups across the country had best quit chasing nocturnal lights, publishing obscure newsletters and begging for funds. They would do far more by banding together into a political force to get the present government to change its position, or change the government into one that will.

Unlike the yellow rain coverup, however, UFO secrecy as a policy has remained in force through several changes of administration and political philosophies. Even though both Democrat Jimmy Carter and Republican Gerald Ford expressed an interest in UFOs before becoming president, neither could break that policy after they took office. Clearly, the motivation for maintaining UFO secrecy is a powerful one.

From fiction to fact

There has been much speculation among UFO writers as to the reason for this unprecedented consistency. A commonly accepted explanation is that the government feared such knowledge would cause "panic" among the general population. With the popularization of such movies as *E.T.* and *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* and UFOs showing up in Pepsi commercials, however, it is highly unlikely that the public would panic to hear that what they have come to accept as fiction is fact.

William Moore suggested to this writer that only national security could provide a motivation powerful enough to maintain secrecy for so long. This could mean either that UFOs constitute a threat to national security so serious that it would cause panic if the truth were revealed, or that U.S. scientists have been secretly trying to unravel the secret of UFO propulsion to gain a military edge over the Soviets and secrecy must be imposed to keep the Soviets from knowing what we know.

Indeed, before pushing for an end to government UFO secrecy, a responsible person must consider the possibility that the truth is too dangerous — that maybe the government is concerned for our best interests by keeping the facts under wraps.

On further consideration, however, this won't wash. Either America is ruled by a government of the people, by the people and for the people; or it is ruled by military men and bureaucrats who can impose their own ideas about what is best for us while keeping us in the dark about the real world. If the former condition is to hold true, Americans should act to end this 37-year-old policy of government secrecy on a topic of such cosmic importance.

J. ANTONIO HUNEEUS

It's high time gov't opened Pandora's Box on UFO data

One of the highlights of the well-attended UFO Conference in Brewster, N.Y. on Aug. 25 was the participation of Larry Fawcett, co-author of *Clear Intent* (Prentice Hall, 1984), an expose of "the government coverup of the UFO experience." Fittingly enough, Peter Gersten, a Tarrytown, N.Y., criminal attorney, who has spearheaded the grassroots movement in four upstate New York counties and western Connecticut to investigate the UFO wave that has swept this area for the past two years, is the director of Citizens Against UFO Secrecy (CAUS) and a recognized leader in the retrieval of government UFO records under the Freedom of Information Act.

The release in recent years of more than 4,000 previously classified UFO reports and memoranda from the Department of Defense, CIA, FBI, State Department and other federal agencies is slowly changing the public perception of the long controver-

sial issue of UFOs. If there is nothing to flying saucers, as governmental officials have implied over and over again for the past 37 years, why have our military and intelligence agencies spent thousands of man-hours pursuing "phantoms," "unknown tracks," "unidentified helicopters" and various other kinds of anomalous aerial objects? And why, 15 years after the government officially dropped out of the UFO business, some agencies still refuse to declassify certain records on national security grounds?

Acceptable evidence

To the packed audience in the auditorium of the Henry H. Welles Middle School, Fawcett indicated that "there is now a new case for the UFO and the

Like Close Encounters of the Third Kind, the Bentwaters incident is also on film, but this one is hushed up in some secret government vault.

evidence for it is in the government's own doc-

uments." He added, "I know what evidence is and how evidence must be presented in a court of law" after serving as a police officer in Connecticut for 14 years.

For the next hour he presented nine "high strangeness" cases from the government files, cases which included the classic "dogfight" between a UFO and two F-4 Phantom jets over Teheran in 1976, and the "invasion" of several SAC nuclear bases in the fall of 1975, when unknown objects were seen hovering over "weapons storage areas" for several nights at Loring, Malmstrom, Wurtsmith and other sensitive air force bases along our border with Canada.

The story of the secret UFO files and the intricate love/hate relationship between the government and the "saucers" is not new. For 22 years, the public relations branch of the Air Force showered the public and media with contradictory statements, some say trumped-up statistics and other contrived arguments to minimize the impact of UFOs. Though the field has been plagued with leaks and rumors of hidden government films, crashed discs in military custody and other various kinds of hard evidence, until recently proof was elusive and difficult to find. Certainly, the job is not finished; the government still appears to hold its cards close to its chest.

I have been involved in this matter since 1979, when I first visited Gersten's office in front of the Federal Court House in The Bronx to read the UFO

(continued on page 2)

papers as they were released through various court cases and FOIA requests. The following examples, drawn from my research and *Clear Intent*, cover a period between the late '40s and the present. I believe they clearly illustrate how grossly the government has misled the public.

Hoaxes and hysteria

- After some expectation was raised with the establishment of Project Saucer (sic), the Air Force's first official probe, they announced in December 1949 that it was discontinuing the project "on the basis that there is no evidence the reports are not the results of natural phenomena." Furthermore, they announced that all UFOs could be reduced to "misinterpretation of various conventional objects, a mild form of mass hysteria, or hoaxes."

The real story was quite different, however, as UFO researchers now know. Mysterious "unidentified aircraft," "flying discs" and "balls of fire" were then pestered sensitive government installations such as the Los Alamos atomic facilities and the White Sands Proving Grounds in New Mexico. In a January 1949 secret memo, FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover indicated that an "Intelligence Conference" was held to discuss these objects, and that "this matter is considered top secret by intelligence officers of both the Army and the Air Force."

- A July 1970 internal CIA memorandum with regards to a query by a certain Mr. Vartorella, indicates that "the only formal CIA involvement [with UFOs] was in the one conducted by the Robertson Panel in 1953. Yet hundreds of declassified CIA papers on UFOs are dated after 1953, and a heavily censored April 1976 document on "UFO Research" confirmed that "there are offices and personnel within the agency who are monitoring the UFO phenomena," although not "on an official basis."

- The Air Force allegedly ended its UFO investigation after the release of the University of Colorado's Condon Report in 1969, yet the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) maintains form sheets entitled "Unidentified Flying Object Report" and "Unknown Track Report." Likewise, several military and intelligence agencies have investigated dozens of sensitive UFO incidents in the United States and abroad since 1969.

- Since day one of the UFO controversy, in press release after press release, the Air Force and its scientific panels and ad hoc committees have maintained that UFOs do not pose a threat to our national security, yet the National Security Agency (NSA) refused to declassify 135 UFO documents in the early '80s, winning a legal battle against CAUS in Federal Court, on grounds of "national security" and "to protect intelligence sources and methods."

- DOD officials have dismissed the existence of UFOs over the

years. In 1966 Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara stated that "there is no indication that UFOs are anything other than illusion... We categorically deny there is anything to them." If this is the case, then why has Sen. Barry Goldwater, an Air Force reserve general and currently chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, been repeatedly denied access to secret UFO records in Wright-Patterson Air Force Base? In a 1981 letter on Senate stationery, Goldwater admitted that "I have had one long string of denials from chief after chief, so I have given up."

The claim that the final word on UFOs, evidence that has eluded civilian researchers for more than 30 years, appears to be securely held by the government, is becoming less hearsay as time goes by. One aspect of the Brewster conference was to air, in public, the local flap of flying "Boomerangs" and "V"-shaped arrays of lights repeatedly seen in Westchester, Rockland, Putnam and Dutchess counties and western Connecticut since 1982.

There was one account, however, which had nothing to do with the Westchester flap and was quite more sensational. What former air force security policeman Larry Warren saw in the Rendlesham Forest next to the NATO Air Force Base at Bentwaters, England, where the 81st Combat Support Group is located, almost seems to be drawn from a Steven Spielberg scenario. Like *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, the Bentwaters incident is also on film, but this one is hushed up in some secret government vault.

Shortly after midnight on Dec. 30, 1980, Warren and other security personnel were ordered to jump on a jeep, leave the base and go to the nearby Rendlesham Forest. They were told to turn over their weapons when they arrived at the parking area. Warren noticed immediately that a lot of activity was going on, but they were just told to start walking.

When they reached a clearing, they saw "this brown circular thing on the ground like a big, round, clear aspirin stage or platform," said Warren, who also remembers movie cameras and people taking pictures.

A red light appeared first in the distance and then became bigger until, he said, "This red ball came down and just blew up, that quick. It was silent, there was no noise, and all dropped down on top of this

aspirin or whatever... as this happened it was like fantasy land, really, this ship was there."

The craft, characterized as "beyond description," was described by Warren as triangular in shape, 15 feet high and 25 feet across the base, "probably the size of an A-10," and with "a red light on top, a little bank of lights under that, a very rough surface like pipes or boxes on it, no doors, windows or anything like that. It had legs and it left landing marks."

Three small beings about 3 feet tall, dressed in silvery suits and with a kind of light surrounding them appeared outside the ship and, incredible as it may seem, a fourth being seemed to be levitating over people's heads, Warren said. As this was taking place, more than 200 on-duty personnel and a large number of high-ranking officers assembled in the area, including Base Commander Gen. Gordon Williams, Deputy Commander Lt. Col. Charles Halt and high-ranking British Air Force or Army officers. At one point, said Warren, the beings "all just buzzed like SHOOO! right down to him (the Base Commander) and they stood and their arms went up and their heads went down, and that's when I think they communicated."

Science fiction or an unconfirmed sensationalized story fit only for the supermarket press? Not really. Working closely in the past months with CAUS, Warren supplied Fawcett and Gersten with enough information to initiate a new round of petitions under the FOIA.

To their surprise, after the usual stalling period, the 513th Combat Support Group released a document from the 81st CSG at Bentwaters, signed by Halt, then Deputy Base Commander. Dated Jan. 13, 1981, the Halt letter is probably just one item out of a thick dossier, both British and American, concerning this particular case and a series of similar events which preceded the one described by Warren. Now that you've heard Warren's account, compare it with the one described in the official Air Force report:

"... The object was described as being metallic in appearance and triangular in shape, approximately two or three meters across the base and approximately two meters high. It illuminated the entire forest with a white light. The object itself had a pulsating red light on top with a bank(s) of blue lights underneath. The object was

hovering or on legs..."

"... The next day, three depressions 1½ inches deep and 7 inches in diameter were found where the object had been sighted on the ground. The following night (Dec. 31, '80) the area was checked for radiation. Beta/gamma readings of 0.1 milliroentgens were recorded with peak readings in the three depressions and near the center of the triangle formed by the depressions..."

Since the document does not mention the face-to-face encounter with the small beings, nor acknowledges the existence of motion pictures, tape recordings and photographs, it is clear that the government is still keeping the bulk of the incident under wraps. However, other military witnesses have confirmed to CAUS investigators Warren's account, although they are not yet ready to go public like him.

In all fairness, and to give it the correct perspective, it must be stressed that the U.S. government is far from being alone in its treatment and formulation of UFO-related policies. Practically all the other governments of the world, both small and large, have followed that same policy of hushed-up military probe with a public disclaimer. Whether it is Canada or the Soviet Union, Brazil or France, Australia or China, a number of countries have released a limited amount of official documents, scientific studies or statements concerning UFOs. With its FOIA the United States has become the world leader in releasing this kind of far-out data — and it must continue to do so.

While I can rationalize the need for secrecy in the early, Cold War-ridden years of flying saucers, I think it's high time for the government to open up fully, perhaps by stages, its Pandora's Box of UFO data. Who knows? With the increasing international tension, the UFO phenomenon should open people's horizons and contribute to a complete reassessment of what is mankind and where it is going. News of the existence and contact with nonhuman intelligent entities from elsewhere is something that should be shared with all the people of the earth and not kept away in some underground secret vault. If ET exists we have, as citizens of a free society, a right to know.

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MIRROR, Altoona, PA - Oct. 15, 1984 CR: S. Gordon

More UFO sightings reported

Locally popular: Grazierville, Tipton areas

By Marsha Heim

Staff Writer

"It was real bright and had like green fireworks. I never seen a meteor that was that bright. It was real pretty. It lit up the whole sky."

So said Ray Golden of Tyrone RD 4, who saw something in the sky last night from his Hoovers Lane home. He wasn't alone, as the saying goes.

UFO sightings were reported from Chicago to New Hampshire last night, including three calls from the Grazierville and Tipton areas, a UFO investigator said today.

Stan Gordon of the Pennsylvania Association of the Study of the Unexplained in Greensburg said he received reports from Fayette to Lehigh counties, including three calls from Blair County and reports of an object at Hoover's Lane in Grazierville.

What was seen may have been a meteor, he said, but he wants to investigate the unusual occurrences anyway.

Down the road from the Golden property, John Keller of Tyrone RD 4 said he and a friend saw the object too. "Don't say it was a UFO," Keller said today, but he wasn't sure what it was.

Keller was one of the people who reported the call first to the Tyrone police and then to the state police. He said Gordon called him later that night.

"I saw a bright white light in the sky, much brighter than a flying star, but it had no tail," Keller said. "I thought it was some kind of plane at first and was waiting for the boom, but it never came."

Golden said the light was traveling from north to south. Keller said it was traveling north at about a 45-degree angle.

"UFOs were seen through Penn-

sylvania and many other states as well," Gordon said. Referring to the rerun of the television movie "V, The Final Battle," last night, he said there was nothing in the reports that could have linked the two.

He said the association received most reports between 9 and 9:45 p.m., with Grazierville callers reporting sightings of bright sparks or like a camera strobe going off to a bright red streak of light that ascended vertically in the sky.

But there were reports from across the country of a very bright spherical white light moving from west to east. "It was either a bright white light or a green ball of fire with a tail behind it," he said. "There was no sound."

Gordon is guessing that this may be a Bolid — a large exploding meteor. But he's not sure if the Grazierville sighting fits that category.

"There have been a lot of sightings this year," he said. "In the summer, there have been other sightings around various parts around Cambria and Blair counties."

While many reports are explainable, some aren't. Those are the ones that Gordon is interested in. These reports range from reports of Bigfoot to mountain lions black panthers and very large flying objects.

As for the Grazierville sighting Gordon wants people to come forward — anonymously if they choose — to make reports.

"If people would come forward we do have investigators in that general area. If we do have some reports, we can follow up on it," he said.

To make a report, call Gordon at 412-838-7768 or write to 6 Oak Hill Ave., Greensburg, PA 15601.

Raynes probes UFO sightings

By Lorene Frederick
Staff Writer

WAYNESBORO, Tenn. — "The bulk of the sightings have mundane explanations; about 90 percent are weather balloons, or clouds, or Venus. It's the remaining 10 percent that leaves one guessing..."

Brent Raynes, recipient of the Seattle based UFO Contact Center's 1984 award for "generating constructive public awareness of the UFO subject," says he feels almost apologetic about some of the stories that get around.

"There's a man in Hawaii right now who claims to be in telepathic contact with a flying saucer, says it's on the ground in Missouri waiting for us to come."

"Some people get emotionally involved, but that's a subject for investigation also," he said.

Raynes, 32, a native of Maine, has been checking out UFO sightings and reporting on them since 1967. He has lived in Waynesboro seven years, is married and a father.

"The factory where I work is closed down right now, which gives me more time for my hobby," he said.

Raynes's articles have appeared in Wayne County newspapers and he has been published in *Flying Saucer Review*, England. He has been on several talk shows and given lectures on UFOs. He said he has worked closely with a Florida psychiatrist for several years and the two have collaborated on some articles.

One of his current pet projects is the "missing time" connection.

The subject was apparently first probed by a writer named Budd Hopkins, whose book by that title started a flap of its own.

"Three people born in the year 1943, all came up with unexplained cuts on their limbs," Raynes said. "The cuts were deep, but healed quickly. Each had reported a UFO encounter followed by an hour or so of unaccounted for time. Under hypnosis, these three people, who did not know one another, all said their cuts were made by UFO beings who were studying them. A fourth person born the same year, declined to be hypnotized."

"Recently, I have been investigating a 'missing-time' case involving a Knoxville couple," he said.

He said the incident occurred in 1952 near Gatlinburg. The couple, on their honeymoon, lost count of about 15 miles of their journey. Raynes said the husband recalled their car's headlights going out and a light shining on the road ahead from behind the trees.

"Three nights later, the wife began a chronic pattern of nightmares. More than a decade later, they had a series of spectacular low-level sightings which they came to feel were being staged for them."



Brent Raynes

"They seem sincere, seem to be really groping for answers themselves. So far they have not been hypnotized. They realize that hypnosis is a controversial area. It has been suggested that if an alien intelligence is at work, some conditioning may take

place during the session or that the power of suggestion may trigger fantasies. However, conscious testimony is sometimes strong enough to indicate that testimony given under hypnosis may not be far from the truth."

Raynes says he has interviewed dozens of "UFO eyewitnesses from Maine to Florida."

"One who gets into it is hard pressed to understand. People ask for hard evidence. When I first began reading on the subject I was impressed by the caliber of some of the witnesses. Airline pilots, for example, should be able to distinguish between something strange and weather balloons and things they see all the time."

He said his current main interest is in persons who have had close encounters.

"This kind of research is frustrating. A common element is a memory blank following a closeup sighting."

Raynes said he has never seen anything he could be positive was a UFO.

"My wife had a sighting before I met her," he said. "I heard about it and went to see her. That's how we met. She was interested in the subject for a while, but she has other interests now."

The UFOs are back

New sightings relieve late summer's tedium

In the early morning hours of Wednesday, Aug. 29, The Press news desk received several phone calls reporting a large, round flying object with spinning yellow lights. The thing was seen in the Elberon section of Long Branch, Ocean Township and Asbury Park. Some of the callers said the loud, whirring sound made by the object awoke them from their sleep.

A man who was driving on Ocean Avenue, Long Branch, called it "big and bright and strange sounding." Another motorist said, "It was really scary. It went straight up in the air and disappeared." An Asbury Park woman said, "It was probably the most unusual thing I ever saw. It was just hanging in the air. I thought I was going crazy."

Robert Warth, who heads the Society for the Investigation of the Unexplained, based in Little Silver, was not surprised by the most recent spate of sightings. A

in New York's Westchester, Dutchess and Putnam counties have reported seeing strange objects in the sky, usually described as about the size of a football field, V-shaped or circular, and outlined in white, red or green lights. In every case, the object was noiseless (one woman said she could hear the crickets as she and her 5-year-old daughter watched it hover over a pond). She also reported seeing an L-shaped structure suspended beneath the craft. Typically, as described by witnesses, the object would remain stationary for a time and then rise straight up at great speed.

The UFO sightings in the Westchester-Connecticut area were made by businessmen, teachers, housewives, lawyers, accountants and police officers. A public hearing in the New Castle (N.Y.) Town Hall was interrupted when a UFO appeared outside. Photographs showing lights against a nighttime sky were common throughout the region.

The state police in New York have an explanation for the mystery. They say it's a group of five or six small planes flying in formation as a hoax to excite the local residents. Except for the roar that six planes would make at tree-top levels, that's as good as any of the other explanations offered over the years to explain UFO sightings: stars, planets, satellites, optical illusions, atmospheric anomalies, and even marsh gas.

Of course, everyone knows that UFOs are not inhabited by extraterrestrial creatures keeping an eye on us. A formal U.S. government investigation into the phenomena some years ago concluded that people were just seeing things, and the Air Force no longer pays any attention to the reports.

But that doesn't stop a lot of respectable people from seeing something up there. Clearly, the thousands of reports of unidentified flying objects must have some basis in fact, and the only real question is what actually have the witnesses seen. Even the federal investigation conceded that not all sightings could be ascribed to natural phenomena.

And so the believers in an extraterrestrial source for UFOs will keep their convictions, while the skeptics will dismiss the whole thing as lunacy. It might be kept in mind, though, that in only the last quarter-century we ourselves have become explorers of space. Is it beyond the realm of possibility that other civilizations, with a head start of a million years or so on our technology, could have acquired the ability to traverse the galaxies?

Besides, UFOs serve a useful purpose. The latest appearances helped to relieve late-summer tedium, and they briefly diverted our attention from all the real worries we have on our own planet. And the sightings should serve to enliven the cocktail party circuit, in Westchester and elsewhere, for the next couple of months.

PRESS, Asbury Park, NJ - Sept. 13, 1984

TIMES, New Milford, CT - Oct. 4, 1984 CR: B. Greenwood

UFOs show up in New Milford skies

BY L.P. ZEIDENSTEIN

UFO sightings in the Kent area, as reported in last week's New Milford Times, generated a few phone calls to our offices about additional heavenly sightings.

Harvey Conn, brother of Representative Walter Conn, said he "sure as hell did call the police" after spending 45 minutes on Long Mountain watching a dazzling display of aerial lights the night of Sept. 17.

Conn, who recently moved back east from Cincinnati (Ohio) was out that night to look at a piece of real estate. With him in the car were his wife, Irene, his nephew Alan Moore and four other adults.

When the group reached Storm Haven Farm they saw "three lights coming at us," Conn said. The lights appeared to be descending, and Conn recalls thinking, "My gosh, they're coming in to land."

No landing occurred, however. The thing simply "stopped in mid-air."

At first only three white lights, marking the points of an equilateral triangle, were visible, "just hanging there" in the night sky. The lights were soft, steady, did not seem to project far from their sources and did not illuminate the ground, Conn said.

The object, whatever it may have been, made no sound.

"Then," Conn continued, "a blinking red light came up the valley and went into the middle of the white lights." The white lights then changed their configuration, forming a straight line.

"They looked like a row of diamonds," he said.

At that point, he and his companions, who had gotten out of their car to watch, got back into the vehicle and locked the doors. The row of lights continued to hover over the hills.

Then, "all of a sudden," he saw "five or six red things" shoot out one at a time from the configuration of

lights and fly away.

Remarking that it was a perfect night for sky-watching, Conn then reported seeing on the western horizon what at first appeared to be a moving star. As it approached it became evident that it was some sort of light: just what sort is still a mystery. The white light seemed to discharge some kind of large red light which flew away into the night.

During the entire period of the sighting, Conn said, the dog at a nearby farm was "going wild." Conn returned to the spot the following night. There were no lights, but the dog was still there. This time, though, it "barked like a normal dog."

Ray Frost of New Milford was out hunting his coon dogs that Monday night on Cherniske Road when a large object flew right over his head at an altitude of about 500 feet.

"I knew it was something strange," Frost said, but reports that he did not feel threatened. It was "just like someone driving down the road in a car," he said.

According to Frost, the object "just hummed and floated along," without so much as rustling the leaves in the trees. It was curved along the forward end, which he described as being about 75 feet wide.

Arrayed across this leading edge, he said, were five vertical pairs of lights, each light about two feet square, with the pairs spaced about fifteen feet apart.

"It was like looking into someone's house at night," he said, indicating that the lighting was interior, rather than exterior navigation or search lights. The white lights described by many viewers of the object would then seem to be the glow escaping from windows on the craft.

Were they watching us? Certainly we are watching them. Next time, perhaps, one of us will be lucky enough to get a look inside one of those windows, and put an end-or would it be a beginning?-to this mystery.



chemist for a major aerospace corporation, he said his group has received hundreds of reports of unidentified flying objects. A high percentage of these reports came from the Jersey Shore. Many of the sightings are of objects near or over the ocean, leading Warth to speculate that the visitors, whoever they may be, are using our water to refuel their spaceship.

If that is so, perhaps a touch of pollution off our coast fouled up the craft's engines and caused the noise that aroused Shore residents from their slumber. By contrast, the UFOs sighted all summer in southern New York State and western Connecticut were of the classic, silent variety.

In recent weeks thousands of people

UFOs leave Winsted behind, head south

The night of July 19, 1984 Laurie and Sidney Presnell of Purchase Brook Road, Southbury, saw a car full of teenagers looking in the direction of the cornfields in back of their house.

"The kids said there was a UFO out there. I took the dog out with me for safety," said Presnell. They saw a brightly lit, disc-shaped object move slowly from the back of their house, up over a crest of trees about a mile away. It took about 15 minutes. It was 150 to 200 yards long and had a set of lights on the side "that looked like factory windows — or picture windows ... 20-feet long and 6-feet high."

"I never believed in UFOs until now," said Laurie Presnell.

By IRENE COLETOS

The books of a Barkhamsted UFO investigator are gathering dust on his shelf.

The Winsted Police Department once kept a UFO hotline number right next to the phone, but the sticker it was written on has been lost.

Within the past year, few Litchfield County people have come forward with stories about strange lights and whirring discs, according to UFO investigator Ted Thoben of Barkhamsted — but it wasn't always that way.

The northwest corner — especially Winsted — was once thought of as a "window" into this world for extraterrestrials and other ex-

traordinary phenomena.

Several sightings (all by more than one person) — of flying triangles, spinning discs with red sparks shooting out of them, hovering white lights and even humanoid figures — seen in Winsted and surrounding towns in 1967 and 1977, sparked public notoriety.

Residents of all backgrounds — a nurse, police officers, campers, prep school students, a photographer and a reporter — went on the record to say they saw UFOs.

Other theories on Winsted's attractiveness to strange phenomena may not be as authoritative.

A Sept. 18, 1979 article from the tabloid *Midnight Globe*, said that the northwest corner would be the site of an invasion of extraterrestrials. Included in the article was a map of Connecticut, but the only spot it showed was marked "Winsted" with an arrow pointing toward it as "the invasion site."

The writer claimed that invasion plans, found in the hull of a wrecked flying saucer in an Arizona desert, listed Winsted along with the other high-priority attack points of Brazil, Australia, France, Egypt and southern Russia.

At these spots are "windows" for extraterrestrial visits, said the article headlined "UFO Attack On Earth Due Any Time."

"I got calls all the way from California to Arizona," said Thoben, currently a field investigator for the Center for the UFO Studies

outside of Chicago who once worked as a researcher for the now defunct National Committee on Aerial Phenomena in Washington, D.C.

Thoben makes a living as a commercial artist and does free-lance work.

"The article gave the impression that Winsted was an open doorway for these things," he said. "People would even ask me to take them to see a UFO."

That particular story, he said, is the kind of "tripe" that gets in the way of serious UFO research.

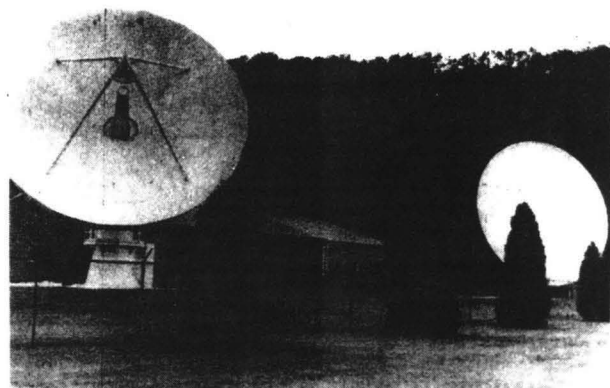
Winsted's reputation as a UFO watcher's hot spot has been eclipsed lately by Southbury and surrounding towns, 20 miles away as the saucer flies.

The strange sightings that occurred in that area this summer are still fresh in the memories of people who live and work there.

On July 19, between 10:30 and 10:50 p.m., the switchboards of both the Southbury state police barracks and the Southbury municipal police station, lit up with calls from residents reporting "UFOs."

Despite the fact that they may get their share of crank calls, these reports were not ignored — one came from a trooper, and two from constables, all who worked out of the Southbury barracks.

The trooper, who spoke on the condition he not be identified, said he was on his way to the barracks, driving westbound on I-84 between



The Comsat Satellite Station on River Road in Southbury over which the Presnells saw the UFO hovering, but it set off no alarms at the satellite station.

exit 15 and exit 16, when he spotted "an aircraft with white lights."

"The object was shaped like a pen with a row of white lights with no spaces between them," said the trooper, who was vigorously chewing gum while he told his story.

"It aroused my curiosity so I pulled onto the median divider, got out of the car and looked at it."

The object, which he said went east along I-84, then north around the Southbury shopping center before disappearing behind the horizon, made no sound, he said.

"It was not a plane or a helicopter," the trooper said. "I kept saying to myself, 'What the hell is this thing!'. Then I came into the troop. That's when I told the guys what I saw. 'Hey, why don't you go home,' they said."

The trooper said when he discovered that others were reporting a UFO in the area, "it was definitely a relief."

Although he does not know what he saw that night, he is not concerned.

"I don't get too excited," the trooper said, "and I don't lose any sleep over it."

Lt. Thomas Elliott, commanding officer of the Southbury barracks, said he has confidence in the trooper's report.

"There must have been something out there," Elliott said. "But whatever the explanation is, I don't know. Some said it was ultra lights (airplanes) playing a hoax, but I don't know."

Officers Raul Camejo and Richard Wildman from the Southbury police station said they received more than 40 calls that night from Bethel, Fairfield and Brookfield.

"All the phones lit up at once," Wildman said, for reports that came constantly from 9:30 to 11:30 p.m.

The officers said a group of sightings were also reported the Thursday before.

"Come next Thursday, get your lawn chair and park in Brookfield," Wildman said.

Camejo said, "When it comes back, I want to go for a ride." He added that the saucer will probably have a "South of the Border" sticker on it, because "everyone else has them."

But on a more serious note, Camejo said he believes that the UFO's could be controlled by intelligent beings.

"Anyone egotistical enough to think we're the only ones has got to have something wrong with them," Camejo said.

One of the people who called the station that night was Laurie Presnell.

After seeing what she described as the 150 to 200-yard long object in back of her home, Presnell said "Now, every night before I go to bed I look out the window for them."

Before moving up the hill past

their backyard, the UFO hovered over a COMSAT satellite station behind the cornfields, she said.

COMSAT handles ship-to-shore calls and long distance calls using satellites. The satellites are controlled by a beam sent into space from four 20-foot high satellite discs that dwarf the COMSAT office building.

After the Presnells reported the UFO to Southbury police, they sped to the satellite station to investigate.

"Nothing happened from our point of view," Richard Dopson, COMSAT station shift supervisor said. "If there was something 300 feet in diameter above one of the disks, it would have blocked one and caused an alarm."

Dopson wrote up the police visit in the logbook that evening: "Two units from the Southbury Police Department in station investigating reports from neighbors that a 300 foot UFO was seen hovering above the station at 0130 (9:30 p.m.) We didn't see nothing and no alcohol in station."

Despite his skepticism about a UFO sighting that evening, Dopson said he believes that there are extraterrestrial beings.

"I look at the universe from Carl Sagan's point of view: 'We ain't alone!' I just wish one would sit still for a while."

The location of the station, at 95 degrees west longitude, has no particular magnetic qualities, Dopson said. The satellites are located there because of the "dead" air in that area resulting from being in a "bowl" of land.

A neighbor of the Presnells, airline pilot Craig Bell, said he was not in the area the night of the UFO sighting but he was not surprised it had occurred.

"There are a lot of UFOs in this area historically," Bell said. He said the UFO may have actually been some ultra lights flying together "to perpetuate a hoax ... but I don't discount extraterrestrial activity."

"There could be UFOs" of extraterrestrial origin Bell mused. "I heard that there were a lot up in a town called Winsted — police and everyone saw them."

REGISTER-CITIZEN,
Torrington, CT
Sept. 19, 1984



Laurie Presnell of Southbury, with some of her children, points to where she said she saw a UFO July 19.

Bright lights fill the skies-- Halloween prank or UFOs?

MOUNT KISCO, N.Y. (AP) — Was it a UFO? The great pumpkin? Or merely a Halloween prank? Putnam County authorities aren't sure, but they hope to find out what was behind the wide reports of multicolored lights seen floating and hovering in the Halloween Eve sky over town.

According to Putnam Sheriff's Deputy Anthony Nappi, phone calls poured in to the sheriff's department last night from people reporting they had spotted a cluster of green, red and white lights floating silently several hundred feet in the air. Many were convinced they had seen an unidentified flying object, Nappi said.

Jerry Culliton, reporter and night editor at WVIP in Mount Kisco, said he filmed the lighted

object with a videocamera. Culliton estimated the station received 75 calls from puzzled Putnam residents who wanted to know what they had seen.

Police believe they saw a formation of ultralight aircraft.

Nappi said a rash of UFO sightings also occurred in the county during the summer, when a group of ultralight pilots apparently tried to simulate a UFO by flying at night in a group, using different colored lights and cutting their motors off from time to time.

The UFO spottings dropped off after police began investigating whether federal flight regulations were being violated. The Halloween Eve sightings were the first since the UFO reports dropped off at the end of the summer.

Researching UFOs: a 31-year pursuit

By RICHARD WEIZEL
Sunday Post staff writer

When Fairfield Police Lt. George Lesnick became interested in UFOs 31 years ago he never dreamed he would someday play an intricate role in investigating a multiple sighting that has been seen by more people than any other UFO case ever reported.

But Lesnick, who in his spare time works as a field investigator for the International Center For UFO Studies (based in Evanston, Ill.), has interviewed thousands of people in Westchester, Putnam and Dutchess counties in New York and others here in Fairfield County, who claim they have seen flying, boomerang-shaped objects and huge V-shaped ships the size of a football field.

The sightings, which began in March of 1983, have reoccurred this past summer as a rash of new UFO reports flooded in during June and July. The sightings are being probed from a variety of directions under the collective heading of The Westchester Boomerang Mystery.

Lesnick, 56, works with 33-year-old science teacher Philip Imbrogno of Greenwich when he investigates "serious, multiple UFO sightings."

"We feel like pioneers," Lesnick says. "People want the answer to UFOs and we're doing our part in what will hopefully help solve the mystery."

Lesnick calls himself "a romantic," and admits he loves the adventure and excitement of being a "UFO buster," a name he coined (in deference to the current, popular movie) while appearing on a New York news show.

By tracing the path and pattern of a wave of UFO sightings that have exceeded 5,000 the past 18 months, "we feel like we're helping lay the foundation for new frontiers in science," Lesnick says.

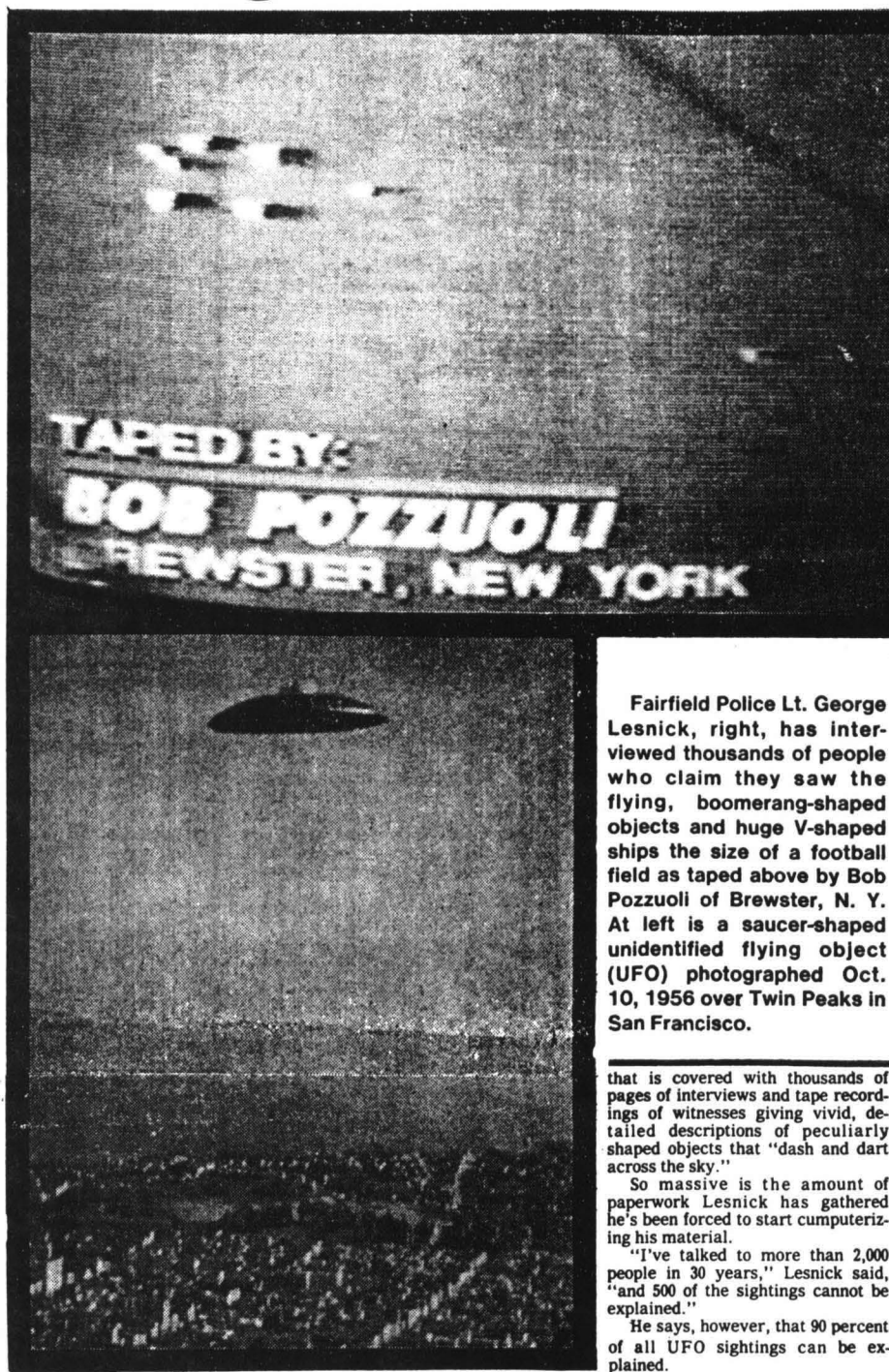
Lesnick and Imbrogno have worked together now for eight years and appeared along with "ufologists" from around the world at an Aug. 25 UFO conference in Brewster, N.Y., that drew nearly 1,500 people.

The conference included the presentation of slides, sketches and photographs of area sightings and descriptions of those sightings by hundreds of witnesses.

Lesnick, a 28-year veteran of the Fairfield Police Department, says he's interviewed thousands of witnesses and claims that most people are sincere.

"These people are not kooks and those who laugh at these accounts are ignorant. The ridicule some people get scares them from admitting they saw a UFO," he says.

"We're trained investigators and we take this very seriously," Lesnick says, sitting at his kitchen table



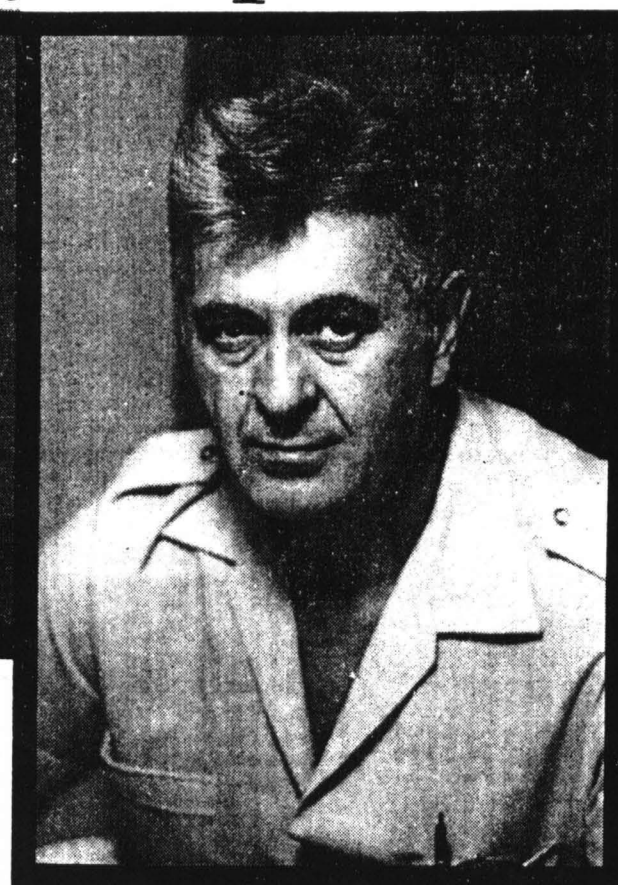
Fairfield Police Lt. George Lesnick, right, has interviewed thousands of people who claim they saw the flying, boomerang-shaped objects and huge V-shaped ships the size of a football field as taped above by Bob Pozzuoli of Brewster, N. Y. At left is a saucer-shaped unidentified flying object (UFO) photographed Oct. 10, 1956 over Twin Peaks in San Francisco.

that is covered with thousands of pages of interviews and tape recordings of witnesses giving vivid, detailed descriptions of peculiarly shaped objects that "dash and dart across the sky."

So massive is the amount of paperwork Lesnick has gathered he's been forced to start computerizing his material.

"I've talked to more than 2,000 people in 30 years," Lesnick said, "and 500 of the sightings cannot be explained."

He says, however, that 90 percent of all UFO sightings can be explained.



"But what about that 10 percent?" he asks. "I don't know what they are, but I think we should keep trying to find out."

Lesnick leans toward belief in the extra-terrestrial theory, though he's very cautious about accepting that just yet. He thinks, however, that the government knows more than it has revealed about UFOs and hopes it will someday reverse its "closed attitude" on the subject.

Much of Lesnick's work has come during the past 18 months because of the upstate New York case, nicknamed the Westchester Boomerang Mystery, that has drawn international attention from both believers and debunkers.

Lesnick has in his possession a videotape of a multiple sighting made by a Brewster, N.Y., man, Robert Pozzuoli, on July 24, in which half a dozen red and white objects can be seen hovering in a circular formation, at times changing colors and moving "very rapidly."

The same sighting was also

photographed by another man several miles away, and both men appeared on New York and Connecticut news shows along with their tapes and still photos. Lesnick says hundreds of other people also reported the sighting that same night.

"That's what we look for," Lesnick says, "multiple sightings from credible witnesses who don't know each other."

"This series of sightings in New York and Fairfield has involved the most credible witnesses I've ever spoken to," Lesnick said. "These are judges, doctors, scientists, lawyers, teachers, business people, police officers and aerospace engineers and meteorologists who are absolutely convinced they are seeing something strange up there."

Included in those Lesnick has interviewed are Danbury police and fire officials, whom he says have seen UFOs this summer.

Still, New York State Police and renowned UFO skeptics insist the sightings are nothing more than an

aerial plane show being put on by pilots.

The state police call the whole episode a hoax and one night even proved that several reported sightings were actually just a group of planes when they tracked the planes to an area airport.

Lesnick admits that some of the sightings can be explained, but claims there are too many unusual aspects to the boomerang case to dismiss it as a hoax.

"The fast way the objects are reported to have moved, the large patterns of moving lights, the apparent changing of colors, the boomerang shape and the noiselessness of the sightings, all prove they weren't planes," Lesnick says. "Too many of these credible witnesses also swear the object they saw was the size of a football field."

Lesnick says the case represents "the most historical series of UFOs that have ever occurred in the modern study of UFOs."

"Unless you've seen one it's hard to understand and you may want to think it doesn't exist," Lesnick says, explaining the persistence of some skeptics. "But once you have seen a UFO you take an entirely different attitude."

And Lesnick did see one, eight years ago, along with four other local police officers in Fairfield.

It happened on March 5, 1976, when Lesnick was working as a road patrol sergeant.

Patrolman Frank Nolfi reported that six objects were hovering, stopping, reversing and bobbing up and down above his hilltop home at 686 Eleven O'Clock Road.

At the time Nolfi, who was off-duty, and his wife observed the objects for about an hour before phoning police headquarters with the report: "You're not going to believe this, but...."

Lesnick was one of the officers who responded to the call.

"I couldn't believe it, we were mesmerized," he says, recalling the incident. "There were six patterns of brilliant lights and one larger orange object that looked like a mother ship."

"They did aerial displays that I can't even describe," Lesnick says. "It was as if they were playing games."

Lesnick says that more than 100 UFO sightings from Fairfield to Hartford were reported that night and "were never explained."

Having a personal UFO experience, Lesnick says, "has helped me to be more sensitive to others that I interview. I know how they feel."

When he retires from the police department in about two years Lesnick hopes to make UFO investigation "a full-time job, something I can devote myself to the rest of my life."

Experts, skeptics agree on need for study funds

There appears to be only one area where UFO experts and debunkers agree. And that is that more funding is needed to study reported UFO sightings.

While the experts want the money to help prove that UFOs may actually be extra-terrestrial life-supported systems, the skeptics believe that more research will help to expose the "real" source of unidentified flying objects as something entirely different—and logical.

One of the most renowned international UFO experts is Dr. J. Allen Hynek, a retired head of the Northwestern University astronomy department and former associate director of the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory and former consultant to the official Air Force UFO investigation that ended in 1967 — Project Blue Book.

Hynek thinks the vast evidence on UFOs makes it imperative for the government to spend more time and money on investigations.

Currently the head of the Center for UFO Studies, a private non-profit group that collects data and investigates sightings, Hynek feels UFO research is vital.

Agreeing with Hynek about the need for government funding and research is Houston space engineer James Oberg, an author and Omni magazine writer who thinks all UFOs are either planes, Russian rockets and satellites or hoaxers.

"If we had more funding we could get to the bottom of the unsolvable UFO cases, which all have a logical explanation," Oberg says.

Hynek disagrees. He cites the Westchester Boomerang mystery—in which several people claim to have seen the same unexplained phenomenon from different locations throughout the New York-Connecticut region—and calls it a legitimate UFO case. To back up his belief, he has even visited the area three times to talk to witnesses and investigators.

"It's significant in terms of the caliber of the witnesses, and the fact that so many of the witnesses didn't know each other," Hynek says. "If indeed the lights hovered and moved at the speeds the witnesses said, there's no way of explaining it as small planes."

Hynek cited meteorologists and pilots as especially reliable witnesses.

"Here we have people who seem to be of very high technical caliber, who know more about things from a scientific perspective," he says.

Oberg, in turn, apparently sides with those who say the Westchester Boomerang was nothing more than airplanes flying in formation with flashing lights.

Oberg doesn't question that there are credible UFO sightings by reliable witnesses, but he doesn't believe that automatically makes the UFOs anything extraordinary.

"The criteria of UFOs are made of Silly Putty," Oberg says. "The existence of unsolved cases proves nothing. My research has very strongly indicated that many UFO cases are caused by Russian rockets, missiles and space activity. Even though I can't prove it I believe the unsolved cases all have a basis in logic."

Even though he has not talked to any of the witnesses or visited the area of the sightings, Oberg isn't impressed by the Westchester Boomerang. Mystery from the reports he has read about it.

"It's fun to watch how far a couple of pilots can go flashing their lights at night," Oberg says. "The case is obviously a prank being staged by someone. The UFO people must be pretty desperate to be paying so much attention to this case. They must be pretty hard-up for good cases."

In general, Hynek believes that "the government knows more than they are telling us," but stops short of claiming there's a coverup as some UFO investigators charge.

He also stops short of saying that UFOs are extra-terrestrial.

"We at the center here are looking at this as a scientific project," he says. "But it is too early to come to any hard and fast conclusions about what they (UFOs) are. But that something unusual is going on seems to be pretty clear."

"UFO is no longer a dirty word," he says. "You don't get your mouth washed out with soap if you say you've seen a UFO anymore. By and large we're also getting a better grade of reports, but I don't know why."

Hynek claims the United States is getting scooped by the French and the Russians "who have serious government commissions studying UFOs."

"People want hard evidence, but to get hard evidence, we have to get hard cash," Hynek says.

"But what might be uncovered scares many people," he believes.

"The whole idea of other intelligence in the universe stirs competitive emotions; in other words we're no longer in charge, so to speak. I think many people just wish the whole thing would go away. But it doesn't go away."

Oberg, however, claims that UFOs are actually nothing more than "ordinary things that are sometimes very rare."

Weston author John G. Fuller, who has written several books about people who have claimed to have experienced close encounters—contact with aliens—said that dismissing UFOs is foolish considering the evidence.

Among Fuller's books is the most well-known "close encounter" story ever told in "The Interrupted Journey" which relates the case of Betty and Barney Hill, a couple who, under hypnosis, described being taken

aboard an alien spaceship while driving through the White Mountains of New Hampshire in September 1961.

"I'm a very cautious reporter, I do not assume anything," concedes Fuller, who first wrote of the case while a reporter for Look magazine.

"But the evidence that is amassed in both the Air Force and CIA files and from the literally scores of people I have interviewed shows that UFOs exist, though no one knows what they are."

"The story (of Betty and Barney Hill) was the most thoroughly documented case we have on record. When you examine the entire case in its completion, the evidence points toward the fact that it is real. But the reader has to make up his own mind."

Fuller calls the quantity of the Westchester sightings "truly amazing." He says he has been to the Pentagon in Washington "and I confronted them with their lies. They told me they know UFOs exist, but they don't know what they are. They don't want to admit it because they don't want to look vulnerable."

Fuller asserts that "there's no question in my mind of their (UFOs') existence, and in some cases there is an indication it might be extra-terrestrial."

Hynek says that "people who don't accept the vast amount of evidence are not being scientific. It's easy to be a skeptic if you've not studied the cases."

"Any person who really looks at the evidence would certainly be open to at least studying the situation."

Oberg admits that most UFO investigations are silly, but harmless.

"It's certainly a harmless diversion to go chasing around at night with UFO devices; it's far healthier than watching TV," he observes.

However, he adds that "I do support research like the Center for UFO Studies and prescribe to it and urge that these studies continue. You have to invest in a lot of long shots."

Spokesmen for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in New York and the public affairs office of the United States Air Force in Colorado Springs say that there are presently no governmental agencies investigating UFOs.

A spokesman for the Modern Military Headquarters National Archives in Washington, D.C. confirmed there are no UFO investigations being conducted by the government. He said the government stopped its UFO investigations with the closing of Project Blue Book which was conducted from 1952 to 1967.

In the final project report, 700 of the approximately 12,000 cases that were investigated were labeled by the government as unexplainable.

—RICHARD WEIZEL



STARRING IN THE NEW FALL NBC-TV DRAMA SERIES, "V" ARE: (FRONT) MARC SINGER AND FAYE GRANT AS FREEDOM FIGHTERS MIKE DONOVAN AND DR. JULIE PARRISH; (BACK, L TO R) JUNE CHADWICK AS EVIL ALIEN COMMANDER LYDIA; JEFF YAHGER AS YOUNG RESISTANCE MEMBER KYLE BATES; BLAIR TEFKIN AS ROBIN, THE MOTHER OF A HALF-ALIEN, HALF-HUMAN CHILD; AND JANE BADLER AS EVIL ALIEN LEADER DIANA.

Stars Discuss Stars

Some may see NBC-TV's "V" (Fridays, 7-8 PM) as so much sci-fi fun and fantasy, but to 80,000 people who have reported UFO sightings to the Center for UFO Studies in Evanston, IL, TV isn't the only place the aliens have landed.

Is there life in outer space? Members of the cast of "V," the new drama series about a group of earthlings who fight the oppressive yoke of alien invaders, vote a resounding, unanimous "Yes!"

Marc Singer, who portrays news cameraman-turned-freedom fighter Mike Donovan, likens the universe to a vast ocean "...and we are only beginning to plunge into the depths of that sea. Just as there are creatures and things in the deepest parts of the ocean that we have never seen and cannot even imagine, there exists a similar situation having to do with outer space."

Faye Grant, who plays scientist and resistance leader Dr. Julie Parrish, says: "They've probably been watching us for years and have decided we're just not interesting enough for a visit. They probably watch us shopping at supermarkets and going to discos and concluded they could learn nothing from us. However, I think that within the next 20 years we'll be paying them a visit."

Perhaps a bit more philosophical is Michael Ironside, who plays Ham, a mercenary who joins the resistance. "My ego isn't large enough to believe that we are the only life forms in the universe. I believe in a higher power who must have created other life forms than those of which we know."

Says Michael Wright, who plays

Elias, a criminal-turned-freedom fighter and proprietor of Club Creole, a swinging nightclub that serves as a front for the resistance: "It's inconceivable to believe that there isn't life out there — it has to be as varied and manifold as anything one could imagine. It's almost too staggering to try and speculate what's out there. Life lends itself to a constant unraveling of mysteries, and what's out there is a beautiful mystery."

Lane Smith, whose Nathan Bates, an all-powerful corporate magnate, strikes a deal with the aliens in "V," maintains an interest in metaphysics, and says: "It's the ultimate egotist who believes we're the only intelligent beings in the universe."

June Chadwick's ambitious, by-the-book alien commander, Lydia, gives her diabolical, powerful boss, Diana (Jane Badler), a run for her money, but the two actresses, who are friends off-camera, both think the chance of life on other planets is high.

If there is life out there and these life forms have surveyed Earth, why haven't they contacted us? Marilyn Epperson, of the Mutual UFO Network, responds: "Why should they? It's apparent that if they can get here on their own power, they are more intelligent than we are. They are simply curious about us. But, we have very little to offer them by way of information or knowledge."

What if they did communicate with us? What if they landed and managed to take control? How could we defend ourselves against their superior technology? This is the story of "V."

Lecturer says government knows of UFO presence

By BILL JOHNSON
Of The Sun-News

The question at a UFO lecture here Wednesday was not whether flying saucers and little people from outer space are real, but rather, why doesn't the U.S. government officially admit their presence.

Especially so since the government has numerous documents confirming extraterrestrial visits here on earth, according to Robert Hastings, a UFO researcher and lecturer.

Speaking to a couple hundred persons in New Mexico State University's Corbett Center Auditorium, Hastings said documents he obtained through the Freedom of Information Act proves the government has encountered UFOs in one way or another.

Hastings, a photographer and filmmaker, has been on the road the last four years lecturing on

UFOs. He said his interest in UFOs began 17 years ago while present during a military radar's tracking of a UFO at the air traffic control tower at Malmstrom Air Force Base near Great Falls, Mont.

A document, which he said is an authentic government report, says an Air Force investigator 34 years ago confirmed that "three so-called flying saucers had been recovered in New Mexico. They were described as being circular in shape with raised centers, approximately 50 feet in diameter."

The real clincher in the report is that each aircraft was occupied by three bodies of human shape but only 3-feet tall. They were dressed in metallic cloth of a very fine texture and each body was bandaged in a manner similar to the blackout suits used by speed flyers and pilots, the report said. The report, which was directed to

FBI director J. Edgar Hoover, failed to say what officials did with the three bodies or their wrecked aircraft.

Hastings' lecture, "UFOs: The Hidden History," is about a government cover-up on UFOs, and is based on previously classified CIA, FBI and Air Force documents secured by several UFO researchers.

The Northern Illinois University graduate student from Albuquerque who lives in Myrtle Beach, S.C., contends that the government should be forced to open its files on UFOs, but not all documents because of national security reasons.

Primarily aiming his research at UFO citations over military installations, Hastings said a number of the documents refer to UFOs repeatedly violating highly sensitive airspace over nuclear weapons laboratories and ICBM

(intercontinental ballistic missiles) sites. Other documents are about military jet aircraft unsuccessfully intercepting the faster UFOs.

However, government officials continuously discredit UFO citations as "misidentified known objects" or as some kind of atmospheric condition or military test, Hastings said. There has been an abundance of hard evidence of the government deceiving the public, he said.

An article in U.S. News and World Report a few years ago said President Jimmy Carter possibly was going to give an official statement about UFOs presence here. Carter never did issue the statement possibly because of pressure by the CIA.

Hastings said he believes UFO citations are not a new phenomena but have increased since World War II.



Robert Hastings
Speaks at NMSU

In N.Y. state, many reports about something 'parked in the sky'



Monique O'Driscoll visits the scene of her first sighting as her painting of the UFO seems to 'hover' over the reservoir

The Philadelphia Inquirer / MICHAEL MALLY

Unearthly sightings by some solid citizens

By Dick Polman
Inquirer Staff Writer

BREWSTER, N.Y. — Mere nouns cannot define how she felt on that cold winter night when the heavens parted and the implausible appeared. Monique O'Driscoll puffed a cigarette and rummaged in vain through her vocabulary. *Excitement, euphoria, exultation*... she spurned them all, for they conveyed too little. She is a stranger to imprecision. A county bureaucrat for nearly 15 years, she prefers to deal with data that yield truth through rigorous checks and balances.

She finally shrugged and said, "I can understand how people might not believe me when I talk about seeing that UFO. It's just like me telling you what the feeling is like having a baby when you've never had one. Because you don't know what the experience is all about. I know it's not fair to compare having a baby with seeing a UFO, but I'm talking about the feeling inside, the whole total exuberant feeling."

Irene Lunn, mother of two and wife of a policeman, doesn't know O'Driscoll, but she echoes her thoughts. "I can't explain it," she said, "but it's a very peaceful, hopeful kind of feeling you get when this thing is around." And Dennis Sant, deputy clerk of rustic Putnam County and a church-going Republican, said, "It's the type of wonderful movement you feel deep within your own being."

When hundreds of solid citizens begin to sound like meditation gurus, something odd is obviously afoot. This, after all, is a place where the Methodist church chimes play "The Battle Hymn of the Republic."

Yet, in recent weeks, people here have put their credibility on the line — risking derision and caring not a whit. Said Bob Pozzuoli of Brewster, vice president of an electronics firm, "People can ridicule, but I know I saw something that I can't explain. If it's not of this world, then I'd just like to know where they come from."

For 18 months, astronomer Philip Imbrogno has spent long hours in the steep hills and scenic valleys of Putnam County, 40 miles north of New York City, quizzing credible people who recount the incredible.

"Never before have this many people been willing to step forward and talk about these objects," said Imbrogno, a field investigator for the Illinois-based Center for UFO Studies. "It's changed the consciousness of many of the people there. People with 9-to-5 routines have been taken out of their everyday existence. These are people who, 10 years ago, wouldn't have dared to come forward."

Initially, Dennis Sant had remained mum. The Putnam County Republicans were embroiled in a hot campaign last year, and voters might not have been charmed by a party spokesman who sounded like Jules Verne. Besides, he was a political appointee with four mouths to feed. But once lawyers and judges and police officers began to go public — not to mention pilots and airport meteorologists — he figured it was safe to recount the nocturnal events of March 17, 1983.

"I was bringing my children home from their youth group at our local church," he recalled last week. "My property abuts Interstate 84 in Brewster. I noticed above my back yard a large, almost L-shaped object. It looked like a tractor-trailer parked in the sky. It hovered there

for about five minutes. From tip to tip it was at least 50 yards, and it didn't make a sound.

"This area is the holding pattern for three New York airports, and it's in the path of five small local airports, so we in this community are very aware of what flies over our heads. But this object looked nothing like planes. It looked like nothing I've ever seen." It floated slowly over I-84, he said, where gaping truck drivers began pulling off the highway; then it moved back to an open field across the road from Sant's home.

"I wanted to be underneath it," he said. "As I got out to the road, all the lights on the object suddenly intensified, illuminating the road as if it was a night football game in a stadium. As it hovered, I could make out dark, smoky-colored, metallic beams underneath — huge, huge beams. I guess I always anticipated being scared by a UFO, but I wasn't. It was a very warm, very emotional type thing. You almost felt like you were in communication with it. And many nights after that, I'd go out with a cigarette and look at the sky."

Before the incident, Sant was a skeptic. But now, he says, "you walk up and down these streets and very few people scoff. They know something unusual is happening. I'd like to know what it is. We have a wonderful community here — Putnam County, northern Westchester County. It's a well-educated community, a money community. The people who've seen it are not wackos. We're professionals. And we have a right to know what's going on."

The Federal Aviation Administration insists that fun-loving pilots are flying small planes in formation, but this answer didn't satisfy the people, numbering 1,000 and hailing from neighboring counties, who packed a Brewster auditorium in August for a symposium on the sightings.

"It's not the pilots," said Irene Lunn, "because I've seen them. The pilots are the pilots. The object is the object."

Publicly, the government has no official interest in investigating UFOs, not since its Project Blue Book was shut down 15 years ago. In fact, the policy of debunking citizen witnesses took root as early as 1952, when a CIA panel issued a confidential report on UFOs: "The continued

emphasis on the reporting of these phenomena does, in these parlous times, result in a threat to the orderly functioning of the protective organs of the body politic."

Monique O'Driscoll is part of the body politic; she works with the Putnam County Board of Supervisors and the county finance department. But she spends much of her spare time trying to paint on canvas what she saw in the sky while driving with her daughter in the town of Kent. She uses fluorescent paint, she said, "in order to capture the brilliance and color. I'm going to do it over and over again until I get it right."

On that night in February 1983, she said, "we were coming to a stop sign in a woody area. I looked up, and there were these bright lights, almost like strobe lights. This thing was moving very slowly; it was almost the size of a football field. We followed it to a reservoir. It was right over me. It was boomerang-shaped, and the lights were going in sequence, like on a computer, back and forth. It was just floating in the air, this big, humongous thing. My daughter was trying to get people on the CB radio, but all we could get was static."

"And not one sound from this thing. Something that size, if it had an airplane engine, it would shake your windows out. I could see the underbelly part. It's solid. It had metal-type work, like crossbeams. And tubular things hanging down here and there. I was so close, I could've thrown a ball and hit it... I followed it, and then it just went pfffft, and it was gone. That fast."

She saw it again last March, hovering over a lake near her mother's home. She managed to snap four shots with her Minolta, but the prints came out black. She shrugs it off: "I just tell it like it is. If that's what people interpret, that I'm a crackpot, then that's their problem. And, as crazy as it sounds, I would've loved to go aboard that thing. Get the 25-cent tour, and get back down again. You just can't take away what I saw. Because I know what I saw. And I know I'll see it again, I just know I will."

What she doesn't know is that 15 other witnesses have given strikingly similar accounts to that of Phil Imbrogno concerning the events of that winter night.

Irene Lunn is not happy with her sketches, made at 2 in the morning just four weeks ago. She says they don't do justice to what she saw floating above her house in the town of Mahopac on the night of Aug. 20.

"It was totally silent," she said, sipping coffee in her spacious kitchen as her 2-year-old child snoozed upstairs. "And it was triangular-shaped, with a huge spotlight in front. It was wider than my house. Underneath, it was like a metallic dull gray. Definitely solid. There were no wings. And there was not even a tiny hum, nothing. You could hear the crickets in the yard. I would take a lie-detector test, that's how positive I am."

At one time, she would have kept quiet, but not anymore. "I'm educated," she said. "I have a family, I'm a responsible person, I pay my taxes, I work. I don't sit home watching soap operas all day, and fabricating things. ... And I don't feel afraid of this thing at all. It just feels reassuring, for some reason. Maybe they're going to save us, who knows? The world is a mess, and maybe they've got some answers."

Ten miles east in Brewster, Bob Pozzuoli studied the object he captured on videotape. His wife normally aims the camera at their new baby, but on July 24, he stood on their patio and tracked the brilliant lights skimming across the sky. On the videotape, the object flies in silence, lights rotating counterclockwise; the only sound is Bob whispering to his wife: "Good God, I'll tell ya something, honey, I don't know what the hell it is."

Pozzuoli has since developed some bad driving habits. As his wife, Laurie, said, "He's constantly looking up at the sky while he's driving. I'm afraid he's going to end up on the critical list." But Pozzuoli said, "I'm not a hero. I'm just interested in finding out what it is. If they wanted to do us harm, they could've done it a long time ago."

Phil Imbrogno knows how strange this all sounds. "I can't hardly believe it myself," he said. "But this field of science is at the point right now where it's ready to be accepted in the scientific community. It's where astronomy was in the 17th century. You've still got the kooks

(continued on page 8)

and wackos. But then there are the responsible citizens who can't be denied."

Dennis Sant has talked it over with his children. "After the sighting," he said, "I asked them how they felt about what they saw. The thing is, my wife had passed away four months earlier. And my children know that Mommy's in heaven; they've had this good feeling that we're all going to see each other some day. Anyway, each one of them said that, deep inside, they had the same feeling that they had when believing Mommy was home and safe and well in heaven. It was a good feeling. A marvelous feeling."

While Monique O'Driscoll pursues her quest for the perfect painting, Irene Dunn is pondering the purchase of modeling clay. "I can't stop thinking about that thing," she sighed. "I want to get it right. I want it to come out just right."

JOURNAL, Lakeville, CT - Sept. 27, 1984

Are The Lights In The Sky Really A Bunch Of Planes?

By Maggie Wells

KENT — A Kent woman who saw it says she was "surprised;" a UFO counter in Seattle says he knows what it was and who did it, but won't tell because no laws were broken. "It," of course is the UFO that, according to one report, flew up the Housatonic Valley at about 20 miles an hour shortly after dark last Monday night.

Tom Davis and his wife, June, were driving south towards Kent with a visiting friend. June Davis is an experienced pilot. They had reached the hilltop just south of the turnoff to the dump when they spotted whatever-it was moving slowly up the valley, and leaped out of their car to watch. Later, June Davis described it as a huge, wide-spread delta shape, lined with "five or six very strong, powerful white globes of light" on either wing. Moreover, the thing was flying north with its point facing south, towards the town.

Mrs. Davis recalls, "It was a clear, gorgeous night — clear as a bell" and says the whatever-it was flew "almost directly over our heads," at an altitude she estimated to be about

3000 feet. "There was absolutely no sound, no hum, no anything," Mrs. Davis declared, adding, — "We had it in sight for five minutes" and the silence was not broken.

So much for retired Seattle fireman Robert Gribble's explanation, offered without qualification, that whatever-it was was a bunch of private pilots flying around in close formation for the sheer fun of alarming the natives. Mr. Gribble, a staff member of the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle (a private, scientific organization devoted to collecting scientific data on unexplained phenomena) said the Center gets "a surge of reports when the aircraft are up" and claims to have received a news report that a New York state trooper actually followed the planes back to a base in Westchester.

Meanwhile, June Davis is still wondering what she and her companions saw. "I personally could not relate it to anything I'd ever seen," said Mrs. Davis, adding that the idea of "experienced pilots in formation" had occurred to her on the scene.

CR: B. Greenwood

JOURNAL-COURIER, New Haven, CT - Oct. 29, 1984

Those UFOs are still doing their thing



By ROBERT A. PHILLIPS
Staff Reporter

With autumn in full swing, here are some more small news items found in several of my notebooks.

• Yes, there are still unidentified flying objects in the New Haven area spying on us and it's good to know people are still reporting them to the newspaper.

Got a call from the manager of a local bedding store who reported seeing a large cylindrical spaceship one morning as he was driving along Interstate 91 between exits 8 and 10.

"It must have been about 12 miles away," said Gerry. "Suddenly it accelerated and was gone."

We checked a local police department to find out if any spaceships have landed.

"Which ship are you talking about, the one from Pluto, Mars or Venus?" asked the cop.

Tweed-New Haven Airport's air traffic control tower reported no spaceships on their radar screens.

CR: B. Greenwood

In search of visitors from other worlds

By RAY WEISS
News-Press Staff Writer

Unidentified Flying Objects just don't make the headlines as they once did.

Back in the early and mid '70s, the topic of UFOs was a popular one for TV talk shows and cocktail parties. Films such as "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" seemed to fuel everyone's curiosity about the origins of those reported saucer and cigar-shaped spaceships.

In 1973, more sightings were reported in this country than at any time before or since.

But public interest has waned in the last decade.

Fewer dedicated followers of UFOs remain, dedicated followers such as Everett Walter and Shirley Fox of Fort Myers who stick with the cause.

Both stay active in the world of UFO investigations and research, belonging to several organizations, including the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), a non-profit organization trying to resolve the mystery.

"There are an average of three sightings a day around the world," said Fox, a Fort Myers artist and MUFON area director. "There would be many more except most people are hesitant to report them because they usually have to deal with a lot of ridicule."

Southwest Florida isn't a hotbed of UFO activity, however. Over the years, sightings in this area have been made mainly in the Everglades and along U.S. 27. Possibly the most interesting case was that of Jimmy Flynn, a cattle rancher in Felda.

Back in 1965, he was hunting in the Everglades, chasing deer through the wilderness aboard his swamp buggy, when he spotted a UFO. An eerie yellow light beamed straight ahead from the huge cone. He moved toward the object to investigate, but a beam of light shot from the object's midsection and struck Flynn between the eyes, dropping him to the ground.

When he woke the next day, the object was gone. Nearby cypress trees were scorched. Flynn entered Lee Memorial Hospital, nearly blinded by the light and suffering from a deep bruise on his forehead.

The Air Force and FBI investigated but told Flynn nothing. Ten years ago, he reported in a newspaper article he was partially blind in his right eye from the encounter. Since then, Flynn no longer talks publicly about the experience, hoping to forget.

Fox and Everett can understand. Both say they have seen UFOs and have received public lampooning because of it.

"The press usually takes a sarcastic attitude toward UFOs. They think people who report them are kooks," Fox said. "But it's serious scientific work. People who don't believe in them are crazy."

On an average just 1 in 10 reported sightings end up being labeled UFOs. The rest usually turn out to be something quite explainable, such as a rocket launching or rescue at sea.

But still, there are those unexplainable objects. Two years ago, something with a big orange light appeared in the night sky near Lehigh Acres. It appeared to have molten metal dripping from it. No one has been able to explain what it was.

Last year, two fishermen in the Everglades encountered something one still refuses to discuss.

And last week, Fox and Walter interviewed a woman in Naples who has seen UFOs on several occasions since she was 7 years old.

"We don't know why some people have repeated sightings in their life, and others have none," Walter, a retired career Navy man, said. "I'm interested in those people."

Walter and Fox can only guess as to what UFOs are and from where they come. Maybe they visit from a different world or just a different time dimension.

"People who study this long ago gave up working on if they exist. Today, they're looking into what they are. That will answer where they're from," Walter said.

Walter would enjoy nothing better than having a close encounter with a UFO. Unlike Fox, he doesn't watch the night sky. Lights don't concern him. He's interested in studying areas where UFOs were spotted and talking with people who reported to have seen them, such as Jimmy Flynn.

"In my opinion, you won't find anything chasing lights in the sky," he said. "You reach a point where all this collecting of data gets boring. You have to have close encounters. That's where the study should be."

Fox became interested in UFOs in 1953, when she had her first of three UFO sightings. She was living in Concord, Mass., when her neighbor called her outside to look at three hazy green lights.

She called a nearby Air Force base and inquired about her sighting. Officials had no answers. A year later, Fox said she saw a football shaped object with a brilliant orange light hovering over a field near her house. A few years later, she again saw the same type of object hovering over some hills as she was driving.

Walter had just one sighting. In 1966, he was involved in a Navy training exercise on an island near San Diego. He and about 100 other men saw nine, orange sphere-shaped objects flying in a cluster at about 20,000 feet.

"It was just beautiful. They were steady, moving across the sky. They looked like a bunch of oranges," he recalled. "My whole group saw it. The whole city of San Diego saw it, and started calling radio and TV stations. No one knew what they were. It's still classified as unidentified."

A skeptic until then, Walter since has committed himself to studying UFOs. He even holds a doctorate in education in the field from Nova University in Fort Lauderdale.

"I was just like to know what they are. I think it will take a face-to-face confrontation to clarify everything, though."

Walter is now a consulting electrical engineer and researcher for MUFON.

"We don't have that many sightings reported here. Maybe not that many things are happening here. Or maybe, with the age of people being 50 and 60, they're going to bed early," he said with a smile. "If people are seeing something, they're keeping it to themselves."

Walter and Fox say UFOs are not a dead issue. Walter is in the process of plotting all sightings past and present, mainly in the Everglades area, hoping to find some pattern.

The two UFO researchers urge anyone who spots, or ever has spotted an unexplainable object in the area to write them at: MUFON, P.O. Box 164, Fort Myers, FL 33902. They recommend that a detailed description of where the sighting occurred, and what the object looked like be included.

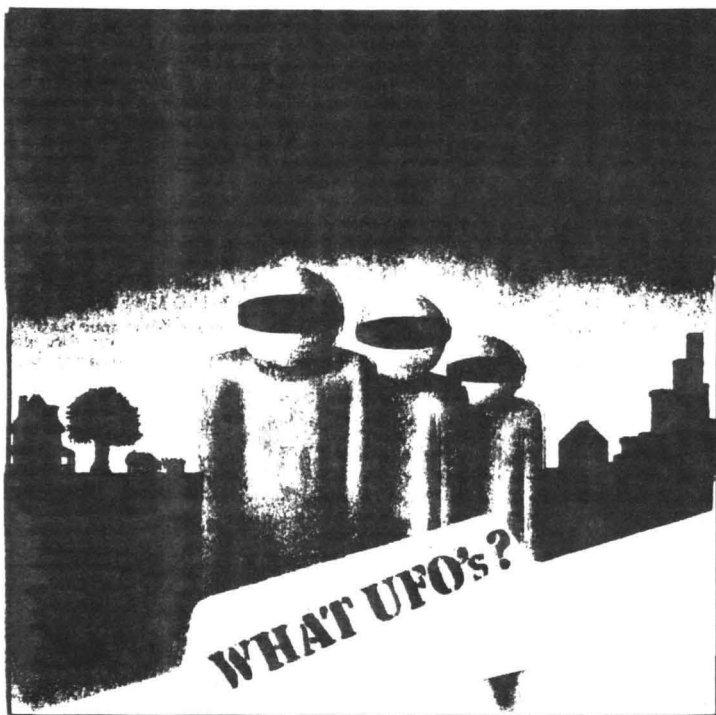
The two UFO researchers will take it from there.

"For all I know there might have been a ton of sightings in the area. But people might not have known who to contact. No one should be afraid. We won't reveal their names. I don't know why all of this is made fun of. It's a serious subject," Fox said.

"People think if they haven't seen them, they don't exist. I can understand that. If I hadn't seen one, I'd have been the same way. But it's just not true. They do exist."

Off the Mainstream: Down to Earth and Out of This World

Speaker Says UFO Puzzle Pieces Hidden



LAS CRUCES — It is perhaps one of the most abiding mysteries of humankind.

In our time, it is a puzzle that has conjured up visions of saucers, globes and cigars — big ones, flying with many-colored lights — moving with speed beyond our own space-age comprehension, forever fleeing from curiosity. The images have keyed some people to tell embellished tales bordering on, or going beyond, the outlandish.

UFOs — unidentified flying objects — have been tied to half the unexplainable phenomena nowadays, probably because no one can adequately explain the UFOs themselves. Frequent sightings have been reported in New Mexico. Mostly, they have left nothing more than an aura of mystery.

Robert Hastings says the government knows the answers to much of this puzzle. And like others before him, he says the government doesn't want to tell about it.

Speaking before a gathering of about 200 at New Mexico State University a few days ago, Hastings said the federal government has for the past 37 years been involved in a massive conspiracy of misinformation aimed at convincing the public that UFO sightings have been explained by natural phenomena.

Hastings, a Myrtle Beach, S.C., photographer and film maker, also is scheduled to speak at 8 p.m. Monday at the University of New Mexico.

Hastings, who has collected information on UFOs for the past 17 years, said he believes UFOs are extraterrestrial in origin, piloted through space and Earth's skies by aliens from another planet.

His interest began in 1967 after he witnessed the tracking of five objects near a U.S. missile complex in Montana.

Two military interceptors, launched from Malmstrom Air Force Base, tried to chase the objects. But, as verified by the military radar, as the jets

approached, the objects accelerated to speeds estimated at 4,800 mph and vanished.

Since then, Hastings and an associate, former National Security Agency investigator W. Todd Zechel, have compiled a library of hundreds of documents dealing with UFO incidents. Those documents, Hastings claimed, prove without a doubt the federal government's cover-up.

Hastings and Zechel have obtained their library through three primary sources: actual eyewitness accounts from former military personnel sympathetic to exposing the alleged cover-up, now-declassified but formerly secret documents and other papers they requested through the Freedom of Information Act.

Hastings took to the lecture circuit three years ago with a program entitled, "UFOs: The Hidden History," at the urging of retired U.S. Air Force Maj. Donald Keyhoe, who also was former head of the now-defunct Project Bluebook, which was the name of an official investigation conducted in the 1960s into UFOs.

The red-haired and bearded UFO proponent presents his information in a measured monotone, rarely breaking the flow of words with humor or even voice inflections.

"I've been told by many people that it is my style of delivery that convinces them to listen to what I have to say," he said in an interview here last week. "They have said it is the way I present the facts — without fanfare, without shouting, without imploring anyone to believe what I say — that makes them listen."

In his traveling collection, Hastings has documents both to and from the late director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, J. Edgar Hoover.

In those memos, dated in early 1950, a top official told Hoover, "An investigator for the Air Force stated that three so-called flying saucers had been recovered in New Mexico. They were described as being circular in shape with raised centers, approximately 50 feet in diameter."

"Each one was occupied by three bodies of human shape but only 3 feet tall, dressed in metallic cloth of a very fine texture," the memo continued. "Each body was bandaged in a manner similar to the blackout suits used by speed skaters and test pilots."

Other documents, dated to 1949, make reference to "various sightings of unexplained phenomena...reported in the vicinity of the AEC (Atomic Energy Commission) installation at Los Alamos, New Mexico, where these phenomena now appear to be concentrated."

Hastings also has documents that he said support his claim of a conspiracy to misinform the public.

The documents, all certified as official government, instruct military and civilian pilots — on penalty of fine and imprisonment — to report all UFO incidents to government agencies Hastings contends are involved in the conspiracy.

Agencies involved, Hastings said, are the FBI, CIA, Defense Security Agency, the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the White House.

"There's an abundance of hard evidence at this time of an ongoing cover-up," Hastings said. "I believe the government's policies are very shortsighted to keep the public so totally in the dark regarding seemingly vital information that affects not only Americans but the entire human race."

"All inevitably will become available some day," the self-proclaimed political-activist-of-a-sort said, "and the public will be better prepared to accept whatever comes forth if allowed to know the truth that UFOs do exist and are interplanetary."

That, he said, is his only goal...and one for which he travels four months of each year in order to someday fulfill.

Truckers getting over fright of UFO incident

By Roberta Olson

Robert and Jackie Bair are taking the week off at home in Selah, Wash. following their nightmare of a trip last week.

Bairs were the truckers involved in the UFO incident while hauling a load of vegetable oil from Washington to Madison, Wis. last week. After three days and 900 miles of terrifying and unexplainable incidents, the Bairs spent Monday, Oct. 8 in a Sauk Centre motel, refusing to go further until they got help.

Jim Ketchum, of S. Davis Transport, Inc. at Yakima, sent a relief driver to Sauk Centre on Tuesday and the Bairs returned to Washington. No further incidents were reported to Bairs or the truck after they left Sauk Centre.

"Something happened to them," Ketchum affirmed Monday. "They had been off for a week, resting up for the trip. They were just beginning their trip," he said. "I don't know what happened to them or why."

Ketchum said he had not checked over the

truck since it got back to Washington, but that the people from the Seattle, Wash. UFO Center had checked the truck over last week.

"They checked the truck all over and gathered evidence," he said. "They sent it in to some scientists. I will get a written report on it if there's any findings."

He said he had just bought the truck and had had it repainted.

The Bairs make the same trip once a week, Ketchum said. Another truck was sent in its place this week.

Ketchum said he won't say if he believes in something unusual or not. "I don't say I do or I don't. I don't know. If it flew in front of me I'd have to believe it."

The Bairs "are getting over it pretty much. They are accepting it for what it was and going on with life as usual. There's nothing that they can do about it anyway," he said.

"They seem to be getting better. They are starting to become chipper."

Ketchum said he has known Bob Bair for a long time, although he has only worked for him for a couple months.

Publicity on the incident created a lot of publicity in central Minnesota and around the nation.

"They realize there are a lot of sceptics," Ketchum said about the incident.

The Bairs reported to the Herald last week their semi rig hauling vegetable oil had been repeatedly attacked by UFOs, or strange creatures resembling prehistoric birds. The creatures began to follow them in Montana, and followed them across Montana, North Dakota and as far as Sauk Centre.

The creatures repeatedly attacked them and their truck, they said, and the man and wife were in a state of fright when they arrived in Sauk Centre.

Incidents involving lights, bubble-like space ship attacks, heavy fogs, metal shavings inside their truck cab, and rashes and blisters on their skin were reported.

UFO sighting reported in Blair

By Bob Sefick
and James W. Siehl
The Tribune-Democrat

Tyrose

An area resident told the local police he spotted an unidentified flying object at 8:30 p.m. Tuesday about 100 yards above the treeline near the Jamesville Pike, about two miles west of this Blair County town.

The resident, a man whose identity and age were not revealed by the police, told authorities he believed that the UFO landed south of the pike on state gamelands.

The man described the UFO as having red lights at the top and white lights at the bottom. When the local police used binoculars to survey the area, they, too, spotted red lights and white lights — but those lights were on the top of the WTAJ tower on Wopsonnock Mountain and at the bottom of the tower on fences.

The state police said the general consensus was that the man had somehow confused the tower with a UFO, but the resident refused to be shaken from his conviction, the state

**People tell of
bright flashes of
light and objects
ascending
vertically into
the sky.**

police said. The man had not been drinking, the police reported.

Reported to center

The incident was reported to the Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained at Greensburg.

The voluntary research center serves as a statewide clearing house for UFO sightings and other phenomena.

According to Stanley Gordon, director, UFO sightings have persisted throughout the year. More recently, he said they have come from Fayette County and as far away as Lehigh County in eastern Pennsylvania. He said there had been a report of a UFO

in the Gallitzin area as well as in other counties surrounding Cambria.

People are seeing large unexplained objects at low levels, Mr. Gordon said. They tell of bright flashes of light and objects ascending vertically into the sky, he added.

Big cats reported

Sightings of big cats and other strange phenomena in western Pennsylvania, including Bigfoot — the large apelike creature — cougars and black panthers, also have been reported, Mr. Gordon said.

Although the cougar officially has been extinct in Pennsylvania since 1890, according to Mr. Gordon, he said an extremely good cougar track was found during a search the past July in Armstrong County. He said it was authentic and verifiable.

Panthers in Westmoreland

Panthers never have inhabited this part of the world, Mr. Gordon pointed out. But, four people in Westmoreland County reported seeing one in daylight from a distance of 100 feet. It was described as large, muscular, solid, shiny black and 6 to 8 feet long.

Mr. Gordon emphasized that the Greensburg operation is available 24 hours a day for reports of unexplained sightings. Correspondence may be mailed to 6 Oakhill Ave., Greensburg 15601.

CR: S. Gordon

UFOs: 11 years later, he awaits their return

By JOAN TREADWAY
Staff writer

PASCAGOULA, Miss. — A faint chill hangs in the air over the East Pascagoula River, still lit by a sinking sun. Three shrimp boats move soundlessly toward the Gulf of Mexico. Sea gulls make their last dives of the day.

On the bank, close to Highway 90, Charles Hickson stands smoking, silently watching the scene and searching the sky.

It's Thursday, Oct. 11, 1984, and Hickson has been drawn there to observe the anniversary of an event he says occurred there 11 years ago, at the same time and in the same spot, an event that catapulted him to international fame.

Hickson's story, then and now, is the same: He and a friend, Calvin Parker, were fishing off an abandoned wharf when an illuminated spaceship appeared behind them.

He stood rooted to the ground as three humanoid creatures disembarked and approached. Two carried him aboard, while the third grabbed Parker. Hickson was examined by something he said resembled a big eye, then released. He didn't see Parker inside the aircraft.

Parker also claimed, at the time, to have been temporarily abducted by aliens, but has since shied away from publicity.

The two agreed on the description of their alleged kidnappers.

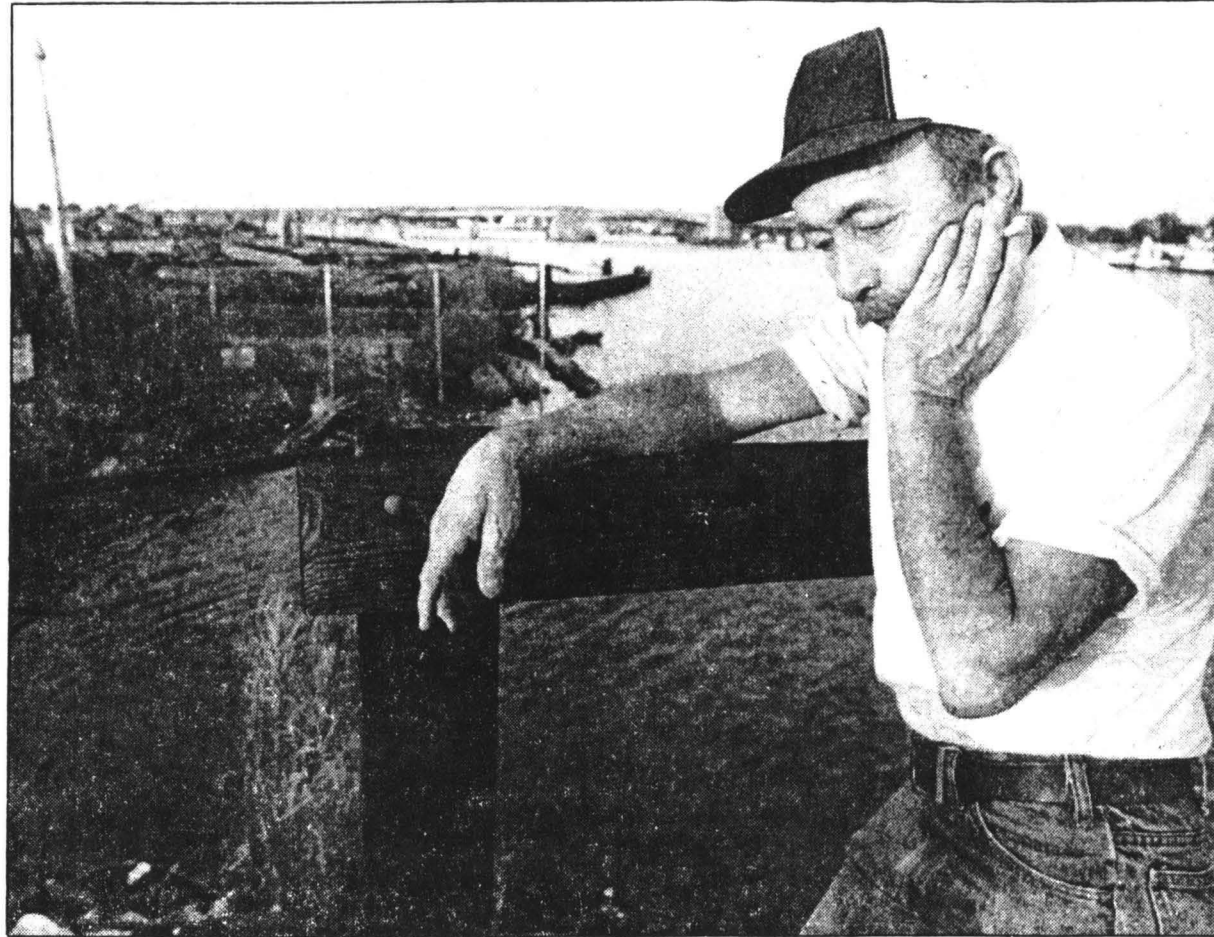
Wrinkled gray skin

"They were over 5 feet tall, had very wrinkled gray skin and long arms and legs," Hickson recalled. "They had no necks or eyes, and short points stuck out from where our noses and ears would be. They had slits for mouths."

Hickson concluded they were not living beings, but robots, because they moved as if they were programmed.

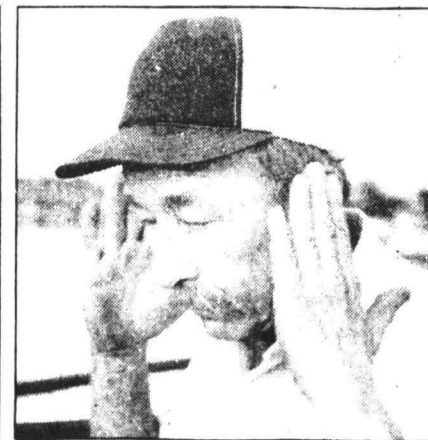
Afterward, the men were left side by side near the wharf. Hickson said he was OK, except that his legs were too weak to support him. He noticed Parker appeared to be in shock, and crawled over to him.

"I was in the Army and I had seen combat in Korea — I knew Calvin was in shock," Hickson said. "At first, he couldn't talk. I shouted at him and slapped him. Finally, he screamed, 'What are



Charles Hickson recalls the night he encountered 'aliens' in Pascagoula, Miss.

STAFF PHOTOS BY BEVIL S. KNAPP



they going to do to us?' but I tried to tell him that they had gone."

The two, who worked for the now defunct F.B. Walker Shipyard, debated their next move. Hickson was 42, Parker only 19.

Initially, they didn't want to tell anyone because they were afraid of being labeled crazy, Hickson said. "But then we thought maybe it was some kind of threat (to other people), and we called Keesler Air Force Base from a pay phone. They told us to contact the Jackson County Sheriff's Office."

Barney Mathis remembers the case well. He was the chief deputy sheriff then. Now he's chief of investigations. "I have gone over it from A to Z and, in my mind, they are definitely certain that something happened. Whether they were hallucinating, I don't know."

"They looked worried and confused," Mathis said. "They didn't appear to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol. We didn't test for this — they weren't under arrest; they had come in voluntarily."

Passed lie detector test

Mathis also was present about two weeks later when Hickson took a lie detector test. It concluded that Hickson believed he was telling the truth. "Strange things have happened; I won't say this incident did or didn't happen," Mathis said recently.

J. Allen Hynek of Chicago, then chairman of Northwestern University's astronomy department, arrived in Pascagoula within 48 hours after the incident.

"I interviewed them and, to Hickson and Parker, it was a very real experience — they weren't faking," Hynek said. He now is a professor emeritus at Northwestern and the founder of the private, nonprofit Center for UFO Studies, which has offices in Chicago and Phoenix, Ariz.

"They were very shaken; something had happened to them," Hynek said. "I went to the site and looked for physical evidence. There was none, but it was very hard ground."

In all, there have been about 200 reports of such abductions, Hynek said. In one experiment during the past year, a psychologist tested nine people, not knowing each claimed to have been kidnapped by aliens, he said. "She said none of them was psy-

chotic and was flabbergasted to learn they say they were abducted."

But UFO debunker Philip Klass of Washington, D.C., who investigated the Pascagoula incident for a book called "UFOs Explained," calls it a hoax.

An electrical engineer and a technical journalist, Klass leads a group of scientists working to counteract what they believe to be growing public acceptance of pseudoscientific claims they say are not substantiated. The organization is named the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal.

After checking UFO claims for nearly 20 years, Klass said he has concluded "there is not a shred of physical evidence to indicate an extraterrestrial presence in our skies."

Can be explained away

"Ninety-eight percent of the people who say they have seen something mysterious have seen something that can be explained in prosaic terms," Klass said. The other 2 percent are hoaxes, he said.

In the Pascagoula case, the polygraph examiner who tested Hickson was young and inexperienced and had not completed his training, Klass said.

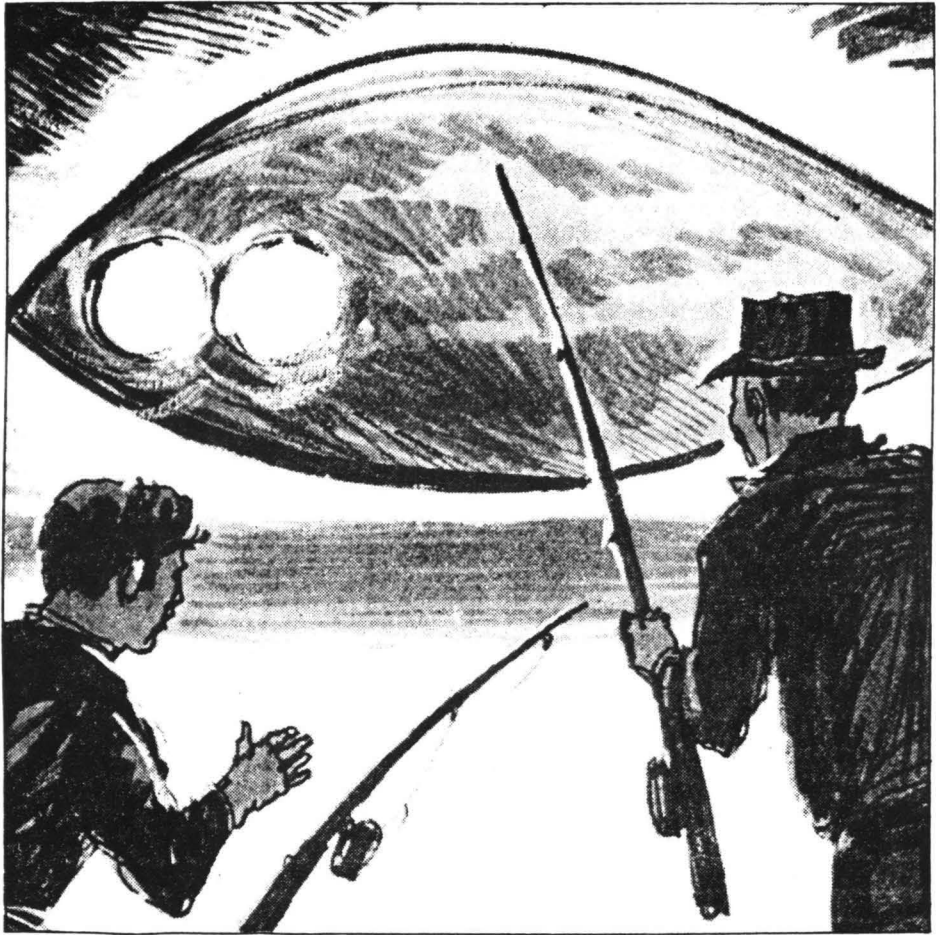
'They had no necks or eyes, and short points stuck out from where our noses and ears would be.'

Charles Hickson

The examiner, Scott Glasgow, was employed, at the time, by Pendleton Detectives Inc. of New Orleans. The company's president, Raymond Pendleton, said Glasgow, who has moved out of town, was new on the job when he tested Hickson but was fully qualified.

Klass has offered to pay for a new lie detector test for Hickson. Hickson said he would take it, provided it's done by an examiner chosen by a neutral third party, such as a law enforcement agency.

(continued on page 11)



Artist's renderings show Hickson being taken aboard ship, left, and 'aliens' abducting Hickson and Parker

None of the hundreds of people who have asked Hickson about the incident or who have written to him have ridiculed him, he said. Nor has his fantastic claim hurt him on the job, he said. He is a pipe and steel fitter for M&M Pipe and Pressure Vessel Fabricators.

His wife and five children all support him, he said. His oldest son, Eddie, 29, said, "I believe him, about the incident, and not just 'cause he's my father — there's so much space out there, I believe God has people in other worlds."

Klass, though, says that if alien beings exist, as he hopes, and they manage to cross the great distances separating them from Earth, "they will have more interesting things to do than kidnap Charley Hickson and examine his navel."

Hickson says the aliens are still in touch with him and will one day appear to him in their true form. He has written a book about his experience called "The UFO Contact in Pascagoula." A privately published edition of 2,000 copies was "gobbled up," Hickson said, and he is trying to produce a paperback edition.

Unnerved by incident

He has spoken about his experience on college campuses and national television programs. On the Dick Cavett Show, an artist sketched drawings illustrating Hickson's story.

Parker, who could not be located, apparently has not fared as well. "He comes to see me, from time to time," Hickson said. "I don't know where he's living, but he's working in an offshore oil field somewhere."

The UFO experience has unnerved Parker, Hickson said. "I've accepted that they want to stay in contact with us," he said. "Calvin can't."

PAWTUCKET VALLEY TIMES, West Warwick, RI - Nov. 6, 1984

Was it really a UFO they saw?

By Philip Bishop
Times Staff Reporter

Put yourself in Mark Parisella's shoes.

You're driving home from work along a dark country road at about 9:30 p.m. on a cool October night.

There's no other traffic around. Now and then, house lights flicker by. Woods surround you.

Your vehicle climbs a hill you've scaled many times before. When you reach the crest, your friend in the passenger seat says he sees a strange object on the horizon. An object with lights.

You don't pay much attention. It's probably an airplane. You continue driving.

Your vehicle picks up speed going down the hill. Ahead is an intersection lit by a single street light. Take a left and you're home.

Your friend is getting excited about the object. He's saying, "It's right there, right over the intersection. Look!"

It's the size of a house — about 1,200 square feet in the shape of a triangle. It's a dull, silvery color. On its three points are lights, three red and three white. The red ones stand out brightly in the dark night.

You don't take the left you should have. Your friend tells you to go on ahead and turn around to take another look at it. Whatever "it" is.

Coming back down the hill to the intersection, one of your fog lights is jolted by a pothole and turns upward. The beam hits what looks like a spacecraft. And you see the triangular shape, the lights. The size of a house 200 feet in the air.

With the flash of your fog lamp's beam, the hovering craft seems to shift into gear and quickly disappear. Gone in the twinkling of a star. Up at a 45-degree angle, its lights fading like a collapsing universe.

Parisella and his friend, Michael Rapoza, say they saw this unidentified flying object Oct. 30 when they were on their way home from a day's construction work at the Family Inn, Phillips Hill Road.

The two 17-year-old Coventry High School students are quick to say their UFO sighting wasn't drug-induced or the result of fatigue.

Parisella, strikingly sensitive and "down-to-earth," says he knows what he saw — but he also knows the story will be greeted with skepticism. He says he'd rather keep it to himself.

Rapoza, on the other hand, can't talk about it enough. He's even speculated about what type of fuel the spacecraft used to dart away so fast.

If such spaceships exist, he reasons, then why not heaven and God, too?

While his mother and sister both believe he saw something out of the ordinary, Rapoza says there are others who rib him with a "Talked to any funny green men lately?"

For Parisella, there is an immediate puzzle to fathom: Why haven't his fog lamps worked since the sighting?



Mark Parisella (left) and Micheal Rapoza Jr. talk about the UFO they believe they saw on Harkney Hill Road, Coventry, Oct. 30.

FOSTER'S DEMOCRAT, Dover, NH

Oct. 12, 1984

UFO sighting reported

ROCHESTER — An unidentified caller phoned police shortly after 2 a.m. Friday morning to report that an unidentified flying object was hovering over his Union Street home.

According to Officer David Dubois, who took the call, the person refused to identify himself. He then told police there was a multicolored stationary object in the air over his home on Union Street.

Dubois said he dispatched two officers to the scene who checked the area and reported there was an object flying above which they believed to be a weather balloon.



EVENING NEWS, Worcester, England - Sept. 20, 1984 CR: T. Good

UFO

PLACE..... Malvern Hills
DATE..... August 6, 1984
TIME..... dead of night
WITNESSES..... Roger and Linda Martin
OBJECTS.....
slow moving, spherical, with bright lights coming from them
RESEARCH..... for one month
CONCLUSION..... low flying military aircraft

Roger and Linda Martin, from Malvern, may not be too pleased to receive the results of Skyscan's investigation into the mysterious UFOs they spotted one August night this year.

Derek Lawrence, and his co-investigators, have come to the conclusion that the spherical objects which hit the headlines and were seen over the Malverns emitting bright lights and making a lot of noise, were actually military aircraft.

The file is now closed. The report, like 95 per cent of the others they've made, doesn't make Skyscan the most popular team in the world.

People don't really want to be told that the UFO they spotted amidst much excitement and mystery was actually a low-flying aircraft, a pigeon with painted wings or even pure fabrication.

But with an average of one sighting a week coming their way, Skyscan likes to be thorough, and sceptical.

The list of cases is impressive. Here's a selection of the many sightings during the past few years:

- Bright pear-shaped objects seen hovering over Droitwich.
- Six small coloured lights moved up and down over Broadheath.
- A gold-coloured ball followed the Worcester to Malvern train home one evening.
- Mr Bruce Fisher saw bright white lights over Hereford.
- Mrs Patricia Lloyd saw a hexagonal object swooping over her garden in Pencombe.
- Mrs Rosemary Hughes saw the ground glowing in Lenchwick.
- Christopher Whipple saw a brightly-coloured object grow and grow in the sky until it split into two.
- Mrs Judy Lessemun saw a sputnik land in her cabbage patch.
- Worcester schoolgirls Beverley Burton and Jane Hancock saw a large silver egg shape flying over Brickfields Post Office.
- Mrs Rina Oakes' wind-screen wipers stopped working when she saw a craft with red lights hovering over a Redditch estate.
- Maureen Freeman and Carol Stringer, two Leominster housewives claimed to have been transported back in time while driving along the A49.
- Author Colin Stone said he had been chased down the M4 by a spaceship near Hay-on-Wye.

We could fill this whole feature with nothing but similar reports over the past decade from our files and those of Skyscan, and not one of the witnesses involved would be over-pleased to be told that their sightings had a natural explanation, that the gold ball following the train was a reflection, that the bright light in the sky was Venus or the coloured lights were from a helicopter.

But Derek and Christine Lawrence, and Tony Green, the three founder members of Skyscan are not in the game to establish that little green men are about to invade earth. They just want to know the truth.

'The UFO does exist... There's no doubt about it.'

The team receive UFO reports on average once a week, and can spend anything up to a year investigating them. In 95 per cent of the cases, they are 95 per cent certain there is a natural explanation. The other five per cent remain unidentified flying objects.

But even then, the group won't admit they are of extra-terrestrial origin.

What the group do is to interview the witnesses who report a sighting, on tape, type out a full report and study it for clues. They contact any organisation which might be able to help, like airports, the balloon and airship club, the Met Office, the RAF, research stations and so on, and usually come up with what they believe to be the answer.

"You have to be diplomatic," said Derek. "People don't always want to know if you have found an explanation. They would rather think it was a UFO."

The group regard their research as a job, rather than a hobby. "We like to think we are offering a service to the community," said Derek. "One of our greatest difficulties is to get people to contact us when they see a UFO. People take us a lot more seriously than they used to, and certainly we get more help from official sources with our enquiries, but we'd like far more people to come forward."

It costs the group several hundreds of pounds a year in stationery, petrol, phone calls, etc. "We daren't add it up," said Derek.

But they're keen. "Officially we meet one night a week. Unofficially, it seems to be most nights."

And what about the unsolved five per cent of sightings? Do they believe they are not of this earth?

"We don't believe anything," said Tony firmly. "As investigators we believe nothing."

"But the UFO does exist. There's no doubt about it. It could have a natural explanation. All we know is that we don't know what it is."

If you happen to see, or have seen, an Unidentified Flying Object, and would like to know what it was, Skyscan can be contacted on Worcester 424408 or Worcester 24432.

The five per cent factor

By
MARY
JOHNS



Ninety-five per cent of sightings can be explained. The rest remain a mystery.



The Skyscan team, Tony (left), Christine and Derek ponder over the latest UFO sighting.

HERALD, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
Oct. 15, 1984

A UFO sets a town abuzz

From BRAD FORREST

BRISBANE. — Mystery surrounds the delta-winged shaped object that buzzed women golfers on the third tee and a nearby homesite.

One resident claims it must have been a spy-plane (Australia's richest oil-field, the Jackson well, is nearby) or some falling space junk.

And the appearance of olive-colored helicopters in the area recently have added to the intrigue.

The Attorney-General, Senator Evans, brought some smiles in the Upper House, which includes Lady Flo Bjelke-Petersen, when asked about the apparent UFOs that had "terrorised" residents in recent weeks.

He said he had been told no delta-winged aircraft were in the area at the time, but suggested "it might have been Beryl (the Premier's pilot Beryl Young) flying off course."

'Beautiful'

However, many of the women golfers, some of whom are pilots in the isolated country town, are sure this was no ordinary plane — if a plane at all.

"It appeared to have no tail, no windows and there was not motor noise," said one witness, Mrs Lee Ireland.

"It was beautiful rainbow colors — a brilliant flash of light. It seemed to zig-zag like it was out of control for a short time before disappearing west over a cattle station."

And helicopters have been spotted flying around in the direction in which the "object" disappeared.

"My theory is that we could very well have a case of a spy-plane. The Jackson oil field west of there is the richest in the world, you know."

CR: P. Norman

UFO man on visit to base

THE senior American air force officer at the centre of the Suffolk UFO mystery was back in Woodbridge last week, it was confirmed yesterday.

Lt. Col. Charles Halt visited friends on Woodbridge air base as he travelled from Saudi Arabia back to his new base in Oklahoma.

He was seen in the town last week, just before a book was published on the incident. The Star was told he was unavailable for comment and working at a "classified location."

Lt. Col. Halt and other American servicemen allegedly saw a spacecraft land in woodland near Woodbridge base in 1980.

His report of the incident and a tape recorded "commentary" were later made public.

An American air force spokesman confirmed that Lt. Col. Halt was in Woodbridge on a social visit on his way back from working in Saudi Arabia.

ITSMITH EVENING STAR, Suffolk, England - Oct. 31, 1984



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

Neighbours in UFO drama

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.

He told the Evening News today: "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. yesterday. Mr Martin, who is convinced the objects were not meteors, phoned both the police and RSRE who confirmed there

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

● Experts warn of sightings: See Page 20.

● Worcester weather expert Paul Damari told the Evening News 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.



UFO spotter Roger Martin.

'Alien watchers will stop nuclear war'

EVIDENCE that aliens are camped out on the moon is put forward in a new series of articles being prepared by retired diplomat Gordon Creighton, of Cedars Avenue, Rickmansworth.

Mr Creighton believes aliens are on the moon to watch our planet and says the intentions of some of them may not be friendly.

He is to publish this and other freshly obtained information on unidentified flying objects in *Flying Saucer Review*, an international journal devoted to UFO study, of which he is the editor.

Some of the new evidence became available when students of UFO phenomena took US government agencies to court and obtained orders forcing them to release between 3,000 and 4,000 pages of documents under the Freedom of Information Act.

The documents show that missiles on Earth were immobilised when their electricity supply went inexplicably dead and their computer controls were interfered with.

Mr Creighton's theory is that the aliens are able to immobilise our missiles and that they will do so if there is a danger of global nuclear war—because they wish to preserve this planet for their own purposes.

Other documents which have recently become available include photographs from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration

(NASA), which Mr Creighton says prove alien activity on the moon.

Dr James A. Harder, professor of civil engineering at Berkeley University, California, believes that about 30 different types of aliens, possibly including some from different dimensions, are studying Earth, and that the U.S. authorities are concealing the information.

Mr Creighton also has a photocopy of a document which he says is an FBI statement that three alien spacecraft have crashed in New Mexico. UFO-watchers have maintained

for many years that the Americans are keeping many crashed spacecraft and their dead alien crews under heavy guard.

Mr Creighton says: "The documents released show that the authorities, far from pooh-poohing the subject of UFOs, have for years been studying it with the same intensity as we have. Yet they have been doing their best to make us look fools."

He is sure there is an official order banning him from putting his views on British television. However, he has recently given two interviews to Japanese

television discussing UFO evidence and declaring that the authorities are hushing it up.

One of the interviews deals with a reported alien landing near a US Air Force base in Suffolk in December, 1980.

At the same time Mr Creighton has translated the first book on UFOs to be published in China and will use the relevant parts in his articles in *Flying Saucer Review*.

He says: "The Chinese book shows that the phenomenon is the same world-wide."

WATFORD & WEST HERTS REVIEW, England - Oct. 4, 1984 CR: T. Good

OBSERVER, Watford, England
Oct. 19, 1984 CR: T. Good

Pictures of crashed alien craft

WITH regard to the cheap and ignorant jibe from P. Smith (Watford Observer, October 12) about the bases on the moon, maybe the party in question might be laughing out of the other side of the face were he or she to see some of the photographs which I have.

Some of the 3,000 to 4,000 pages of top-secret documents which, as a result of several court cases, my investigator colleagues in the U.S. have recently secured from the U.S. Air Force, the FBI, and five or six other American governmental agencies, go back in some cases to 1947 and 1950.

They include Air Force and FBI documents about crashed flying saucers with dead crews. There are considerable numbers of these mostly held in the U.S. but also in certain other countries too.

I am now engaged in publishing a selection of these photostats in the international journal which I edit.

We have readers and correspondents in every part of the world, including Russia and China, and among the material in a dozen languages, which is reaching me regularly, there is a highly interesting proportion which is in Russian or Chinese. Also I have just completed a translation of China's first book on the subject.

We find that, all over the world, folk with a modicum of sense and also of curiosity are anxious to know about the extraordinary and vitally important events now taking place on this planet.

I do not expect to find many readers of the Watford Observer among them. — Gordon Creighton, Cedars Avenue, Rickmansworth.

JENNY'S THE GIRL FOR A CLOSE ENCOUNTER

IF MEN from Mars were to land near Jenny Randles' home, she would know how to greet them and reassure them she was friendly.

"I can't predict exactly how I'd react, of course," she says over coffee in a neat bungalow in Birchwood, Lancs., "but I hope I'd have the presence of mind to find other witnesses. Multiple-witnesses' observation of UFOs is invaluable when assessing the validity of what has been seen in the cold light of day."

Lancashire-born Jenny, a 32-year-old former schoolteacher, claims to be Britain's only full-time UFO expert. Although full-time, she is unpaid and describes herself as "self-financing".

She is the British UFO Research Association's director of investigations.

Jenny and her team of 25 researchers record and document hundreds of claimed UFO and alien sightings every year.

Her interest in UFOs began in the early Seventies when teaching at a school in Cheshire. "There was a spate of UFO sightings at that time," she says, "and some of the middle-school children who'd had UFO experiences found it hard to tell parents or friends. So they confided in me."

But, although, she's had many close encounters with UFO witnesses since becoming the association's director in 1978, she has never seen a UFO herself.

She smiles at the suggestion that this might be a disappointment to her. "Not at all," she says. "I know how rarely such encounters happen."

"I do expect to see what we call UAPs—unidentified atmospheric phenomena—eventually. In fact, four years ago I saw three lights in the sky which could possibly have been UAPs."

"These UAPs are entirely different from UFOs. UAPs are natural phenomena, and they can be

photographed from all angles, seen by many people at the same time and are part of our normal physical world."

UAPs can be caused by artificial satellites, meteors, freak weather conditions and bright stars. But often, it seems, they are a mystery.

Ninety per cent of all UFO sightings, she says, are explainable by natural causes or mis-identification.

"It's the other 10 per cent, the inexplicable, that interests us. And these cases are usually experienced by only one person—even though there may be other people nearby."

She tells of a security guard at an Oldham engineering works who claims to have seen a huge UFO hovering above him, emitting blue light and a high-pitched whine.

Yet neither his fellow guard nor people living in the immediate neighbourhood saw or heard anything.

"This is typical of UFO encounters," Jenny claims. "UFOs are witness-selective and it's usually one person. Why this is, we don't yet understand."

A UFO experience is a vivid and very real experience to the witness.

"They know for certain they did not dream it or imagine it," she says. "They are absolutely genuine in their belief and the memory of it doesn't fade, like a bad dream does, but stays with them."

Often, a witness doesn't tell of the close encounter for months, even years, for fear of being ridiculed.

"These people are often distressed and in need of sympathetic help," says Jenny. "They will have gone through agonies of indecision before getting in touch with us."

"The rule we adopt is: The closer the encounter, the less likely the person is to speak about it. But eventually

By TONY WILMOT

there comes an overwhelming desire to tell."

One case involved a young woman who, as a teenager in 1976, had a close encounter while walking home from her bus stop. It is only now, eight years later, that she has been able to tell what happened.

"As she was walking home she said she saw a UFO in the sky," explains Jenny. "It was octagonal and had bright lights. The UFO came down low overhead and she felt a severe pressure pressing down on her."

"It forced her down on to the ground and she lost consciousness. Her next memory was of running down the street and bursting in through her back door, realising that an hour had elapsed since she'd got off the bus."

In another case, in 1973, a woman

was driving a car when the engine cut out and the lights went out.

The woman claimed that an alien hand fell on her shoulder and she was dragged across a field to a spacecraft, where she was strapped to a table and raped.

Did it really happen? Or was it an hallucination?

"It comes down to a choice," says Jenny. "You either accept the witness's word or you don't. You can never be sure that an experience of this kind is not a one-off flip-of-the-lid by the witness."

One of the problems for UFO investigators is that no UFO witness has yet produced a piece of a UFO or some object an alien has given him, or a photograph of the inside of the UFO.

"All the indications are," says Jenny, "that the alien encounters don't happen in the outside world but within the minds of the witnesses."

But that doesn't necessarily mean it's an entirely imaginary experience. "Something is causing people to have these experiences. Something is triggering the mechanism to produce something which is totally real inside the mind."

One of Jenny's most baffling cases occurred when she took part in a local radio broadcast. A very distressed man phoned to say he had seen a UFO the previous day over railway lines.

Shortly afterwards, a news bulletin reported that two youths had been killed when they apparently ran in front of a mail train—on the same section of railway line and at the same time as the UFO report.

"At the inquest," says Jenny, "it was established that the youths had left their motorcycles in a lane and run across the line in front of the train."



Jenny has never seen a UFO

There was no obvious way that they couldn't have heard the train coming—unless they were totally distracted by something else, something they were running away from, perhaps."

Many people believe UFOs are simply the stuff of science-fiction, that films such as *Close Encounters Of The Third Kind* create and perpetuate the myth. But, instead of feeding the myth, *Close Encounters* had the opposite effect.

In the two years after the film was released in Britain, there was a drop in the number of UFO reports—and nobody knows why.

Jenny, who describes herself as "a purely objective investigator", says there is not yet enough firm evidence to convince her that UFOs exist.

But the final solution, she thinks, could be close.

WEEKEND, London, England

Oct. 24-30, 1984

CR: T. Good

UFOs
GHOSTS, DREAMS
PSYCHIC PHENOMENA

INVESTIGATING THE INCREDIBLE BY JOHN PINKNEY

RUSSIANS CHANGING TACK ON SPACE VISITORS

THE SOVIET Government seems gradually to be preparing Russians for contact with an alien civilisation.

Heavily-censored official newspapers which once scoffed at UFO reports are now publishing statements by major scientists that another world may be watching us.

And, the Soviet Academy of Sciences has announced a program designed to reveal "whether a probe from an extraterrestrial civilisation is in orbit around the earth."

Russia's official attitude toward UFOs is now sharply at odds with that of Western governments, which still dismiss them as fantasies and hallucinations.

Typical of the Kremlin's more serious line on flying saucers was a major article in a recent issue of Izvestia, an official government newspaper.

In an interview, Soviet scientist Dr N. Vassiliev said he had fresh evidence that an interplanetary "space machine" had caused the explosion which devastated a huge area of Siberia in 1908.

Vassiliev, who this year headed a University of Tomsk expedition to the area, said: "The commonest explanation through the years has been that a comet or meteorite caused the explosion."

"However, our studies of the angle and speed of impact do not support that theory."

"Phenomena produced by the explosion may testify to the existence in space of matter unknown to us."

The expedition, said Izvestia, had made a particularly dramatic find. Samples of lead collected by its scientists was dated at 11 billion years old—about three times the age of the earth.

However, it has not been conclusively proved that the lead was part of the blast. The Tunguska detonation

occurred at about 7am on June 30, 1908, causing amazement around the world.

For weeks, night skies over Europe blazed with extraordinarily coloured lights.

The object which crashed on to Siberia that morning exploded with the force of a 35-megaton bomb, flattening 1500 square kilometres of forest and causing a violent earthquake.

The Soviet Academy of Science is now sifting massive evidence which suggests that the intruder was a gigantic nuclear-powered ship which careered out of control during a flight through our solar system.

For months before the Tunguska explosion, says

Izvestia "extraordinary lights" were widely seen in the skies over Russia.

The UFO reports continued for months after the explosion, suggesting that accompanying craft were perhaps performing some sort of aerial tests.

The Tomsk University team's main reason for rejecting a comet theory is that the object did not strike at a high speed or angle.

Said Vassiliev: "We now believe that just before it exploded, the object changed its height and azimuth in the atmosphere and made a sharp turn to the west... a manoeuvre which only an intelligently-guided craft could make."



If you've seen or photographed a ghost or UFO or had any kind of supernatural experience, John Pinkney wants to hear from you. Write to John at PEOPLE, PO Box 156, Chippendale, NSW, 2008

ADVERTISER, Durham, England
Oct. 25, 1984 CR: T. Good



Brothers spot city UFO

A LONG whining noise and a brilliant light woke Durham ice rink assistant manager Paul Smith at midnight on Saturday — and he looked out of the window to see an unidentified flying object hovering over the city telephone exchange!

Paul, 23, who lives at the rink, said this week: "The bedroom was lit up, and over the telephone exchange there was a bright, round disc hovering for about five minutes. It was magnificent to watch."

"I woke my brother, Damian, and when we got back to the window it turned on its side and the underneath went a kind of 'fire orange' and two objects shaped like tennis balls came away from its end and stayed at its tail."

"It then swooped and dipped over the playing field before vanishing over a church spire. It was about 20ft in diameter and only about 20ft above the exchange at first."

Above, Paul and Damian (DA).

Those unexplained lights . . .

MYSTERY DEEPENS

THE mystery of the unexplained lights in the sky over Oulton Broad became even greater this week.

And it seems it was not the first time strange sightings to have been reported in the area.

But what the sightings

were of has become more of a mystery than ever.

The Journal received a stack of callers confirming our story published last week.

Mrs. Anna Goddard, of 1, Longfield Way, Oulton Broad, has a husband, Robert, who has spent a lifetime as an aircraft engineer. But even he did not know

what the couple saw on Sunday week.

A former RAF colleague of Mrs. Wendy Somers, of 87, Caldecott Road, Oulton Broad, said the object sounded like an air ship carrying freight when she told him what she had seen.

Tethered

But Airship Industries, who are the nearest company to Lowestoft to use such craft, flying out of RAF Cardington, Bedfordshire, said their craft were all tethered to the ground over the weekend.

Suffolk investigator for the British UFO Research Association, Mrs. Dot Street, of 15, Blackberry Way, Oulton Broad, said she had contacted bases such as Bentwaters and Mildenhall as

well as the heliport at Ellough trying to find what the mysterious object was... but without luck. However, such places do not always divulge what they fly, she said.

She had seen little Lee-Emma Blakemore about the incident and was impressed by her memory. The fact that she could recall exactly what she was wearing at the time makes her evidence of what she saw likely to be accurate.

She now hopes to interview more of those who think they saw something.

Mr. Patrick Brackstone, of 114, Higher Drive, Oulton Broad, said he saw exactly what Mr. William Tompkins described in last week's paper at about the same time of an evening back in October last year. But his story was never printed.

KENT & SUSSEX COURIER, England - Nov. 2, 1984 CR: T. Good

Was this a UFO sighting?

FOLLOWING last week's sighting of a UFO over Tonbridge, there has been another more dramatic vision of one in a field on the outskirts of the town.

Ten year old Natatia Bray, of Hectorage Road, Tonbridge, who is a pupil at the Slade School, was playing with some friends behind the school when she saw an unusual object in a field with smoke coming from it.

"I was very frightened," said Natatia: "Behind the tree I could see a silvery, egg-shaped thing with black smoke and fire coming from it, and it was glowing orange."

Natatia's mother, Mrs. Ellen Bray, said: "Natatia isn't one for making up stories, and after reading the article in last week's paper I feel she's got to be telling the truth."

When a Courier reporter visited the scene of the incident on Friday afternoon, only a few hours after the sighting, he found a willow tree with its trunk and large branches flattened and split, and the centre burnt out, but there was no sign of the mysterious object.

On the trail of UFOs

HYNDURN CITIZEN, Lancashire, England - Oct. 26, 1984 CR: T. Good

STILL on the trail of Unidentified Flying Objects in Hyndburn, a group from Oswaldtwistle claim to have made two UFO sightings.

Four friends first saw something strange in the sky over three weeks ago — the same day the Citizen reported a UFO over Clayton-le-Moors.

They were in the area rabbit hunting when they saw something 'green and flashing' in the sky — unlike anything they had ever seen before.

Two weeks later the same group with a fifth friend again saw an object in the sky which was 'luminous green' and 'not a bird or plane'.

One of the group, Christopher Halton from Dudley Avenue, Oswaldtwistle, said they were at West End School, Aspsden Lane, when it happened.

With him were Craig McKenzie, Ian Giles, Sharon Holden and Velda Creech, all from the Oswaldtwistle area.

LOWESTOFT JOURNAL & MERCURY, Suffolk,
England - Oct. 26, 1984 CR: T. Good

PIX-PEOPLE, Sydney, N.S.W., Australia - Oct. 8, 1984 CR: M. Heelas

MEET MR UFOLOGICAL!

Ask Paul Norman why he travels around the world and his answer is simple: "Curiosity."

The consuming interest that takes him to the four corners of the globe is the UFO — and sighting of those remarkable flying objects that have tantalised and bewildered humans for years.

Since his retirement in 1976 from an engineering position with the Victorian State Electricity Commission, he has devoted his retirement to research on UFOs.

As honorary vice-president of the Victorian UFO Research Society, Paul has become known-world-wide for his work.

Earlier this year he was one of nine people appointed to the World Ufological Association as the Australian-New Zealand representative.

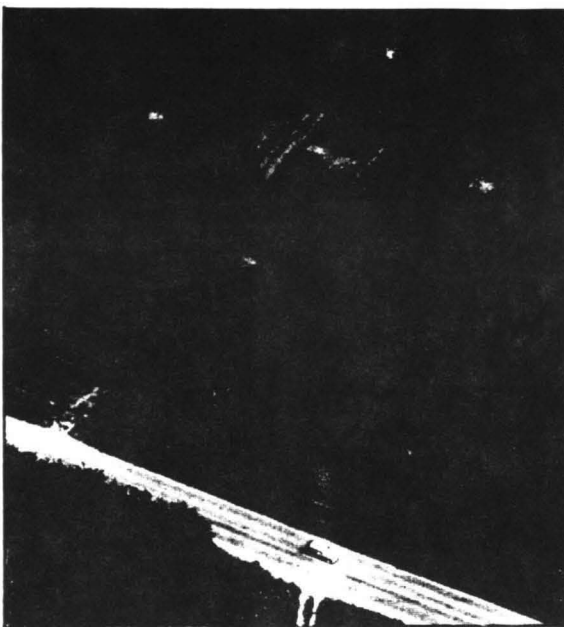
Many of his travels are fully-paid trips to address groups from London to Zimbabwe.

"I retired in April 1976," he said. "Two days later I took off for San Francisco."

"I'm a widower now but my wife used to say I started talking about retirement before I ever went to work."

"I'm doing what I want to do now. I'm busy wearing out instead of rusting out."

This year Paul Norman has visited Africa, England and Scotland and has travelled extensively in the US and Canada — always in search of more information to help satisfy



In July last year in Warminster, England, puzzling swirls left in a cornfield by some flying object.

super-sonic pelicans completely equipped with asbestos feathers."

Paul Norman, 67, developed an interest in UFOs more than 30 years ago when he was working as a superintendent at a hydro-electric power station in the US state of Tennessee.

"Someone called me outside as a light was coming up over the river. I said it was a night-flying helicopter."

"Then I thought: 'Where's the helicopter sound?' It was approaching at about the speed of a helicopter. It got right over the power station and then it sped away, this time as fast as a jet."

That was November, 1953, and from then on Paul Norman's interest in the mystery of UFOs has increased from a weekend hobby to a full-time commitment.

"I got interested because I saw one. I don't believe in UFOs, neither do I believe in aeroplanes. I know they're there."

Today, he is a much sought after public speaker, being invited to talk all around the world. In March he went to Zimbabwe for an all-expenses paid, 10-day visit where he was invited to give three public lectures.

From there he went to London at the invitation of a vice-president of the British UFO Research Association.

Only a small percentage of Mr Norman's expenses, however, are met by his hosts. More often than not, his international quest for information is financed by himself.

"I avoid luxury hotels and motels. This way I get more bounce to the ounce. If I paid over \$50 for a bed, I couldn't sleep."

Two years ago Mr Norman had medical trouble and was told he might need surgery within a few months.

"So I said let's do it now." He was booked to go overseas two months later.

"Now I'm partially bionic. But I had to do it to keep up the chase." It was an operation to have a valve put in his heart.

Mr Norman spends about half his life on each side of the Equator, depending on the weather.

"A few days after you go off daylight saving, I head north. And a little while after I get there they come on daylight saving time. Last year I was away six months. This year I was away a little less than five."

Obviously Mr Norman enjoys doing his research in a warm climate. "Why do it in the misery of cold weather?"

While he is in Australia, Mr Norman is based with relatives at Timboon, a small dairy farming town in Western Victoria.

But his research never stops. He travelled more than 12,000 km around Victoria in the five months from last October.

When overseas, Mr Norman also spends time meeting other experts. He has contacts throughout the English speaking world.

His quest for knowledge involves considerable expense and a degree of uncertainty, but he and other acknowledged UFO researchers do not waste their time on fruitless expeditions.

"World-wide there's about 100 UFOs being reported every 24 hours," he said.

About 80-85 per cent of reported sightings can be explained as aeroplanes, balloons or pieces of space junk, Paul Norman says.

"It's the unknown that interest us. We try to concentrate on cases where they leave physical evidence; plenty of witnesses."

UFO societies through-



Story by TONY RINDFLEISCH

In August, 1981, Mr Paul Norman examined a strange sphere found in a Wimmera wheatfield.



A Soviet example of a UFO sighting 1981. Note the undercarriage.

his insatiable appetite for knowledge about UFOs.

"For too long too many individuals from the scientific community have been subjected to negative opinions and ridiculous attempts to explain the UFO phenomena," Mr Norman said.

"In an incident which occurred over central Queensland, a plane with 10 witnesses aboard observed seven objects circle it, then leave the vicinity in three minutes."

"Professors of impossibility decreed the objects to be migrating pelicans. To have circled the plane and leave the area in three minutes they would have to have been

out the world have access to scientific equipment to stress-analyse descriptions given by eye-witnesses. Photographs can also be computer analysed for authenticity, he says.

He claims there are people making money by mixing facts with fiction and selling it to publishers.

"The only ones making money out of it are those putting the 'souped up' rubbish on the news stands."

"There's a publisher been onto me for a long time to write a book, but I don't have time."

"I like to grow vegetables when I've got the time. And I like fishing. But this other activity takes priority."

"Maybe when I find out the whether, whence and why I'll write the book, but as long as I've got wear and tear left I'm gonna chase 'em."

★ Correspondence to the Victorian UFO Research Society should be addressed to PO Box 43, Moorabin, Victoria 3189.

KENT & SUSSEX COURIER, England - Oct. 26, 1984

CR: T. Good

UFO OVER TOWN

FIVE OFFICE employees from Benn Brothers, Tonbridge, and a group of building labourers working nearby saw a UFO hovering over the town on Wednesday lunchtime.

Karen Eager, one of the office employees who saw the mystery object said: "It appeared over the office as a very big orange light moving extremely slowly. At first we thought it was a firework, but it stayed in the sky and continued moving over the offices towards Sevenoaks."

The Royal British Observatory at Herstmonceux Sussex and the local police were contacted, but no similar sightings have been reported.

The Magnificent Obsession

Senan Moloney continues his series on our magnificent obsessions with one of Ireland's top U.F.O. hunters...

The man with his head in the sky

IF YOU have ever seen blinking lights in the heavens or saucers in the sky—you are not alone.

The Spectrum Society, Ireland's UFO watch, has documented over 4,000 cases of UFOs in this country, according to its secretary, Owen McQuail.

"About seventy per cent of sightings are due to natural phenomena," says Owen. "People can see satellites, meteors, Venus, clouds and flocks of birds and believe them to be UFOs. As a matter of fact, we investigated the claim of a man in County Clare who said he had kept a strange piece of metal which he saw fall off a spaceship. It turned out to be a piece of a weather balloon."

"But according to the American Institute for Aeronautics and Astronautics, approximately a third of all UFO sightings cannot be explained. And a great many of these sightings are made by pilots, sea captains, astronomers and astronauts, people who are supposed to know what's happening in the sky."

The Spectrum Society has been looking upwards and outwards since Owen McQuail founded it in 1974. It has over a hundred members in every walk of life, and at one stage it was receiving reports of sightings at the rate of a thousand a year.

In some cases UFOs are said to have landed in Ireland, and there are eyewitness accounts of silver humanoid beings collecting samples of earth rock outside their craft. In contrast, a parliamentary question in the Dail a year or two ago, elicited the official response that there were only fifteen UFO reports on file.

Owen is 45, with a receding forehead and

worried eyes. He had a fire in his home a few months ago which destroyed much of the society's records, and the day after he was visited by hostile life-forms in the shape of burglars. The day I was there, his cistern overflowed. No wonder the poor man has worried eyes.

Not that he's in the least fearful of meeting alien extra-terrestrials. He has seen UFOs on two occasions, and took part with society members in a World Contact Day exercise in 1975, in which people all over the world tried to contact aliens telepathically, asking them to communicate with mankind.

The first of Owen's close encounters came during a skywatch in the grounds of the Clarehaven convent in Finglas at midnight on June 24, 1973.

"I saw this massive orange ball travelling from the south to the north. It must have been about



forty miles up, it had no vapour trails and was about the size of a large jaffa orange. It gave out no noise at all but it was very brightly orange. I watched it with other members of the group for about ten seconds. That fella must have been doing 2,500 or 3,000 miles an hour."

Five years later, Owen

saw a UFO closer to home. "I was out in the back garden and I saw what looked like a dumb-bell in the sky. There were two white orbs joined by what I would call a fluorescent tube. It wasn't an aeroplane, but it was moving at a hell of a lick. Then it just disappeared in front of my eyes. I think now it must have been about two miles up, because it didn't cause any electro-magnetic interference, the lights didn't flicker in the house or anything."

Owen has a number of hypotheses and theories about the origins of UFOs, but he has no doubt that they exist.

"The experts estimate that at least 6,000 million stars are capable of supporting life. And that only takes account of life generating conditions as we know them, and not other environments that could give rise to a different kind of life. So I do believe there is life elsewhere in the Universe, absolutely. It is a scientific likelihood. Whether we have a common creator is another matter."

He speculates that UFOs may be a visualization of our own future or mental projections, or not the craft of extra-terrestrials. If so, these visualizations have been going on for a long time. The first case in which a witness said he saw a "flying saucer" was in 1896 in America.

Even earlier, many civilisations have myths and legends involving visitors from space. "In Celtic mythology you have

King Bran, who is reported to have travelled in a spaceship, and Incas, Mayans and Indians have spaceship folklore. The word "Vimana" that is found in Hindu scripts means "aeroplane", and there is also the flying carpet syndrome," he says.

Owen was considering the agreement between Isaac Newton and Archbishop Usher that the world was created at 9 a.m. on a morning in October, 4,004 years BC,



and how long cosmic day-trippers have been visiting this planet, when Allen Lawler arrived.

Allen Lawler is an ex-soldier and now chief investigator of the Spectrum Society. He has also been accepted by NASA as a volunteer for any human colonization of space.

"Allen has a healthy 28-year-old body," says Owen. "Now if they transplanted my brain into him, you'd have a very good unit."

Allen was returning a borrowed record, Klaatu's "Calling Occupants of the Interplanetary Craft", and the conversation turned to Irish UFO sightings on the society's files.

"There was one case in Newbridge where two fellas saw a UFO and took a series of photographs of the object," said Owen. "In 1977 two boys



Owen McQuail... waiting for the aliens.

went for a walk, one aged thirteen, the other fourteen. One had a tape recorder with him and the other a camera. God knows why. They went into a field in the middle of the afternoon and suddenly they saw a bright spinning object. The tape recorder stopped, but one fella took pictures of the object.

"There are ten pictures of this UFO, and they have been authenticated by photographic experts and others, but I think it's a little too handy, too good to be true. The two lads, Michael McDermott and Christy Hannon have since become Franciscan priests", I believe.

"Then we had a UFO crash landing in Clondalkin," said Allen. It was seen by these two chaps in their teens with one of their mothers in the early evening, the twilight zone. They saw a huge disc flying very warpy on its way down. They said it was dome shaped with a tassel at the top, and so many lights underneath that you couldn't miss it. It was pulsing and fading with a bright bluish light.

"It went into the grounds of a convent and they next heard a bumping and scratching, and then silence and lights appearing in the air then more bumping and sliding. The lads ran into the convent and saw the object wobbling back up into the sky. Then it shot off at speed.

"We saw scrapes on the ground in the convent, and stud marks where the UFO had put down its tripod. The grass was scorched in the centre of

these marks, where there must have been a blast of heat from the engine.

"In Sallins in 1980 a UFO landed in a field, and we found marks on the ground. The farmer tried to persuade us that it was only his cattle having a jamboree in the centre of the field, so we told him that if a UFO had landed, his cattle were probably full of radioactivity and would have to be put down. Three families and the police all saw that object landing. They said it was glowing red, like the brake lights of a car, but when it landed the red faded away.

"A local man, Michael O'Shea, says he saw aliens



in one piece suits with a radio contraption on their left ear, walking around for fifteen or twenty minutes, collecting samples. Then they got back into the ship and blasted off."

Owen says that there are legions of people who are convinced UFOs exist. "I've even had a Fianna Fail Minister report a sighting, and the interest in UFOs in high places is incredible. Mind you the majority of people are beginning to wonder now if we aren't the only life in the universe."

He walked me to the gate, and then, with a quick check on the sky, disappeared indoors.

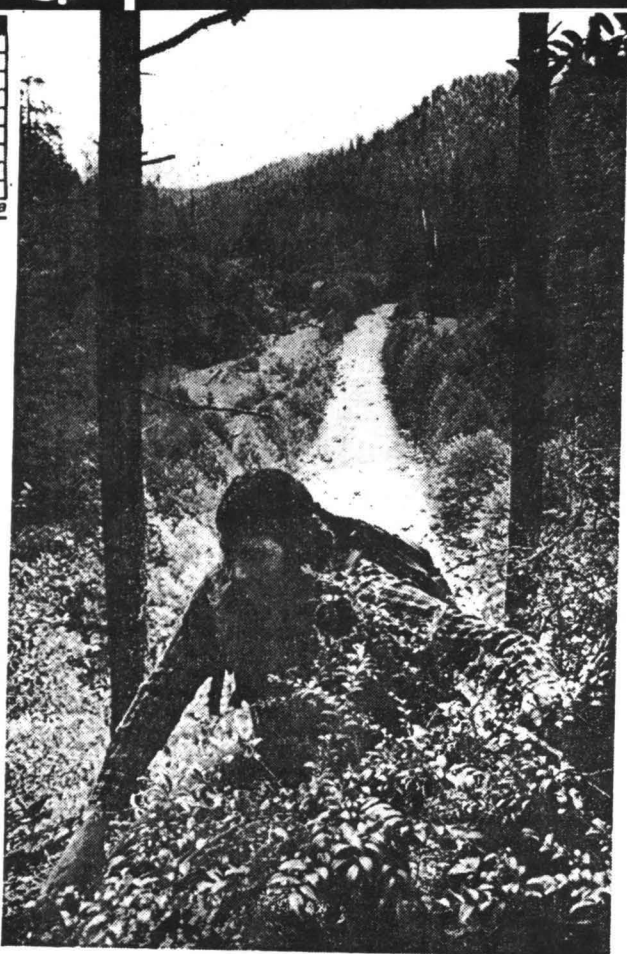
In pursuit of
Bigfoot

A unique adventure by Tom Stienstra

EXAMINER, San Francisco, CA - July 19, 1984 CR: W. Thompson

Tom Stienstra
parts the
bushes to get
around a
granite
outcrop along
the rugged
Blue Creek

Photo by Jeff Patty



A spooky encounter

It has many names on many continents, but 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 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
Fifth in an eight-part series

CHETCO GULCH — The Kalmiopsis Wildland in southwest Oregon is a lonely, eerie place, and my thoughts were matching the surroundings.

I had this strange feeling that I was going to see a Bigfoot. Tonight.

Call it crazy if you want, call it a mountain man's intuition, but by any name, the thought was there. It was the same kind of intuitive surge I sometimes feel just before I catch a trout or see a deer. That little voice in the back of my head is what leads me on.

An hour before dusk, we mapped our plans. Fellow explorer Jeff Patty would head downstream, I upstream — where we would find hidden perches from which to view likely spots where animals would stop to water. Dusk can be a magic time in the wilderness, when almost all creatures big and small will venture to the watersheds.

We split up, and after 20 minutes, I found a good overlook and began waiting, watching. Like I said, I have this feeling: Bigfoot. Tonight.

The Kalmiopsis (pronounced Kolm-Me-Op-Sis) Wildland is a harsh, rugged country noted for occasional Bigfoot episodes, steep trails and panoramic views.

From Canyon Peak or the crest of Fiddler Mountain, you practically need a 360-degree swivel on your neck to absorb the view. Check it out: To the west some 30 miles distant is the

Pacific Ocean, with the air so clear that you can actually see the white breakers of the surf.

The Siskiyou Backbone in northern California is prominent to the south, with Preston Peak jutting out above the rest of the range. Due east, 80 miles off against the horizon, a giant snow-covered peak rises above a black ridge; Mt. Ashland, 7,533 feet high. And looking north, barely detectable is a ridgeline topped by two monstrous snow-covered peaks, the Sisters Mountains near Bend, Oregon — some 160 miles away.

While viewing this, I flashed back to a trip to L.A., where you couldn't even see to the end of the block because of the yellow "filtered sunlight," as they call it. That is literally a world apart.

So few people come to the Kalmiopsis Wildland that it is one of the few designated wilderness areas in the Pacific Northwest where you do not even need a permit. In contrast, the Desolation Wilderness in the Sierra Nevada is so popular that the U.S. Forest Service has enforced strict backpacker quotas.

Why is it so remote up here? Because surrounding the wilderness is a vast tract of sparse, steep country where hikers can get roasted as if they were walking on a hot barbecue grill. After a few hours of looking at that red ground, it even starts to look like hot coals.

So if Bigfoot does indeed patrol the Kalmiopsis interior, he does so with little interference from humans. It is an area like this where one can imagine several species of wildlife eluding the detection of man.

A good example is the black-footed ferret, a wary, nocturnal weasel — now almost extinct — that is seen far less than the reports of Bigfoot. Here in Oregon, there have been tales of Bigfoot sightings ever since the pioneers came out west on the Oregon Trail.

From my vantage point above the stream, I could view a prime stretch of the creek where animals commonly water. After 40 minutes, I had seen nothing, and although nightfall was approaching, that peculiar feeling persisted. Bigfoot was close, very close.

Suddenly, from behind, the crack of a snapping tree branch jolted me as if I'd stuck my fingers in a light socket. My head cocked in an attempt to hear even the least discernible sound.

"Crunch-crunch." Two clear footsteps, limbs cracking beneath them, perhaps 150 feet away, hidden by the forest. Then silence.

I jumped behind a huge cedar, about six feet across, to conceal myself. From behind this tree, I could hear the creature approaching. "Crunch-crunch, crunch-crunch, crunch-crunch." Twigs were snapping, leaves were crackling from the weight of the beast. It was heading straight toward me, perhaps 20 seconds from reaching my hideaway.

A sensation of fear and wonder cloaked me. All along, I had the feeling I would see a Bigfoot tonight, and now there was one approaching. I could feel the beat of my heart in my neck.

Here it comes, like a fast-burning fuse. Forty feet, 20 feet, 10 feet.

I peeked around the tree and saw him, face to face.

"Howya doing," said my buddy, Jeff, whose only resemblance to Bigfoot is his size at 6-foot-5. "Hey, you're looking at me like I'm Bigfoot or something. You seen anything?"

I just stared at him. Instead of waiting downriver with his camera as intended, Jeff had instead made a wide circle around the area, hoping to pick up wildlife tracks, and accidentally descended from the mountain on my lookout.

I was getting spooky. Mountains can do that to you.

When we eventually returned to civilization, we walked into Little Joe's Restaurant in Cave Junction, just before closing time. The place was as empty as the Kalmiopsis Wildlands, and judging by the reactions from our appearance, it was a fortunate setting.

"Where have you guys been?" asked Little Joe, who of course is huge.

"The Kalmiopsis interior," Jeff replied.

"You guys went there? Nobody goes out there."

That's exactly why we went out there.

WEEKEND, London, England

Jan. 25-31, 1984 CR: D. Speed



Did a giant make this footprint?

From
DAVID BARRITT
in Johannesburg

IN A remote part of South Africa a giant footprint 4ft. 3ins. long, 2ft. wide and 6ins. deep baffles the experts. The footprint, pictured above, is a perfectly-formed impression of a human left foot with the individual toes and curve of the arch clearly visible.

It looks exactly as though the giant stepped in mud which later dried and hardened to preserve an impression of the foot in granite. On close examination one can even see where the "mud" was squished up between the toes.

Nobody has the slightest idea how it came to be where it is but all agree that the footprint is not a hoax.

Senior policeman in the area, Warrant Officer Danie Slabbert, commander of the Lothair police station in South Africa's Transvaal province said: "There is no doubt at all that this is a footprint."

"Nobody carved it into the rock. It's an amazing thing."

The Swazi natives call it the "foot-print of God" but they are so scared of it that none will build a hut anywhere within 10 miles of the place.

The Swazis' history records that the footprint was there when the first men settled in the area.

Mr. Daniel Dlamini, 90, the oldest resident of the area, said: "When I was a little boy my father told me about the footprint and when he was a little boy his father told him about it."

"Our people believe the footprint was made by God and that the rock outcrop where it lies is a sacred place."

"In the old days none of our people would go near it. Today the young people are not so afraid and sometimes walk through the area where it lies but still no kraals are built within half-a-day's walk of it."

The footprint is in a densely forested

region of South Africa's Transvaal province about 28 miles from the western border of the independent state of Swaziland. It was first discovered by whites in 1912 but never investigated because of the remoteness of the area.

The man who made the discovery was Mr. Stoffel Coetzee, a farmer who died in 1959. His grandson, Mr. Jan Coetzee, 59, says the discovery caused quite a stir at the time.

THE print lies on a granite outcrop of rock about halfway up a steeply sloping hillside far from any road or settlement. It is impressed into a vertical rock face a few feet above ground level. Mr. Coetzee believes that it could have been flat on the ground at one time and that movements of the earth pushed the footprint into its present position.

He said: "I have an encyclopedia in which it says that 44 miles east of Colombo in Sri Lanka near a summit of a 7,373ft. mountain called Adam's Peak lies a right foot which is also roughly the same size as ours and which is also impressed into granite."

Professor Arch Reid, head of the Department of Geology at Cape Town University examined photographs of the footprint. "I can't think of any logical explanation," he said. "I think it very unlikely that it could have been carved because granite is a very hard rock. You can't make an impression of it."

Mr. Coetzee believes that the footprint might have belonged to one of a lost race of giants.

Scientists seek cave dwellers

PEKING (Reuters) — An exhibition on the legendary Abominable Snowman includes vivid tales about wild men and wilder women, such as a sex-starved, cave-dwelling female, who resembled a bear and kidnapped a Tibetan herdsman as a mate, a Canton newspaper said yesterday.

Reporting on an exhibition about the search for the Abominable Snowman, the Yangcheng Evening News said the hairy female forced the herdsman to live with her in a cave and produced two children.

When the man fled the cave, the hairy woman chased him but was shot by herdsman, who discovered the two babies that had been killed by the mother.

Fang Zhongshi, head of the China Wild Man Research Association, renewed an offer through the paper of a cash reward for anyone bringing in one of the wild men, thought to live in several remote, mountainous parts of China.

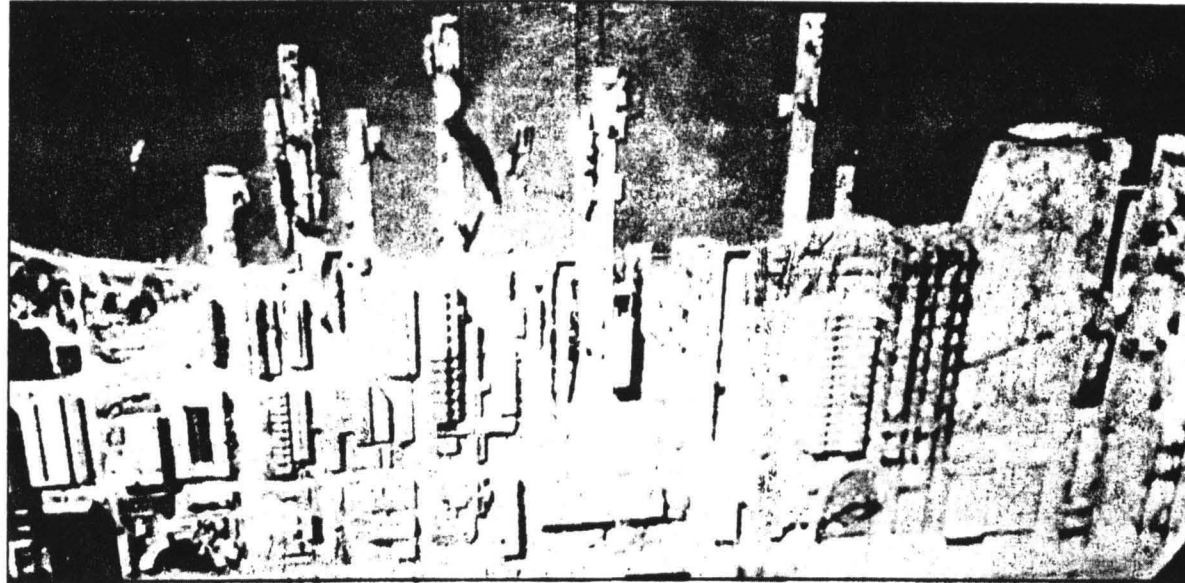
He said they wanted a specimen — dead or alive with a reward of \$4,000 or \$2,000 respectively.

GLOBE AND MAIL, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Oct. 24, 1984

When the supernatural touches reality

Researcher of 'Philadelphia Experiment' presents convincing story of disappearance

By JEROME WEEKS
Post Entertainment Writer



The Philadelphia Naval Yard (circa 1943) where the USS Leon was built and where the ill-fated 'Philadelphia Experiment' took place.

According to Moore, the Navy shelved the experiment because of the danger and because the "electronic invisibility" required such large, complicated equipment. The ship, eventually christened the USS Leon, was later sold to Greece and today is still on active duty. In 1951, however, the Navy, in a review of its wartime experiments, discovered that 21 of the 40 participants had died of fatal heart attacks. These were men in their late 20s and early 30s. At the time of Moore's five-year investigation into the experiment in the mid- to late '70s, only two crewmembers remained alive.

The Navy kept the entire experiment and its results secret. "It later had two significant applications," Moore said. "The first was mind control, inducing confusion in the enemy. The second was the secret Stealth technology that we've since developed to disguise airplanes against radar. The experiment was the grandfather of our whole range of electronic countermeasures."

But isn't the film *The Philadelphia Experiment* some special effects thriller about time travel? How are we supposed to believe in your book now? I asked. "Yes, it is a special effects thriller," Moore said, smiling, "and I think it's pretty good. But it's just a take-off. It starts with the assumption that the two men who fell overboard didn't drown but were teleported forward in time. Other than that base, it doesn't have too much to do with my book."

And I believed him. Given what we now know about the Army's reckless experiments with American soldiers and nuclear weapons, the CIA's murderous dabbling in poisonous and mind-altering drugs and the cover-up of these and other military weapons plagued with side effects, such as Agent Orange, Bill Moore's story made sense. At least to me. Honest. I was convinced.

That's when he told me about the UFO crash in New Mexico. You know, the one where the Army actually released a press release about the matter, but then quickly denied the whole thing? The one where the Army managed to acquire the actual remains of an extraterrestrial spaceship and have hidden it away for years? Right.

possibly on the verge of developing and deploying radar-guided weapons, in particular, a radar-guided torpedo that would be devastating to the thin line of supply ships that was crossing the North Atlantic and helping keep England afloat. Hence the Navy's attempt to see if it could disguise a destroyer escort's radar image.

They took a ship from the Newark shipbuilder almost completely finished but not yet commissioned, moved it into the Philadelphia shipyard and "energized the ship's hull with tremendous pulses of high-energy, low-frequency electromagnetic radiation. In effect," said Moore. "They turned the ship into a giant antenna."

The experiment was a partial success — only the men failed. "The primitive radar of the time did become confused; the ship was, in essence, electronically camouflaged," Moore said. But the effects of low-frequency electromagnetic radiation on the human system were unpredictable and uncontrolled: the men suffered vertigo, dizziness, even unconsciousness. And many

board went mad. Two men are known, in fact, to have become confused enough to fall overboard and drown.

The sheer variety of the stories was one of the things that attracted Moore. "Most rumors like this agree on certain basic things, they often come from a single source or a few sources in agreement. But here it was clear from the completely conflicting things people were reporting that they didn't know what had actually happened."

"What we determined," he continued, "was that there actually had been a secret experiment on a newly built destroyer escort, but the invisibility the experimenters hoped to achieve was not optical. It was radar invisibility."

In 1943 the Allies were terrified at reports that the Germans were

of an onion. This seemed the most feasible, but the more I researched it the curiously it got until it was clearly bigger than an article."

The story which so intrigued Moore was one that had become a minor bit of underground American folklore: in 1943, the rumor went, in the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard, the United States Navy conducted a top secret experiment on a ship in an attempt to create invisibility — but something went disastrously wrong. Reports varied: the ship disappeared completely and was actually teleported to Norfolk, Virginia, 200 miles away, and then back again, crewmen burst into flames and walked through walls, the Navy had accidentally discovered time travel, everyone on

I consider myself a reasonable man.

In fact, friends have found my reaction to the incredible or the supernatural disappointingly sardonic. I know it makes me an aloof bore at parties, but I enjoy the popular myths of our day mostly as intriguing cultural artifacts, the pop voodoo of a tedious electronic age. I clip my favorite headlines from the National Enquirer and save them: Elvis nominated for sainthood, patient explodes during operation. I enjoy needing my friends who insist Oswald was only one part of a thunderous sniper barrage in Dealey Plaza. I snigger at the latest Loch Ness monster story.

So I was surprised to find myself believing Bill Moore, the author of *The Philadelphia Experiment: Project Invisibility*, the original book on which the current New World Pictures release is loosely based. Really. I think this guy's got something here. Honest.

Short, thickset, with glasses and thinning, light brown hair, Moore looked more like the teacher he once was than anything else, and his quiet voice and manner surprised me. I mean, c'mon, this guy wrote a book with Charles "Bermuda Triangle" Berlitz of all people — not exactly the epitome of logical thought or cool, rational prose.

"Actually, Berlitz merely provided me with some research and wrote the introduction," Moore corrected me over lunch, in his casually precise way. A just-the-facts-ma'am kinda guy, I was slowly being won over by his, well, by his dullness.

"My interest in this story started routinely enough," he said. "In 1975 (after he had become a professional writer) I was casting around for something to write. I was looking for the most bizarre story I could find in order to do an 'anatomy of a hoax' sort of an article on it, peeling away the layers

EDMONTON (CP) — Jim Butler is used to incredulous looks when he talks about lake monsters.

But the University of Alberta professor says the possibility that they exist must be taken seriously because no one has ever proven they don't.

Butler has been busy studying reports of sightings of a serpent-like monster in Saddle Lake, about 175 kilometres northeast of Edmonton on an Indian reserve. About 100 residents have reported sighting the monster in the last decade. Descrip-

tions range in length from 25 to 55 metres and include a horse-like head and hairy torso.

Because of the reports, but also because of pollution caused by boating, the Saddle Lake Indian band has closed the lake to boats.

There have also been reported monster sightings in Christina Lake, about 250 kilometres north of Saddle Lake. Christina is unpopulated except for two fly-in fishing lodges.

Randy Sampietro, 26, whose father owns a lodge on the lake, said sightings of a five-metre-long monster go

back at least a decade.

"It seems to be one animal, but we don't know what the hell it is," Sampietro said. He is putting together reports of sightings and hopes to photograph the creature. "I'm going to prove there's something out there."

Fred Thom, who owns the other lodge, doesn't believe there is anything in Christina Lake and laughs when questioned about a creature.

"If I do see him you'll be the first person to know, as soon as I put on a clean pair of pants," he said.

Richard Fox, a professor of geology and zoology at the University of Alberta, doubts it will ever be proven lake monsters exist "in Alberta or anywhere else."

Fox said some concrete evidence is needed, such as a specimen or carcass, that can be studied.

Butler has visited Saddle Lake with three others from the university and said the situation warrants further examination. He hopes to visit Christina Lake next year.

The university team visited Saddle Lake for four days at the request of

area residents and the provincial wildlife department and talked to several people who had reported seeing the monster.

"Fish and wildlife saw that the people were truly concerned. They were seeing something that bothered them, they were scared," Butler said, adding he hopes to do a detailed study of the lake and further interviews next year.

"If there's a population of something like that in there it's been around for a while a will be (for a while longer)," he said.

Lake monster tale not all wet, prof says



Above, Peter Byrne, a long-time Bigfoot researcher, holds plaster casts of huge footprints. Right, the Bigfoot statue in Willow Creek, Calif.

BIGFOOT

The behemoth is always big news in his home state of California

By William Childress
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

REMEMBER Bigfoot, the nocturnal arboreal terrestrial — and at times extraterrestrial? He's back in the news. But in California, the state where Bigfoot is most often sighted (or at least rumored), the big fellow is never far from the public press.

Even those who don't really believe in Bigfoot's existence — like me — are usually willing to admit they bear the 7-foot mammal with the size-18 feet a sheepish fondness.

"What harm does he do?" asked a pretty teen-age girl in The Dalles, Ore., when I was pursuing my first Bigfoot story. She would be in her 30s now, and I'll bet her mind hasn't changed.

Seldom does anything challenge our TV-numbed imaginations like the latest news about Bigfoot — or Sasquatch, Yeti, Omah, Dsonoqua, Bukwas, Seeatik, Bushman, Smyalik and Abominable Snowman, all names it's been known by. Or you could just call it a "bogyman," a distillation of all the wonderfully scary tales about giants and ogres we heard as children — not even excluding the Frankenstein monster — for humans are much fascinated by such things. Even the Bible gets into the act in Genesis 6:4: "There were giants in the earth in those days."

And let's not forget the anonymous Cornish prayer, "From ghoules and ghosties and long-leggedy beasties/And things that go bump in the night, good Lord deliver us!"

But for all the potential fright in the Bigfoot phenomenon, there has for years been a conviction among researchers and fans alike that the big galoot is as harmless as a haystack. The only known instance where a Sasquatch was blamed for something (and he probably didn't do it) was when a bunch of drunken Canadian miners back in the 19th century swore "hairy giants" threw boulders at their cabin. I suppose it never occurred to them to check and see if their mothers-in-law were at home.

It is this basic niceness about Bigfoot that boils the blood of his supporters whenever some hunter waxes macho and mounts an expedition to "take Bigfoot, dead or alive."

In Eureka, Calif. — the northern California area where the furry mammal is most often seen — a Bigfoot safari by an ex-Special Forces veteran named Mark Keller provoked a storm of anger when the San Francisco Chronicle published news about the event. Keller and two buddies reportedly left on their mission in early June, armed with high-powered rifles. So far, there's been no other news — except for continuing angry letters condemning Keller. A three-time volunteer for combat tours in Vietnam and a former mercenary soldier, Keller was fired from his post office job when the publicity broke.

Bigfoot has often been the subject of organized hunts, usually by people with either profit or publicity in mind. They rent planes, gather specialized equipment, and head for the most desolate areas they can find. Of course, they first contact the media. To date, none of the hundreds of reported sightings has turned up anything more substantial than "footprints." Bigfoot footprints now exist by the multitudes, cast in white plaster in various "Bigfoot Museums" throughout the western states.

Curiously enough, an Englishman named Peter Byrne may have the longest record as a continuous seeker of Bigfoot. Now 59, he worked out of the Bigfoot Information Center in Hood River, Oregon, when I interviewed him for a Ford Times article in 1979.

Since he's still listed, I telephoned Byrne, obtaining his number through Information and mentioning the story I had done earlier.

"I remember vividly," he said, "and I don't want to talk to you."

"Why not?"

"After what you did to us? Putting all that stuff in that Ford Times story about a free Bigfoot kit? We got thousands of letters and we've never had a free Bigfoot kit!"

"I don't recall any. . . Click!"

The Bigfoot story, dated March 1979, contains no mention of any kit, Bigfoot or otherwise. I re-read it to be certain. But Byrne has had hundreds of stories written about him, and it's easy to get confused in such circumstances. The former big-game hunter became a conservationist in 1968 and by 1970 went into the Bigfoot business full-time. For serious researchers, his area code is 503. Please don't ask him for any free kits.

Actually, an extremely large hominid has been known from fossils for years, and is known variously as Gigantopithecus, Giganteus or Ramapithecus, depending on whether remains have been found in China or India. This summer, a story from the New York Times News Service on "Tracking China's 7-Foot, Red-Haired 'Wild Man,'" appeared in newspapers around the country, including the Post-Dispatch. According to the article, four scientific expeditions have been launched since 1976 in the mountainous, thickly forested Shennongjia region of northwest Hubei, China. There, more than 300 sightings have been recorded since the 1920s.

In California, Russell Ciochon (pronounced Sha-Han), a paleoanthropologist with the Institute of Human Origins in Berkeley, is organizing an expedition to dig for more fossils of Gigantopithecus north of Hanoi — amazingly enough, with the cooperation of the Communist government there, which Ciochon calls "a first."

(continued on page 20)



(continued from page 19 - POST-DISPATCH, St. Louis, MO - Aug. 10, 1984)

"I'm being backed by the L.S.B. Leakey Foundation, the Institute and several Pasadena backers," the 6-foot, dark-bearded scientist said. "I'll fly to Bangkok, then Hanoi, and set up the project with the Communist government in the limestone karst country north of Hanoi. They've already found some teeth, but animals probably ate the other bones. We hope to find the fossil skeletons of one or more Gigantopithecus in caves in the area."

Ciochon wrote "New Interpretations of Ape and Human Ancestry" with Robert S. Corruccini, an associate professor of anthropology at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. The 888-page tome published by Plenum Press in New York — 30 chapters "about all

"In all cultures of the world, these myths about giants exist. They're mostly magnificent flights of fancy. There is no hard evidence that such a creature exists."

of the pitheci — is selling well, Ciochon said.

But while asserting that Gigantopithecus is real and citing existing teeth

to prove it, Ciochon is less inclined to believe in Bigfoot.

"In all cultures of the world," he said, "these myths about giants exist. They're mostly magnificent flights of fancy. There is no hard evidence that such a creature exists."

Maybe so, but in Willow Creek, Calif., where many Bigfoot expeditions have been launched, a huge carved redwood statue of Bigfoot greets visitors — and commemorates the power of a gentle myth to survive all the skeptics.

Why heck, I'm beginning to think there may be something to Bigfoot myself.

William Childress has written more than two dozen Bigfoot stories for newspapers and magazines since 1972.

DAILY LEDGER, Noblesville, IN - Oct. 30, 1984 CR: C. Jones

Loch Ness Monster Draws Lawyer

CONCORD, N.H. (UPI) — Nine years ago, Robert Rines and his colleagues sunk their camera and sonar equipment into the murky depths of a Scottish lake in search of one of the world's mysteries.

They came up with a photo of a creature with a long neck and a bony horn in the center of its head. Scientists called it the strongest evidence documenting the existence of the so-called Loch Ness monster.

Rines calls it the one that got away. "Wouldn't that have been fantastic," says Rines, his voice rising as he gets up from a chair in his Concord law office. "If you could see a chain of this thing coming and going ... and then, it's all over."

Unfortunately for Rines, the powerful strobe used to light the water needed time to recharge. The creature made one pass and was gone. There was no sequence of photos.

Now, armed with a new patent for his system that's capable of clicking photos every two or three seconds, Rines and his colleagues are planning an extended expedition they say may be their last chance.

He has no doubts about the existence of the legendary creature. In fact, he's certain there are at least a few of the creatures swimming in the 24-mile-long lake, which has a maximum depth of 975 feet.

Rines, a patent attorney and president of the Franklin Pierce Law Center in Concord, became involved with the pursuit of the creature more than 20 years ago while vacationing in Scotland when he came across a book about Loch Ness.

Intrigued, Rines sent a note to Harold Edgerton, one of his former professors at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Rines thought Edgerton, known as "Papa Flash" for his work with underwater explorer Jacques Cousteau, could use his photography equipment to document the creature.

It was about 10 years later, in 1972, when Rines organized his first trip to Loch Ness.

"That was the lucky year," recalls Rines. "And we were hooked."

The group was able to detect a "very big target" with its sonar equipment. Rines also got his first, and only, glimpse of one of the creatures.

"I'll never forget it," he says. "It was like the back of a big elephant."

After the initial success, Rines figured documenting the existence of the creature would be "duck soup." His group returned for the next three summers and hit the jackpot in 1975 with the photo that one scientist said removed the "crackpot stigma" from the Loch Ness monster.

Since then, Rines and fellow members from the New Hampshire-based Academy of Applied Science have waged expeditions every summer. But they have not been able to match their 1975 findings.

One expedition, sponsored by The New York Times, generated much publicity but no conclusive evidence.

Rines says the group has worked on a volunteer basis for the last few years and has not sought another sponsor because commercial influences tend to develop a "circus" atmosphere.

Recently, a vodka company backed a move to try to trap one of the creatures, and another liquor firm has dropped off a case of scotch in the lake.

Another problem, says Rines, is his group has come under criticism lately for allegedly touching up photos.

"You don't get data for a period of time and everyone starts sniping," says Rines, 62. "They expect the Hollywood stuff."

The group has also been bothered by technical problems. Equipment that works in the lab malfunctions in the frigid water where visibility is limited to a few feet because of extremely high sediment content.

Rines is exploring the possibility of scaling down the size of his equipment so that it can be placed on the backs of dolphins, which would be transported to the lake and kept in saltwater pens when not in use.

"I'm getting kind of disgusted with it myself," says Rines. "We're sort of determined that we're going to go at it more seriously."

There have been fewer reported sightings recently. Rines speculates that may be because of more boat traffic on the lake, or that the creatures may be dying.

In addition to those problems, the group is also faced with overcoming a legend. One story says the creature was discovered in 565 A.D. by St. Columba, who granted it eternal freedom in exchange for a tow across the lake.

Bigfoot hunt yields only big foot tracks

GRANTS PASS (AP) — Bigfoot hunter Mark Keller said Tuesday that his summer expedition into the Cascade Range in search of Sasquatch had turned up five sets of tracks and one pile of dung, but no sightings of the legendary beast.

"I'm not disappointed," Keller said in a telephone interview from Hollywood, Calif. "Obviously, you have the desire to take it 100 percent, which is the acquisition of a Sasquatch."

"But I learned a whole lot. I have come up with some evidence that satisfies me that I picked the correct target areas. I think now it's just a matter of perseverance. I will keep doing this until I succeed."

Keller said he spent the last three weeks in the woods alone. Two partners he had during the course of the summer both quit, he said.

Keller said he was in Hollywood with independent film producer Tom Boutross to try to line up financial backing to return to the wilds next month and mount a better-equipped expedition next summer.

A former Army Ranger who served in Vietnam, Keller created a furor last spring when he quit his job at the post office in Eureka, Calif., to mount an expedition to end the debate over whether Bigfoot exists by shoot-

ing one and bringing back the remains.

So far the effort has cost him \$9,000, he said.

He said he hoped to publish a journal of the summerlong project and return next summer with a film crew to make a documentary.

Keller said the tracks he found were similar to others attributed to Bigfoot, resembling a large flat human foot with a very long stride.

"The dung I found, which is considered scat, was with two very small tracks with larger tracks beside it, as though left by an adult with its young," he said. "When I came across it, it was about 10 days old."

Keller said he sent the dung to the International Society of Cryptozoology in Tucson, Ariz.

Society Secretary J. Richard Greenwell said the sample was being divided and would be sent to various laboratories to be analyzed for parasites, bacteria, and other contents.

The society, which has about 800 members around the world, is made up of zoologists, anthropologists and others who evaluate reports of unknown or unexpected animals, including Bigfoot, Greenwell said.

DAILY NEWS JOURNAL, Kent, WA - Oct. 28, 1984 CR: A. Edwards/UFOCCI

Mutilated cow found dead near Enumclaw

By PAT JENKINS
Staff Reporter

The gruesome mutilation death of a cow near Enumclaw, apparently just hours after it gave birth to a calf, has drawn the attention of police in King County who say it may be connected to a string of unsolved sexual mutilations of horses in Pierce County.

"It seems similar to what's been happening down there," said Kevin Druin, King County police detective who is investigating the cow's death.

The cow, an 18-month-old hereford, was found dead in a pasture with its rectum, uterus, tongue and tips of three teeth missing. Its throat had been slashed, the apparent cause of death, and all of the animal's blood had been drained from the wound on its throat.

The latter deduction was made by Bob Engeset, the veterinarian who inspected the body, because only a small spot of blood was found on the ground where the neck lay. There also was no sign of blood around the area of the incision that was made to disembowel the animal. No body parts or blood were found.

Incisions

In addition, incisions shaped like a half moon were cut in the cow's ears and the flesh on the lower jaw was cut away.

Engeset said the incisions clearly were made with an extremely sharp object by someone who had knowledge or experience in such things.

"They didn't just cut some holes. They knew what they were doing," he said.

Similarly, the sexual mutilations of 27 horses in rural Pierce County in recent years were "professionally done" by a person or persons using a sharp instrument, said Gaylord Mattes, a Pierce County Sheriff Department detective in charge of investigating the cases.

The last horse mutilation was in 1982. In all of the still-unsolved incidents, the horses' penises or testicles were cut off and taken. Some of the horses survived.

No similarities?

Mattes said he sees no similarities between those cases and the Enumclaw attack, mainly because of the different sexes of the male horses and female cow. Nevertheless, he visited the site of the cow killing Friday and compared notes with Druin.

The most common theory about the horse mutilations is that a religious cult used the animals' sexual organs in cult rituals.

Mattes said there are no definite suspects in the cases, but "I'm not ruling out anything."

Druin advised livestock owners in the Enumclaw area to be alert for any suspicious activity near their animals and pastures.

He said the attack on the cow probably occurred at night, since it likely would have been witnessed during the day.

Karen Phillips, the cow's owner, said she checked on the pregnant animal's condition at 4 a.m. Wednesday. It hadn't yet given birth so she went back to bed.

At 2 o'clock that afternoon, "it didn't come up to eat with the other cows, so I went looking for it," Phillips said. She found it, dead and mutilated and with its newborn calf at its side, in the pasture behind the Phillips home at 43019 244th S.E.

The calf was unharmed. With no mother, however, the calf must be hand-fed by Phillips through a bottle fixed with a rubber nipple.

The killed cow, valued at about \$1,000, wasn't insured. "We might start insuring our other cows now," Phillips said.

She definitely is more watchful now of her small herd that now numbers two bulls, two cows and two calves. "I'm keeping a loaded shotgun in the house," she said.

STAR-TELEGRAM, Fort Worth, TX - Nov. 30, 1984

NORTH TEXAS

Abilene: Calf killing decried

The mutilation slaying of a calf earlier this week caused investigators Thursday to speculate that "sadistic persons" may have resurfaced in West Texas.

The killing of the calf, with its tongue and ears cut off and its blood drained, was similar to the macabre slaying of a number of cows and calves in the same area several years ago.

The dead animal was found Tuesday on a 240-acre tract owned by Bailey Choate, just north of Interstate 20 between the old Anson Road and the Winters Freeway in Taylor County.

No motive for this calf slaying or for earlier cases has been established.

CR: V. Johnston