

UFO

NEWSCLIPPING SERVICE

U.F.O. NEWSCLIPPING SERVICE

ROUTE 1 — BOX 220

PLUMERVILLE, ARKANSAS 72127 U.S.A.

CO-EDITORS: LUCIUS FARISH
ROD B. DYKE

FEBRUARY 1985 NUMBER 187

Never mind: 'UFO' report dogs expert

Sightings probe called lax;
alien object likely was 737

By CARLE HODGE
Arizona Republic Science Writer

What Nannette Morrison witnessed in the Virginia sky has become an agonizing matter.

Morrison says she twice saw unidentified flying objects. She also managed to convince an astronomer that the sightings were legitimate.

As a result of his credulity in the matter, the astronomer, J. Allen Hynek, acknowledged to be the most scholarly sleuth of "flying saucers," is experiencing an encounter of the discomfiting kind.

Under attack from another scientist, Hynek admitted last week that he validated but never really investigated the reported sightings.

Hynek, a retired Northwestern University professor who is moving his Center for UFO Studies to the Valley, maintains the lapse was unusual.

"I could have been, in that one particular case, misled," he said.

The case dates back to 1982, when Morrison claims she observed UFOs near her Charlottesville, Va., home.

Hynek explained in a telephone interview that he accepted her word.

"Generally, I go to the actual site," he said. "I did not do that in this case, which was too bad."

The first event, by Morrison's account, took place at about 11:30 p.m. March 30, 1982, as she was driving home.

She said the object hovered silently above her, pacing her car, and stayed long enough for her to arrive home and show the intruder to her mother, a teacher.

Two nights later, not long after she completed an hourlong telephone talk with Hynek, she said she was "drawn" to a window and, once again, she and her mother saw a UFO.

This version was reported late in 1983 in an article in Hynek's *International UFO Journal*, headlined "A Remarkable Double Encounter." In the article, Hynek dismissed the possibility of natural phenomena.

Meanwhile, a Charlottesville resident named Jimmy Smith read about Morrison and sent a letter to the *Charlottesville Daily Progress*.

On March 30, 1982, Smith and his three brothers saw something at about the same time Morrison did, he wrote. What they saw, Smith said, was a jetliner landing at a nearby airport.

"We live on Route 20 North, and we are in the landing and takeoff pattern for big passenger planes," Smith said. "The plane was unusual in that it had a large number of brilliant white lights on it. It was going very slow, it was barely making any noise, and it was very low. ... It looked like a flying Christmas tree."

In an editor's note, the *Progress* pointed out that Piedmont Airlines confirmed the arrival of a Boeing 737 at the time of the sightings.

All of this is recounted in the fall issue of *The Skeptical Inquirer* in an article by Bruce Martin, a chemistry professor at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville.

Martin mailed Hynek a copy of Smith's letter, which appeared in part in the March-April 1984 *International UFO Journal*. Hynek said at that time he still considered the Morrison sightings "solid."

For one thing, Morrison had assured him "that she does not live anywhere near the airport but some 25 miles to the southeast."

Wrong, chemist Martin claims in *The Skeptical Inquirer*. Had Hynek looked at a U.S. Geological Survey map, he said, he would know Morrison dwells "but 5.3 miles from the airport runway, which points in the direction of her house."

Moreover, Martin points out that her house is "mainly south and slightly west of the airport," near Smith's neighborhood.

"As one of her neighbors told me, 'We see that UFO every night,'" Martin said.

Hynek told *The Arizona Republic*, "He's right that I should have checked the maps. I ordinarily do."

He said Morrison has lived in the university city for about two decades.

"Usually, if a person lives someplace 20 years, they should know how far they live from the airport," Hynek said.

In November, Martin heard Morrison speak at a "psychics" conference and recalls, "She said (Hynek) had asked if she had seen figures or had mental telepathy with the UFO occupants."

"She also stated that Hynek had said that only certain people are chosen to see UFOs."

If Hynek said such a thing, he could not remember it last week. He said that he suspects he was quoted "out of context" and that he does not attach psychic significance to UFO sightings.

"It was a casual conversation," he said. "It's always puzzled me, however, that some people seem to have more sightings than others. It almost would seem that some people must have some special gift."

Martin also faults the astronomer for not seeking more witnesses.

"In a university town with 16,000 students and an area population approaching 100,000, he does not ask why no one else reported spotting either of the two UFOs," he said. "It is difficult to detect what, if any, objective standards Hynek applied to this case."

Hynek conceded he is chastened.

"It was a very good slap on the wrist," he said of the article.

He plans to ask Morrison to provide a rebuttal.

Is it possible that he was simply fooled in this instance?

"Very definitely," he replied.

Hynek expects the center's move from Evanston, Ill., to the Phoenix area, already under way, to be completed around the end of the year.

Still to be transferred is a computerized data bank that Hynek said catalogs about 100,000 UFO reports from 140 countries.

Meanwhile, his volunteers are busily pursuing the heaviest outbreak of UFO reports in years, in Westchester County, N.Y., north of New York City.

"More than 1,000 people" there claim to have spotted the objects, Hynek said.

"The numbers don't mean as much as the caliber of the witnesses," he said. "They include the chief meteorologist at the Westchester County Airport, a Navy flight instructor, MDs, an IBM executive, people who aren't dodos."

"You have to listen to them."

Hynek, who retired from Northwestern in 1978, had directed its Dearborn Observatory. He also headed Project Blue Book, an official Air Force inquiry into UFOs.

"At no time during that whole time did I have a solid scientific dialogue on the thing with anybody," he said. "It was basically a public-relations thing. The Air Force had to do something."

By now, what does he know of the phenomenon?

"All I can say is, something very real is going on," he said.

Tyrone's UFO Has Ripple Effect

Tyrone's October 23 visit from a UFO has had a ripple effect that reached all the way across the country this weekend with the publication of the story in a widely-distributed weekly national tabloid.

The story recounted the sighting of the UFO by Tyrone's Skip Morrissey, Sonia Musso and a woman identified as a bank vice president's wife.

Added to the story's otherwise familiar contents was the comment by a codeveloper of the Psychological Stress Evaluator truth-detecting device who analyzed the tapes of the UFO description made by all three witnesses.

"Each and every one of them is telling the truth about what they saw," he said.

The article also quoted a "retired Pennsylvania Bureau of Aviation official who said, 'I'd never discount that it was a UFO.'"

Lawmen See Strange Sight In The Skies

By CURT HODGES

They are not certain what they saw in the skies over Northeast Arkansas Monday evening, but two police officers are certain of one thing — they did see something. A UFO, maybe?

It appeared to be a glowing ball or disk, a light in the sky that moved, seemingly against the wind, and whatever it was made no noise, they said.

The strange object was first reported to the Trumann Police Department between 8 and 9 Monday evening by residents on Monroe Street who reported a light over their house.

Patrolman David Sanders drove to the address and said he saw the object, which appeared to be glowing slightly. He said it appeared to be about as wide as the parking lot at Trumann City Hall (about 100 feet) and he could see it moving slightly.

Sanders said the object then took off and sort of paralleled Speedway Street. He said it stopped near a church on Arkansas 69 west of Trumann and then appeared to "shoot" toward Harrisburg.

About 20 seconds later, he said, a Poinsett County officer, alert to the sighting, spotted the object.

Deputy Sheriff Larry Mills said he first spotted it in the Weona area, west of his position and far off. A second sighting by him was southeast of Weiner.

Mills, who is a pilot, said he estimated the height of the object off the ground at 300 to 400 feet at the time he spotted it.

Both Mills and Sanders agreed as to the object glowing. Neither

said it was very bright. Mills said it appeared to have an orange cast, sort of like sodium vapor lighting used by some cities. He described the color as similar to that of street lighting in downtown Jonesboro.

"I felt like a fool," Sanders said, describing his feelings when he first saw the glow on Monroe street. He got on the police car's two-way radio and said, "Trumann, you're not going to believe this."

Then he told the dispatcher at police headquarters he had no idea what he was seeing, but it was real and about 500 feet off the ground.

He trained the police car's spotlight on the object and said he couldn't detect the light's beam on the glow. Also, he said the object was "shining," but did not give off rays nor appeared as a spotlight or searchlight beam.

"It looked like a big star," Sanders said, and described the light as appearing white.

The National Weather Service, when inquired about the possible UFO, said it was likely a high altitude weather balloon.

Those kinds of balloons have lines on them and are helium filled. That might explain the fact that Sanders reported the object to be moving, slightly.

It's possible the balloon's tether, if that's what it really was, became caught in trees and stayed until a gust of wind pulled it free.

In actuality, the object probably was really a balloon, and its line likely did get caught in some trees in Trumann. But, that's everyday stuff and not nearly so exciting as imagining that a real unidentified flying object was whispering quietly through the skies of Northeast Arkansas.

Kinda bursts the bubble, doesn't it?

SUN, Jonesboro, AR — Jan. 15, 1985 CR: L. Gillihan

ARIZONA REPUBLIC, Phoenix, AZ

Oct. 1, 1984 CR: MUFON

DAILY HERALD, Tyrone, PA — Dec. 3, 1984

Surely there's life out there among those 'billyuns' of stars

Imagine, if you will, an aircraft the size of a football field, dotted with whitish-amber and red lights. Imagine it hovering silently about 100 feet above the tree tops.

That's about what Melvin Morrissey of Tyrone and Sonya Eckberg of Bald Eagle saw in independent UFO sightings about 8:30 p.m. Tuesday.

Crazy? At first thought, of course. But let's get serious for a minute.

Astronomer Carl Sagan is fond of pointing out the "billyuns and billyuns" of stars in a universe the extent of which we never will comprehend.

For instance, consider these two mind-bogglers:

- There are more than 100 billion stars, like our sun, in our Milky Way galaxy.

- There are at least as many galaxies in the universe as there are stars in the Milky Way.

(Read them again.) It is almost a religious experience to try to comprehend the universe.

That most of those stars have solar systems like our own makes the possibility of alien life startlingly real. Those who think we are alone — according to the odds — are the crazy ones.

Now the question remains: Can this life, intelligent though it might be, master space travel well enough to make routine visits to Snyder Township?

It's a tough order, even if they are

Dave Cuzzolina



Free-for-All

from our own galaxy. The Milky Way is so big that if they traveled at the speed of light, 186,000 miles a second, it would take them 100,000 years to go from one end to the other.

Hardly a trip worth the time.

Quote of the week: "Of course, (UFO) landings are very rare."

Stan Gordon, director of the Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained, commenting on the sighting Tuesday night in Snyder Township.

Gordon added that he has been to sites where a UFO left physical evidence on the ground.

Certainly, anyone who witnesses a UFO landing would also leave physical evidence on the ground.

Was it a UFO?

"I don't know what it was."

That's the way Poinsett County deputy Larry Mills summed up whatever it was that he and Trumann police officer David Sanders saw in the sky over northeast Arkansas Monday night.

Both men said it appeared to be a glowing ball or disc that moved, and neither said they heard any noise in connection with it.

The object was first sighted over Trumann between 8-9 p.m. Sanders said it appeared about 100 feet wide and was glowing slightly. Shortly afterwards, Mills said he spotted it over the Weona area, and also saw it southeast of Weiner.

"What puzzled me is that it was so low. The wind was out of the northeast at 15-20 at the time and you just don't find aircraft flying that low in those kind of winds at night because there's too many odds against it."

MODERN NEWS, HARRISBURG, AR - Jan. 17, 1985

CENTRE DAILY TIMES, State College, PA - Jan. 15, 1985 CR: S. Gordon

Bizarre object seen hovering in night sky

Another strange object has been spotted in the night sky over Centre County. This one, which hovered over Farmers Mills in Gregg Township for several minutes last Friday at about 8:30 p.m., was heard and seen by Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Auman.

Mr. Auman, who was unable to make out the object's exact shape, says the craft appeared to be about 50 or 60 feet across and had lots of clear lights that blinked randomly on and off.

It definitely had engines — more than one, Mrs. Auman says. "We were watching a television show when we heard the sound of motors running outside. When the sound didn't go away after a minute or so, we finally went outside to see what it was."

The Aumans say the aircraft moved off after several minutes and headed southwest from Farmers Mills.

TRIBUNE-DEMOCRAT, Johnstown, PA - Jan. 14, 1985

Central City UFO sighting is reported

By Michele Dula Baum
The Tribune-Democrat

Central City

Some area residents reported seeing an unidentified flying object at approximately 8:30 p.m. Sunday.

The object was described as a "bright, white light with green spokes coming out of it," and reportedly was visible in the sky near No. 7 Road toward Cairnbrook.

No late flights

A spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration flight service station at the Johnstown-Cambria County Municipal Airport said there were no late or unlisted flights or reports of aircraft in distress Sunday night.

Spokesmen for the Somerset barracks of the state police and the Somerset County and Richland communications networks said they had received no reports of strange objects sighted in the area.

Spate of state sightings

However, Stanley Gordon, director of the Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained in Greensburg, said UFO reports have been persistent all over the state for the past week, including several in Somerset County.

"We had one just this morning around Seven Springs," Mr. Gordon said.

He said that a person there had reported seeing bright flashes of light shortly after 5 a.m.

Sonic boom

Some county residents also said they had heard what sounded like a sonic boom right before seeing the light flashes, Mr. Gordon said.

Such phenomena may be caused by meteors crashing to Earth, the director said of the flashes and noise.

Could have been Vega

As for the local sighting, Mr. Gordon said residents could have been observing a prominent star, Vega, which was setting at about the same time the UFO was reported. Light refraction through the atmosphere would explain the green light, the director added.

"We get a lot of reports like this throughout the year," he said, explaining that many reported sightings might be planets or bright stars displaying red, blue or green colors as they retreat below the horizon.

"But we still want people to call us if they see anything unusual at all," Mr. Gordon said.

CR: S. Gordon

A perfect night to hunt for UFOs

By TOM MORONEY
News Staff Writer

About 5 o'clock Thursday evening, the stars began to make their appearance on a clear horizon. We had gone 18 miles, and civilization's busy roads had given way to the lonely, rural byways of southern New Hampshire.

My guide pulled her car into an abandoned dirt road. "A perfect night," she said, snapping off the headlights. "Visibility is great."

She reached for her binoculars, instructed me to un-sneath the pair I had brought along, and, within seconds of our arrival, I was sitting somewhere outside Portsmouth with 65-year-old Betty Hill, watching and waiting for flying saucers.

I know what you'll say. Flying saucers? Come on, Tom. How about a nice Christmas story the Friday before the holiday?

Well, I had to do it. When I called for an interview, what I got was an invitation to adventure. It was like Ted Williams asking you to shag a few fly balls. When Betty Hill invites you for a little saucer-watching, you jump.

You see, Betty and her husband, Barney, who died in 1969, are perhaps the most famous couple to ever experience what experts call "a close encounter of the third kind."

They were taken aboard a spacecraft in 1961, the story goes, examined by a fairly congenial bunch of aliens, and returned unharmed to their car in the wilds of northern New Hampshire.

If you didn't read the 1966 best seller, "Interrupted Journey," you may have seen the TV movie in '75, starring James Earl Jones as Barney and Estelle Parsons as Betty.

What made the story so compelling was that the Hills never divulged what they



UFO WATCHER — Betty Hill poses with her dog and a bust of "Junior" a likeness of one of the aliens she said she and her husband Barney met in 1961. (News Photo by Tom Moroney)

remembered of that September night until several years later.

After Barney's severe bouts with anxiety, they both went to a doctor who used hypnosis to finally draw it out, the amazing details of a few lost hours aboard a spaceship 37½ light years from home.

Betty even reconstructed a map the aliens had shown her. On it were stars scientists had yet to discover. When radio astronomy improved years later, sure enough, they showed up in the exact spot Betty had said.

Journalists and broadcasters from all over the world came to see the Hills. Documentaries were made. Twenty years later, Betty still gets mail and phone calls.

But nothing has ever come close to that night. It was an experience that changed her life, turning her into a steadfast observer of the evening sky.

"There are two rules I have," she said, waving her finger at me. "You cannot tell anyone the location of this landing site, and you must do exactly as you are told."

The aliens were fussy about who they let into their field.

Moments later, she pointed to a small white light just over the trees. "Look," she said, but it disappeared quickly.

"They know we're here?" I

asked. "Sure." In fact, 10 years ago, Betty had a showdown with them. She had been coming to the field weekly, only to be harassed each time by low-diving saucers.

"One night, they came in real close. They burned two holes in the hood of my car, so I got mad. I got out of the car and shook my fist. I said, 'Look, this is my planet, and I'll do what I want. Besides, I may be the only friend you'll ever have.' They haven't bothered her since."

Things got curiously and curiously for us after that point. We drove down the dirt road until we reached a railroad crossing.

There she stopped the car and turned off the headlights. We were in total darkness.

"There they are," she said nonchalantly, pointing to a single white light burning several hundred yards down, right in the middle of the track.

My face and neck tingled in apprehension. Until then, this had been a whimsical interview with a UFO hunter, but when she ever pointed down those tracks to a light, things began to change.

She rolled down her window and called out, "Hello friends. Hello. How are you tonight?"

I was losing my nerve fast. "Who are you talking to?"

She flicked the headlights on and off several times in succession. I looked down the track again and, believe it or not, the light was blinking back. It was as if the thing was answering her.

"What was that?" I stammered.

"Them," she said quietly. I looked back quickly. The light had gone off.

As we drove away, she explained about railroad tracks. They land on the tracks because the heavy weight of the craft is best supported there. When a train comes along, all they do is rise in the air and hover.

We drove a couple of miles to a small restaurant and ordered up two fried-chicken dinners. People in the restaurant knew Betty well. One woman came over and asked, "Seen any lately?"

Close Encounter of What Kind?

by SARA SEIGLE

You know those reported UFO sightings in parts of New York state you heard about on the news the day before yesterday?

Well, at least three people in Ridgefield reportedly saw a UFO—that is, an unidentified flying object—of a similar description hovering over this area that evening.

Bonnie Fischer of Osaleta Road and Lane Serota, a friend of Ms. Fischer who was visiting from New York City, said they saw a large, oval-shaped object with orange lights hovering in the distance as they drove west on West Mountain Road Tuesday shortly after 8 p.m.

"It occupied quite a large area, and it was very hard to judge how close it was and how high it was," Ms. Serota said.

"I was excited, but I wasn't frightened," Ms. Fischer said.

Other Reports

According to news reports, the Westchester and Putnam County sightings occurred around 8:30 p.m., within a half hour of those in Ridgefield.

Ms. Fischer and Ms. Serota said they do not know what they saw, but they know it was something unusual. They are frustrated that no one can tell them definitely what it was.

Police in Stormville, N.Y. said they suspect the object reported by about 100 people was part of a practical joke staged by pilots flying out of the Stormville airport.

However, they can not confirm their suspicions.

But a spokesman at the Westchester County Airport in White Plains, N.Y. said the object had been identified by pilots as aircraft.

Ms. Fischer and Ms. Serota were not the only people in Ridgefield who reported seeing the lights.

Ridgefield police said "several callers" reported seeing a UFO Tuesday night.

And Danbury police said they received two similar calls.

What They Saw

But, Ms. Fischer and Ms. Serota told *The Press* that as they were returning to Ms. Fischer's home from an exercise class, they saw over the treetops to the north "something very large with lots of orange lights going around it."

The object, which was "much larger than an airplane could be," looked to them to have a long, straight row of lights that went back in a half-moon shape.

The lights did not blink.

When they were opposite the intersection of West Mountain and Osaleta Roads—a stone's throw from the New York State line, they pulled over and got out of their car to better see the object.

By this time, the object had moved toward Mount Kisco, N.Y. and was directly in front of them. Several reports of a UFO with different colored lights were received at that town's radio station, and a reporter videotaped the object as it hovered over the area.

As the women watched, a man in a truck pulled up behind them, asked them if they saw what he saw, and joined them in studying the spectacle hovering in the clear evening skies.

The object made no noise.

After a few minutes, the women went to Ms. Fischer's house to share the sight with her children. They were still able to see it through the trees from the house deck, but it was moving closer to Mount Kisco.

As they stood there, several planes with what looked like search lights appeared and the orange lights disappeared.

It was then that Ms. Fischer really knew something strange was going on, because she had never seen planes in those skies at that time of night.

Ultra-Light Aircraft?

When they could no longer see the intriguing lights, the women wanted to know what they had seen and if anyone else had seen it.

They called the Ridgefield police, who told them they had received other reports of a UFO that night and that it was actually ultra-light aircraft—single-engine, light-framed aircraft that hold one occupant and have a large wing-span.

Not satisfied with the explanation given by the police, the women called the Danbury police, who said they too had received calls about the strange lights. But they said they did not know what the lights were.

So, the women called the Ridgefield police again for a more satisfactory explanation. The police said the Danbury airport had confirmed that the lights came from ultra-light aircraft flying in formation.

Speculation

The women then called the air traffic controller at the airport. He said he believed the lights were from planes flying in formation, but that his belief was speculation.

"So to me this was no confirmation of it, it was speculation," Ms. Serota said.

Ms. Fischer then phoned her neighbor Walter Gengarelly, who has worked in the aviation business for 20 years, is a pilot, and has written articles on flying.

An Expensive Hobby

The theory that the object was ultra-light planes flying in formation is hard to imagine, Mr. Gengarelly said.

"It didn't sound to me like you could do it with fixed-wing aircraft." Fixed-

wing aircraft have wings that stay in place rather than the rotating blades of helicopters.

Unless the fleet was miles away, the women would have heard engines, he said. And if it was that far away, it would have been an extremely large fleet, based on his neighbor's description.

The aircraft can not stop to hover. But if they are travelling the same speed as the on-coming wind—which would be extremely slow for the planes—they could create the illusion that they are hovering, he said.

Even if the supposed pilots did manage to fly that slowly, Mr. Gengarelly said he could not imagine them being able to move so fast again that it looked as if they disappeared.

"If this is some kind of hoax, it is certainly expensively orchestrated," he said.

The cost of equipping the planes with lights like the women said they saw would be astronomical, he said. This type of plane has no lighting of its own because it is illegal to fly them after dark.

"It sounded like too convenient an explanation," he said.

But he added that "I would like to believe it's a UFO."

Four Such Planes

Stormville police Sgt. Kenneth Spiro said that troopers went to the Stormville airport after receiving reports from several parts of Westchester and Putnam Counties just before 9 p.m.

There, they found that four planes without authorization landed there. He said the police have no way of positively connecting the planes with the suspected UFO sightings.

He said the police have long suspected a group of pilots operating out of that airport as being the source of UFO reports.

The Westchester airport spokesman, who requested anonymity, said that pilots of planes on routine flights that night reported they had seen lights from some kind of aircraft while en route to the airport.

No search planes went up to look for the aircraft, he said.

The lights were sighted 10 to 15 miles northeast of the airport and were heading in a northeasterly direction, he said.

They were not normal airplane lights, but some other kind of lights attached to the planes, he said.

The lights were tracked until they were close to Peekskill, N.Y., he said.

When last spoken to, the Ridgefield women were still skeptical of the aircraft explanation.

"Nothing's been proven so it's still an open question to me," Ms. Fischer said.

"I don't know what it is," he friend said.

"I trust my eyes."

dated 1953: "... if the apparently controlled maneuvers reported by many competent observers are correct, then the only remaining explanation is the interplanetary answer."

Well, that was more than 30 years ago.

But it doesn't stop there, Keviczky, a former major in the Royal Hungarian Army, proves. He can show you memos, reports and letters — recent ones — showing that the questions about the existence and source of UFOs have resulted in quite a bit of paperpushing at the CIA, the FBI and the National Security Agency.

Another featured speaker at the conference, Lawrence Fawcett, is the author of "Clear Intent," a recently published book that aims to prove the U.S. government is conspiring to keep us in the dark about UFOs.

His arguments are rational — he explains that UFOs have been seen doing things present technology can't replicate — and his evidence appears to be sound. The book documents UFO sightings near U.S. government installations, such as Air Force bases. He obtained the often detailed descriptions under the Freedom of Information Act, which gives all citizens access to any government document that isn't classified.

"There's been no reaction at all from the government," Fawcett said before he addressed the small but devoted audience. "Usually when books come out they put out some kind of a response — a denial — but there's been nothing." In addition to the Freedom of Information Act, Fawcett and Barry Greenwood, co-author of the book, obtained some of the 5,000 pages of government documents they've secured since 1977 by bringing lawsuits against the CIA, demanding to see documents the agency wouldn't release.

Fawcett, a police lieutenant in Coventry, Conn., says that prior to 1965 he had no interest in UFOs. It was then that he had his first and only sighting. "I saw an object come down and stop over an electrical substation in Manchester, Conn. It was round and very, very big. A rod came out of the bottom, and I saw electricity jump and all the lights went out. The rod came back up and it disappeared."

The lights came back on after a short while, but what caused them to go out remained a mystery, he said. A "ufologist" was born.

The typical government reaction to a UFO is to shoot first and ask questions later, Fawcett's research shows. Because of that, he says he's not surprised aliens haven't made a habit of rubbing elbows with earthlings.

So for now, we'll have to be content with sightings from afar. The conference's purpose, Mazzola said, was to educate the public and force the government into telling what it knows about UFOs.

Anyone interested should keep his eyes open. New York has been experiencing a "UFO flap" since early last year, Philip Imbrogno, a speaker at the conference said, with sightings of "boomerang-shaped patterns of lights" hovering over Connecticut, Putnam County and Westchester County becoming almost commonplace. The phenomenon has been independently reported by thousands of people, who swear it wasn't a group of Cessna 152s flying in formation. That's how the Federal Aviation Administration explains it.

"That's physically impossible," Imbrogno says, and the debate continues.

ADVANCE, Staten Island, NY - Nov. 5, 1984

UFO-logists discuss coverup, electricity — & Telly Savalas

By DENISE RINALDO

Advance Staff Writer

"I saw a 50-foot-long circular craft. I didn't feel any apprehension, and I just sort of glided into it. The moment I got on board I saw a man — a man who looked a little bit like Telly Savalas."

The Savalas-oid creature taught Bryce Bond the art of ultrasonic breathing — a kind of high-pitched droning which, the counselor-psychic-former journalist promises, is the antidote to aging, smoking, drinking and general frustration or malaise.

Bond, who says he communed with the extraterrestrial captains of an unidentified flying object (UFO) he happened upon in England, answered the question most skeptics ask about alleged UFO sightings. In the words of one of the curious who

wandered through the UFO conference at Tottenville High School yesterday: "If they're going to come 5 million miles, why don't they do something? Don't just let off a cloud of steam and go back home."

Bond maintains that they do. He met more than once with a group of the weary travelers, he claims, but was able to recall details of the get-togethers only after undergoing regressive hypnosis. The procedure enabled him to reclaim 2½ hours of "lost time" during which the "close encounter" occurred.

But the conference, sponsored by the Scientific Bureau of Investigation, whose international director, Pete Mazzola, operates out of Annadale, wasn't all trances and Telly Savalas.

Documentation was presented

that would convince even Kojak that there's something strange going on up there, and it was presented by people who say they think the little green men may be smart enough to keep their distance.

Colman Von Keviczky thinks UFOs are a threat to every country's national security, and claims the United States, Iran, Italy and even the United Nations recognize the danger. The governments, he says — displaying reams of documents to bolster his argument — are keeping what they know about UFOs secret for fear that the truth would panic those of us who thought E.T. was just a movie.

He pulls out a copy of a U.S. Defense Department memo

The UFO buster

Star watcher tracks flying saucers and their pilots

By BILL BUNN
Times Herald Reporter

Dan Wright believes there is someone Out There. His job is to find out who — or what — they are.

Wright is the Michigan director of the Mutual UFO Network, which investigates unidentified flying objects.

He believes flying saucers are far more than science fiction.

And he asks others to make this leap of imagination and consider that we may be neither alone nor unknown in the universe.

"Ladies and gentlemen, I submit that UFOs are real," Wright told members of the Greater Port Huron-Marysville Chamber of Commerce.

He presented slides, photographs and government reports to support his claim that some UFOs are outer-space visitors — possibly from planets of other stars in our Milky Way galaxy.

These extraterrestrial travelers may be studying us, even trying to manipulate our nuclear weapons, he said.

He cited accounts of UFOs over military missile bases in 1975 in Montana and Maine. In one case, a missile's computer-controlled directional code changed mysteriously.

Wright realizes that the idea of space tourists draws skepticism.

"A nut or a bolt from a UFO is the only thing that will convince some people of the reality of the phenomenon," he said.



Dan Wright thinks that unidentified flying objects, reported for many years across the world, are visitors from outer space. He is

the Michigan director of the Mutual UFO Network, which investigates such reports.

"For most of us, it is logical to assume there is intelligent life somewhere out there. But to say we are being routinely visited is another jump," he said.

Wright had at least one sympathizer, though.

Leo Siskonen, Marysville, said he saw a UFO in the late 1950s in northwest Detroit.

He was driving through a golf course when "All of a sudden this thing appeared," Siskonen

said. "It was a white light, almost round, with little fringes on top."

"I definitely thought it was a UFO of some kind. It couldn't have been anything else."

But Siskonen was reluctant to tell anyone. "I thought they'd say, 'You've been drinking or something.'"

Wright estimates only 10 percent of UFO observations are reported. "Fear of ridicule is

what stops 90 percent," he said.

Still, 123,000 sightings by more than one person are in Mutual UFO Network files, Wright said. The 15-year-old private, non-profit organization has 12,000 members worldwide.

The reported UFOs are usually lights or what appear to be metallic objects that may hover soundlessly or dart about the sky, appearing and disappearing, Wright said.

Most pictures he showed

looked like two soup bowls with wide rims placed face to face. The images were mostly tiny and fuzzy.

Flying saucers could come from plenty of places, Wright said.

The known universe has about 100 billion galaxies, each with an average of 100 billion to 200 billion stars, he said. One estimate is that each star in 200,000 could have a planet with intelligent life — meaning more than one million such planets in our galaxy.

But almost all stars are hundreds of light-years away. A light-year is the distance light travels in a year — almost six trillion, or 6,000,000,000,000, miles. Even traveling near the speed of light, 186,000 miles a second, a spaceship from a planet 100 light-years away would take more than 100 years to get here.

"How do they get here? We're really not sure," Wright said. He suggested UFOs may use time travel or follow other-dimensional paths to cover the vast distances.

The UFO Network has 76 reports of people seeing extraterrestrial occupants of these supposed spacecraft on the ground, Wright said.

The E.T.s are slender, less than 4 feet high, with big heads, holes for ears and nostrils, slits for mouths, long arms, white or swarthy skins and large eyes placed far apart.

"They plainly look like us, or perhaps it would be more accurate to say we look like them," Wright said.

PRESS COURIER, Oxnard, CA - Jan. 6, 1985

UFOs Observer Still Believer

(Photo on Page 2)
By ED SMITH

Since his first "close encounter" with an unidentified flying object, Floyd Hallstrom of Oxnard has remained steadfast in his belief that UFOs exist.

Moreover, he said, "Anybody that knows me says, 'If Floyd says he has seen it, he's seen it.'"

"I'm not a type of person to stretch a story," he said.

"I don't know what this whole thing is about, I know there must be a reason for it," he said.

"I know they're there. My big question is why?" he said. "Maybe some day I'll know."

Hallstrom, 63, has been retired for several years from Abex Corp. in Oxnard. He has more than 40 years of aviation experience. Both his mother and father were pilots.

On New Year's Day 1978 at 12:35 p.m., Hallstrom took off from Oxnard Airport in his Cessna 170A following a friend, Jim Victor, who was flying his plane to San Diego where it would be sold. Hallstrom was going along for the ride, so to speak, and to bring his friend back to Oxnard.

Here is what Hallstrom said happened:

At 1:07 p.m. Hallstrom called Victor on the radio to report he was seven miles behind him.

Hallstrom was flying at 7,500 feet above the business district of downtown Santa Monica. Victor was at 7,700 feet over Los Angeles International Airport.

Hallstrom was looking ahead to see if he could locate his friend's aircraft. He observed a smog layer at about 6,500 feet.

Hallstrom saw a black spot in the sky and thought it was Victor's plane.

Hallstrom, in an interview seven years ago, said he knew it was some type of aircraft approaching him, so he kept a watchful eye as it grew larger, approaching at a lower level.

"It took on the form of an aircraft, but there were no wings on it," Hallstrom said in that first interview.

He initially concluded that it was a helicopter, noting he had some experience flying helicopters during his 30 years in the Navy.

Rapid thoughts began surfacing in Hallstrom's mind. What's a helicopter doing out of LAX at 6,000 feet? Whatever it is, it is moving at a terrific rate of speed for a helicopter.

As the craft approached off Hallstrom's left shoulder, about 30 to 40 degrees below, it took on the "full shape of a saucer," he said. "I could see the dome on it that looked like a half-sphere."

Hallstrom said there were no markings or smoke or evidence of propulsion.

He admitted that his subconscious recognized it as a flying saucer before his conscious recognized it — and it startled him.

Hallstrom didn't panic as the strange craft maneuvered 1,500 feet below him. Instead, he reached for a piece of paper and began drawing a rough sketch of the strange craft. He estimated the diameter of the craft at 30 feet.

Later, Hallstrom charted the flight of his small plane and that of the UFO and concluded that the period during which the UFO was in "identifiable view" encompassed only 25 seconds. He estimated his plane had traveled only 2½ miles, while the UFO had traveled more than 12 miles. He based that conclusion on his aircraft's air speed of 136 miles per hour and the UFO's estimated speed of 650 miles per hour.

Hallstrom made several attempts to confirm the sighting with official sources such as the Federal Aviation Administration and the Ontario Airport control tower. Rejected at nearly every corner he turned, he admitted that he began to develop self-doubt about what he had experienced.

In the weeks that followed, he began to recount what he had experienced on tape, charts and maps that he prepared. He still has those records today.

A published account of Hallstrom's experience drew considerable interest from phenomena research organizations. And after one two-hour interview with Hallstrom, one official declared that what Hallstrom recounted represented

"the best case I've ever had in the county. It's well documented." And the interviewer concluded that Hallstrom was telling the truth.

It was not the only UFO sighting Hallstrom was to experience.

On July 4 of that same year, Hallstrom was flying with a friend, Keith Sorenson of LaCanada. It was 3:30 p.m., the sky was clear and the two men had been airborne out of Oxnard for about an hour, Hallstrom said.

The two flyers were returning in their small plane and were just south of the Satcoy Bridge across Highway 118 flying at about 3,500 feet, he said.

Suddenly, Hallstrom spotted a UFO at about 1,500 feet.

"It was four feet in diameter with a dome on it," he said. "It was going 900 miles an hour. It turned toward Las Posas Country Club and then it came back. It came straight toward the airplane."

"I held my position and didn't move," he said. "It went over the right wing."

Sorenson, who prior to this experience was a skeptic of UFO proponents, suddenly changed his mind.

"He (Sorenson) was no longer a skeptic," Hallstrom said.

The incident was reported to the Phenomena Research Organization in Seattle, Wash.

In May of 1979, two of Hallstrom's neighbors told him they had sighted a UFO over his house while he was out of town. They described it as 40 feet in length. They are two people who believed Hallstrom to be telling the truth, and were more convinced following their experience, Hallstrom said.

Since 1979, however, there have been no further sightings by Hallstrom — and not many by anyone else, according to UFO experts.

An air traffic controller at Point Mugu naval complex reportedly

spotted something on his radar screen "about seven years ago," according to Ray Lucasey, public affairs spokesman.

Lucasey recounted the sketchy details of the incident.

He said a commercial aircraft had taken off from Oxnard Airport when the air traffic controller "saw something on his screen."

The controller advised the pilot of the commercial aircraft: "I have something that looks like it is coming at you very fast," Lucasey recalled. "He (the commercial pilot) said 'I see it.'"

The controller turned up the sensitivity on his radar screen to get a better look at the object, but it had vanished.

"That's the only thing that had anything to do with UFOs in our log book in years," Lucasey said.

What has followed in the last six to seven years is a marked decline in the number of reported sightings. UFO experts contend the decline, in part, is due to such movies as "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" and "Star Wars." The people who have allegedly spotted UFOs are reluctant to report them because of the negative impact that likely would follow.

"It's an established fact that most people are unprepared to make an accurate report about something they see in the sky at night," said Alvin Lawson, who operates the UFO Report Center in Orange County.

Lawson has used the debate over UFOs in his class on critical thinking at California State University at Long Beach.

"I think there is a lot going on up there that we don't understand," he said. "I don't believe we are being visited, but I think people are perceiving something. It is very likely a psychological matter."

(continued on page 5)

Lawson said when he first established the hotline about 11 years ago he was receiving about 500 calls per year, sometimes three to four calls per day.

"After 1977, people began to be more circumspect about reporting," he said.

Today, his hotline receives only a relative handful of calls, many from pranksters, and some from people who do not wish to leave their names, he said.

Lawson contends that most people who are unprepared to accurately report what they see, because they are uneducated toward the stars and the various lights in the sky, tend to make their reports "in the perspective of contemporary science."

"A hundred years ago it was an angel or a ghost, now it's extraterrestrial visitors," he said.

"But they are accurately reporting what their senses tell them," Lawson said in defense of UFO sighters.

"People will continue to report things in the stars that are puzzling," he said.

Lawson said there are two phenomena that warrant serious research. One is the fact the "wave" of UFO sightings tend to occur about every five years, starting back in 1947. Second is the origin of what caused people to claim they saw a UFO.

"It's very similar to a religious or near-death experience," Lawson said of those who claim to have spotted UFOs. But, he added, "People have no ready way of responding to it."

Lawson said the release of such movies as "Close Encounters" is a likely source of triggering a "new enthusiasm" for UFO sightings in the late 1970s.

Lawson is critical of the news media for its treatment of such events.

"It's treated like a day at the zoo," he said.

What are needed, he said, are "good reports" followed by good research.

"We need serious, objective investigation," he said.

Lawson said that "Close Encounters" director Steven Spielberg used "about a dozen items" out of UFO literature in his hit movie.

"The truth is murdered by both sides to some degree," he said.

The country's bureaucracy, in Lawson's view, is ill equipped for dealing with the possibilities that exist should UFO proponents be correct.

"There have been a lot of horror stories, but officially there are no UFOs," he said.

"Evidence for interesting phenomena is being destroyed," Lawson said.

For now, Lawson said, "I think it is about time for a wave."

Lawson has no timetable, although he admits the five-year cycle is a little behind schedule. But, he concluded, "It could happen tomorrow."

UFOs

Did aliens buzz Indian Point plant?

By Jon Craig

Staff Writer

Shotguns were drawn and the National Guard was notified.

But officials of the New York Power Authority will not release details about what happened last summer at the Indian Point nuclear power complex during the reported sighting of an unidentified flying object near the reactor.

A dozen security officers at the Indian Point 3 nuclear plant spotted a large UFO on July 24, 1984, according to Philip Imbrogno, an astronomer with the Center for UFO Studies.

Imbrogno, of Greenwich, Conn., an investigator for the Evanston, Ill. center, said this week, "It was quite an incident and they were quite upset."

He interviewed six guards who contacted him about the sighting. They said the UFO was 900 feet long and hovered over the plant for 15 minutes, according to Imbrogno. There was a similar incident on June 14, he said.

Carl Patrick, a spokesman for NYPA, operator of Unit 3, confirmed the sightings but said, "It's a six-month-old story."

Larry Rossbach, a resident inspector with the Nuclear Regulatory

Commission, recalled Friday that guards were discussing the incident when he reported to work the following day.

Said Rossbach, "I didn't see it, (but) I remember some guys said they saw it. I accept them as reasonable people."

He said the sighting did not interrupt plant operations.

One security officer, who requested anonymity, said the object was 100 feet long, looked like helicopters in V-formation, made some noise and hovered 300 yards above the plant. He said guards "broke out the shotguns."

John Branciforte, a power authority security coordinator, said Friday, "I think people are going to publish stories on hysteria (and) misinformation. As far as I'm concerned, it's pure speculation."

Regarding a report that officers "broke out the shotguns," the commander said, "We just don't do things like that. He (Imbrogno) could possibly be making it up or he took what they (witnesses) gave him and stretched it out."

Another officer, who also asked for anonymity, added, "I talked to some of the people who believe it was something, but some people let their imaginations get worked up. I believe it was nothing. I'm sure a lot of it was very badly inflated."

Patrick and Kenneth V. Spiro, zone sergeant for Troop K of the New York State Police, said they believed the sightings were Cessna 152s flown by pranksters out of Stormville Airport.

"As far as we're concerned, there are no such things as UFOs," Spiro said Thursday.

But Imbrogno said Cessnas can be ruled out for that evening because winds gusted at 24 mph, too strong for most small planes. Imbrogno asked, "If it were pranksters, then why hasn't anyone come down on them?"

Jeffrey Baughman of Dutchess County, who leases out two small aircraft which he says may have been involved in other reported UFO sightings, said Friday he doesn't know anything about the Indian Point incident, but, "It's possible that my

plane was involved, but I wasn't."

Because his planes are leased to Stormville Flight School, he said, any qualified pilot can rent them for the day and "do whatever they want." Baughman said the flight school keeps records of first names only and could not trace who rented the plane the day of the sighting.

Patrick said, "A lot of people saw UFOs. The sightings at Indian Point were at the same time and of the same sort as other sightings. I'm not going to confirm or deny any details."

He said pilots of private and commercial planes use the plant as a "handy landmark" when flying nearby. "From the air it's easy to pick out," Patrick said. "I don't know of any... regulations that restrict the airspace around Indian Point," he said.

Imbrogno said, "The commander gave the order to pull out the shotguns and they summoned Camp Smith, but we have no documents."

Imbrogno has filed a Freedom of Information request with the NRC and NYPA for documents on the sighting. Brian Norris, a regional NRC spokesman, said his agency received the request about three weeks ago but has no documentation of the sighting.

The first reports of Indian Point UFOs were aired this week by Gerry Culliton, night editor and afternoon anchor at WVIP radio in Mount Kisco.

Joan Holt of the New York Public Interest Research Group, which opposes nuclear power, said, "That's an angle I never thought about. The risk of UFOs."

Ms. Holt said the apparent sighting raises several concerns, including how to secure the plant from pranksters and whether the 6-month lag in official word of the July incident means it was taken too lightly or too seriously.

"We have enough known dangers at Indian Point without having unknown dangers," she said.

— Staff Writer Michael Slackman also contributed to this report.

ITEM, Sunbury, PA - Jan. 4, 1985

Shamokin teens claim UFO sighting

By David C. Haupt

Shamokin Bureau

SHAMOKIN — Two Shamokin teen-agers yesterday claimed they saw an unidentified flying object (UFO) during broad daylight hovering over the Raspberry Hill development in Shamokin.

Admitting that they will probably be kidded by their friends, Lori Hopta and Beth Schlagle, both 18, said they chose to tell their story because they are convinced they witnessed an oval shaped object with bright lights hovering over a water tower at the development.

"We were coming up Market Street and I looked up and noticed bright white lights," Miss Hopta said. "I yelled, 'O my God' and both Beth and I watched the object until it disappeared one minute later."

"These were the brightest lights I have ever seen," Miss Schlagle said.

Chief Ronald Wagner said Shamokin police didn't receive any reports of a UFO yesterday.

The girls said they were driving south on Market Street, returning to the Hopta residence at 200 Market St. from a restaurant where they purchased fish for Miss Hopta's brother, David, when they saw the UFO.

"I used to say that people who saw UFO's were looney until I saw one today with my own eyes," Miss Hopta said.

"We really did see it," the girls declared.

"I know they're telling the truth because of their description," Miss Hopta's mother, Judith Shuey, said, claiming that she too once witnessed a UFO while living in Harrisburg.

Mrs. Shuey said she was living in Hall Manor, Harrisburg, during the summer of 1968 when she, along with many of her neighbors and passerbys, saw a UFO flying over trees near the development. She said the government sent a team of experts to the scene to check for any radiation and that the event was covered by newspapers and television stations.

Orange Object Seen in Sky; Poinsett County Authorities Baffled

By LAMAR JAMES

Gazette Staff

HARRISBURG — Several law enforcement officers and residents in Poinsett County saw a bright orange light in the sky about 8 p.m. Monday that appeared to hover and move either slowly or rapidly.

"We still don't know what it was," Sheriff Jim Carter said Wednesday. "I'd hate to speculate. I don't want to get into letting my imagination get away with me. It's just a big question mark."

Trumann Police Chief Jim Furnish figures it was a weather balloon.

Ken Zigenbein, with the National Weather Service in North Little Rock, said the light sounded like a high-altitude weather balloon reflecting sun rays, but he

said the National Weather Service in Palestine, Tex., has not released such a balloon in a week. He said the Weather Service in North Little Rock received a tele-

"We still don't know what it was. I'd hate to speculate. I don't want to get into letting my imagination get away with me. It's just a big question mark."

Jim Carter
Poinsett County sheriff

phone call about 8 p.m. Monday from a person at a Morrilton radio station asking what the object was.

The incident began with a call

to the Trumann police from a "lady who said it was directly over her house on Monroe Street," Furnish said.

When asked to describe the object, "she just said there was a light out there," according to Furnish. Officer David Sanders was sent to investigate. The woman pointed it out to him. By this time it was hovering or moving slowly over the First Baptist church on State Highway 69 just west of town, according to Sanders.

Sanders couldn't tell much about the object other than that it had a light and it didn't make any noise. Furnish said. Sheriff Carter said Sanders was "close to underneath it" and pointed his spotlight at the object, which appeared to be about 300 to 400 feet in the air, but there was no reflection off whatever was projecting the light.

The object began moving southwest away from Trumann.

The sheriff's office began getting calls — 20 to 25 in all — from persons who saw the light. Deputy Sheriff Larry Mills, saw it and tried to follow it on a county gravel road, but lost sight of it near Weiner.

Because there was no sound, he thought it was an airplane that

"I noticed it, but I wasn't going to say anything. You know how that goes."

James Walker
Tyronza police chief

had lost power and was "trying to stretch a glide." However, he determined it was moving too slowly for an airplane. He said if

it was a balloon it was moving against the wind.

"It looked like a very huge star," he said. "You couldn't see any revolving lights or any of that good science fiction stuff."

"The officers [Sanders and Mills] are taking quite a bit of ribbing from the other officers," Carter said, but "they seen what they seen. We're not talking about inexperienced officers."

Another person who saw the light was James Walker, chief of the Tyronza Police Department.

"I noticed it, but I wasn't going to say anything," he said. "You know how that goes." He watched it through a telescope he had with him and said it appeared to be a bright ball of orange light. He said he observed it about 30 or 40 minutes, then "all of a sudden it just went out, boom."

85,000 UFO Reports Later

Lima Center's Still Seeking An Answer

by Cathie Shaffer

There's just enough nip in the air to keep you inside the house on this fall evening.

You're settled in your most comfortable chair, luxuriating in the fact that, for once, you're home alone.

You forego the chance to watch any television show you want in favor of spending a couple of hours indulging in uninterrupted reading.

You're unaware of the deepening darkness until the dog, napping across the room on the sofa, suddenly sits up and starts to whine.

Startled, you look up from your book in time to see him jump off the couch and head toward the kitchen, still whining. Then you notice that the radio in the kitchen, which had been pouring out country music, has become staticky.

You lay your book down on the table by your chair, little prickles of uneasiness tingling your spine.

It intensifies as you hear the pigs squealing out in the new confinement barn. You know it's no animal out there with them; the building's shut up tight.

Trying to forget you're all alone, you ease yourself out of the chair and slowly head for the kitchen. As you pass the light switch, you flip it on.

But it doesn't flood the room with light as brilliantly as it usually does.

The dog's starting to run from room to room now, still whining, and the tingling along your spine is joined by a knot in your stomach.

You're afraid.

But as you head toward the back door, you close your hand around the long flashlight always kept on the kitchen counter. Switching it on, you force yourself to grasp the doorknob and turn it.

You push the door open a little. The air feels funny, like electricity might if it turned into wind. It's a calm night, yet tree limbs sway and bushes rustle.

You close the door instead of pushing it open and

head back for the living room, seeking the familiar comfort of your old plaid chairs and the child-scarred tables. You wish you had the courage to at least look out the window.

Instead, you go to the phone, deciding to call the sheriff. But then you hesitate.

You wonder what he'll think when you tell him that you really haven't seen or heard a thing, but that the dog's whining, the pigs are squealing and the radio's full of static.

Then, suddenly, you hear the silence. The quietness is interrupted only by Loretta Lynn's plaintive wail about a cheating husband.

It's over, you think gratefully. Whatever was happening isn't happening anymore.

But when you reach down to pat the dog, you realize your hand is shaking.

Your heart is thudding and your pulse is racing.

You know you should take that flashlight, walk out to the hog barn and make sure everything's all right.

Gradually, the fear subsides.

And, rather sheepishly, you pick up your book again.

Looking back, you're glad you didn't call the sheriff.

And you decide not to tell anyone, not even your family, about this.

You don't want them to think you're a crackpot.

He'll Listen

Incidents very similar to these have been reported to a man who definitely is not a crackpot. His name is John Timmerman, and he's vice president for marketing for a Lima savings and loan association.

He's also the chairman of the Center for UFO Studies, which has its education and business office on Market Street in Lima.

The Center was founded in 1973 by Dr. J. Allen Hynek, consultant to the U.S. Air Force for their Project Bluebook for many years. He was also the technical advisor for the hit movie "Close Encounters of the Third Kind".

John's involvement with UFOs began when, as a college student in 1947, he read a report of a sighting. From then on, whenever he saw a similar report, he'd read and clip it.

He also did some studying up on the subject through books and periodicals.

"I joined the Center as an associate soon after its founding, but I never got involved until after I sold my heating and cooling contracting business in 1978," he explains.

"Since I had some time, I offered to work as a volunteer. And, for nearly a year, that's what I did."

In 1979, he was asked to become a member of the Center's governing board. Flattered, he accepted the post and began traveling to Evanston, Illinois, for meetings at the Center's office.

In 1980, he was asked to become chairman of the board. He spent over a year making frequent trips from his Ohio home to Evanston, trying to disseminate information about the Center and help raise the funds necessary to keep the non-profit institution going.

"When we were faced with a rent hike, we closed the office at Evanston and moved everything to Dr. Hynek's home," he explained. "And then it was just a research office."

"So we needed an information office. Since I was chairman and lived here in Lima, we opened it here—in my home."

After John and his wife moved to a different home, quarters were rented to house the business office.

It's just been moved again to a pleasant section of a stucco house on Market Street, where a sign in the window leads visitors into what's presently a hodgepodge of materials to be sorted and filed.

John apologizes as he hunts for the files and brochures he's seeking, explaining that the Center's two employees work only three days a week, and no one's had the time to get everything put away yet.

Finally he sits down at a

conference table, sunlight spilling in from the wide window behind him, and starts to talk about the Center.

"The government no longer accepts information on UFO sightings," he begins. "Instead, they refer callers to us or to one or two other interested agencies."

"We're unique in that we're not just a national center, but also an international one. We have investigators all over the world, and we attempt to correlate sightings as to the date, nature and location."

John's the first to admit that the subject of UFOs tends to stir up controversy ... and occasionally attracts unreliable witnesses.

"Sometimes people will give us an account of a sighting that seems quite legitimate," he explains. "But after we've taken our report, we find that the details may be different when we talk to him again, or that his neighbors and friends tell us he often has similar stories."

"Some people just simply invent UFO sightings or alien contacts. When I talk to someone like that, I give them the name of someone I'd like them to tell their story to—someone in the mental health field."

"Kooks" make up only a slight percentage of the sightings checked out by

the Center's investigators, however. There are about 85,000 cases on file, including a report made by Dick Minck of Bluffton.

He's a jewelry designer who jokingly refers to himself as the town's "Bohemian artist". A former Bluffton College instructor, he lives in a 100-year-old house with a wooden deck out back, a charming home chock-full of collectibles and nostalgia pieces.

As a good friend of John's, Dick knows of his interest in UFOs. So, a few weeks after his return from a trip to California, he told his friend what happened while he was out there.

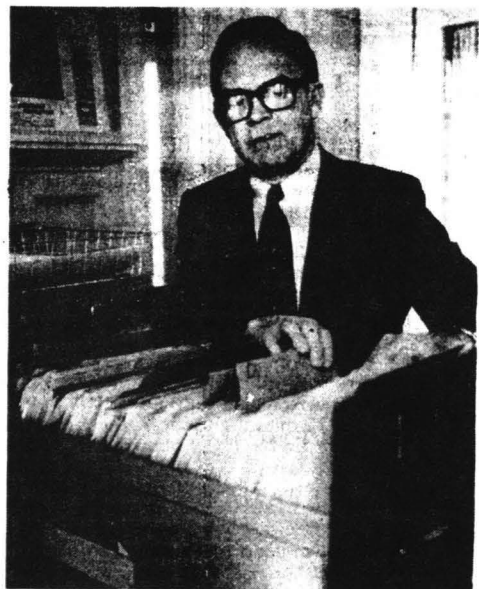
"I went to visit my niece in October, 1981 at Walnut Creek, 20 miles east of San Francisco," Dick begins to tell the story yet again. "She and my nephew had just moved into a new home with this gigantic wall that had absolutely nothing on it."

"As anyone can tell by looking at my house, blank space drives me crazy. So I suggested we go find something for the wall. And someone told us about rugs and tapestries in San Jose."

So on a bright and sunny afternoon, they climbed in the car on a rug-hunting trip. Dick left his camera behind, since he wasn't planning any sightseeing.

"We were about halfway between Walnut Creek and San Ramon, another little tiny town maybe 15 miles to the south, in the middle of a hilly area, when I saw something in the sky above one hill," he continues.

"It was just there, 300 to 400 feet above the crest of one hill, maybe three to five



John's still sorting files since the Center's business office has just been moved into its new quarters. Interested persons can stop by during the day on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday to look over the library of materials and ask questions.

miles away. I had no idea what it was."

The best description he can give is that it was just a round sphere of bright metal, more like aluminum than steel, glinting softly in the California sunlight.

It was just suspended there in mid-air, like a huge marble.

"We were driving along, neither of us saying anything, when I saw it," Dick said. "I looked at it, looked away and looked back. It was still there."

"Finally, I asked my niece if she saw anything. And, of course, she did—the same thing."

They watched as they drove, both amazed that the whatever-it-was could just hang like that. Finally, they found a scenic overlook and pulled off.

Some cars drove past as they stood there and watched the thing in the sky. But others pulled over and joined them.

"There were probably 10 or 15 of us at last," Dick recalls. "We were all watching it and talking, trying to figure out just what in the world it was."

"I probably watched it for a total of half an hour to 45 minutes, and it didn't move at all. It didn't do anything!"

Dick was looking directly at the big metal object when it finally took off. He knew then that his first suspicion, that it was a hot air balloon minus the basket, was completely off the mark.

"It just disappeared," he says, shaking his head at the memory. "One second it was there, and then it was GONE!"

"I said, 'Look, it's moving!' and before the others could turn around, it was gone."

"It moved at an absolutely uncanny speed horizontally across and behind the next hill. It was gone in less time than it takes to snap your fingers."

Almost Perfect
Dick and his niece avidly read the papers that night.

But there was no story about a UFO sighting.

There were no reports on the television or radio.

But Dick knows it wasn't swamp gas, a weather balloon or mass hallucination, some of the more popular theories to explain UFO sightings.

According to the Center's criteria, Dick's sighting was nearly perfect.

He is a very reliable witness, had other witnesses to the sighting, and could provide at least one name and address.

He gave a good description of the UFO, knew the location and could tell how far it was from the ground and the horizon.

He was able to make a sketch of the object.

The only way it could have been a better sighting would have been for him to have taken a picture.

Dick admits that had he been alone when he saw the UFO, he might have hesitated about talking about it. But since there were other witnesses, he told his friends.

And he told television audiences.

"I appear regularly on a show here on the Lima station, and I mentioned it," he said. "I was also part of a special report on UFOs done by Channel 24 from Toledo."

"Surprisingly enough, no one called or wrote the station after hearing me. I thought it would bring a lot of response."

Don't Panic

John gives speeches to many different types of groups on the Center and UFOs, and one thing he tells them is how to handle the situation if they happen to spot something they believe might be a UFO.

"Take a picture, if possible," he says. "Try to observe it from different positions, and try to get another observer. Call a neighbor out if you have to."

"Check the environment. See if leaves are falling or

(continued on page 7)



Dick's spent a lot of time looking up since he spotted a UFO in California in 1981. That's the only time he's ever seen one—but he hopes it's not the last!

(continued from page 6 - FARMLAND NEWS, Archbold, OH - Nov. 20, 1984)

bushes moving. Afterwards, check for unusual marks on the ground. "Remember if you see lights—where they were and what colors. Listen for an absence of normal sound or the presence of abnormal sound. Decide if you feel unusual heat. "Make a sketch. Do it while the object is there, if possible, or as soon after the sighting as possible if you can't do it on the spot. And get the names and addresses of other witnesses." Witnesses are contacted, asked to fill out a questionnaire and asked for character references. Those reports are filed and can be kept confidential. "Sometimes there will be a rash of some type of sightings at one particular time, but not in one certain area," John said. "There may be sightings reported along the eastern coast of

the U.S. at the same time similar objects are reported in South America or Africa. "That's why it's so important to report it." But don't call the government if you see something out of the ordinary. Call the Center for UFO Studies. "The government won't talk about UFOs," John said. "Project Bluebook has been ended, and although they refer people to us, they don't give us any information they have. "So, sometimes, you begin to wonder whether all those rumors of the government holding alien bodies and alien ships might be true...."

Interested persons can contact John through the Center for UFO Studies, P.O. Box 1621, Lima, Ohio 45802.

Divers hunt UFO off Lummi Island

By ERIC THOMAS
Of the Herald Staff

A scuba diving team is scheduled to search the waters off Lummi Island this morning for an unidentified flying object that reportedly splashed down last July.

The Banzi II recovery project — named for the yell the diving team makes upon hitting the water — will begin about 8 a.m. and possibly continue until early Sunday morning, according to organizer and diver John Walker.

Additional dives may be made Sunday afternoon, Walker said.

The recovery team includes four divers, a doctor, a representative of a UFO club and several eyewitnesses of the 3:35 a.m., July 27 splashdown.

Working out of the 23-foot vessel Banzi I, divers expect to descend as deep as 270 feet in an attempt to locate and recover the remnants of an orange-colored fireball witnesses say landed in Rosario Strait between Lummi and Eliza Islands.

The fireball reportedly sent up a plume of water 75 feet high, then sank and bubbled. The entry location was estimated at about 1,000 yards southwest of Lummi Island.

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

Walker, a former Green Beret, is hoping the \$25,000 operation will bring fame and fortune, not necessarily in that order.

"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. Even if we don't find it, it's the first time (such a salvage operation) has been done."

Rich Rogala, officer in charge of the U.S. Coast Guard station in Bellingham, said there were no reports of missing planes or space junk crashing in the area at the time of the July sighting.

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

Walker said he believed the object was a piece of space junk, a UFO, or, less likely, an airplane that somehow came in under local radar signals and crashed. "There is enough documentation for us to spend a lot of money on this," he said. "The (witnesses) are not crackpots."

Rogala agreed. "There is no doubt something went in but I can't begin to tell you what it was," he said. "It's possible it was a meteorite — there were reports of meteor activity in (the western skies) about that time. I can hardly wait (to hear about the search). I hope they find something."

The dive site is known to have swift currents and, according to U.S. Coast Guard forecasts, could be pounded today with 25-knot wind gusts and snow showers.

It's been a relatively quiet year for UFO sightings

along Pumphouse Road, he passed three panicked cattle headed in the opposite direction. A short time later his headlights fell on three figures standing in a depression next to the roadway.

According to the report, one of the figures moved to the center of the road. It was described as seven feet tall with a "very long face and a long pointy nose. His skin was very white as if covered by flour. The upper lip appeared to be pulled back in a permanent snarl and fine teeth were visible. The impression was that the individual did not have or had a very small lower lip.

(The person) drove around the individual in the road and headed home as fast as he could drive," according to the report.

While driving away, his vehicle was bathed in a bright light by an airborne object following the truck. The light dimmed by the time he reached home, the reported stated.

A report on the incident concluded the witness did not appear to be making up the story and he did not want any publicity.

"In short, this is one of those cases where no assignment of belief or disbelief should or can be made. It is reasonable to expect that something very strange did happen to (him). Maybe time will add some more understanding to the case."

time the intensity of the light would brighten and diminish, but Strum said she never determined the direct cause of the light.

"Every time it began to brighten, I kept thinking now I was going to see it," she said. Eventually, the light simply faded away, she said.

Vogel, whose job took him to the remote isolated regions of the reservation, said more than once he was swept by an overpowering sense of uneasiness. "A few times I'd get a feeling I had no business being where I was. It was just like walking into a dark room and you have a feeling that someone else is in the room," he said.

Vogel said when those feelings struck, he would leave the area. Inevitably a fire spotter would report a sighting in the area he had just left, he said.

Vogel said several fire spotters said they, too, had experienced similar feelings.

Only the frequency of sightings made the area unique, he said. "There is nothing on the reservation that hasn't been reported in other places," he said.

Like other places, there have been reports of encounters with strange beings. Vogel shared a copy of one report under the condition the witness not be identified.

A Toppenish area man reported that on Dec. 16, 1976, while driving west

speck or series of specks against a black background.

Sometimes the intensity of the lights were too great to look at, let alone clearly photograph, said Dorothea Strum, a Yakima resident and 23-year veteran fire spotter.

Generally, the lights appeared only long enough to catch the eye before disappearing, Strum said. Sometimes there were reports of unexplained flashes of light from deep inside canyons, yet no fires were reported. Other times the lights would dart around ridge tops at high speeds, shift directions, break up and later reunite, she said.

"Airplanes can't make turns like that. I can tell what are car lights and what aren't car lights," Strum said.

Occasionally, the lights would hover for longer periods of time, once for almost a half hour, Strum said.

Strum said lights usually didn't frighten her. But there was one notable exception. It took place several years ago when she was manning the Sophia Lookout atop Toppenish Ridge. Awakened in the middle of the night, Strum said she saw a cloud-like object outside her tower. It had an intense brightness that appeared to emanate from behind the object.

"It lit up the whole tower. I could see the pencils on my desk. I was real uneasy during the 20 minutes to half hour I watched it," she said. During that



Craig Trolanello

From the
Lower Valley

towers in the area. Vogel says he and nearly all his fire spotters saw strange objects or lights during throughout the 1970s and into the early 1980s.

"They (fire spotters) had seen things that looked like rockets coming out of canyons," Vogel recalls.

Vogel began collecting reports on the dozens of sightings in about 1972. His notebook containing interviews and various news clippings now fill a 3-1/2-inch-thick binder. "I'm not one who sees a UFO behind every tree. I've never let it really bug me, or let it become a fetish, it's more a hobby. I never came up with a conclusion other than it is something that the U.S. government isn't doing," he said. Vogel has also collected dozens of photographs, some taken by him, others by fire spotters.

None of the photographs show a classic "flying saucer" or disk-shaped appearance. Most simply resemble a burned out white, orange or reddish

WHITE SWAN — It was once considered a hotbed of the unexplained.

For years, a remote, roadless 2,800-square mile area of rugged hills and deep canyons located near Toppenish Ridge east of White Swan served as a natural setting for the mysterious. During the early 1970s, blinding lights were reported zigzagging across the sky almost nightly. There were even reports of encounters of the third kind.

In 1973, it was termed one of the busiest spots in the world for the number of UFO reports. It attracted such noted investigators as Dr. J. Allen Hyneck, a former consultant to the Air Force's UFO study known as Project Blue Book.

But in the mid-1970s the numbers of sightings began dropping. This year, less than a handful of sightings have been reported.

"Why it was such a hotbed and why sightings have decreased we don't know. But we do know they have decreased world-wide," said Toppenish resident Bill Vogel.

"They were so common in the early 1970s I got tired of taking pictures of them," Vogel said.

Before retiring in 1981 as staff fire control officer for the Yakima Indian Nation, Vogel supervised the fire spotters who manned the isolated watch

Walker said he planned to make the first deep-water dive himself about 6 p.m.

Divers must use lights in the pitch-black darkness 200 feet below the surface and will communicate with those on the surface via radio, Walker said.

The adventure will be recorded with a video camera.

Walker said Banzi II team members waited until now to make the dive because of organizational complications and because the Coast Guard would not allow them to investigate the incident until they had completed their own investigation.

Coast Guard officials in Seattle and Bellingham denied conducting an extended investigation or limiting Walker's efforts. Rogala said as far as he knew, anybody could

have begun investigating the incident the day after the splashdown was reported.

Part of the funding for the Banzi II project comes from The Fund for UFO Research out of Mount Rainier, Md., and also from MUFON, a Texas-based UFO organization.

Other sponsors include Metal Goods, a division of Alcan Alumininum, Rarig Media Center, a motion picture distributor, and the Key Motel in Bellingham, which is providing lodging.

Without sponsors to help defray costs for fuel, filter systems, diving equipment, cameras and other gear, Walker estimated Banzi II could have cost him as much as \$40,000.

Puget Sound UFO mystery; here one day, gone the next

By Wayne Lee
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

A UFO is MIA in Washington State. Last week, a local scuba diving recovery team allegedly located the mysterious object that supposedly sank in Puget Sound last summer. Over the weekend, though, the darn thing disappeared.

"They went out to the same spot yesterday and it's gone," said a befuddled Bonnie Papetti, whose husband, Dominic, skips the recovery vessel "Diane." "It's really very, very strange. Either they were looking in the wrong spot or it got out [of the mud] under its own power or the current swept it away or the Navy came along and took it."

The object, described as an orange-colored fireball, reportedly splashed down last July 27. Witnesses say it flew horizontally above the waves, took a right turn into the water — sending up a 75-foot-high splash — then finally sank and bubbled. Since that time, it reportedly has been resting in the mud, 270 feet below the surface of Rosario Strait between Lummi and Eliza Islands, just outside Bellingham Bay.

A Bellingham-based U.S. Coast Guard vessel searched the area following the sighting but found no debris or other evidence of a crash. Boatwain's Mate 1st Class Richard Rogala, who is in charge of the Coast Guard station, said there were no reports of missing planes or of "space junk" entering the atmosphere on or around the time of the sighting. The final Coast Guard report labeled the incident "a flare sighting."

Radar reports from the nearby Whidby Island Naval Air Station also proved negative for July 27.

"Personally, I don't think there's anything down there," said Petty Officer 2nd Class David Garrison of the Bellingham Coast Guard station.

Still, many believe there really is a saucer in the frigid, murky depths. Eyewitnesses include several reputable area residents.

"There is no doubt something went in, but I can't begin to tell you what it was," Mr. Rogala told the Bellingham Herald.

"It's possible it was a meteorite — there were reports of meteor activity in [the western skies] about that time. I can hardly wait [to hear about the search]. I hope they find something."

Since then, divers have found something. The problem is they still don't know exactly what. Sonar readouts last week positively identified a roundish, 30-to-35-foot-diameter object that is neither rock, wood nor fish.

Last summer, a local commercial fisherman claimed he caught the object in his gill net and tried unsuccessfully to raise it to the surface.

"All we know is that a fiery object went

into Puget Sound and nobody knows what it is," said Robert Gribble of Seattle's Phenomena Research, an organization that usually gets about eight UFO sighting reports per day. Mr. Gribble said four different witnesses to the July 27 incident contacted his organization. Their reports were unusual, he said, in that each told of the object's 90-degree turn into the water.

On Dec. 31, with temperatures in the teens, two divers from the Banzi II recovery project dove into the darkness below. When they returned, their differing descriptions of the object caused still more confusion.

John Walker, original organizer of the expedition, described the thing as a gold-colored, satellite-shaped object with a clasp at one end. Richard Burke said it was orange and looked like an upside-down teacup with a cavity in the top. He also said he had stood on the thing and that he felt it humming. When he surfaced, his diving boots were covered with a reddish dust, which has yet to be analyzed.

Both divers agreed that the object was made of some kind of metal and said it was stuck at an angle in the mud. They also said that because their dive was shortened by cold temperatures and hampered by the darkness at that depth — they could only see an arm's length away — they had difficulty making a more thorough examination.

They had wanted to attempt to raise the object with a deck winch that day, but time ran out. They also discussed tying a buoy to it so they could find it again but rejected the idea because they didn't want other treasure-hunters to make off with their prize.

Sam Sudore, owner of Northern Pacific Seafoods, took over as project spokesman after a dispute with Mr. Walker last week. Mr. Sudore has since stopped releasing information on the project. Mrs. Papetti said she thought he feared that the entire undertaking would make him look ridiculous if the object proved not to be a true UFO.

And now that the object has up and disappeared, what will they do? "We're really down and disgusted about the whole thing," said Mrs. Papetti.

Mr. Papetti, reportedly the only person who knows the exact whereabouts of the object, has become so engrossed in the search that he missed the last week of fishing. He has installed a new trawl net capable of lifting 4-5 tons.

He has returned to the fishing grounds this week but plans to make a few sweeps for the object tomorrow or Wednesday. Then, on Thursday and Friday, he plans to resume the hunt full-time.

"He's still real excited about it," said Mrs. Papetti. "He's not gonna give up until he's dragged the whole area and he's found it in the net or on the Fathometer."

UFOs have just drifted into space

BY JAMES P. MEYER
Post-Crescent staff writer

It's as if the whole thing slipped into a time warp. Or got sucked into a black hole. Or creased over to another dimension. Or something.

Only about a decade ago, give or take a few years, the newspapers were replete with accounts of unidentified flying objects, close encounters and the like. Internationally, a Swiss named Erich Von Daniken was making a mint with books that said early man had been visited by "gods" from outer space.

Closer to home, on Coolidge Avenue in Appleton, a group called the UFO Education Center was propagating the belief, apparently in all seriousness, that the Venusians had landed and were walking among us.

A check of any well-stocked newspaper morgue will show that until about the mid-1970s, there was plenty of interest in UFOs

"Space is now much less of an unknown than it was 10 or 15 years ago."

LU Professor Bruce Hetzler

and all that those three letters imply. Certainly in the Fox Cities area there are plenty of newspaper accounts to substantiate that:

1) Visitors from other worlds were looking down on us, or;

2) A lot of people saw, or thought they saw, strange lights in the sky that defied any immediate rational explanation.

And then, bang! Interest vanished as if it were on the receiving end of a ray gun. Or so it seems in retrospect.

What happened? Bruce Hetzler, associate professor of psychology at Lawrence University in Appleton, doesn't know for sure why UFOs no longer capture the popular fancy. But he's willing to hazard a guess that it has something to do with a more astute, scientifically inclined public.

"I think we have an interaction of a lot of things, but beyond that the public is much more sophisticated about outer space," Hetzler said recently.

"We have people landing on the moon. We have space ships landing on Mars. We have the space shuttle flights, which have become routine. Space is now much less of an unknown than it was 10 or 15 years ago."

Hetzler said UFOs are a lot like Rorschach tests: "The person who sees them can ascribe whatever he wants to them."

These days, he said there seems to be more of an inclination to ascribe known phenomena, rather than jumping to conclusions about visitors from outer space.

"Now they say, 'Maybe that was the space shuttle.' Or, 'Maybe that was a satellite,'" Hetzler said.

Although Robert Brunken's perspective on UFOs differs from that of Hetzler, he agrees that public interest in the subject has slackened. And he agrees that a more sophisticated public probably has something to do with it.

Brunken, director of the Appleton YMCA, is what might be called an avocational ufologist. He's been interested in the subject ever since he began reading science fiction as a kid and has been collecting UFO articles for years.

Brunken said much of what has been passed off as evidence of extraterrestrial life can be dismissed as "Fig Newtons of the imagination," but he doesn't exclude the possibility of intelligent life on other planets.

"God has an amazing and mysterious universe, and we don't understand it all yet," he said.

Brunken agrees that interest in UFOs isn't what it was, in part because of space travel and space exploration.

"Now, when you see a strange light in the sky, we've heard about satellites," he said. "We are all more sophisticated, I think, and perhaps we're better educated."

One of Wisconsin's more celebrated UFO students, Eugene Lundholm of Superior, also thinks interest in the subject has waned.

Lundholm, head of technical processing for the UW-Superior library and a former teacher of parapsychology, once investigated a purported UFO landing for Northwestern University astronomer J. Allen Hynek. Hynek has long been regarded as one of the world's leading UFO investigators.

Lundholm, who said his interest in UFOs has waned along with that of the public, thinks it would take "something big" to bring things back to where they were in the 1960s and '70s.

"I would say some of the sightings have become ho-hum to the authorities. They want something definite, some evidence. And it just isn't happening," he said.

"There's nothing hitting the newspapers. It's going to take something big before the public gets back with it, I think."

Lundholm, using roughly the same reasoning as Brunken, doesn't dismiss the possibility of advanced extraterrestrial life.

The universe, he noted, is "pretty big," and that makes the odds for advanced extraterrestrial life quite good. Lundholm said we'd be a "little egotistic" to think otherwise.

He said one of the problems with UFOs is that the subject invariably attracts charlatans. As an example he cited the late George Adamski, who wrote of having personal encounters with human-like creatures from Venus.

Lundholm said Adamski has now been "thoroughly and utterly rejected by everyone."

As a matter of fact, though, there still are small UFO "watchers" groups that revere the memory of George Adamski and others who are held in equally low esteem by the scientific community.

An area woman told this reporter Adamski is held in "great esteem" by her watchers group. The woman, who shall remain nameless, also claims to have met "humans" from other planets in the solar system and to have suffered "ray burns" from a space craft that followed her car.

All of which gets back to the psychological dimension of UFOs. Although final answers on such weighty questions as life on other planets probably isn't due for an answer any time soon, LU's Hetzler said more study could be done now on the psychological aspects of UFOs.

"I think that a lot more research is needed on UFOs," he said. "The very nature of UFOs makes it very difficult; you're always going by eye-witness and second hand testimony, and there's a lot of psychological research that indicates that testimony can be manipulated by the questions that are asked. Given that, it's important that more trained psychologists be involved to separate fact from fantasy."

COURIER-EXPRESS, Du Bois, PA - Dec. 1, 1984

UFOs Sighted At Sabula

By DAN SMREKAR
SABULA — By 7 a.m., yesterday the gathering grew to eight people, all standing and shivering in the cold and gazing intently into the frosty sky.

The first person out her trailer in the morning, Sheila Wray was getting set for work when in the dark 6:20 a.m. sky there appeared five strange lights.

According to her mother Joanna, "Sheila ran back in and got me up to make me see the lights."

Mrs. Wray described the lights as red in the center and just hovering in the sky, three together in one area and two separate ones. She said they looked at the lights with binoculars and the closest one had a red ring around it while the inside changed colors.

"It was exciting," exclaimed Mrs. Wray. "It wasn't frightening, just exciting to see. They were about as high as an airplane, but they just hung there. When an airplane appeared in the sky the three lights together changed from a horizontal (configuration) to a vertical one."

The Wrays live on Eddinger Rd. on the Sabula mountain and

the objects they were observing were hovering over the Rockton area. They could not hear the objects making a sound.

The Wrays called their neighbors (the Dodds) and Brenda came out to watch. Then, down the road the Joe Volosky household was alerted.

Sherry Volosky said, "It was really something to see. Joe (her husband) stood out in the cold for five minutes without even a shirt on."

The Voloskys got coats on and continued the watch. However, only two lights were left. The three that were together just disappeared.

The Fred Voloskys were alerted and Mary Jane came out to watch while her husband Fred, a Sandy Township policeman working nights, reportedly refused the invitation and stayed in bed.

Said Sherry Volosky, "The lights weren't from an airplane. They weren't stars although there were plenty of those out."

The DuBois state police were alerted at their substation and the police advised that the watchers go back to bed.

All those who watched the lights, however, were enthralled by the spectacular sighting.

Several said they would be up again this morning to see if the lights return.

Reportedly arriving just in time to miss the sighting was Leo Pernesky and by shortly after 7 a.m. the group of observers numbered eight.

DuBois Jefferson County Airport Manager Bud Scherer could offer no explanation for the sightings. "Over the years people from all walks of life, including those in the aviation field have made sightings," he said. "It was a beautiful morning and the atmosphere was clear and it is possible that tricks could have been played on the eyes. But that is not really an explanation."

Scherer said he knew the names of some of the people making the sightings and said they are believable. As far as the airport goes, aviation officials discussed the sightings but said that nothing unusual had been reported by any pilots or aviation people.

It appears that as long as people look upwards there will be UFOs. And the people along Eddinger Rd. in Sabula are delighted to have seen the strange circular objects with changing lights.

Jan. 2, 1985

UFO hunt: Something found, but quest delayed

BELLINGHAM (AP) — Members of an underwater expedition searching for an unidentified flying object reported to have splashed down last summer say they have sighted something off Lummi Island, but are postponing activities for lack of money.

There was some confusion Monday among the Seattle divers as to what was sighted, and there was no separate confirmation that the UFO of last summer was the item spotted on the bottom of Puget Sound between Lummi and Ediz Islands, near Bellingham.

A saucer-like object was sighted Sunday, said divers, but seven

hours of searching aboard a 58-foot fishing boat Monday yielded no clues, said diver Richard Burke. He and another diver went into the water Monday, but reportedly found nothing.

Burke and another diver, John Walker, both reported seeing a strange object at a depth of about 180 feet in separate dives Sunday.

"It's not a boat and it's not a plane," said Walker. "It's not a rock and it's not wood. It's shaped like a satellite dish."

Burke described the object as an upside-down tea cup with a cavity in it, and both divers agreed there appeared to be a 4-inch lip around the edge of the

object.

However, on Monday the six-member group said it appeared Walker and Burke had observed different objects at different locations, because of differing locations and descriptions.

Burke lamented that members of the expedition had not placed a buoy to mark the location of the object that was apparently easily located Sunday.

Members of the group also reported Walker was no longer with them, following a Sunday night argument. They said Walker, with his pet pit bull, hitchhiked out of town.

Burke estimated that at least \$5,000 was needed to pay off

bulls accumulated during the three-day attempt to locate the UFO, which was reported last July by fishermen.

Sam Sudore, spokesman for the group and owner of Northern Pacific Seafoods in Bellingham, said, "We're not going to give up. We're going to go for it."

The Coast Guard had no plans to look at the find or to get involved in the search, Coast Guard spokesman Tom Pearson said Sunday.

Walker and another diver reportedly tried to film their find with an underwater video camera but were foiled by a burned-out spotlight bulb.

Austin Observatory Tracking West Texas UFO Activity

By Glen Larum
Pioneer editor

An oilfield driller, who one fellow worker described as "steady and solid as a rock", told *The Pioneer* in a telephone conversation Wednesday that he and two other rig workers watched an unusual flying object on successive nights early this week in an isolated portion of eastern Pecos County.

He pinpointed the sightings to an area close to Cannon Draw on the Cannon Ranch, just east of the Hat-A-Ranch's eastern boundary about 45 miles east of Fort Stockton.

The Hat-A is the site of a district Girl Scouts retreat.

His reports come on the heels of an observation which was reported Oct. 15 by an Austin area observatory, which photographically tracked "a strange, large object over West Texas."

The driller's sightings approximated the latitude on which the Oct. 15 object was tracked.

Ray Stanford, director of Project Starlight International, said observatory staffers 15 miles north of Austin tracked the earlier object on a coordinate which would run about 10 miles north of Sheffield, a community on the eastern edge of Pecos County.

"We think it was around 119 miles from Austin when it passed over the western horizon," Stanford said in a recent telephone conversation with *The Pioneer*.

Stanford had initially placed the object in the Pecos County area, but later corrected his calculations to put it about 80 miles west of Llano during the observation.

That object, according to the observatory's preliminary data, appeared to be about 3000 feet long, with what photographs suggest are smaller objects around it, Stanford said.

"The object was neither a weather balloon nor a satellite," he said. It appeared to be about 19 miles high.

According to Stanford, it was not moving in the direction in which it was pointed (along its horizontal axis), and seemed to be stationary for some time.

Stanford called it "very puzzling" and said he felt certain it was technological in origin, which means it was not a natural phenomena.

A Llano area skywatcher also observed the object and took several photographs of it, Stanford said.

He indicated that Project Starlight International had 21 pictures—some with a 10-power lens and others with a 600mm telephoto.

The PSI observatory has been working since 1973 to attempt to photograph what are popularly referred to as UFOs, Stanford explained.

He described the object as emanating a varying color beam, and appeared to emit an electric-blue beam.

"We think it was in the earth's shadow," he said. "It was a beautiful pink-orange."

The driller's sighting was of a much smaller craft, which he said appeared to be about 40-to-50 feet in diameter. It was viewed at between 8 p.m. and 8:15 p.m. both Sunday and Monday evenings, he said, and appeared in the same location.

At first reluctant to discuss the incidents, the oilfield worker said he went back to his rigsite to get other witnesses.

"All I can do is tell (you) what I saw," he said.

He described the object as being dark on top and dark on the bottom—a definite mass—with a band of lights rotating around its middle.

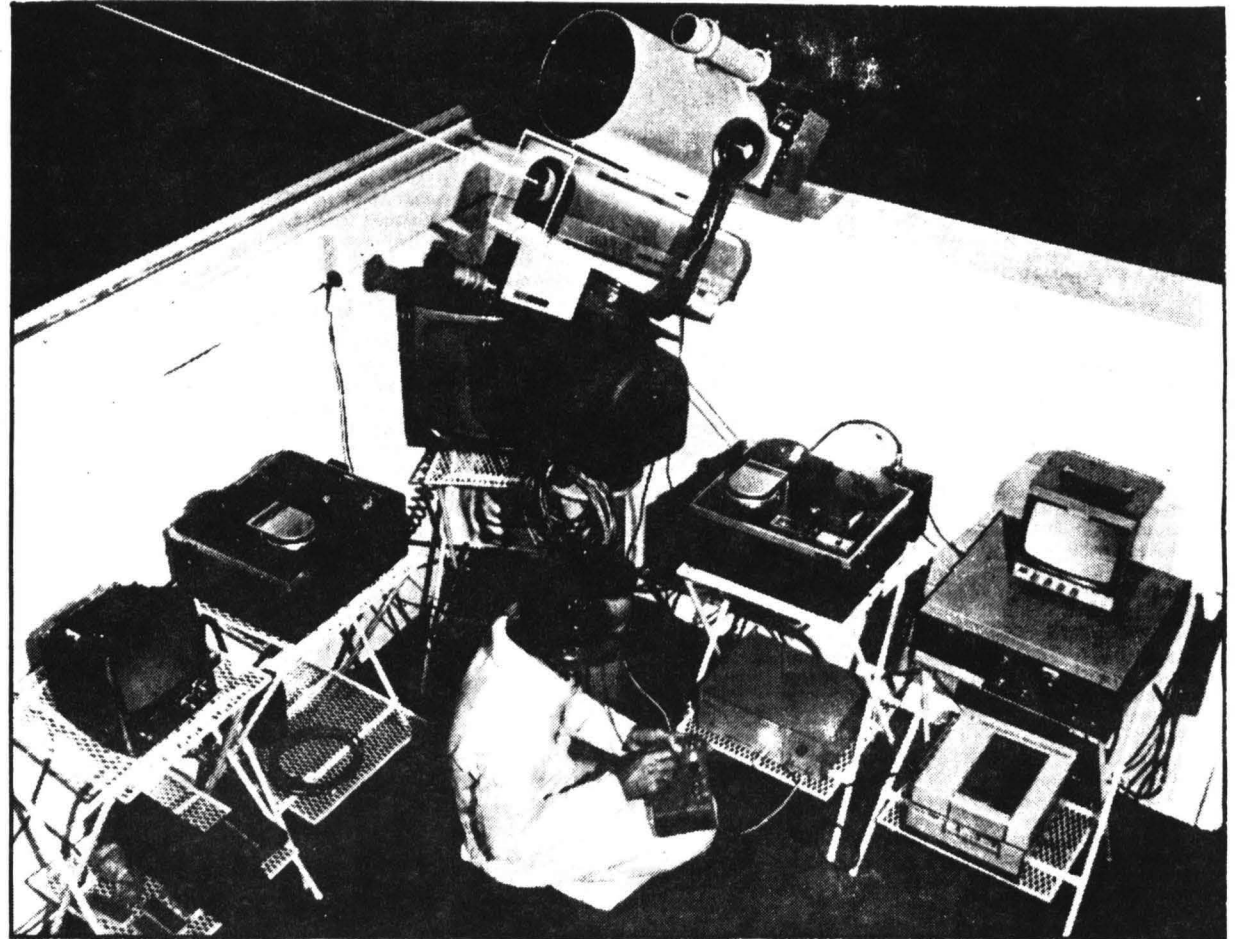
The light band, which appeared to make about a half-second revolution, according to the driller, alternated "white, red and a bluish-green."

"It reminded me of a police light," he explained.

When he first spotted the object through his pickup window, he thought it was a helicopter with lights on its rotary blades, but realized moments later that it was something entirely different.

It hovered about 1000 feet off the ground and appeared to sway back-and-forth, like a ball on a tether, he said.

He said the craft made no sound. "Not even a swish," he emphasized.



Tracking Station

A member of Project Starlight International's observatory staff tests electronic equipment at its tracking station 15 miles north of Austin. The observatory uses telescopes,

laser, video and electronic equipment to track events like the sighting of the unusual flying object seen Oct. 15 over West Texas.

PIONEER, Ft. Stockton, TX - Dec. 16, 1984

It moved slowly westward both evenings, eventually disappearing over the horizon, he added.

The driller reported the observation to his company's Midland headquarters.

Project Starlight International had sought witnesses for its Oct. 15 sighting, and is continuing its scientific study of the initial sighting.

Around Pa., They Keep Track Of 'Unknowns'

By Nancy Eshelman
Sunday News Staff Writer

Two Lebanon County men hoping to find success as trappers got more than they bargained for while checking their traps one morning two weeks ago.

From out of the skies came a metallic-looking, oval-shaped object which hovered near the low cloud layer. Suddenly, the men said, a ball of yellow light beamed down from the object, appearing to land about 300 feet from where the men stood.

While one of them claimed to

have heard a humming noise above, the two did not hang around to investigate.

"They were definitely very shook up," said Stan Gordon, who heads a Greensburg-based organization called the Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained (PASU).

What those trappers didn't realize, he said, was "these things go on much more than people think."

Gordon's organization, he said, serves as a state-wide clearing house for reports of UFOs, mystery animals such as Bigfoot

and other sorts of bizarre sightings. Such instances, he said, occur statewide and involve people from all walks of life, including doctors, nurses, police and pilots. "It's hard to believe," Gordon said, "these people are all making things up."

PASU, Gordon said, received reports of various phenomena during every month of 1984, although sightings tended to increase between June and October.

For example, he said, last Jan. 28 just before 7 p.m. sightings of a bright green fireball in the sky were reported across east-

ern Pennsylvania and northern New Jersey. Investigation proved the spectators saw a bolide, a brilliant exploding meteor, Gordon said.

Ten days later, another bright fireball was reported in York County and environs. It, too, proved to be explainable, but not everything is.

Of the 300-plus incidents reported to PASU last year, one of the more puzzling involves a diamond-shaped object spotted by a Mechanicsburg woman who was walking her dog. On Feb. 29 the woman watched as the tractor

trailer-sized object moved across the sky toward the northeast. Her dog, too, was said to have stopped in its tracks to gaze at the strange object.

About two months later, about 4:15 p.m. while skies were still bright, two people driving near the Valley Forge exit of the turnpike were frightened by a five to seven-foot-wide, disc-shaped object which seemed to drop from the sky and head directly toward their car. Suddenly, they said, the object veered off to the right and disappeared over a meadow.

On July 27, the pilot and co-

pilot of a corporate jet flying over Clarion County about 11:30 p.m. claimed an unusual object flew side-by-side with them for about two minutes. The object, the men said, descended from a higher elevation. They described it as cylinder-shaped, 40 to 50 feet in length, with a bright flame at its rear.

When such happenings are reported to PASU, Gordon said, the all-volunteer organization attempts to send investigators to interview witnesses and collect any

available physical evidence. The organization, Gordon said, maintains a computer file of incidents and shares information with researchers in other locations.

Among the sightings investigated by the organization are those in the field of cryptozoology, the study of hidden or unknown animals. Every year, Gordon said, sightings of Bigfoot-like creatures are reported.

People also report seeing cougars (mountain lions), which have been officially extinct in Pennsylvania since about 1890, and black panthers which don't exist in this part of the world.

During the summer months of last year, numerous reports of mountain lion sightings came from seven Pennsylvania counties, Gordon said. Several people in Armstrong County claimed to have seen a cougar at close range during daylight hours. A PASU team dispatched to the area made a cast of a cougar footprint, he said.

Although Gordon has been intrigued with strange phenomena since hearing a radio show on the subject at the age of 10, he has personally never experienced such sightings, he said.

Many of those who have are reluctant to say so, as they fear ridicule. "People are afraid to come forward and talk about it," Gordon said. For that reason, his organization honors the confidentiality of reports made to it and of the identity of its members and investigators.

Gordon, an electronic technician, said his organization is comprised of people with backgrounds in science, engineering, technology and medicine. Their reports, he said, are shared with the Mutual UFO Network, a research organization based in Seguin, Texas.

Anyone who wishes to report sightings or discover more about PASU may reach Gordon at 6 Oakhill Ave., Greensburg, Pa. 15601.

Skeptical

Editor tracks inconsistencies in Arizona sighting, other stories of contact with UFOs

By RICHARD R. ROBERTSON
Arizona Republic Staff

Nine years ago, six men thinning trees in northern Arizona claimed to have watched in horror as 22-year-old Travis Walton ran toward a flying saucer and disappeared into a flash of blue light.

Navajo County authorities launched an unsuccessful search, and news accounts about the mysterious disappearance began appearing.

Five days later, Walton was found collapsed from exhaustion in a Heber phone booth a few miles from where he disappeared. He told an incredible tale of being aboard a large spacecraft where he was examined by small, hairless creatures who wore coveralls.

The astounding story received considerable attention worldwide, and Walton was interviewed on network television talk shows. Walton became a celebrity among UFO believers.

There were skeptics, of course, including this reporter who was among those who covered the strange story for *The Arizona Republic* in 1975.

Among the most skeptical was Philip J. Klass, a senior avionics editor at *Aviation Week and Space Technology*, who has devoted nearly 20 years to debunking UFO stories. He has written two books on the subject; the first, *UFOs — Identified*, was published in 1967.

His latest, *UFOs — The Public Deceived*, goes into considerable,

UFOs: THE PUBLIC DECEIVED
By Philip J. Klass (Prometheus Books, 310 pp., \$17.95)

and sometimes pointless, detail about the Travis Walton abduction and several other cases, concluding they were hoaxes or misinterpretations of natural events.

Klass provides his readers with plausible explanations for most UFO sightings. He attributes most to optical illusions such as lights on airplanes that appear to be moving in unusual ways and to psychological miscues such as stationary planets that seem to move.

Klass quickly dismisses those, then hammers in on another plausible explanation: fraud. That's how he explains the Walton kidnapping.

He began his investigation shortly after Walton was found, telling this reporter he intended to prove the abduction was a hoax. However, his book never provides a good explanation of just how the disappearance may have been concocted in front of witnesses.

Instead, the "proof" that the disappearance was a hoax amounts to documenting inconsistencies in comments by Walton and the others involved. Klass questions whether their actions before, during and after the incident were rational. Deciding they weren't, Klass concludes they must have been engaged in a conspiracy. Additionally, Klass came up with what he considers a financial motive for engineering the hoax.

The most damaging evidence against Walton was Klass' discovery that Walton failed his first polygraph test about the incident but never disclosed that fact publicly. Neither did the *National Enquirer*, which paid for the test and knew of the results. The tabloid later selected Walton's story as the "most impressive UFO incident of 1975" and awarded Walton and his companions a \$5,000 prize.

Klass revealed that when Walton failed the test, the *Enquirer* swore Phoenix polygraph examiner John J. McCarthy to secrecy. McCarthy broke the pledge a year later because he said it was unprofessional to hide the truth.

In the book, Klass also accuses two Arizona-based UFO organizations, Ground Saucer Watch and Aerial Phenomena Research Organization, of hiding certain significant facts — such as the failed lie detector test — and thereby being involved in a conspiracy to deceive the public.

Ground Saucer Watch is further criticized by Klass for its interpretations of 1,000 pages of documents it obtained in 1979 from the Central Intelligence Agency under the Freedom of Information Act.

The organization and its director, William Spaulding, a Garrett Corp. engineer, received national attention when they announced that the documents proved that the military was seriously investigating flying saucers while publicly denying any concern whatsoever. The documents, among other things, showed

that the Air Force frequently scrambled jets to attempt to intercept unidentified objects.

Klass, who obtained copies of the same documents, came to a different conclusion. He said the documents show that the government responded to each and every reported flying saucer incident because it feared the Soviets could use UFO hysteria as a way of launching a surprise attack, expecting that it would be ignored at first as a UFO sighting.

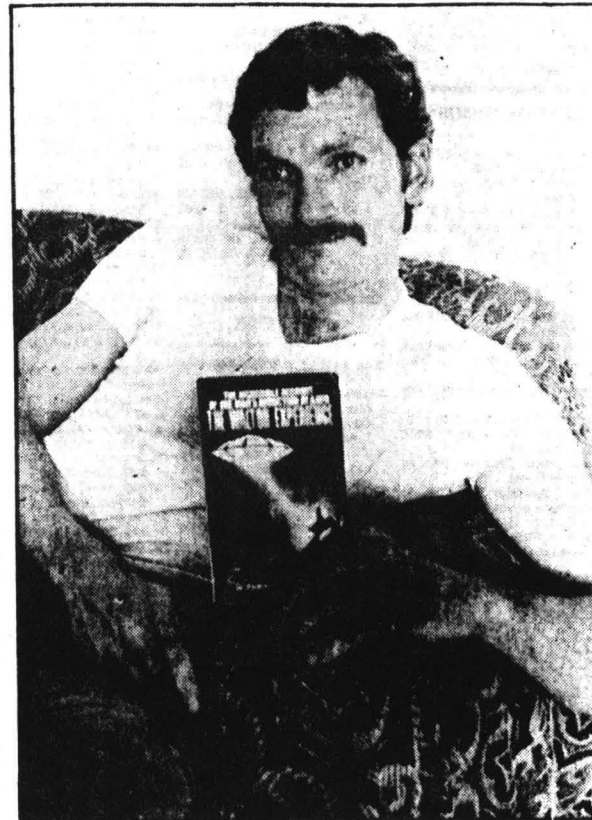
Klass accused Ground Saucer Watch of presenting documents out of context to prove its case.

Unfortunately, it becomes apparent reading Klass' book that he does the same thing.

The reader is left with the sense that he doesn't fairly investigate incidents. His writing has an arrogant tone. He knows the answer going in and interprets the evidence in such a way as to always support his conclusions. He even lists 10 "UFOlogical principles" that he contends can be used to explain all UFO mysteries.

Klass interjects himself too much into the book, as if his investigation, not the incidents, was the story.

Despite those problems, the book is worth reading. Klass presents a powerful argument in support of his approach, saying essentially that explanations of bizarre coincidences and freaks of nature are still more plausible than concluding an object is an extraterrestrial visitor.



Travis Walton
Claims to have been aboard a UFO



EASTERN PROVINCE HERALD, Port Elizabeth (?), South Africa - Sept. 19, 1984 CR: C. Hind

A THEORY by a South African scientist that the speed of light is not the ultimate might strengthen the belief of some in flying saucers coming from outer space. As yet, however, we have nothing to substantiate the existence of the Loch Ness monster.

Albert Einstein, regarded as the greatest scientific theorist of the 20th century, held that no matter could be projected beyond the speed of light which is more than 310 000 kilometres a second. He argued that, at this speed, time stood still.

Man's knowledge of physics is limited to conditions on Earth and its immediate surroundings in space, so any argument we apply in relation to time, space, matter and life must be qualified by the rider, "as we understand it".

The man arguing that the speed of light is surpassable, Ved Sewjathan, of the University of Durban-Westville, says that when the speed of light is exceeded the matter involved enters a "different universe".

I wonder if he does not mean a different dimension. Sewjathan goes on to say that if the matter stayed exactly at the speed of light it would be locked in the other universe and would not be able to leave it.

An interesting thought arises from this theory. If man eventually develops a means of travelling faster than light, will he overtake time? This has fascinating possibilities. Could he enter the past and see things happening, something which science fiction writers have been dealing with for years? Even if he did get into the past and witness it, he certainly could not alter things. The fact that those events have fashioned the future — the present as we know it — is proof of this.

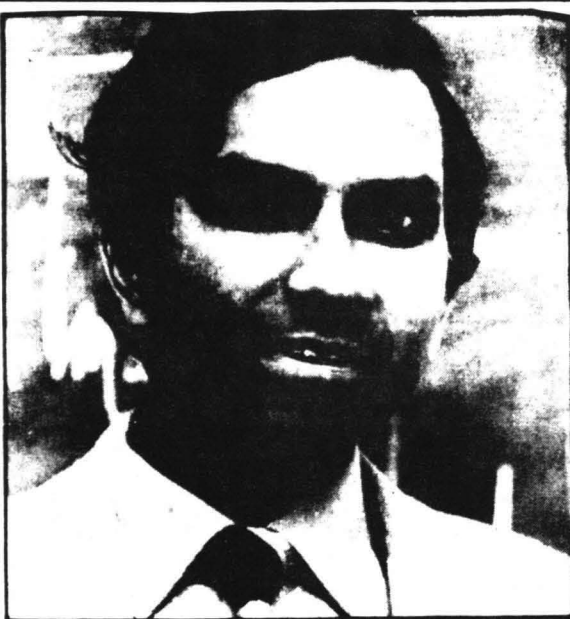
The stumbling block to the belief in flying saucers (unidentified flying objects) visiting Earth from outer space is the vast distances and the travelling time involved.

It is hard to believe there are no intelligent beings, some vastly more advanced than man on earth, among the uncountable millions of solar systems in the universe.

Our own galaxy alone — the Milky Way System — is estimated to have a mass of 100 000 million suns. It has been worked out by astronomers that, on the law

Our stumbling block is the vast distances

Ved Sewjathan, right, says man can develop a means of travelling faster than light. If so, will he overtake time? Could he enter the past and see things happening, as science fiction writers would have us believe?



New look at those UFOs

Dave Bickell on speed-of-light theory

of probability, there should be at least a million planets in our galaxy alone capable of sustaining life as we know it on earth.

Isaac Asimov, a writer of popular astronomy, in his book, "Extraterrestrial Civilisations", estimates that technological civilisations have developed on 390 million planets in our galaxy since the creation of the universe and, of these, 530 000 still exist. This means civilisations come and go and extend over unimaginable eons of time.

Further out in space there are millions of other galaxies, many containing considerably more solar systems than our home galaxy.

There must be life on unimaginable numbers of planets out there.

Most systems are much older than ours, so planets bearing life must also be much older, running into many millions of years.

When we consider that the civilisation of man evolved only about 5 000 years ago, and that the technology we have developed so far has come about within 100 years, with space travel only 23 years old, it is mind-boggling to consider how far technology may have developed on planets which have had advanced civilisations running into millions of years.

They could have reached the stage of technology where they have developed a system of projecting things beyond the speed of light as envisaged by Sewjathan.

If they could surpass the speed of light and avoid Sewjathan's hypothesis of entering another universe, or dimension, the possibilities are limitless. Once having broken the speed-of-light barrier, they might reach a speed of spontaneity, meaning that they could travel a distance

without any passage of time. But here we are getting deep into the realms of science fiction.

By no stretch of the imagination, however, could any living creature, as we understand life, reach us from outside our home galaxy, even travelling at the speed of light.

It takes light one year to travel 10 million, million kilometres. The vast distance involved is shown by the fact that it takes a ray of light 20 000 years to travel from our solar system to the edge of our home galaxy. So any creature wanting to visit earth from outside the galaxy would have to travel for this time once having entered the galaxy, let alone the time taken to get out of its own galaxy and cross the emptiness of space.

There are, however, an estimated million planets in our galaxy capable of sustaining life as we under-

stand it. But even here the distances involved are stupendous. Our galaxy has a diameter of 100 000 light years, so it would take that long, travelling at the speed of light, to cross it.

So far our astronomical equipment has not enabled anyone to pick out a planet capable of sustaining life as we know it. In the circumstances, it is anybody's guess how close we are to the nearest one. The closest sun, but with no planets, is Alpha Centauri and, even travelling at the speed of light, it would take 4.3 years to reach Earth from there.

If we want to contact extraterrestrial beings, we will have to see the materialisation of Sewjathan's hypothesis of the possibility of the speed of light being broken by man. If we want to believe in UFOs, we must be convinced that beings in space have achieved this

Flying doughnut sparks UFO alert

By Michael Hunt

FLYING saucer investigators are probing a UFO sighting in Dorset on Saturday.

Probation officer, Andrew Child, and wife Pam, a social worker, spotted it hovering about Rampisham for ten minutes as they drove from Yeovil to their home in Portway Close, Weymouth, at dusk on Saturday.

"It was grey, doughnut-shaped, with a ring around the middle and was at least the size of an aircraft," said Mrs Child yesterday.

"We pulled up near the Rest and Welcome to get a better look and as we did so, other motorists stopped too and we shared our binoculars with them.

"We couldn't see any markings, there were no lights and the machine did not move except to rotate very slowly.

"We calculated it was about five miles away and perhaps five thousand feet up but its shape was quite definite.

"We watched it for a good ten minutes but then we were getting cold so we drove on.

"When we came to another clearing two or three minutes later and looked back it had gone.

"We are convinced it was a flying saucer. Until now we wouldn't have credited it, yet we're both practical people and we are definite about what we saw."

Mrs Child said it appeared the flying saucer was hovering over an international radio, relay station in Rampisham.

Mr Frank Marshall, area investigator of the British Unidentified Flying Object Research Association, said at his home in Shrubbery Lane, Weymouth: "I have had reports of this sighting and it follows the classic UFO situation, except that it had no halo around it and was not changing colour. I am hoping to get further reports. There will be a full investigation."

Light in the sky

Sir, — On November 30, around 7 a.m., I was walking the dog through the lane towards West Ashling. The sky was clear. As my eyes looked ahead above the trees there was a very bright light; it was bigger than a star.

At first I thought it was a plane, but it was not moving. As it was on the cold side my eyes began to water so I pulled out my handkerchief to wipe my eyes and when looking for the light again it had vanished.

I wonder if anyone else saw this. They talk about U.F.O.s, and I have laughed at the idea, but this light was very bright and seemed to hover in the sky, not moving like a plane.

L. C. P. Durkin
Rose Cottage,
East Ashling.

NEWS & RECORD, Greensboro, NC - Jan. 31, 1985 CR: R. Hair

Soviet airline pilots, passengers describe UFO

MOSCOW (AP) — Pilots and passengers aboard a Soviet airliner have reported encountering a star-like UFO they said illuminated the ground with a dazzling beam and escorted them to their destination, a Soviet newspaper reported Wednesday.

The newspaper Trud quoted a Soviet scientist who specializes in unusual phenomena, including unidentified flying objects, as saying the occurrence was "undoubtedly abnormal."

An Aeroflot domestic flight from

the Georgian capital of Tbilisi to Tallinn in Estonia was approaching Minsk when "what appeared to be a large, unblinking star suddenly shed a thin ray of light which fell plumb down on the ground" from an altitude of 25 to 30 miles, the newspaper said.

"Ground control at the time registered splashes on its screens in the same part of air space," Trud said. The date of the flight was not given.

All four crew members reported that they "could see distinctly everything down in the sector of the

ground illuminated by the cone-shaped shaft of light — the houses and the roads," the newspaper said.

It said the ray suddenly focused on the plane.

"The pilots saw a dazzling white spot surrounded by concentric colored rings," Trud said.

The UFO then reportedly zoomed toward the airliner "at flashing speed," leaving a green cloud in its wake.

The UFO positioned itself beside the plane at an altitude of 33,000 feet and accompanied it for the rest

of the flight.

Nikolai Zheltukhin, a corresponding member of the Soviet Academy of Sciences and deputy chairman of a state commission on unexplained phenomena, told Trud the occurrence "is indeed of interest, although the commission already knows of similar cases."

"That the object reversed course instantaneously and reached the ground with a ray of light of unusual intensity from a very high altitude is undoubtedly abnormal," Zheltukhin was quoted as saying.

BOONOR REGIS OBSERVER, Sussex, England
Dec. 20, 1984 CR: T. Good

Teenagers think lights were UFO

THREE teenage pals went on a UFO hunt after spotting mysterious lights in the night sky and finished up shaking with fear.

Bricklayer Darrell Cook (18), of Burton Street, Gainsborough and his friends William and Simon Clarke from Blyton, followed the pulsing lights

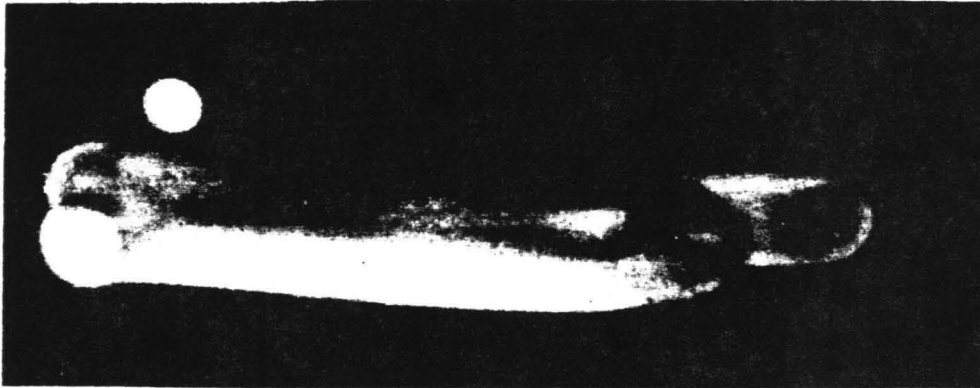
to Pilham, where, they claim, some touched the ground while others hovered 50ft in the air. "It was weird," said Darrell. "I have never seen

anything like it. When the lights came on, my car headlamps failed, yet when they went off, the headlamps came on again. "We were so scared, we

jumped back in the car, raced home and rang the police."

A sceptical police spokesman said they had investigated and found there had been a lot of flying at Sturgate airfield where pilots were practising "circuits and bumps."

AUSTRALASIAN POST, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia - Nov. 29, 1984 CR: P. Norman



★ THIS oddly shaped UFO — similar to one seen in South Australia — was photographed in California.

Close encounters of the South Australian kind ...

THE STUDY of Unidentified Flying Objects has been a major pre-occupation in the life of Colin Norris, since a bizarre encounter 25 years ago.

He recalls one spring evening in 1959: "An object left the back of my house at about seven minutes past midnight. It disturbed my teenage son, who upon waking to a loud explosion found his right leg undergoing some weird kind of muscular spasm.

"The family cat was unduly distressed and when I went outside to investigate I saw this little thing about the size of a golfball spark and take off into the air from the foundation of the building.

"My wife was also disturbed, so I then rang the police, who upon arriving thoroughly searched the area but could find no evidence of an explosion of any kind."

In the years following this experience, Colin Norris has become the doyen of investigators into UFO phenomena in South Australia, and is director of Australian UFO Flying Saucer Research Inc. He lectures regularly to such community groups as Lions clubs, Apex, Rotary as well as secondary schools.

Probably the classic case from his files is that of Neville Maxwell, from Murray Bridge (SA), who on September 11, 1972, at about 10 p.m., was to bear witness to a sight that was to leave him ashen-faced and visibly shaken.

"I was taking the car for a test run after having replaced the shock absorbers," he recalled. "I had decided to take a short cut, through from the highway to Murray Bridge when the lights and motor cut out on the car, and kept dying and coming up all the time.

"They then died completely, the car stopped, and that's when I saw these lights sitting out in the paddock about 20 to 30 yards from me. The lights on this object were going on and off very slowly.

"From what I could see of the shape, this thing looked like a diamond with the top cut off and it had red, green and purple lights in the bottom half. It was about the size of two motor cars stacked on top of each other. I locked the doors pretty quickly and just sat there and watched it.

"About this time, weird sounds started to come through the car radio. To me they sounded similar to computer noises and they had a steady rhythm."

Maxwell observed the object for 35 minutes, and it wasn't until the craft had lifted off and disappeared that he was able to start his car and continue home.

"After a short while I tried to start

Strangers in our skies?

by WAYNE LOWEN



★ A Spanish fighter chased this cone-shaped UFO over Madrid.

the car, but neither the ignition or the oil light would come on. I also tried the wipers and everything electrical, but nothing would work, not even the air horns.

"I was pretty scared and just sat there looking to see if I could see anything moving around from it. I relaxed that it was there and there was nothing I could do about it, so I just looked around but I didn't get out of the car though."

Q: What did you think it was?

A: "Well, I just took it that it was something from outer space somewhere, because I had never seen anything like it before. When the thing finally lifted off the ground it rose to about 20 feet, making a sort of whirling sound, like a fan, and shot straight off.

"But as it rose, the rate of flashings of the lights was increased, and as it disappeared from sight the lights were flashing at a very high rate. I was then able to start the car and drive home.

"When I arrived home my mother and father were still up, and I told them about it, but they thought I was only joking for a while I think, until they saw that I was a bit white.

"I went back on the following morning and there were four air blast holes in the ground."

Another report from Colin's files was

by Mrs J. Kowalski from Gumeracha (SA), who was driving her four children home at 7.50 one night recently. They saw an aircraft they took to be a low flying helicopter.

"It was the size of a Boeing 707 and lacked the obvious things our aircraft have. It made no noise whatsoever except a 'swoosh'. There was a large light hanging on a dome underneath and it seemed to be on an extendable arm. It was very, very bright and there were lots of lights on the undercarriage.

"We stopped, and saw that the craft was a silver-blue metallic color, unlike anything I've ever seen," she recalled. "I can't relate it to anything I know. Obviously, it was observing us and it was coming closer and I think it would have landed if I hadn't run away."

Mrs Kowalski also mentioned that she and the children did not feel threatened in any way by this encounter, and that it was only her overriding sense of responsibility to her children that compelled her to leave the area.

We don't seem to be any closer to an explanation for these perplexing phenomena, but one thing seems certain — as long as there are strange goings on in our night skies, Colin Norris will be there to record them. ●

★ BELOW: South Australians Mrs Jean Kowalski with two of her children, Natalie and Tania, fled when an UFO "inspected" them.



Mystery object 'over resort'

IT WAS dome shaped, fluorescent, a glowing orange colour and it moved slowly in the night sky above Hunstanton. That is the picture that will remain in the mind of a young Hunstanton woman for a very long time. For that is what she is convinced she saw as she was being driven home by her boyfriend.

She does not want to give her name. "When I tell anyone about it they just fall about laughing," she said on Tuesday.

She first spotted something in the sky as they drove down the link road towards the South Beach area shortly after midnight. It seemed to her like "a ball of light with a white tail."

Her boyfriend said he thought it was probably a shooting star. Then the car turned in to Southend Road. The woman said: "I kept looking up and suddenly there it was over Seagate Road. It was dome shaped and it was all lit up a glowing orange colour. It was fluorescent. It seemed to be moving slowly and I didn't hear a noise. Until then I had an open mind about unidentified flying objects, but not anymore. It was definitely a UFO. My boyfriend saw it."

Was she scared? "Not really," she said. "More like excited but I would have been frightened if it had started to come lower."

Seconds later the object disappeared over the tops of houses. When her boyfriend dropped her off at her home she went inside, looked out of her bedroom window and saw what she described as "a great ball of orange light" over the sea. It seemed to glow brighter, then go dark and then become bright again finally disappearing in the distance.

She said: "I have looked every night since but have seen nothing. I don't know what it was but there was definitely something there and it was pretty big."

We did not cause U.F.O. say BBC

THE U.F.O. sighting in the West Dorset area of Rampisham last weekend could not have been caused by the nearby BBC overseas transmitting station.

That was the view this morning of the station's transmitter manager Mr. Mike Axford.

"When we are operating our equipment under test conditions, or if there is a fault, there are sometimes lights and sounds emitted from the aerials which could make people wonder," he said.

"But I can definitely state that there was nothing occurring at the station at the time of the Saturday sighting which could have produced such an effect."

The mystery object, seen by several people, from the main Yeovil to Dorchester road, was round with a domed top which rotated slowly high in the sky.

NEWS & ADVERTISER, Lynn, England - Dec. 14, 1984 CR: T. Good

DORSET EVENING ECHO, Weymouth, England - Dec. 20, 1984 CR: T. Good

American TV crew films scene of mystery landing

Suffolk Pc
key witness
in UFO story

Forester Vince Thirkettle shows American journalist Chuck de Caro marks on the ground in Rendlesham Forest that are made by animals but could look like they were caused by mechanical means as they are being filmed for American Cable News Network by cameraman Jerry Koch.

A SUFFOLK policeman could be key witness in the so-far-unexplained UFO mystery of Rendlesham Forest.

The officer is believed to have seen the strange goings-on when it is claimed an alien spaceship landed near Woodbridge airbase.

The mystery deepened yesterday when a top investigative American film crew claimed attempts to talk to the policeman have so far been thwarted.

The director of the crew claims an appointment to

meet the constable was mysteriously cancelled despite him wanting to talk.

Yesterday the EADT was told by a Suffolk police spokesman, "The appointment was cancelled for personal reasons."

The alleged visit from outer space happened almost four years ago, just after Christmas, 1980.

Since then self-styled Suffolk UFO investigators Dot Street and Brenda Butler have published a book on the happenings.

But an eerie tape, said to be authentic by a top USAF

officer at the time, records the reactions of spellbound servicemen sent out to investigate strange lights in the sky near their base at Woodbridge.

Officers are heard to say, "This is weird. This is unreal."

It was after Dot and Brenda's book "Sky Crash — a Cosmic Conspiracy" was published at the end of October this year, claiming a cover-up by the Ministry of Defence on the alleged landings, that an American television crew went into action.

The special investigations unit of Cable News Network has been in England for almost a week.

It plans to stay as long as it takes to get more evidence of the mystery happenings.

Chuck de Caro, director of the unit, told the EADT yesterday they believed they have been close to uncovering a major new lead.

"We were near the base and had a local bobby with us and were about to talk to him, when two USAF officers approached."

"The bobby was put off from talking then but quite willingly arranged to meet us later."

"For no apparent reason that appointment was cancelled. That seems strange to us," Mr. de Caro said.

Suffolk police said the policeman concerned had approached them to ask permission to talk and this had been given.

"The appointment was cancelled for personal reasons. The film crew were allowed to talk to another policeman."

However, yesterday Mr. de Caro still wanted to talk to the policeman they had lined up first of all.

Yesterday Suffolk police were asked if an interview with either policeman could be arranged with an EADT reporter. This request was being considered.

The Cable News Network team follows up some of the top stories round the world.

Mr. de Caro, with assistant Jerry Koch, were the first journalists to interview the leader of guerrillas fighting in the forests of Nicaragua.

And Mr. de Caro parachuted with U.S. commandos on a "special combat" mission in preparation for the invasion of Grenada.

The film unit is staying at the Crown Hotel in Woodbridge, and yesterday was out filming near the Woodbridge USAF base.

UFO STOPS GOODS TRAIN

Drivers
tell of
hovering
light

DAILY MIRROR, Sydney, Australia - Jan. 18, 1985 CR: P. Norman

LOG CABIN DEMOCRAT, Conway, AR - Jan. 31, 1985

Passengers, crew on Soviet airliner report seeing UFO

MOSCOW (AP) — Amazed crew and passengers on a Soviet airliner say they saw a star-like UFO beam a thin ray on the ground, suddenly turn its dazzling light on the aircraft and — just as abruptly — become a green cloud that "escorted" the plane, a newspaper reports.

Gennady Lazurin, co-pilot of the Aeroflot flight, told an air controller in Minsk about the sighting and was told at first that nothing could be seen on ground radar, the newspaper Trud reported Wednesday.

"Oh well, they'll be saying we're not normal," Lazurin was quoted as saying.

But then, ground control "registered splashes on its screens in the same part of air space," Trud said. The date of the flight was not given.

Nikolai Zheltukhin, a corresponding member of the Soviet Academy of Sciences and deputy chairman of a state commission on unexplained phenomena, told Trud the occurrence "is indeed of interest, although the commission already knows of similar cases."

"That the object reversed course instantaneously and reached the ground with a ray of light of unusual intensity from a very high altitude is undoubtedly abnormal," Zheltukhin was quoted as saying.

The plane was flying northwest from the Georgian capital of

Tbilisi to Tallinn in Estonia and was approaching Minsk when "what appeared to be a large, unblinking star suddenly shed a thin ray of light which fell plumb down on the ground" from an altitude of 25 to 30 miles, the newspaper said.

All four crew members reported that they "could see distinctly everything down in the sector of the ground illuminated by the cone-shaped shaft of light — the houses and the roads," the newspaper said.

It said the ray suddenly focused on the plane.

"The pilots saw a dazzling white spot surrounded by concentric colored rings," Trud said.

The UFO then reportedly came toward the airliner "at flashing speed," leaving a green cloud in its wake and hovered next to the plane at an altitude of 33,000 feet for the rest of the flight "like an honorary escort," the newspaper quoted one of the pilots as saying.

Nervous passengers asked the flight attendant what was happening.

"Tell them it is some sort of cloud," the captain, Igor Cherkashin, reportedly replied. "Say the yellow thing is a reflection of city lights, the green thing of polar lights."

In 1967, the Soviet Union established a special air force commission to investigate UFO sightings, but few details of its work have been released.

Wagons

"We don't know what it was or what caused them to lose power as they climbed the hill."

"At present we are waiting for them to return to Adelaide."

Mr Beattie said the men had to detach most of their wagons to reach Ooldea.

"The locomotive was eventually able to pull the freight cars to Cook where the engineers made an interim report to the local train controller."

"They were relieved by back-up drivers and continued across the Nullarbor."

The train will be examined today to determine the cause of the power loss.

"The men say they experienced the power loss at the same moment as spotting the light," Mr Beattie said.

"Because they are experienced in travelling across the Nullarbor the light must have been very unusual for them to report it."

The stretch of line where the incident took place is near the restricted Woomera military base and only a short distance from Maralinga.

By TONY BARNAO

A UFO is believed to have stopped a freight train on its outback run.

Police and Australian National Railway authorities are trying to find out why the train was drained of power while travelling across the Nullarbor Plain.

Two locomotive engineers watched as a mysterious light hovered for several minutes above their freight train, which had lost power.

The men were forced to unload most of their cargo to get to the top of a steep embankment without losing the disabled train.

ANR spokesman John Beattie said an investigation was underway into the incident which occurred late Wednesday night on the Trans-Australia line which links Adelaide and Perth.

Mr Beattie said the men, experienced drivers, reported the light while heading west from Port Augusta, in South Australia.

"It appears they sighted something several kilometres overhead as they neared a remote railway siding at Ooldea, 740km north-west of Adelaide," he said.

ADVOCATE, Burnie, Tasmania - Jan. 19, 1985 CR: P. Norman

Nullarbor U.F.O. claim unrelated to train strife

ADELAIDE — A U.F.O. sighting over the Nullarbor Plain was unconnected to the breakdown of a freight train at Ooldea in South Australia, the Australian National Railways said yesterday.

Enginemen on the Perth-bound train on Wednesday night reported seeing bright lights, thinking they could be a light plane in distress.

However, the lights had nothing to do with the train's breakdown, which was caused by a mechanical failure and delayed the train for about two hours.

"They reported seeing lights, but it was

a mechanical failure and the two were unconnected," Australian National Railways spokesman Mr John Beattie said.

"Anything else is purely speculation."

"Now we are getting calls from all parts of the world asking about the U.F.O.s and it's getting out of hand."

He was responding to a report in the Sydney "Daily Mirror" newspaper of an unidentified flying object causing a freight train to halt.

The R.A.A.F. said yesterday it had not received reports of unidentified aircraft in that area.



Keith Stewart and his flying saucer.

Strings control a flying saucer

Story: Michael Hunt. Picture: Eddie Wood

THE MYSTERY of flying doughnut-shaped UFOs over Rampisham has been solved.

The objects, seen by motorists, apparently hovering above Rampisham BBC overseas radio relay station between Dorchester and Yeovil over the past 11 days, is in fact a helium-filled flying-saucer shaped kite.

It is the invention of Mr Keith Stewart, of Manor Farm, Melbury Osmond, who designs and experiments with kites for various purposes, including using them to pull boats.

His nine foot diameter flying saucer

is being developed for film companies.

Mr Stewart said yesterday: "I've been carrying out a series of test flights in the vicinity of my home and I hadn't realised they had caused so much curiosity until I saw a news item about the mysterious UFO sighting in the neighbourhood.

Mr Frank Marshall, of Shrubbery Lane, Weymouth, who is the area investigator for the British Unidentified Flying Object Research Association said: "I received several reports about the sightings and had begun a dossier.

"I am glad we have had a positive explanation."

Mystery UFO could herald new sightings

THE sighting on Saturday of a mysterious unidentified flying object over Rampisham in West Dorset could be the forerunner of a series of similar visitations according to a local expert.

Mr. Andrew Child, of Portway Close, Weymouth, and his wife Pam spotted the strange object in the sky at about 4.40 p.m. as they drove along the main Yeovil to Dorchester Road, near the Yetminster turn-off.

The couple watched the UFO for some ten minutes as it hovered about four miles away over Rampisham.

Other drivers stopped and shared Mr. Child's binoculars for a closer look at the object, and all agreed it was unlike anything they had seen before.

Mr. Child described it as about the size of a medium jet plane, but it was round and with a domed top. They could not see markings or lights, and it did not

move other than to rotate slowly.

There have been many sightings of UFOs in Dorset over the years, and local investigator of the British Unidentified Flying Object Research Association, Mr. Frank Marshall, of Shrubbery Lane, Weymouth, says they often come in groups.

"It is quite likely that now there will be whole series of UFOs seen in the area," he said.

Mr. Marshall has been investigating reports of sightings for 25 years but has never had a good view of a UFO himself.

"It is almost as if they play ducks and drakes with me, as I keep just missing being in the right place at the right time," he said.

"The object the Childs saw was grey and without colour and movement, apart from rotating, which is unusual," he said. "Although one UFO was seen over Brixham

some years ago which hovered for most of the day."

Mr. Marshall added that the area around Rampisham and Eggesdon Hill has become well known over the years for mysterious happenings.

"The ignition and even the lights of cars often cut out completely there for no apparent reason," he said. "And near Beaminster a few years ago three cars went dead for something like half an hour before they could be restarted."

"There are a lot of Roman roads in the area, and some theories have been put forward about ley lines."

Mr. Marshall is now awaiting the official explanation from the Ministry of Defence.

"Official explanations are often more ridiculous than any sighting report," he said. "But I would certainly like to hear of any other sightings in the county."

Red sky at night riddle

A man who was walking his dog in Kirkstall, Leeds, couldn't believe his eyes when he saw a red glow in the sky.

Mr. James Lenchan, 62, a lorry driver, of Vesper Gardens, Kirkstall, described the

sight as "a red airship."

His daughter, Mrs. Christine Mackay, of Stanhope Drive, Horsforth, Leeds, told the YEP: "He said the airship came down and landed at the back of Kirkstall Museum."

Mrs. Mackay said that although it was 12.30 a.m. at the time of the sighting, the sky was "well lit." She said her father had had nothing to drink that evening because of "a bad stomach."

She said her father did not go to investigate the red light because he thought there would be some explanation and

that other people would have reported the sighting.

Mrs. Mackay said he had previously been sceptical about reports of unidentified flying objects.

A spokesman for Leeds Weather Centre said: "You do sometimes get a red glow over the city because of the lights but I would have thought that Kirkstall was too near the centre." They had received no reports of anything similar on Christmas Eve, the time of the sighting.

CR: T. Good

TRANSLATIONS

City and country of incident: Doubs region, France

Dates of incidents: Nov. 27 - Dec. 1, 1984

Name of paper and date of clip: L'EST REPUBLICAIN, Dec. 12, 1984

City and country of newspaper: Nancy, France

FIVE UFO WITNESSES

(Excerpts)

It seems that UFO sightings reported to the police annually are more numerous in the Doubs region than anywhere else in France. Recently a strange phenomenon has been seen from different locations, between November 27 and December 1. A bus driver who lives at Mandeure, and who was returning from Porrentruy, saw on both November 27 and 28, late in the afternoon, "a round object, hovering above Lomont, which emitted a very scintillating light." The next day, November 29, a young woman returning from Belfort toward Montbéliard saw from behind the wheel of her car "a dark orange ball" hovering above Mont-Bart forest. It was definitely not the sun.

On Friday, November 30, a farmer at Rougement saw a round object in the sky, which he thought was a meteorite. However, Besancon Observatory has no record of meteorite activity during this time period.

On the same day, at Montbéliard, an adolescent saw "an oval object sparkling brightly with a red light above it, leaving a green trail behind it."

Finally, on the next day, December 1, a woman who lives at Mathay saw at about 8:00 A.M., "a very red bell-shaped object rise high into the sky, change to an elongated shape, and disappear at an amazing speed."

Five witnesses, five different persons observing very strange phenomena from different locations. And not the slightest recognized scientific evidence.

City and country of incident: Vesoul, France

Date of incident: December 14, 1984

Name of paper and date of clip: L'EST REPUBLICAIN, December 15, 1984

City and country of newspaper: Nancy, France

AFTER MONTBELIARD AND ROUGEMONT, UFO YESTERDAY AT VESOUL?

It will be remembered that at Montbéliard and Rougement, between November 27 and December 1, five people reported astonishing luminous phenomena in the sky.

Yesterday at Vesoul, the fire department received three phone calls in two minutes just before 6:00 P.M., from people who had seen a sort of "shooting star" or "rocket with a trail of flame" coming from the east and heading toward the southern suburb of the city.

The UFO was very luminous, and followed a horizontal trajectory. One of the witnesses was able to keep sight of its course over a distance of several hundred meters.

In such matters, one is often concerned with practical jokers with low-flying imaginations. However, in this particular case, it must be noted that one of the telephone calls came from . . . a retired fireman, known to be truthful.

Scientists have explained some of the recent UFO sightings in this region as the planet Venus, which is low in the sky in December and which twinkles. But in this case, how is one to explain the movement of the object?

The poets have already replied: it was the sled of Santa Claus.



Shelf may break up into icebergs and vanish if the climate warms and he proposes this may already have happened after the last ice age.

Some ancient Greek philosophers suggested that, to make the world symmetrical, there should be a large land mass at the South Pole to balance the northern continents. Maps such as that of Orontius Finaeus were explained as flights of imagination based on such reasoning. But Dr. Weihaupt finds the resemblance to what is now known of the continent, in terms of its size, outline and scattered mountain ranges to be striking.

"The geography of the southern continent," he concluded, "may thus have been known in its broad configuration before the mid-16th century. While the evidence bodes thus, I have no hesitation in reminding the reader, as myself, of Sir Walter Raleigh's admonition that conjectures 'painted on Maps, doe serve only to mislead such discoverers as rashly believe them.'"

authenticity. He concluded, however, that the Orontius Finaeus and Mercator maps, through their resemblance to the actual outline of Antarctica, "suggest that man's knowledge of that continent may date from a time somewhat earlier than that century," or at least three centuries before the continent's modern discovery.

Virtually Complete Outline

Both maps show virtually the complete outline and details of a continent that, like Antarctica, is centered on the South Pole.

Generations of scholars have debated over who discovered Antarctica. The American candidate has been Nathaniel Palmer, captain of a sealing sloop from Stonington, Conn. American and British sealers had begun hunting south of Drake Passage below Cape Horn and on Nov. 17, 1820, Palmer sailed farther south and may have sighted the tip of the Antarctic Peninsula.

The British candidate is Edward Bransfield of the Royal Navy, ordered to explore the area for an outpost to control the south side of that critical waterway between the Atlantic and Pacific. Britain gives Jan. 30, 1830, as the date of Bransfield's discovery.

Two weeks earlier two Russian ships under Adm. Thaddeus von Bellingshausen may have sighted the ice-covered Princess Martha Coast.

Multinational exploration of Antarctica and probing of its ice cover have now produced relatively complete maps of the continent as it would appear free of ice.

Deep fiords would exist where ice streams now reach the sea. An archipelago comparable to the Philippines would lie south of Drake Passage. The Ross Ice Shelf, an apron of ice 1,000 feet thick and as large as France, would be an open gulf.

The Orontius Finaeus map shows such a gulf, suggesting the possibility it was free of ice at some prehistoric time. Dr. Weihaupt cites polar specialists who suspect the Ross Ice

'Proof' of life in space

A LEADING scientist says he can prove that life exists in outer space. Chandra Wickramasinghe, a professor of astronomy at Cardiff University, Wales, says that dust collected in the upper atmosphere contains the fossilized remains of extraterrestrial bacteria.

Wickramasinghe, from University College, Cardiff, said: "There are similarities in structure between the fossilized remains of extraterrestrial life forms and those of bacteria on Earth."

DAILY MIRROR, London, England
Jan. 17, 1985 CR: D. Speed

Chinese Nessie

PEKING, Friday. — Chinese soldiers slew an ox-like creature with a turtle's legs and short curly horns living in a remote lake in Tibet, the Peking Evening News reported.

The incident happened in 1972 at Lake Dnubuzha, the newspaper said, and details became known only this week.

The ox-like animal, which had skin like a hippopotamus, was shot and beheaded and hauled to town, the report said.

"Unfortunately it was a period of chaos and nobody seemed interested in the discovery," the Chinese media frequently report sightings of "wild men" and other strange creatures. So far none has been verified. —NZPA-AP.

STAR, Auckland, New Zealand
Sept. 1, 1984 CR: R. Collins

The Jersey Devil: As big as Bigfoot?

The Jersey Devil, a creature of folklore that supposedly has frightened hundreds of people in New Jersey (even a few in Delaware), is now making an unexpected appearance in about 14 million American homes.

The Devil appears in an article by Philadelphia magazine's Mike Malloy in a piece he wrote for the January issue of Reader's Digest. In the article, Malloy recounts a trek he made through the Pine Barrens of southern New Jersey in search of the Devil, said to have been the 13th child of Mother Leeds, an 18th century Quaker woman.

Malloy also talked to two Delawareans, James F. McCloy and Ray Miller Jr., authors of the 1976 book "The Jersey Devil."

"Descriptions we've compiled from diaries and newspapers going back 250 years put the Devil's size at anywhere from 18 inches to 20 feet," McCloy told Malloy. "Old accounts give it the body of a kangaroo, the head of a horse, the face of a collier, batlike wings, claws, a long tail and flames shooting from its nostrils."

While the Devil is not as well-known as the Loch Ness monster or Bigfoot, McCloy said Wednesday that there have probably been more sightings of it than either of the other better-known monsters.

"If we include people who've seen footprints, the number reaches into the thousands," said McCloy, a disability adjudicator for the state Department of Labor and a part-time history teacher at Wilmington College.

The most recent report of the Devil occurred in the winter of 1983-84, he said, when something was heard screaming near Barstow, N.J., in the Pine Barrens.

As McCloy told Malloy, "There's something in there that scares the daylights out of people. All they know is that it's very unfriendly, and it keeps coming back."

EVENING JOURNAL, Wilmington, DE - Dec. 27, 1984

16th Century Charts Seen as Hinting Ancient Explorers Mapped Antarctica

By WALTER SULLIVAN

For years a few imaginative authors have argued, based on 16th century maps, that the ice-covered continent of Antarctica was discovered and mapped by an ancient civilization, perhaps one from another planet. The latter proposition was dismissed by most geographers and historians as preposterous.

Nevertheless, a careful comparison of information appearing on the maps with what is now known of the continent has led a leading geologist and polar specialist to propose that the outlines of Antarctica may, in fact, have been known long before Columbus reached America.

The generally accepted view is that Antarctica was first sighted in 1820 by American seal-hunters as well as by British and Russian explorers.

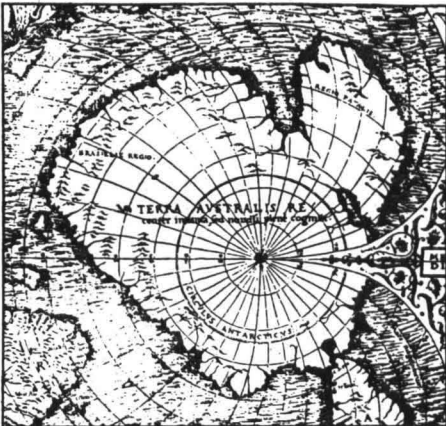
The suggestion that it may have been discovered many centuries earlier has been made by Dr. John W. Weihaupt, vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of Colorado at Denver. His analysis appears as the lead article in the Aug. 28 issue of *Eos*, the Proceedings of the American Geophysical Union.

Research in Antarctica

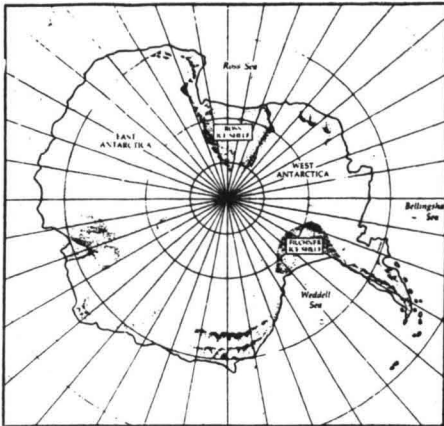
Dr. Weihaupt, a specialist in seismic and gravity studies and planetary geology, conducted research at a number of Antarctic stations beginning with the International Geophysical Year of 1957-58.

Interviewed by telephone recently, Dr. Weihaupt was reluctant to speculate on how the rough outline of Antarctica might have become known to early mapmakers, saying he was not a maritime historian. He suggested, however, that Bronze Age seafarers from the Mediterranean, trading along the east and west coasts of Africa, might have ventured farther south than previously believed.

From 2,600 to 9,000 years ago, he said, the world was warmer than at any time in the last million years, except for the period between the last two ice ages. Polar ice was presum-



The similarity of early and modern maps challenges the accepted theory on the discovery of Antarctica.



ably reduced, making high latitudes more tempting to explore.

Dr. Weihaupt says that, assuming the outline of Antarctica was known to early cartographers, the source of their information "remains unanswered." Even crude mapping of a large continent would require a knowledge of navigation and geometry presumably beyond the ken of primitive navigators.

Speculation on prehistoric discovery of Antarctica began in 1956, when a map of the Atlantic Ocean purportedly drawn in 1513 by a Turkish admiral named Piri Re's was shown by a Navy cartographer to Arlington H. Mallery, an engineer. Mr. Mallery was known for his thesis that Vikings reached American shores five centuries before Columbus.

The map supposedly contained information from voyages made by Columbus. It showed the western bulge of Africa with considerable accuracy and what seemed a crude outline of the opposite coasts of the Americas.

Those coasts continued unbroken around the southern extremity of the Atlantic, where Antarctica's Queen Maud Land is now known to lie.

This was taken by Mr. Mallery as evidence that the continent at the bottom of the world was already known. American cartographers had seen the map as early as 1932, but little attention had been paid to its possible implications regarding Antarctica.

Mr. Mallery's argument was picked up by Prof. Charles H. Hapgood, a historian at Keene Teachers College in New Hampshire. Professor Hapgood had published a controversial book arguing that off-center accumulations of polar ice sometimes caused gradual, but radical changes in the axis of the earth.

Analysis of Early Map

His analysis of the Piri Re's map was published in 1966 under the title "Maps of the Ancient Sea Kings — Evidence of Advanced Civilization in the Ice Age." He also cited several

Bashful yeti beats a retreat

STAR, Auckland, New Zealand - Sept. 29, 1984 CR: R. Collins

KATHMANDU, Friday. — The spiky-footed footprints of the yeti or abominable snowman abound in Kathmandu, capital of the Himalayan kingdom of Nepal.

They leap across restaurant menus, adorn shopfronts and clamber over guidebooks.

Unfortunately, out where they should be, on Nepal's snow-covered mountains, the footprints are singular by their absence.

It is now nearly three years since the Nepal Government's tourism department took a yeti sighting seriously enough to send a team to investigate.

For yeti sceptics, the absence of sightings at a time when there are more people climbing and trekking than ever is the final nail in the abominable snowman's coffin.

However, yeti believers will not be deterred. They argue that the yeti, a shy beast, has simply retreated into inaccessible areas before the advance of mountaineers and trekkers.

The autumn climbing season is now in full swing with a record 50 expeditions, including three at the same time on Mt Everest going up, down and even sideways.

The leader of one Everest expedi-

tion is Peter Hillary, the 29-year-old son of Sir Edmund Hillary, conqueror of the 8840 metre peak 31 years ago.

In spite of the best efforts of the tourism department, including substantial rises in climbing fees on the yeti is causing traffic jams on some peaks and threatening the solitude favoured by mountaineers.

A Dutch expedition on Everest has complained about the presence of a Nepal police team sent to the mountain to clean up the litter of previous expeditions. — NZPA-Reuters.

Great balls of fire . . .

STAR, Auckland, New Zealand
Dec. 4, 1984

MOSCOW. — An object from space that hit Siberia with enormous force in 1908 may not have been a meteorite, as commonly believed, but plasma from the sun.

Two experts from the Siberian Academy of Sciences in a report published in *Nature* said that they also believed the plasma was directed to the site of impact by magnetic waves emitted from the area.

Plasma is ionized gas produced at high temperatures, as in the stars.

The so-called Tunguska meteorite devastated the area it hit in a remote part of northern Siberia. Scientists have puzzled ever since about the origin of the object and most have assumed it was a huge meteorite.

Viktor Zhuravlev and Alexei Dmitriyev, of the Siberian Academy of Sciences, say computer analysis of 700 eyewitness accounts shows that it was not one object but three.

They also believe it was produced at high temperatures, as in the stars.

CR: R. Collins

Key facts as hard to spot as Champlain's serpent

CHAMP, BEYOND THE LEGEND, by Joseph W. Zarzynski (Bannister Publications, 224 pp., paperback, \$8.95)

By Lance Howland
Staff Writer

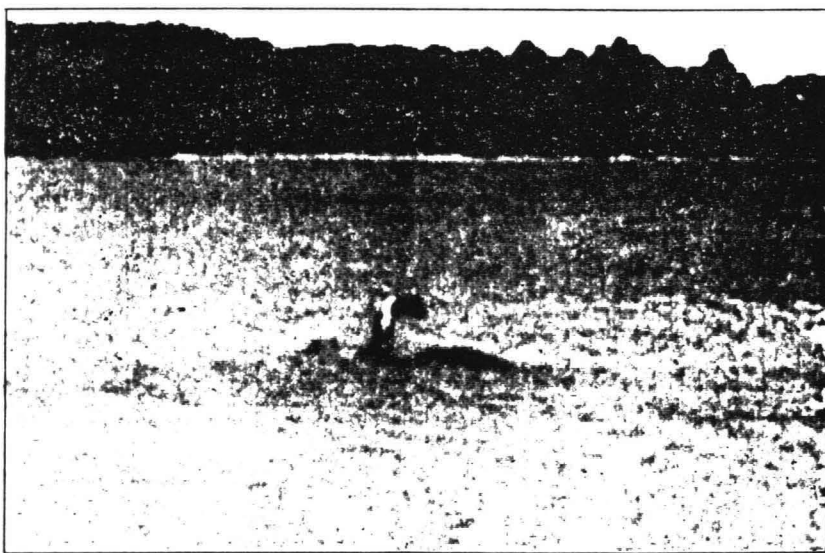
If your luck is running right, you may be able to peer down through the murky depths of Lake Champlain and get a glimpse of Champ, the mysterious lake serpent that, reportedly, has been sighted more than 200 times.

The depths also are murky in a new book that examines the Champ phenomenon. "Champ, Beyond the Legend," a 224-page paperback published in August by Bannister Publications of Port Henry, Essex County, packs plenty of information on which to base a judgment on Champ's existence. But it takes the patience of a dedicated Champ-watcher to locate the relevant information.

Author Joseph W. Zarzynski presents Champ information enthusiastically, but without sufficient organization.

One appendix catalogs 224 Champ sightings, but only four are discussed in detail in the narrative.

The author is best when he takes the time to examine Champ sightings from several angles. For example, he describes a May 1982 sighting, in which a boater saw a dark brown or black creature with



Sandra Mansi's 1977 photograph of what may be the head and neck, center, and hump, right, of Champ. The photograph was first published in The New York Times.

"18 to 24 inches of head and neck above surface."

Sonar sounder went bonkers

When the boater, Raymond W. Sargent of North Hero, Vt., passed over the spot where he saw the creature, his sonar depth sounder became erratic, showing a blip at every digit on

the scale markings, the book says.

"This anomaly appeared for approximately 15 to 30 seconds, whereupon the instrument returned to normal operation and has functioned fine ever since," Zarzynski quotes Sargent. Then the author explores some possi-

ble explanations for such a sonar disturbance.

Zarzynski's narrative could profit from more such analysis of sightings — what are the chances they could be real, faked, or explained by natural phenomena.

Zarzynski's style is one im-

pediment. He shifts freely from "gee whiz" Champ advocacy to a more scholarly, annotated style designed to persuade scientists there is cause for a full-scale investigation of Champ.

"Gee whiz" style

As an example of the "gee whiz" style, Zarzynski spends two pages explaining a coincidence. Famed 1920s naturalist W. Douglas Burden was a native of Charlotte, Vt., on the shore of Lake Champlain, yet apparently never became involved in searching for Champ.

Zarzynski concludes: "Today we can only ponder if Burden were still alive, with all this great Champ attention, would his exploring zest be tested by the zoological mystery, Champ, at his own doorstep? I would think so."

Zarzynski at times tries to borrow luster from the more thorough investigations into the Loch Ness "monster." Zarzynski points out similarities in Champlain and Loch Ness sightings and in the lakes themselves, but sometimes stretches a point.

For instance, a pair of photo captions describes how two locales of frequent sightings on Champlain and on Loch Ness both have ruins of military fortifications. What the significance of that may be, the author doesn't explain.

Zarzynski, a Saratoga Springs

schoolteacher who spends summers and weekends looking for Champ and cataloging sightings, appears caught up in the romance of looking for a beast of unproven existence. He writes: "The search for 'mystery or maybe monsters,' of which Champ is but one, has its zoological precedent and its dedicated cryptozoological gumshoes."

Cryptozoology is "the history of hidden animals," Zarzynski details other instances of scientists exploring for and proving the existence of previously unknown species.

The author explores zoological possibilities of what Champ might be. He theorizes the "monster" could be a plesiosaur, a marine reptile thought to have been extinct 60 million years ago, or a zeuglodon, a primitive whale-like mammal thought to have been extinct 20 million years ago.

The Zarzynski book is filled with diagrams and photographs, which illustrate the intriguing and the mundane.

The book places on facing pages the best photograph of Champ, taken in 1977, and the best photograph of the Loch Ness monster, taken in 1934. To this untrained eye, the Champ photograph is more convincing in making a case for an underwater serpent there.

Also interesting is a series of photographs illustrating how temperature inversions on the surface of a lake can distort an image, making what is actually a stick protruding from the water appear fluid and supple, like the neck of a serpent. The book is conscientious in explaining reasons for Champ sightings other than the existence of an underwater serpent.

However, the publisher seems to have gone a little overboard in packing the book with photos, such as full-page pictures of politicians who have only indirect connections to the Champ investigation.

The book was published too early to include the "highlight" of the 1984 sighting season, Zarzynski said in a recent interview. On July 28, off Burlington, Vt., some 60 people were aboard a tour boat for a wedding anniversary celebration. Many of them — Zarzynski is unsure how many — reportedly saw a creature with several humps out in the water at a distance of 200 to 300 feet.

Zarzynski believes it is the greatest number of people to report a Champ sighting, although he has had difficulty contacting more than three to verify the sighting. He noted confusion between different accounts of the sighting, as one woman saw a head and neck out of the water, while the captain and a boat employee reported they saw no head.



No bizarre sightings reported from Berks

J. Earl Ruthardt
The Eagle

No mysterious, bizarre or unexplained sightings were reported in 1984 by Berks County residents to Stan Gordon's agency.

He's a director of the Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained, a Greensburg-based society. Gordon also is state director for the Mutual UFO Network, headquartered at Seguin, Tex., the largest UFO research network in the world.

While no unusual sightings were reported in Berks, there were Bigfoot sightings in adjoining Lancaster County last year, he noted. Bigfoot is supposed to be a large, hairy, ape-shaped animal that walks upright.

"There may have been Bigfoot sightings in Berks, too, but a lot of people don't know who to contact if they see something unusual," Gordon said.

He doesn't take Bigfoot lightly.

"THERE DEFINITELY is something to it," he emphasized. "I've personally interviewed several hundred people who saw these creatures and I've seen vari-

ous types of physical evidence.

"We took one good foot cast last year near Tarentum, Allegheny County. We've had reports of a small Bigfoot, about four feet tall. The large ones are reported from seven to nine feet tall."

In the eastern part of the nation, Bigfoot seems to be a three-toed creature, he stated. In the Pacific Northwest and Canada, it's said to be five-toed.

"People think Bigfoot is one animal running around, and that's not true," Gordon said. "We've had three to five seen at one time, and we've had simultaneous sightings in widely spread geographical areas. They've been seen in daylight at close range, as well as at night."

In many cases, people say, Bigfoot has an overpowering odor similar to rotten eggs or sulphur. "But not in all cases," Gordon stated.

HIS COMPUTERIZED records list the first Bigfoot in the nation as being reported somewhere in Pennsylvania about 1830.

The best evidence for Bigfoot is animal reaction, he stated.

"In dozens of cases, persons saw vicious dogs — dogs that

would normally tear off your hand — not bark at all when the creature appeared," he said. "The dogs didn't move, started trembling and refused to eat for several days afterward."

People have reported similar reactions from cats, horses and cattle.

Bigfoot is attracted to rural house-trailer camps, where "A lot of people tell us that babies, two to four years old, are cranky and restless on nights when the creature is near, as though young children are able to feel the presence," Gordon said.

"No one has ever been injured by a Bigfoot," he stated. "They seem merely curious about humans and they run off when seen."

AS FOR UFOS, (unidentified flying objects) don't mistake the planet Venus for a UFO.

"Right now, on a clear night, you can see in the southwest sky, the planet Venus," he explained. "It looks brighter and larger than a normal star and a lot of people mistake it for a UFO."

People from Berks, others in the state and some from New Jersey did report a brilliant object hurtling through the sky about 6:50 p.m. on Jan. 28, 1984. It was a bolide, a fireball type of meteor that's less common than a normal meteor, Gordon noted.

Among unusual events kicking off 1985 was a man who found a petrified dinosaur egg in Westmoreland County. "It was cracked in the middle, but everything was intact," he said.

Gordon is headquartered at 6 Oak Hill Ave., Greensburg, 15601, in case you want to report a UFO, unusual archeological finds, a Bigfoot or other mystery animals.

Many unconfirmed cougar (mountain lion) sightings across the state were reported in 1984, although the cougar has been officially extinct in the East since about 1980, Gordon said.

Even more unusual, he added, were black panther sightings. "They don't exist in this part of the world," he stated.

Feared Cult Killer Really an Owl

TEANECK, N.J. — A great horned owl, not a bizarre cult, mutilated more than 50 rabbits in a Teaneck park, New Jersey wildlife officials have concluded.

A \$1,000 reward was offered by the Fund for Animals after authorities began finding the rabbit carcasses several weeks ago. It was thought a cult might be responsible because several of the carcasses were lined up in a row.

But Douglas Roscoe, a pathologist with the Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife, said Friday an investigation he conducted with the Bergen County police provided "irrefutable evidence" that the killer was an owl.

Roscoe and several officers staked out Overpeck Park Thursday night, making sure there were no dead rabbits inside and that no one entered during the night.

That night, one of the detectives spotted a great horned owl and, at dawn, they found several dead rabbits bearing talon marks. He also said there were no human or animal tracks in the snow and there were "wing marks" around the carcasses.

Roscoe theorized the owl, which has a wingspan of between 5 feet and 6 feet, was eating only the heart and lungs of the rabbits — the blood-rich parts — because there is an abundance of rabbits in the park.

Beer to be lure for shy Snowman

LONDON (AP) — Scottish explorer Bill Grant's three-month expedition in search of the Abominable Snowman will use an unusual lure for the elusive beast of the Himalayas.

Grant said he would set out buckets of British beer to attract the legendary yeti.

Grant, 44, departing Thursday for Nepal at London's Heathrow Airport, told reporters he would not try again if this trip is unsuccessful.

"I'm convinced it exists, but you cannot carry on with this forever," he said.

Who is mutilating all those animals?

by Steve Johnston
Times staff writer

SPANAWAY, Pierce County — The operative word around here is "they."

"They" are sexually mutilating horses, dogs, cats, pigs, goats, bulls — just about anything that walks on four legs.

"They" have been mutilating animals in Pierce County for the last decade, and the big questions around here are who are "they" and why is it being done?

A committee formed around horse ranchers, made up of 150 residents from Pierce and Thurston counties, is trying to find the answers to those questions.

Just when the sexual mutilations started isn't known — it could have been as long as 15 years ago. But everyone seems to agree that more than one person is involved. One widespread story has it that three people in black hooded robes were seen bent over a fallen horse before being chased off.

Occult, space aliens, satan worshipers, sexual psychopaths, drug-crazed teen-agers and veterinarians have all been mentioned as possible suspects, but the police and residents are no closer to an answer than the day it all started.

The headquarters for the committee is Sam and Verna Sparks' home near Spanaway, a home where the hot-line phone is ringing with people offering tips or telling some horror story about one of their pets being found cut up and tortured.

The Sparkses found their 9-year-old registered Arabian mare dead near their barn last month. The couple suspects the horse had been drugged before it was sexually abused.

A veterinarian for the Tacoma-Pierce County Humane Society said the horse had injuries that wouldn't have been fatal by themselves and the Sparkses found a lump on the horse's chest that they believed was caused by a dart filled with drugs striking the horse.

"I don't think they intended to kill our mare on purpose," Verna Sparks said. "I think they overdosed her by accident."

The Pierce County Sheriff's office classifies 28 animal deaths — mostly horses — as the work of the mutilator, but Sparks and other committee members believe the number to be as high as 100. A lot of people aren't reporting animal injuries to the police, but are telling Sparks and other volunteers about them.

Sally Jensen didn't tell anyone about her horse's throat being cut on Dec. 22, 1982. She took it to the doctor where more than a hundred stitches had to be taken to patch up the animal.



Greg Gilbert / Seattle Times

Verna Sparks with Bruk, a gelding she thinks someone tried to mutilate. She thinks another family horse was killed with drugs.

"I was just so afraid I kept my mouth shut," Jensen said. "I didn't make any connection between the cut and these mutilations at first. But it was a very sharp cut."

Now Jensen is convinced that her horse was cut by mutilators and thinks the only reason her horse is still alive is that whoever was doing the cutting was interrupted before the horse could be killed.

Verna Sparks said the committee has found a pattern in the mutilations.

"They like to come close to the house and they never bother the horses out in the fields," she said. "They seem to like the

challenge of getting close to the house and they always have several ways of getting out. They hit on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

"I think they have spotters and they study your habits. You don't wander around someone's pasture in the middle of the night without knowing something about that pasture," she said.

"And I think they are using some kind of drug," Mrs. Sparks said. "I can't prove it, but we want some kind of test done on the horses after they are found."

Orval King of Yelm, Thurston County, another member of the committee, said the committee is asking anyone with an injured or

dead animal to call him to examine the animal before having it taken away. He said he wants to get blood samples.

"We want to know what they are using to drop these animals," he said.

King doesn't believe cults are involved in the killings, but he doesn't have any better clue about who is doing it than anyone else.

"We got people saying it's cults, but it could be your next-door neighbor," King said. "What I am afraid of is that we will push them into another county or even another state. They know we are after them."

TELEGRAM, Worcester, MA - Nov. 29, 1984

Not Just Anybody Is Allowed to 'Sight' Nessie

When Daniel Cohen was researching his book, "The Encyclopedia of Monsters," he visited the purported home of Nessie: Loch Ness, a murky, cold, freshwater lake in the Scottish Highlands.

"I thought that I saw Nessie," says Cohen, describing the long neck and small head of the creature. "I was shocked and excited."

"But I discovered that the experts wouldn't take my report. They considered me an untrained observer, and of course I had no proof. It was just as shocking to find out that these people weren't about to let just anybody wander in to make an official sighting."

Cohen describes himself as a journalist who has become something of an

expert on monster hunting. He has visited many of the sites where monsters are reported to have been seen, met the scientists who try to verify their existence and kept up on the scientific literature.

"My opinion, and some scholars don't like to hear it this way, is that they are involved in romantic science," says Cohen, who has written books about monsters for adults and children. "I don't mean to be pejorative about what they do, as long as the research is done honestly."

"It does give a sense of mystery and adventure to the scientific pursuit."

The scientists who seek out the Nessies, Bigfoots and Abominable Snowmen have carved out their own specialty: cryptozoology. A few years ago

the International Cryptozoological Society was formed to raise funds for scientific expeditions, to sponsor conferences and publish a journal.

"The whole idea of monster hunting is more respectable because of the scientists," says Cohen. "But you have to watch out because sometimes the elaborate jargon means nothing more than image building for them."

Cohen points out that the idea of monsters is firmly rooted in the folklore and legends of many cultures.

"The dragon had enormous importance for both Europeans and Orientals," he says. "But if you genuinely believe that somewhere there is a fire-breathing giant lizard which can fly, it is going to upset a lot of what biology has told us."

Consequently, Cohen describes monster hunting as a matter of sorting out the legends from the reality.

"There have been reports of a creature resembling a giant octopus for almost a hundred years, but only in the last 10 years or so have we had the scientific knowledge to prove or disprove its existence," he says.

In fact, since 1896, the Smithsonian Institution has stored a tissue sample of what was believed to be a giant octopus that measured more than 25 feet in girth with tentacles 72 feet long. Scientists cannot agree whether it's an octopus or a squid or a whale.

"The body of knowledge is increasing (to prove) that something exists out there," says Cohen.

SUN-BULLETIN, Binghamton, NY - Feb. 5, 1985

SUNSPOT

Snowman search lures Leslie away

ELLEN J. SULLIVAN
Staff Writer

I think I'm going to Katmandu. I think it's really what I'm gonna do.

The fever that prompted Bob Seger's verse has spread to these parts. John Leslie, WNBC-AM's morning broadcaster, was scheduled to leave this morning for Nepal's capital to join an expedition searching for the abominable snowman.

Leslie, 37, plans to meet explorer William Grant later this week in the nearby Village of Lukla, 10,000 feet above sea level in the Himalayas. Grant is traveling with a German photographer and five Sherpa tribesmen "known for their ability to live in high altitudes and carry lots of heavy weight," Leslie said. It is Grant's fifth such expedition.

Leslie said Grant will use British beer to lure the creature believed to roam along the snow line of the Himalayas. "I told him perhaps he (the abominable snowman) might like a choice, so I would bring along some Genesee," Leslie said.

By the end of the week he may make four live broadcasts a day, twice in the morning and twice at night, he said.

The station is footing the bill, said Kitty Bocock, manager of the Binghamton radio station. "He just came up with the idea last week and it mushroomed into an exciting thing," she said. "We're behind him 100 percent."

Leslie said he heard last week that Grant was making the trek, and reached him by telephone in his Katmandu hotel.

"I've always had an inordinate interest in Big Foot (as the American version is known)," said Leslie, who joined the station in 1980.

Leslie said he plans to stay in the mountains from one to three weeks, or "until I find something of substance."

CR: J. Zarzynski

SUN, Vancouver, B.C., Canada
Dec. 18, 1984
CR: G. Conway

Cult cited in attacks on animals
SEATTLE (UPI) — A series of animal mutilations and reports of robed and shadowy figures has convinced some people a cult is responsible for the butcheries, police said Monday.

The attacks — including amputation of the animals' sexual organs — have occurred in recent years in two rural counties near the city of Tacoma.

The episodic nature of the crimes makes them difficult to investigate, said Capt. Mark French of the Pierce County Sheriff's department.

Look Skyward for Rumble, Las Cruces Told

FROM JOURNAL STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

LAS CRUCES — A sonic boom — not an earthquake — caused the tremor felt by some Southern New Mexico residents early Thursday, said a professor at New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology.

Allan Sanford, a professor of geophysics at New Mexico Tech, said the disturbance reported in the Doña Ana and Las Cruces areas was not a disturbance from within the Earth.

"I suspect it was a sonic boom," he

said. "We've been getting them in the Socorro area strong enough to be perceived as an earthquake."

"They're prolonged sonic disturbances that have some of the characteristics of an earthquake."

Sanford said the disturbances, such as the one reported shortly after 7:30 a.m. in Southern New Mexico, can cause windows to rattle and objects to fall from shelves.

Rather than a bang, the disturbance is heard as a low rumbling, he said.

A seismologist from the University of Texas at El Paso, however, said he wouldn't be able to tell anything from the school's seismic instruments until later today.

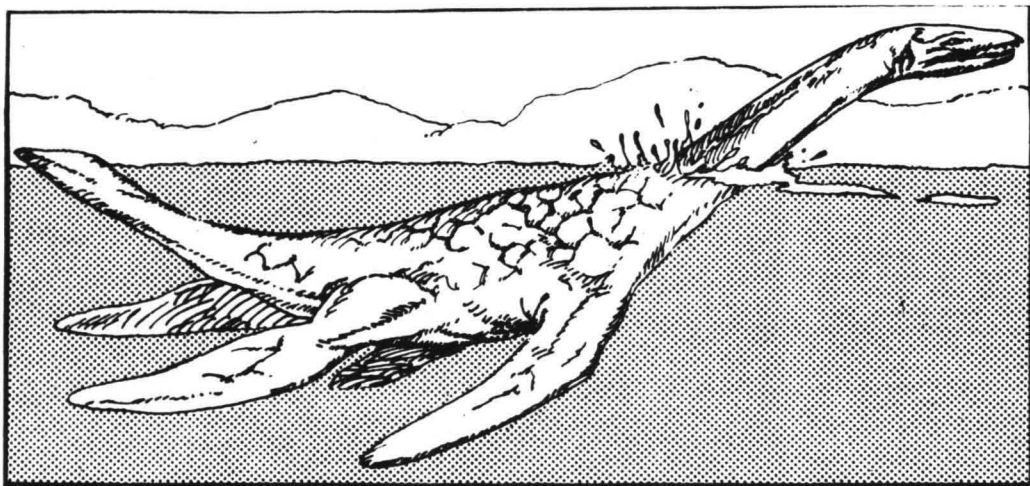
If it was a sonic boom, the culprit still hadn't been found late Thursday.

Holloman Air Force Base media relations officer Linda Shepard said, "We have restrictions against supersonic flights within the White Sands Missile Range air space," she said. "And I checked with the pilots of all of our

aircraft in the area at the time, and they all said they didn't go supersonic."

Mrs. Shepard said four Holloman jets — two F-15s and two F-16s — were over the western edge of the White Sands corridor, and said the pilots told her they were executing turns at about the time the sound occurred.

Two of the jets banked north and the other two southwest toward the Las Cruces area, she said, but repeated the pilots' denials of having broken the sound barrier.



Monster in tourist trap

Naturally
by Ronald Lockley



plesiosaur from the age of aquatic reptiles — these died out over 60 million years ago — was affectionately dubbed.

Up to 1977 more than 1000 "sightings" of Nessie have since been recorded, if we are to believe the Highland Tourist Board, which made that claim at a symposium, *In Search Of Nessie* in the summer holiday of that year. Nessie had been given the dignity of a scientific name by Sir Peter Scott after he had been diving in a vain search for her — though he did see what he thought was the vague outline of one of her fins. He dubbed her *Nessiteras Rhombopteryx* (the Ness monster with the diamond-shaped fin), and he sketched a fine picture of what he thought a plesiosaur ought to look like.

At the symposium, which I attended with Scott, one stalwart Nessie-believer declared she was strictly "nocturnal, ye ken. Och, I see her reg'lar, lolling at ease in the moonlight on the lil' beach below Glenmoriston whiles I'm passin' on ma way hame frae the pub."

In these alleged sightings Nessie assumes various shapes and sizes, adding to the mystery which today draws thousands of tourists to look for her — though Loch Ness, with its magnificent setting of mountain peaks, is glorious enough without a monster.

Favourite viewpoint is from the ramparts of the ruined 13th century Castle Urquhart, midway down the loch's 50km coast. Here, in the large village of Drumnadrochit, coachloads by the score daily visit the

Monster exhibition in a converted hotel, at £1.60 a head entrance fee.

All sound business. But what happens in winter? It seems that while the exhibition is closed Nessie too takes her rest. They say she sinks to the bottom (280m deep in parts), hibernating until spring and the new visitor season begins.

This year a special effort was made to trap Nessie all alive-o, in her favourite beat, near where St Columba rebuked her. A friend who has a mock-baronial castle near Fort Augustus, with a splendid view of the loch, described the occasion.

Sponsored by a well-known vodka firm, an enterprising group built and sank a cage some 20m long by half as deep and wide, of stout wire overlaid with plastic. The bait was salmon, which Nessie was expected to feed on within the trap while it was still open for her free passage. Once she was accustomed to regular meals there, the doors would be closed by ropes attached to floating buoys.

Such a huge and flimsy structure could only be positioned on a perfect-

ly calm day, by lowering it from a helicopter. After weeks of waiting for the dead calm needed (my friend records), the cage, buffeted by the downdraught from the rotorblades, spun downwards to a watery grave. It seemed, he said, to bounce at the surface, collapse, and vanish.

Some lovers of Nessie don't want her to be molested in this way; she might, they protest, even die (of suffocation?) trapped at that depth. They also point out that she is a protected animal, now that she has an official scientific name. Maybe some humanitarian will cut off the buoys to the trap ropes?

So there the affair rests at the moment. Nessie and her cage deep down are presumed to be hibernating, the tourists have all been driven away by the chill approach of the winter wind from the North Sea. The entrepreneur exploiters of the world-famous mystery are at the moment enlarging the Loch Ness Monster Exhibition Hall, encouraged by a benevolent Highland Tourist Board.

STAR, Auckland, New Zealand - Oct. 13, 1984 CR: R. Collins

ONCE more our overseas holiday drew us to revisit the Scottish Highlands, to enjoy a few weeks at the remote lodge above Loch Ness, of which I have written in this column before.

It was the secret retreat in the side-glen of waterfalls from 1860 onwards of such artists and writers as John Phillip, R.A. (Queen Victoria's favourite portrait painter), Trollope, Sir Henry Irving and Ellen Terry, Millais (with Ruskin's ex-wife made his own), the Gielgud children, James Barrie with his "Peter Pan boys" (the du Maurier children), his actress wife, and friends, including Captain Scott of Antarctic fame.

Researching the vast literature of their writings, biography and autobiography, nowhere will you find reference to any monster in Loch Ness, where these famous visitors loved to boat, fish, paint and compose their holiday letters.

Still earlier the sporting naturalist Charles St John is likewise silent: he wrote (1845) only of fishing salmon in Loch Ness, where he watched eagles, ospreys, and — significantly — deer and otters swimming in line-ahead formation. Nor do those curious travellers, Dr Sam Johnson and James Boswell, riding the lochside road on horseback in August 1773, mention a monster, though they recorded a great deal about the Highlanders they talked with — as they drank whisky at sixpence a glass.

There is no published record between 1933 and the mythical sighting of a large aquatic animal by St Columba on his evangelical mission to the court of the Pictish king about AD465, as recorded in the *Life of St Columba* written by a monk about 100 years after that miraculous occasion. The monk wrote that on reaching what is now Fort Augustus at the southern end of the loch, the saint "rebuked a fearsome water-beast for killing a man, whereupon the terrified monster fled."

In 1933, after an interval of nearly 1500 years, its reappearance was first reported by a citizen of Inverness — no less than the publican Mackay. He gave the *Inverness Courier* (April 14) an account of what he had seen of Nessie, as she, apparently an immortal female

'Human' gets blame for mutilation of calf

The mutilation killing of a calf found drained of its blood in north Abilene Tuesday morning clearly was done by a human, Police Sgt. Roger Dickey said Wednesday. "It was too smooth a cut. It was done with a very sharp instrument," he said.

But land developer Bailey Choate, who showed the dead animal to reporters Wednesday, is unconvinced.

He said an employee of his found one of Choate's near-yearling calves with its birth canal sliced and its tongue and one ear cut cleanly off about 9 a.m. Tuesday on 240 acres of land he owns just north of Interstate 20 between Old Anson Road and the Winters Freeway.

Sgt. Dickey said no autopsy would be conducted on the calf unless Choate asked a veterinarian to perform one.

Wednesday morning when Choate showed the carcass to reporters, he said that in addition to Abilene police, he had notified the Texas Rangers and the nearest cattle raisers' association about the death.

Choate said he is notifying authorities because the \$300 calf's slaughter resembles cattle slayings of several years ago.

Cullen Robinson of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association in Fort Worth said he believes it has been several years since the last mutilation was reported to his association. No one was ever caught, he said.

No motive for the slayings was ever established and theories ranged from satanic cults to "men from Mars."

Choate said he is extremely puzzled. He pointed to the calf's body and said, "Notice there's no sign of a scuffle, no pawing of the ground. In the middle of the back, there's a small wound where she might have been shot with a dart or something."

He said the calf would not have let someone walk up near it "so it had to be shot with something at a distance."

"There's no blood anywhere," he said. The right ear was removed flush with the skull as clean as if it had been done in a butcher shop.

The flesh and skin around the right jaw were removed several inches around the teeth in a symmetrical, oval shape. Inside the mouth, the tongue was also cut out cleanly.

MERCURY NEWS, San Jose, CA - Feb. 8, 1985

CR: H. Walker via W. Thompson

Canadians plan hunt for monster in lake

KELOWNA, British Columbia (AP) — The \$50,000 hunt for Ogopogo, Okanagan Lake's answer to the Loch Ness monster, is on.

Three members of the 14-member search team have arrived here and plan to do preliminary underwater tests this weekend.

The hunt in the 80-mile-long lake is scheduled for late July.

Rick Bain, the expedition director, said the team will use a "sonar net" to sweep the lake in search of Ogopogo. They will use a remote-controlled vehicle developed by the offshore oil industry that is equipped to dive to 1,200 feet and carries both still cameras and video equipment to transmit pictures to the surface.

The group hopes to raise money for the expedition from sponsors. Expedition members also plan to produce a documentary of their search.

Bain, a mechanical engineer from Vancouver, said he thinks the "sea monster," which has been

described as a serpent, sturgeon or monster measuring from 10 to 40 feet long, is "a cold-blooded form of plesiosaurus, a prehistoric water creature thought extinct at the time of the dinosaurs."

Dave Faubert, the underwater coordinator who makes his living as a diver and underwater photographer, said Ogopogo is likely an herbivore, or plant eater, because the lake contains too few fish to feed something that size.

He is also convinced there must be at least 10 of the species in the lake to ensure its reproduction.

Stephanie Hewlett, the Vancouver Aquarium's biologist, is listed as an adviser for Voyageur Expeditions 85.

Hewlett agreed she is an adviser "after a fashion — if they come up with something I could say it's a this or a that."

"I would never discount the fact that they might find something, but I doubt they'll find what they are looking for," she said.

REPORTER-NEWS, Abilene, TX - Nov. 29, 1984 CR: T. Adams

Is this the face of an alien civilisation that invaded Mars?

By ADRIAN BERRY Science Correspondent

PHOTOGRAPHIC evidence of what may be the relics of a vanished civilisation on Mars is to be presented next month by a team of American scientists to President Reagan's science adviser.

This evidence includes a mile-wide rock apparently carved in the perfect semblance of a human-type face and several pyramids arranged symmetrically in what appear to be the remains of a city.

All the objects are located in the Cydonia region of Mars. The "face" is at 41 deg. N. and 9 W.

The American scientists hope to persuade their Government of the desirability of sending a joint American-Soviet mission to the planet to investigate the evidence before the Russians decide to do it alone.

Viking's photographs

The research has been expanded to include the Congressional Research Service in Washington and a group of many different fields of expertise from the University of California.

The photographs were taken in 1976 by the orbiting American Viking spacecraft, but because the craft took many thousands of pictures, until recently nobody took the trouble to examine them in detail.

The space community is strongly divided over whether the objects are artificial or are merely freak creations of nature.

The NASA photographs, taken from approximately 900 miles, are freely available and have been discussed in papers by two scientific groups, Mars Research, of Glenn Dale, Maryland, and the Independent Mars Investigation Team, of Oakland, California.

Processing of the picture of the "face" by the Maryland group has revealed details of its left side which in the two photographs were hidden by shadow. These show a left eye socket, a pupil, an eyeball, and a continuation of "hair" around the forehead of the face.

Warm, wet planet

In the opinion of Mr Richard Hoagland, organiser of the California team, these discoveries "effectively eliminate" the idea that the face is a "trick of lighting" and points to it being the result of artificial construction.

Mr Hoagland said that if this was the case, the objects would have been constructed at least

are planning, in addition, a manned mission to fly in orbit around Mars have been revealed recently by Dr Harrison Schmitt, a former American astronaut who has walked on the Moon and served a term in the Senate.

Dr Schmitt pointed to the existence of a huge launching rocket, nearly as big as the old American Moon rockets, seen recently at the Baikonur cosmodrome during a flight last year of the American space shuttle.

He suggested that to mark the 75th anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution in 1992, the Russians would like to have a "space spectacular" that would have a stunning prestige effect on world opinion.

A still more ominous possibility is that the aliens, if they existed, may have left something potentially deadly on the surface of Mars.

'Library' legacy

If they created the "face" to attract attention, they might also have left a "library," a store of technological information such as would have been amassed by a star-faring civilisation.

This, of necessity, would be of so advanced a character that it would compare with a description of our own civilisation as seen through the eyes of people of the Stone Age.

The fear is that, if the Russians were to get hold of this information before the West, they might be able to use it to conquer the solar system and dominate their rivals on Earth.

"Unusual Martian Surface Features," by Vincent DiPietro and Gregory Molenaar. Mars Research, P.O. Box 284, Glenn Dale, Maryland 20769.

"Preliminary Report of the Independent Mars Investigation Team: New Evidence of Prior Habitation?" By Richard C. Hoagland, 331 62nd Street, Oakland, California, 94618.



The mile-wide "face" on Mars. Imaging techniques have revealed details of the side of the face that are hidden in this picture — an eyeball, an eye socket, a pupil, and a continuation of "hair" around the forehead.

DAILY TELEGRAPH, London, England

Nov. 20, 1984 CR: T. Good

A CIVILISATION ON MARS?

COULD THERE REALLY have been an alien civilisation on Mars, flourishing perhaps half a million years ago, when the red planet last had a warm, wet climate? That is the tentative hypothesis of two groups of American scientists, with studies being carried out by the Congressional Research Service in Washington and people of many disciplines from the University of California. The evidence consists of two, long-disregarded photographs taken by the Viking Mars-orbiting spacecraft in 1976, that seem to show a mile-wide "face" carved in rock beside an arrangement of pyramids in the apparent form of a "city." It is a startling idea. Perhaps, if the stones of Mars could speak, they would say, in the words of one of Tolstoy's characters: *Deep they delved us, fair they wrought us, high they builded us; but they are gone.*

But is it true? Let us be clear of what has been said and what has not. The photographs are highly suggestive, especially when we are told how imaging techniques have revealed symmetrical features in that side of the "face" that is hidden by shadow. But this is not proof, and the objects could turn out to be an extraordinary trick of nature. Indeed, they are far too small to be seen by even our most powerful telescopes, and no experiment could be carried out on earth to determine whether they are really what they seem to be.

So what should be done? To ignore this information could be dangerous. The Russians are apparently planning a manned expedition to orbit Mars, and they are unlikely to be going just to admire the scenery. If they did return with some advanced technical information left by a star-faring race, they might be tempted to use it for some fell purpose. Should the Reagan Administration perhaps seriously consider a joint United States-Soviet mission to Mars to see what is really there? Many of those who took part in the Klondike gold rush did not win very much; but those who stayed behind got nothing at all.

TELEGRAM, Bridgeport, CT - Oct. 23, 1984 CR: R. Collins

Investigative reporter speaks

By EDWARD STEADHAM
Telegram staff writer

FAIRFIELD — Whether researching the paranormal, nuclear power plant disasters, or an entire town that goes crazy, an investigative reporter begins with two simple questions, a noted author said here Monday.

"What is going on here, and what are you going to do now that you know what's going on," John G. Fuller, author of numerous non-fiction books said at an evening lecture at Fairfield University's student center.

Fuller, a Weston resident, has written "We Almost Lost Detroit," an investigation of a near-meltdown of a nuclear power plant reactor near Detroit; "The Ghost Flight of 401," the story of a flight engineer, killed in an airplane crash, who was later seen on flights by dozens of pilots; and "Incident at Exeter" about the sighting of a huge UFO by dozens of people in a New Hampshire town.

His latest work, "The Day We Bombed Utah," is a history of the government's coverup of the

damage caused to nearby residents by the atomic weapons testing in Nevada and Utah during the 1950s and 1960s.

Fuller's career as an investigative journalist began with an article exposing publishing house scams. He noticed magazine ads asking for manuscripts from unpublished writers and "thought I should really expose how they're fooling people."

To do this, he sent in a collection of "30 poems" that he wrote "in 21 minutes." After receiving a glowing review from the firm's editorial board, he was sent a contract to publish the works — for a fee of \$1,200.

His interest in the New Hampshire UFO case was piqued by a newspaper clipping that reported two police officers, both Air Force veterans, had seen a large object flying directly overhead. Fuller discovered 60 similar sightings within a small radius and "halfway through the research I knew something was going on and something serious. Or either I (was) going crazy or they (the town's residents) were going crazy."



Telegram photo by Ed Brinko

JOHN FULLER
... recalls stories

Attempts by the Air Force to explain were incomplete and inaccurate, leading Fuller to conclude "there was a pure coverup and there was no question about it."

When researching, Fuller often disguises his motives at first. When researching the story of a French village that went mad, he suspected local officials didn't want much publicity. Consequently, he posed as a re-

porter who was interested in the history of the town's bridges.

Eventually, he linked the apparent madness to people eating poisoned bread.

"I'm always scared when I go on these things and I feel very inadequate," he said.

In "The Day We Bombed Utah," Fuller interviewed sheepherders who saw entire flocks die for no explainable reason. A film crew that was shooting a movie in Utah was also affected by the radioactive fallout from nuclear tests, Fuller said. Of the 200-person crew, half later developed cancer, and half of that number eventually died. They included actors John Wayne and Dick Powell and actresses Susan Hayward and Agnes Moorehead.

Lacking a formal science education, Fuller said he relies on his skills as a journalist. Before writing "We Almost Lost Detroit," he studied particle physics for a year, he said.

"When you zero in on one particular thing, then you have to learn it," he said. "You've got to know what you're talking about. And you can't make a mistake."

Galaxy's 'life belt'?

Soviet astrophysicists Leonid MAROCHNIK and Lev MUKHIN of the Institute of Space Research of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR believe that our Solar System is located in a unique spot in the Galaxy they call the "life belt". It is only inside this narrow belt running across the peripheral section of our stellar system - the Milky Way - that the conditions favour life and civilization.

Are we alone in the Universe? Our stellar system, the Galaxy, has about 300,000 million stars. If, in search of a signal from other intelligent life, we spend only 10 seconds probing every star with a radio telescope, we will, therefore, need 100 thousand years to examine every star of the Galaxy. Would we not better decide first of all which of the Galaxy's stars have conditions suitable for life in their vicinity? Are there such conditions in our Galaxy?

LIFE ... OUT OF AN ARM?

The gist of the idea put forward by L. Marochnik, D. Sc. (Physics and Mathematics), and L. Mukhin, D. Sc. (Physics and Mathematics), is that the conditions fit for life and the long evolution of highly developed organisms exist only in a small part of the Galaxy near the so-called radius of co-rotation (joint, simultaneous rotation) where our Sun is located together with its group of planets. This radius determines the stretch of space in which the rotation velocity of interstellar gas of the galactic disk coincides with the velocity of the Galaxy's spiral structure - its spiral arms. Inside the co-rotation radius gas rotates faster than the spiral arms, while outside it, it rotates slower. This is why everywhere, except for the narrow area inside the

co-rotation radius, gas either catches up with the arms or lags behind them. This is why some clouds of interstellar gas from time to time pass through the spiral arms in which they become denser and are turned either into individual stars or into clusters of new stars. In fact, the collision of interstellar gas with the border of a galactic spiral arm is the main cause of considerable condensation of gas and of stars forming from it. This is precisely why most new stars are located in the spiral arms. Stars do not stay inside the arms forever, of course. Repeating the movement of the gas out of which they originated, the stars orbit around the galactic centre and leave the arms in several million years. But by this time the largest and the brightest stars are close to death. Some of them explode with tremendous energy towards the end of their life. Astronomers call such an explosion a supernova flare.

If a supernova explodes close to the Solar System, every living thing on the Earth will suffer as a result. Floods of electrons and protons will rush towards the Earth. The level of radiation will increase several hundredfold. This will go on for thousands of years. Hardly any living thing will remain on the Earth after that.

But... there is no need to worry.

The Solar System is located in space between spiral arms, where supernova flares have actually never occurred. Is this coincidental? No, say L. Marochnik and L. Mukhin.

According to the theory of spiral structure of the Galaxy, developed by L. Marochnik and his team, the Sun's orbit almost coincides with the co-rotation circle. This means that the Sun rotates round the centre of the Galaxy at almost the same speed as the spiral arms. Had the Sun moved in some other orbit, it would sometimes (about once in every 100 million years) have entered the area of active star formation and of frequent supernova flares. But fortunately the Sun moves almost simultaneously with the spiral arms and meets them extremely rarely. Calculations show that 4,600 million years ago the Sun came out of the Sagittarius arm and is now moving to meet the Perseus arm in 3,300 million years' time. But, excuse me, it is a well-known fact that our Solar System is 4,600 million years old. This means in that distant epoch the Sun with its planets not simply passed through the Sagittarius arm but was born there! This is what the astronomers claim in their new theory. The birth of the Solar System, they contend, could have also been caused by supernovas exploding. The gas shroud rejected by the exploded star expands at a tremendous rate into surrounding space, accumulating in front of it rarefied interstellar gas, similar to a bulldozer blade. In the process the gas becomes greatly condensed, thus providing a momentum for other stars to be formed. How can the hypothesis be checked? There are quite a few radioactive elements

among the products of the supernova explosion. Some of them may find their way into the new star and into the matter that surrounds it.

In fact, a study of the isotope composition of meteorites shows that they contain certain rare chemicals testifying to a close supernova explosion at a moment immediately preceding the beginning of the formation of a Solar System.

Having once provided the momentum for the Solar System to form, the supernovas then became dangerous for the life that was originating on the Earth. True, by the time highly developed organisms which are sensitive to radiation appeared on our planet, the Solar System had already left the Sagittarius arm. But had the Sun not moved close to the co-rotation radius, then it would get caught in the neighbouring spiral arm within one hundred million years, so life on Earth could have stopped without having the time to develop. Only moving inside the narrow belt near the co-rotation radius, the star does not run the risk of getting into a spiral arm earlier than in several thousand million years. As we know, this time is sufficient not only for life to appear but also for civilization. So we should look for our mind brothers not all over the vast expanses of the Galaxy but along the comparatively narrow zone near the co-rotation radius. Soviet astronomers who put forward the theory have called this zone the "life belt".

THE ANTHROPOCENTRIC PRINCIPLE

The question of where we should look for our mind brothers is now as

topical as never before. The main thing now is to develop a strategy to start searching. L. Marochnik and L. Mukhin's theory presupposes a certain direction for further research: i. e., looking for civilizations in ours and neighbouring spiral galaxies' "life belts" which, as a rule, are situated on the galaxies' peripheries. It should be noted that this view is so far not generally accepted. For example, N. S. Kardashev, Corresponding Member of the USSR Academy of Sciences, believes that the enigmatic processes of powerful energy output inside galaxies could be linked to the activity of superdeveloped civilizations.

If our neighbours in space are like us, they should live in similar conditions. But perhaps they are quite different? An attempt to solve this puzzle has recently led many researchers to form the "anthropic (or anthropocentric) principle". It turns out that if the fundamental properties of the Universe, such as the masses and charges of the elementary particles, the speed of light, Planck's constant, etc., differed from existing magnitudes, then the complicated chemical molecules and biological structures would not have appeared. There would be no human life in such a Universe, its evolution would go on "without witnesses". But since the properties of the Universe are linked so closely to human properties, we can expect the reverse too - all living intelligent beings in our world should resemble humans. This means that the galactic "life belt" will be the most suitable place for their habitation.

Vladimir SURDIN, Cand. Sc. (Physics and Mathematics)

SEA MONSTERS OF PUGET SOUND: A BREED APART

BY DAVID G. GORDON

In late December of 1936 on the Oregon coast, two miles south of Yachats, witnesses spied an unusual creature swimming about in the breakers with great speed. It was later described as having a head resembling that of a horse or camel, a 15- to 20-foot neck, ears that fluttered incessantly, a mane the color of seaweed, and a body the size of a steam boiler. As the witnesses followed this animal along the shore-highway in their car, it swam out to sea and vanished.

While fishing from boats near the mouth of the Chehalis River sometime in the late '30s, several men saw a head about the size of a barrel, tentacles of seaweed hanging down from it, a long neck, and at least three humps or undulations along its back. The creature moved in and out among the boats and then disappeared.

In the middle of March 1961, a family group strolling the sandspit at Dungeness observed a large, flattish head and three distinct humps emerge from the water a quarter-mile from shore. This animal was rich brown in color with reticulations of bright burnt orange, the exposed neck six feet in length, with a floppy, drab mane or fin along its back. The observers in their testimony compared it to a large herbivorous, marsh-living dinosaur.

The above sightings are excerpts from the manuscript, "Observations of Large Unidentified Marine Animals in British Columbia and Adjacent Waters," published in 1973 by Paul Leblond and John Siebert of the Oceanography Department at UBC. Leblond and Siebert are active members of the International Society of Cryptozoology, an adventurous group of scientists dedicated to tracking down and studying the exotic, elusive, and controversial—the abominable snowman, the Loch Ness monster, 50-foot

octopuses, and a host of animals from the Ghostbusters' Rolodex. Their publication, a compilation of Northwest sea-monster sightings, was presented to compare and contrast with the work of French cryptozoologist and author Bernard Heuvelmans. In *The Wake of the Sea Serpents*, published in this country in 1968, blew the lid off the cryptozoological stockpot with over 600 pages of documented text. Chronicling 587 reports, Heuvelmans analyzed his data, dismissing 177 entries as either too vague or obvious hoaxes. Unable to provide definitive insights into the nature of these beasts, he found solace, like many scientists, in devising a system of classification for the previously unknown. His scheme allowed all sea-monster sightings to be placed in one of nine categories: long-necked, many-humped, many-finned, yellow-bellied (really!), super eel, super otter, merhorse, and father-of-all-turtles.

Leblond and Siebert's manuscript focuses specifically on the sea monsters of the Northwest Coast, and contradicts Heuvelmans' conclusions with a revision of categories. They divide 23 authenticated incidents into three classes: those sea monsters serpentine in form, those resembling the merhorse of Heuvelmans only minus the mane, and those resembling the merhorse but characterized by a head bearing giraffe's horns and possessing minute eyes.

While much of this recent data comes from the waters off British Columbia, one would naturally assume that Washington's protected Puget Sound might serve as a haven for a resident population of sea serpents, merhorses, and even an occasional migrating father-of-all-the-turtles. We can anticipate more startling data from this aquatic sanctuary in the future as these waters become progressively more traveled. The numerous secluded fjords and isolated islands, enshrouding mists, and an ample food supply—both animal and vegetable—make this a rich habitat for escapees from the "Rime of the Ancient Mariner."



Monster in the Sound: a haven for escapees from the "Rime of the Ancient Mariner."

Puget Sound is equally rich in pseudo-sea-monsters, and skeptics are quick to point out the many pitfalls made by amateur sea-serpent watchers. Marine mammals, particularly the adult male Steller's sea lion, weighing nearly a ton and possessing a head about the size of a grocery box, make excellent monsters in the field. Equally misidentified is our local leviathan, the California gray whale. Floating logs ("dead-heads") and other water-borne flotsam have embarrassed many an overexuberant ferry rider. And the basking shark, a 35-foot plankton-eating inhabitant of the Sound, has been known to form nose-to-tail processions of three or more individuals, creating a convincing, 100-foot, many-finned, many-humped super-serpent at the surface of the water.

On a more positive note, dedicated re-

gional cryptozoologists can expect to encounter the following authentic Northwest sea monsters:

Kraken: This is the giant squid of 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea fame—the only authenticated sea monster. Eight-ton *Architeuthis*, the massive relative of our own dinner-time calamari, possesses 27-foot-long arms and sucker discs the size of dinner plates. Favored food of the sperm whale, these creatures have periodically evened the score by reputedly sinking a few square-riggers.

Pugwies: The Kwakiutl Indian merman, sort of a cross between Sasquatch and the Creature from the Black Lagoon. Fishlike face and paired incisors make this undersea spirit a prominent figure in Indian legend and easily recognized in wood-carved art. Not considered dangerous unless armed.