

UFO

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UFOs seen by Valley folks

By JEANNE STUCKWISH
Staff Writer

When asking those who have seen them to explain unusual sightings of unidentified flying objects, the reluctance of individuals is understandable.

Not many people will come forth with stories, even though UFOs have been observed as early as Biblical times and have been reported throughout the world in this modern age.

WITH FEW exceptions, scientists have refuted most reports and assigned their own interpretations to what has been viewed, with such explanations as swamp gas, bright or falling stars, meteorites, weather balloons and the like.

They prefer to believe that everything has to be weighed, measured, and computed to be real.

And that is part of the reason people don't speak about their own sightings.

FOR MOST people, many of the events recounted are within the realm of possibility.

It is true, some UFO sightings do have logical explanation. But to people who have seen the objects, there is no dissuading them that there is not "something out there."

Gradually, times are changing. Today many scientists have been involved with UFOs for years and an ever-increasing number of workers has gone into such studies.

So the problem is studied by a veritable army of scholars, each trained to a high degree of technical proficiency.

WITH THE publicity generated by the many TV stories and movies about things in outer space, some with factual backgrounds, the public is becoming more and more used to the idea that there very well could be such phenomena. People are beginning to discuss the events intelligently.

Phoenix and Sun City residents have seen their share of UFO displays.

Some individuals have related their stories, asking that their names not be used, however.

DAVID, FOR instance, reported two separate sightings, one alone and one with his family.

Leaving on a moment's notice for an elk-hunting trip on Pyramid Mountain near Steamboat Springs, Colo., he took more than eight hours to trudge through snow to reach the tree line.

Managing to find an old trapper's cabin, he suddenly awoke around 3 a.m. the day after his arrival, to see something nearby in the sky. Racing for the door, he said the sky was clean by the time he opened it.

FAR AWAY he could see an object "doing strange things." At that distance, it looked to be about the size of a quarter, but he noticed that it would blot out a star as it passed below it. He caught the color of mint green as it darted from spot to spot. "Then, it was just gone in the blink of the eye," David said.

A few weeks ago, between 10:30 and 11 p.m., as David and his family were emerging from their car near 39th Lane and Thunderbird Road, they noticed a monstrous lighted object hanging in the sky in an area that seemed to be on the other side of South Mountain.

David describes the thing as "monstrous, with lights completely encircling it. No flashing lights—nothing—just a perimeter of blue and white lights," he explained.

IT SEEMED to move in a southerly direction, then stopped in mid-air and with controlled speed moved slowly straight down.

He said it looked like a half-dollar. "At that distance it was huge," David said. "Probably about eight to 10 football fields in diameter."

The family watched for quite awhile, but they didn't see it again.

THEY THOUGHT they might read about it in the papers, but they saw not a word.

Here's another story:

George was awake at 2 a.m., looking out the window. His attention was drawn to what looked to be a ball of fire in palm trees a few blocks away.

HE CALLED the fire department, but when the firemen arrived, there was no sign of a fire in any palm trees.

And another:

Tina and Chris apparently both observed the same object about 10 days ago.

WHILE TINA was driving

west on Glendale Avenue between 75th and 83rd avenues, she saw a moving object out of the corner of her eye.

At first she thought it was a falling star, but it was too large. Tina thinks it had a round base and it looked as if it were on fire, with a trailing tail that was a beautiful mixture of bright blue-green colors. "The tail of color was fairly long," Tina relates. "I watched it until it disintegrated. I was expecting it to hit the earth."

When Tina arrived home, she called TV Station KPNX, Channel 12, and they told her they had received several calls from the Luke Air Force Base area.

IN THIS case, the object was unofficially identified as a burning meteorite.

Peering out the car window, Chris saw a long object while he was driving at 57th Street and Olive Avenue. He mentions he didn't see the start of it. When he saw it, it was a sort of turquoise color. "It just went fht and it was gone," he remembers.

A Youngtown resident said she thought the object she saw was a star, except that it was blinking, at a great distance, in even sequences of white, bluish-purple and green light.

AS SHE WATCHED it, she had the feeling of being watched, and the "star" moved quickly towards her apartment, hovering at an estimated 5,000 feet above her, by this time, brilliant white. By the time she had brought her husband out to see the object, it had disappeared.

SENTINEL, Keene, NH - Sept. 20, 1984 CR: B. Greenwood

23 years later, Betty Hill has vivid memory of UFO 'close encounter'

By United Press International

PORTSMOUTH — A woman whose purported "close encounter" grabbed international headlines quietly marked the event's 23rd anniversary Wednesday, "more convinced than ever" that alien spacemen are visiting the Earth.

Betty Hill of Portsmouth and her husband, who has since died, claimed they were taken aboard an alien spaceship and interrogated by its occupants shortly before midnight on Sept. 19, 1961, near Franconia Notch.

It is one of the best-known reports of a so-called "close encounter of the third kind."

"I remember the whole experience vividly," said Hill, 65, whose husband, Barney, died in 1969. "I am more convinced than ever that there are astronauts from other planets visiting the Earth."

The Hills said they were driving home through New Hampshire's north country after a trip to Montreal when a large spacecraft followed their car and then hovered about 200 feet above the vehicle when the couple stopped.

The Hills said they were taken aboard the craft by eight to 11 beings with a roughly humanoid

appearance, and questioned for two hours about life on Earth by a leader who communicated either verbally or mentally in English.

Before their release, the couple said, they were made to forget what had transpired.

It was only later, after undergoing hypnosis administered over an 11-month period by a Boston psychiatrist, that the Hills recalled the details of the incident. The couple made their story public in October 1965.

Hill, a retired child welfare worker, said she was "not a bit" bothered by people who dismiss the abduction story as a fabrication and claimed she has spotted UFOs on several occasions since the encounter.

"Seeing what they see must be very shocking to them — wars, more than enough food in one part of the world and not enough in another," she said. "I think it's terrible."

Although she still receives numerous telephone calls about the experience, Hill said it "really hasn't changed my life that much."

"It has given me a much more open mind about the whole planet," she said. "It's widened my view of the world."

SENTINEL, Keene, NH - Oct. 16, 1984

CR: B. Greenwood

What is it? A UFO?

By MICHAEL E. KNELL
Sentinel Staff Writer

There may be a few skeptics this morning, but last night there was no doubt in the minds of people who spotted an unidentified object that was flying over Keene.

The telephone started ringing at the Keene Police Department at 7:34 p.m., with people reporting a strange craft that was hovering over the city, said Patrolman Earl Nelson.

Then, Keene Sgt. John C. Zeller called in: "He had it with a spotlight," Nelson said. "I remember him saying it."

Zeller was in a police cruiser on Route 12, just south of West Street, when he radioed the description: a white oblong aircraft with no marking. The craft hovered about 100 feet above the cruiser, making a humming sound.

Meanwhile, people spotted the object over Swanzey and Roxbury.

"After that, I was busy with the phones, calling FAA and the national UFO center," Nelson said.

A strange object was spotted almost an hour and a half later in Springfield, Mass.: a slow-moving white light passing over the city, said Robert J. Gribble of the UFO Reporting Center in Seattle, which was founded largely to give people a place to report sightings.

"We have been getting about six reports a day," he said. "That is pretty quiet. We usually get about 15 to 20 a day."

Most UFO sightings can be explained easily, according to Gribble: "About 85 percent turn out to be bright planets, bright stars, advertising aircraft and so on," and the rest go unidentified.

But the Keene UFO case doesn't seem to fit any of the common explanations, Gribble said. The low, slow hovering seems to eliminate any kind of plane.

"That sounds strange," Gribble said.

SIGNAL FOR HELP

UFO scientist wants close encounter with retirees

"The universe is so confoundedly vast, it's completely unreasonable from a statistical standpoint ... that there is no other form of intelligence."

—J. Allen Hynek

By ROBERTA LANDMAN
Staff Writer

Sun City-area people are invited to help with some "far out" research, to become "detective's assistants" in a computerized collation of unidentified flying object reports.

Dr. J. Allen Hynek, Center for UFO Studies (CUFOS) director, hopes retirees will be interested in starting an auxiliary CUFOS research branch.

Why retirees? Because many have time and abilities in varied backgrounds to make them good researchers, the scientist believes.

HYNEK, WHO founded the original Evanston, Ill., CUFOS facility in 1973, made Valley headlines in August when he announced the expansion of CUFOS to what he hopes will become a Phoenix-based, international UFO research facility.

The 74-year-old retired chairman of the Northwestern University astronomy department has made the study of unidentified flying objects a matter of scientific inquiry, and plays "detective," he says, with accounts of UFO sightings.

The gray-bearded astronomer spoke from a temporary CUFOS headquarters home on a Paradise Valley peak.

HYNEK CALLS his UFO investigation a scientific research project, suggesting "What is science but organized curiosity?"

With no fear that his scientific project might raise a quizzical eyebrow among some conservative retirees, Hynek hopes a small group of volunteers will share his organized curiosity.

He would like "an active nucleus of interested people to read with a purpose and to work with the center ..."

WHAT HE SAYS he is not after is retirees' financial involvement.

Hynek says reports of UFO sightings and publications about sightings

come to the center from all over the world.

"We know the UFO phenomenon is worldwide," with sightings reported from 140 countries, he said.

"WE GET A tremendous number of letters, publications and books (on UFOs) in many languages," said Hynek, showing examples of Swedish information he and his staff are unable to translate.

Hynek hopes his retirement community invitation will find people who can roughly translate or "get the gist of" UFO literature that comes from such countries as Denmark, Norway, Japan, Spain, France, Italy, Russia and Hungary.

In addition, said Hynek, "We need good investigators ... to go out and talk to people who have seen it (UFO phenomena)," people retirees may learn of by "just reminiscing."

HYNEK, CALLED by Newsweek the "Galileo of UFOlogy," knows he is asking for help in an area that invites the gigglers, the skeptics, the scoffers, the cantankerous.

His notion, that computerized scientific study will tell us more about the UFOs he believes exist, might warrant him the scorn foisted upon Galileo, who bounced Earth from central importance in the universe.

Hynek indicates his scientific reputation has kept the scorn away. He says he's been told his name in association with UFOs is the only one reporters "don't smile at."

BUT MIGHT not the UFO-curious among retirees be subjects of peer-group scorn? Hynek is asked. What could they tell those who might laugh of them?

Hynek says they can tell laughers and scoffers "they're associated with a scientist," not a crackpot scheme.

"All my life I've been a scientist, and at this tender age, I don't intend to change," he said.

Hynek's scientific credentials:

—ASIDE FROM 20 years of Northwestern teaching, Hynek also taught astronomy at Harvard and Ohio State.

attribute to birds, hoax, meteors and balloons during the Air Force projects. Hynek says, "The UFO phenomenon is something very real, not a matter of hallucinations, hoaxes and mistakes."

Hynek, at this interview, had returned from a Brewster, N.Y., UFO conference and some UFO detective work.

HE SPOKE with people who say they have witnessed a floating, noiseless, light-dotted, boomerang-shaped object as big as a football field.

For the past two years, the object is said to have appeared in skies above southeastern New York state and western Connecticut.

Newspaper accounts of the reported sightings place New York's Taconic Parkway as a prime place for sightings, with the curious crowding the thoroughfare between 8 and 9 p.m., the time when most of the "close encounters" are said to have happened.

HYNEK COINED the term "close encounters," and was technical adviser for the Steven Spielberg film "Close Encounters of the Third Kind."

Of the Taconic Parkway mystery, he said: "I can't find a natural explanation ... at least 1,000 witnesses can't all be crazy."

Hynek commented on the caliber of the witnesses and the similarity of their independent observations.

THE CLOSE encounters reported were "the same by CPAs, doctors, a priest, a Navy test pilot, teachers ... people who are certainly playing with a full deck of cards."

Hynek said the chief meteorologist for the Westchester, N.Y., airport likened the skyward object to a ship docked at a berth.

How, he asks, is it possible for "well-trained human minds to be so mistaken or misled?"

THE NEW YORK State Police believe people could have been misled, saying the object in question is actually five or six small planes flying in formation as part of a hoax.

Witnesses, however, doubt the hoax explanation, reporting planes do not hover silently nor do they shoot straight upward.

Hynek says investigations associated with CUFOS are continuing to record the testimony of witnesses. Facts culled from their testimony, such as silent hovering or rapid acceleration, will be fed into a computer for analysis and comparison with other UFO sightings.

ASKED WHAT CUFOS might conclude from the reports, Hynek answers in allegorical terms.

Suppose George Washington at Valley Forge saw a helicopter land with two debarking creatures talking on walkie talkies.

"What conclusion would he have drawn? except that something very strange was going on?"

CUFOS IS putting into its computer bits of information about a host of "some things strange" from all over the world and is trying to make them understandable, Hynek indicates.

"The computer gives correlations and can pick out contradictions," he says, and the work "can be years of painstaking labor."

As much as a radio in Plato's time would have been considered magic, Hynek predicts "200 years from now they will consider us complete dodos for not knowing what UFOs are."

"THE UNIVERSE is so confoundedly vast, it's completely unrealistic from a statistical standpoint ... that there is no other form of intelligence," he said.

UFO travelers might be from another dimension, Hynek suggests, and do not have to be of the same physical composition as water-planet Earth's water-composition man.

Could the Taconic Parkway airborne object sightings and others be technology of our own or other governments? Hynek is asked.

"UNDOUBTEDLY the government is involved in some kind of craft which could explain a small percentage" of UFO sightings, Hynek concedes.

But, he reports, "There is nothing in the government arsenal to silently hover a few feet above the ground and take off."

In any case, asks Hynek, "Why in the hell would they be testing on the Taconic Parkway?"

The present technology explanation does not hold for earlier UFO sightings, says Hynek. "In 1947 or 1948 neither the U.S. or the Russians could have had such craft."

HYNEK WANTS CUFOS to be the source of UFO investigation, he says the government has failed to be. Whatever the government and military have been doing about UFO reports is shrouded in mystery and a refusal to release information, he says.

"If there are no UFOs, why all the secrecy?" Hynek asks.

The Russians have recognized the UFO question by creating a commission to study UFOs under ex-cosmonaut Pavel Popovich, said Hynek.

The commission was established after a metallic cigar-shaped object "buzzed" the city of Gorky, said Hynek. He is writing Popovich with an offer of CUFOS assistance.

CUFOS COULD render its assistance closer to home, Hynek indicates, with people who may have been fearful of talking about their own unexplainable close encounters.

"The center is a place where people could talk without ridicule," he said. "We will never disclose a person's name without his permission."

Hynek and CUFOS would not scoff at such a person's revelation of having been abducted and physically examined by UFO aliens, he indicates, though he admits there are "crackpots" associated with such tales.

THIS IS NOT the case with several UFO abductee-claimants he is "following ... very closely," people on his "personal list of friends."

From what he has been able to judge, "they are absolutely far from psychotic ... family people with good jobs ... respected in

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SUN, Sun City, AZ - Oct. 2, 1984)

the community. Psychologists so far have been unable to find those people are in any way psychotic."

Hynek has himself never had a UFO experience, but defends his ability to do research in the field by saying, "... I've never seen a man-eating shark or been to Mladafasciar."

THE SUBJECT of ufology is one he would "not give up for the world," and is a legitimate one for scientific inquiry, he says.

A scientist is curious about the nature of the universe and there should be nothing in the world a scientist should be forbidden to look at, even if it's witchcraft."

The Phoenix CUFOS project—a planned "mini-NASA" that sees Hynek at his computer terminal "10 hours a day" at least—could run into \$2 million a year for research, Hynek has speculated. An anonymous financial backer funded the move of the research facilities to Phoenix, he said.

Further information about CUFOS is available by calling 948-0515, or by writing the Center for UFO studies, P.O. Box 44990, Phoenix 85064

DAILY NEWS, Newburyport, MA
Nov. 30, 1984 CR: B. Greenwood

What was it?

Did Ana and Per Hoel of Magnolia really see a large triangular craft, marked with red and white lights, flying noiselessly over Shore Road the other evening?

Triangular? Almost 200 feet across? And virtually no noise? Is that really possible?

Let's admit it: Most of us are fascinated by accounts of unidentified flying objects. We scoff at some of the accounts. But we can't quite dismiss them entirely, despite our natural skepticism. The possibilities are too intriguing.

Every now and then, someone claims to have had contact with extraterrestrial creatures who disembarked from an unidentified flying object. Most of us credit those stories to the delusions of attention-seeking cranks.

In the case of the Hoels, though, we are not dealing with cranks. They are just a couple of ordinary citizens who happened to be out shortly after 6 p.m. Monday walking their dog. And they apparently did see something. Other people saw it, too.

But what did they see? Many of us automatically go through a mental checklist of possibilities.

It must have been a standard aircraft of some kind — probably a Coast Guard helicopter hovering over the water then moving inland over Shore Road.

A triangular helicopter that doesn't make noise? No way.

Well, maybe it was a military aircraft — something experimental, you know, that they never fly in daylight.

Then again, maybe it was an optical illusion. Or it could have been some atmospheric oddity — a suspended reflection of a far-away earthbound image. Things like that have happened before, right?

And then there are the other explanations, the ones that most of us don't mention out loud for fear that someone will drop a net over us and cart us off to the proverbial padded cell. Nothing like a UFO sighting to stimulate the imagination, is there?

We'll assume for the time being that there is some plausible and un spectacular explanation for whatever it was the Hoels and others saw Monday evening. But we'll also admit that it's more fun to speculate about some of the less-plausible possibilities.

Hovering Craft Had 'Green and Red Pulsating Lights'

Policeman's UFO Accounts Chilling, Similar

By PAUL R. LESSARD
Union Leader Correspondent
KEENE — Recently reported sightings of unidentified flying objects in the Keene area have police and a local astronomer wondering if there are other unknown beings inhabiting our universe.

Another astronomer says it may just be the effect of the conjunction of Mars and Jupiter on a clear night.

The first reported sighting came into the Keene Police Department at 7:34 p.m. on Monday.

The caller from Winchester said he could see something bright hovering over the city.

A police officer was dispatched to the Rte. 12 area where he reported seeing a UFO hovering several hundred feet above the ground.

Sgt. Jack C. Zeller, a seven-year veteran of the force, said, "As I approached the weigh station pull-off area, a car coming in the opposite direction came to a screeching halt. Two men stepped out of the car and pointing to the unidentified craft and asked me what it was," Zeller said.

He said the craft, which had no landing gears, or wings, had green and red pulsating lights

'It sat absolutely stationary about an eighth of a mile away in front of the cruiser. It just hovered about three or four feet off the ground.'

Police Sgt. Jack C. Zeller

objects in the sky around this time of year — especially when the nights are cool and the skies are clear.

Harkay said more people are out at night during this time of year and with the clear skies many sights unfamiliar to them catch their attention.

"One thing which might explain what happen is the conjunction of Mars and Jupiter," Harkay said.

He explained the process of the two planets closing in on each other as giving off red and white colors "which appear to be coming at the earth."

"It is startling because it is so unusually bright on a clear night and with the Harvest Moon, a time when the moon stays closer to the earth than any other night, many people think they see things coming at them," Harkay said.

He said the "scintillation of the stars," or twinkling of the stars, cause them to change colors and turn on and off.

Another group of astronomers who are interested in the latest developments of UFO sightings is the Keene Amateur Astronomers.

Philip Atwood, who is one of the founding members of the club which dates back to 1959 said he wished he could be notified of a sighting.

He said he is a firm believer in other being existing in our universe and can't wait until he

According to Sgt. John M Cook, Hamel's supervisor in Rochester, Hamel description of the UFO is almost the same exact description Zeller gave in his report.

can come in contact with a UFO. As to the description Zeller gave of the UFO, Atwood said he has heard of "similar reports" but not in some time.

2nd UFO sighting reported

If Keene is truly in the flight pattern of unidentified flying objects, then they're coming in all shapes and sizes now.

On the heels of reports Monday night of a mysterious white, oblong aircraft with no markings, hovering over Route 12, has come a call from a Keene resident Thursday, reporting a triangular UFO.

The latest sighting came at 7:15 Thursday night, when a Maple Acres resident spotted what he thought was a strange aircraft flying east.

Monday's UFO appeared shortly after 7:30 p.m.

SENTINEL, Keene, NH - Oct. 19, 1984
CR: B. Greenwood

UFO reported

Marlena Grover of Middleton Apartments on Middleton Avenue reported to Durham police she saw an unidentified flying object (UFO) last night.

She told officers she spotted the object around 10:15 while driving northbound on Erwin Road from Kerley Road.

She said she first thought the object was an airplane, but she reported the orange-colored

SUN, Durham, NC - Nov. 29, 1984

lights appeared larger and brighter than those on a plane.

The object was triangular-shaped, with two lights in front and one flashing light at the rear, Grover told officers.

Officials at Raleigh-Durham Airport were contacted, but said no one else reported seeing such an object.

Lt. Jack Pendergrass of the Durham Public Safety Department speculated it may have been a reflection from the sky, but "we have no confirmation as yet."

UNION LEADER, Manchester, NH - Oct. 18, 1984

UFO

Seeing one can change your life in unexpected ways

By Shirley Hallett
Special to the Sentinel

Six months ago, had anyone told me that I would become thoroughly fascinated and absorbed in matters dealing with UFOs (unidentified flying objects) I would have said they were wrong — very wrong.

I had no interest in UFOs other than a somewhat nebulous belief that scientific knowledge is as yet incomplete and that there might be some "unknowns."

I am not, and never have been, a science fiction reader or a writer. I was very much "down to earth," you might say.

That all changed, however, early on the night of March 26, 1984, on I-95 between Pittsfield and Newport. That was the night I saw a UFO and that was when my life changed in many ways.

What I saw was like nothing I had ever seen before. It defies description, really, but the color was something between yellowish-reddish-salmonish-pink. While it was all of those colors, yet it was none.

The light was extremely bright — so much so that it hurt my eyes to look at it, yet it gave off no light. It did not illuminate the trees over which it was hovering, hanging motionless.

And the silence — the awful stillness. The highway, for all it was only 7 p.m. on a cloudless, starry, moonlit evening, was abandoned. There was no traffic in either lane for the duration of this event.

I was alone, and I was afraid.

I knew it was no star. It was too big, too bright, too low, and the wrong color.

It wasn't landing lights of a military or civilian plane, nor was it a helicopter. There was no fluttering, no noise, no rays of light coming from it.

This was happening in a heavily wooded area, not near homes or open fields or swamps, but very near power lines. It was a stretch of road I knew well, having traveled it at that same hour, that same night of the week, for nearly a year.

There were no lights like these before, and there have been none since.

I am trying to learn to live with the results of that brief encounter. I feel keenly the inability to describe what I saw. I am frustrated that there are no adequate words in our language, as I know it, to convey the eerie sense of fright, the aloneness, the incredible awareness of being in the presence of something so far beyond myself. Even at the time, it bore something of a mystical or religious element.

That element soon vanished with the arrival of the various inquiries, some open and above-board, others more clandestine.

When I called a phone number provided by the police for such sightings, I became introduced to "government."

The questions were not aimed at what I saw, but rather at my physical reactions to it. This led me to the conclusion that far more is known about the existence of UFOs than is commonly acknowledged, while the effects of them on people are rather less certain.

There followed some strange phone calls, including several from science fiction writers. Why would a government agency provide my name and phone number to science fiction writers unless they want the subject of UFOs kept, in the public eyes as fiction?

Within a few days a "customer" arrived at our television and appliance shop. He "happened" to be very knowledgeable about UFOs, to the point where he corrected some information in a book I was reading at that moment.

He had been a test pilot, he said, and a "former" CIA agent. From him I learned a lot about our satellite capabilities, "outer space" as differentiated from "inner" space, the thinking of government, and the government in general.

By the time he appeared, I had devoured most of the UFO information available at our local library.

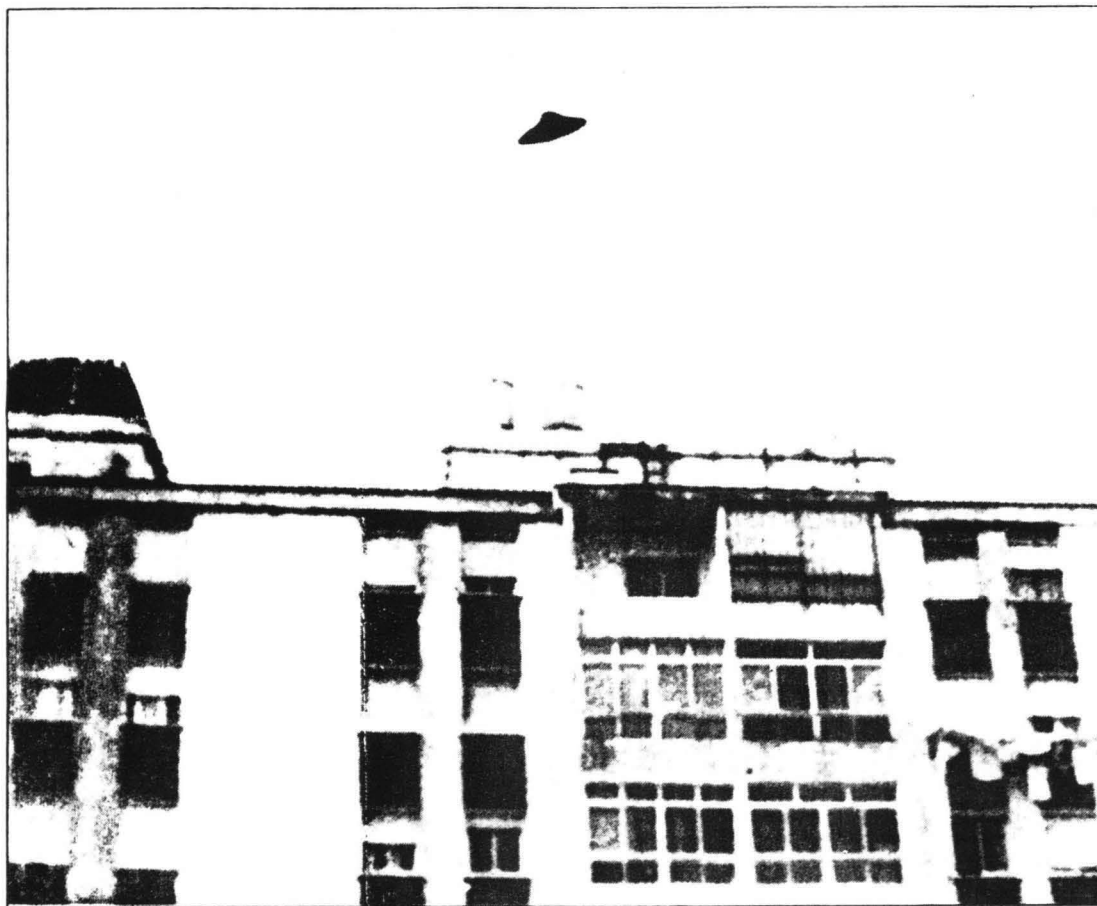
I had contacted friends in research and physics in various parts of the country. I had talked with the authors of various UFO materials, and had been interviewed by a certified UFO investigator.

I was no dummy, you might say, and was therefore able to elicit information from him which he hadn't planned to discuss.

Just recently I spoke with a representative from NASA (National Aeronautic and Space Administration). He claimed to be unaware of much of what I had been told by our "customer." But cloak and dagger being what it is, who can say?

Because of my experience that night, my thinking has changed in many subtle ways.

I am more open to reports and dis-



AP file photo

An object resembling a flying saucer flies over an apartment building in Malaga, Spain in January 1984.

Most people do not report what they see for fear of ridicule. At the present moment, however, thousands are coming forward along the East Coast of the United States to report what they have seen.

—Shirley Hallett

cussions from people who have had "unusual" experiences. I view history from a slightly different perspective. I read of those baffling artificial markings on the Plain of Nazca in Peru, and wonder if it really could be an ancient landing strip. I question some of the old Egyptian papyrus records dealing with odd events in the skies — could they be early reports of UFOs?

Several years ago, Erich von Daniken searched for proof of the existence of ancient astronauts. I viewed the books (Chariots of the Gods, In Search of Ancient Gods, and others) and the following television programs, with considerable skepticism.

Now I'm not so sure. Even Scriptural references, such as those in Ezekiel, could be interpreted as relating to space craft and events.

Because of my own experience, I have had the privilege of talking with Ray Fowler, author of several detailed books dealing with UFOs. I received a letter from Barry Greenwood, author of Clear Intent, the newest book dealing with the government cover-up of UFO activity. I have talked with Dr. Neil Cumins, an astronomer at UMO.

Because I wrote two articles for our local paper, The Valley Times, I have received several dozen calls from friends and strangers alike, people who have shared experiences like mine. Most of them started the conversation with, "Whatever anyone says, don't let them talk you out of what you saw that night. I saw..."

My articles were picked up by clipping services in different parts of the country. As a result I have several letters, still unanswered, and a rough-draft manuscript, from others who share an adventure similar to mine. I have been overwhelmed by the response that those two simple articles produced.

There are thousands of sightings every year, in every part of the world. And they are not likely to stop.

There have been several "waves" of UFO sightings, most notably in 1947 and again in 1952. While these waves of multiple occurrences, viewed by multiple witnesses, are frequent, the solitary sightings seem to happen daily.

Most people do not report what they see for fear of ridicule. At the present moment, however, thousands are coming forward along the East Coast of the United States to report what they have seen.

A recent Detroit News article (by Michael Best) states, "UFOs recently have come back into the news in mainstream East Coast publications because of the thousands of UFO sightings reported during the last six months in the four adjoining counties of Fairfield, Conn., and Putnam, Rockland and Westchester counties in New York."

Many of researchers and investigators are assembling in that area to check out the facts on this newest wave of UFO activity.

That a certain number of unidentified ob-

jects exist is not open to much debate at this point. The many and varied forms that these objects have and the reasons for their existence is, however, debatable. Until now, their "mission" seems to be one of investigation, observation, and possibly surveillance.

Although there have been reports of animal mutilations and disappearances, these are less well documented. It seems fairly safe to say, however, that there are unidentified objects within our space, objects which appear to have no origin within our science or technology.

As with many areas of our lives, it seems to me we should take the stance of patient learning and understanding, a careful weighing of the facts and correlation with known scientific research and investigation.

I KNOW what I saw.

What I saw was nothing that exists in this world, as I know it at this moment.

Exactly what it was, I can't say and may never know.

As a result of seeing it, however, I am more open to looking and seeing; to asking and hearing; to seeking and hopefully to finding.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the responses I have had from friends, writers, scientists, UFO investigators, and government personnel so I hope that such input will continue.

I also hope that others who have an experience like mine will find it a personal challenge and follow through with it.

Although my own first reactions were fear and apprehension, now I am curious, interested, and filled with a yearning to go farther than my limited views and into a more comprehensive way of thinking.

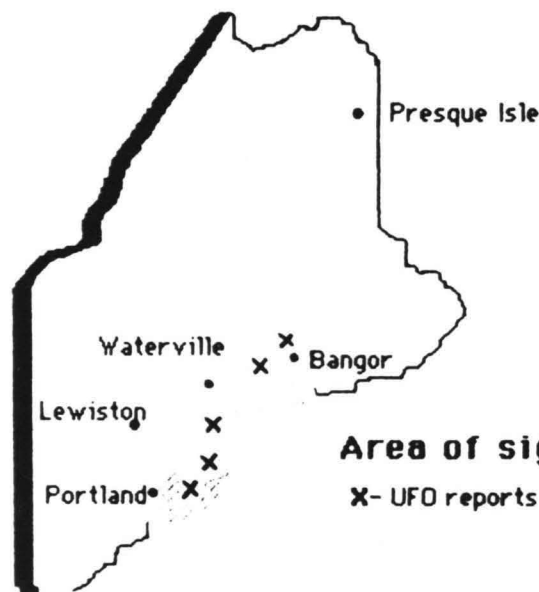
Some days I feel as though I am in my own separate orbit, an expanded concentric loop, yet I am still "me" — daughter, wife, mother, sister, friend, citizen.

That night, last March, on the interstate, I did not lose my sanity, nor my IQ, nor my personality, nor my everyday qualities. I still cook, clean, dust, read The Morning Sentinel. I am normal.

But I saw a UFO.

My life will never be quite the same.

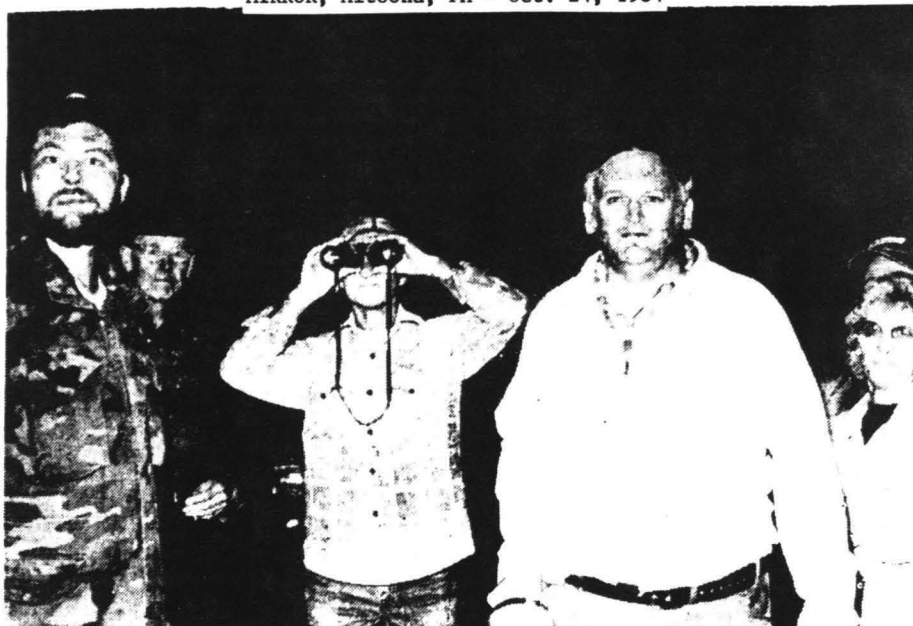
(continued on page 5)



This map shows the area in which UFO sightings in Central Maine occurred during the weekend of March 25 — Xs mark some of the spots where individual sightings took place. About 20 people statewide reported seeing a UFO between Brunswick and Bangor during that weekend.

Sentinel graphic

MIRROR, Altoona, PA - Oct. 24, 1984



Mirror photo by Virgie Werner

Anybody there?

Gilbert D. Beckwith Sr. scanned the night sky with binoculars after UFO reports near Tyrone. Sharing the vigil (from left) were Gilbert Beckwith Jr.; John V. Bowser, retired FAA chief of law enforcement and aircraft accident investigation; Beckwith Sr. and Tyrone police Chief J. Thomas Cooper.

Snyder Township again inspires reports of night UFO 'sightings'

By Marsha Heim
and Virgie Werner
Staff writers

TYRONE — Melvin Morrissey of Tyrone was driving along Route 453 at 10:15 p.m. Tuesday when he saw what looked like a low-flying airplane that might crash.

He drove a little farther and turned toward the state game lands in Snyder Township. That's when he saw the low lights and an object that looked like a saucer.

Morrissey, an employee for the Tyrone Borough Water Department, reported the sighting to Tyrone police, who turned the call over to state police.

"He must have seen something," said John Bowser, a retired Federal Aviation Administration aircraft investigator. "He was sincere ... I believe him."

This is the second sighting in Snyder Township within the last 1½ weeks.

Last night's sighting was near the Tyrone reservoir — an area that Morrissey as a water department employee visits every day.

Tyrone police Chief J. Thomas Cooper said he and Morrissey drove

to Wopsononock Mountain today to investigate. Cooper's conclusion: The UFO was the red lights on the WTAJ-TV tower.

But as far as the low-flying object that might have crashed, police aren't sure how to explain that.

"There's something odd about this," Bowser said.

That's where the Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained comes in.

Stan Gordon, director of the association, said at 8 a.m. today, "I have been up all night taking calls."

Based on the reports received, Gordon said a red saucer was seen landing south of the road in the game lands at 10:15 p.m.

The report of a landing was enough to stir the association into action.

"Of course landings are very rare," Gordon said. But he said he has been to sites where a UFO left physical evidence on the ground.

"I sent Scott right away and formed field investigative teams," he said. Scott Crain Jr. of Port Matilda is an association investigator.

Gordon was trying to contact the first witnesses today.

Gordon said Crain was at the

scene last night, but the news had spread and a crowd of about 100 people gathered to try to spot the UFO.

"Because of the large number of people, we were unable to make contact," Gordon said.

From monitoring radio communications made in the area last night, Gordon said the report is being explained as lights in the radio tower. He added that there were heavy fog conditions in the area also, but residents claim that it was a fairly clear night.

"We will follow up," he said, but he won't give an opinion until he talks to the witnesses.

"Second-hand reports mean nothing," he said.

Recent reports of UFO sightings have led to numerous calls by Blair County residents within the last week, Gordon said.

A unidentified woman from the Loop Station area in Hollidaysburg called the Mirror today to report the sighting of a bright light by her home. She said she heard a humming noise at 10 p.m.

"A lot of things are explainable, but some are not. That's the ones we're interested in," Gordon said.

Witnesses report UFO near Salina

BELL TOWNSHIP — There have been at least seven more reports of a strange, lighted flying object being sighted Saturday at approximately 10:30 p.m., according to UFO investigator Diane Enion of Brentwood.

The object was seen hovering near Salina Reformed Church off Route 819, and all descriptions from seven witnesses are similar. The object was "large and white and was flying very low," said Enion. She said witnesses told her the object had red and green lights on it.

She said she planned to visit the area this evening to gather additional information.

There were reports of similar sightings along parts of I-79 in late November, she said.

Enion is a member of the Pennsylvania Center for UFO Research in Pittsburgh.

In October she was in the township's Coal Hollow Road area investigating a local family's report of hearing strange, nocturnal noises, like those of a predator, near their home.

Between Aug. 15 and 22 of this year, Rainbow Control Emergency Communications System received 20 calls on UFO sightings, including some from Kiski Valley police officers. Residents of West Vandergrift, Leechburg, Vandergrift, East Vandergrift and Parks Township were among the callers.

Included in Enion's file are reports of sightings of a Bigfoot-like creature and of a large, black panther. Some of the reports put the sightings along Route 819 in the township.

Enion said she is seeking volunteers to gather information on such sightings.

"It takes me at least three-quarters of an hour to reach the Kiski Valley from Brentwood and by the time I get there the objects which have been sighted are generally gone," she said.

But, she cautioned, volunteers should prepare themselves to receive telephone calls anytime. "They have to realize that there's a chance that they will be called at 4:30 in the morning to go check out a UFO sighting."

Anyone interested in volunteering may telephone Enion at 884-3064.

VALLEY NEWS DISPATCH, Tarentum, PA - Dec. 11, 1984

PAWTUCKET VALLEY DAILY TIMES, West Warwick, RI
Nov. 9, 1984 CR: B. Greenwood

Woman says she saw Coventry UFO, too

By Philip Bishop
Times Staff Reporter

Another UFO sighting has been reported in Western Coventry.

Johanna Sroka, 38, of Maple Valley Road, said today she was driving home Wednesday night at about 9 p.m. along Route 117 in central Coventry when she looked off to her left and saw a bright object in the sky.

The object had pointed edges and was perhaps star-shaped, Sroka said, adding that it had red lights on it.

"It was strange. I've never seen anything like it before," Sroka, a homemaker said.

After sighting the unidentified flying object, she said, she slowed her car to a crawl and eventually stopped, close to the Central Coventry Fire Station.

'I think they were aliens.'

For the next 15 or 20 minutes, she said, she and her 18-year-old son,

Walter, whom she had just picked up from work, watched in rapt amazement at the stationary object.

"My heart was pounding so fast," Sroka said. Walter, she added, was tongue-tied with shock.

Eventually, the UFO moved down 117 in an easterly direction, she said, and the pair drove home.

Sroka said her husband believes she saw something, but she did admit he ribbed her about "strange things" happening to people during a full moon.

Sroka added that she is "puzzled" by the experience, although she believes that what she saw was an alien spacecraft.

"Who's to say (aliens) can't come down here and see what we are doing?" she queried.

The first such incident in the area occurred Oct. 30, when two Coventry High School students said they saw a UFO on Harkney Hill Road.

Sroka said her son has spoken to one of the students and the descriptions of the two sightings had some similarities.

But what do they want in Coventry?

THE SKEPTIC and The Believer: near right, top UFO naysayer Philip Klass believes that UFOs tell us more about earthly psychology than interstellar transportation. Far right, leading UFO dare-sayer Bruce Maccabee insists that not all UFO advocates are "nuts or crazies." Seen behind Maccabee is a projection of the so-called Childerhose sighting in 1956.



The last UFO war

One of these guys is terribly wrong ♦ By Brad Lemley

PHOTOGRAPHED BY MARGARET THOMAS

Paul and Evelyn Trent of McMinnville, Ore., say the flying saucer silently approached their farmhouse on May 11, 1950, at 7:45 p.m. Evelyn Trent got a camera, and her husband took two snapshots before the saucer zoomed away. The photos show a disk-shaped object with a brim at the base and a small conical protrusion on top. The photos have become classics in UFO annals.

It is an "astounding" case, says Bruce Maccabee, a Navy research physicist who lives in Silver Spring and who outspokenly insists that UFOs are real. Sophisticated analysis of the image density of the original negatives and interviews with the Trents led Maccabee to conclude that the McMinnville saucer was probably a real craft about 50 feet in diameter.

Humbug! says Philip J. Klass, who lives in Southwest Washington, just a few miles from Maccabee. "It's most likely a garbage can lid hanging from a string." Thus spake Maccabee's nemesis, the author of three books debunking UFO sightings.

And so it goes for these two warhorses of the UFO movement. For more than a decade they have debated and argued about dozens of such cases, Maccabee contending that the saucers, spheres, cylinders, footballs, cones, pears, wheels, spindles, triangles, lozenges, squares, diamonds and teardrops that have been observed hovering, spinning, zooming, looping, zig-zagging, spiraling, landing, taking off and crashing may represent extraterrestrial phenomena.

Meanwhile, Klass says prosaic explanations suffice: airplanes, blimps, weather balloons, kites, satellites, flocks of birds, bright planets, meteors, ball lightning and, of course, hoaxes.

Now and then these arguments burble up on the pages of magazines or newspapers, but mostly they swirl through the minds and mimeograph machines of a dedicated cadre of believers and disbelievers, both groups determined to rescue society from ignorance.

And among the space warriors who never seem to tire of the battle, Maccabee and Klass are galaxy generals. About one particular sighting alone, filmed in New Zealand, the two have exchanged 1,500 pages of single-spaced typed correspondence. Maccabee still finds the sighting mysterious. Klass says it is a brightly lighted squid-fishing boat.

The Maccabee-Klass debate is distinguishable from the rabble of UFOlogy for its intellectual integrity. Though the two needle and sometimes insult each other, they rise above the lunatic fringe and ask seriously: Is Something Strange going on, or is it just a combination of Venus, astigmatism and wishful thinking?

IN THE 15th CENTURY B.C., Thutmose III, Egyptian king of the 18th dynasty, saw "a circle of fire coming in the sky . . . one rod long was its body, and a rod wide, and it was noiseless." Later, the sky was filled with many such flaming circles. The king's observations are one of the earliest UFO sightings recorded.

In the sixth century B.C., the biblical prophet Ezekiel spoke of "wheels [that] had rims, and their rims were full of eyes round about," and in 329 B.C., two shining silver shields dived repeatedly at the army of Alexander the Great.

In Nuremberg, Germany, on April 14, 1561, the sky was filled with cylindrical shapes from which emerged black, red, orange and blue-white spheres that darted about.

Sightings became more frequent in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Mexican astronomer José Bonilla saw about 400 UFOs of various shapes moving across the face of the sun on Aug.

12 and 13, 1883. On April 28, 1897, rancher Alexander Hamilton of Le Roy, Kan., watched helplessly as a curious airship roped a two-year-old heifer in his corral and hauled it into the sky—the head, hide and legs were found in a neighbor's field the next day.

But the so-called modern era of UFO sightings, encompassing thousands of cases, began on June 24, 1947, when Kenneth Arnold, a deputy U.S. marshal, spotted nine disk-shaped objects flying in formation over Mount Rainier, Wash. Arnold, flying in his private plane, estimated their speed to be 1,000 miles per hour. After landing at Pendleton, Ore., he told several reporters of his sighting, and because of his reputation as a solid citizen, the story was treated as a straight news item. Arnold's description of the objects as flying "like a saucer would if you skipped it across the water," helped coin the term flying saucer.

In the last 37 years, about 150,000 worldwide UFO sightings have been recorded, ranging from tiny, moving points of light in the night sky to the so-called Close Encounters of the Fourth Kind in which occupants of UFOs engage in sexual relations with earthlings (these include a Brazilian farmer who said he coupled with a comely saucer occupant, and a South African pilot who said she gave birth to an extraterrestrial son while enjoying a four-month stay on a planet in the Proxima Centauri system).

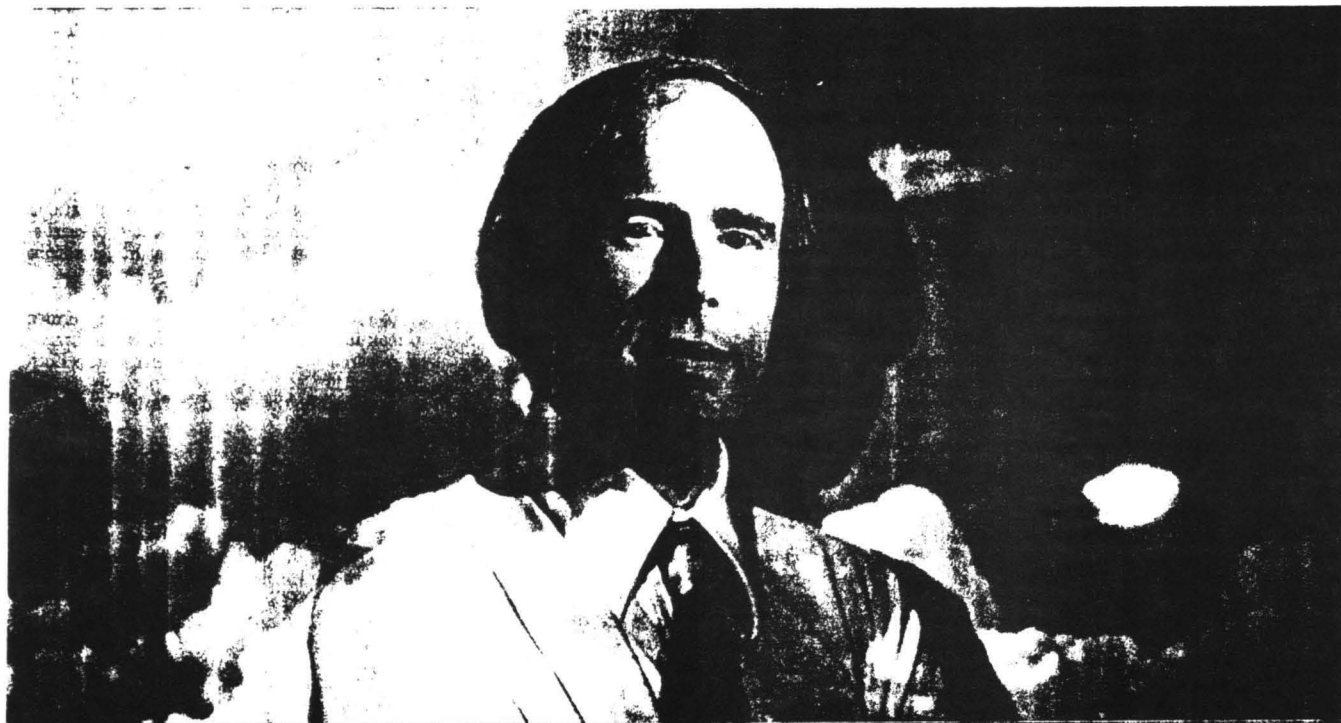
From 1948 to 1969, the Air Force commissioned three successive probes—Projects Sign, Grudge and Blue Book—to investigate sightings. Although the studies invented the designation Unidentified Flying Object, an unquestionably more useful term than flying saucer, they neither confirmed nor denied the existence of extraterrestrials. The Air Force said none of its studies had "added to scientific knowledge."

Nevertheless, the modern era has seen the growth of a dedicated corps of UFO enthusiasts who have banded together to form the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization, the Mutual UFO Network, and the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena. They investigate, publish newsletters, maintain computerized listings of UFO cases, sponsor symposia and serve as clearinghouses for data. The largest, the Mutual UFO Network, has almost 1,000 investigators and branches in 87 countries.

IN THE MID-1950s, Bruce Maccabee was a high school student in Rutland, Vt., and like many a Sputnik-era youth, he took an interest in UFO sightings. "I can remember reading stories in the newspaper," he says, "where some farmer had seen some very bright, highly structured object that would fly over, land, make some marks on the ground or something like that. The next day, the story would be that some Air Force official would say the guy has misidentified Venus. It seemed to me that that didn't make sense—Venus doesn't land. So from the start I was turned off by the way UFO reports were handled."

Today, Maccabee, at 42, is still "skeptical of the skeptics," especially of his archrival, Klass. An intense, detail-oriented researcher, Maccabee received his PhD in physics from American University in 1970. Since 1972 he has worked for the Navy on high-energy lasers, infrared sensors and underwater sound. In his off-duty hours he has

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investigated and written about UFO sightings. He is chairman of the Fund for UFO Research, Maryland state director of the Mutual UFO Network, and author of dozens of articles, most of them published in UFO newsletters.

Maccabee began earnestly investigating sightings in 1973. In the fall of that year there were many sightings in Georgia, working their way west over the next two months. On Oct. 11, 1973, one of the most publicized UFO cases occurred when two shipyard workers, Charles Hickson and Calvin Parker, said an egg-shaped craft landed near them while they were fishing just outside Pascagoula, Miss. The men said three strange beings emerged, took them inside, examined them with a huge free-floating "eye" and put them back on the riverbank 20 minutes later.

"During the flap in '73, I decided to get involved more," says Maccabee. "I figured, everyone else is trying to solve the mystery, why not me? I began taking on some difficult cases."

So for 11 years, Maccabee, who has never seen a UFO himself, has collected and analyzed what he calls "true UFO" or "TRUFO" reports, in which UFOs seem to behave in ways that rule out conventional phenomena.

Some examples he offers:

- The so-called "Roswell Incident" of July 8, 1947, in which a disk is said to have crashed on a ranch near Roswell, N.M., yielding a tinfoil-like substance that reportedly could not be dented with a sledgehammer. The wreckage was allegedly removed by military personnel.

- The encounter that the Rev. William B. Gill had with a glowing, hovering, double-decked UFO in Boianai, New Guinea, on June 26-28, 1959, after which he and 25 other witnesses attested they had waved at occupants and received friendly waves in return.

- The sighting by four people who were on a commercial jetliner over Indian Head, Md., descending toward National Airport in August 1966, in which they looked out the windows and saw a "spherical aluminum or steel-colored object" overtake the jet and pass it.

What does it all mean to Maccabee? "I say there is something really there. The real crux of the matter is: Is it intelligent or unintelligent?" He talks of the photo snapped by Royal Canadian Air Force pilot Robert Childerhose in 1956, which shows a glowing mass nestled in the clouds near McLeod, Alberta. "That thing is about 300 to 400 feet in diameter. If it is ball lightning or plasma [a ball of electrified particles, usually no more than three feet in diameter], then how do you explain such a huge plasma? The other alternative is that you've got something indicative of intelligence, and there are a number of cases in which it's hard to deny the alien intelligence connection.

"... It's certainly not impossible that they, whoever they are, might be using us to perform scientific experiments." He says there has been a new twist in some UFO reports since the late 1970s: people sighted UFOs, then realized that the next few hours, or even days, were a complete blank. Some, under hypnosis, told of being taken aboard UFOs and subjected to physical examinations.

"It appears creatures may even be tracking whole families over generations," he says.

Maccabee's major frustration is that the scientific community tends to regard UFO

Celebrity Sightings

Former president Jimmy Carter is the first American president to have reported sighting a UFO. In a report he filed with the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena, he said he sighted the UFO in October 1969, while waiting to give a dinner speech to the Lions Club of Leary, Ga. He was standing outside the chapter building when he saw a bright, bluish light swell to the apparent size of the moon and turn to a reddish color. He estimated its distance to be perhaps 300 to 1,000 yards. He did not report the sighting until 1973, when he was governor of Georgia. Recalling the incident in 1977, he said, "I don't laugh at people anymore when they say they've seen UFOs, because I've seen one myself."

A later study of the Lions Club records showed that Carter had actually given the speech on Jan. 6, 1969. UFO skeptic Robert Sheaffer concluded in May 1977 that Carter had misidentified Venus, which on that night was approximately 100 times brighter than a first-magnitude star and in the same position that Carter described.

On Oct. 17, 1973, Ohio Gov. John Gilligan said during the previous week he and his wife had seen something saucer-shaped as they were driving home from a Michigan vacation. He said it "darted around for a while and then went away."

Other celebrities who have reportedly seen UFOs include Muhammad Ali, astronaut Gordon Cooper, and performers Orson Bean, Jamie Farr, Glenn Ford, Jackie Gleason, Buddy Greco, Dick Gregory, Sheila MacRae, Elvis Presley, William Shatner, Elke Sommer and Mel Tormé.

watchers with the same scorn reserved for water-witching. "You can't write an article on UFOs and get it accepted by a [scientific] journal," he says. "Scientists are generally skeptical of UFO sightings, and so am I. However, some scientists and individuals have, in my opinion, gone beyond the bounds of scientific reason in criticizing and explaining UFO sightings." Maccabee agrees that most sightings are misidentifications, delusions or hoaxes, but he says it is unreasonable to say that because most sightings can be explained, all can be explained.

He is optimistic about what he sees as "a proliferation of groups of scientists being forced to look into unusual things." He is encouraged by research into such phenomena as the Loch Ness monster, Bigfoot, psychic phenomena and the markings on the shroud of Turin.

PHILIP KLOSS is a cautious man. Five years ago, at age 60, he married for the first time. He is even more circumspect when it comes to UFOs. While Maccabee is one of perhaps a dozen leaders in the UFO movement, Klass alone is the undisputed top UFO skeptic in the world. He has chronicled his doubts in

three books, *UFOs Identified*, Random House, 1968; *UFOs Explained*, Random House, 1974; and *UFOs: The Public Deceived*, Prometheus Books, 1983. An electrical engineer, he is senior electronics editor of *Aviation Week and Space Technology* magazine. Like Maccabee, Klass emphasizes that his UFO studies are a hobby and strictly separated from his full-time work.

A garrulous chain-smoker, Klass says he regards flying saucers from space as pure fiction, and says those who promote belief in UFOs thrive on the attention they get as flying saucer experts. In his latest book he quotes Francis Bacon, early champion of the scientific method: "What a man would like to be true, he more readily believes."

Klass got into the field by suggesting, in an article published in *Aviation Week* in 1966, that some UFOs might be plasmas—electrical discharges that he theorized might be spit out by high-voltage power lines. "The media picked it up, the phone began to buzz—I became an overnight celebrity."

"But the interesting thing was the reaction of the UFO believers . . . I was bitterly attacked for daring to suggest a prosaic explanation, even though I never said it would explain all cases, just perhaps 10 percent of them."

Klass says this happened because UFO believers "revel in unexplained cases. UFOlogists do not have one strong case, not one that they would be willing to take to the Academy of Sciences and say, 'Here is your proof.' All they have is a large number of weak cases, which are supposed to add up to a strong statement on behalf of UFOs. I was threatening to deprive them of some of their large number."

Based on his close investigation of about 50 cases and research into hundreds more, Klass believes only 2 percent of all cases are outright hoaxes or plain tall tales. The other 98 percent, he feels, are misidentifications made by sincere people. "I used to think that if a pilot, policeman, astronomer, scientist said he saw this or that, he must be telling the truth. Today I know that these people are human beings, subject to the same sorts of frailties as anyone."

Aircraft, stars, balloons, birds, and dozens of ordinary aerial phenomena, Klass says, can be flattened, enlarged, colored, and can seem to move at high speed when viewed through the flawed lens of Earth's turbulent atmosphere. Human imagination, he suggests, just increases the chance for error. In the fall of 1967, for example, Georgia police officers in 11 counties reported sightings to the University of Colorado's UFO investigating team. The UFO turned out to be an unusually brilliant planet Venus.

Through the years, some have tended that pointing out such ordinary solutions to the tantalizing UFO mystery makes Klass a space-age Scrooge, taking the fun out of flying saucers and crushing the yearning for "space friends" that drew millions to the film "E.T.—The Extraterrestrial."

Through the years, Klass has developed a response. "I tell them the story of the so-called Dr. Dan Fry, who told an elderly Florida couple that UFOs landed on his ranch in Oregon. He talked them into selling all of their property to give him money so he could build a TV station to broadcast the great wisdom of the space people. Last I

(continued on page 8)

UFO reports continue

By KEVIN SULLIVAN
Times staff

The calls keep coming.

More Cape Ann residents now say they saw a brightly lighted object that matches the description of an unusual aircraft a Magnolia couple claims they saw Monday night.

Harry Walen of Penzance Road in Rockport says he and his wife saw an object just south of Thacher Island. It was red and green, stationary, and had a bright white light below it. It stayed in the area from 9 p.m. to about 11 p.m., Walen said.

Walen said he saw the object again Tuesday night. He suggested that crystal-clear skies could have been reflecting starlight, creating the strange lights. But, Walen said, what he saw seemed to be more substantial than that.

That closely matches the description of what Ana and Per Hoel of 11 Hesperus Circle saw Monday night off Shore Road, in the same general area described by Walen.

The Hoels said the object they saw eventually came toward them, and flew low over their heads. It was triangular and about 120 to 140 feet on each side, they said. It had a window on the bottom, red and white lights along the edges, and a bright white spotlight at the front point, they said.

Since the Hoels' story appeared in Monday's Times, other Cape Ann residents have come out of the woodwork to say they saw something similar. Others have called to say they had seen similar things in the past. Others have called the Hoels just to talk about the incident, and tell them they don't think they're crazy.

The Hoels spent an hour on WBZ-Radio's Larry Glick talk show. Another radio station interviewed Mrs. Hoel on the air last night. She wasn't sure which one.

Mrs. Hoel said she's received so many calls that they're becoming annoying; she works at home and can't get anything done.

That's not unusual, according to Marge Christensen of Beverly, the state director of an international group known as the Mutual UFO Network. She said UFO sightings are fascinating for most people, and can often be frustrating and frightening for those who claim to have seen them.

Mrs. Christensen said her group, based in Texas, has chapters in all 50 states and 56 other countries. She said it's comprised of scientists who try to approach each sighting with an open mind, to identify what people have seen.

Using computers, and experts in aviation and natural science, her group often is able to identify what people have seen. Beyond that, they simply label sightings as "unidentified," not "flying saucers."

She said she would ask the Hoels and other witnesses to fill out a form detailing what they saw. That information is then plugged into a computer at the Center for UFO studies in Evanston, Ill.

She said the Magnolia sighting is the first in Massachusetts in several years.

She said the Hoels' description is unusual for two reasons. First, she said, most people usually see only strange lights in the sky, not the kind of detailed object the Hoels described.

And, she said, sightings usually last only a few seconds, not the 45 minutes or more the Hoels and Walen claim the Monday sighting lasted.

But Mrs. Christensen said the Magnolia sighting was "not a very spectacular sighting compared to some of the things we've logged."

CR: B. Greenwood

heard, the elderly man had had a nervous breakdown. There was another couple in Minnesota in the wintertime. The woman was convinced a flying saucer was going to come and carry them off. The two of them sat there in the car for 30 days—she died of exposure, he almost did."

But Klass concedes these are isolated cases and his concern is to stem gullibility. "There are no easy choices. It would be marvelous if extraterrestrial visitors came here and told us how to cure cancer and prevent war. Marvelous. But for us to hope for or expect that is dangerous."

"The important thing is that the public be skeptical," he says. "We have squirrels in our back yard here. We have been feeding them for four years, but they are still very, very cautious around us and will not venture very close. That's how it should be. This is nature's way of protecting the species."

Maccabee and Klass have publicly debated UFOs in discussions sponsored by the Smithsonian Institution and the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics. They frequently attack each other in print. In *UFOs: The Public Deceived*, Klass says Maccabee's belief that flying saucers have crashed on Earth—called Crashed Disk Syndrome—is evidence that Maccabee suffers from "Credulous Dementia Syndrome."

In a review of Klass' book published in a magazine called *Fate*, Maccabee counters that Klass shows himself to be an "angry, rigidly skeptical man" who relies on "ridicule rather than logic to make his case."

Maccabee and Klass disagree on a major tenet of UFOlogy: that the federal government is covering up information about UFOs, and may even have a downed saucer in storage. Klass says secret CIA and FBI papers released under the Freedom of Information Act show that the agencies took a passing interest in the subject in the 1950s, but there is no evidence of a cover-up. Maccabee says Klass is naive to assume the government would release all of the information it has about UFOs.

The disagreement is a classic example of UFO dialogue, a series of "yes, but" arguments that leave a resolution floating just out of reach.

SINCE THE SEMINAL Mount Rainier sighting in 1947, public interest in UFOs has been up and down. In the United States, the fascination peaked following waves of sightings in 1952, 1965 and 1973. The largest foreign wave began in France in 1954 and spread throughout Europe. The Soviet Union had waves in 1949 and 1966.

UFO interest is difficult to track. In a 1978 Gallup poll of 1,500 Americans, 93 percent said they had heard of UFOs. Of those people, 57 percent said they believed UFOs are real and 51 percent said they believed there are beings similar to humans living elsewhere in the cosmos. Klass believes public interest in UFOs has declined. He says it is a simple case of the move-

ment "painting itself into a corner with its emphasis on abductions. Ten years ago, if you called the National Enquirer and said you had been abducted by a UFO, you'd get a featured story. Now, they would take your name and say, 'Don't call us, we'll call you.' Now that abduction stories have become so commonplace, where do you go from here? What do you do for an encore?"

The obvious answer is to produce a grounded UFO or its crew. In the 36 centuries since Thutmose III observed his fiery circles, such an event has never happened publicly, but the rumors fly.

There is a popular story among UFOers, though even Maccabee says it is "no doubt apocryphal": During a special White House screening of "E.T.—The Extraterrestrial," President Reagan was rapt throughout. When the lights finally came up, he allegedly leaned over to director Steven Spielberg and whispered, "You know, there are only three people in the world who know how close to the truth that was."

Brad Lemley is a Washington science writer who last wrote for *The Magazine* about theologian John Haught.

This Herblock cartoon was published on the editorial page of The Washington Post on Tuesday, July 29, 1952, one day after a banner headline on the front page read: 'Saucer' Outran Jet, Pilot Reveals.

"Do They Say 'Ike' Or 'Adlai' On Them?"



UFO's Over Washington

The 1956 film "Earth vs. the Flying Saucers" featured flocks of marauding disks smashing into the Washington Monument. There is no known instance of a UFO gouging divots from a local landmark, but Washington has had more than its share of UFO sightings. Here are a few selected accounts from Post reports:

◆ Washington, July 19-20, 1952—Two radarscopes at Washington National Airport picked up eight unidentified targets above the White House and the Capitol. The pilot of a passing airliner saw seven objects he said were "like falling stars without tails."

◆ Washington, July 26-27, 1952—Radar blips were noted over Andrews Air Force base at 1,700 feet. Two F94 jets were scrambled, but neither was able to close in on the objects. Pilots said the UFOs looked like the lighted end of a cigarette. On July 29, the Air Force announced that the blips were the result of temperature inversions.

◆ Washington, Aug. 24, 1960—Area residents watching the sky for the new Echo 1 satellite were surprised to see a red glowing object moving much more rapidly.

◆ Staunton, Va., Dec. 20, 1964—Kenneth Norton Jr., 14, said he saw a cigar-shaped flying object at about 4:30 p.m. That day, Horace Burns was traveling on U.S. 250 between Staunton and Waynesboro when he saw an object shaped like an upside-down ice cream cone. It landed briefly in a nearby meadow, then took off. Ernest Gehman, a college professor, checked the site and reported a high radiation count.

◆ Washington, Jan. 11, 1965—At 4:20 p.m., five Army Signal Corps engineers and six others at 19th Street and Constitution Avenue NW, watched 12 to 15 white, oval-shaped objects moving in erratic courses above Capitol Hill. Two delta-winged jets appeared, but the UFOs left the jets far behind. All five engineers agreed on the approximate number of UFOs and that they had outrun the jets. A Defense Department spokesman said: "There was no such incident. It just didn't happen."

◆ Arlington, Oct. 20, 1973—Ray La Brosse, a Navy engineer, saw a disk-shaped object with rotating amber lights hovering. "Weirdest thing I ever saw," he said.

UFO Sighting No Halloween Trick

By DENNIS GILDEA
Times Staff Writer

This is a Halloween story. Except nobody knows whether it's a trick.

The police don't know; a retired Federal Aviation Administration investigator doesn't know; an investigator for the Mutual UFO Network doesn't know; people believe what they want to believe.

Melvin Morrissey knows what he saw.

On Tuesday night at 8:30 he was out to spot deer, driving his pickup along the Janesville Pike that winds up the mountain north of Tyrone when he saw fly over him something with "a circular shape like a saucer," he said.

"It was about the size of a football field with an amber light on the bottom and red lights in a circle on top. It was roughly 100 feet above the treetops, maybe a little higher," Mr. Morrissey said.

He pulled off to the side of the road, killed his engine, leaned his head out the truck window. "I couldn't hear a thing. It was moving faster than a plane, but not as fast as a jet."

He watched the object for "about two or three minutes" until it disappeared over the ridge.

A few minutes later, he and his two children, for whom he had returned home so that they could look for the object, saw lights somewhere in the gamelands number 158 to the southwest. "I've been coon hunting in these woods since I was 12," said Mr. Morrissey, 37, "and I never seen those lights before."

Later, though, he said that in the past few years the trees in that area have been cut for lumber, which would provide a bit more visibility than earlier days.

Two afternoons after the sighting, Melvin Morrissey was standing in line at a Tyrone convenience store when someone pointed to him and asked the checkout clerk, "Is this guy nuts?"

He looked at Melvin Morrissey, who works for the Tyrone Borough Water Department, and said, "Noooo," a long, drawn out "no," as if to suggest that questioning his neighbor's sanity was something that never occurred to him.

■ ■ ■
To get to the spot where Melvin Morrissey stood on Tuesday night and saw the mysterious lights in the distant woods, you turn left off Janesville Pike on the first dirt road past Wild Goose Road.

About three miles into the Gamelands, the road narrows and becomes so rutted that only a big 4-wheel drive vehicle could get through.

The place where he stood in the bed of his pickup and looked through binoculars at the lights he had never seen before (or since, it turns out) is a popular parking place for hunters, hikers, lovers, kids, whomever. It is littered with old beer bottles and cans.

"No, I wasn't drinking, and I do not take dope," Mr. Morrissey said even before the question could be asked. "People have been saying to me, 'What'd they do, come down and take the Pepsi machine or the Strohs?' Both of which are allusions to television commercials in which a spaceship lands to fuel up on earthly goods."

"And I never said a damn thing about anything landing out there," he said. "I just said I saw lights out there, and I saw something fly over me out on the road."

The lights on the ground, the ones he saw in the distance through the woods, were probably the lights on the WTAJ-TV tower on Wopsononock Mountain about 20 miles to the southwest, according to Hollidaysburg state police.

On Thursday night, Melvin Morrissey said he, his son Ron, 13, and Tyrone Chief of Police J. Thomas Cooper went to the gamelands to see if they could see the tower lights. Mr. Morrissey reported he couldn't see the tower lights. In fact, except for Tuesday night, he said, he has never been able to see them from that spot in the gamelands.

■ ■ ■
Mr. Morrissey reported his sighting to Tyrone police, which informed Hollidaysburg state



CDT Photo / Dick Brown

OUT OF THIS WORLD: Melvin Morrissey of Blair County said he saw something with "a circular shape like a saucer" fly over him while he was spotting deer near Tyrone last Tuesday. Mr. Morrissey said the flying object was about the size of a football field and hovered about 100 feet above the treetops.

police. According to one source who went to the area Tuesday night, about 100 people went up to the gamelands. Some might have seen lights on the ground, but none reported seeing anything overhead.

However, he said, "I got a call (Wednesday) from a lady in Bald Eagle who said she saw something flying over her place," Mr. Morrissey said. "And I got a call from a lady in Grazierville, and another from around Hollidaysburg who saw something flying around the same time. That's four sightings."

On Oct. 14, Debbie O'Shell of Tyrone RD 2 reported seeing an unidentified object in the sky. She told Scott Crain Jr. of Port Matilda, an investigator for the Mutual UFO Network, that something green with a red tail flew over her home. About 15 minutes later, red and green flashing lights appeared near an unusually bright star.

Mr. Crain noted in a report compiled for the UFO Project at the University of Colorado that a meteor might have been seen in the area that night.

■ ■ ■
John V. Bowser of Tyrone is a retired FAA chief of law enforcement and aircraft accident investigation. On Tuesday night, he was asked to go up the mountain to "check if there was a downed plane," he said.

A search revealed no downed aircraft, and Mr. Bowser said the lights he was able to see through binoculars were moving, possibly

the headlights of cars on Wopsononock Mountain.

What was the saucer-shaped object Mr. Morrissey reported seeing?

Mr. Bowser isn't sure. But, he said, "It could've been a helicopter flying over low. The lights of a helicopter don't look the same as the lights on an airplane, and there was a low ceiling that night."

The low clouds could have reflected and magnified the lights of the aircraft, he said.

He also said that at the top of the mountain at a spot about a mile from where Mr. Morrissey said he saw the object in the sky there is a FAA omni station, a navigational device used to help aircraft get its bearings in times of limited visibility.

"It's a good navigation practice to fly a direct course right over (the omni station)," Mr. Bowser said.

The Tyrone omni station is one of the main omni stations in the area for planes heading in any direction, he said.

Does he dismiss the possibility that whatever flew over the Janesville Pike was a UFO?

"I'd never discount it," Mr. Bowser said. "I've been involved in aviation since 1937, and I've never seen one. But airline captains, police chiefs and other aeronautical people have said they've seen something they couldn't identify."

"This chap (Mr. Morrissey) who reported he'd seen one is no jerk.

He's a good man who'd know an airplane when he sees one. I do believe something went over the top of him that didn't look like an airplane."

Other People Saw It

Several Report Flying Object

Since he was 11, Scott Crain Jr. of Port Matilda has been interested in unidentified flying objects.

In the case of Melvin Morrissey's reported sighting in Snyder Township near Tyrone last week, Mr. Crain's emphasis falls on the "flying" part of the UFO.

"What they saw with the lights on the ground is confusing," said Mr. Crain, 29, general manager of Crain Lumber Co. in Port Matilda and a seven-year

investigator for the Mutual UFO Network based in Texas. He is a 1976 graduate of Penn State with a B.S. in marketing.

The sighting of an object in the sky, though, is more intriguing, especially because three other people in Blair County reported seeing something strange flying overhead that same night.

"I called NARAD in Colorado (a radar installation that monitors all large military aircraft movements, according to Mr. Crain), and they said there were no military aircraft in the area that night," he said.

A spokesman for Pennsylvania Airlines, which provides USAir commuter flight service out of University Park Airport, said a flight for Pittsburgh took off around 7:15 or 7:30 p.m. that evening. But an average flight to Pittsburgh takes just 55 minutes, he said.

Mr. Crain said, "(NARAD) told me that they got a lot of calls from central Illinois reporting a UFO sighting at 6 in the morning of that same day."

He also said he has heard unconfirmed reports that a "government or military truck" was seen driving into the area of the gamelands where Mr. Morrissey said he saw strange lights in the woods. That area was roped off to prevent entrance the day after the sighting, Mr. Crain said. He said he didn't know who had the area closed.

Two days after the sighting, the area was open.

"At Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio they have a team they send out to retrieve objects that have landed and bring them back to the base," he said. "They said they did not dispatch a crew to our area."

Mr. Crain has conducted a "preliminary interview" with Melvin Morrissey, and he said, "From that close (Mr. Morrissey said the object was about 100 feet above the treetops), I don't see how he could mistake what he was looking at, if he's telling the truth."

Mr. Crain admitted that many reported sightings of UFOs are hoaxes, although about five percent of them can't be explained, he said.

On Oct. 15, 1983, he investigated a case in which Catherine Burk of Bellwood said a low-flying object lifted the left side of her car about two to three feet off the ground for about three seconds as she was driving on Route 220 near Bellwood.

It took her 20 to 25 minutes to get her car started again, and every time she braked to a stop on the rest of the trip home, the car stalled, Mr. Crain said.

He also knows of other incidents where UFOs have exhibited "lifting power."

Coincidentally, French film director Francois Truffaut, who played a French UFO expert in the much-heralded movie "Close Encounters of the Third Kind," died in Paris earlier this week.

Just coincidentally. —
Dennis Gildea

Local couple sights unidentified aircraft

By KEVIN SULLIVAN
Times staff

Ana Hoel says the most unusual thing she'd ever seen off Shore Road was a snowy owl — until last night, that is.

Mrs. Hoel said she and her husband, Per, were walking their dog on Shore Road about 6:15 last night when they noticed a bright light over the ocean.

At first they thought it was a Coast Guard helicopter. It was stationary, Mrs. Hoel said, hovering low, shining a bright spotlight downward.

"It was as bright as moonlight," she said. "It looked as bright as the Eastern Point (lighthouse) light."

The Hoels, who live at 11 Hesperus Circle, stood on Shore Road, near the Hesperus Avenue intersection, and watched the light for "six or seven minutes," Mrs. Hoel said. They couldn't quite make out what they were looking at, and they couldn't hear anything.

Then the light started coming directly toward them. They could

lights were also on the craft's underside.

Also on the underside, she said, was a clear window, similar to a skylight. "If I had binoculars, I could have seen inside," Mrs. Hoel said. She said the craft was so low that they could make out the individual cross-supports in the window.

Mrs. Hoel said the craft passed slowly over them, banked off toward the center of Magnolia. A few minutes later, they saw it briefly, farther down the coast toward Kettle Cove Beach.

She said they watched the craft for 45 minutes. She said she saw it with "crystal clarity, as clearly as we see the house across the street."

"The incredible thing is that it made no sound," she said. "Just a low rumbling, like the ocean far away."

Today, Mrs. Hoel said she called the police, Coast Guard, Otis Air Force Base, the Air National Guard, Logan Airport, Beverly Airport and radio stations trying to find out if anyone else had seen what they saw.

No one had: Coast Guard officials say they had no helicopters or jets in the air last night. Petty Officer Kevin Galvin of the Eastern Point Lighthouse said he saw nothing.

Police had no reports of anything similar to what the Hoels say they saw.

Mrs. Hoel said officials at the airports reported no unusual activity in this area.

Officials at Otis Air Force base said they had no planes in the area last night.

"Let me assure you, our aircraft do not hover," said Air Force General John Olson, Otis Air Force Base commander. "If the Air Force had one like that, we'd certainly keep it quiet. We'd love to have one like that."

Said Mrs. Hoel, "For the next 10 years, we'll never go walking without binoculars and a camera. But we'll probably never see anything."

'It was as bright as moonlight. It looked as bright as the Eastern Point (lighthouse) light.'

— Ana Hoel

now see two blinking red lights on either side of the still-unidentified craft.

Mrs. Hoel, a 32-year-old artist, said the lights came closer and closer, while she and her husband, 34, who works for Parker Brothers in Salem, felt increasingly uneasy.

This is what Mrs. Hoel said passed directly over her and her husband, just over the treetops: a triangular craft, between 120 and 140 feet along each side, darkly colored, with a darker strip along the edges. The spotlight they had seen was at the front point, with a red light at each of the rear points. Maybe a half-dozen other white

More Cape Ann UFO sightings reported

Essex County Newspapers

Ana and Per Hoel of Magnolia were resting easier yesterday: They aren't the only people who claim to have seen a strange aircraft over Magnolia Monday night.

After a story about their unusual sighting was published in Tuesday's Gloucester Times (the story was reprinted in yesterday's Beverly and Peabody Times), the Hoels received five telephone calls from people claiming to have seen something similar.

Later Tuesday evening, a producer from WBZ-Radio called, asking the Hoels to be on Larry Glick's talk show about 11 p.m.

Mrs. Hoel was on the radio show via telephone from about 11:10 p.m. to midnight, and received another two calls on the air. One of the calls was from a Gloucester woman, who identified herself only as Holly. She said she had been at Stage Fort Park about 9:30 p.m. Monday and had seen something similar to what the Hoels had described.

"Most of the people who called called to tell me they didn't think I was crazy," said Mrs. Hoel, who lives with her husband at 11 Hesperus Circle.

About 6:15 p.m. Monday, the Hoels were walking their dog on Shore Road in Magnolia when they noticed a bright light out over the water. They said the

lights approached them, and a large, dark-colored triangular craft with bright white and red lights flew directly over their heads. They said it was between 120 and 140 feet long on each side of the triangle, and made almost no sound.

Holly, the woman who said she had been at Stage Fort Park, also reported that she had heard no sound from the object she saw. She said she had been there with her boyfriend, and they had both been scared by the sighting.

Mrs. Hoel said a woman called her Tuesday to say that she and her daughter had been near the Building Center on Rogers Street Monday evening and had seen what the Hoels had described.

Mrs. Hoel said the woman had binoculars with her, and had seen the triangular shape clearly. She said the woman also claimed to have seen the same brightly-lighted "window" on the craft that the Hoels saw.

A woman from Brace's Cove called Mrs. Hoel and said she'd seen a bright light over the water and assumed it was a Coast Guard helicopter.

An Essex man claimed to have seen a bright light in the woods near his house Monday afternoon, Mrs. Hoel said.

Another caller said she had seen a triangular object with red blinking lights flying off Rockport's Pebble Beach last year. The woman claimed to have witnesses, but decided not to mention the sighting to anyone, Mrs. Hoel

Two witnesses detail Snyder Twp. UFO sightings

MIRROR, Altoona, PA - Oct. 26, 1984

By Marsha Heim

Staff Writer

"It was a big round object with whitish-amber lights on the bottom and red lights on the top ... it was about the size of a football field."

That was what Melvin Morrissey of 804 W. 15th St., Tyrone, said he saw Tuesday night while spotting for deer near the state game lands in Snyder Township.

Since that first report, a second witness has stepped forward.

"What I saw was an aircraft just hovering in the air, maybe the length of two airplanes put together, a red light on one side, blue light in center and white light on the other end," Sonja Eckberg of Bald Eagle said today.

Mrs. Eckberg spotted the object as she was driving on the old Phillipsburg Pike Road at 8:30 p.m. Tuesday — the same time that Morrissey said he saw an object off the Janelle Pike Road.

"It was a very good low-level sighting," Stan Gordon of the Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained in Greensburg said of Morrissey's report. Mrs. Eckberg hadn't filed a report as of this morning.

He added that it wasn't the only good sighting reported on that day. "The same day in the morning, there was a flurry of UFO reports in Illinois," Gordon said. Morrissey added there are four other witnesses who reportedly saw the object, but to this point they haven't

come forward.

Mrs. Eckberg saw the object hovering in the sky as she was driving. She made a left turn, and it turned also, as if it were following her car, she said.

"I was really frightened. I just kept concentrating on the lights, because they just had me spellbound," she said. "I was just trying to figure out what it was."

She turned right toward her home and took her eyes off of the object. When she looked back it was gone.

Mrs. Eckberg said the object was about as high as a low-flying airplane. She said the night was clear, and although she turned the car radio off, she couldn't hear any sound.

The object Morrissey saw was

low-flying, too.

"It was above the tree tops, about 100 feet or so," Morrissey said. "I didn't really pay too much attention to it. I just shrugged my shoulders and kept on going."

He said the lights appeared to settle in the trees on Wopsonnook Mountain.

Tyrone police Chief J. Thomas Cooper thought the UFO may have been red lights on the WTA-FM tower on top of Wopsonnook Mountain. But Cooper and Morrissey visited the site Thursday night to see if the lights could be seen.

"They weren't there last night," Cooper said. But while it was clear in Tyrone, it was rainy in Altoona.

"The light wasn't there, but maybe the clouds were down low on top of Wopsonnook," he said.

be the clouds were down low on top of Wopsonnook," he said.

"It's definitely an intriguing case," Gordon said. Adding to his interest are the power and water sources near the sighting, Gordon said UFO reports usually occur near these types of sources.

"There are two 500-KV transmission lines very close to the area," he said. On top of that is the nearby Tyrone reservoir.

Morrissey said he's taking a lot of ribbing about his report, especially from one radio station.

"They're making a big joke out of it, but I know what I saw," he said. Mrs. Eckberg said her phone hasn't quit ringing since word got

out that she saw something.

"I almost wished I wouldn't have said anything," she said. "You believe what you want, but I know what I saw and there's just no changing that."

This was the second sighting reported from Snyder Township within 1½ weeks. The first sighting occurred Oct. 14, when residents on Hoovers Lane spotted strange lights in the sky.

A year ago on Oct. 13, a Bellwood woman reported a low-flying object swooped overhead while she was driving on Route 220. The force of that object set her car on two wheels, Gordon said she is still suffering physical reactions from that event.

said.

An unidentified Magnolia resident called police last night to report an unusual light in the sky off Shore Road. Patrolman James Rowley went there around 10:55 but found nothing unusual.

On the radio, Glick talked to another caller from Billerica, who claimed to have seen a similar object Monday night while driving in his car.

Mrs. Hoel said another couple called friends of the Hoels to say they had seen something similar Monday night.

Mrs. Hoel also said she called an organization called the Mutual UFO Network, which had received a report Monday of an unusual triangular flying object in the western part of the state.

Air Force and Coast Guard officials said they had no aircraft anywhere near Cape Ann Monday evening.

Researcher charts UFO sightings

Best place to be is in car, he tells conference

By Mitchell Benson
Staff Writer

In the 11 years since J. Allen Hynek set up the Center for UFO Studies in Evanston, Ill., the astronomer has learned a thing or two about interviewing those who claim to have had close encounters of any kind.

When he started out, Hynek said, his "first question was whether they were doing anything special (at the time) that might have been exciting."

But, he said, people usually reported that they were doing mundane tasks like walking their dogs or putting their cars in their garages.

In fact, Hynek said, "The best chance for seeing a UFO is to be driving — especially on a lonely road."

That statistical morsel comes from Hynek's recent analysis of 400 reports of UFO sightings, hand-picked for their credibility. He reported

on the analysis Saturday at Stanford University during the second annual conference of the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal.

Of the 400 reports analyzed, 46 percent indicated that the person or persons who claimed to see a UFO saw it hovering, 46 percent said it moved silently and 21 percent reported that it made vertical takeoffs.

"Rarely do UFO reports mention wheels or wings or, for that matter, fiery dragons or pink elephants," Hynek said.

Throughout his presentation, the professor emeritus of astronomy from Northwestern University emphasized that what his center does and what people think it does often are two different things.

"We do not study UFOs, we study UFO reports," Hynek said.

Hynek also described himself as "an enemy of pseudo-science" who needs more research

money to study why so many people claim to have seen UFOs perform in the same manner under similar circumstances.

"We have a phenomenon, and I do not pretend to understand what causes that phenomenon," he said.

But Philip Klass, considered one of the foremost debunkers of unidentified flying objects, challenged Hynek to present what evidence he already has to the National Academy of Sciences for what he called an impartial verdict on the question of the existence of UFOs.

NAS serves as a scientific adviser to the U.S. government, but it is not a government agency.

"Simply collecting more and more UFO reports leads nowhere," said Klass, a senior editor of *Aviation Week and Space Technology* magazine. "I believe the time has come for a whole new approach."

In an interview after his presentation, Klass declined to take it upon himself to propose the UFO study to the National Academy of Sciences.

"The burden of proof is Hynek's. Hynek has the most to win or to gain."

But Hynek said in an interview that he would not take Klass up on his challenge.

He said that he has not had the time or funds for as exhaustive of an investigation into the phenomenon as the National Academy of Sciences would deserve or demand.

"I've often said that investigation of one UFO case requires the same amount of time and effort as one homicide investigation," Hynek said. "What would be the point of presenting this half-cooked stuff to the National Academy?"

Everyday's Halloween for pursuer of UFOs, and other phenomena

By John B. Gibson

Valley News Dispatch

BELL TOWNSHIP — Diane Enion of the Pennsylvania Center for UFO Research in Pittsburgh was in Cole Hollow Road area recently in another of her seemingly endless series of probes into the unexplained.

Generally, her sense of curiosity in the interest of research is directed to loftier levels — various altitudes at which unidentified flying objects are reportedly seen — but her recent voyages into the unexplained have been on a more down-to-earth level, literally.

Hence her probing of a local family's reports of hearing strange, nocturnal noises, like those of a predator, near their home. Information gathered there will be studied and placed with a growing volume of data which indicates numerous "sightings" of strange creatures in Westmoreland County.

Enion's name shot into the limelight this summer when Kiski Valley residents began reporting to Rainbow Control Emergency Communications System that they had seen strange lights in the sky.

In eight days, Aug. 15-22, Rainbow received 20 calls on the sightings, among them those from Kiski Valley police officers. Residents of West Vandergrift, Leechburg, Vandergrift, East Vandergrift and Parks Township were among the callers.

The most recent report of a UFO in the Kiski Valley, she says, came on Sept. 23. Two young men reported they stopped their car near Hesson's Restaurant, Route 56, Allegheny Township, at about 12:35 a.m. after a UFO hovered "fairly low" over their vehicle. Enion, a resident of Brentwood, near Pittsburgh, happened to be in the Kiski Valley when the sighting was reported and, accompanied by a police officer, quickly left for the scene.

Upon arrival the UFO had disappeared, she said.

Enion says several stars were highly visible in areas skies during the period of the August sightings, which might account for some of the lights.

However, she concedes, that explanation might not satisfy many of the residents who reported the sightings.

And, while they might be frustrated in their search for more information on what they saw, Enion says she finds similar frustration in researching other unexplained phenomena, especially a recent case in Luzerne County, eastern Pennsylvania. More on that in a moment.

Included in her "unsolved" files are reports, some of them from the Route 819 area of Bell Township, of sightings of a Bigfoot-like creature and another of a large, black panther.

Similar sightings have come from the Greensburg-Jeannette and Johnstown-Conemaugh areas and probes of them have yielded impressions made in the soil by creatures whose feet have either three or five toes.

"Whatever they were, they had to be of significant weight to make such impressions in the soil, especially on the heels, which would take a lot of their weight," says Enion.

Enion says her probe of the Luzerne County report of strange lights and poltergeist activity is "driving me up a wall."

She was among a group of researchers who positioned battery-operated cassette



Diane Enion

tape recorders and a video cassette recorder in an area so remote from the Wilkes-Barre area that "we saw only one other car during the weekend we were there."

Before the weekend was over, one of the new tapes in one of the tape recorders would capture what Enion calls "the sounds of a man chanting a weird rhyme about a man who had a fishing pole which he liked so much he wanted to catch all the fish in the sea with it. It doesn't make any sense. Then, also on the tape you can hear the groaning of what sound to be children."

The property, notes Enion, was the scene of a mass murder about 70 or 80 years ago. "A father killed all his children there and then committed suicide," she says.

Cameras taken to the field malfunctioned while in the area, but worked perfectly when taken out of the field, she says.

One incident is particularly disturbing to Enion; the videotape recorder camera mounted on a tripod in the field was knocked off the tripod and had been opened and the video tape pulled out it.

"It's a really spooky place!" she says.

Enion says the research center's staff "tries to stay away from the religious or psychological aspects" of unexplained phenomenon. "We're not trained to handle that and for us to try would mean we're looking for trouble," she says.

Next on the center's list of research projects are unexplained happenings in a house in Delmont.

She says they center around a 20-year-old house which is built on the former site of another home, long since demolished. Deeds to the ground on which the house is built extend to the 1700s, she says, and research is under way to determine if the ground's former use or a happening in the former structure could be a cause of the spine-tingling phenomena occurring in a bedroom of the present house.

The occupants have reported sensing the "presence" of someone in the bedroom, she says. The "presence" becomes frighteningly apparent when there is suddenly a depression in the coverlet, indicating that someone is sitting there. Occupants report the bedroom becomes extremely cold when the "presence" is sensed and they have difficulty breathing.

Divers seek UFO, fame, fortune in Sound

HERALD, Everett, WA - Dec. 30, 1984

BELLINGHAM — A scuba team prepared Saturday to search the chilly waters off Lamm Island for an unidentified flying object that reportedly buzzed out of the sky and splashed down there last July.

The team's leader said seismic radar last week picked out an egg-shaped object on the sea floor.

"It's a large mass of something that shouldn't be there," said John Walker, 38, a former Green Beret who now owns a Seattle diving firm. "It's not a fish and it's not a rock."

The recovery project was originally scheduled for Saturday. But frigid winds and equipment repairs postponed the dive time until this morning, weather permitting.

The original Seattle recovery team of four divers, a doctor, a UFO club representative and several eyewitnesses to the July 27, early-morning splashdown had planned to use a 25-foot vessel, but a 55-foot vessel was made available by a man who said he had had a UFO experience himself.

Witnesses say an orange-colored fireball landed in waters about 1,000 feet southwest of Lamm Island, sent up a 75-foot plume of water, then sank and bubbled.

A Bellingham-based Coast Guard vessel searched the entry area after the sighting but found no debris.

Rich Rogala, officer in charge of the Bellingham U.S. Coast Guard station, said there were no reports of missing planes or space junk crashing in the area at the time of the sighting. He said there were, however, reports of nuclear activity in western skies around that time.

The object was not picked up on radar screens at Whidbey Naval Air Station, and a check for radioactive materials at the site proved negative, Rogala said.

Walker hopes the operation brings fame and fortune.

"I'm not a UFO fanatic," he said. "I'm in it for the money... It could be worth millions. It could mean Johnny Carson and the morning news if we find it."

Some of today's dives were expected to take up to four hours. Walker said the plan called for four divers to take turns searching for the object, which he estimated is 220 to 265 feet under water.

The location of the object was kept a secret until Saturday, Walker said because he was concerned that other divers or the Coast Guard would try to salvage it.

Walker predicted divers would locate the object by noon.

He said the group did not expect the weather to be as cold as it was Saturday.

"We'd freeze to death," he said, referring to the mostly open, 25-foot boat the team had planned to use.

Two members of the group have already called it quits.

"They were worried about making it back to Seattle," Walker said.

Sponsors have helped defray some of the costs, but delays were running up a \$500-per-day room and board bill for the six remaining expedition members and Walker's pet dog.



COMMENT

Unidentified official secret

LOGICALLY the probability of life on other planets is high. Why should we be alone in the vast ocean of galaxies?

In practice, however, we ask rather more than the theory of probabilities or the speculation of scientists. We want a sign.

The only sign in evidence throughout the saga of the UFOs at the Woodbridge air base has been "Keep Out. Ministry of Defence Property". And that, more than any concrete evidence, has given us reason to consider the validity of the UFO claims. Why should the authorities have been so dogged in their determination to stamp out all investigation into the phenomenon?

These days, of course, the authorities seem determined to communicate less and less with the public and non-co-operation and official smokescreens are routine. We should congratulate the three authors of the book "Sky Crash - A Cosmic Conspiracy" for their success in carving through the sullen official silence on the topic.

These ladies, it should be remembered, offer the spaceship theory as only one of a range of possibilities. The others, which include weapons testing and the recovery of part of a Russian satellite, sound much more plausible and would better explain the official silence. They might even prefer us to believe the UFO theory!

Mystery sky lights

IT seems as if we may well have had unwanted visitors again. For an Orrell housewife, Mrs. Brenda Catterall, of Thames Drive, believes she may have seen a UFO.

While driving back to her home on Sunday she saw strange lights in the sky over Hindley Green. A check with the police and Manchester University failed to clear up the mystery.

The latter suggested an aircraft, but Mrs. Catterall is not happy with that explanation. She said: "A light caught my attention. It seemed bright but different in some way. It certainly wasn't like a star. Anyway, there were none visible that night it was so cloudy."

Then it went out but after a moment came on again, after which there were 15 lights in a long straight line.

RECORDER, Boissevain, Manitoba, Canada - Oct. 24, 1984

Peter Warren speaks:

Bumps in the night Lights in the sky...

Believe it or not, there have been 600 reported sightings of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) over the past 100 years in Manitoba.

In the same space of time, 300 people in this province have reported seeing a Sasquatch (Bigfoot).

Now, a small band of scientists have established the Manitoba Mysteries Research Association to investigate all claims of the unusual...and you are being invited to participate.

Earlier this month, I interviewed Chris Rutkowski, a University of Manitoba librarian, professional astronomer, collector of folklore and a UFO specialist, about the new organization.

Rutkowski is no science fiction freak: he is a dedicated energetic young scientist who believes that all sightings should be properly investigated and catalogued.

As he puts it simply:

"The British Museum, for years, refused to recognize the existence of the platypus. Even when an explorer turned up with a stuffed one, the museum officials at first accused him of making it himself."

And to the skeptics who ask for proof, he answers the question with a question:

"Have you ever been to Pango-Pango in Australia? If not, how do you know it exists? How do you know that it's there when you have never seen it or felt it?"

Rutkowski dislikes cutting the public view of these "mysteries" into two camps: believers and non-believers.

Normal happenings...

He concedes, however, that many of the sightings reported can be explained as normal happenings...and some of the lake "monsters" are probably the works of an imaginative mind working under the stress of too much beer on a hot day.

However, he cannot account for the continuous annual reports of UFO sightings in specific areas, namely around Gypsumville and Beausejour.

The new organization is open for business and consists of researchers and investigators of Sasquatch, UFOs, lake monsters, psychic phenomena, natural phenomena including bolides and fireballs.

Officials of the Manitoba Sasquatch Research Centre, Ufology Research Association of Manitoba and the Manitoba Paranormal Investigations group all have representatives on the mysteries research board.

And, yes, they will even take a look at ghost stories - two of which have been reported at prominent Winnipeg restaurants in the last couple of months.

Report your findings...

So where do you come in?

They have established a 24-hour tape-recorded line to take all reports of any of the above-named mysteries (1-489-9190).

Once you file your report, leave your name, address and telephone number and an appropriate researcher in that specific field of investigation will get back to you.

Along with his story of the platypus, Rutkowski also cites the science of cryptozoology (hidden animals) just to give both sides of the story:

"Remember nobody believed the explorers when they went to Australia and came back with stories about the koala bear; on the other hand, for centuries people believed in the unicorn, which has never existed."

So, if you have a mystery story, report it - 1-489-9190.

They'll believe you more than your neighbors.

Plane claim upsets UFO man

By LISA PERMAN

A claim that the 1978 Kaikoura flying saucer incident was caused by a United States spy plane has staggered an Australian UFO researcher.

Mr Murray Stott said there was no hard evidence to suggest there were any solid objects in New Zealand skies at the time of the incident.

"This is supported by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research and a letter from the then Prime Minister, Mr Muldoon," he said.

Mr Stott mentions the Kaikoura incident in his book *Aliens over Antipodes* to be released here next year.

Research with such an aircraft would be confined to areas where the United States had more presence.

"Such research is confined to fertile imaginations, not the Kaikoura coast."

But Auckland author Neil Illingworth stands by his claims that Americans were testing a carbon-fibre plane in the area.

"It was either a spy plane or a satellite."

"New Zealand is an ideal place to test such an aircraft, especially for the US because we're so far away from Russian surveillance."

Despite an accident, Mr Illingworth is continuing his work on a film script about a secret weapons system being tested in New Zealand. He slipped on a snail last Wednesday and broke his leg.

STAR, Auckland, New Zealand - Dec. 12, 1984 CR: R. Collins

Flying saucer 'US spy plane'

By LISA PERMAN

An Auckland author says the 1978 Kaikoura flying saucer incident was a United States counter-intelligence exercise.

Mr Neil Illingworth, who wrote a book on the sighting, firmly believes the Americans were testing a special spy plane in the area which cannot be detected on radar.

"The plane is known as the Black Bird," said Mr Illingworth. "It is made of carbon fibre and cannot be detected on radar. I suspect this plane was the cause of the Kaikoura incident."

Mr Illingworth is working on a

film script called *The Domsday Machine* and plans to make it into a documentary.

The film is about a secret weapons system being tested in New Zealand without anyone knowing.

"While working on the Kaikoura incident, the number of coincidences seemed to suggest that New Zealand was being used as a testing ground for American electronic counter-intelligence," Mr Illingworth said. "We're being used as white mice."

Roger Donaldson, the New Zealand director of *The Bounty*, was

interested in the script but was tied up with other projects.

Wellington film producer Tony Hiles has asked Mr Illingworth to write an outline of the script.

"Originally the film was to be a feature movie, but there isn't money available for one," said Mr Illingworth. "So Tony told me to make it into a documentary."

He would appreciate any information on electronic counter-intelligence to help with the film's background.

"I could be thrown in a US jail for my latest work," Mr Illingworth said.



Mr Illingworth

GAZETTE AND TIMES, Sittingbourne, Kent, England - Nov. 8, 1984 CR: T. Good

MICHELE TELLS OF KITE-SHAPED FLASHING OBJECT HIGH OVER STATION

Teenagers claim a UFO sighting

A TEENAGE girl saw an unidentified flying object on Halloween night that clearly wasn't a witch.

Seventeen-year-old Michele Bergin was standing outside Teynham station when she noticed a kite-shaped object in the sky with white lights in the centre.

The U.F.O. gave off orange sparks and moved in a zig-zag path with a tail of light when travelling.

Miss Bergin, of Woodberry Drive, Sittingbourne, also said the centre lights of the object on the right went green and those on the left red.

She had visited her 18-year-old friend Sarah Lewis and was waiting

to be picked up by her mother from outside the station.

Miss Bergin said: "I was standing outside Teynham station about 10.30 p.m. and looking at the North Star when I suddenly saw another light. I could tell it was moving because I was looking through two telegraph wires."

She said that when she got home her father John, mother Iris, brother Michael and his girlfriend Rose Washer, also all saw the object.

The following night when her friend Sarah came round, both girls saw the object, although this time it was more distant.

Michele reported her sightings to

the police who have passed them on to R.A.F. Manston who collate U.F.O. sightings.

Both Michele and her family and friends are mystified about just what the object could have been.

Michele said: "It definitely wasn't a helicopter or plane, and there is no way that it was star."

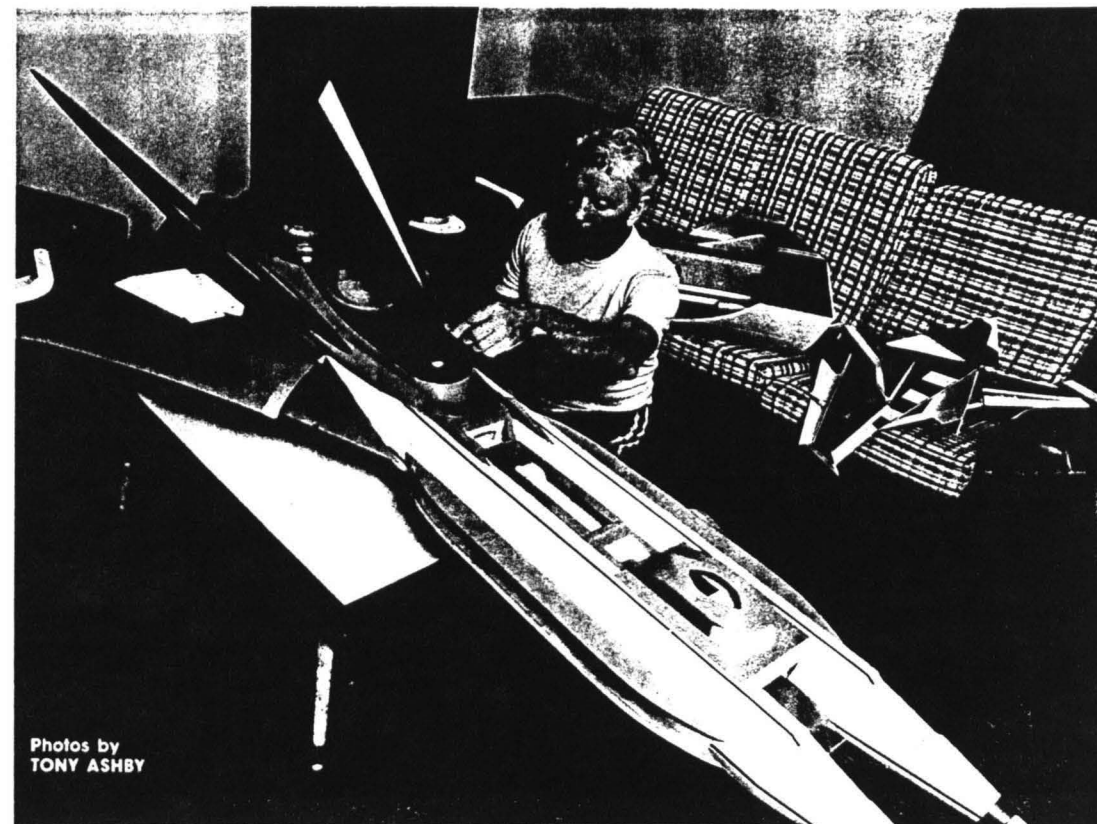
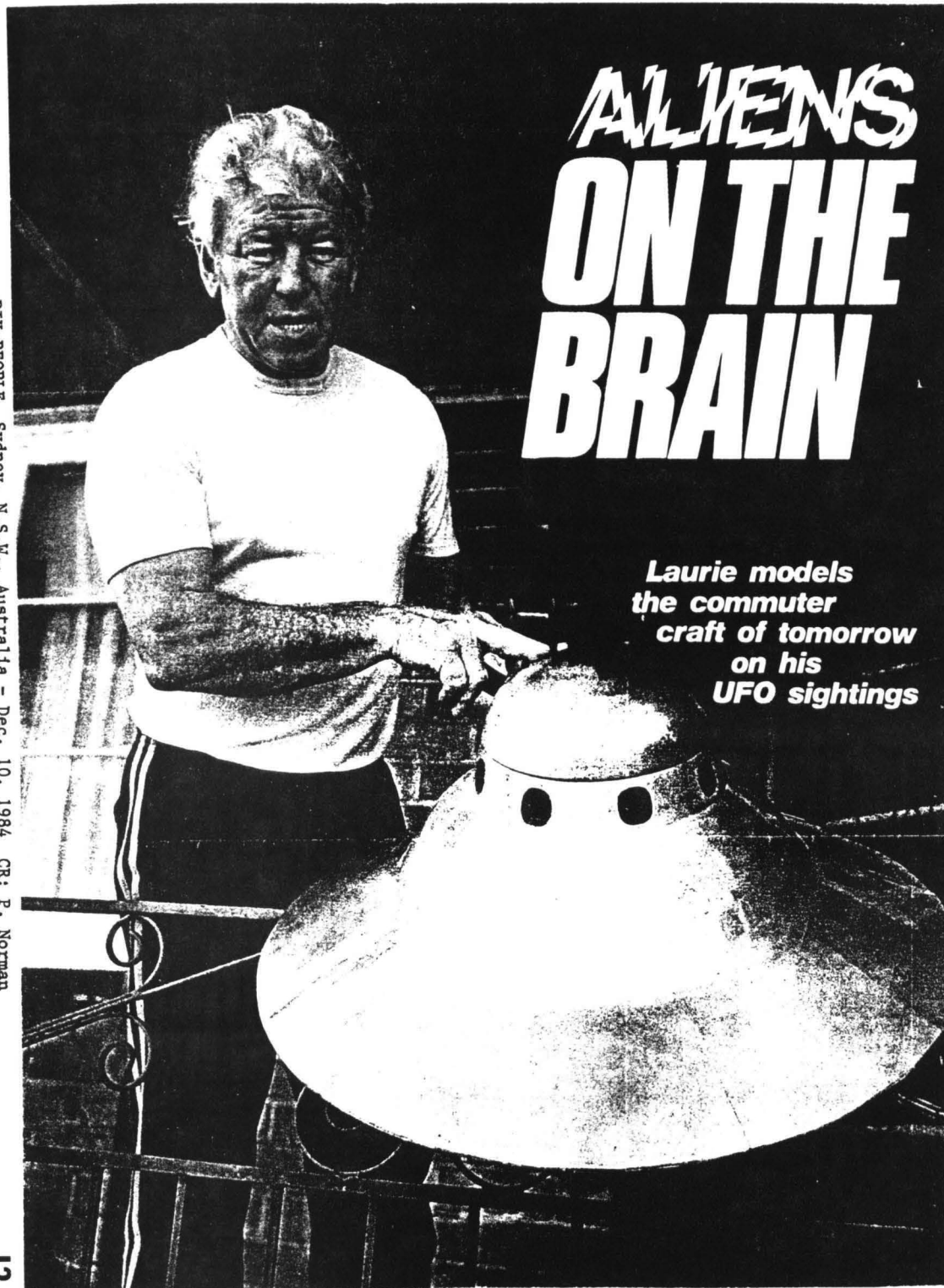


U.F.O.-spotting friends Michele Bergin and Sarah Lewis.

EL2028/23

ALIENS ON THE BRAIN

Laurie models
the commuter
craft of tomorrow
on his
UFO sightings



Photos by
TONY ASHBY

UFOs are man-made and the aliens on board are mere mortals. That's the amazing conclusion of veteran UFO spotter Laurie Campbell, who has studied the phenomenon for nearly 20 years.

"I'm convinced they're making their craft on this planet and they have done for years.

"It is awkward to talk about it as it smacks of world government. Every time I lecture about this or publicise it, my phone is bugged or I come under surveillance," says Laurie, who is the acting president of the Perth UFO Research Group.

But he did reveal publicly that he has had contact with UFOs both in Australia and overseas on three occasions.

He hesitates to discuss his more recent experiences because, he says, he's writing a book which will blow the lid off the whole subject. But his first encounter was in 1967. "There were four of us in the station wagon I was driving when suddenly we saw a strange object in the

Laurie's new book about UFOs will blow the lid off the whole subject, he says.

sky. "It grew bigger and bigger and flew over us. Two doors of the car flew open and I fell out."

Laurie pulled himself up and ran over a hill behind which he had seen the UFO disappear.

"I saw the saucer-like craft suspended over the US base in North-West Cape. Obviously, the aliens were observing it."

That evening, Laurie was visited in his home by a humanoid being. "He was about 155cm and had human features. We communicated without actually speaking and conversed about various things."

Laurie admits freely that some people doubt his stories. "People ask: 'Why me, why should I have had contact with the UFOs?' I suppose it is a matter of being on the same wavelength. I'm very interested in astrology and space.

"I'm also accused of imagining or hallucinating. But when contact is made and the vibrations start, you know it's pretty real."

Laurie has been a member of the research group since 1955. "We log sightings, investigate reports, study the subject and collate records. We're in touch with other groups both here and overseas.

Laurie hopes to set up a UFO exhibition using his model craft. The Cygnus II (above) could fly between earth and Mars in 15 years, says the space enthusiast.

"We have many reported UFO sightings but some of them are fake.

"There are many nuts who ring saying they've seen flying saucers. But after an investigation, it proves it was a hoax or mere imagination."

Today, his ambition is to set up a professional Space Show which would tour shopping centres, schools, public exhibitions and so on. "There's a growing interest by the public in UFOs. We are already putting on displays which are attracting interest."

A highlight of the travelling show will be Laurie's space models which he makes himself. His latest model is the Cygnus II, a giant spaceliner which could possibly be in service within 15 years between Mars and Earth, according to Laurie.

Before his first encounter, Laurie admits he was hopeless with his hands. Now he's got the ideas and expertise for his models "as if someone was putting them into my head".

Was it a UFO that landed in the forest?

THE chill night throbbled with an eerie silence as a group of American servicemen raked a Suffolk forest with their torchlight.

They were hunting for clues — traces of a UFO crash-landing reported by a security patrol, in which trees and lights at the end of the air force runway had been damaged.

They recorded radiation levels, strange indentations in the soil around what appeared to be a blast area, and damaged trees.

Moments later a senior

officer in charge of the men ordered them to "douse lights" as a strange object appeared to be moving towards them in the night sky.

What happened next is on a dramatic tape-recording which a group of British ufologists claim was made by the colonel in charge of the search.

"There's no doubt about it. There's a strange red light ahead," is on the tape.

INQUIRY

"We have got two strange objects, half-moon shaped, becoming full circle, with coloured lights on them — five to ten miles out, maybe less."

The next moment, the speaker almost seemed to lose control as he ordered the terrified men back to base.

The British ufologists who say they received the tape-recording just a few weeks ago have demanded a public inquiry into the Redfish Forest UFO sightings.

They claim that suppression of the tape and previous denial of its existence was part of a co-

ver-up by the Americans and the British Defence Ministry.

Jenny Randles, director of investigation for the British UFO Research Association, says: "Our objective is not to convince anyone that a spaceship landed there, even though there are eye-witnesses who swear that they saw aliens in silver suits communicating with an officer at this same spot three nights before the tape-recorded incident."

"What we are concerned about is that whatever landed there eluded the radar network which is supposed to be our front line of defence."

Jenny, who has written about the Suffolk incident with two other ufologists, Dot Street and Brenda Butler, — Sky Crash, A Cosmic Conspiracy, published by Neville Spearman, £7.50, said: "We are not just trying to sell another book."

"We believe the British public has a right to know what is going on. It may or may not have been a UFO which crashed in that forest the first time."

SHIRLEY DAVENPORT

KITCHENER-WATERLOO RECORD, Kitchener, Ontario, Canada - Nov. 9, 1984

Press council dismisses Globe, Sun complaints

Special to The Record

OTTAWA — Two Ontario Press Council adjudications announced today emphasized that the council's role is to consider the fairness of a newspaper's conduct, not whether Unidentified Flying Objects exist or whether a non-fiction book is valid.

The council made the point in dismissing complaints by Stanton T. Friedman of Fredericton against the Toronto Globe and Mail over treatment of the UFO issue and by Pete Stickland, a Canadian resident of Mexico, against the Toronto Sun about a combined review and interview on a book entitled Vanilla Road. Stickland drove to Toronto from Mexico to attend a council hearing.

Friedman, whose stationery describes him as a nuclear physicist-lecturer, argued that The Globe and Mail story, headlined: "Rage in 1950s, UFO 'sightings' just faded away," was based on only part of the material available in Ottawa. He felt a look at all the rest would have led to a different conclusion.

The Globe and Mail argued that the story was based on defence department records which had just been declassified and the text made that clear. The editorial was a whimsical, humorous look at a matter topical on that day. Also it rejected the letter to the editor because it received a better one from someone else criticizing the story.

Text of the adjudication:

"The Council's role in this complaint is clear. It has to consider the fairness of The Globe and Mail's conduct, not whether UFOs exist.

"Careful consideration of all the

evidence and argument leads it to conclude that: (1) the article contains no significant inaccuracies and is a fair and reasonable look at one particular aspect of the whole issue; (2) the editorial is a light-hearted and justifiable comment on a topical story; (3) the complainant's rejected letter to the editor did not add anything to what had already been published in another letter."

The story involved in Stickland's complaint against The Sun appeared May 30, 1982, and it consisted of a combined review and interview with the book publisher. Stickland says it should have been obvious to the newspaper that the book was fiction not fact.

He was concerned that the book was likely to give a misleading impression of Mexico and could harm that country's tourist trade.

He told the council he had taken his complaint to various media organizations as well as to the Ontario attorney general's department and to the business practice division of the Ontario ministry of consumer and commercial relations, but achieved no concrete results.

Although the article appeared in The Sun well before it joined the Ontario Press Council, the newspaper agreed to have the council deal with it. It told the council it had offered to publish a letter to the editor from Stickland providing he would accept a space limit and agree not to use a word that might be defamatory.

Text of the adjudication:

"The Council's role is to rule on the newspaper's conduct, not to decide on the validity of the book involved. It believes that The Sun published the article in good faith

UFO's . . . Sunday sighting

Readers may remember some years ago when the area encountered a rash of unusual sightings that were dimly suspected to be maybe associated with those UFO's Unidentified Flying Objects that have created international attention periodically.

Not much has been heard lately but Monday morning of this week The Advocate was called by a local couple who wished not to be identified but who had the following experience.

Sunday night they were returning home to Vulcan on a road that runs east of the

Howard Hagg farm seven and a half miles west of the 4-Way Station, a mile south of Champion. There was no fog along the road, the front windshield of their pickup truck was completely clear "and suddenly at the bottom of an incline past the Hagg buildings we were met with a pink and reddish light that blocked out the road and everything in front of us". It lasted for about five seconds. "My old heart just went thumping and the first thing I took my foot off the gas but didn't break for fear we'd slide on the light skiff of

snow, and I hoped the motor wouldn't quit".

The couple phoned the Hagg farm when they got home but Howard had no knowledge of anything amiss outside and there were no signs of visitors along the road the next day or burn-out spots that might lead to conclusions.

"I'm one of those fellows who has never believed in UFO's. I have always wanted to get close to one so I could see it for myself. But when it happened Sunday night I wasn't so sure. But I think I'm a believer now".

TRANSLATIONS

CREDIT: G. Conway (Translation Credit: G. Andrews)

Name and date of publication: PARIS-MATCH, October 26, 1984

City and country of publication: Paris, France

[Summary and commentary by George Andrews]

PARIS-MATCH has a position in the French media similar to that of TIME magazine in the United States. In the October 26, 1984 issue, there was a feature article about UFOs, consisting of an interview with Professor Jean-Pierre Petit, a physicist at CNRS (the French equivalent of NASA). Marie-Therese de Brosse conducted the interview, which is rich in perceptive insights. Due to copyright restrictions, we can only reproduce a tiny sample of this fascinating document here. Marie-Therese de Brosse has been discussing the Trans-en-Provence case [a UFO landing which left peculiar and startling effects on vegetation] with Professor Petit, and asks if it might not have been a hoax or a practical joke:

J-P.P. -- "One can always invoke practical jokes. However, in this particular case, perpetrating a practical joke would have required exceptional resources. Considering the very sophisticated nature of the biological alterations in the samples examined, which would be impossible to reproduce under laboratory conditions with our present scientific knowledge, no ordinary chemical action could have produced such results. According to Professor Bounias, in order to act on the nuclei of plant cells, nuclear radiation at the potency of a million rads would be necessary. He conducted such an experiment himself, at the request of the CEA (Atomic Energy Commission)."

M-T.B. -- "I suppose that such sources of nuclear energy are not found in nature, nor are they accessible to ordinary citizens?"

J-P.P. -- "Fortunately not! Besides, Professor Bounias showed that this potency produced samples very inferior to those measured from the Trans-en-Provence samples. One must also consider the extent of the area affected, about 300 square meters.

"So this Trans-en-Provence case is indeed the 'iron-clad' case which upsets the UFO skeptics because the witness' account is not what is important, since there is irrefutable objective evidence analyzable by scientific methods."

CREDIT: J. L. Brodu (Translation Credit: G. Andrews)

City and country of incident: Carcassonne, France

Date of incident: September 30, 1984

Name of paper and date of clip: MIDI-LIBRE, October 2, 1984

City and country of incident: Montpellier, France

CARCASSONNE: UFO!

A luminous green ball whose halo shone brightly, traveling in a circular north-east to south-west direction at high altitude, was seen by two inhabitants of Carcassonne Sunday evening between 9 and 9:15 P.M. According to air traffic control at Salvasa airport, there was no known air traffic over Carcassonne at that time.

Moreover, the air traffic controllers witnessed an identical phenomenon two or three years ago, traveling in the same direction and with a similar trajectory. At that time, it was also seen over Nice, toward the south-east. This allows us to speculate that it might perhaps have been a satellite re-entry or a meteorite. If this was also what was seen in Carcassonne on Sunday evening, it might also have been seen elsewhere in the south of France.

No matter what it may have been, the phenomenon remains a strange one. And unexplained.

City and country of incident: Niort, France

Date of incident: November 11, 1984

Name of paper and date of clip: SUD-OUEST, November 15, 1984

City and country of newspaper: Bordeaux, France

HEAVENS, A UFO!

Mr. Paul Bertrand, a retired airplane pilot just released from the hospital, and several other witnesses reported a UFO in the sky above Niort Sunday evening. They agree on all points: the time, the colors, the shape, though there is some disagreement as to its speed. Mr. Bertrand, who had already seen a UFO in Morocco in 1951, made a formal statement. According to him, the object was moving very rapidly, at two or three times the speed of sound. He saw the UFO above an apartment building, heading in the direction of Saint-Jean-d'Angely.

City and country of incident: Vosges and Ardennes regions, France

Date of incident: November 30, 1984

Name of paper and date of clip: LE REPUBLICAIN LORRAIN, Dec. 4, 1984

City and country of newspaper: Metz, France

STRANGE PHENOMENA IN THE EASTERN SKY

Nancy. -- A strange phenomenon was seen Friday afternoon at two different places east of here, in the Vosges and Ardennes regions. The locations are about 400 kilometers apart, but there was a difference of only a few minutes in the sightings. Both phenomena were reported yesterday to local police stations.

First of all in the Vosges, at Champdray, a 45-year-old school teacher, Miss Jeanine B. and four of her students, about 12 years old, said they saw an object like an arrow-head with a rounded point, bright green, flying silently at very high speed from the south-east to the north-west.

Denis H., a 32-year-old technician, probably saw the same object a few minutes later from the Charlesville-Mezieres-Sedan highway: a very luminous object, bright green, traveling south-west-east[?].

These witness reports were transmitted to GEPAN, which works in collaboration with CNRS.



Packs are hoisted into trees to keep creatures out of food supply

Crawling along bear trails through a virgin wilderness

By Tom Stienstra
Examiner outdoor writer
Sixth in an eight-part series

BEAR CAMP — On hands and knees, you crawl on bear trails that look like tunnels of vegetation in the brush — man's attempt to penetrate a true virgin wilderness. Only faint animal paths mark your way on steep terrain, trails contoured to the ridges of steep mountain slopes.

There's a bit of caveman in everybody and the Examiner Bigfoot Expedition has a way of helping you find it. If you want to see the Blue Creek wildlands in the Klamath Mountains, you have to see it like an animal. On all fours.

Just to cover a mile, it took two hours to scramble down a slope, sliding down draws, creeping past thorny vines, crawling through brush.

"Look, footprints," said wilderness companion Jeff Patty. "Take a look," he said, ignoring the light bleeding from the scrapes and cuts on his arms and hands. "No claws."

We carefully inspected them, set clear in the mud. Each print was about eight inches long, six inches wide, with distinct toe marks, but no claws. Patty looked at me, then grinned. "Don't get any wild ideas, we both know what it is."

The shape of the foot was the giveaway — Bigfoot's print is reputed to be more like the shape of an hourglass, not a pancake like this one.



"Bear, big one."

More giant footprints reputed to be left by Bigfoot have been found here than anywhere in America. And just 40 miles away at Bluff Creek, the famous yet disputed film of a Bigfoot was shot in 1968. This is a truly secret place, almost never visited, even by the most rabid of wilderness explorers, and by all accounts, is the heart of Bigfoot Country.

"You will never see him," said Jimmy Jackson, a 75-year-old Hoopa. "You will only see his footprints. And if you do not make peace with the mountain, you will be led to danger."

Danger? With no trails, you can get lost and never be found — a slip and a sprained ankle or broken leg can leave you marooned indefinitely. Even rangers look at this area and say "No way in, no way out; forest too dense to search by helicopter." The kicker is that Blue Creek is tucked away at the bottom of a 2,000-foot slope, which means a hard rain will get funneled into the creek like a sluice box — causing Blue Creek to rise from a moderate, waist-deep stream to a suicidal whitewater crossing.

Just before a descent from a steep slope into Blue Creek, Patty looked at the sun, then pointed at it. A large ring circled it. We both knew what it meant. Big Rain. Big trouble.

Later, Patty slipped on a moss-covered log and banged his leg hard, his 65 frame tumbling. In minutes, his shin had a lump on it the size of a baseball. "For a minute I thought I broke it," he said. The going was getting rough.

A light rain started to fall. We both had an eerie sensation and mentioned it. This area is quite near what can be considered a sacred ground for the Hoopas, who say a "feeling of a presence" is not uncommon.

If Bigfoot is indeed a creature, then it is not difficult to conceive him living here. The Blue Creek watershed provides the habitat and quiet that a Bigfoot would require. If you conform to the theory that Bigfoot is an animal, then his diet would be similar to a bear's — and Mr. Bear is thriving here, with droppings and footprints everywhere.

Plenty of food: blackberries, huckleberries, edible plants, fish in the stream. As for range, on a long ridge-line there are several creeks that pour down to the main stream — and between each creek we have discovered lateral trails where an animal can live and travel by contouring the slope.

Most California backpackers do not even consider exploring this area. Hikers from the Bay Area tend to head to

the Sierra Nevada, especially areas such as Desolation Wilderness, Kennedy Meadows and Tahoe Forest. From Southern California, they flock to Sequoia and Yosemite Parks, along with the Minaret Wilderness. From the Redding and Eureka areas, they head into the Trinity Alps and Marble Mountain Wilderness.

Blue Creek? Most people have not even heard of it. Even in the Sierra Club's outstanding guidebook, "Hiking the Bigfoot Country," in which author John Hart describes thousands of miles of rarely-seen trails, he says this about the East Fork of Blue Creek: "I have not hiked here, and I do not know of anyone who has. I do not recommend this area — except to someone who is looking for an adventure, as opposed to a hike. But if anyone finds out what is to be seen on the East Fork, I would be grateful to know."

To reach it, we traveled to the town of Orleans on Route 96, which borders the Klamath River, then took a logging road north for 20 miles.

You talk about bears? Bears, deer, squirrels and chipmunks are shadowing us. Bears? Though we sighted only a few, their droppings and tracks were discovered almost everywhere, but especially in clearings and all along Blue Creek. Watch your step, son; don't step in the sauce.

Bears. That evening, with a light rain falling, Patty rigged our packs in a makeshift pulley system in order to hang them high in a tree, out of Mr. Bear's reach. That's our only precaution; we are carrying no gun.

Out here, the bears link man as their only enemy and they keep their distance. It is the grizzly that defends its turf and they are extinct in California because of it. The creatures that run are the ones that live. Bigfoot included.

When we finally had descended to the stream's edge, we hardly hesitated before we each grabbed a big stick for stability, then started to cross. "The water's a lot warmer here than in the Siskiyou," Patty said. But it was also deeper. It crept to my waist at mid-stream, rolling moderately — washing the muck from our pants, dried blood from the small cuts on our arms.

The second day, we spent a day traversing animal trails and hiking along the stream as well, crossing it several times, searching, probing the wilds for Bigfoot or his footprints. It began to drizzle, then rain. It should have been a warning.

Neither of us mentioned it. The rain seemed welcome after enduring 100-degree temperatures on earlier days. But like I said, it should have been a warning.

We found out why. Twenty-eight hours later, it was still raining. Hard. The river was up, maybe as deep as my shoulders, and we were on the wrong side of it. Trying to cross it seemed like suicide.

But Patty is a stubborn fellow. "We're crossing," was about all he said.

I had my doubts.

GUARDIAN, London, England - Nov. 9, 1984

Atlantis divers uncover circus arena

From Martin Walker in Moscow

A SOVIET research expedition hunting for the ruins of the fabled lost civilisation of Atlantis claims to have found a circus arena, staircases, and arches about 300 miles from the Portuguese coast, at a depth of more than 300 feet.

But the only evidence of Atlantis their divers brought to the surface, a white stone which seemed on the underwater TV cameras to have been cut from the wall of an ancient temple, turned out to be no more than a net sinker lost by fishermen.

Two Soviet research ships,

the Vityaz and Rift, had returned to the site around the submerged mount Amer. Previous Soviet expeditions there had taken a remarkable series of underwater photographs which appeared to show man-made buildings on the mountain top.

The Soviet archaeologists, although disappointed by the lack of physical evidence, remain convinced that they have found a site of enormous significance. The human divers who explored the site this summer have reported and photographed wave and tide marks on the mountain slope, confirming that the area was once above

the sea level.

The divers worked from a pressurised diving bell with mechanical arms which picked up the mysterious white stone and other stones which seemed to have been carved into geometric forms. But these black stones turn out to be sheer basalt and their rectangular shape could have occurred naturally.

"What I saw at the bottom of a cave on the dives was too rational in form to have been created by nature," Mr Petko Dimitrov, deputy director of the Bulgarian Institute of Oceanography, said in an interview.

Photo and prints of creature a mystery

BLUFF CREEK — The carcass of a Bigfoot has never been found and numerous sightings and photographs have been exposed as fakes, but many of the footprints remain an unexplained mystery. Something is making them.

Roger Patterson said that he filmed what was making at least some of the footprints — a Bigfoot at Bluff Creek. Patterson's 16-mm film showing what he said is a Bigfoot is the only movie of its kind.

You may have seen it on television. It starts with the picture flying about like you are caught in a tornado — Patterson said he was thrown from his horse when the creature appeared. Then the picture comes in focus. A huge furry creature is walking quick-

ly along the creek, swinging its arms slowly as it goes.

The film jumps around a bit at this point. The instability of the hand-held camera gives rise to some blurring due to changing focal lengths, light conditions and the foliage in the background. But there it is: The "Bigfoot" seems to look at the camera for an instant before disappearing.

The key, according to scientists, is the unusually slow swing of the arms. According to Dr. D.W. Grieve, a specialist in biomechanics in London, the film is not a fake if it was taken at 16 or 18 frames per second (fps), he writes in the book, "Bigfoot."

"In these conditions (16 or 18 fps) a normal human being could not dupli-

cate the observed pattern, which would suggest that the Sasquatch must possess a very different locomotor system to that of man," writes Grieve.

However, Grieve is not convinced. He states that a bit of trick photography — with a man 6-foot-5 carefully disguised — could explain the peculiar slow, out-of-sync swing of the arms.

"If that film was taken at 24 fps, the Sasquatch walked with a gait pattern very similar in most respects to a man walking at high speed... If the framing speed were higher than 24 fps the similarity to man's gait is even more striking."

Giant footprints were found in a nearby sandbar, and here more prob-

lems arise. Bigfoot expert and author John Napier contends that a foot-length of 14 or 15 inches, as was found at the sandbar, "would indicate a stature of between 7-foot-9 and 8-foot-3." In addition, the length of step was only 41 inches, and Napier believes the stride of an 8-foot Bigfoot should be more like 56 inches.

Getting confused? Well, it gets worse. After careful analysis, scientist Grieve testifies that the height of the creature in the film is 6-foot-5.

So even after a film of Bigfoot, no one is any closer to "proof" that the creature does or does not exist.

But in the woods of the Pacific Northwest, footprints, complete with skin ridges, remain a mystery.

—Tom Stienstra

Near disaster in Blue Creek



Photo by Jeff Patty

The classic wilderness of Blue Creek in the Klamath Forest

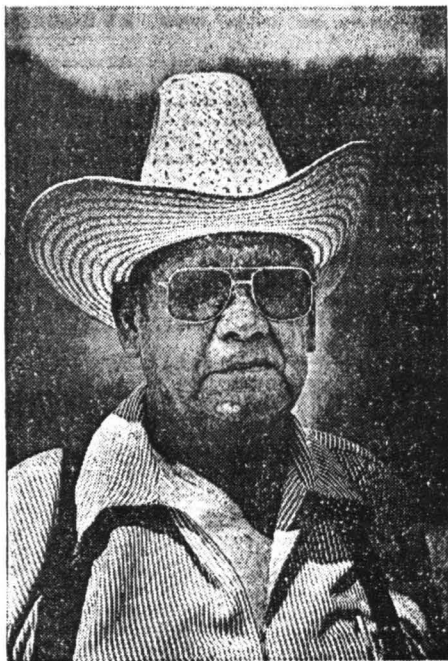


Photo by Jeff Patty

JIMMY JACKSON: 75-year-old Hoopa Indian had words of warning for Bigfoot Expedition

Examiner outdoors writer Tom Stienstra headed a three-member team that for three weeks roamed the high country of Northern California and Southern Oregon with the intent of separating fact from fiction from the lore that surrounds the mystery of Bigfoot.

By Tom Stienstra
Examiner outdoor writer
Seventh in an eight-part series

BLUE CREEK — You look up in the sky and you almost drown, it's raining so hard. Has been for 24 hours. Jeff Patty stood at the edge of the stream, trying to assess where to attempt the crossing. "We've got to get across now, before the river rises any more," Patty said. "We don't cross now, we might never get out of here."

At streamside, the rock I had fished from two evenings before was submerged, a foot under water. Since the river was waist-deep coming across, 20 inches higher now makes it chin deep. It was rolling big, with crests of white water ramming into the boulders. I wish I had gills.

This is Blue Creek in the Klamath wilderness, located northeast of Eureka. There are no trails in, no trails out. It's not the kind of place where you wait for help.

Patty, at 6-foot-5, said he could make it, a 60-foot crossing. "And if I can, you can," he insisted. Patty took three steps into the river, steadying himself with a tree limb, and the water climbed to 10 inches above his knee. Two more steps and it was at his belt — with 45 feet to go, the river getting deeper, swifter.

He hesitated just for a bit. It was a signal. Without a word, he slowly turned around, straining against the current, working the big stick to support himself. He wobbled, and started to tip — and in the flash of an instant, was going down — then lunged toward the shoreline, but the current knocked him down.

Only his head was above water, but his lunge took him to water just shallow enough where he could scramble on all fours to the bank. A close call, and a quick one, but he was safe.

Crossing was impossible, even with stilts. Patty, wet and chilled to the marrow, looked to the sky. Still raining. Hard. "River's still rising," he said. No way out and everything is wet;

sleeping bags, clothes, firewood — and food is mighty sparse. We're getting close to the edge.

The Hoopa Indians had warned us. "The mountains there do not know you," said Jimmy Jackson, a 75-year-old Hoopa. "Do not do anything wrong, wherever you are, otherwise the mountains will punish you because they do not know you."

Indian legends apply to Bigfoot as well. The Yurok Indians, who live downstream on the Klamath River, call Bigfoot the "Indian Devil." Most of the Hoopas, however, believe Bigfoot, or *Tintah-k'wanxoyan*, is a spirit; that you will never see it, but find only its footprints.

They also tell of the legend of *Tan* (pronounced Tawn), the immortal ruler of the woods, and *Kishwish* — or the Little People — 2½-foot tall Indians who live like moles in the earth.

Tan takes care of the woods and all its creatures, and is to be feared and respected, according to the Hoopas. Louise Jackson, now 97, said that the Indians would go to the mountains and put out big bowls filled with fish and acorns as an offering. "Two weeks later, they would go back and find articles in trade in the bowls," said Minnie McWilliams, the daughter of Louise Jackson. "This was up in Blue Creek, where nobody goes."

"If you kill a deer, you leave the entrails for *Tan*," said Jimmy Jackson, who then reached into his pocket and extracted a root. "This is magic."

"When you hike, put medicine on your stick," Jackson said. "There's rattlers in that brush, but the medicine on your stick is a red tail hawk. He's medicine because he's the one who catches the rattlers."

The Hoopas believe there are laws of the wild, and they must not be violated. "They are like what you call rules," Jackson said. "Don't holler, don't throw rocks, don't fish at more than one spot, never carry a fish by the tail, never throw a fish or deer away, if you kill a rattlesnake, then kill it, don't let it suffer."

If you break one of these laws, the Hoopas believe the *Kishwish*, or Little People, will "take hold of you," causing you to be lost in the woods, or be severely ill.

In 1920, when Jackson was 11 years old, he had such an experience.

"I tried fishing different places with my dip net, but I wasn't catching anything," Jackson said. "I got a headache, and a week later it kept on. Nobody could figure it out. Then the medicine woman came over, and the old lady sang a few songs."

"She told me, 'I seen you down on the river, fishing here and fishing there. What were you doing? You're not supposed to do those things. When you fish, you fish one spot. Those people in the gorge are the Little People, and they will kill you for violating the rules. I will go and ask them to let you go.'"

"She came the next evening, sang a song before speaking. 'They said they're going to let you go,' she said. 'But never do that again. You're going to have a hollow head. They're going to take you outside, and the first thing you're going to see is a bird. Then you'll feel good.'"

"The next day, my head felt like it wasn't there, and all of sudden it was like a fire went by, a bird with every color in the rainbow. It was the bird she told me about. It was then that I felt I was myself again. It happened just like she said."

The Hoopa world is a metaphysical one, and that is where Bigfoot finds his notch, according to the Indian.

However, numerous "white eyes" have claimed they have invented Bigfoot through hoaxes in the past century. Garth Sanders of Redding claims to have "helped spring the myth" back in 1958 when he wrote a story about large footprints in an issue of the Redding Record Searchlight. Sanders says there were no newspaper accounts of Bigfoot before 1958, and thus his story started everything.

However, I have found newspaper accounts dating back to Jan. 2, 1886, in the Del Norte Record.

Rant Mullins, 88, of Toledo, Washington, also claims to have invented Bigfoot. He confessed he "started" the legend in 1924 by rolling rocks down toward miners, who then claimed to have been attacked by Bigfoot. Mullins said he also faked giant footprints in 1928. "If I don't set the record straight now, people will go on believing there really is a hairy monster."

While phonies and fakes are abundant in Bigfoot lore, the Indians of the Klamath River region just shake their heads that it is all just another white man's fancy. Their legends of Bigfoot go back in time before the white man even knew there was a Pacific Ocean.

Dark sky, silent thoughts. After 28 straight hours of rain, it finally lightened and stopped, but the river was raging. Our only hope was to wait it out and hope the stream would drop to passable levels.

Patty and I each grabbed one end of my sleeping bag, then twisted in opposite directions. As the bag corkscrewed and tightened, water was squeezed out as if we were wringing a wet rag. Our bags are filled with fiber which can retain 50 to 75 percent of your body heat even when wet.

In conditions like these, it can keep you alive. If you're lucky, you might even go to sleep for a few minutes.

A few minutes of sleep in a wet bag is quite a deal compared to a permanent sleep at the bottom of a river. Patty had barely avoided that earlier. "We'll go again tomorrow," he vowed.



A unique adventure by Tom Stienstra

POST, Bridgeport, CT - Nov. 15, 1984

Creatures reported

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (UPI) — Two Icelandic bird hunters say they saw a pair of unidentifiable creatures, bigger than horses, playing on a beach on the rugged North Atlantic island.

Julius Asgeirsson said he and Olafur Olafsson watched from a distance of a few hundred yards earlier this month as the creatures emerged from Lake Kleifarvatn 20 miles south of Reykjavik and returned to the icy waters.

"They were larger than horses, they moved about like dogs but swam like seals. At first we thought they were rocks, but as they started to move we had the surprise of our lives," Asgeirsson said.

"The footprints were larger than those of horsehoofs and split like those of a cloven-footed animal but with three cloves instead of two," Asgeirsson said.

"We have never seen anything like this before and at first we were reluctant to tell anyone," the hunter said. "We feared people would think we were crazy."

But biologist Helgi Hallgrímsson would not discount their story. "So many trustworthy people tell of strange natural occurrences on Iceland which we cannot identify, but I am certain that there is more in nature than we know," he said.

Monsters play a considerable role in the 1,000-year-old folklore of Iceland, populated by pagan Vikings in the ninth century.

Most lakes on this volcanic island were said to be inhabited by so-called Kelpies — frightful creatures resembling horses which cajoled innocent humans into taking a ride that tended to end at the bottom of the lake.

Deaths But No Mutilations

There have been no livestock mutilations.

This is the conclusion of Deputy Sheriff Bud Newby after several incidents were reported and investigation followed.

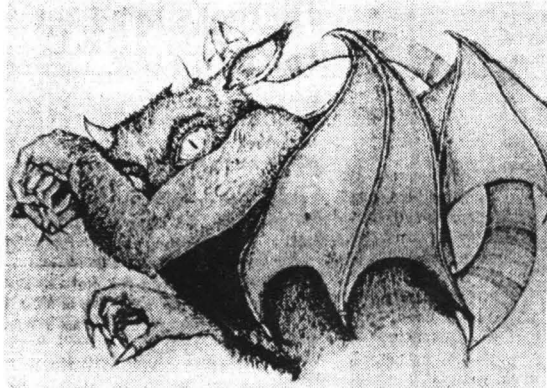
Specimens from three dead cattle in the Sparta country and one in the valley are in the laboratory to determine the cause of death.

However, the presence of vultures explains the mutilation, said Deputy Newby. It happened that one of his own cows had gotten down, its feet up, and died of bloat. It was still warm when discovered but when the scavenger birds were driven off the udder was nearly gone, the lines as sharp as if cut by a knife, he noted.

This was similar to the mutilation of the other animals he had under investigation. However, in those cases the laboratory will have to determine the cause of death.

RECORD-COURIER, Baker, OR - Nov. 29, 1984

DENIS COLLINS



New Jersey's Pine Barrens are said to be home of devil-like creature.

'Chessie' and His ilk: De-Monsterably Shy

LOOKOUT, Md.—It was a nasty day for a monster watch on the Chesapeake Bay. Cold and windy, it was beginning to feel a lot like Christmas. Especially on the bow of a 31-foot sailboat, pointed into the wind near the mouth of the Potomac River, where Chessie, the legendary sea serpent of the Chesapeake, had allegedly appeared.

"I didn't get a good enough look to tell you exactly what it was," said the captain of our sailing ship, a seemingly clear-eyed business executive who claims to have spotted the beast in late August, but has not the courage to let me use his name. "I can tell you what it wasn't. That was no fish."

Scotland has its Loch Ness Monster. The Himalayas hide an Abominable Snowman. The Turnpike State boasts a Jersey Devil. Not to be outdone, the Chesapeake Bay, seafood capital of the nation, claims its own marine monster—40 feet long, with three humps on its back and a head shaped like a football.

There have been sightings of a Chessie-shaped beast in the Bay for at least half a century. But those reports have increased dramatically since 1980, when a North Beach, Md., woman, Helen Jones, said she encountered Chessie while crabbing.

"This great big thing come up out of the water. I could have reached out and touched it with my hand. It was about as round as a watermelon, more brownish than gray and had white spots on the hump," said Jones.

There have been so many sightings of Chessie since then that the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Police formed a "Chessie Patrol" in 1982. The most recent reported sighting occurred in August, when Harry Lohman of Stevensville, Md., said he saw Chessie twice during a three-day period.

"When we came out of the Wye River, my wife said, 'What's that over there?' I said that's a log. She said, 'If that's a log, it's moving awfully fast.' I don't know what it is. But it's here."

The most celebrated sighting of Chessie occurred two years ago in shallow water off Kent Island, Md. What made this report more intriguing than the others was the three-minute color film that Robert and Karen Frew took of the monster. Scientists at the Smithsonian Institution reported the film appeared to be authentic, but refused to identify the subject.

"We believe there was an animate thing there, but we

couldn't identify it," said one researcher.

Scientists are understandably hesitant to risk reputations on the testimony of amateur wildlife spotters or the blurred evidence of unfocused film. That natural skepticism is periodically reinforced by reports of strange beasts that turn out to be thoroughly familiar creatures.

A few years ago in India, fishermen reported the discovery of a five-ton sea creature in the Bay of Bengal that had the ears, eyes and mouth of an elephant and a 27-foot tail. When scientists studied the beast, they determined it actually was a badly decomposed sperm whale.

Still, there is much historical evidence to indicate that there may be many creatures on land and under water that have yet to be seen. Since the beginning of the 19th Century, dozens of species that were either unknown or thought to be extinct, such as the white rhinoceros, the pygmy hippopotamus, the okapi and Komodo dragon have been found.

"Nowadays, to say you believe that in some parts of the world there may be quite large animals unknown to science is tantamount to admitting that you are slightly weak-minded . . . It seems to me a very odd attitude to adopt, when you consider the vast areas of the world that, although they may be adequately mapped, are inhabited by only a scattered handful of people, most of whom have little knowledge of, and little interest in, the local natural history," wrote the noted naturalist Gerald Durrell 25 years ago in an introduction to a book titled, "On the Track of Unknown Animals."

The similarity in the descriptions of Chessie during the last four years is intriguing. Almost all observers describe the beast as having the circumference of a telephone pole and a length of more than 30 feet. Because most sightings have occurred during the period from late spring until the end of summer, there is speculation that Chessie follows the bluefish run into the Chesapeake and leaves when they depart.

Harry Lohman thinks Chessie might be a descendant of South American anaconda snakes that were placed in the holds of sailing ships in the 18th and 19th centuries to control rats.

"We have freaks. People who are 8 feet tall and weigh 650 pounds," Lohman said. "I guess the only way we'll ever know for sure is if they catch the thing. In a way, I hope we don't."

EXAMINER, San Francisco, CA - July 22, 1984 CR: W. Thompson

The quest ends amid danger and bafflement

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

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

BLUE CREEK — To some people, it might seem like a date with death. Crossing a stream roaring with 28 hours of storm runoff — submerged up to your chest with a 40-pound pack strapped on — is not suggested for weekend recreation.

But here was Jeff Patty, teetering his way across Blue Creek, using an old tree limb as a wading staff. The day before, the river had dumped him after just a few steps, close enough to the shoreline to allow him to scramble back to safety. Today, with the river level eight inches lower, Patty had worked his way some 45 feet of the 60-foot crossing, when he stopped dead.

"A deep spot up ahead," he shouted, the river already well above his waist. There was no going back, and a 40-foot waterfall waited just downriver. A slip meant riding down the suicide chute. Mountains wait for you to make a mistake, water comes after you.

He crept a few more steps forward, started to teeter in the current, and I could sense he was losing it. Going down! He let out a yelp and jumped toward the shoreline, completely stretching out his 65 frame — and the river swept him downstream some 30 feet before his knees and hands hit the river bottom, his head poking above the surface. Safe.

"Go for it," he shouted across the stream. This is not the kind of place where you wait for help. Blue Creek has no trails for a rescue team to hike on, and the forest is so dense that a helicopter search can be useless. You figure it; you rely on yourself. But at 6-1 instead of Patty's 6-6, I was giving the river a four-inch handicap.

As I stepped in the stream, thoughts of a 75-year-old Hoopa Indian, Jimmy Jackson, rang in my mind: "If you do not make peace with the mountain, you will be led to danger."

THIS WAS THE final day of the Bigfoot Expedition, a trip that had taken us to some of the most primitive areas of the Pacific Northwest, areas where Bigfoot sightings have been most frequent and habitat conditions are ideally suited for such a creature.

But you have to pay for your pleasure. Oregon's Kalmiopsis Wildlands: hikes up gut-thumping grades in 100-degree temperatures to reach the lush interior. The Siskiyou Wilderness: tromping through the snowfields and across streams filled with glacial melt. Blue Creek: crawling on hands and knees through brush on animal trails, scrambling across slick wet slate where a fall meant a 50-yard tumble.

Bigfoot? The signs had been many on our forays, but a little homework revealed otherwise.

• In the Siskiyou, the giant footprints we discovered in the snow were deduced to be the creation of hiking boots — the stride was not long enough for the size of the prints. The warming days of early summer had melted out the snow, turning a boot print into a Bigfoot print.

• At Blue Creek, we found a distinct footprint in the mud, eight-inches long and six-inches wide, showing a clear impression of five toes, yet no claws. Bigfoot? Nope. It was a bear. Bigfoot's print is reputed to be more like the shape of an hourglass, not a pancake.

• Below Devil's Punchbowl in the Siskiyou, a large, hairy creature was seen for an instant across a canyon some two miles distant before it plunged into the woods. Bigfoot? Not likely. We set up a watch, and the next morning, we scoped a large bear on the snow-flecked terrain.

• In the Kalmiopsis Wildlands, the "crunch-crunch" walk of a two-legged creature — complete with snapping twigs and branches — did turn out to be a couple of big feet, but not Bigfoot. That is, big feet as in Patty's size 13 hiking boots as he bushwhacked his way in a big circle around camp.

In pursuit of
Bigfoot

A unique adventure by Tom Stienstra

The possibilities are high that many Bigfoot episodes are like these, where people with good intentions are led astray by the mysterious nature of the wild.

"Very, very few of the people who come into our district office for wilderness permits are skilled woodsmen," said Michael Furniss of the U.S. Forest Service, a scientist who joined the Siskiyou portion of the Examiner Bigfoot Expedition. "Most of the people who are highly skilled in woodsmanship we see in the fall, and most of them are hunters. This makes it likely that many of these episodes are just mistaken. Myself, I'm skeptical."

Add in the number of hoaxes where pranksters have duped gullible tourists from outside the area and left are relatively few cases that are without explanation.

But those few remain. Like the footprints found last October with dermal ridges, prints that archeologists say cannot be faked. Like the cackling shriek that is the Bigfoot's cry and cannot be duplicated without electronic equipment.

We had one inexplicable episode. It was this bizarre noise in the woods we heard in the Kalmiopsis Wildlands: "Thump, thump, thump, thump, thump." Five times, like somebody hitting a hollow log with a drumstick, except there were no somebodies within 25 miles of us. It was noise like none of us had ever heard before, and it remains a mystery.

There are also the legends of California's Indians of the northwest that stretch back long before a few "white eyes" ever thought of walking around in gorilla costumes and stamping giant footprints in the ground. The Yuroks call Bigfoot the "Indian Devil." The Hoopas believe in him as a metaphysical wild man of the woods, *Tintah-k'wanxoyan*, a spirit that leaves only his footprints behind.

THE OLD INDIAN'S intuition was right, the mountain was out to get me.

I was waist-deep in Blue Creek, struggling just to stay upright much less take a step, yet I was scarcely halfway across the river, with deeper water ahead. On the other side, Patty was waiting some 40 yards downstream, wading up to his thighs, ready to pick out any bodies that might come tumbling past.

He had already dumped, and realized my chances were high of doing likewise.

"The bad spot is just up ahead," Patty yelled.

I was wedging the tree limb between rocks, using it for stability to take each step. Then bang! The tree limb did not catch between the rocks — it skidded off the top of one and the current knocked me down like a shot of lightning.

My head went under and my body started rolling downstream like a pinwheel. I thought of the Indian. "Make peace with the mountain." I had not, but had invaded the mountain, and now I was paying.

As the current pushed me downstream toward the waterfall, I could just barely see through the water and make out Patty, this wild man look branded on his face. I thrust my hands above my head, barely clearing the surface.

Slap! Patty grabbed me — but the force of the current pulled him again. We rolled and scrambled in the stream, and then I felt the stream bottom on my knees. When I crawled to the bank, the roar of the waterfall was like a lion clawing at you. Safe but close.

Several hours later we were hiking to the four-wheel drive rig, the trip a few miles from being over. Wet, haggard, but alive, I sang the trip's song softly to myself:

"He's a mountain man, he's an old mountain man. Kicking trail, every day he can.

Wilderness, calls to him.

Meadows, fords, and the mountain rims."

Patty smiled, and added two more lines:

"Animals, we've seen 'em all.

But no Bigfoot can we recall."

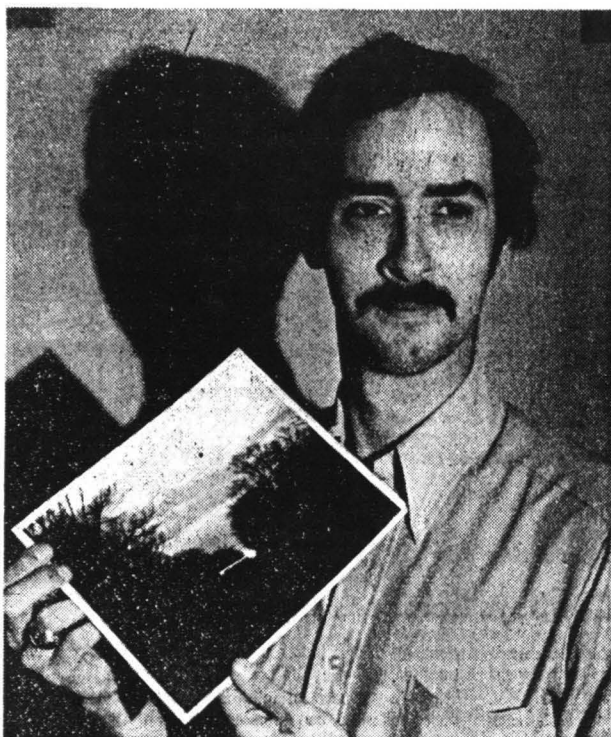
We rounded a bend and the truck finally came in sight. In three weeks of exploring wilderness, we had not seen a single person who wasn't part of our expedition.

We hoisted our soggy packs into the back of the truck and shook hands.

"A good trip," Patty said.

Just then, that bizarre sound came from the nearby woods. "Thump, thump, thump, thump, thump." Five times. We looked at each other.

"What's out there? . . ."



— Staff Photo by Gene Prescott

Dale Kaczmarek with a photo of the 'Joplin ghost light.'

Ghost Light Focus Of Spirited Search

By LAMAR JAMES
Gazette Staff

Dale Kaczmarek, an honest-to-goodness ghost hunter and "ghostbuster" from Chicago, exuded confidence and exhibited steely nerve on a recent hunt on a full-moon night along a deserted stretch of railroad track in south Clark County for the well-known Gurdon ghost light — that is, until he heard a splash in a creek.

"Did either of you guys throw a rock?" he asked a reporter and a photographer on a walkie-talkie. "I just heard a body fall in the water."

"Aw, it's probably just a turtle," the reporter and photographer said at the same time, wondering if the ghostbuster's nerve had failed.

The turtle theory didn't satisfy Kaczmarek, who had wandered alone about a hundred feet down the tracks from where the reporter and photographer were waiting in the darkness with video and still cameras.

Soft, silver moonlight flooded through the trees, casting strange shadows that made a playground for the imagination. Owls hooted and crickets chirped. A light mist rolled in from fields on either side of the tracks. It was just cool

enough for a jacket after the three men cooled down from carrying the equipment a mile or two down the tracks. An old cemetery nearby completed the picture.

The setting seemed perfect for the light's appearance. But the light was a no-show.

The ghostbuster was disappointed. The night before, when he came alone, he had seen the light. He said he saw a bluish-green light arcing from rail to rail, which fits the description of the light seen by many persons.

Eerie Experience

Wandering down the tracks alone is an eerie experience. A reporter who tried it discovered he wasn't as brave as he thought. He jumped each time the radio crackled. About 250 yards down the tracks from the other two men, the reporter decided it was time to head back. Shadows and noises in the woods reminded him of the local legend that in 1931 a railroad worker had been slain along this stretch of tracks.

After that, the legend says, a ghost light began appearing.

Kaczmarek, 31, came to Arkansas to investigate the light, which he had read about in a magazine. Kacz-

marek investigates all kinds of ghostly phenomena, but ghost lights are his specialty. He also does a little ghostbusting, a term that has become popular since the comedy movie "Ghostbusters" appeared. He prefers to call it "deghosting" or "clearing" a house of ghosts.

Kaczmarek is president of the Ghost Research Society, a modest group with about 95 members around the country. He publishes a newsletter, for which he writes most of the articles, illustrating them with photographs he takes.

The work is a little scary and people often tell him he's crazy, but "this stuff doesn't bother me," he said.

He said that before the trip to Gurdon.

Has he ever seen a ghost?

"I think the closest I've ever come to seeing a ghost occurred close to two years ago while I was investigating the Joplin ghost light in Missouri," he said.

He said he went to Southwest City, Mo., to investigate a report of a "semitransparent woman who was said to roam a cemetery almost on a nightly basis." He was armed with a camera loaded with high-speed infrared film. (Sometimes, he explained, film "can pick up things that are not normally visible to the naked eye.") He caught a movement out of the corner of his eye.

"Near one grave, there was a mist-like appearance beginning to form," he recalled. It moved very rapidly. He said he watched it in "shock and awe" as the mist suddenly was "sucked into the ground like someone had turned on a vacuum cleaner."

He's been involved in serious ghost investigation since 1975, but he's been interested since he was a child. He developed more and more information about ghosts in Chicago, where he now does most of his work.

"Since 1975 I've come up with 93 different areas in the city and suburbs that either have been haunted or are still haunted," he said. "Many are private residences that we've been into."

Kaczmarek said he photographed the Joplin ghost light in 1982. It appears consistently in a rural area near the city, he said.

"That light has been appearing since 1881," Kaczmarek said. "The Quapaw Indians, who have a reservation nearby, claim it dates beyond that."

"The light basically appears all along a road from dusk to dawn every single night. It's even out before the sun goes down on some occasions."

Through binoculars, it appears to be diamond-shaped with a hole in the center that you can see through. It appears to act with intelligence, reacting to light, sound and movement.

He said one ghost researcher theorizes that ghost lights may be "interdimensional doorways or gateways" through which pass entities from other dimensions.

When Kaczmarek isn't chasing ghosts, he works for a food outlet.

"This is kind of a hobby, but it's becoming more of a full-time job of the amount of work I do around Chicago," Kaczmarek said.

He said he was "barely making it" on his hobby, even though he charges \$50 to \$100 to "deghost" a house. He must split the fee with a psychic, and it barely covers expenses in most cases. He said some psychics charge exorbitant fees to clear a house of ghosts and they're not always successful.

He said that in the cases of hauntings he had investigated the ghost was a person who has died violently or traumatically, and "may not have realized they are dead."

"They're trapped here for some reason," he said. The psychic communicates with them psychically and "convinces them to move on," Kaczmarek said.

Better make way! Bigfoot's heading for San Jose

By Leland Joachim
Mercury News Staff Writer

Bigfoot, the persevering primate of the north woods, is coming to San Jose.

And where else but to that shrine of the "art" movie, Camera One.

Ernie Montiel, producer of "In the Shadow of Bigfoot," said the 85-minute film will open Thursday in San Jose after a tour through the state's hinterlands and a visit to the Cannes and Milan film festivals.

The film will continue through Dec. 19. Show times will be 7:15 and 9 p.m. each evening, with 3:15 and 5:15 p.m. matinees on Saturday and Sunday, Montiel said.

The movie house, better known for subtitles than subhumans, is at 366 S. First St.

Montiel was the principal financial backer when the movie was made in 1983. Other producers were Thomas Biscardi of Milpitas; Ivan Marx, a wildlife photographer who worked on "Bill Burdett True Adventures"; and Warren Cook, a history and anthropology teacher at Castleton State College in Vermont.

All are firm believers in the existence of a hairy apelike (or manlike) being that inhabits remote areas of the Northwest.

Marx says he made still pictures or color telephoto movies of Bigfoot eight or nine times, and has seen it five other times.

A few minutes of the film show the alleged creature cavorting in the wild. The rest is interviews with witnesses and an analysis of footprints.

When the film started on its tour of California, other Bigfoot "experts" challenged its authenticity, saying scenes of the creature were staged.

Montiel denied that the film is a hoax. "The footage is authentic. I have full faith in everybody. I have absolute confidence in the movie and the people involved in it," he said.

Don't bother stalking 'Bigfoot'

THERE'S really no reason to waste space on a pseudo-documentary as bad as Amazing Horizon, Inc.'s "In the Shadow of Bigfoot" (Camera One). After moaning through this atrociously shot, narrated and researched "investigation" into the legend of Bigfoot or Sasquatch, or whatever you want to call America's own Missing Link, I was fully

Film Review

prepared to forget the whole bloody mess, even if it was produced by a couple of local boys (Cupertino's own Ernest A. Montiel and C. Thomas Biscardi).

Then I heard this radio come-on: "It's being hailed as the first truly authoritative investigation into Bigfoot!" Oh, yeah?

For the record, there is nothing the least bit authentic about this picture. Biscardi and Montiel's prime sources are all backwoods kooks, with names like Sourdough and Tundra Lily. Expert commentary is supplied by, among others, Dr. Gary Levine of the Midnight Globe tabloid.

Longtime Bigfoot tracker Ivan Marx supplies a good deal of the rambling, folksy narration. He is also credited as photographer (though the film looks like a patchwork of stock wildlife footage). Marx is the man who photographed Bigfoot back in 1977. For the purposes of this film, he returns to the wilds and stages a second meeting. Say what you will about this veteran Bigfoot spotter, he's certainly reliable.

— Glenn Lovell

Rumblings of unknown origin gave county case of the shakes

From Tribune Wire and Local Reports

A series of shakes and booms that rattled an area from Orange County to the border in San Diego County remained a mystery today. Buildings shook and windows rattled yesterday morning and early afternoon. Similar reports had come from Riverside County Thursday.

Seismologists at UCSD and the California Technological Institute in Pasadena said the rumblings were not earthquakes.

Public affairs officers for the Navy at Miramar Naval Air Station here and El Toro Marine Corps Air Station in Orange County said they didn't have any planes in the air that would have caused sonic booms. The Federal Aviation Administration said their towers in Southern California had no reports of sonic booms.

The Navy and Marine Corps said an 11-day amphibious exercise involving more than 10,000 Marines and sailors stationed throughout Southern California began yesterday, but that no live gunfire was scheduled before Monday.

And the weather didn't seem to have anything to do with the shakes and rattles.

"We just can't account for this," Weather Service meteorologist Frank Perdue said from Lindbergh Field today.

There were no reports of damage or injuries yesterday, but hundreds of telephone calls were made to The Tribune, police and fire departments, military installations and other government agencies.

Does A Sasquatch Live In Paulding County ? 24-Inch Footprints Sited Near Hannah's Swamp

By: Nan McQuillen
Dallas New Era Staff Writer

Emazell and Heslip Elliott live near a 15-mile swamp in the Union Community off Highway 101 in the Southwest corner of Paulding County. It is Emazell's homeplace. She was raised there - and has lived there for 57 years. Her husband, Heslip, a retired rural mail carrier, has lived there since their marriage 37 years ago.

Emazell has a wood craft shop behind her house and late with orders, she had a full day ahead of her as she took the time to go across the black-top road to her mailbox to pick up the mail Monday, September 17th.

Standing at her mailbox, she looked down and that's when she saw the 24-inch footprints ranging from nine to eleven feet apart. Her eyes followed them approximately 50 feet to a dirt driveway that leads into a wooded swampy area beside her home.

"I could only see a couple of the footprints on the dirt road. I guess whoever or whatever it was went down into the woods," said Mrs. Elliott.

Mr. and Mrs. Elliott said they have never seen anything like it in their lives and now believe the sounds they have heard while fishing down in the swamp were coming from whatever or whoever made the footprints.

Standing at the site of the footprints Friday evening, Sarah Wilson and the writer observed a road crew as they swept over the footprints with machinery but were unable to remove them.

At the time of imprint, sand or mud was on the bottom of the foot or shoe and a heavy weight had to be instrumental in embedding the print deep enough so a road sweeper could not remove it.

While talking with Mr. Elliott, I learned that the road had been resurfaced two weeks before.

"I have thought and thought about it," said Mr. Elliott, "if the footprints were made by a machine there would also be other markings on the road and the footprints would be consistent. The thing that made those prints had a stride from nine to eleven feet apart. I step about two and a half feet apart when I walk so you know that thing had to be heavy and tall," said Mr. Elliott.

According to reports, J. B. Shirah, a dairy farmer, had a drag line in the swamp trying to dry it out in order to turn it into pasture land.

"A drag line is something like a backhoe. It goes down the side of the stream and makes ditches as it goes. That's been about two weeks ago. It took them about a week to go all the way across the swamp," explained Mr. Elliott.

Reportedly the swamp entails a 15-mile area and houses a variety of game and fish. Some of the residents of that community have been using the swampland as a favorite fishing hole. Others have heard such high-pitched blood-curdling cries that they have not returned to the site regardless of the huge Bass that swim the swampy waters.

Mrs. Elliott tells the story of their last fishing trip in the Fall three years ago. "It was about this time of the year when we decided to go down into the swamp to fish. We were midway into the swamp and were fishing when we heard a sound which I can't describe except to say it sorta sounded like a Hyena. The sound came nearer and then it was blood-curdling. It was in the evening and after we heard that noise we got our poles and came out from there faster than we went it," said Mrs. Elliott.

The news crew from WLBB radio station in Carrollton ar-

rived on the scene earlier and, as Mrs. Grady Knight of Villa Rica viewed the prints, she made the statement that **The National Enquirer** should be contacted.

The Elliotts ruled out the possibility that teenagers may have made the prints with an artificial foot or shoe because of their two bulldogs which guard their house at night. Also, their neighbors, Phil and Linda Atkinson, who live across the road from them, have watch dogs.

The Elliotts are perplexed and don't know who or what made the over-sized prints but predict that if 'it' has been run out of the swamp because of the drag line that it will be seen within two weeks.

Enroute to George Luallen's house on Hannah's Bridge Road, the writer told her co-hort of interviewing several families who lived near Sweetwater Creek around the Southern Empire Egg farm in Douglas County five years ago.

According to their testimony, two 'Bigfoot' or Sasquatch have lived in the wooded area for years. One was dark while the other was smaller in stature and lighter in color. They immediately told of smelling it before seeing it. They theorized that the Sasquatch lived there feeding off the chickens and eggs and then migrating in the Spring following the creek beds for fish.

Neither of us mentioned this to the Paulding County residents and on our trip to Chester and Lucie Luallen's house, they verified the same story as was told the writer five years ago.

"We call it a 'Skunk Ape' because it smells so badly. I have never seen it, but my son George has. I have heard it from time to time. The only way I can describe the sound is something similar to a child yelling and a bull bellowing," said Lucie Luallen.

Chester and Lucie Luallen's house sits amidst Hannah's Swamp. They have lived there for eight years and say they have heard the 'Skunk Ape' for the past five years.

Chester said he has a high-powered rifle and that once upon a time he and his son went hunting to get the 'Skunk Ape'.

"My boy went ahead of me and after we got well into the swamp, we heard it. Then my son came running as fast as he could and said, 'Daddy, get the hell out of here! He said it stands like a man and is a little over eight feet tall,'" said Mr. Luallen.

Another son, James, said it is dark and hairy and that he smelled its odor before he saw it. According to his story, it was standing just outside the swamp by Hannah's Beef Pasture.

Mrs. Luallen said late one evening she heard a calf bellowing and thought that one of the calves had gotten out of the pasture. As she listened, the bellowing continued but in different directions. "I knew something was running with that calf," she declared.

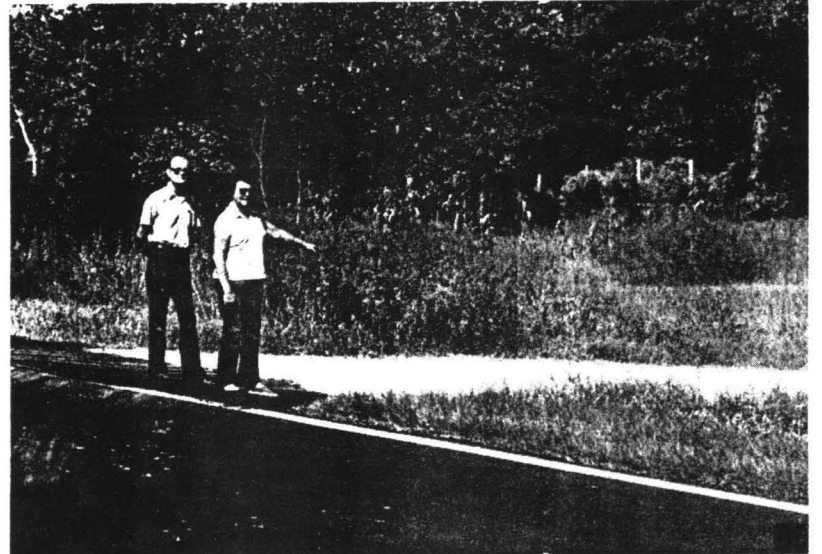
The Luallens say their German Shepherd dog, 'Princess', will fight anything except the 'Skunk Ape'.

"She can tell just as well when it is nearby for she always gets underneath the house. She was with us when we were ran out of the swamp. And she wouldn't leave me for anything, but she got to the house faster than I did," said Mr. Luallen.

According to legend, Sasquatch is the name Indians gave to the hairy ape-like creature who some Anthropologists believe still exist. They are giant hairy creatures that roam the mountains and woods. They don't know if they are animals or humans; or if there is some link between the two.



Emazell Elliott of the Union Community near Dallas, Ga., points to the 24-inch long footprint embedded in the black-top road in front of her house. The prints led to a dirt road 50 yards away and then disappeared.



Emazell and Heslip Elliott are perplexed over the huge footprints embedded on Highway 101 in front of their home in the Union Community near Dallas.

GUARDIAN, London, England - Oct. 24, 1984

A wild time in Tibet

PEKING: A wild woman who looked like a bear grabbed a Tibetan herdsman and produced two offspring after forcing him to live with her in a Himalayan cave for several years, according to a Canton newspaper.

The story of the hairy woman - and another about a wild man who held a woman captive in a cave in China's south-western Sichuan province for 10 years - was recounted at a Canton exhibition about the hunt for the legendary Abominable Snowman, the Yangcheng Evening News reported.

Mr 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.

He said they wanted a specimen - dead or alive - and offered rewards of £3,300 or £1,700 respectively. The paper said the Tibetan incident happened in 1964.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Arturo Velasco gathers fish and live crabs that suddenly appeared on the side of a Los Angeles freeway Wednesday afternoon during the height of a heavy downpour. There were no reports of accidents so California Highway Patrol officers guessed that the load fell off a restaurant supply truck.

JOURNAL, Albuquerque, NM - Dec. 21, 1984 CR: F. Hudson

3-ton geological puzzle



Peter Liddell / Seattle Times

Geologist Greg W. Behrens peers into the mysterious hole in Okanogan County. In the background another geologist, Mike Lowry, inspects the hole's plug, whose sides have been eroded by the hooves of cattle.

Cookie cutter? Eerie force uproots big divot

by Hill Williams
Times science reporter

Somehow, in a way that baffles geologists, a massive chunk of earth has been plucked from a remote plateau in North Central Washington and put down, right side up, 73 feet away.

There is no evidence that humans had anything to do with it. Neither are there marks of machinery. The piece of earth, which remained largely intact during its move, is estimated to weigh at least three tons.

"All we know for sure is that this puzzle piece of earth is 73 feet away from the hole it came out of," said Greg W. Behrens, a geologist with the Bureau of Reclamation at Grand Coulee Dam.

The displaced chunk is an irregular pear shape, 10 feet long and 7 feet wide. Its thickness varies from two feet at one end to about 18 inches at the other.

The shape and thickness of the puzzle piece exactly match the hole that was left behind.

The mystery site is next to a wheat field on a farm operated by Fred Timm and his sons. Two of the sons, Rick and Pete, discovered the displaced earth on Oct. 18 while riding in the area rounding up cows.

They believe the event occurred sometime after mid-September when they were last there harvesting wheat.

Adding a bit of intrigue is the fact that there was a small earthquake in the area

during that monthlong period, at 8:24 p.m. Oct. 9. The quake, measured at 3.0 on the Richter scale, was felt in towns in the area but not at the Timm farmhouse a few miles from the mystery site.

The University of Washington pinpointed the quake's epicenter about 20 miles southwest of the displaced earth, and about four miles deep. But a UW scientist ruled out the possibility that the quake somehow could have popped out a piece of earth.

"Very, very unlikely," said Stephen D. Malone, a university geophysicist. "If the earthquake had done that, it would be the most dramatic and obvious thing ever reported that I'm aware of."

The Timms, excited by the discovery, called Don Aubertin, director of mining for the Colville Indian Tribe. The mystery site is on the Colville reservation in Okanogan County.

"There had been quite a roar with the earthquake," Aubertin said, "so we wondered if perhaps a meteorite fragment had impacted and ripped out a piece of earth."

Aubertin asked Bill Utterbach, a geologist retained by the Colvilles, to visit the scene. Utterbach's inspection quickly ruled out the meteorite possibility.

"There was no sign of impact," Aubertin said. "The hole was not a crater. It had vertical walls and a fairly flat bottom. It was almost as though it had been cut out with a giant cookie cutter."

But, Aubertin pointed out, even a "giant cookie cutter" couldn't have left the hole the

way Utterbach found it. Roots that had led to the vegetation in the puzzle piece dangled from the vertical walls of the hole, indicating they had been torn apart rather than cut.

There was no sign on the ground that the displaced earth had been dragged or rolled. But Utterbach did find something that added to the mystery.

"You'd think that, whatever the cause, the chunk would have traveled in a straight line," Aubertin said. "But Utterbach found where pieces had dribbled from the chunk as it moved. The dribblings traced an arc from the hole to where the chunk was found."

One possibility is that, if the chunk rose and fell in an arc as it moved, a stiff wind could have distributed the "dribblings" in a curve.

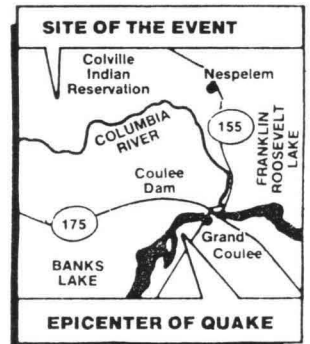
Behrens said the dense root mass in the puzzle piece probably helped hold it together. The chunk, as it was found, was rotated counterclockwise about 20 degrees in comparison to the orientation of the hole it left behind.

In the weeks since the event, the Timms' cattle have trampled the displaced chunk, destroying evidence of its remarkable fit with the hole.

The event occurred in an area with an interesting geological history. The plateau is 2,360 feet above sea level. The mystery site is in a small hollow, probably scraped out in the plateau's bedrock by the ice sheet that covered the area thousands of years ago.

The wheat field is dotted with huge boulders left by the melting ice sheet. Known locally as "hay-stack rocks," some are bigger than haystacks. Near the mystery site is a larger depression, described by Behrens as a "kettle," a geologists' term for a place where a mass of ice was buried and caused the ground to collapse as it melted.

It is an eerily fitting setting for what is apparently an unexplained natural phenomenon.



Robert Massa / Seattle Times

Map shows where chunk of earth was hurled through the air and epicenter of an earthquake last month.

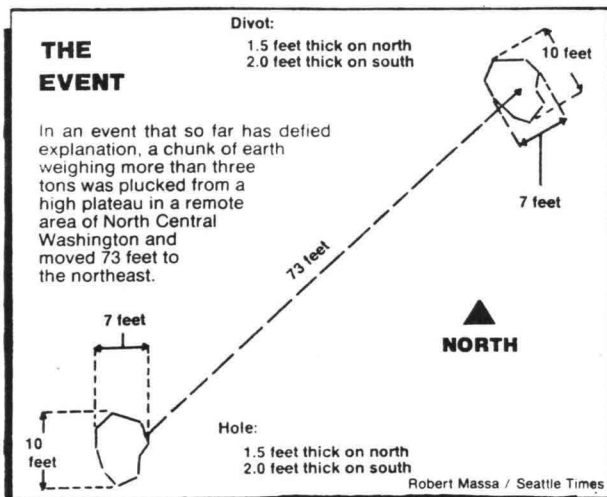
Behrens wondered if the earthquake's seismic waves in the bedrock had triggered concentric surface waves in the soil. If the waves converged, they might have ejected a piece of earth where they focused, he mused.

The UW's Malone agreed that focusing can occur. But it could not explain the source of the tremendous energy required to pluck out a piece of earth weighing tons and move it 73 feet.

"It really is a puzzle," Aubertin said. "None of us has come up with a plausible explanation."

Lindsay McClelland of the Smithsonian's Scientific Event Alert Network said he is not aware of previous reports of similar occurrences. But he was interested in this one.

"Be sure to let me know if you find out what caused it," he said.



Robert Massa / Seattle Times