

# UFO

## NEWSCLIPPING SERVICE

## U.F.O. NEWSCLIPPING SERVICE

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VAIL TRAIL, Vail, CO - April 26, 1985 CR: K. DeMary

The whole county was excited about a UFO sighting near Dotsero last month. It was pretty hot news in every newspaper, radio and television station in this area.

What happened? How did the issue die out so fast?

For about a week in March, UFOs seemed to be everywhere. They were always creeping up in conversation. Workers were taking that extra look up at the stars as they walked across the parking lot at night. Housewives had the binoculars out every time Rocky Mountain Airways made a pass over Eagle-Vail. We were all charmed by the notion of flying saucers hovering just over the next mountain range.

It's gone now, all that mystical fascination with something new and different and incomprehensible. But for a short time, we fit into a new group: We were something other than reporters and typesetters and salesmen. We were Earthlings.

I loved it, especially from a news standpoint. Most of my stories are about Avon's dragged-out master planning process and mundane city ordinances, stuff like that. A story about visitors from another planet — now that made my day.

All the conversation, all the mystery, all the wondering was the result of one man's simple excitement over the event. The first thing David Raufuss of Glenwood Springs did after the

flying saucer shot out of sight was to call the sheriff. He wanted to let the rest of us in on this.

A deputy drove up the Colorado River Road that night to see what kind of kook this man was. When she got there, she found Raufuss, his parents, and his grandmother all in commotion. But none were drunk, she said, and all appeared "calm and rational," in her words. So she checked into it further.

They all reported seeing the object three times that night, for a total of about 90 minutes. It was about 2,000 yards away, by their estimates. They took turns inspecting it through the scope of a high-powered rifle.

The description of the object is so colorful that it is a little hard to get a bead on. According to Raufuss, "It had real vivid lights, one big bright white one, and a red one on top. And it had a ring around it like the Saturn ring, which was a greenish color. It was blue and green and

seemed to pulsate."

Wow! I would honestly give up a month of paychecks to see something like that. The thing seemed to be spinning the whole time, he said, and would sometimes dart up and down or from side to side. And it never made a sound.

When it came, it caused the family car to quit. When it left, it left with a speed that Raufuss could only compare to a bullet. After it was gone, the car started again.

The whole event is so preposterous that someone would almost have to be looney to go out and tell the world about it. A lot of people I talked to were skeptical; some thought he was a nut. Others thought he and his family just made the whole thing up to call attention to themselves.

Now why would somebody's grandmother lie about something like that?

Raufuss could have kept his mouth shut, refused to talk to reporters, and just let the whole

thing blow over. The sheriff's department would've issued a short press release, and most of us would've written small stories about a reported UFO sighting and buried it at the bottom of page 11.

Instead, Raufuss, a 24-year-old dental lab technician, spilled his guts. He told me that week that reporters had been calling him every day, and he talked to them gladly. "I believed in UFOs before this," he said, "but this really confirms it. This is a no-doubt-about-it type of situation."

I don't know Raufuss personally. But I'm sure from talking to him that his whole family didn't watch a Bell helicopter or a weather balloon for 90 minutes. Even though he is a professional, he sounded like a pretty average guy. I heard "I seen" instead of "I've seen" a couple of times in his conversation. No William Safire, that's for sure.

But he was honest, I think. And I guess I believe him.

When it comes to believing in UFOs, I suppose I'm like most people. It's a lot like believing in God: We're fascinated by the concept, and we secretly hope one really does exist. But our daily faith in higher sources of intelligence usually takes a back seat to our faith in Friday paychecks and the six o'clock news; and we never really get around to examining it.

Still, the possibility remains. The volunteers at the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle listen to thousands of stories of sightings every year. Bob Gribble, a retired firefighter, has analysed a quarter of a million cases himself in the past 30 years, and he is absolutely convinced that we are being studied by many cultures from other planets.

Why don't these beings land at the United Nations building and go on television?

Gribble thinks that they simply don't want to be exposed to the whole world. He thinks they want to study us from a distance, a distance that only the very curious can transcend.

So, as it is with other forms of higher intelligence, the beings in the UFOs will continue to have a small but select audience. And while the cynics sit comfortably with their solid explanations, the curious ones, like David Raufuss, will continue to question, to wonder, and, if they're lucky, to learn something totally new and incomprehensible.

JOURNAL-HERALD, Waycross, GA - May 20, 1985

## What Was It?

### Millwood Residents Report UFO Sightings

By JOCK ELLIS  
J-H Staff Writer

When Joe Lee stepped outside his Bickley home at 10:30 Sunday night, he was greeted with the sight of brightly glowing red lights floating silently over the trees.

UFOs (unidentified flying objects) are often seen by one person, but Lee had time to go inside and call his mother, Mrs. Illamae Lee. What she, Joe's wife Shirley, and his brother, Darowyn, saw over a period of about five minutes still has them wondering.

"Shirley counted 15 lights," Darowyn said from his Bickley store, The Marketplace. "There would be three, then a break, then three more and another break," Joe recalled.

A call by the Journal-Herald to Hunter Army Airbase in Savannah yielded no information concerning any sightings. Ware County Sheriff Herbert Bond said no one had called his office Sunday night reporting any UFOs, either.

But the Lees said they saw the lights heading slightly northeast. "You

couldn't make out any outline behind the lights," Darowyn said. "If it had been a moonlight night, we might have been able to see something."

Darowyn said the flashing lights came over silently at just over tree-top level. "They were probably under radar range," said the ex-GI.

"When I first saw it, it looked to be the size of a helicopter with lights on the front and lights on the back," Joe said. "The weird part of it was that there was no racket whatsoever." He added that the speed was about that of a helicopter.

"It was just like they were floating through the air," agreed Darowyn. The Lee brothers said none of their neighbors had reported seeing the lights, but then, Bickley is a sparsely populated area about 14 miles northwest of Waycross.

Darowyn said he felt sure that the lights were heading toward Ft. Stewart because of their general direction of travel. "I used to travel those roads every day," he said of his career as a truck driver.

Darowyn said he did not have any idea what the lights were. "It was probably the Russians," he guessed.

JOURNAL-HERALD, Waycross, GA - May 22, 1985

## UFOs Thought To Be Helicopters

PEARSON — "Those flashing red lights that fellow saw Sunday night was helicopters," Atkinson County sheriff's dispatcher J.D. Boone reported today.

"I don't know why he didn't hear them," Boone said. "I was inside watching TV for a long time before I finally went outside to see what the

noise was."

Brothers Joe and Darowyn Lee of Bickley had reported seeing flashing lights flying noiselessly through the sky at a low range Sunday night. A formation of three lights would be followed by a break then another three lights, the brothers said. The entire formation required about five minutes to pass over their homes in

the Bickley community.

Boone said he had read in a newspaper about military exercises being conducted at Moody Air Force Base in Valdosta. "That's the direction they were coming from, Boone said of the long line of helicopters which went over his house. "Not directly, but close by," Boone said.

REPUBLICAN, Waterbury, CT - April 12, 1985

## Something in air

An unidentified, low-flying object was spotted in the skies over Waterbury and Naugatuck Thursday night.

Naugatuck police said the object appeared to be identical to one that was seen over the area several weeks ago. They are apparently ultralight aircraft whose owners take them up some Thursday nights, Naugatuck police said.

One woman, who asked not to be identified, said she was near the East Mountain reservoir around 9:20 p.m. when she and several other people saw a round or elliptical object with white and blue lights and one blinking red light. The object was moving slowly toward Naugatuck and was not making any noise, she said.

CR: B. Greenwood

# UFOs not fly-by-night objects for Massachusetts group

By Rose Foley

**T**riangular-shaped objects of unknown origin were spotted recently in the remotes of North Adams, a western Massachusetts community. A flurry of similar sightings occurred further north in Magnolia back in December.

The shape of the objects is similar to what was seen not long ago about 40 miles north of New York City.

Investigation of the UFOs — the familiar acronym for unidentified flying objects — is being handled by the Mutual UFO Network, Inc. (MUFON), an international, not-for-profit, scientific organization devoted to investigating the UFO phenomenon.

## The UFO Enigma

Nationally, its membership totals 1,200. About 35 people belong to the Massachusetts branch. There's even a 24-hour UFO hotline for people wanting to report sightings.

Barry J. Greenwood, assistant state director of the Bay State's UFO network and a UFO investigator, takes the unproven occurrences seriously. He brushes off scoffed remarks with logic.

"UFOs — we don't know what they are or where they come from," he said. "I don't think even the government has an answer to what the phenomenon is all about. I think they're just as baffled as we are."

Greenwood can rattle off official government investigations of unexplained happenings. The most elaborate of the official check-intos is Project Blue Book, opened by the U.S. Air Force in 1947 and closed in 1969.

Blue Book concluded that there is no national threat posed by UFOs. Greenwood thinks the facts point to a different conclusion.

He said several sightings have occurred since Blue Book was closed. Copies of official UFO investigations obtained through the Freedom of Information Act show that several cases are "missing" information. Others, labeled as "top secret," are blacked out with Magic Marker. For three weeks during October and November, 1975, the



United States issued a security option 3 alert from Montana to Maine, warning all air force bases to keep an eye out for strange objects.

"That's telling us there is something important here. All people are not kooks or nuts or drunks," said Greenwood.

## Massive Collection

In 21 years, the 32-year-old Greenwood has amassed an enormous collection of UFO-related material. It's one of the most extensive in existence. For starters, the collection includes about 500 published books, some in French and Spanish. One of the books, "Clear Intent," he co-wrote along with Lawrence Fawcett, fellow UFO investigator.

The collection includes another 200 to 300 mass-marketed books.

The list goes on. He has rare manuscripts, 40 to 50 file drawers of periodicals, 60 to 70 volumes of newspaper clippings. One of his many filing cabinets located in an upstairs room of his home holds government docu-

ments collected over the last seven years or so.

That's not all. There's microfilm — 120 rolls amounting to 140,000 pages.

Air Force film clips include eight rolls the government itself lost track of.

"Ninety to 95 percent of all sightings can be logically explained," said Greenwood. "Only five to 10 percent are genuine phenomenon."

## Revealing The Sightings

Greenwood defines UFO as an object sighted either visually or with instrumentation where the witness cannot identify the object after rigorous investigation.

A recent Gallup Poll found that more than 57 percent of Americans believe that UFOs are real. Fifteen million Americans claim to have had UFO sightings.

Greenwood himself has never seen a UFO.

"The vast majority of sightings occur in remote areas," he said, adding that shows there could be intelligent life behind

the phenomenon. "They seem to try to avoid being seen by large numbers of people."

He said the sightings, which are relatively rare, cannot be predicted, although they can occur in pockets. They used to occur in five-year gaps, with a rush of sightings happening in 1947, 1952 and 1957. The sightings picked up again from 1965 to 1967. In 1973, there was a rush of sightings around the world.

There really has not been a big wave since then. In 1982, there were 14 unexplained flying objects sighted in Massachusetts. Eleven sightings were reported in Essex County and three were reported in Middlesex County.

There hasn't been much activity in the '80s, said Greenwood, adding that there were less than a handful of sightings in all of Massachusetts during 1984.

## Passed Through Marlboro

Things were different in December, 1909 when a UFO wave

ered in midair and then sped off were popular. Now, the boomerang shape is picking up in number. Other objects are cigar-shaped or egg-shaped. Sometimes, bright lights or a formation of lights in the sky are noticed.

Greenwood doesn't have an explanation for the objects. He says they're an "open-ended mystery."

"We can't make 90-degree turns without slowing down," he said, adding that known objects can't travel at such high speeds attributed to the UFOs.

They could be anchored by a biological lifeform more advanced than we are, he said.

"Again, where they're from, we can't say," he said.

The Massachusetts branch of the UFO Network can be reached by writing to Mutual UFO Network, Inc., P.O. Box 176, Stoneham, MA 02180. Anyone wishing to report a UFO sighting can call (617) 944-0686. Also, a Massachusetts MUFON newsletter is published.

NORTHEAST SUBURBAN LIFE,  
Cincinnati, OH - May 1, 1985

CR: R. Schaffner

# UFOs spotted

By Greg Flannery  
Staff Reporter

As if Deer Park didn't have enough troubles, now aliens are hovering overhead. Deer Park police took a report April 25 of a UFO sighting on Galbraith Road.

Shirley Kamman, 7810 Plainfield Rd., said she was driving her granddaughter home from Tri Country Shopping Center about 9:30 p.m. when she spotted the UFO.

"We were coming towards Deer Park at the top of the hill near Ridge and Galbraith when I noticed this huge light," Kamman said. "It was far away and yet it was big. If you've ever seen the North Star so big you can almost pick it from the sky, this was bigger than that."

Kamman's granddaughter Michelle McCalla, 13, described the UFO as a "big, bright light in the sky. It was huge," she said. "We went down the road and we saw it pulling, like at warp speed, and in no more than two seconds, it disappeared. When it was turning, it was like a rainbow: pink and blue and yellow and lavender."

Kamman, 51, said she has spoken with local television news reporters and learned that there have been similar sightings of UFOs in Northern Kentucky.

Michelle confirmed her grandmother's finding. "This is the first time they've come over to Ohio," she said.

shook up Massachusetts. An aerial vehicle was spotted in the central and eastern parts of the state, beginning in Fitchburg and moving on to Marlboro, Boston and Salem where it turned around and headed back to Boston and on to Worcester. Some people said they saw occupants.

During the 1950s, a Beverly woman claimed to have been abducted by an unknown source.

Occasionally, there is physical evidence of a phenomenon. A case in the Worcester area a few years ago shows that an automobile's magnetic field was altered after a strange object passed through the area. In other cases, the object left holes in the ground, burn marks, broken tree limbs and dehydrated soil. In still others, animals were killed.

## Changing With The Times

Sightings have changed over the years, said Greenwood.

In the 1950s and 1960s, disk-shaped objects that how-



## Jacques Vallee: UFOs to software; Paris to Palo Alto

By NICK ARNETT

Over lunch in Palo Alto, Jacques Vallee says inventors rarely foresee the impact of their creations.

"When Bell invented the telephone, he thought the major application would be to listen to the opera. When Edison invented the phonograph, he thought its greatest use would be to relay messages. As it turns out, they did the reverse."

Vallee calls himself a novice after two years as a venture capitalist. He is also the UFO expert on whom Steven Spielberg based the globe-hopping French scientist in "Close Encounters of the Third Kind," and author and co-author of numerous books and papers on UFOs.

Friends say he is years ahead of his time in communications software, but has the perspective to recognize when the market is not yet ready for a new product.

He has won France's top honor for science fiction. Among his books in English is "The Network Revolution," which a top Congressional researcher calls "the most literate book ever written on computers." Away from work, Vallee writes detective stories with a high-technology bent, in French.

Vallee is a partner in Sofinnova, the U.S. affiliate of a similarly named French venture capital firm.

Funding U.S. companies with products that might sell in Europe, Sofinnova's role is partly diplomatic, Vallee says. He does not wish to name the three U.S. investments it has made, because they are still in formation.

It is difficult even to translate "venture capital" into French, he explains. Most often the French call it *capitale risque*, but *risque* has a negative connotation.

"In Europe, people spend a great deal of time avoiding risk. In Silicon Valley, risk means opportunity."

Europeans form a philosophy first, then act, says Vallee. Silicon Valley entrepreneurs tend to "succeed without thinking," he says. "They are very pragmatic—see if it works, then if it works, package it and sell it. Then maybe in 50 years, somebody will come up with the philosophy. Each culture is good at certain things."

"In Europe, the model is Colbert, the economic manager for Louis XIV. He is still the model for France, not Henry Ford."

Vallee has a bachelor's degree in math from the Sorbonne in Paris and a master's in astrophysics from Lille University, where his professors told him that computers are toys for engineers—and engineers are implementers, not thinkers, in France, he says.

Vallee later earned a Ph.D. in computer science from Northwestern University in Chicago.

Nearly all his business experience is in the United States. Old World/New World conflicts have been a source of inspiration and frustration, he says.

He calls the West Coast investment community "short-sighted," and adds, "Maybe that's my French background that shows—trying to look for the big picture."

Vallee, who will be 46 this year, grew up near Paris, the son of an investigative judge who was president of the Court of Appeals.

He wanted to be an astronomer.

At 19, he wrote "Sub Space," which won the Jules Verne prize as best French science fiction novel. He calls it a space opera.

He had met his wife, Janine, at the Sorbonne. They were married in 1961.

He published "The Dark Satellite" in 1962.

Although much French science fiction at the time was social commentary, he says his novels were "more of an excuse for poetic extrapolation."

While in his 20s, Vallee worked at the Paris Observatory. A friend, Bob Chartrand, a senior specialist in information policy and technology for the Library of Congress, who wrote the first Congressional white paper on UFOs, says that while Vallee was at the observatory, he began to understand "that the pure sciences were not that pure."

Astronomers had filmed UFOs, says Chartrand, "yet his superiors didn't want to rock the boat by showing



them to others."

Vallee became interested in UFOs, which he calls an as-yet unexplained phenomenon. He has traveled to hundreds of UFO sightings in the United States and foreign countries, avoiding publicized incidents, unwilling to rely on second-hand interviews.

Vallee arrived in the United States in 1962 at the University of Texas, where he helped astronomers use computers to make "the first really accurate map of Mars." The work convinced him to pursue his Ph.D. in computer science.

He spent four years at Northwestern, working and going to school, writing software for the medical school.

"I could work with surgeons, physiologists—be part of a team, and see how they thought about their problems," he says.

Meanwhile, he was developing what would be called an expert system today—a way of using ordinary English to retrieve data from a computer.

In 1967, after finishing his degree, he and Janine decided to go back to France permanently. He worked for a Paris-based oil company, which he calls "Globgas" in his autobiographical book "The Network Revolution."

In the book, Vallee describes the response of a Globgas official to his idea of computerizing names.

The official's response: "Ah, but no, Monsieur Vallee, that would be using the computer for a name search, don't you see, and that would be, how shall we say, 'linguistic?' Computers are primarily for numerical operations, Monsieur Vallee, and everybody (except, perhaps, a few visionary young expatriates returning from America with wild ideas) knows that computers can perform only numerical operations."

The official follows his objections with "a few quotations from Kierkegaard regarding destiny and some allusions to the concept of Self in Sartre... and rests his case."

The "permanent" return to France was short-lived.

"It lasted one year. I found I had adapted to a rate of change I enjoyed, a fast rate of change that technology brings. . . Europe spends a lot of time resisting change."

At a computer conference in Edinburgh, Scotland, Vallee met Bill Olle, who wrote the computer language he had been using—or trying to use—at Globgas. Two months later, he was living in New Jersey, working for Olle at the Systems Division of RCA Corp.

In 1969, he became manager of information systems at Stanford University's computing center, where he developed an information storage and retrieval system.

Vallee says his wide-ranging interests have been a liability as well as a strength. He not only moves quickly from one subject to another, he has moved from one job to another rapidly.

By the early 1970s, he was at the Institute for the Future in Palo Alto, working on a system to let scientists

confer via a Defense Department computer network.

He worked with Bob Johansen, now director of teleconferencing and office systems at the Institute. With a National Science Foundation grant, they looked at the impact of computers on organizations.

Johansen calls Vallee's way of thinking "inherently expansive," linking things not normally linked, he says.

While choosing groups on which to try out computer messaging, someone described how stringing telephone lines in the Canadian wilderness had affected people living there.

"Jacques' question was, 'What were they talking about?' " Johansen says. "His mind immediately jumps to the effects on people."

Vallee used to enjoy poking fun at the cryptic symbols on computer keyboards, says Johansen.

For "ENQ," he's come up with Elephants Never Quit, and commissioned a drawing of a surly elephant amid the remains of a stomped computer displaying a plaintive "help!" Steven Spielberg noticed "ETB" and told Vallee that it really meant "Extra-Terrestrial Biology."

After Johansen repeatedly talked about "field trials," Vallee illustrated the phrase with a cartoon of a western scene and a lynch mob.

"He tends to take things that some people took very seriously and make fun of them, not cynically, but playfully," Johansen says.

In 1976, Vallee started Infomedia to carry on the work begun at the Institute for the Future.

Its product evolved into a software system called Notepad, which Vallee and others seem to be at a loss to explain without demonstrating.

Arthur Cunningham, dean of the School of Business at San Francisco State University, has been a member of Infomedia's board of directors since it was formed. He says Notepad combines the features of electronic mail, teleconferencing, videotext, data bases—and more.

"It's hard to market because it's hard to describe," he says.

Although Notepad was developed 11 years ago, Cunningham says it has not been duplicated. On the other hand, he says, the company has rarely been profitable, because it was so far ahead of its time.

He says Vallee is probably better suited to his role as an investor and advisor than president of Infomedia.

"Now he understands better than anybody exactly why he had problems, why Infomedia is just now getting to the break-even point."

Vallee started the company, but Cunningham now calls him the "brake" on the board, pointing out when the market isn't ready. But he also lets people know when an idea is ripe, he adds.

"He is a visionary in many ways. He's always ahead of his time when he works on something of his own," Cunningham says.

TIMES, Shreveport, LA - May 22, 1985

## UFO baffles Natchitoches-area viewers

Times Natchitoches Bureau

NATCHITOCHES — When James Cheatwood went to his job as a security guard at the Interstate 49 construction site early Tuesday morning, he did not expect anything out of the ordinary. Then he spotted an unidentified flying object.

Cheatwood said he was making his rounds at the site in south Natchitoches Parish when he saw the

object. When he realized it was something unusual, he called the Sheriff's Department.

Deputy Greg Dunn and a state trooper responded to the call. Dunn said it appeared to be a weather balloon.

A spokesman with the National Weather Service in Shreveport, however, said its balloons are equipped only with a flashlight bulb, not the

three-foot-diameter light Cheatwood said he saw. Also, the movements of the object Cheatwood reported are not made by a weather balloon, the spokesman said.

The spokesman said that a research center located in Palestine, Texas, releases high altitude balloons that are commonly mistaken for UFOs. However, the NWS spokesman checked with the Palestine center and it reported no such balloon in the air at all.

## Two See UFO In Lincolnton

Four residents near the Hidden Valley Horse Arena, off Highway 182 West, four miles from downtown Lincolnton were startled by either "sounds" or "sights" on Wednesday night, May 1 between 11:45 p.m. and 12:15 a.m.

Two who saw the huge UFO shaped "like the planet Saturn" described "windows" that revolved around its middle section and flashed red, white, yellow, blue and violet colors as it maneuvered and hovered in the area at almost ground level for 30 minutes.

Mrs. Judy Scronce was the first to see it, as she watched it revolve vertically outside her bedroom window, before it leveled out and moved horizontally towards the home of her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Danny Alderholdt, where it cast a "wide beam of light" down on their mobile home.

Mrs. Scronce described the object as looking like a "steel battleship" in the sky and making a sound "like a freight train coming in her house." Danny Alderholdt and his wife Lucinda said it sounded "like a jet crashing on their roof."

Mrs. Teresa Scronce, who also lives in the neighborhood of the "close encounters" said it sounded "like a bunch of transfer trucks with no mufflers." Both Teresa and Lucinda locked the doors of their homes and refused to go outside to watch the object. Both Mrs. Judy Scronce and Mrs. Alderholdt tried to contact each other by phone, but the phones would not work. During the encounter, two of the homes suffered power failures throughout.

The neighborhood dogs, which normally bark at night at anything were strangely silent, while the horses in the fields outside froze in position and gazed upwards looking at the UFO.

Mrs. Judy Scronce noticed "heat waves" coming from the object, that were noticed through her window screens in her bedroom, while Danny Alderholdt who by now had left his home barefooted to follow the UFO to a nearby open field about 80 feet away for a closer look, as an independent observer.

Danny, 25, said he walked within 100 feet of the UFO, which was hovering about 35 feet off the ground above a nearby field. The UFO was revolving with a humming sound on a horizontal plane. Alderholdt noticed that it gave off "waves of heat," after which time he felt a sudden chill. Danny watched the UFO for about 30 minutes in all and said that it looked "big enough to fill Yankee Stadium."

When the UFO started to leave the area it banked and lifted to about a 75 degree angle and moved away in the Northwestern sky. As it did both the lights brightened more fully and the sound intensified, making a "rumbling sound."

Earlier when Danny first saw the object, it had to lift up from a 35 foot altitude to about 60 feet to avoid hitting the nearby trees near his mobile home. As it did, he noticed that the pressure directed down from the UFO not only affected his eardrums, but also tended to part the treetops "like a comb" in the Western sky.

Field investigator George D. Fawcett, a representative of the Mutual UFO Network, Inc. (MUFON) and a Lincolnton resident checked with local and county police through the local Communication Center and found that on the same evening between 9:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. that several patrolmen and officers had reported a suspected low flying plane (that made no noise) in the Lincolnton, Alexis, Stanley and Iron Station areas and had expressed some confusion in being able to identify it, but these reports came 75 minutes before the UFO encounters.

Fawcett also checked with radar observers at the Douglas International Airport in Charlotte and was informed that Charlotte radar would have been unable to "paint a target" at such a low altitude in the Lincolnton area. Joe Crosby, a quality assurance training specialist with radar at Douglas did however confirm that some Charlotte residents had complained of "loud noises" overhead there at the same time, that UFO witnesses in the Lincolnton area were experiencing the same problem.

"This is the first case in Lincoln County of a UFO being reported in over six months," said Fawcett, who lists it as a "Close Encounter of the Second Kind."

The low altitude, long duration UFO encounter with the additional aspects of power failures, telephone interruptions, animal reactions, independent eyewitnesses and similar descriptions in regards to sounds, shapes, sizes, heat waves and "beams of light," physiological effects indicate that something extremely interesting happened in Lincoln County on the night of May 1 and it has to remain unexplained, Fawcett concluded.

Additional witnesses are being sought. So if you saw or heard anything on the evening of May 1 at the same time near the Gainesville Baptist Church please contact Fawcett at 704-735-5725. Reports will be kept confidential if requested.

CHRONICLE, Omak, WA - June 5, 1985 CR: J. Deardorff

## Hole story continues

By MARY KOCH

And now, here's the latest report about reports on Okanogan County's famed "Hole-In-The-Ground," aka "Earth Cookie."

When last heard of, the mysterious hole and accompanying mound of earth were the subject of a report in the prestigious monthly magazine, "The Atlantic."

As reported at the time in The Chronicle, the pear-shaped hole was discovered last October on the Timm Ranch, which is on the Colville Indian Reservation. The hole was found near a wheat field Oct. 17 by Rick and Pete Timm, who were baffled over how it got there.

The Atlantic article included several theories explaining how the hole might have been made, although the author noted that no one has come up with a satisfactory answer.

But wait. Now "The Sun," a tabloid published in Palm Beach, Fla., has published its version of the story — and solution.

"Aliens dig hole in Washington," announces the tabloid's large headline.

"A UFO has plucked up a giant chunk of earth in Washington State and then plunked down the tons of raw soil a few feet away — to the utter bafflement of local landowners and scientists all over the country," the Sun's story proclaims.

"No one is quite certain what the giant hovering cigar-shaped craft was doing when it beamed green light over an area the size of a football stadium and then moved the whole plot — down to a depth of five feet — 73 feet away," the story continued.

The phenomenon seems to have grown. When The Chronicle reported the story Oct. 31, the earth plug measured eight- by 10-feet and ranged from 18 to 22 inches deep.

The Sun story quotes "UFOlogist Bernard Fogler," Los Angeles, who reportedly "rushed to the scene." The Chronicle's attempts to interview Fogler were thwarted because he does not have a telephone listing.

But the Sun reports that Fogler interviewed a "hand" who was rounding up cattle in the area and saw the hovering craft from a half-mile away.

Fogler believes the UFO has been doing research in the Washington area "for years now," the Sun reports.

"That craft has been sighted 10 or 15 times over the past decade, and it's always capturing an animal, drawing core samples from the earth, uprooting trees and taking them in the craft — things like that," Fogler is quoted saying.

Fogler told the publication the UFO was digging worms — "more or less."

"... I think it was taking a sample of the little animals and insects

that live just below the surface of the earth," said Fogler. "They are extremely important to our ecology, and anyone who wants to understand our planet has to know about them."

The whole story was just too much for a 71-year-old Sun reader in Coral Gables, Fla. The reader, Woodson Moore, wrote a letter to Okanogan's mayor "or next city official" to check up on the newspaper report.

"I am trying to determine if articles of this type are just being made up by this type of publishers to sell their papers or if there is any basis for truth in any of them," Moore wrote.

Moore said he was "embarrassed to bother you with my question," but he wanted to know, "Did this actually happen in your county as described in this article?"

"All this is just for my personal satisfaction," Moore explained. "I am just a native, law-abiding, honest citizen, retired after 35 years as instrument mechanic with Pan Am."

"These UFO articles I take with an open mind but keep hoping some more advanced creatures will land here and show us how to save our planet and stop wars, etc."

Okanogan city clerk Mirrell Brewer delivered Moore's query to The Chronicle. This newspaper's earlier reports have been sent to Moore.

He'll have to make up his own mind.



# Evidence Covered Up, UFO Buffs Told Here

POST-DISPATCH, St. Louis, MO  
June 30, 1985

By Victor Volland  
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

A nuclear physicist charged here Saturday that the United States and Canada had engaged in a conspiracy of silence for at least 35 years to hide what he called overwhelming evidence of visits to Earth by alien spacecraft.

The charge was leveled by Stanton F. Friedman, a lecturer on unidentified flying objects. He spoke at the 16th annual symposium of the Mutual UFO Network, meeting at the Chase-Park Plaza Hotel.

Friedman attacked what he called "Earth's cosmic Watergate" and the relatively small group of "noisy negativists" — scientists, academics and other professionals who have attempted to ridicule and discredit investiga-

tions into sightings of UFOs and encounters with aliens.

Such negativists, Friedman said, have ignored or dismissed:

— Scientific evidence of more than 2,000 landings from 64 countries.

— More than 3,000 UFO visual sightings by trained pilots of 40 nations since 1947, as well as countless radar sightings.

— More than 3,000 reports of human-like aliens.

— Dozens of reports of abductions.

— Photos and movie footage of "flying saucers" that have withstood examination for fraud.

Some of the evidence may be false or mistaken, said Friedman, a Canadian consultant on agricultural applications of nuclear energy. But he said that not all of the evidence was faulty

— and that evidence from all over the world was remarkably similar.

Polls consistently show that Americans who believe UFOs are real outnumber those who do not, although a sizable percentage is undecided, Friedman said.

Surprisingly, he said, the more education a person has, the greater his likelihood of belief in UFOs. For example, he said, 69 percent of the scientists and engineers in a Gallup poll accepted UFOs as real.

One of the loudest — and most damaging — negativists, Friedman said, is astronomer and TV commentator Carl Sagan. He once dismissed the subject of UFOs as "more to do with religion and superstition than with science."

Friedman said the Air Force, the U.S. National Security Agency and other governmental agencies have been largely successful in suppressing evidence of UFOs. He cited an incident in 1947 at Roswell, N.M., in which the Air Force is alleged to have secreted the wreckage of a flying saucer and the bodies of four aliens. The Air Force explained the sighting as a downed weather balloon.

Governments are anxious to cover up UFOs to prevent any undermining of their nationalistic base, Friedman said.

"No government on Earth would want its citizens to pledge allegiance to the planet rather than to itself and think of themselves first as Earthlings rather than Americans, Canadians, Russians, etc.," he said.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS, Denver, CO - June 9, 1985



LINDA MCCONNELL/Rocky Mountain News

Juan and Lorita Green of rural Adams County say the electrostatic generator operates on a principle learned from extraterrestrials.

## The vanishing UFO

### Sightings less prevalent as excitement dies down

By STACEY BURLING  
Rocky Mountain News Staff Writer

The way some UFO historians tell it, flying saucers appeared soon after World War II and roamed our skies regularly until about the mid-'70s.

With their strange lights and dazzling aerobatics, the craft were both frightening and fascinating. Enthusiasts surmised that extraterrestrials were studying our primitive planet. They would land soon and save us from nuclear devastation or perhaps a more natural calamity.

Well, where are they?

"There just isn't much going on this year," said Lorita Green, president of the Denver UFO society, which, at 27, is one of the oldest UFO organizations in the country.

Actually, there hasn't been much going on this decade.

Mark Rodeghier, a researcher for the Center for UFO Studies in Evanston, Ill., estimates that reports in the United States alone are down 50 to 75 percent since 1973 when about a thousand sightings were reported. That was the year of the last national flap — the aficionados' term for a rash of sightings — although several UFOs were reported in the Northeast last year.

**THE AIR** Force closed its formal investigation of UFOs in 1969. Membership in amateur groups interested in UFOs has dwindled. It's possible these days to find an edition of the National Enquirer that doesn't include a UFO story.

R. Leo Sprinkle, a Wyoming psychologist who has been investigating UFOs for 23 years, wonders how history will treat UFOs and those who claim to have seen them if sightings don't pick up.

"The big question is: Will we be in contact with UFO beings or will they go away?" he said. "It may turn out

that we'll never have any contact with flying saucer occupants, so this will be seen as nonsense."

A cadre of faithful UFO believers continues to investigate UFO reports and spread word of the strange phenomenon.

About 30 members of the Denver UFO Society meet once a month at the Glendale Fire Station. Gray is the most common hair color in the room and leaders talk of members who have taken sick or died.

Green, a plainspoken, heavyset woman, joined in 1963 when UFO stories were all the rage for newspapers and magazines. She saw her first UFO that summer while working in her garden in Commerce City.

"**EVERYBODY SAW** UFOs that summer," she said recently in the kitchen of her Adams County home. "I tell you, they was thick."

She and her husband, Juan, moved to the rural area partly because "contactees," or people who said they had met with UFO occupants, were suggesting at the time that people move to the country. A sticker on their refrigerator reads: "Flying saucers are real. The Air Force don't exist."

Nowadays, without waves of reports or the impetus of a new UFO movie, it's hard to maintain interest in UFO meetings.

"I get awful frustrated sometimes," Green said. "Just about the time I say, 'This is it,' we have a helluva sighting and I get right back in it again."

At the May meeting, two group members told of recent UFO sightings. A woman said she had seen 38 gray-blue disks over her garage. "They were probably turning into third-dimensional vibrations when you saw them," a man told her. "They were fourth dimensional before that." The crowd did not comment.

Juan Green, a longtime member of the society who wears a jacket with a flying saucer stitched on the back, was the featured speaker. He talked about everything from free energy to how short-wave radiation affects the edibility of plants.

Victor LeRoy, a founding member of the group, believes the UFOs are still here and will show themselves in greater numbers soon.

"Just because they don't happen to be dramatically here today doesn't mean they're not here," said LeRoy, an energetic man whose 91-year-old face remains remarkably unlined. "I just don't happen to see them and nobody else does and they're not landing."

"I think we're getting close," Lorita Green said, referring to landings by the UFOs. "Of course," she added with a laugh, "I've thought that for 10 or 15 years."

**WHY UFOS** are less common now is just as mysterious as why they showed up in the first place. Some amateur researchers suggest that UFOs are exploring Soviet bloc countries. Others believe the extraterrestrial visits are cyclical and that the UFOs will return. Some say the UFOs are still here, but are smart enough to keep mere humans from seeing them. People also have become more sophisticated and don't mistake blimps and planets for UFOs as often as they did.

Then, of course, there's the possibility that there are no UFOs and people finally have enough sense not to make them up. Philip J. Klass, senior electronics editor for Aviation Week & Space Technology magazine, who has become the country's best-known UFO debunker, takes that view.

He also credits the decline in UFO reports to a version of Gresham's Law, the economic rule that bad money drives good out of circulation. UFO reports have become so outlandish, with more and more stories of abductions by aliens, that more believable stories are no longer considered interesting, he said.

The modern wave of UFO reports began in 1947 in a world not quite ready to accept the idea of visitors from outer space. Less than a decade earlier, Orson Welles' fantasy "War of the Worlds" had started a national panic.

(continued on page 6)

J. Allen Hynek, an astronomer who was once the chief UFO debunker for the Air Force and is now considered the top authority on the phenomenon, said the government had little choice but to deny the existence of the craft.

Officials could not say, "UFOs are real, but we're helpless," said Hynek, who founded the Center for UFO Studies in Evanston and has recently opened a branch in Phoenix, Ariz. "That's not good P.R."

People who said they had seen UFOs, or who openly believed in them, were considered crazy.

"Years ago, when they were first presumably coming, a person that believed in UFOs was a nut," LeRoy, a retired electrical engineer and contractor, said. Green said some members lost jobs for belonging to her society.

**THE NUMBER** of reports began to make UFOs more acceptable. Hynek, who is 75 and has never seen a UFO, estimates there have been 80,000 reports, most of which are "just nonsense." But 1,000 from 140 countries merit investigation, he said. Hynek is to speak at Denver's Temple Center, East 16th Avenue and Pearl Street, at 7:30 p.m. June 17.

UFOs described in those reports had similar shapes and movement patterns. People who said they had been abducted often told of short humanoids. Their descriptions formed the basis for creating the visitors in the movie "Close Encounters of the Third Kind," a term Hynek coined for face-to-face meetings with extraterrestrial beings.

While the sightings are less frequent, they have gotten better, Hynek said. The UFOs are less likely to be easily explained. They also tend to be more bizarre, with increasing reports of people being taken aboard alien vessels.

"This is a subject that is extremely persistent and extremely consistent and it will not go away," said David M. Jacobs, a Temple University history professor who wrote "The UFO Controversy in America." "This has been going on for so long and there have been so many reliable people who have claimed this, it's just plain crazy to say everybody is wrong."

**THE WEST'S** most recent encounter with UFOs took a strange twist that still baffles UFO believers and skeptics alike. From about 1975 to 1981, 5,000 cattle were mutilated in the Rocky Mountain and Plains states, according to Tom Adams, who runs a mutilation reporting service in Paris, Texas. About 80 cases were reported in Colorado's Elbert County. Adams says there have been 20 or 30 interesting cases in the last three years, compared to hundreds in 1975, the height of the killings.

Odd lights, as well as helicopters, were often seen near where cattle were found dead, their bodies stripped of genitalia and other parts with surgical precision. Some cattle appeared to have been dropped from the air.

No explanation has been found for the mutilations, which have not stopped. Adams does not see enough evidence to tie the killings

to UFOs, but adds, "I really think it's as valid a connection as any."

Bill Jackson, the agriculture reporter for the Greeley Tribune, was a reporter for the Sterling Journal-Advocate in 1975. He was returning to Sterling one fall night with his pregnant wife and young son when he saw strange lights ahead. When it looked like the craft was heading straight for the road, he stopped the car. A vehicle the size of a football field passed over the family. Its bottom was covered with row upon row of red, green, amber and white lights. It didn't make a sound.

"The fact that it made no noise, that's what scared me about it," Jackson said recently. "I know of nothing on this earth made that big that could make no noise."

Jackson saw about 100 mutilated cattle around that time and heard constant reports of UFOs. "I'd talked to so many people who had seen so many strange things. It was just kind of a spooky time period out in that whole area for about a year."

It was hard to be skeptical about UFOs. "There were so many of them that you couldn't really not believe," he said.

**"THERE'S STILL,** I think, quite a bit of skepticism among some people," said Harley Rutledge, a physics professor at Southeast Missouri State University who has studied UFOs since 1973. He says he has seen 149 UFOs. "It is possible to talk about the subject if you're somewhat choosy. I never bring it up in class."

Others concede that UFOs have been the subject of so many newspaper articles, books, movies and television shows that they may have gotten boring. Although reports of sightings still make the news in small towns, Jacobs said,

they have to be spectacular to get air time in big cities.

"I think they're getting somewhat blasé about it," Rutledge said. "You can't get a lot of people excited about it any more."

Even Green, who spent years talking about UFOs, said her enthusiasm for making UFO converts has waned. "Now, after 30 years, you find something else to talk about," she said.

Leaders of many UFO groups blame science fiction for making people see extraterrestrials as benign, almost cuddly, creatures.

"I think Hollywood has done a tremendous disservice to research," Hynek said. "People say, 'We all know the answer: E.T.'"

**THAT ATTITUDE** has made life difficult for people like Hynek, who rely on volunteer help and donations. Practically no money is available for UFO research.

"To get real evidence, you have to have real cash," he said.

He would like to see a "mini-NASA" devoted to UFO research. Instead, he operates on a skimpy budget.

"Either this is one of the most important scientific events in the history of mankind or it is an interesting and fun footnote to history," Jacobs said. "There is virtually nothing in between."

"My conclusion is that it's extremely important."

Aviation Week's Klass, on the other hand, says all UFOs have "prosaic, earthly" explanations. The myth has survived so long, he says, because it has timeless appeal.

"This is a great hope. It's sort of like, I wish there's a fairy godmother that could appear and pay off the mortgage on my house. It's the universal dream that we are not alone."

VALLEY NEWS, Methow, WA - June 13, 1985 CR: J. Deardorff

## *UFO's seen over the Methow*

By Jennifer Pitts

Unidentified flying objects were reportedly seen late Saturday and Sunday nights by local residents and visiting tourists.

Dick Chavey of Winthrop said he saw them Sunday night. He first noticed them in the southeastern sky, well above the horizon. "They were nothing spectacular — they were just there — no little green men, no flying saucers, just some unexplained phenomenon."

Chavey said the UFO had red, green, and white lights that blinked on and off as those on an airplane, except that the object stayed in one spot. He reports watching this unusual sight for at least a half hour. Later he saw two more similar objects in the southwest sky also appearing well above the horizon.

Jennifer Hurlen of Twisp reportedly also saw the UFOs at the same time as Chavey. She and Patty Yates and Jim Gerlach of Winthrop spoke with some tourists who evidently had been camping up on the West Chewuch and told of UFO sightings on Saturday night.

According to Patty Yates, the tourists described the UFOs as sphere-like with red and green lights, basically milky white, and when they moved they skipped around like water bugs. The campers said the lighted objects moved with incredible speed and told of seeing seven UFOs over a period of three hours.

Dick Chavey said it was the story told by the tourists that prompted him to look for the UFOs. His latest report is that he saw them again about 10 p.m. Monday night.



# Leading UFO researchers to meet here

BEVERLY — J. Allen Hynek, former chairman of the astronomy department at Northwestern University, will head a cast of some of the leading UFO researchers in the United States at a two-day forum in August at the Beverly Golf and Tennis Club.

The national conference is being sponsored by Massachusetts MUFON Inc. Aug. 17 and 18, and is being planned by Marge Christensen, a Beverly High School English teacher and national public relations director for the Mutual UFO Network.

Christensen has organized the nation's first information week on unidentified flying objects. The week of Aug. 18-25 has been designated for the purpose of informing the public of the nature of the UFO phenomenon and of the need for scientific research into the subject.

Hynek, now professor emeritus at Northwestern University, was also the associate director of the Smithsonian Astrophysics Observatory at Harvard

## Beverly teacher behind convention

University. He is the founder of the Center for UFO Studies which has just opened a new research facility in Phoenix, Ariz. Hynek is also known for serving as the former Air Force Scientific consultant on UFOs to Project Bluebook.

Another speaker, John Schuessler, an aerospace engineer, is the former flight operations project manager for the Space Shuttle, and has been involved with every U.S. major manned space program.

Other speakers include Willy Smith, a physicist of Florida; Budd Hopkins, author of the book "Missing Time," and leading researcher into alleged UFO abduction cases; Barry Greenwood, author of the book, "Clear Intent," an expert in U.S. government documents on the UFO subject released under the Freedom of Informa-

tion Act; Dan Wright, former aide to the governor of Michigan, and expert in UFO field investigation techniques. Moderator for the forum will be David M. Jacobs, U.S. history professor at Temple University and author of the book, "The UFO Controversy in America." Christensen will also speak.

The forum will be held Saturday, Aug. 17, and Sunday, Aug. 18.

Registrations have already been received from persons as far away as Hawaii.

Anyone interested in attending should contact Massachusetts MUFON's telephone hotline at 617-944-0686, or write to Massachusetts MUFON Inc., P.O. Box 176, Stoneham, MA. 02180 for a flyer with registration blank. Flyers containing registration forms have also been distributed to the public libraries in Beverly, Danvers,

Salem and Peabody.

Registration fee for the two days is \$15 per person if submitted no later than July 1. Fees at the door will be \$10 per day. Fee includes a reception and refreshments on Saturday and coffee and refreshment break on Sunday. Lunch will be available for purchase from the club Sunday.

In addition to the featured speakers and panel discussion during which the audience may ask questions, there will be UFO literature, computer catalogues of UFO resource material, and other items available for purchase. Also, videotape documentaries will be shown during breaks in the program.

Christensen will outline the nationwide events planned when she speaks in June at the 1985 MUFON International UFO Symposium in St. Louis, Mo. She has also been invited to serve as a keynote speaker for the 1986 MUFON UFO Symposium to be held at Michigan State University, in East Lansing next June.

## Eyes big as saucers? UFO has encounter for you

By ROLLA J. CRICK  
of The Oregonian staff

Cast your eyes to the skies next week and be prepared to report sightings of unidentified flying objects, a champion of UFO awareness is pleading.

Wayne S. Aho of New Age Foundation Inc. in Tacoma, Wash., an organization that records UFO sightings, expects a lot of unidentified objects to be flying worldwide that week and says many of them could appear in Northwest skies, particularly near Mount Rainier.

June 24 will mark 38 years of UFO sightings in the United States. It was on that date in 1947 that Boise, Idaho, businessman Kenneth Arnold said he saw nine "pie-pan shaped" objects like "saucers" flying in formation near Mount Rainier.

Aho contends the mountain is a major landing site for UFOs, and a few years ago members constructed a "saucer port" near Ashford, Wash., complete with a decoy spaceship replica to lure extraterrestrial visitors.

The 24th annual "New Space Age Convention" of the New Age Foundation will be held from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. June 22-23 in the Shaw Room of Seattle Center.

New Age Foundation conventions have gone beyond just UFOs. A feature of this year's meeting will be a gathering of persons who have had near-death experiences.

There will also be sessions on alternate energy, holistic health, spiritual transformation, nutrition and communication.

Arnold, of Meridian, Idaho, died Jan. 16, 1984,

but the UFO craze he started when he told his experience to Pendleton East Oregonian reporter Bill Bequette two days after the event, continues to flourish.

Bequette, now an editorial writer for the Tri-City Herald in Kennewick, Wash., recalled last week that he "had no inkling what I had by the tail when I put a little four-paragraph story on the news wire."

He said that when Arnold came to the Pendleton East Oregonian, he wanted to know whether the newspaper knew of any testing by the military of a new type of aircraft.

"I told him I didn't know, but we could put a short story on the wire and maybe someone else would verify his sighting," Bequette said. "He had used the description 'saucer-like' and that's what did it."

"I went to lunch and when I came back there were calls from all over the country."

Since then, UFO sightings and "close encounters" have been reported all over the world.

People claiming to have ridden in interplanetary ships have visited newsrooms. A woman who said she was from Venus gave lectures in Portland on love.

The U.S. Air Force has extensively investigated reported UFO sightings and issued a "Project Blue Book" report that discounted the finding of any solid evidence to support existence of alien spacecrafts or extraterrestrial landings.

Aho angrily termed the denial of UFOs "a cosmic Watergate" and "a most dastardly coverup" in

which those who reported seeing UFOs came to be treated as second class citizens.

Of all of the UFO-related events that have occurred since Arnold's 1947 sighting, the one involving "The Two" was perhaps the most odd.

From 200 to 1,000 people were believed to have become disciples of a man and woman, known as "Him" and "Her," who appeared in Waldport in 1975 and promised a new and better life on a higher plane. People left children, businesses, houses and land to follow the couple. About 20 left the Oregon coast with them, but the group grew many times as it moved across the country.

Eventually, it was determined that "Him" was Marshall Herf Applewhite, a former Houston music teacher, and "Her" was Bonnie Lu Trusdale Nettles, a Texas nurse.

Applewhite also was identified as a bit opera singer and as the son of a Presbyterian minister.

The couple preached that followers would undergo metamorphosis before boarding the UFOs which, in a Salt Lake City recruiting meeting, were identified as the cars, buses and planes of the Kingdom of God.

Many of the followers became recruiters and moved across the country in pairs to spread the word. "The Two" vanished when news people went on to cover other events in the world a decade ago.

Some of the disciples eventually returned home, disillusioned and despondent. They faced battles to recover property they had given away, and the children they had abandoned.

## JON CARROLL

### A Cigar-Shaped Object, Glowing

**O**CCASIONALLY, THIS OR THAT magazine of High Literary Purpose, in an effort to lighten the unending reconsiderations of Virginia Woolf and Ezra Pound, asks various prominent writers to list their favorite books.

Usually, the question is formulated like this: What one book (or five books, or 10 books) would you take to a desert island? The Bible and the Koran are frequently mentioned, as are the complete works of Shakespeare, Joyce's "Ulysses" and Proust's "Remembrance of Things Past."

I have not seen on any list, however, my favorite volume, the amazing "Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects, Conducted By The University of Colorado Under Research Contract Number F44620-67-C-0035 With The U.S. Air Force," Richard F. Condon, Project Director (New York Times Books, 1969).

It's longer than Joyce, is more readable than Proust, has more photographs than the Bible and more yucks than the Koran. It delves into astronomy, psycholo-

gy, meteorology, aeronautics, ballistics, optics and politics, with brief side trips into theosophy, ancient history, mass hysteria, media gullibility and the physiology of optical illusions.

The Condon Report (as it's usually known) was commissioned by the U.S. government after polls revealed that a majority of Americans believed that there was some sort of massive cover-up designed to keep the truth about UFOs secret. The members of the panel were all credentialed academics.

The report concluded (and proved in exhaustive detail) that UFO sightings were either (a) delusions, (b) sincere mistakes, or (c) conscious fabrications. The conclusions, however, are not nearly as interesting as the methods used to arrive at them.

**T**HERE'S LOTS OF LOVABLE stuff in the Condon report; I'll only mention one document, virtually a parody of the scientific method. The assembled intellectuals decided that, in order to touch all bases, they should randomly choose a nut letter — the Condon Commission got a lot of mail — and investigate it with the same rigor applied to, say, the search for new quarks.

Your tax dollars at work.

"The investigation was made in response to a unique sighting prediction based on alleged telepathic contacts with UFOs . . . The man predicted a UFO landing at a racetrack on a given day at 11 a.m.

"Patrol cars and a small aircraft were provided for the trip to the site. Weather in the capital was clear; however, a squall front was moving into the racetrack area. When the party arrived at 10:15 a.m., the weather was still clear. The patrol plane was circling overhead . . .

"At 11 a.m., nothing unusual was noted. The front was still moving in. Rain began at 12 noon. At 12:30 p.m., the group left the area."

Real-life farce; there's the last 50 pages of a Peter DeVries novel buried in those dry scientific paragraphs. A team of scientists plus several highway patrolmen, standing in the middle of a racetrack, staring up at the skies as the rain drips down their noses, searching for telepathically predicted aliens.

"Time to pack it in, doc?" asks a damp cop.

"The American public deserves nothing less than our best," the high-salaried researcher replies. "Wipe your glasses and keep scanning the horizon."

There's pathos there, and doubt, and triumph — and the whole incident takes up less than a page of a 965-page volume. Move over, Marcel.

CHRONICLE, San Francisco, CA

June 27, 1985 CR: D. Vance

# Major Donald Keyhoe Discusses the Flying Saucer Mystery

CHRONICLE ("This World"), San Francisco, CA - March 19, 1950



By Fritz Simmons

IT WAS flying-saucer time again last week and reports of mysterious missiles hurtling through the skies were reaching Washington, D. C. from all points of the compass.

A good many viewers of unexplained phenomena in the heavens were averse to calling them disks or saucers as they had in past years, for fear of being kidded by their friends; last week they were just seeing "things."

Some of the viewers may have been encouraged to speak out by Navy Commander Robert B. McLaughlin who, in the March issue of True magazine, told a hair-raising tale of tracking flying saucers with scientific instruments.

McLaughlin, a guided missile expert, had been in charge of the Navy unit working on classified projects at the White Sands Proving Ground, Las Cruces, New Mexico. He told of scientists viewing an elliptical object 105 feet in

diameter and 56 miles high that was whipping through space at five miles a second. It had been visible for 60 seconds.

McLaughlin declared his conviction that what had been seen was a flying saucer and that it was a space ship from another planet operated by animate, intelligent beings. Later, he reported, he had seen such an object.

The U. S. Air Force answered Commander McLaughlin's article in True by declaring: "The flying saucers are either hoaxes, a mild form of mass hysteria, or misinterpretation of conventional objects." This was the same answer it had given to an earlier article in True by Marine Major Donald E. Keyhoe, who also advanced the space-ship theory.

Since McLaughlin was off in the Atlantic commanding a destroyer last week, I looked up Keyhoe to see if he would like to reply to the Air Force.



I FOUND Major Keyhoe living out beyond Alexandria, Va., in a dignified, colonnaded house furnished in conventional taste and without a Buck Rogers gadget in sight—not even a television set. The Major, a lean, blond man in his middle years, appeared as normal as his house.

He led the way upstairs to a book-lined study overlooking the Potomac and settled down to talk of inter-planetary travel. He hardly seemed to notice the plumes of white smoke a sky-writing plane laced across the blue out beyond the river.

The Major agreed with the Air Force that some of the reports of flying saucers and disks may have been hoaxes, that some of them may have been brought on by mild forms of mass hysteria, and that some of them may have been misinterpretations of conventional objects.

But Keyhoe parts company with the Air Force in its conclusion

that all the objects seen in the sky fall into these three categories. He firmly believes that some of the disks reported were interplanetary space ships.

The Major has a fat file of reports from military and commercial pilots, and trained scientific observers, indicating that two or more people appear to have seen the same disks, sometimes at widely separated places and minutes apart.

He feels that the reported maneuverability and speed of the objects rules out the possibility that they were conventional things like escaped weather balloons or meteors.

One popular explanation for the disks has been that the Air Force itself is secretly experimenting with them. Keyhoe says that Air Force officers with whom he has talked have "convincingly denied" it. He also considers it impossible for any other nation on earth to have developed such objects.

The Major believes that flying disks have apparently been visiting the earth for more than a century. He cites early-day newspaper and magazine reports on "wheels that spun through the air" and long cylindrical objects with lighted windows hurtling through the skies.

Keyhoe is neither apologetic nor evangelistic about his weird beliefs. He believes he will be vindicated within his own lifetime, and

he can't see why people boggle at the idea of some form of intelligent life on other planets. He does not claim his space ships are actually manned by "little people" or living beings at all.

He thinks it possible that such disks could be remotely controlled and equipped with some sort of transmitter, possibly a



television "eye." He also thinks it possible that larger disks could carry some form of life.

The prospect of a visit from interplanetary travelers does not seem to bother the Major; according to his own interpretations, the disks so far reported have appeared friendly, or at least not hostile.

When the Air Force declassified its Project Saucer several months ago it reported that it had analyzed 375 incidents of "unidentified flying objects." Of these, it had explained 341 to its satisfaction. The remaining 34 had no "apparent ready explanation." It is on these 34 incidents that men like Major Keyhoe and Commander McLaughlin appear to pin their hopes of vindication.

CR: G. Haas files

## Visitors from Space ?

### Light Beams Bring in 'Code'

Third of a series.

BY TOM EASTHAM

Three Chicago electronics experts think they are hearing chatter from flying saucers. No other explanation fits, they say.

The electrical wizards have been working for many months with a receiver and transmitter operated by beams of light, as opposed to conventional radio beams.

The method was hit upon by John Otto, a patent engineer, Otto is Chicago's No. 1 expert on flying saucers. He is chief investigator for Flying Saucers International, Los Angeles.

After two years of intensive research and having seen saucers himself, Otto told me saucers are not only real, but are visitors from other planets.

Believing Earth should take the initiative in trying to communicate with saucer fliers, Otto first tried radio, using extremely high frequencies.

#### Air Too Crowded

He found there were too many waves and freak sounds cluttering up the atmosphere.

He had heard about Germans using light beams to send secret messages during the war and decided to try it.

They offer a medium free from atmospheric noises and radio and teletype waves, Otto says.

He enlisted the aid of two electronic engineers, Al Williams, chief engineer at Hallcrafters, and Myron Anthony, partner in the Blackstone Electric Co., LaGrange.

Williams and Anthony were, they confided, dubious about saucers, but they agreed that if one were trying to contact space vehicles light beams offered the best known medium.

They constructed a transmitter and receiver and put them into operation. Since then they've been doing what Williams calls "a tremendous amount of listening."

#### Pick Up 'Code'

The first "signs of life" were in the form of a code. While it resembles Morse code in pattern, its tone is more like the ringing of bells.

As yet, the engineers have been unable to read the code, although they have slowed recordings down to one-fortieth original speed.

More recently they have heard what sounded like voices—a chorus of guttural noises. Williams put it this way:

"What we are hearing is syllabic in nature—definitely of a voice frequency. But beyond that it is unintelligible to us."

"I have no doubt that what we hear is some intelligent, decipherable language. It is like nothing I ever heard."

Asked if such noises could be "fluke" signals or scramblings, Anthony said the pattern they are receiving is too regular.

Anthony explained the construction of the small devices, saying they could be made cheaply by amateurs.

The transmitter consists of a microphone and an audio-amplifier which varies the intensity of the infra-red rays of the light beam. Ordinary tungsten lamps are used.

#### Track Invisible

The receiver picks up variations in the beams through a photo-electric cell. The variations are transformed into sound through a voice-reproduction circuit and then amplified.

Anthony pointed out that the visible light beam is not needed, that the sound travels over invisible infra-red beams.

Otto's first receiver was built in a cigar box, Anthony used a lunch box.

Williams told me to make clear that they are not "talking" to flying saucers or anything else, adding:

"These are not two-way conversations—we have no reason to believe this stuff is ever beamed to us."



ELECTRONICS EXPERT John Otto, with light beam device for contacting "saucer men."

"What we are doing is merely eavesdropping—intercepting signals in our outer atmosphere."

#### Trying Elsewhere

Most of the beaming has been done at Anthony's home south of LaGrange. The engineers send up signals for hours, sometimes using radio or tape-recorded music in the hopes they will bring about a "contact."

Technicians are setting up similar operations in other cities, Otto said. Williams commented:

"I won't debate the flying saucer issue—though I have on two occasions seen objects in the sky I am certain do not belong in the realm of known aircraft."

"But if—just if—there are space ships in our atmosphere, light beams are a means of friendly communication."

"The more people listening, the better our chances of making contact."

#### Tidal Wave 'Off'

A telephone call a few days ago informed me that strange codes, not unlike those described by these specialists, are reported coming through the radio and television set in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Brinkman, Bourbonnais, Ill.

Mrs. Brinkman and members of her family have reported seeing flying saucers in that vicinity in recent weeks.

John Britaine, an ex-Air Force radio operator who lives in nearby Bradley, says the mysterious code coming in at the Brinkmans "gives me the creeps, it's so strange."

Light beams in quite another form came into the news about six weeks ago, after the much-publicized firing of Dr. Charles A. Laughead from Michigan State College for saucer teachings.

Dr. Laughead stayed at the home of Mrs. Dorothy Martin

in Oak Park. Mrs. Martin told reporters she was receiving messages from space people through light beams.

Her "messages" foretold the coming Dec. 21 of a huge tidal wave, but a later "message" called it off, she said. Otto commented:

"Mrs. Martin knew of our experiments. She was using a sound scientific explanation to give credence to her ideas."

Otto's difficult job is separating fact from fiction in saucer research. He has personally investigated over 200 sightings.

He pointed out that the mystery surrounding saucers is so great that many crackpots have "tried to get into the act," adding:

"We who are serious about saucers don't want any 'spooks' to tear down the work we're doing. There are enough mysterious facts to keep us busy, without getting into the metaphysical."

#### Whistles Studied

A similar study of strange noises from outer space is under way with government cooperation at Stanford University, Palo Alto, Cal.

Stanford electronics experts detected "whistlers," musical sounds, coming from the atmosphere. They call them "as weird," strange and unbelievable as flying saucers.

They are testing a theory that the whistlers may be related to lightning.

A listening station has been set up aboard the Navy icebreaker Atka, now in the Antarctic. Other special equipment is being installed in Stanford's radio and propagation laboratory.

They hope to intercept and study the unusual sounds.

AMERICAN, Chicago, IL - Feb. 1, 1955 CR: R. Heiden



# Saucers 'Out of This World'

## Aerial Tricks Incredible

### Visitors from Space ?

Fourth of a series.  
BY TOM EASTHAM

What makes so many people think flying saucers come from other planets? Probably the biggest reason is that saucers are said to do aerial tricks that are just plain out of this world. Thousands of miles an hour ... 90 degree turns ... sudden reversals.

Aerodynamics men say things like "no human could stand it" or "no country on earth can build aircraft that will do such stunts at those speeds."

The long-standing saucer mystery makes such thinking inevitable, too.

For those who subscribe to the interplanetary theories about saucers, there are hundreds of eyewitness accounts of unusual happenings which tend to confirm their belief.

As Maj. Gen. John A. Samford, Air Force intelligence director put it, they are stories from "credible witnesses about incredible things."

The most notable claim of encounters with saucer people thus far have come from one Truman Bethurum, Nevada mechanic.

Bethurum says that in the summer of 1952 he came across a flying saucer hovering a few feet above the ground in the desert.

#### Met Captain

He says he met the saucer's captain, a woman named Rhames. There was a crew of 32 males, he says, but he did his talking with the lady, who presumably spoke English.

Bethurum says that in 10 subsequent visits with the saucer people he was interrogated at length by the woman and in turn given precious bits of information about life in the universe.

He was told the saucer came from a solar planet called Clarion, and also that Mars is lightly inhabited.

He describes the saucer as 300 feet in diameter and 18 feet thick in the center, made

of a metal resembling stainless steel.

Wayne Proell of the Chicago Rocket Society, in reviewing Bethurum's recent book, declares:

"If this be so, space research enters a new era, in which we try to duplicate what we know others to have done."

"If it is not, then this is a marvelous and diabolical hoax."

Next came George Adamski of Valley Center, Cal.

His experience was similar to Bethurum's, but he had six



ADDRESSING Chicago Rocket Society recently, Truman Bethurum told of seeing flying saucer hover a few feet above the Nevada desert.

sworn witnesses and pictures to "prove" what he saw. A controversy has raged since over the authenticity of the photos, still unresolved.

Adamski said he and six others saw a saucer land in the desert Dec. 13, 1952, and he "talked" with one of the crew members by sign language.

#### From Venus

He said he was told the space ship had travelled from the planet Venus. He even exhibited plaster casts of weird imprints he said are footprints of the visitors.

Adamski has since displayed telescope pictures which show objects in the air about the moon, which he claims are the same sort of objects he has seen here on earth.

He has cooperated in a book with Desmond Leslie, cousin of Winston Churchill and British saucer writer. The book includes many of Adamski's pictures and tracings of saucers reports by Leslie back to the year 1203.

The most astounding saucer tale has come from Daniel W. Fry, 46, a rocket technician who was working on a government project at White Sands, N. M., at the time of his "incident" July 4, 1950.

Fry said that fearing ridicule he withheld his story until last year. In April, 1954, he



PHOTOS illustrate "saucers" that George Adamski of Valley Center, Cal., says he saw above desert. Controversy rages over authenticity of pictures. Adamski claims he saw a saucer land, "talked" with crew members by sign language.

walked into a California flying saucer convention and told an incredible story.

#### Withheld Tale

He claimed of seeing a saucer land near him at White Sands. He approached cautiously, walking around it several times, then reached out to touch it.

At that instant, he says, a voice "seemed to come out of the air at my side" and said "better not touch the hull, pal, it's still hot."

Fry was frightened, but the "voice" assured him:

"Take it easy, pal, you're among friends."

It then told him to hop into the saucer through a hatch, which opened. He did so and soon realized he was airborne, he says.

#### Tells Trip

Fry guessed that the saucer travelled at about 35 miles altitude, but shortly descended to about 20 miles to give him a good look at New York City. In 30 minutes—round trip—he was back at White Sands, he related.

Fry says the "voice" told him the saucer was controlled from a "mothership" orbiting about 900 miles above the earth.

It revealed further that this particular saucer was a "transport" carrying air up to the

peatedly stated that huge "mother ships" are sending the small space craft down to observe us.

The small "glowing light" saucers are really only the robot "eyes" of the larger craft, Adamski says.

Rocket engineer Daniel W. Fry says he was told during his trip on a robot saucer that it was operated from a huge mothership orbiting the earth 900 miles away.

#### All His Spare Time

Lt. Col. John O'Mara, deputy commander of air force intelligence, was interviewed recently by saucer researcher Len H. Stringfield of Cincinnati.

Stringfield himself worked in 5th Air Force intelligence during the last war and is now advertising director for an Ohio firm. Saucer hunting takes all his spare time, and more.

During the conversation, Stringfield says he asked the colonel about the theory that the earth satellites were "rocks."

He says O'Mara told him he had not received word they were "rocks" and that the scientists in White Sands "are still working very hard and have lots of things to work on."

#### Boy Burned

David said he and a playmate saw a saucer land and he ran up and touched it, getting his arm and face burned.

It happened again to a scoutmaster in Florida who went into the woods to investigate what he thought was a burning plane. This man says he was burned and paralyzed by a "ray" shot from the saucer.

Others all over the world have given similar strange accounts.

When saucer researchers, civilian and military, hear about such goings on they immediately begin checking for other witnesses and corroborating evidence.

Usually there is nothing but the word of the observer.

Always there is doubt, and wonder.

# Mystery of 3 Moons: Satellites or Saucers?

Fifth of a series.  
BY TOM EASTHAM

Does the earth have three moons?

One of the most intriguing aspects of the Great Flying Saucer Hunt is speculation about two extra satellites reportedly spotted by astronomers early last year.

The new satellites are said to be circling the earth at 400 miles to 600 miles out in space.

The Pentagon, fearing Russia had beaten the United States in establishing an artificial space station, put two of the nation's top astronomers to work to identify the satellites, according to the reports.

#### Atmosphere Hunt

The astronomers are Dr. Lincoln LaPaz, head of the Institute of Meteoritics, University of New Mexico, and Dr. Clyde Tombaugh, discoverer of the planet Pluto.

In announcing the search, the Pentagon said the astronomers were assigned to "try to find" objects in our atmosphere suitable for space stations.

Astronomers have long known that there are bits of meteor "dust" or asteroids orbiting our planet, but none of such size as to be considered for space operations.

Last August, in the magazine Aviation Week, Dr. LaPaz was said to have confirmed the existence of the two satellites and to have eased Pentagon fears by determining they were "natural," meteors trapped in our atmosphere.

#### False Rumors

Meteors are huge pieces of rock from space. Many strike the earth as meteorites or dissipate before striking.

LaPaz, in a letter to the Associated Press soon after, said:

"Scientifically and militarily, the search for nearby satellites of the earth is one of the most important on which mankind has ever embarked."

"It is therefore unfortunate, although not surprising, that false rumors are bound to be circulated in regard to the nature and re-

sults of this search.

"As regards the Aviation Week story on the satellite search, summarized in the AP release shown me, it is false in every particular insofar as reference to me is concerned."

"No one representing Aviation Week has questioned me concerning any possible connection I may have with the satellite search program, and no one whatever has been authorized to credit me with the activities attributed to me in the Aviation Week story."

#### Robot 'Eyes'

It is considered significant that LaPaz qualified his remarks by saying the story was false "insofar as reference to me is concerned."

Saucer researchers were immediately reminded of what they had been told men who claim to have had contacts with space people.

George Adamski, astronomer who claims many meetings with saucer people, has re-

#### 2,000 Subscribers

Stringfield heads an organization called Civilian Research, Interplanetary Flying Objects. He publishes a monthly newsletter which has over 2,000 subscribers.

Many researchers, including Stringfield and Chicago's John Otto, believe the satellites may somehow figure in the solution of the flying saucer mystery.

Otto says that even if the satellites are natural meteors, there is a possibility they have been captured by space men as bases for observing the earth.

Stringfield revealed he is investigating reports that a huge "object"—estimated at 10,000 feet in diameter—hovered over the Cincinnati area for seven months of 1949.

He has learned it was observed at 12 miles altitude by astronomers and that the Air Force sent up planes to study the thing as closely as possible.

No report has been made public.

Oct. 30, 1959

**W**ASHINGTON, Oct. 29 (AP) — The chunk of ice that plunged onto a Georgia farm may have come from an airplane or may also have come from outer space, F. P. Henderson, Smithsonian institution mineralogy expert, pleaded that any

## Ice From Plane or Space.

part of the 50-pound chunk which might remain be preserved for examination here. C. T. Lecroy said the ice whistling out of a clear sky Tuesday, barely missed him and dug a crater the size of an automobile wheel on his farm near Marietta, Ga.

possible, without examining the ice, to do more than guess at possibilities, such as:

1. Ice formed on an airplane and then dislodged.
2. Ice of meteoric origin from someplace out in space.

He said there have been records of a few mysterious

ice falls in the past, and that one unconfirmed theory is that they come from comets.

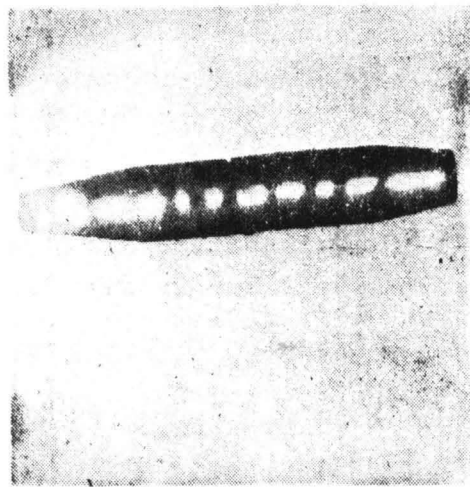
Another Washington scientist cited the theory that comets are, in effect, dirty snowballs made up of conglomerates of ice containing stony and other matter.

It's conceivable, declared this scientist, that fragments of the comet head could break off—thus becoming

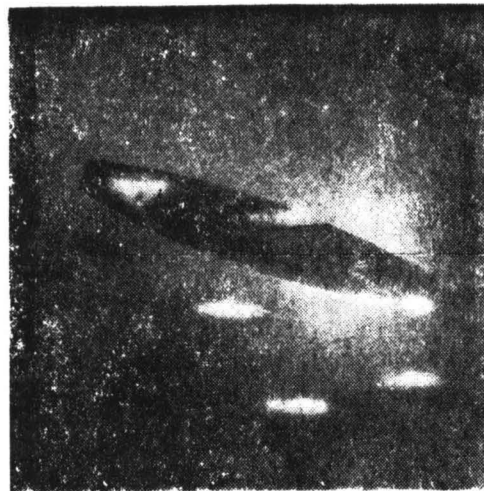
# Visitors from Space ? Saucer Folk Called Harmless



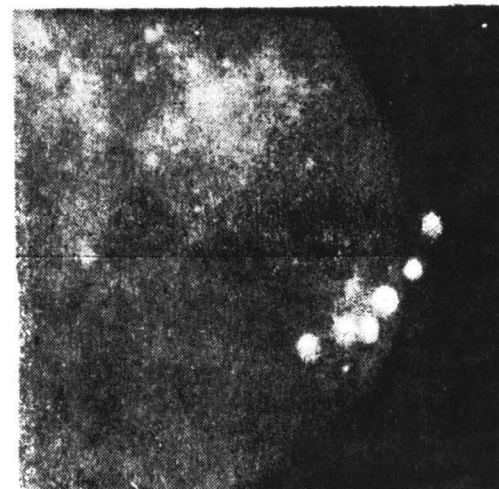
A Venusian scout ship.



A type of space craft.



Space craft releasing scout "saucers."



Space craft rising from moon's surface.

Photos made by George Adamski through 6-inch telescope at famed Mount Palomar observatory in California, with descriptions by the author-astronomer.

## Astronomer Says Ships Are Unarmed

BY TOM EASTHAM

Last of a series.

The man who first shocked the world with stories of meeting men from other planets revealed to me he has spent more than 200 hours in their presence!

He says he has been taken on "short trips into space" and has seen pictures of places, cities and country terrain of other worlds.

"Much as I would like to have gone," he writes, "I have never been taken to another planet."

He is George Adamski, teacher, astronomer, philosopher, author. He lives in an isolated village atop Palomar Mountain in California.

Adamski's first book, "Flying Saucers Have Landed," created a world sensation. He wrote it in cooperation with Desmond Leslie, British saucer expert and cousin of Winston Churchill.

### Tells of Encounter

The book told of his first encounter with a man from Venus, in 1952. The truth of the account was sworn to by six people.

He writes me now that he has met this same man many times and has also met both men and women from three other planets.

Adamski says the space people have assured him they are

not planning any mass landings on earth.

Why are they visiting us? Here is his explanation:

"Their primary purpose for coming earthward is that our own planet is undergoing a natural change in its position in its orbital course.

"All forms have their cycles in which certain changes take place and planets are no exception.

"On earth we are not much aware of these changes, but it is affecting all surrounding space and extending outward to the space lanes along which space travelers move.

"So just as our own government and all others closely observe any natural changes taking place in the waters of the oceans over which vessels move, those of other worlds are closely observing the changes taking place in space."

### How They Talk

How can earthmen talk to space people?

Adamski explains that in his first encounter signs and "exchange of thoughts" were the only form of communication, but adds:

"During all the later meetings the conversations were in English which I could understand easily.

"Once a few words of Polish were spoken in answer to a question I asked in that tongue to see if they could understand it.

"On their ships I was shown many instruments by which they learn the languages of people on any planet they expect to visit."

What about the "monster" reports on saucerites?

Adamski says he "sincerely questions" the reports of grotesque beings by people who claim to have had contacts.

### Like Ourselves

He does not question that they have seen things, but says "fear distorts much," elaborating:

"I have met people from three different planets and have reports of personal contacts with people of two other planets which have taken place outside of America.

"All I have seen and most of the many reports that have come to me about visitors are of people like ourselves only more beautiful and of finer features.

"My friends have all ranged in height from 5 feet to 6½ feet and of various shades and colors.

"I have been told that people of other planets range in many sizes, from very small to quite large, but never have I been told or led to believe that any other people are freaks, any more than mankind on earth are freaks."

### Won't Interfere

Adamski says that in addition to observing us, space people are "willing to help the people, if such were possible," adding:

"They have told me that although they could be of much help to us and teach us much about the space in which we all live, they will never force their wills upon

us, nor will they ever forcefully interfere with our personal or national activities.

"The only way any person can learn a thing is through experience, and if such experience is our desire, they will not interfere.

"Yet if we once desire a change, they are ready and willing to be of whatever service they can."

Adamski says he has been told that people of other planets are friends and are our friends, and that war exists on earth alone.

### No Armaments

He says he has never seen armaments of any kind on space vehicles.

He was told the spacemen have knowledge of powerful natural rays that can disintegrate forms, but was assured they would never use them on "fellow beings."

Adamski's new book, "Inside the Space Ships," will be released this year by the British Book Centre, in New York.





BRADFORD STAR, Yorkshire, England - March 28, 1985

## Strange night lights trigger UFO theory

A THORPE Edge couple claim to have had an extraordinary paranormal experience which has shaken their lives.

The couple, who wished to remain anonymous, were alerted in the early hours one morning by a bright light they saw from their flat window.

They saw a glowing structure on four legs standing in Calverley woods, which both of them believed was a spacecraft.

The bewildered couple then passed a pair of binoculars to and fro to observe some small, almost reptilian humanoids collecting specimens around the spacecraft.

This, apparently, went on for nearly two hours, between 3 a.m. and 5 a.m. on July 22 last year. They retired to bed and

by the time they woke up later that morning they were gone.

This is one of the sightings reported to the newly formed West Yorkshire UFO Research Group who are appealing to people to come forward and tell them of any paranormal experiences they have had.

The story of the Thorpe Edge couple was just one of many they learnt about after an earlier appeal made in the Star in February.

Paul Bennett, of St. Paul's Road, Manningham, said: "The response we got from the Bradford public was quite astonishing and resulted not only in a substantial number of previously undiscovered UFO reports from the area, but an increased membership within our group of investigators."

Anybody who cares to contact the group will be treated confidentially. Please telephone Bradford 638338 and ask for Ann or Darren Chanter.

Pix-people, Sydney, N.S.W., Australia - May 6, 1985

## INVESTIGATING THE INCREDIBLE BY JOHN PINKNEY

### Triangle drama at drive-in

A GAUDILY-coloured UFO, which changed shape from an oval to a triangle, startled patrons when it hovered above the Mareeba, Qld, drive-in.

The object, ablaze with red and yellow lights, appeared at the height of flying saucer sightings over Queensland's northern cities. TV stations and newspapers were besieged with reports from Cairns, Mossman, Innisfail and Bamaga.

Within minutes of each other, witnesses hundreds of kilometres apart described similar phenomena — an enormous triangle, or a twinkling, multicoloured oval, half the size of a football field.

Some callers said the UFO had a large blue light perched on its "nose".

● I have two photographs of similar "nose-lights"

on my files. One is on a UFO snapped by Professor J. Allen Hynek, from a passenger jet's window.

The second shot was taken over Bass Strait by plumber Roy Manifold 20 minutes before pilot Frederick Valentich mysteriously disappeared. The picture shows a black object (same shape as Hynek's UFO) hurtling out of the ocean. A huge blue star shines on its forward edge.

The most powerful proof that UFOs exist is that they're being reported and photographed — in the same shapes and colours — all around our planet.

CR: J. Magee

WESTERN INDEPENDENT, Plymouth, England - May 19, 1985 CR: T. Good

## Is it a bird or a plane? No—it was a bonfire



Picture: DON DALZIEL

ERIC MORRIS, convinced a UFO almost crashed in this country lane, stoops to take a radioactivity reading to prove his point.

The geiger counter's needle does not move. Eric goes on to test another scorched branch, a tree stump and some cinders. There are still no readings.

"I am surprised, because I am convinced that something very strange has happened here," said Eric.

The Independent isn't surprised. We think somebody has had a small bonfire that got a little out of hand.

Eric is chairman of the grand-sounding Plymouth UFO Investigation Centre — a bedsitter in Bickham Road, St. Budeaux, Plymouth.

Eric contacted the Independent to ask if we could borrow a geiger counter in order to 'complete this interesting case'.

We did, and I met him in the lane just outside Colan, a village near Newquay.

Why was he so convinced that even if there was a high radioactivity reading, this would be proof a UFO had caused the scorch marks?

By KEVAN BLACKADDER

### Radar

'Damage caused by UFOs has left an increase in radioactivity in 99.9 per cent of confirmed sightings,' he said.

But even though there was no radioactivity recorded in our many readings. Eric was still not downhearted because he is convinced that the woman who contacted him when she saw the 'craft' gave such a perfect description.

'This lady saw something and it was flying very close to the ground. I believe that tree was most definitely damaged by this thing as it is very close to the original sighting,' he said.

RAF St. Mawgan is just over a mile from Colan, and Eric believes they are involved in some sort of cover-up.

'I have contacted them with a detailed time and place for the sighting, they must have picked something up on their radar,' he said. 'But they will not tell me anything.'

'I am not going to be happy with don't knows. I intend to get an explanation.'

Mrs Kim Lansdown, of Colan, who says she saw the strange object in the area back in February was amazed to hear yesterday that Mr. Morris was still investigating.

'It was a pure light, of no particular shape or form. I was driving and followed it a short distance,' she said.

'I'm convinced I saw something unusual but I went out the next day,

and it did not leave any marks behind.

'We had some idiot round here setting fire to hedges, that is what Mr. Morris's scorch marks probably come from.

'I don't think any of this has anything to do with RAF St. Mawgan.

● A 75-year-old woman claims to have seen a UFO over Milton Abbot last week. She says it was goldfish-shaped, surrounded by coloured lights and made a humming noise.

POST-HERALD, Birmingham, AL - May 20, 1985 CR: L. Phillips

## Soviet UFOs

There's a debate in the Soviet press these days about unidentified flying objects. The labor newspaper Trud reported that an Aeroflot plane flying over Minsk had a close encounter with a bright light that "escorted" the craft to its destination.

But, as if to set the record straight, the Soviet military newspaper Kraz-

naya Zvezda recently told its readers UFOs are optical illusions.

There is obviously some confusion over the party line. And until it can be determined, we can only commend the Soviets who claim to have seen UFOs for their admirable restraint.

At least they didn't try to shoot them down, which is progress.

MIRROR, London, England  
June 22, 1985 CR: D. Speed

● EXPERTS are baffled by the re-appearance of a set of mysterious circles on a historic hill. The unexplained rings were last seen in the same field at Bratton, Wiltshire, nearly a year ago.

# Official hush-hush over 'UFO' scare

**AN OFFICIAL cloak of secrecy has been thrown around the sightings of a massive UFO over Devon.**

The Express and Echo has received telephone calls and letters from people who saw the object all asking the same question: "Was it one of ours?"

But the Ministry of Defence was mysteriously vague. Asked if the brightly lit cigar shaped craft could have been part of secret military trials, a spokesman replied cryptically: "You've answered your own question."

Exeter residents who saw the object fly over their homes have been puzzled that the city's airport said it had no reports of the craft.

"It's almost as if they trying to cover something up," said Mr Robert Bond, of 6 Elaine Close, Beacon Heath.

## Helicopters

"My wife Theresa rang the airport that night and they said they had been trying to track it on the radar, but couldn't. They also said the only aircraft which should have been in the area were two helicopters half an hour earlier."

Mr Bond added that when his wife rang directory inquiries for the airport numbers the operator asked her what was happening because she'd had several

request from callers for the same number.

But an airport spokesman said: "We've not made efforts to find out what it was, that's up to the military or the police."

However, two Exeter men believe they have solved the mystery themselves. Mr David Howell, of 72 East Wonford Hill, and Mr Brian Cosway, of Old Rydon Lane, both saw the object and say it looked like large transport aircraft, possibly practising mid-air refuelling.

Mr Howell said: "My observation was of a pair of large, transport-size aircraft manoeuvring together fully lit up during flight."

He followed up a similar sighting some years ago, and received a reply from the Ministry of Defence explaining the need for such flying practice.

Mr Cosway said the flights were a regular occurrence. "The aircraft carry a large array of coloured light underneath, and three of these aircraft in a row would look cigar-shaped. But they would look startling to people, and I'm surprised RAF Chivenor said it had no reports of the aircraft."

PIX-PEOPLE, Sydney, N.S.W., Australia  
May 20, 1985 CR: J. Magee

## **PINKNEY REPORT** INVESTIGATING THE INCREDIBLE BY JOHN PINKNEY

### **UFO on Birdsville track**

A DAZZLINGLY-lit globe, skimming centimetres above the Birdsville Track, created a dust-cloud that temporarily blinded two young fossickers.

"It happened in 1980 when my friend Dave Foster and I were on a prospecting holiday," recalls Chris Daley of Mareeba, North Queensland.

"Our weird experience began when we were just outside Bedowrie. We were walking, with detector and implements, across some creekbeds when we noticed something extremely unusual.

"On a small hill, the 60cm-high grass had been flattened into an anti-clockwise egg-shape. In the centre, a small clump of grass was untouched.

"It was exactly the same pattern I'd seen in grass when I was a kid. It was plain to both of us that something had landed there.

"I paced out the oval. It was about 6m by 4.5m. The centre tuft of grass was about 20cm

in diameter.

"We were still talking about the grass patch that night when we were driving toward Boulia. Then, simultaneously, we saw a dazzlingly bright light at the roadside.

"At first we thought it was a motorbike but soon concluded that was unlikely, as the terrain is so dangerous. As our car drew level with the light, we saw it was globe-shaped. Then it suddenly took off right in front of us.

"There was no noise — just a hail of rocks and blinding dust, as though a truck had gone past. As the dust settled, we saw the globe again. It was skimming just above the ground, negotiating trees and channels at incredible speed.

"It must have travelled 100m in less than a second. When the thing vanished, we hopped out of our car with torches. There was fine white powder on the ground where the UFO had lifted off.

"Dave and I have often wondered since what the globe was doing there. There's a lot of piezo quartz in the area, and we think it was interested in that."

WHITBY GAZETTE, Yorkshire, England - June 14, 1985 CR: T. Good

## — 'WEIRD' RECTANGLE IN SKY —

After an interval of a couple of years with no strange aerial objects reported to the Gazette, a UFO has again been sighted in the Whitby area.

Mr Stephen Goddard (18), of Stainsacre Lane, Whitby, was driving between Robin Hood's Bay and Hawsker, travelling towards the town, at about a quarter past midnight on Friday morning, when he was baffled by something "weird" in the sky.

"It was like a lit-up rectangle, quite big and not all that high and was moving slowly all the time I watched it," he said.

He stopped his car two or three times to get out and watch the UFO, which was moving towards Whitby.

"I have never seen anything like it before. There was no sound — it was nothing like an aircraft. I had a friend with me and we saw it at the same time. Finally, it just seemed to fade out somewhere over Whitby," he said.

An apprentice mechanic at Harrison's Garage, Upgang

Lane, Mr Goddard said when he reached home other members of his family commented that their dog had behaved strangely at the time the UFO would have been in the area.

"I can't give any explanation for what we saw," he said. "I certainly don't disbelieve in UFOs after that experience. . . ."

Strange objects have been reported in the sky around Whitby on a number of occasions, the last sightings involving reports by a number of different people being in October, 1982. Three years earlier there were a number of sightings of bright flashing lights, sometimes travelling fast and sometimes slowly, or hovering.

Witnesses have always said there was no sound of engines. A spokesman at RAF Fylingdales Ballistic Missiles Early Warning Station said nothing untoward had been detected there — but added that the radar installation was designed to track ballistic missiles.



# Mystery sparked after many night sightings

# '1,000FT-LONG UFO'

# LIGHTS UP DEVON

PRESS, Potters Bar, England - June 6, 1985 CR: T. Good

## Was it really a UFO?

IT WAS flying, covered in lights and silent — and so far no-one has been able to identify it. But was it a UFO?

That's the question Potters Bar businessman Gaetano Avogardi wants answered after seeing a strange object over his house in The Avenue.

Still shaken, the former Italian resistance fighter now feels sure that the strange object he saw was a UFO.

And investigations by the Press have so far been unable to come up with any other rational explanation.

The object was seen by Mr Avogardi and his wife, Irene, about 2 am on Friday as he was

By Gervase Webb

working late at home. He takes up the story: "I saw what I thought was a floodlight go on behind the curtains. I looked out and saw an object — I can't describe the shape — covered with lights.

"It seemed to be flying very low but what made it so strange was that it made no sound."

Mr Avogardi explained: "If it had made any noise at all I might have discounted it as a plane or a helicopter. But it was com-

pletely silent. "It was uncanny. I hardly got any sleep for the rest of that night. I just lay there thinking 'I wonder...'"

He added: "If someone can provide a rational explanation for it I'll be happy — but until then I'm baffled."

Checks this week with the police and with local aerodromes and flying clubs have revealed no unusual traffic in the air over Potters Bar on Thurs-



● Gaetano Avogardi day night or Friday morning.

An Elstree air traffic controller, suggested the object could have been a civilian airliner approaching Luton airport.

But the object seen by the Avogardis matches no known airliner. So there the story ends, with no satisfactory ending. Unless...

SIGHTINGS of a massive cigar-shaped UFO covered in light sparked a Devon mystery today.

Reports of the object have come from various parts of the county with claims that it was 1,000ft-long and moved back and forth in a straight line for about an hour before shooting off into the night sky.

Amateur astronomer Mr Ian Platt, of Beacon Heath, Exeter, watched the strange object through his telescope and said today he had never seen anything like it before.

"It was massive and brilliantly lit. I couldn't believe it at first so I got some of my neighbours to come and look as well," he said.

"It must have been about 5,000 ft up and moving at about 100 mph. I first saw it in the west and then it moved north east, stopped, came back along the same lines and then went back to the north east again before it shot off."

A similar brilliantly lit object was also seen by Mr Peter Doyle and his wife in the St David's area of the city. The whole underside was covered in lights and it was cigar-shaped, he said. A report of the object also

came from a man in Dartington who phoned Devon and Cornwall police HQ in Exeter to say he had seen a series of lights moving west to north, shortly after midnight.

RAF Chivenor in North Devon and Exeter Airport both said they had had no reports of the object and did not know what it might be. One of Devon's best known astronomers, Mr James Hedley Robinson of Teignmouth was convinced today that whatever it was in the sky was not of extraterrestrial origin.

"I am satisfied that whatever it was it was a man-made gadget. Probably something to do with the military."

"If it had been a meteor travelling east to west it would have been travelling incredibly fast and even if it had been going west to east it would still be going too fast to be an object like that sighted last night."

STAR, Cwmbran, Wales - June 7, 1985 CR: T. Good

## Did Jane see UFO?

A CWMBRAN woman who saw a strange object hovering above a mountain near her home is convinced it was an UFO.

Miss Jane Thomas of Cae Derwen, Two Locks, saw the large square object above Twmbarlwm at about 2 a.m. last Wednesday morning.

Miss Thomas, a secretary with Torfaen Council, said she watched it for about 10 minutes.

The thing was hovering and then started to bounce before it seemed to change shape and then ascended very quickly.

There also seemed to be two large lights like field lights travelling towards it said Miss Thomas.

Miss Thomas said she was going for a drink of water when she saw the object from her window.

She said it was clear night with a full moon and she is convinced that it was not a trick of the light.

Last year several people reported seeing objects in the area.

## TRANSLATIONS

City and country of incident: Yuriria, Mexico  
Name of paper and date of clip: O GLOBO, June 17, 1985  
City and country of newspaper: Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

[SCIENCE & LIFE column]

MEXICO DEVELOPS GIANT PLANT IN THE MOUNTAINS

In a hilly region with a range of small volcanoes that lies close to Yuriria in the central region of Mexico, there grow uncultivated giant edible plants and vegetables. These are now being cultivated (explored) by the authorities, who have just installed an experimental agricultural center there. The place is surrounded with the most fantastic, strange legends, that includes extraterrestrials. For many centuries, the region was considered magic and taboo by the natives. It is also a highly interesting spot for science, rich as it is in archaeological pre-hispanic locations, with its countless unexplored caves. It seems that man was living there ever since he appeared on the American continent. The range of volcanoes consists of seven craters, the position of which, in the Cosmos, corresponds to that of the Big Bear. According to the natives, ever 1,040 years, the stars of this constellation place themselves exactly above these craters, known since antiquity as the "Luminaries." The region, however, has never been systematically explored, and to linger there fills the natives with fear. At over one thousand meters depth, down in the craters, chards (beet) growing up to two meters height have recently been found, as well as cabbage weighing over 25 kilos and onions over one meter in diameter, weighing over 15 kilos each. The region has never been extensively explored, for the natives, so as not to be "bewitched," prefer to look for their food elsewhere, rather than gather it in this immense natural vegetable garden. At present, authorities have managed to establish a center with 500 workers who have installed themselves at the bottom of the craters, and have already been sowing the place, without the use of fertilizers or any other special treatment. They expect a splendid harvest, possibly establishing one of the greatest plantation centers of the world.

For unknown reasons, the region has been abandoned for centuries and has stayed isolated, due to the legends that the natives around there have brought down from generation to generation. The stories speak of giant aquatic monsters that appear in the lakes at the bottom of the craters, whose waters are said to heal, and of extraterrestrials who, from time to time, are supposed to appear on Earth and are responsible for planting the vegetables. They are also supposed to have uttered a curse, by which whoever interfered there would be punished. Having now established their agricultural center, Mexican authorities pay no heed to the local myths. On the contrary, they believe that besides giving them glorious harvests, the region offers them an excellent opportunity for bringing in tourists.

## Missing Fireball Puzzles Soviets

JAPAN TIMES, Tokyo, Japan June 17, 1985 CR: Y. Matsumura

MOSCOW (Reuter-Kyodo) — Soviet scientists are still puzzled by a whistling, blazing fireball which swept southern Siberia last year but appears to have left no trace. Tass news agency reported Saturday.

But they have put forward a theory linking increased meteorite and fireball activity with the approach of Halley's Comet.

The fireball appeared in the night sky over the city of Tomsk in February 1984, first as a distant bright star and then, not far above the city, as a red flash so strong that it activated the switch-off mechanism on automatic street lights.

A scientific team set up to

search the nearby Tunguska forest for debris or craters which could be signs of a meteorite rain shower has so far failed to find anything.

But evidence suggests fireballs and meteorites may be linked to the passage of Halley's Comet, Tass said.

In 1908, two years before the comet last passed Earth, meteorites and fireballs were seen in the same Siberian region as well as in Britain, European Russia and China.

Halley's Comet is due to pass late this year and early next year. Two Soviet spacecraft are currently taking part in an international project to monitor the comet.

# Scientists Plan African Hunt For a Dinosaur

Brighton, England

A group of scientists is planning to plunge into deep-est Africa next spring to try to capture a living dinosaur.

The creature, called a Mokele-Mbembe, is described as a 30-foot plant-eating beast with a long neck and tail, a body the size of a small elephant and feet shaped like dinner plates.

"We want a specimen alive," biochemist Roy Mackal of Chicago University said at a symposium organized by the International Society of Cryptozoology.

Mackal said the scientists, equipped with sonar devices, video cameras and nets, will travel to an inhospitable region of largely unexplored swamp in the Congo to look for the creature.

Mackal said there were many recorded sightings of the animal. He quoted reports of glimpses of the creature dating back to a French missionary in 1776. A Congolese scientist, Marcellin Agnagna, reported a sighting in 1983.

"It may be a dinosaur," Mackal said. "Here we have an area which has not changed for 65 million years. If crocodilians could make it elsewhere for 60 million years, why not a small sauropod?"

Brontosaurus and diplodocus were among the sauropods.

The expedition next March will be run jointly by the International Society of Cryptozoology, based in Tucson, Ariz., and the Congolese government.

The society, which is dedicated to the hunt for unknown or supposedly extinct animals, said the expedition could cost at least \$30,000.

Mackal said he hoped to arrange another expedition later this year to hunt for a monster octopus off the Bahamas.

The expedition would attempt to find and film a creature that had dragged a fishing boat off the Bahamas in September, he said.

"I feel fairly confident that we're going to find a giant octopus," he said.

Reuters

# Marfa's mysterious Lights must be seen to be believed

And some people don't believe them when they see them

By DENNIS STACY  
Special to The Post

**M**ARFA — Shortly after dark two buses from the Prude Ranch pull off onto the shoulder of Highway 90, about five miles east of this West Texas town of 2,500. Down the steps pour 40 or 50 members of the Veterans' Motor Car Club of America who are holding their annual convention in nearby Fort Davis.

They crowd up to the gate framed by two concrete pillars or spread out along the fence line. Just over the barbed wire are a few scattered remains of the old army air base, where flyers trained for the assault on Hitler's fortress Europe. Beyond them stretches the shrub-brush cattle country of Mitchell Flat. On the southern horizon, barely visible against the darkening sky, looms the saw-toothed outline of the Chinati Mountains, source of Marfa's mysterious nocturnal lights.

A hushed chorus of oohs and ahs ripples through the anonymous assembly. "There it is!" one voice whispers. "Look! Another one!" someone else says in the dark, and the fence creaks against the forward press.

A bright light has materialized on the left shoulder of the largest mountain in the distance. It slides slowly down the slope to the right and is almost immediately followed by another light of equal brilliance. Then a third appears in the same spot slightly above the horizon, gradually descends, and winks out like the other two.

Are these the legendary Marfa Lights or merely the headlights of automobiles traveling Highway 67 connecting Marfa with Presidio on the Texas-Mexico Border?

Seen through binoculars rested atop a sturdy fence post, the light sources do bear a strong resemblance to ordinary car lights. The Prude Ranch guide admits the Presidio highway passes between us and the base of the Chinatis, 20 miles away. "But you'll know

them when you see them," he adds. "I think these probably are headlights because they're not moving around as much."

Among other properties attributed to the Lights are the ability to divide in two and bob up and down like a ghostly, glowing, Mexican jumping bean. Tonight's lights, though, have all demurely followed the same path like they were on rails or, well, a paved road.

After another quarter-hour of staring into the darkness and a few false alarms spurred by the turning on of mercury vapor ranch lights, the car club boards the two buses and chugs back toward Fort Davis, having logged one more tourist attraction in a land short on people but long on legend and local folklore.

**P**ublished accounts of the Lights themselves go back at least 101 years to 1883, when the first white man in the area, rancher Robert Ellison, saw what he first thought were the campfires of then hostile Apache Indians. Later, it was learned that the Apaches had been seeing the Lights for generations and had already incorporated them in their own tribal lore. Needless to say, apologists note, the reports by both parties were made long before the desert succumbed either to electricity or the automobile.

Over the years, odd-behaving lights over Mitchell Flat have been seen by numerous reliable eyewitnesses, photographed, and even captured on videotape. The late Dallas Morning News columnist Frank X. Tolbert covered the Lights several times and on one occasion saw something strange himself. At first, wrote Tolbert, the almost searchlight-brilliant light was mistaken for the planet Venus. Trouble was, every time Tolbert had the car stopped to take a picture, the light winked out!

Aside from the stories of the Lights' passivity or playfulness, however, are those that hint of a darker nature, most of which are clearly legend and suited to the particular time. During World War I, for example, the Lights were said to be the pack train of Pancho Villa's ragtag army, marching for an attack on Texas. In the later stages of World War II they were supposed to be the remnants

POST, Houston, TX - April 5, 1985 CR: D. Stacy

nants of Hitler's Third Reich, joined by escaped POWs from El Paso and the Fuehrer himself.

Also told is the tale of the Lights lining up in a formation mimicking a landing strip and luring unsuspecting pilots and crew to their deaths. Another story has the malicious, luminous gremlins leading planes to crash against sheer mountain walls.

Finally, there are the contemporary accounts of both visitors and locals like Joe Skelton, who runs a corner filling station and lives in nearby Alpine. Skelton has seen weird lights several times in the area around Marfa. Once, he and his wife were driving back from the El Paso airport and she had fallen asleep in the front seat. In his rear-view mirror, Skelton suddenly noticed what he described as "an 18-wheeler lit up like a Christmas tree."

Fearing he was about to be run over or blown off the road, Skelton turned to look over his left shoulder. "Nothing!" he said, snapping his fingers. "Gone! Just like that!" Skelton said the incident shook him up.

Another time, in the Davis Mountains, Skelton was being trailed by a friend in a second pickup when he saw a bright light on the horizon. As soon as he picked up his CB microphone to radio his friend and ask him if he saw it too, the light went off. A little later the process was repeated.

"The Lights," said Skelton, "have made Christians out of a lot of people who weren't before they saw them."

**S**keptical response to such stories ranges from sheer incredulity to the idea there may be some rare natural phenomenon behind the continuing sightings. Several theories have been put forward, including the notion that the Lights are due to atmospheric refractions of stars or planets, mica or quartz deposits reflecting moonlight, methane or "swamp" gas, ball lightning or piezoelectricity.

Believers point out that the Chihuahuan desert, of which Mitchell Flat is a part, is noticeably devoid of swampland, that the Lights have been seen on overcast nights, and that local conditions are hardly conducive to storms that might be accompanied by lightning.

They add that the Lights seem to interface with humans, exhibiting a crude intelligence as witnessed by their responses to actions of Tolbert and Skelton.

Unfortunately, more serendipity than science is involved in their study, and neither side

seems capable of closing the gap. In the meantime, Marfa, short on the sort of western charm that oozes from neighboring Alpine and Fort Davis, touts the mystery Lights as a reason for stopping and staying.

One motel stocks its rooms with

a match cover reading "Come help solve the mystery of the Marfa Lights." The Chamber of Commerce distributes a black-and-white bumper sticker showing twinkling starlike lights against the backdrop of a desert sky.

Stacy is a free-lance writer.

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY PRESS, Newport, England

May 24, 1985 CR: T. Good

## Survey on 'big cat' sightings possible

PLAUSIBLE

"But without looking at the statements of the witnesses in detail it will be hard to progress."

We had thought it might not be possible for such a creature to exist on the island, but after driving around and getting lost in numerous country lanes we realised it was plausible!

Circulating a questionnaire would be an easier task on the island than elsewhere because the perimeter of the study area was well-defined and geographically contained.

One of the questions ASSAP would be seeking an answer to was whether eye-witnesses experienced an increase in physical awareness following sightings of the big cat.

This had often been found to be the case in UFO incidents, said Mr. Seymour.

Other questions to be tackled were why people saw different sizes and colours of large cats, and whether there was any correspondence between locations of sightings and the kinds of people involved.

While on the island, the team also visited a number of sites of antiquity, including the Long Stone, and the Goodrich Cliffs, where St Lawrence church ruins, those pre-Christian offerings, were of particular interest to them.

EXAMINER, San Francisco, CA - July 5, 1985

## Bigfoot to get his day at scientific gathering

LONDON OVERVIEW

**LONDON** — Scientists who believe in the existence of giant "wild men" in America, dinosaurlike beasts in the Congo and 200-foot octopuses in the Atlantic will gather in Brighton on England's south coast next weekend for the first major international conference on the study of unknown animals.

The mysterious world of cryptozoology will get the accolade of a special symposium at Sussex University as part of the Royal Society-sponsored International Congress of Systematic and Evolutionary Biology.

The meeting will hear evidence of the existence of Bigfoot, a giant man-shaped creature variously thought to be living in the Sierra Nevada, and the northern Rocky Mountains. Indian name of Sasquatch, the animal is said to stand over 8 feet tall and weigh as much as 800 pounds.

Dr. Grover Krantz, an anthropologist from Washington State University, will exhibit plaster casts of recent footprints of what he believes is a manlike animal. A forestry officer took the casts last November. Krantz refuses to identify the area to keep out hunters.

CR: J. Laurino

Krantz intends to give the scientific identification of the manlike creature. "I will identify it as Gigantopithecus blacki, a prehistoric ape that was believed to have become extinct in China over 600,000 years ago."

If this giant ape exists, it could help explain similar alleged sightings such as the Himalayan Yeti, the Chinese "wildman" and the Soviet Almas.

Then there is the Florida Monster, a 200-foot length of rotting flesh that was washed ashore from the Gulf of Mexico nearly a century ago. At first it was assumed to be whale blubber. A sample was preserved in formaldehyde, and for decades it lay forgotten in the vaults of Washington's Smithsonian Institution.

Another bizarre idea to be discussed is the possibility that dinosaurs are still alive in Africa. For more than a century, travelers have reported stories of huge animals living around Lake Tele, a remote area in the eastern part of the Congo.

The animal is known locally as Mokele-Mbembe, and Congolese zoologist Marcellin Agnagna says he saw it two years ago. He reported it as a brown animal, 24 feet long with a small head and an extended neck. Later this year zoologists will mount an expedition to the Congo.





Pictured above at left is an enlargement of the photograph at right said to have been taken in Rutland County in 1979. Norman and Jeff Pratt of Rutland Wednesday night discussed the taking of the picture of "Bigfoot." The ape-like creature at left is a smaller spot

in the top center of the photo at right. The photograph was taken of a forest bridge, but someone later noticed something else in the background.

## Eyewitness Accounts

# Is There A Vermont 'Bigfoot'?

By TOM MITCHELL

CASTLETON — John Rose of Castleton was driving a pickup truck in Stockbridge in the mid-1960s when he encountered a large creature in the road.

The creature was "greyish in color," Rose said, and "seven or eight feet" tall. He saw the creature move quickly in "one stride" squarely across the road, he said, its arms swinging.

"It wasn't a bear," said Rose, who added there were six or seven men along with him in the hunting party at the time.

Was this Vermont's "Bigfoot" or "Sasquatch"? Was it a hoax or a hallucination? Or was it a long-lost, ancient relative of the Homo sapien? Believe it, or not?

More than 150 people turned out Wednesday night here to hear eyewitness accounts of sightings of "Bigfoot" in eastern New York and Vermont. They also saw a slide of a photograph of a large, hairy creature said to have been taken in Rutland County.

The presentation at Castleton State College was held to make people aware of the

possible existence of a man-like ape in the northeast.

"If there's a species like this living in Vermont, we want to protect it," said Dr. Warren Cook, a Castleton anthropology professor and longtime "Bigfoot" hunter.

There is value in the study of the Sasquatch because the creatures are hominids, the closest living relative to man, Cook said.

"It is important that the witnesses are not harassed and made fun of. It is a phenomena. It has not been proven. But it has been frequent enough. People who have experiences ought not be ridiculed," Cook said.

"Scientists are afraid of being laughed at. They can't or won't put it on endangered species list," Cook said.

Cook concludes that the "Sasquatch" is most likely cold-weather variety of Australopithecus living in swampy areas. That is a genus of extinct primates.

The encounters in Vermont and New York have involved the actual visual

sightings, hearing of "vocalizations" by the creature, or the discovery of footprints.

"Vocalizations" is the term used to describe the screeching or hyena-like sounds supposedly made by the creature.

After a slide presentation Wednesday, some eyewitnesses took seats on the stage and gave accounts of their contact with the creatures.

John Rowell of Groton said he was logging in a swampy area in Salisbury in the early 1950s when he found some strange footprints.

One night he came back to the site and found a 55-gallon can of diesel fuel had been removed to the woods. "We found the canvas had been taken off the tractor," Rowell said. He checked and found footprints frozen in the mud.

Rowell described the dimension of the footprint: "Eight inches at the toe, 20 inches long, and 4-inch heel."

Bryan Gosselin of Whitehall, N.Y., gave a description of his encounter in August

1976. He said he saw a creature "seven or eight feet tall, with dark-brown hair."

Gosselin, who was with another policeman at the time, shined a spotlight on the creature. He said it had red eyes the size of half dollars.

The next day, he said, he and other policemen found a trail and a stench.

It is consistent that most of sightings of the creatures have been made in swampy or wet areas, Cook said.

Clifford Sparks of Whitehall said he had a five-second encounter with the Sasquatch in May 1975 at the Skene Valley Country Club in Whitehall. "There was a huge creature on the green. It crashed through the woods, moved very fast."

"It was much taller than I am. It was much bigger than I am," he said.

Sparks then said he was in the clubhouse last May when he next heard the creature. "It was a hyena-like laugh, a mocking kind of thing. It brought the hair on the back of my neck."

For the most part, the eyewitness accounts presented Wednesday were made more than 10 years ago.

In addition to those old accounts, there were second-hand accounts of sightings of footprints in the Hubbardton area made as recently as last spring.

B.F. Buteau of Hubbardton stood up in the audience and told of his wife and son seeing a set of large footprints and hearing the screeching of a possible "Bigfoot" in northwestern Hubbardton in March 1984. There was also a strong smell from the creature, Buteau said.

The Buteaus went back to find the footprints, but they could not find them.

Cook next spoke up for one woman, and she then stood and acknowledged that she had seen something that resembled a "Bigfoot" in Hubbardton.

Some witnesses from Rutland County and eastern New York didn't show up. Other people who have allegedly seen the creature will not come forward, Cook said.

Based on the questions people in the audience asked, they did not appear to be too skeptical of the creature's existence.

While some people said they believed the creature existed somewhere in the world, they doubted whether it existed in Vermont or the Whitehall.

Ted Pratt of Rutland commented on a slide of a photograph taken in a remote setting in northeastern Rutland County. The slide was enlarged during the presentation to show a large furry thing, apparently a representation of a body.

The Pratts, who have a negative of the photograph, would not reveal in which town the photograph was taken or by whom it was taken.

Cook said he has had the photograph checked by a photographic Los Angeles company, which said the negative had not been tampered with.

Paul Bartholomew, who is coordinating a group study of "Bigfoot" in eastern New York, said that the last sighting in the area was near Whitehall.

Bartholomew said two members of a family saw at least one of the "Bigfoot" creatures within 25 feet of their house.

There was also a footprint taken in the snow last year in the Whitehall area. However those prints had been disrupted, Bartholomew said.

HERALD, Rutland, VT - April

26, 1985 CR: P. Bartholomew

via W. Thompson

## Abominable Snowman Exists, Says China Official

By Anthony Barker

REUTERS

ZHANGMU, Tibet — Superstitious Tibetan villagers living under Mount Everest have not spotted a yeti, or "abominable snowman," for generations, but Chinese officials believe they have nabbed two in the last 30 years.

"In 1979 two of my colleagues managed to grab one of them just across the way," trade official Guo Shenbao told Reuters in Zhangmu, a bustling town on the Tibet-Nepal border.

And during the early 1950s an army frontier guard mistook one for a prostitute and tried to arrest it, Guo said in an interview.

The mysterious yeti seized the world's imagination during the drive by foreign climbers to scale Mount Everest between the 1920s and 1950s, when Sherpa porters recounted local legends about hairy wildmen lurking in the mountains.

No conclusive scientific evidence has proved the creature exists but Guo, an educated man who has worked in Tibet for 10 years, says he knows it does.

In 1979, he and two other Chinese officials were living in a

hillside hut while they did compulsory part-time farm work.

Guo had to go home that night, but his two friends were asleep in the flimsy hut when one felt a hand on his face. "He thought it was his friend playing a joke and sleepily tried to push the hand away," recounted Guo, 35, deputy chief of the Border Trade Office's Foreign Affairs Department here. "Then he realized it was furry," he added.

Calling to his friend for help, the official wrestled the hairy, chest-high creature to the ground. They tied it up and then went back to sleep.

In the morning they found it had escaped.

But how could they have caught such a rare beast and then casually dozed off?

Guo is not surprised. "We were tired out by the unaccustomed physical labor, and we were used to catching various wild animals like birds, monkeys and bears."

His friends were too exhausted to see the significance of their catch and only realized in the morning.

But the two, who have since moved back to China's inner provinces, were sure even in the gloom that the beast was not a monkey or a black bear, which it slightly resembled, Guo said.

The earlier encounter with the beast, called yeti among the Nepalese and migo in Tibet, happened in the 1950s when Peoples Liberation Army troops had just begun to patrol Zhangmu, where a spectacular valley descends from the arid Tibetan plateau into the moist, forested hills of Nepal.

A guard spotted a figure with long hair walking and crouching as it stealthily approached his post.

He assumed it was one of the prostitutes who used to sneak in from Nepal to seek clients among frontier residents and dropped his rifle to try and arrest her, Guo said.

He seized her in the darkness, feeling what seemed to be a fur coat, and dragged her towards the guardhouse. But she broke away down a steep gorge that no human could have scaled.

Her footprints, found in the morning, were not those of a human, Guo added.

Nowadays, Zhangmu's Tibetan residents light torches at night to keep the wildmen from molesting cattle.

But in a village near Rongbuk monastery, on the arid, stony plateau under Everest where wildmen were reported earlier this century, villagers said there had been no sightings since the time of their grandfathers.

"They were taller than a man, and their hair grew upwards from their waist and downwards towards their legs," a former Buddhist monk, Changba, said.

Heinrich Harrer, a European mountaineer who lived for seven years in Tibet, has written that he does not believe in the wildman.

The huge tracks which give rise to the legends are due to the curious loping gait of Tibetan bears, whose front and rear legs land at almost the same spot, he argues.

In parts of China, scientists and others are seeking to prove the existence of the creature, which some speculate is the missing link in the evolution from ape to man.

The Shennongjia nature reserve in central China is so sure that wildmen live there that it has even proclaimed them as one of its protected species.

# The maybe monsters

By Gerald Raftery

SUNDERLAND, Vt.

MOST people tend to sneer at the work of cryptozoologists as soon as they find out what the word means. It refers to people who investigate the possible existence of some almost impossible animals, like the Loch Ness Monster, the Abominable Snowman, Big Foot — and Champ, the huge reptilian creature who possibly inhabits Lake Champlain.

This attitude of skepticism does not extend to other scientific fields. Nobody has ever seen a quark, but physicists devote a lot of time to hunting for one. Nobody has ever located the hypothesized 10th planet in our solar system, but astronomers are never criticized over their search for it.

\* \* \* \*

Maybe we should extend the same courtesy to Joseph Zarzynski, who has recently summed up 10 years of research in his book "Champ: Beyond the Legend" (Bannister Books, \$16.95). His investigations have covered more than Lake Champlain. He has made six trips to Loch Ness to study the methods used in the monster search there, and he has discovered reports of similar creatures in lakes in Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, British Columbia and Montana. The phenomenon seems to occur in lakes between 40 and 60 degrees north latitude.

The reports about Champ go back a long way. The Indians had legends about the Great Horned Serpent, and some of the modern observers also note protuberances on Champ's head. The same feature has been reported on the Loch Ness Monster.

The book includes almost 50 pages of detailed sightings, beginning with one by Samuel de Champlain back in 1609. The author sees this as inconclusive, and the more reliable sightings begin more than two centuries later. They now total more than 200 and range from multiple sightings to hasty glimpses. He includes one photograph, which ex-



David LeClair

perts have examined and pronounced unaltered. Its exact location, however, has not been established.

\* \* \* \*

Zarzynski's work has nothing to do with the gee-whiz sensationalism that marked reports on the Bermuda Triangle and the ancient astronauts who allegedly brought civilization to our planet. He lays out his evidence and notes its flaws at the same time.

One weakness of the book is its occasional padding, with photos of Champ enthusiasts and somewhat more frequent reference to the Loch Ness investigation than is necessary. The pictures and drawings of creatures that may be closely related to the mysterious Champ are often interesting, but not always pertinent. This is also true of some of the maps.

Still the author has some convincing bits of information and some appealing theories. He assumes that Champ, like Nessie, is not an individual but a member of a breeding group that can exist in the deep waters of oligotrophic lakes. These are bodies of water where deep cold layers never become depleted of oxygen.

He examines the types of creatures, now considered extinct, that might fit the lake situation. These include plesiosaurs, zeuglodon and some types of pinnipeds. He is scrupulous about detailing the weaknesses in all his theories, as well as some of the flaws in the sonar evidence that has accumulated in recent years.

Since some of the candidates for

the position of Champ are mammals, their ability to breathe under the ice poses a problem. Almost all sightings have been in the summer, although one February 1971 sighting reported the creature breaking through the ice and returning under it. Zarzynski suggests that the creatures may have tunnels like muskrats, or perhaps a swamp with freshwater springs somewhere along Lake Champlain's nearly 600 miles of shoreline.

Zarzynski quotes G.K. Chesterton who said, "Many a man has been hanged on less evidence than there is for the Loch Ness Monster." Under our present laws, no one could be hanged on the evidence for Champ, but it could well earn someone a very long sentence.

BERKSHIRE EAGLE, Pittsfield, MA - May 13, 1985

## The Region

### Sea Creature May Be Real

CLEVELAND—Recent reports of a gargantuan, unidentifiable creature swimming in Lake Erie shouldn't be taken lightly, according to biology professor Andrew White.

White, of John Carroll University, said the fact that the people making the reports have seemed genuinely scared means their accounts can't be dismissed as tall tales.

The something they saw is generally described in terms that make it sound like the sea serpents pictured on antique maps.

Roy Mackal of Chicago, a former biology professor and one of the founders of the International Society of Cryptozoology, theorizes that the animal might be a sea snake, which could have entered the lake via the St. Lawrence Seaway.

ENQUIRER, Cincinnati, OH  
June 17, 1985 CR: R. Schaffner

SUNDAY EXPRESS, London, England

June 9, 1985 CR: D. Speed

## Terror tracks down a farmer

MILAN: Terrified farmer Gianpiero Balzi, 39, rushed from his field and called the police. For as he had been walking through the field in Brescia, near Milan, checking the growth of maize, he had found four huge footprints.

"They were the exact shape of a chicken's footprint," he said. "But enormous, as if some gigantic bird had swooped down, landed and then taken off again."

A police spokesman said: "The footprints are eight feet long, five feet wide and 16 feet apart. And the whole area is covered in a grey powder."

"We are protecting the prints until experts arrive, but so far we can see no reason for them. The farmer is now terrified to go back into the field."

## If an 8-foot bear says 'Go!' what's a poor couple to do?

United Press International

GREENWATER, Wash. — A couple has claimed a bear-like animal attacked their campsite near Greenwater and "ordered" them off the property.

Greg and Stephanie McKay told Pierce County sheriff's deputies the animal was 8 feet tall, ugly and smelly with curly brown hair. It attacked their tent before dawn Saturday.

"You may think this sounds crazy, but the bear talked to us," Stephanie McKay, 35, said in a telephone interview.

"It asked us what our names were and asked whether we had permission to use the campsite," she said. "We said we had gotten permission, but the bear told us to get off the property immediately. We ran like anything."

Sheriff's Sgt. Terry Schmid said Greenwater Fire Department officials visited the campsite but could find no signs of a struggle. The only visible tracks, he added, were those of a large dog.

"We pretty well figure if it's anything it was probably a bear," Schmid said. "It could be a complete hoax, but we don't know. We're investigating."

UNION, San Diego, CA  
July 8, 1985 CR: D. Clements



Photos by J.S. Carras



**SEARCHING FOR 11 YEARS/** Along with being a high school teacher, Joseph W. Zarzynski, shown in his

Wilton home, is a cryptozoologist. He makes frequent field trips to Lake Champlain in search of a mystery

## Stalking the serpentine Champ

By HEIDI LEGENBAUER  
Staff Reporter

WILTON — It has been described as having a snake-like neck, a humped back, and a horse's head with glowing eyes and two fleshy horns.

When sighted by a woman who feared her nearby baby might be mistaken for a tempting hors d'oeuvre, it was shot at with a Winchester rifle.

Whatever it is, Champ — Lake Champlain's equivalent of the Loch Ness Monster — has eluded the person who'd most love to see it. Now that spring ("Champ-sighting season") has returned, Joseph W. Zarzynski of Wilton has fresh hope.

Author of "Champ — Beyond the Legend" and founder of Lake Champlain Phenomena Investigation, he spends one month a year at the lake's

shore. Most of that time is spent waiting and watching, conducting camera surveillance and sonar monitoring.

"I've seen some great logs and great waves, and sometimes it takes a few minutes it takes me a few minutes to realize that's all they are," Zarzynski says. "It's true that most Champ sightings are simple misinterpretations, but there is a small group of sightings that just can't be explained away."

"It's getting easier to gather data, though, now that more people recognize Lake Champlain phenomena. State Police notify me of any sightings reported to them, and the Vermont Fish and Game wardens carry cameras."

Zarzynski first traveled to Lake Champlain for research purposes in 1975, about a year after moving to the Saratoga

Springs area.

"One day when I was still new in town, I went to get a library book on Loch Ness in Scotland. A friend said 'Why do you want a book on the Loch Ness Monster when we've got the same thing right around here?' The more I asked around, the more I heard about this 'overgrown sturgeon' in Lake Champlain."

His interest in all things big and scaly can be traced back to his childhood. Presently peering down from shelves in his workroom is an impressive number of plastic dinosaurs and monsters he collected then.

"I'm amazed at how well versed today's children are on prehistoric creatures. In my case, I never outgrew the interest," Zarzynski has plenty of contact with young people. His "other career" is teaching Afro-Asian Studies to ninth-

graders.

Having summers off has allowed him to travel to Loch Ness seven times to join Nessie expeditions.

"I belong to an association that has been invited to help raise a World War II bomber from the loch this summer. It's too expensive to go over there much more, but this is a once in a lifetime opportunity."

In the interest of keeping his research files up to date, he subscribes to a half dozen Lake Champlain-area newspapers and a host of scientific magazines and journals. He has had hundreds of telephone conversations with people who recounted sightings of the aquatic marvel.

His book (available from M-Z Information, P.O. Box 2129, Wilton 12866) includes documentation of 224 sightings dating from 1609 to 1984. He also edits and publishes "Champ Channels," a quarterly newsletter for those interested in cryptozoology, the study of hidden animals.

Strung throughout the book and newsletter are credits to M.P. Meaney, a scuba diver who helped index the sightings and proofread the book, and still helps with newsletter layout. On April 13, this diver became Zarzynski's wife.

Among the unusual wedding presents they received is a round, stained-glass window depicting a romantic encounter between Champ and Nessie. The latter has a flower tucked behind her ear, horn ... whatever.

"Being a teacher, I receive many offers of help from school groups who would like to camp near the lake and help look for Champ. I must admit I prefer to do it my way — with the solitude that comes from setting up equipment on your front porch."

"We do enjoy our periodic get-togethers with fellow divers, though. There's a real

fraternity among cryptozoologists. I've probably learned more talking to scientists in pubs than I have anywhere else."

There are three leading theories about what Champ is:

- To Zarzynski, the top candidate is the plesiosaur, a marine reptile thought to have become extinct 60-70 million years ago. Some members of the plesiosaur family reached lengths of 60 feet. They had small heads, long necks, wide bodies and long tails. They propelled themselves through water with four flipper-like limbs.

- Another nominee is the zeuglodon, a primitive whale of snakish shape considered extinct for 20 million years. Zeuglodon, like plesiosaurs, breathed air and had to surface to do so. Since Lake Champlain freezes over during the winter, these Champ candidates would either have to be migratory or have developed a form of hibernation.

- It has also been suggested Champ is a pinniped — a type of aquatic mammal including all seals and walrus. Such a pinniped would have an elongated neck and a body much like a sea lion's.

Most cryptozoologists believe there is a small breeding community of Champs, rather than one creature.

The sonar device Zarzynski uses must be placed on a tripod and lowered into the water. It sends out ultrasonic pulses underwater and measures the echo of the pulses' return. The harder the mass of an underwater object, the stronger the echo. The echoes are computed and displayed on either paper or a computer screen.

The other — more sophisticated and expensive — device is a side-scan sonar, which can be kept stationary or towed from a boat.

"Sonar prints come out a little too abstract for the average person to correctly interpret. They mainly record the length of an object and the speed at which it moves."

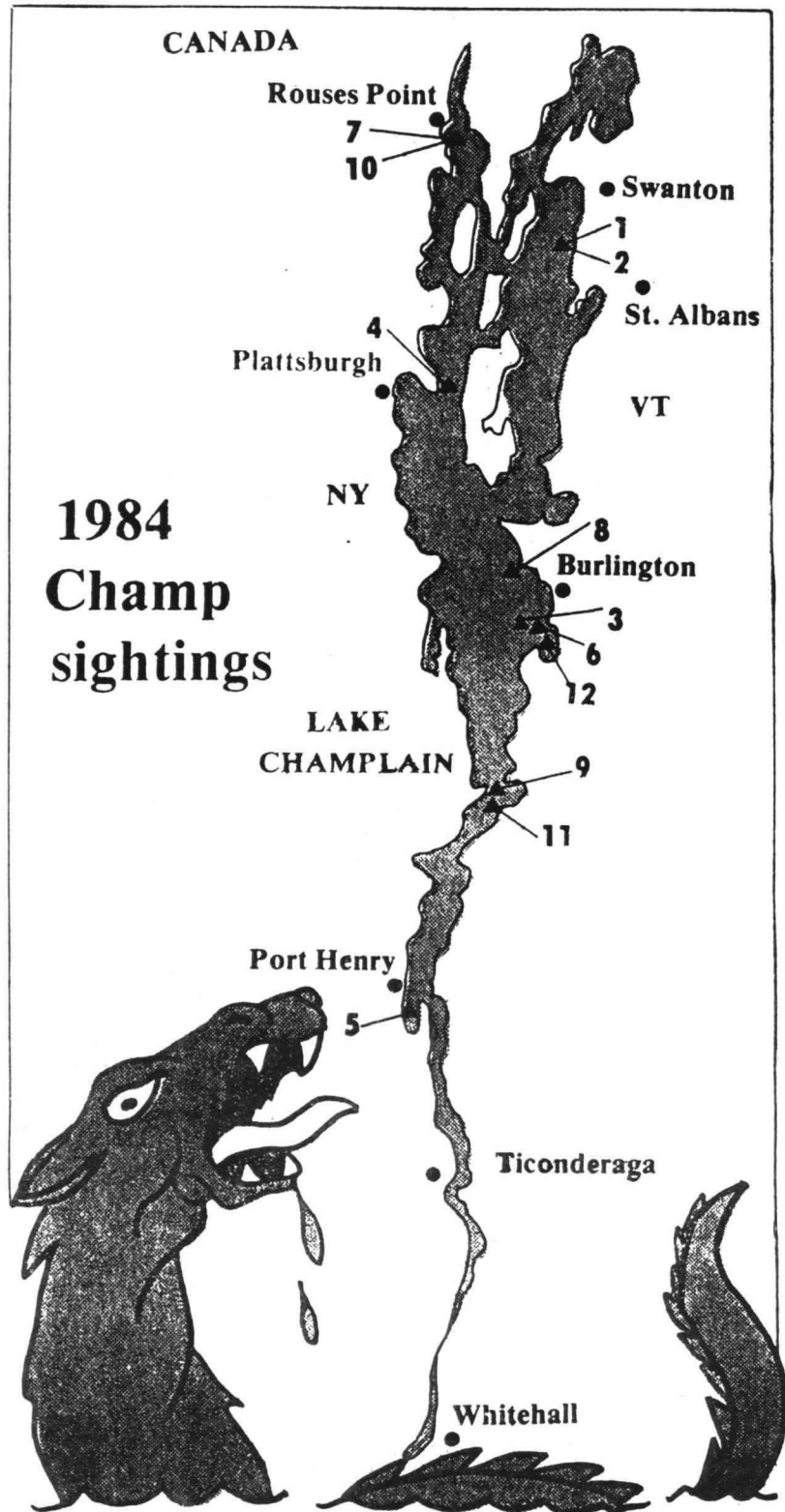
Zarzynski believes sonar should be used only intermittently, to avoid developing a pattern Champ animals could detect.

"Sonar work has a very interesting byproduct. Some associates and I have made major contributions to the history of Lake Champlain shipwrecks. One of my friends found the remains of a horse-powered ferry near Burlington, Vt., using the side-scan. We're talking honest-to-goodness horse power — the animals generated power by treading a circle."

(continued on page 18)



**OFFICIAL VEHICLE/** Joseph Zarzynski says curious people often stand on tiptoe to look into his red "Lake Champlain Phenomena Investigation" van, decorated with a monster.



## 1984 Champ sightings

CHRONICLE, San Francisco, CA - July 8, 1985

## Talking Bear Orders Couple to Leave Camp

Greenwater, Wash.

A couple said a bear-like animal attacked their campsite near Greenwater on Saturday and "ordered" them off the property.

Greg and Stephanie McKay told Pierce County sheriff's deputies that the animal was eight feet tall, ugly and smelly with curly brown hair. It attacked their tent before dawn.

"You may think this sounds crazy, but the bear talked to us," Stephanie McKay, 35, said in a telephone interview.

"It asked us what our names were and asked whether we had permission to use the campsite," she said. "We said we had gotten permission, but the bear told us to get off the property immediately. We ran like anything."

While the couple gathered their belongings from the campsite, about five miles off Highway 410 in Pierce County, Stephanie said the bear stood on its hind legs and began throwing rocks at them.

"It must have weighed almost a ton," she said. "He was big, hairy. It

CR: H. Walker via W. Thompson  
Paper & City Unknown, MT - June 10, 1985

## 'Big, black and moving'

Texans report sighting 'Bigfoot' near Kalispell

By CAL HUBBARD  
Correspondent

KALISPELL — The large ape-like creature, "big, black and moving pretty good," crossed the Flathead River east of Kalispell Sunday.

So say three unemployed Texas carpenters, who fear the Flathead County Sheriff's Office isn't taking their report of Bigfoot seriously.

"I've hunted and fished all my life and it's the first time I've seen something like that," said Dave Soliday in an interview Wednesday at Spruce Park campground.

The campground is located on the river about 4 miles east of the heart of downtown Kalispell on Montana Highway 35.

Soliday said he and companions Fred Erickson and Gordon Bailey were hiking upriver Sunday night after a hard rain when they saw the upright figure they described as "kinda slouched and slump-shouldered." It was about 800 to 1,000 yards away, he said.

According to Soliday and Erickson, the creature was taking 5- to 6-foot strides as it forded the waist-deep water.

The river is swollen with runoff and dotted with islands in that area. The creature crossed the river at a "pretty deep spot" and walked onto an island, then disappeared into the brush that lines the west shore, the men said.

Soliday and Erickson insist they were not under the influence of drugs or alcohol at the time.

The men returned to camp and called authorities. Soliday said a skeptical deputy came out and took a report.

The men returned to the same general area later that night armed with flashlights seeking to find the tracks. "Couldn't find any, but I'll guarantee you we saw what we saw," Soliday said.

The sheriff's office reported the incident to Fish, Wildlife and Parks Department authorities in Kalispell.

FWP Region 1 Warden Captain Lou Kis probably took the report with a trifle more interest; he has a poster on his office door that says: "Wanted — \$10,000 bounty will be paid for a live Sasquatch."

The poster says descriptions of the creature vary, but that it has been reported in every state in the continental U.S. except Rhode Island and in every Canadian province and in other countries as well.

In Montana, according to an article in Montana Outdoors, it has been seen more than 200 times from the Tobacco Root, Gravelly, Bitterroot, Sapphire and Mission Mountain ranges and from the mountainous areas between Helena and Choteau.

While Kis isn't exactly discounting that the sighting was of a Bigfoot or the Salish Indians' Sasquatch (hairy man), he says the creature could have been a moose or a black bear. Both have been reported in the area recently.

didn't sound human. It had a very high-pitched voice."

Sheriff's Sergeant Terry Schmid said Greenwater Fire Department officials visited the campsite but could find no signs of a struggle. The only visible tracks were those of a large dog, he said.

"We pretty well figure, if it's anything, it was probably a bear," Schmid said. "It could be a complete hoax, but we don't know. We're investigating."

United Press

CR: W. Thompson



# 'Crazy' inventor of generator may not be so crazy after all

BY ROBERT ENGELMAN  
Scripps-Howard News Service

WASHINGTON — For all the world knows, Joe Newman may be a new Einstein who will free humanity from electric bills and gasoline pumps by harnessing the unsuspected power of the common magnet.

But to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office he's just another eccentric, tinkering around in a backyard shed among the pine trees of Lucedale, Miss.

Newman says he's invented a machine that he claims produces more energy than it consumes.

And that, says the patent office — citing *Scientific American*, the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* and a 1911 college physics textbook — is impossible. Dismissing the "Newman Energy Generator" since March 1979 without testing it, the agency has refused to grant a patent.

The inventor is certain that in a Washington court hearing next Tuesday a federal judge will side with the patent office. The judge has done so before.

## Physicist interested

Newman is a victim of a stereotype: the eccentric, wild-eyed inventor, says Roger Hastings, a Ph.D. physicist who works for Sperry-Univac Corp. in St. Paul, Minn.

There are "hundreds of people a year with wild ideas and contraptions to promote," says Hastings, who himself thinks Newman is onto something. "They tend to be uneducated and out to save the world, and Newman fits that mold so well that people have a high level of skepticism."

The 48-year-old Newman never finished high school, but in many ways he does not fit

the mold of the tinkering fool.

For one thing, he's already an accomplished inventor — with plastic-coated barbells, an orange-picking machine and several other creations to his credit. All are patented.

More importantly, he has lined up 30 electrical engineers and physicists who have written affidavits attesting that his energy generator does work essentially as claimed.

"I went down there telling him I was going to find him wrong, but I was impressed with what I saw," says Hastings, whose specialty at Sperry-Univac is magnetic sensors and who tested the machine in Lucedale in 1981. "There's a probability that his theory is correct."

## Investors helping out

A group of investors has put up more than \$500,000 to help Newman and at least one electronics manufacturer, Commercial Technology Inc. of Dallas, is making its own energy generators for possible future marketing.

"There are some differences in semantics between me and Newman, but you actually get more output power than external input power," insists Mort Zimmerman, president of Commercial Technology, an electrical engineer himself who holds four patents in the field.

There are problems in converting the machine's unusual pulsating output into usable electricity, Zimmerman adds, but they may not be insurmountable.

Newman has built several prototypes of his energy generator, the largest of which is a squat, 9,000-pound cylinder. Inside is a 100-pound rotating magnet surrounded by 50

miles of coiled copper wire.

A handful of Ray-O-Vac dry-cell batteries powers the machine. But it's the speed-of-light, gyroscopic spin of subatomic particles within the magnet and coil, Newman says, that produces the energy leaping out the other end. He and his supporters assert that the energy produced is as much as 10 times more than what the batteries pump in, with no waste products or pollution.

## 'Not perpetual motion'

"It's not perpetual motion," Newman said in a telephone interview from Lucedale, explaining that the material of the magnet and coil is slowly turning to energy. "It's Einstein's principle that energy equals mass times the speed of light squared."

When commercial, Newman's energy generators would be about the size of a window air conditioner that "might run everything in a house for 50 years," Newman says. "Twenty years from now space travel (powered by the generator) will be as commonplace as flying from one city to another."

In New Orleans, a geophysicist and inventor named Don Purvis independently has produced a motor resembling Newman's generator. He plans to use the motor this summer to power a boat up the Mississippi River as far as St. Louis, and he claims that his device also appears to produce more energy than it consumes.

But Purvis doubts that either machine converts mass to energy or scientific law to mush. Input electric energy that is not measured and normally is wasted as heat, he suggests, has finally been tapped.

## Shunned by most

The scientific establishment has shunned Newman and his theory. The articles he's submitted to professional journals have come back marked "lacks mathematical rigor." University physicists and electrical engineers have turned down Newman's invitations to come to Lucedale — afraid, Newman supporters say, of looking foolish to their colleagues.

Twice Newman took a prototype to experts — at the National Bureau of Standards near Washington and at Auburn University in Alabama — but he says there was no one in either place competent to run tests.

Two engineers from Mississippi's state energy department visited Newman and concluded that his machine actually produced a bit less energy than it consumed. But they said their results may have been flawed and added that "the evidence does suggest" that output energy can exceed input.

## Patent office adamant

The patent office, unimpressed by Newman's theory of gyroscopic particles, refuses to budge when inventions propose violations of well-established scientific principles. Newman's first application wasn't even read after a skimming reviewer concluded that it "smacked of perpetual motion."

Newman argues that the patent office is stifling rather than stimulating American inventive genius, and he says he's fighting for all creative people outside the mainstream. A few times a week he sings a song he composed to his 2-year-old son, named Gyromas, about individual po-

tential.

"I intend to get a patent, and I'll fight till hell freezes over," Newman says.

The tortuous path of the suit he filed in Washington has not gone Newman's way. Pleading ignorance of the science involved, federal district Judge Thomas Jackson appointed patent attorney William Schuyler as "special master" to advise him on the case.

## Recommendation rejected

Schuyler could hardly be expected to be biased in favor of a modern-day alchemist like Joe Newman; he had headed the patent office himself from 1969 to 1971. But after reviewing the case, Schuyler concluded that, since no evidence had been submitted to contradict Newman's "overwhelming evidence (that) the output energy exceeds the external input energy," the inventor should get his patent.

Judge Jackson rejected Schuyler's recommendations, despite a requirement of patent law that Newman's supporters claim obligates the court to accept a special master's decision if one is named. The inventor refused Jackson's subsequent order to deliver one of his prototypes to the National Bureau of Standards by the end of May for testing.

"If I did that I would just be endorsing this violation of the law and their injustice," says Newman. The bureau and patent office are both part of the Department of Commerce, he adds.

## Attorney: 'No tooth fairy'

A patent office spokesman declined comment on Newman, citing the litigation. But the agency's views are evident in the court files, laden with

multiple copies of science articles refuting perpetual motion.

"The court should exercise some common sense and refrain from joining those who apparently still believe in the 'tooth fairy,'" suggested patent office attorney Jere Sears in opposing Schuyler's recommendation.

Newman and his supporters argue that the patent office should just grant the patent and let the inventor risk falling on his face in the marketplace.

"But then there's the potential for an investment scam, and there's a long history of those," argues Jacob Rabinow, a former Bureau of Standards official who offered technical testimony for the patent office.

Academic physicists familiar with the case give Newman's machine little chance of performing as claimed.

"The likelihood is not high that this guy in the late 20th century has uncovered some fundamental secret of nature that has escaped the notice of the rest of us," says Dan Purrington, chairman of the physics department at Tulane University in New Orleans.

But the small group of scientists risking their reputations to urge a closer look at Newman's invention have their own reasoning.

Principles of science have been missed before because people were looking in the wrong direction, suggests Roger Hastings, the Sperry-Univac physicist.

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT,

Little Rock, AR

June 5, 1985

# Computer hookups to share mysteries

By BETSY WHITE  
Staff Writer

In this high-tech era, even some things usually considered beyond the realm of science are being tracked by computer.

Phantom trains, sea monsters, thunderbirds and spooky spots, for example.

Loren Coleman, director of the Institute of Fortean Studies in the United States, already has installed a Macintosh computer in his Portland home, and he expects hundreds of others across the country will eventually join the computer network.

Coleman says he has been ridiculed during his 25 years of researching unexplained phenomena, but he also has gained respect from those who have witnessed his long dedication to the subject.

His approach includes a degree of skepticism toward reports of strange events and a willingness to submit sightings to analysis after analysis. "What I study is scientific, although it is beyond what science accepts," he said.

Coleman and his fellow investigators are "Fortean" — a term drawn from the name of Charles Fort, who devoted his life to the study of unexplained phenomena from the turn of the century.

Many of the phenomena that modern-day Fortean investigators and communicate to each other — either through the mail or by computer hookup — are discussed in Coleman's fourth



Staff photo by Gordon Chibroski

**Loren Coleman surrounds himself with the subject of unexplained phenomena.**

book, which will appear in bookstores this fall.

Entitled "Curious Encounters," it was described as "objective, painstaking and exhaustive" by the London Times.

The book covers several new phenomena, such as urban creatures and phantom trains.

Actually, says Coleman, phantom trains have been seen since the late 1800s, so they're not exactly new.

What is new is a serious study of ghostlike trains, engines and train lights seen along railroad lines. Co-

leman, who is a project director at the University of Southern Maine's Center for Research and Advanced Study, analyzed reports of phantom trains and sought an explanation.

He thinks he has found one.

"During earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, there is a lot of electric energy in the air," Coleman said. "Railroad tracks may act as conductors of that energy."

He said his research showed ghost trains are often reported around the same time as earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, and the mysterious trains and lights may be created by electricity surging through the metal rails.

The timing of unexplained phenomena is a major focus of "Curious Encounters," published by the Boston firm of Faber and Faber, Coleman said.

In addition to the correlation between ghost trains and earthquakes, he performed statistical analyses on other strange events. He found that "hardly anything" — whether the subject is spook lights, Bigfoot or UFOs — happens in May, while April is a peak month for unexplained appearances.

Another analysis of temporal cycles led Coleman to predict that sightings of sea serpents along the New England coast will rise dramatically in the 1990s.

"Sea serpents tend to come back once every 30 years," he explained.

Coleman speaks of the day when a sea serpent will be caught so it can be studied up close. "When zoology accepts the serpents as real, we will probably find one," he said.

Even Coleman does not accept all reported spooks as real, however. He said the detail used by people when they describe a creature or some other phenomenon is often a key to determining whether their reports are bogus.

One example of convincing detail, he said, was that supplied by Portland resident Ole Mikkelsen when describing the sea monster he saw June 5, 1958, five miles off Cape Elizabeth.

Coleman said Mikkelsen's description of the creature included some of the "most common things you hear about sea serpents along the New England coast," such as the creature having a long neck and a whale-like tail.

"But you rarely hear about a serpent demonstrating the ability to hear," Coleman said, so Mikkelsen's statement that the creature would turn and look when the Portland Lightship blew its horn convinced Coleman the Maine lobsterman "wasn't telling stories."

Another example of Coleman's desire to distinguish between bona fide mysteries and fabricated phantoms is the list he included in "Curious Encounters."

Billed by Faber and Faber's fall catalog as "a 'consumers beware' catalog of tourist traps," it lists names of places throughout the United States that claim to house ghosts, mysterious occurrences or phantoms.

But, says Coleman, "there's nothing really weird there. It's all an optical illusion."

"They may have a tilted shack and balls that seem to roll up hill, but they're really tourist traps. Lay people think that's the kind of thing that we Fortean are talking about."

"They think we're gullible," he laments, "so I make an effort to dispel that."

FREE PRESS, Burlington, VT - July 5, 1985 CR: J. Zarzynski

## 'Champ' Resolution

Like previous summers, people will flock to Lake Champlain to enjoy this majestic waterway. And with this sunny spell is ushered in the

peak season for sighting Champ, those Loch Ness-like mystery animals.

Debates continue on Champ being: myth, legend, tourist fodder, lake sturgeon, or believed extinct creatures like plesiosaurs or zeuglodon — "survivors" from a prehistoric era.

Whether a believer or "Doubting Thomas," one great tragedy has already struck the Green Mountain State and Champ!

The 1985 Vermont legislative session did not see the Vermont Senate's adoption of the "Champ resolution" already passed by the Vermont House (1982), New York state Senate (1982), and the New York state Assembly (1983).

That resolution asks that Champ be protected; it encourages further scientific inquiry into the phenomenon, and it asks people to report their Champ sightings.

So the question is not, "Does Champ exist?" Rather, "What if Champ exists?" Thus, how prepared are we if suddenly the scientifically improbable happens?

I urge Vermonters to contact their Vermont senators calling for the adoption of the "Champ resolution."

JOSEPH W. ZARZYNSKI  
Wilton, N.Y.

• Joseph W. Zarzynski is director of the Lake Champlain Phenomena Investigation.