

UFO

NEWSCLIPPING SERVICE

U.F.O. NEWSCLIPPING SERVICE

ROUTE 1 — BOX 220

PLUMERVILLE, ARKANSAS 72127 U.S.A.

CO-EDITORS: LUCIUS FARISH
ROD B. DYKE

NOVEMBER 1985 NUMBER 196

STAR-TELEGRAM, FT. WORTH, TX - July 2, 1985

Did martian die? Debate lives on in town

By PRESTON LERNER
Star-Telegram Writer

AURORA — Under slate-gray clouds, the sounds of birds, crickets, roosters and cows waft across the rolling green pasture of Aurora Cemetery in Wise County. That special brand of stillness reserved for country cemeteries hangs in the air.

Some 800 tombstones, the earliest dating back to the 1860s, conform to a grid-like pattern. Buried in the shade of the massive oak trees are saints and sinners, infants and grandparents, preachers and soldiers.

And, at least according to some sources, a solitary martian.

Some Aurora residents maintain that the town was the site where an unidentified flying object crashed into a windmill in 1897 and the tiny man piloting the craft was given a Christian burial in Aurora Cemetery.

Others maintain that the UFO legend was a hoax from the start. When the legend is resurrected every few years, they promptly, if somewhat hopelessly, point out numerous inconsistencies in the UFO story.

Phil Flora, a Houston film producer, doesn't care whether it's true or not. He is helping to put the finishing touches on *The Aurora Encounter*, a feature-length movie that uses the legend as the mainspring of its plot.

In the movie, the alien is purported to have survived the crash and enjoyed several humorous and sentimental encounters with Aurora

residents before his death a few days later.

Director Jim McCullough was inspired to undertake the project more than a decade ago after sharing an airplane ride with an Associated Press reporter who had researched the story.

Nobody showed any interest in the film, however, until the lines started forming for *E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial* in 1982. Suddenly, cute little creatures from outer space were hot properties and McCullough was able to find investors to bankroll the project.

Flora said principal photography was done in October and November, with the Big D Ranch near Ferris doubling as Aurora and Waxahachie standing in for turn-of-the-century Austin.

Although some work remains, Flora said the film should be in the can in a few weeks. After that, he hopes to line up a deal for theater distribution.

In the movie, the alien wanders across the path of the checkers-playing town drunk, portrayed by actor Jack Elam.

The townspeople don't believe Elam's tale of a stranger in town. It falls to an enterprising young reporter to nail down the story.

Meanwhile, somehow, the UFO incident has a ripple effect on state politics. Before the movie ends, the Texas governor — played by Spanky McFarland of *Our Gang* fame — makes an appearance.

This plot clearly is a work of fiction. And Flora acknowledges that

he wouldn't want to bet on the truth of the original tale. "I expect it was someone's vivid imagination," he said. "But it makes a wonderful story."

Bonnie Oates walks past her cactus garden and points to a well house — a small, modern structure that unintentionally marks the notorious spot where the UFO is supposed to have burned — on the back side of her property.

"People used to come here from all over to look for debris. They'd get out and work a day at a time for a piece (of metal) this big," she said, making a small circle with her fingers. "I've heard several people, older people, who swear something definitely happened."

The first and most complete account of the Aurora incident came in a *The Dallas Morning News* article the day after it was supposed to have occurred. Correspondent S.E. Hayden wrote that an airship sailed over the public square on April 17, 1897, collided with Judge J.S. Proctor's windmill — on the property now owned by Oates — and exploded.

"The pilot of the ship is supposed to have been the only one aboard, and while his remains are badly disfigured, enough of the original has been picked up to show that he was not an inhabitant of this world," Hayden wrote. "T.J. Weems, the U.S. Signal Service officer at this place and an authority on astronomy, gave it as his opinion that he was a native from the planet Mars."

The most popular continuation

holds that the alien was buried under a gnarled limb of an ancient oak tree in Aurora Cemetery. Supporters of an offshoot version contend that a second alien survived the crash, escaped into a creek bank south of town and never was seen again.

Nobody who lived in Aurora in 1897 is left to confirm or deny the tale. But those who knew the 19th-century occupants are among the most fervent believers in the UFO legend.

Janie Hyatt, for instance, remembers being told this story by her mother, Mary Ann Evans, who was 14 when the UFO incident allegedly occurred.

"My grandparents wouldn't let her go. She being a girl and it being so strange. Grandpa was pretty stern about keeping her away," Hyatt said.

The UFO legend lay dormant for more than a half-century. It was resurrected by newspaper writers in the mid-1960s and then again in 1973, when the case reached the ear of several UFO organizations that were prepared to exhume the martian's grave.

Debunkers closed ranks and Etta Pegues, the most accomplished chronicler of Aurora's history, researched the incident in detail.

Contrary to correspondent Hayden's report, she found Proctor didn't have a windmill, alleged astronomy expert Weems actually was a blacksmith and all the graves in Aurora Cemetery were accounted for — without a single martian.

Officials close books on Russell UFO report

RUSSELL — Unless they get confirmation from others in the area, Russell County officials are ready to close their books on a report they received of an unidentified flying object.

To date, only one person has telephoned authorities to report a bright, round light speeding east to west last Tuesday night in the Grant School area.

Dispatcher Liz Dockstader took the 12:20 a.m. call Wednesday from a man who refused to give his name or address for fear of ridicule. He reported the light was so bright it appeared almost blue in color. He said it was about 100 feet in the air when it hovered just east of the schoolhouse for 45 minutes to one hour. The man said he saw no blinking lights but heard a "bleep" sound.

The sighting, which reportedly took place at about 10 p.m., was reported to the UFO reporting center through official channels.

Needless to say, the call was an unusual one for the sheriff's office.

"I can't find any policy to cover that," said dispatcher Sue Starr.

NEWS, Hutchinson, KS - Sept. 10, 1985

SENTINEL & ENTERPRISE, Fitchburg, MA - Aug. 28, 1985 CR: L. Whitehurst

'Andreasson Affair': fact or fiction?

By Maryanne Reynolds
Staff Writer

LEOMINSTER — Raymond E. Fowler, national UFO expert, spoke of the case of Betty Aho Andreasson's alleged abduction by extraterrestrial beings to approximately 100 curious people Tuesday.

Andreasson is formerly of 77 Howard St., the origin of her earliest alleged encounter with the alien beings.

Fowler charged that the federal government has hindered the public's acceptance of the existence of UFOs by refusing to declassify masses of information gathered by members of the military. He also cautioned that, despite the logical connection between UFOs and extraterrestrial encounters, there is no physical evidence to prove a relationship.

Fact or Fiction

Governmental reports obtained by Fowler through the Freedom of Information Act do affirm the existence of UFOs.

A 1952 memorandum for the director of the CIA says, "Sightings of unexplained objects... in the vicinity of major U.S. defense installations... are not attributable to natural phenomena or known types of aerial vehicles."

Some military documents report sightings of "a round disk-shaped object" and "a strange metallic, triangular object hovering on or legs near the back gate."

Since the origin of the vehicles has not been determined, the reports are not considered to affirm the existence of alien entities. They do, however, leave little room for an alternate possibility.

In cases like Andreasson's, where a vivid report of an alien encounter is documented, psychologists agree the event is not a figment of imagination.

At the American Psychologist Association Symposium, "Using Hypnotic Procedures in the Investigation of UFO Experiences," held Aug. 28, 1978, the concluding report states that the 55 investigated alleged abductees were telling the truth as they knew it to be, but the symposium disagreed as to what the stimulus of the UFO experience was.

Andreasson's Case

Over the course of 25 hypnotic regression sessions in the late 1970s held by a team of hypnotists, An-



RAYMOND E. FOWLER, author of "The Andreasson Affair," an account of former Leominster resident Betty Aho Andreasson's alleged encounter

with alien being, is shown autographing a copy of his book for Leominster City Councilor Alfred R. Brassard. More than 100 people turned

out Tuesday night at the Knights of Columbus Hall to hear Fowler's account of the incident. (Photo by Neil Hartstein)

dreasson described her abduction to an alien planet from her former South Ashburnham home on Jan. 25, 1967 by 3-foot-humanoid creatures possessing the ability to pass through solid structures and communicate to her through mental telepathy.

Andreasson also reported she was (or is) a subject of ongoing study and claims to have had contact with the same beings at the ages of 7, 12, 18 and 24 years.

In 1975, she wrote to Dr. J. Allen Hynek, director of the Center of UFO Studies in Evanston, Ill., to report she was being plagued by unexplained

flashbacks of an encounter with alien entities.

Hynek referred the letter to Fowler and the Central Massachusetts division of the Mutual UFO Network Inc., who began testing Andreasson under hypnosis.

Fowler said the research team gave her lie detection and character tests, compared her story with accounts from 213 different countries and subjected her to extensive psychological exams.

Fowler, author of "The Andreasson Affair," concluded that she has told the truth as she knows it and that she

is a sound human being.

Fowler said the descriptions the "UFO-naive" Andreasson gave of the beings concur with other reports given in unrelated cases.

Speaking about the national government in an open letter to the media dated Tuesday, Fowler wrote, "There may be a thin line between open public information and national security but after 40 years of lying to the public, it would seem that it is high time to be more open about this very important matter which affects not only the populace of the United States but mankind itself."

"I know what I saw, and they're real"

Story By Jode Vickerman

Photos By Craig Orosz

Of The Journal Staff Writer

AMHERST — "Do you believe in UFOs?" the old man asks with the fervor of a street preacher trying to make a new convert.

He's seen UFOs before, and he continues to see them almost every clear night, and he believes they are real. Spend a few minutes listening to him, and soon, it becomes easy to visualize the huge spacecraft emanating blue and white spears of light as it speeds across the horizon. As he speaks, you can feel the urgency of purpose motivating the hidden beings within the craft.

"People may call me nuts or whatever," says retiree Arthur Schindler of 235 South Lake St., "but I know what I saw, and they're real."

The first time he saw one of the UFOs was early this year. He and his wife, Eva, had just returned from Lenten services at St. Paul Church. Looking into the sky, he saw what appeared to be a bright star.

Making a closer examination however, he knew that he was seeing something much more unusual than just a star.

Schindler's sighting coincides with that of another Amherst man, Steve Horosz, 885 Birch Lane.

Horosz was working overtime at his job as a material handler for U.S. Steel. About 2:30 a.m., he "took a breather" on a platform on the seventh story of the plant.

"At first, I thought it was a star, a real bright star," he says, "but it didn't move. I went back inside and came out again later, and the thing was still there. It was just hovering. I told myself, 'this can't be,' and I went back inside. When I came out again, it was gone."

"I'm the kind of guy that doesn't believe in something unless I can see it, but I really saw this thing."

Schindler watched the object for more than an hour that night. Almost every night since then, providing the sky is clear, he

searches the sky for UFOs through an old spotting scope salvaged from an abandoned tank during WWII.

He uses a small chalkboard to diagram the UFO.

"It looks like a huge dish with two sets of yellow lights around the rim," he says, using a stubby piece of chalk as a pointer. "On top of the dish, it looks like a castle. Kind of like a pyramid. There are lights all over it. The blue and white beams shoot out from the front of it. All you have to do is take one look at it, and you can see, it ain't no star."

One night several months ago, he phoned the Amherst police. A patrolman came to Schindler's home but was unable to decide if the object was a UFO or not. Police later gave Schindler a phone number for the hotline at the Center for UFO Studies in Glenview, Ill.

Sherman Larsen, co-founder of the center, said he hasn't received any recent UFO reports from northern Ohio, though several have come from Pennsylvania. He also said he has never heard a UFO description similar to Schindler's.

"My first reaction is that he should get his eyes checked," Larsen said with a chuckle. "But, the humorous aspects aside, you just never know with these things. Who's to say what's really there or not? The best thing to do is report them."

Since his first UFO sighting, several more have also appeared and taken up vigilant positions around Amherst, said Schindler. None of the objects have been picked up on radar, said officials at the Oberlin Air Traffic Control Center. Schindler thinks this may just be part of a government effort to cover up the existence of UFO's.

Adjusting his soiled baseball cap, Arthur Schindler leans forward intently, clasps his hands, and rests his elbows on his knees.

"Do you believe in UFOs?" he asks quietly.



ARTHUR SCHINDLER of Amherst points to the sky in his back yard where he has seen a UFO, in photo above. At left, he shows the drawing of the UFO he has seen.



JOURNAL, Lorain, OH - June 13, 1985 CR: M. Hawk

Leominster woman's encounter with UFO aliens to be retold

By Maryanne Reynolds
Staff Writer

LEOMINSTER — One of the best documented cases of contact with extraterrestrial beings began in this city and will be the subject of a presentation by a nationally known UFO expert later this month.

Raymond E. Fowler, author of "The Andresson Affair," will appear at the Knights of Columbus Hall Aug. 27 and recount the tale of Betty Aho Andresson and her "abduction" by 3-foot-tall, humanoid creatures, her physical examination on board the UFO and her trip to an alien place.

Andresson's ongoing contact with the beings reportedly began when she was 7 years old and playing in a hut beside her home at 77 Howard St.

While under hypnosis, Andresson regressed to her childhood and recalled that the alien beings planted a tracer in her head "the size of a bumblebee or marble" in order to keep track of her from their place of origin.

"It (the tracer) keeps going around my head and then it came and it hit me in the center of my head and it stuck there. There's a squiggly feeling in my head, and there's a voice speaking to me. They're telling me I'm making good progress, and they are getting ready to show me some things," Andresson said while under hypnosis.

That hot, August day in 1944 is

the earliest subconscious recollection that Andresson has of the abduction. She was later returned to her home from her South Ashburnham home, according to Fowler's account of her story.

In a phone interview on Wednesday, Fowler said Andresson is currently living in Connecticut, and shy away from the publicity that could stigmatize her and her children. Nevertheless, he hopes she will accompany him to Leominster.

Arthur Thomas, of 77 Howard St., now lives in the former Andresson house. It has not changed much over the years. Some of the neighbors even recall Betty as a little girl.

It is through Thomas' efforts that Fowler has agreed to make an appearance.

"The Andresson Affair" and its sequel, "Phase Two" (the book which most explicitly describes Andresson's Leominster experience), have both been on the market for a number of years. The book's local significance came to light when the brother of a Howard Street neighbor purchased the book in Oregon. When he saw Leominster listed in the index, he forwarded it to his sister, who told Thomas and the occupants of 77 Howard St. about it.

Thomas said Andresson's whole story is "fantastic" and has changed him from a skeptic to a believer in the existence of alien

creatures.

Andresson's kidnapping experience took place when, as a wife and mother, she lived in South Ashburnham. Some family members are witnesses to the arrival of the vehicle which came and abducted her from her home.

This type of occurrence is termed a "close encounter of the third kind, type G" — meaning she saw an alien vehicle within 500 feet and made contact with its inhabitants.

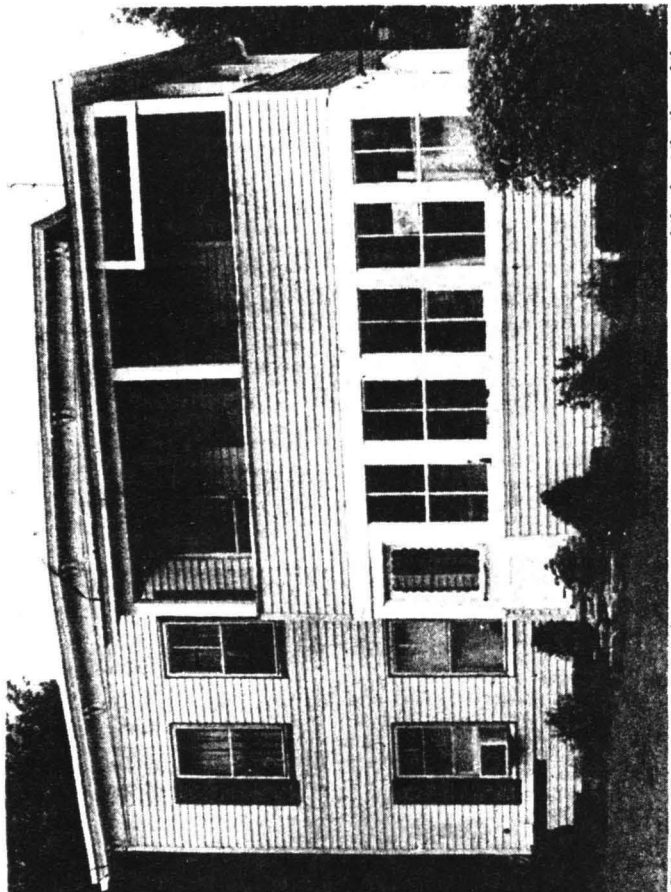
Fowler's books are the product of one of the most well-researched studies ever done on such an encounter.

Dr. J. Allen Hynek, astronomer and U.S. Air Force UFO project consultant, calls him "an outstanding UFO investigator.... I know of none who is more dedicated, trustworthy or persevering."

Fowler has served the U.S. Air Force Security Service and currently works with the GTE Communications Systems Division as a senior planner involved in the development of major weapons systems.

He said the government's secretive policy when dealing with UFO information is frustrating. He claims the military has taken a long-term interest in UFOs but refuses to make their findings known for national security reasons.

Fowler has obtained some files through the Freedom of Information Act but has been denied many others.



CLOSE ENCOUNTER: — Betty Aho Andresson's house at 77 Howard St., Leominster, looks much the same as it did in 1944 when Andresson claims she was in contact with extraterrestrial beings. Beside the house, there is a tree fort where the hut that she was sitting in at the time of the encounter used to stand. (Staff Photo)

said, however, the motion picture company has no current production plans but reviews the possibility on an ongoing basis.

UFOs are reported by two in Lanesboro

By Ellen G. Lahr

LANESBORO — A Cheshire man claims he spotted an unidentified flying object as he was driving through Lanesboro on Cheshire Road last night at about 7:40 p.m.

Michael Rinaldi, 37, of 7 Richmond St., Cheshire, said he was driving north on Cheshire Road with his mother when he saw a low-flying diamond-shaped object directly above the road ahead of his car. He said there were two white lights on the object that were so bright they lit up the leaves on the nearby trees. It appeared to be about 1,500 feet in the air and about "a few thousand feet" away.

Rinaldi said he is taking courses to obtain a private pilot's license, and that the lights he saw did not resemble any aviation lights he is familiar with. He also said the object bore no resemblance to any type of airplane.

Second witness

Another witness, a Lanesboro resident who requested that his name be withheld, also reported seeing a "white flash" flying at a low altitude across Pontoosuc Lake as he was traveling north on Route 7 at about 10 last night. He said, however, that the flash was so quick he could not get a good look at the object.

Rinaldi said when he spotted the flying object he pulled his car over to the side of the road. Two other cars traveling behind him also stopped, he said, and the drivers got out to watch the object. Then the bright lights on the flying object went out, Rinaldi said, and he saw two smaller pink lights on the bottom of the object. At that point, he said, the drivers in the two other cars drove away.

The flying object then made a sharp turn in an easterly direction over a field, then another sharp turn toward his car, Rinaldi said. He turned off his car headlights, and the flying object's two bright white lights came back on, he said, one after the other. Then the object veered off northwest toward Mount Greylock, he said. When he got in his car and tried to follow it, he lost sight of it, he said.

A spokesman for the UFO Reporting Center, a private scientific agency based in Seattle, Wash., said his organization has had other reports of diamond-shaped objects, but that he had no more specific information about exactly what the object could have been. He said his organization receives about four reports each day of apparent UFO sightings.

Rinaldi said he is not "a science fiction buff."

He responds to UFO story

Mr. Art Hill
Stoughton Courier Hub
P. O. Box 179
Stoughton, Wisconsin 53589

Dear Mr. Hill:

While I do not believe in horoscopes or any other aspect of astrology, and my mind remains open on the matter of UFOs, I do firmly believe that any good newspaper man worth his salt should research his material before writing an article such as 'Fables of Our Time'. Did they not teach you that in journalism? Of course, I am assuming that you did have journalism and that you do have some higher education. But then, who knows, you might have been a grade-school dropout. It's really hard to tell by your article.

If you just had to mention a town in Mississippi in connection with UFOs, why didn't you write about one of the most provocative UFO cases ever reported, the alleged "abduction" of two fishermen at Pascagoula, Mississippi (now, that's a funny name, too) on Oct. 11, 1973. That case made national headlines when Charles Hickson and Calvin Parker Jr. claimed three creatures emerged from a flying object near where they had been fishing, took them inside their craft and gave them both some form of physical examination before releasing them. That case continues to baffle investigators who have used hypnosis, polygraphy, and other techniques in an attempt to verify or discredit the story. Now, that would have been the juicy story to mention so you would get letters from Pascagoula. It's a larger city than Yazoo City. And besides, I've been in Yazoo City for over seven years and I haven't traveled to a swamp outside the city to talk with the grade-school dropouts who are out there, I'm sure, just waiting on flying saucers to show up.

One other point. Although you seem to want to discredit and debunk astrology, you apparently know more about this non-science than you do about the true science of astronomy. You stated: "There are a thousand billion stars (more or less) out there..." Dear sir, it might surprise you to know that one galaxy alone, The Great Andromeda galaxy, is estimated to contain up to a trillion stars (same as your thousand billion). Our own Milky Way galaxy contains from one hundred to two hundred billion stars. Astronomers estimate there are one hundred billion galaxies. So, 100 billion times 100 billion is ten to the 22nd power or 10 sextillion (or 10 billion trillion, if you prefer). So you see, there are at least 10 billion times the number of stars you stated.

Please don't underestimate the fine people of this great Mississippi town like you underestimated the number of stars. In fact, don't judge the people in any town until you get to know them. You owe Yazoo City an apology. And, next time, do your research... or the little green men might come and get you.

Jim Cox
Radio Announcer,
Astronomer & Expert on
Large Numbers
340 North St.
Yazoo City, MS 39194

Asks Explanation Of Brilliant, Red And Green Object In Night Sky

To the Advocate:

Each of the six nights I spent on McLain Lake I have observed a very brilliant object in the sky, rising from the south east horizon and proceeding across the sky in a north west direction. It is first noticeable around 9 p.m. and by 10 p.m. it is almost overhead. It travels faster than a star (a falling star excepted) and slower than an airplane.

I have captured it in my field glasses and it appears to be turning as it travels, from a fairly straight line to a cylindrical one. I haven't seen it as a full circle. In the cylindrical view it is full of brilliant lights

within, with red and green lights on either side.

I have brought this to the attention of several people who have since viewed this also. One mentioned a satellite and if it is, how did it get up there, who sent it up and why?

Is there anyone who reads this who can give me an answer? I shall be watching the Advocate for some response.

Sincerely,
Mrs. LaVern Mulvaney
961 Case Avenue
St. Paul, Minn.



Kathy Gonzalez

Rodney Towers Beaton and Eric Smith attended the first meeting of Students Against UFO Secrecy Tuesday at the SUB. According to Beaton, the purpose of the organization is to gather information about UFOs and make it available to the public, fostering more open discussion of the subject.

UFO Inquiry Group Formed

By David Gomez

Rodney Towers Beaton says that although he has never seen an unidentified flying object himself, he has spent much of his own time and money to get the U.S. government to release the information it has on the subject.

Beaton, a transfer student from Connecticut and a journalism major, founded SAUS — Students Against UFO Secrecy this semester.

"It's the first collegiate organization of its kind," said Beaton, who says he acquired an interest in UFOs through a friend at a military academy he attended.

The aim of SAUS, said Beaton, is "to educate the public, find out what UFOs are, and to open discussion on the subject."

"We want to get people to write letters to various government agencies to try and get information released," he said. "We're basically an unorganized organization. You spend your own time and your own money and trade information with others interested in the subject. It's basically like a correspondence."

Beaton said he spent over \$250 the past year, mainly for postage and photocopies, to secure about 100 recently declassified documents from the FBI. He said most date from the 1950s and consist of opinions voiced by callers to the FBI.

"People would call up the FBI and say, 'I know what UFOs are — they're Russian craft designed to spread communism,'" Beaton said, adding that the documents were useful only in a historical sense.

Beaton said, for reasons on which he can only speculate, that "there is definitely a conspiracy" by the government to keep UFO information secret.

"The government doesn't want us to learn that there are ways to live in peace other than the government's way," he said. "If we discover that someone up there knows the way to peace, then we'll look up to them instead of the government."

"They have the technology to get here from where they came from and they're not at war with us," Beaton continued. "Just from the evidence, they seem to be very peaceful."

Beaton is affiliated with a nation-

al UFO organization, Citizens Against UFO Secrecy, which has filed suit against the CIA for the release of 57 classified documents on UFOs, as well as all documents relating to UFOs and UFO phenomenon acquired by the CIA since September 1978.

In 1983, the group filed a "Petition of Habeas-Corpus Extraterrestrial" in U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia in an effort to force the government to produce evidence of retrieval and/or detainment of the occupants of craft said to have crashed in New Mexico in 1950.

A writ of habeas-corpus is a legal order demanding a prisoner be given a trial or be set free.

According to a U.S. government memorandum dated March 22, 1950, "An investigator for the Air Force stated that three so-called flying saucers had been recovered in New Mexico. They were described as being circular in shape... approximately 50 feet in diameter. Each one was occupied by three bodies of human shape but only three feet tall, dressed in metallic cloth of metallic texture. Each body was bandaged in

a matter similar to the blackout suits used by speed flyers and test pilots."

The document, sent to then FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover by Guy Hottel of the Strategic Air Command, said that "no further evaluation was attempted by SAC concerning the above."

Greg Peterson, a public relations person with Kirtland Air Force Base, said the Air Force discontinued investigation of UFOs in 1966 and said "we don't know anything, nor would we know anything," about the 1950 crash.

"In any UFO type of inquiry — and we get a lot of them — we refer the caller to the non-governmental agencies who do investigate UFOs," Peterson said. The University of Colorado is one such institution.

Peterson had nothing to say about a series of incidents occurring in 1980 at Kirtland's Manzano Weapons Storage Area near Coyote Canyon in which security personnel observed lighted objects landing for a short time near the facility then taking off straight up at a very high rate of speed. According to a document filed at Kirtland in 1980 and released under the Freedom of Information Act, one security guard, a former U.S. Army helicopter mechanic, said the object he saw was not a helicopter.

The USAF is said to use the Man-

zano facility for storage of nuclear weapons.

UNM theater arts student Becky Beall told at a meeting Tuesday of an object sighted recently near Cannon Air Force Base at Clovis.

"The whole town knew it was a UFO," she said. "It was in the papers and everything. The USAF officially discounted it but everyone in town saw it. Everyone was fascinated by it for a while, then forgot about it."

Beaton said that ridicule of those who claim to have seen UFOs happens out of public and governmental fear of a possible extraterrestrial intelligence higher than our own.

"It's like the Catholic Church was for a long time," he said. "It would ridicule those who held other beliefs. The government wants to control you, so they keep you ignorant."

He said an Air Force officer stationed at the Pentagon once told him, "If all UFO information were released by the government, a lot of people would start going to church."

Two University of New Mexico students attended the first meeting of SAUS held Tuesday in the Student Union Building. Both said they were attracted by an advertisement in the *New Mexico Daily Lobo* and said they wondered why more students weren't present.

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT, Little Rock, AR - Oct. 2, 1985

and covert attempts to ridicule the witnesses."

He supported that contention with a copy of an Oct. 2, 1952, memorandum to Walter B. Smith, then-director of the CIA, from H. Marshall Chadwell, assistant director of the office of scientific intelligence.

The memo recommended that the agency "develop and recommend for adoption by the NSC (National Security Council) a policy of public information which will minimize concern and possible panic resulting from the numerous sightings of unidentified objects."

To back his claims, the former photographer distributed other documents he said were obtained from the federal government.

A March 22, 1950, memorandum to the late FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover from an agent whose name was censored in the report says "three so-called flying saucers have been recovered in New Mexico."

The report described the vehicles "as being circular in shape with raised centers, approximately 50 feet in diameter. Each one was occupied by three bodies of human shape but only 3 feet tall."

The document indicated the flying saucers were recovered after malfunctioning while soaring through a high-powered radar installation in the area.

Hastings was at a loss to explain what happened to the carcasses of the space visitors, saying it would be speculation.

"That's the big question. They presumably were autopsied," he said, "but we can only refer to documents we have our hands on. The people in on the recoveries don't know where the bodies were taken."

Another FBI memorandum, sent to Hoover on Jan. 31, 1949, concerned repeated UFO sightings near nuclear weapons laboratories at Los Alamos, N.M.

"During December 1948 — on the 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 11th, 13th, 14th, 20th and 28th — sightings of unexplained phe-

nomena were made near Los Alamos by special agents of the Office of Special Investigation; airline pilots, military pilots, Los Alamos security inspectors and private citizens. On Jan. 6, 1949, another similar object was sighted in the same area. Up to this time, little concrete information has been obtained," the memo read.

A Sept. 22, 1976, confidential Air Force document indicated the sighting in Iran of a UFO that reportedly disabled the electronic instruments and communications system of an F-4 scrambled to intercept the craft.

"The object and the pursuing F-4 continued on a course to the south of Tehran when another brightly lighted object, estimated to be one-half to one-third the size of the moon, came out of the original object. This second object headed straight toward the F-4 at a very fast rate of speed. The pilot attempted to fire an AIM-9 missile at the object but at that instant his weapons control panel went off and he lost all communications. At this point, the pilot initiated a turn and a negative G dive to get away."

When asked how such information could be withheld from the public for so long, Hastings, referred to the Manhattan Project, which developed the atomic bomb during World War II.

"We had one of the biggest technological studies being done then and not one citizen knew," Hastings said.

Hastings, who claims his lecture fee is one of the lowest on the circuit — "I drive a 10-year-old Mazda" — said he is revealing his information because "the public has the right to know the facts. To say I am in this for the money is too poor a joke to be funny."

"From our reports, it appears there is a whole range of flying saucers — disc-shaped, central domes," Hastings said. "The common denominator is a total absence of sound. They seem to have the ability to accelerate tremendously from a dead speed."

U.S. covering up visits of aliens, UFO expert says

BY PATRICK CASEY
Democrat Staff Writer

UFOs are hovering over the United States but the American government won't admit to any close encounters, claims Robert Hastings, a self-employed researcher.

"There have been secret recoveries of UFOs and corpses of non-human beings," Hastings said, describing the beings as "non-human shaped, about 3 feet tall."

Hastings, who was at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock Tuesday to lecture about UFOs, said the U.S. military and federal security organizations, including the CIA and the FBI, have made a concerted effort to refute the existence of UFOs and to ridicule those who claim any sightings.

"They have been downplaying the phenomena," Hastings charged, saying he gathered his information through documents obtained with the Freedom of Information Act. "The CIA is not leaving public opinion to chance. They make overt



Arkansas Democrat/Rick Barrett

UFO RESEARCHER — Robert Hastings, a self-employed researcher of UFOs, says the U.S. government won't admit to secret recoveries of alien spaceships. Hastings was in Little Rock on Tuesday to lecture on UFOs at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

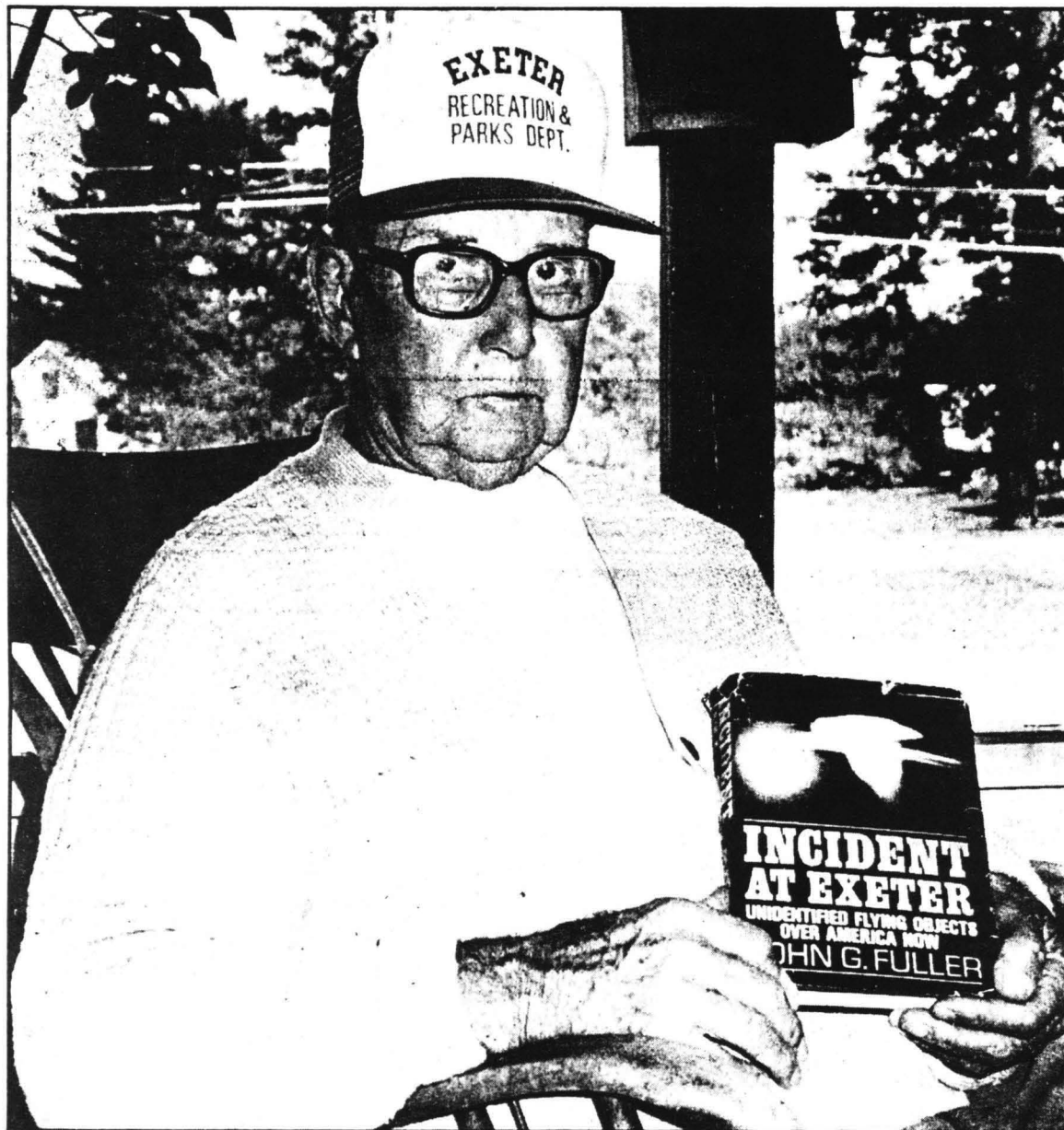
Twenty years after the

Incident at Exeter

Still no doubt nowadays in those who sighted UFO

By WILL FAY
Democrat Staff Writer

It has been 20 years since Norman Muscarello saw the thing, a big object with red pulsating lights that bathed in a blood red light a patch of sprawling farmland in Kensington, sparked a major best-seller, and now has caused him to live a star-crossed life — at once a central character in a history-making UFO sighting, but faced also with the sly whispers of the cynics and the nonbelievers.



Reginald "Scratch" Toland believed Norman Muscarello had seen a UFO enough to send a police cruiser to the site. Here, he holds a copy of the book, "Incident at Ex-

eter," which tells the story of the night of Sept. 3, 1965.

(Democrat photo — Fay)

It was about 2:30 in the morning on Sept. 3, 1965 when Muscarello burst into the Exeter Police station to report a UFO (Unidentified Flying Object). His decision to report what he had seen, and the subsequent decision by Patrolman Reginald "Scratch" Toland to send an Exeter Police cruiser out to the site to investigate, made history.

A month and a half after the sighting, a writer named John Fuller, who worked for the Saturday Review in New York City, checked into the Exeter Inn on Front Street.

Drawn by the fact that two Exeter Police officers known to be competent had also seen "The Thing," as Muscarello calls it, Fuller spent two months here interviewing more than 60 people who claimed to have encountered the UFO. He turned 18 to 20 hour days and miles of tape recordings into a bestselling book called "Incident At Ex-

eter: Unidentified Flying Objects Over America Now."

Life, Look, Readers Digest — all of them wrote about the Exeter sighting, not to mention the Associated Press, The New York Times and other daily print media. It was hot news and, perhaps, as Fuller wrote in his book, "the biggest newsbreak of all time."

But 20 years have gone by, America has had much more to occupy itself with than UFO's and, save for the perfunctory weekly write-up of "flying saucer" sightings in the supermarket tabloids, one would be hard pressed to find the mass media spending much time with such phenomena.

To read Fuller's book, to read the statements in it of Exeter Police Officers Eugene Bertrand and David Hunt, who saw the thing that night 20 years ago, it would seem they would be happy to talk about

it now.

In the book, both men spoke about what they saw with conviction.

Bertrand says, "It came up like it was a big red ball when it was still behind the trees...it looked like it was waving back and forth. And no noise. That's what got me. No noise."

Fuller quotes Hunt as saying, "Just to the right of the big trees, that's when I saw that fluttering movement and the pulsating lights. A little lower, and it would have looked like it was skimming the trees. And it was rocking over them. An airplane couldn't do this if it tried."

Today, however, Hunt, a North Hampton Police captain, refuses to talk about the night of Sept. 3, 1965, his feelings about what he saw, or even about the publicity, good and bad, that he has had to endure over the years.

Bertrand, retired now from

the Exeter police force, would not submit to an in-person interview. He did talk briefly on the phone, and his words were a curious mix of resignation and caution.

"It's just one of those things. I have no idea what it was to this day. I haven't thought about it. I did at first, for maybe the first 10 years," Hunt said.

"I was younger, I was innocent," he said. "I was looking to the future. I think space was a new thing then. Now it isn't new, it's old hat."

"I haven't thought about it. I don't think about it. I was a police officer and I made a report."

Toland does not appear to have any anxieties about talking about the UFO sighting here 20 years ago. But Toland differs from Bertrand or Hunt in that he never went on record as saying he saw the thing, only that he believed the people who said they did.

Toland's role in the sighting, however, was still significant.

It was he who first heard the seemingly bizarre tale from an 18-year-old Muscarello some 20 minutes after he had seen the UFO. And it was Toland who, impressed by Muscarello's sincerity, decided to call Bertrand and send him out to the field just off Route 150 in Kensington to check the young man's story.

Bertrand, an Air Force veteran, saw nothing at first, then walked into the middle of the field. According to Fuller's book, Muscarello screamed, "I see it, I see it," and Bertrand turned and saw the UFO.

Grabbing Muscarello and rushing him back to the cruiser — Bertrand would later tell Fuller he feared radiation — Bertrand called into Toland and said, "My God, I see the damn thing myself." Minutes later, Hunt, who had heard Bertrand's report from his cruiser scanner, rushed to the scene and also saw the UFO.

Had Toland not made the decision to dispatch Bertrand to the scene, Muscarello would have had to live the rest of his life "thinking I was nuts" and Fuller, lacking police confirmation, may never have come to Exeter and written the book that gained world-wide attention.

Toland believes "absolutely" in UFO's now, because he holds Hunt and Bertrand in high esteem. "Do you think I'd be working with men who had guns if I thought they were nuts?" Toland said.

He also believes there must be another life form out there.

"There's gotta be something out there somewhere," he said, and the discovery of it is only a matter of time. "A few years ago if you said you'd sat in your living room and saw two men walk on the moon on your television set, they'd say you were nuts."

Still, Toland downplays the sighting. "It was no great event. It was just one of those things that created a lot of publicity and a lot of letters."

Toland has received many letters, from third graders to UFO enthusiasts to "religious people who thought the end of the world is coming and all that stuff."

He says it is very seldom that he, Hunt and Bertrand, who all still live in Exeter, get together and talk about the sighting.

Toland is not worried what people say about him and his belief that what was seen that night was a bona fide UFO.

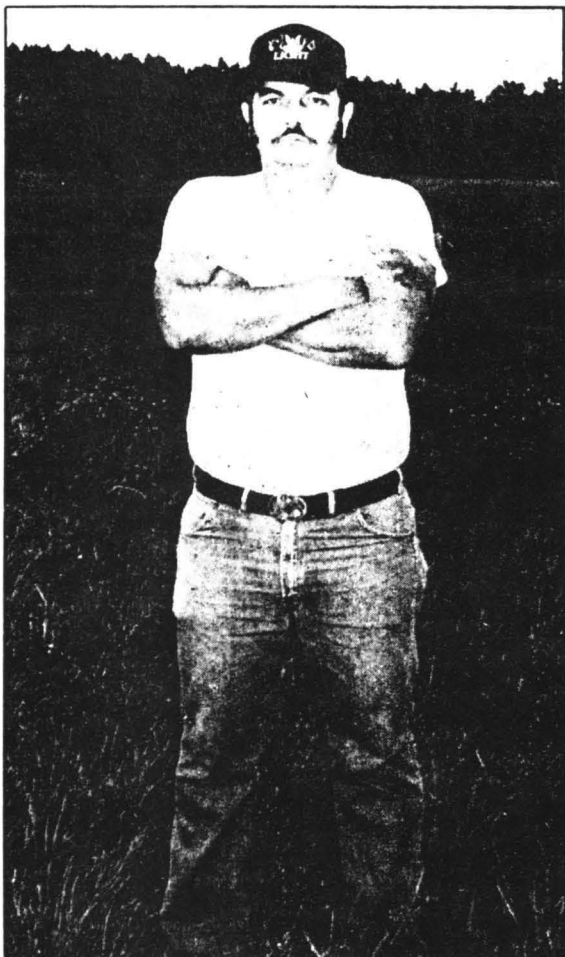
"It's never bothered me because of the two men that saw it that night. Too many reliable people saw it. If it was just a kid, then you'd take it with a grain of salt."

Last week Muscarello granted only the second interview he has given in the last 20 years on what he saw that night and on how he feels about it now.

(continued on page 6)

"This I'll give you. I have mixed feelings. I don't think anything like this could have the same feeling (20 years later.) I'm thoroughly convinced there are intelligent beings beyond."

—NORMAN MUSCARELLO



Norman Muscarello in the field where the sighting occurred.

Muscarello says he "clammed up" after the sighting, granting an interview only recently to an Exeter Area High School journalism class taught by Jerry Robinson. Robinson wrote up the interview for the Rockingham Gazette.

Muscarello has turned many reporters away, in no uncertain terms. Half-jokingly, half seriously, he demanded to be paid for this interview. He asked if this reporter wanted to know what he had gotten out of talking to people about the sighting. "Not one red cent!" he shouted.

He is bitter that while Fuller undoubtedly made money from the "Incident at Exeter," he received nothing, even though it was he, not the author, that has to live with the social stigma of publicly announcing he saw a UFO.

"Do you know how long I've been heckled?" Muscarello said, pacing back and forth fu-

riously in the small living room of his Exeter apartment. He mimicked the razzing servicemen gave him when he enlisted in the United States Navy shortly after the sighting — "Hey, Norman, there's a flying saucer!" — and spat out that "people always ask me what really happened."

But even though the frustration is there, and even though he is bitter, Muscarello can sound almost poetic about what he saw.

"This I'll give you. I have mixed feelings. I don't think anything like this could have the same feeling (20 years later.) I'm thoroughly convinced there are intelligent beings beyond. There's something there beyond our comprehension, beyond all religion, beyond all mathematics, beyond all being, beyond a shadow of a doubt something so powerful, quiet and serene that nobody realizes it's there." •

MONTANA STANDARD, Butte, MT - Sept. 20, 1985

Butte, area residents see mystery sky lights

By Dan Carter
Standard Staff Writer

Widson rancher Larry Sears and his wife, Norell, were getting ready to settle down for the night when, at about one minute after midnight Thursday, Norell spotted something out the kitchen window.

She alerted Larry and they both headed out into the crisp, clear Big Hole night air to look.

What they saw, according to Sears, were eight or nine separate lights in a staggered formation "flying" at about 100 miles per hour in a northerly direction over the valley toward the West Pioneer Mountains.

What were they, he wondered. Jets performing night maneuvers? Helicopters? An Unidentified Flying Object (UFO)? Or maybe even several of them?

"They were low in the sky and the lights were of various brightness and sizes," he said.

He said the lights (he could see no body shapes of any type) were in different patterns in a staggered line. Far behind any of the others, he said, was a single bright reddish-colored light.

"Some of them flashed at different intervals and some of the smaller lights in the front stayed off more than the bigger ones," he said. "It was really kind of odd. They didn't blink in the same pattern that wing tip lights do."

After about five minutes, the lights made a gradual turn to the east and disappeared over the West Pioneers.

"We just stood there with our jaws open while it was going on and then stared at each other for about 15 minutes," Sears said.

Shortly thereafter, he called the Butte-Silver Bow police.

Meanwhile in Butte, Lorraine McIntee of 1053 Colorado and Frances Poor of 3103 Sanders were on their way home at about 12:10 a.m. after a late night dinner.

McIntee said they were driving near the Timber Butte area when they saw three sets of bright lights heading in an easterly direction overhead.

She said they were in a V-shaped formation, with one set of three white/yellow lights closely grouped in the front, and three lights of the same color spaced further apart following at the same speed a few hundred feet behind. Even further behind those, she said, were "three vivid red lights" that appeared to be detached from the others, but moving at the same speed.

All together, McIntee said, she saw six lights in the first group and three trailing further behind.

"They came from over the Timber Butte area, went over the airport and disappeared into a cloud bank on the East Ridge near where the statue (Our Lady of the Rockies) will be," she said. "They seemed real high, but even as high as they were, they were real bright

and they were good sized lights."

Shortly after the objects disappeared over the East Ridge, a jet left Bert Mooney Airport and headed over McIntee's and Poor's heads. From that, McIntee said, both women could judge just how big the lights were.

"As close as the airplane was when it took off, the lights on it didn't seem to be bigger than those others," she said.

"We waited and watched the area near the mountains to see if we could get a glimpse of them again, but we didn't."

McIntee also called Butte police to report the incident and also called the UFO Sighting Investigation Service in California. The police dispatcher had just gotten off the phone with Sears, but the UFO investigators said they had no other sighting reports from Montana.

Observers at the Flight Service Station at Bert Mooney Airport said nothing unusual was seen at about midnight.

Officials at Malstrom Air Force Base in Great Falls also said they picked up nothing unusual on their radar and knew of no scheduled night maneuvers over Southwestern Montana.

Were the lights McIntee and Poor saw the same ones Larry and Norell Sears saw? Sears says he thinks so.

"When they went over here they were in a staggered formation and one or two of them seemed to be flying underneath the others," Sears said. "What may have happened was that they changed formation when they headed east or the angle we saw them may have been different than what she saw there."

Both observers clearly saw the red light trailing the others. They also agreed on one other aspect of the phenomena:

"There was no sound at all," McIntee said. "We turned off the car, rolled down the windows and didn't even breathe."

Sears said he was also puzzled by the lack of sound.

"If it would have been airplanes or jets or helicopters there would have been some sound," he said.

Sears said he and his wife "are not advocates of UFOs ourselves," and that one incident is not enough to change his views.

"I'm really not sure yet what I believe it was," he said. "I'd really like to know what the explanation is to it if there is one."

"No one else over here saw it," he added. "I checked around with people and everyone knows we're crazy now."

McIntee, however, has "always believed in that stuff. I kind of wish it were closer, though."

"I thought with our luck, we'd be the only two clowns in Butte who saw it," she said. "But I saw what I saw and nobody is going to change my mind on it."

ARIZONA DAILY STAR, Tucson, AZ - Oct. 9, 1985 CR: H. Charbonneau

60 unidentified aircraft tracked over Tucson

By Daniel R. Browning
The Arizona Daily Star

A local air-traffic controller and a police helicopter pilot reportedly tracked about 60 unidentified aircraft over Tucson Monday, but federal authorities here said yesterday they are not investigating the incident.

Tucson International Airport radar picked up the aircraft at 12:15 a.m. Monday, said Patrick O'Sullivan, air-traffic manager. "I don't know what they were."

An air-traffic controller on duty that night reported to O'Sullivan that he monitored the objects for about 90 minutes. Radar picked them up southwest of the city, near Ryan Field, and lost them as they flew northeasterly through Redington Pass, he said.

The controller reported that 15 groups of four to six objects each were monitored on radar, O'Sullivan said, adding that the aircraft were traveling at about 250 knots, or 288 mph.

That speed is within the range of some private planes.

Authorities are not investigating the occurrence because "if they were airplanes, they didn't break any laws," O'Sullivan said. "It's not unusual seeing airplanes going across the scope who don't talk to us," he added.

The controller asked a police helicopter pilot to try to identify the objects, O'Sullivan said, but he was unable to do so.

The police pilot on duty that night could not be reached for comment yesterday, but Sgt. Doug Russell said the pilot told him what happened. "The tower called and said they had some targets but no transponders."

Transponders are radar transmitters that automatically identify individual aircraft for air-

traffic controllers. "If you don't turn your transponder on, all it shows up as (on radar) is a blip," Russell said.

The pilot tried to follow the objects and did see some lights, but was unable to catch up with them, Russell said. "He was up about 4,000 feet. He said they were up about 7,000 feet."

Although the government is not investigating the sighting, a Tucson-based international UFO research group is. "We've been studying these things for 33 years, and we've never had anything like this anywhere in the world," said Coral Lorenzen, who with her husband, Jim, founded the non-profit Aerial Phenomena Research Organization.

Lorenzen said what made Monday's sighting so unusual was that clusters of aircraft were traveling in waves.

"We've had formations before, and we've had more than one object before, but we've never had anything like this," she said. "All I can say is we don't believe it was military aircraft." The Lorenzen's did not see the objects.

A Davis-Monthan Air Force Base spokeswoman, Lt. Julie Fortenberry, said D-M jets stop flying by 10:30 p.m. She said she knew of no other military flights in the area at 12:15 a.m. Monday.

None of the unidentified aircraft contacted D-M as they flew past, Fortenberry said, but they did not come within five miles of the base, so they were not required to do so.

Lorenzen said she fielded about 20 calls from people who claimed to have sighted the aircraft Monday, but she said she unplugged her telephone about 2 a.m. to get some sleep.

'U.S. test gone wild' brings suit

AMERICAN-STATESMAN, Austin, TX

Sept. 29, 1985 CR: MUFON

3 in Dayton claiming damage for exposure to flying object

By John Kelso

American-Statesman Staff

DAYTON — Vickie Landrum, 62, used to work as a waitress at the Truck Stop Cafe on Texas 321, about seven miles north of here.

But these days she spends most of her time sitting inside her modest home hiding from the sun. She does not work anymore. She describes her life as that of a hermit.

Landrum's friend, Betty Cash, 56, used to own the cafe, formerly a popular spot for truck drivers hauling logs and other goods. But the cafe is closed now. Cash moved to Birmingham, Ala., in early 1981 to live with relatives. She needed someone to take care of her. She, too, stays out of the sun.

Both women have not worked in years because they suffer from many medical problems, among them sensitivity to sunlight.

Sunlight makes Cash break out in big water blisters, she said.

Landrum, a member of this small rice and soybean farming community about 40 miles northeast of Houston, used to enjoy fishing. She still does, but she goes only at night. The sun causes too much

copters they saw were large and were equipped with two rotary blades. According to Jay Miller, a flight expert in Texas, that description fits CH-47s, or Chinooks, which are primarily Army cargo helicopters.

The case is awaiting action in the court of U.S. District Judge Ross Sterling in Houston. Government attorneys have asked that the case be thrown out. "There's no cause of action," said Frank Conforti, the U.S. attorney handling the case for the government.

William Shead, a lawyer representing the three, admits that the case is different. Shead is a member of Mutual UFO Network Inc. in Seguin. The network investigates UFO sightings and has spent countless hours checking out this one.

"There hasn't been much in the legal system about this" kind of case, he said. "I really don't have any theories on it. I do feel like the government knows what it was, but we don't have their answer on it. As the witnesses have all stated, there were a whole series of military-type helicopters either going along sort of corralling the instrument, or protecting the instrument, or leading the instrument, or what have you. And surely they must have made some reports on it somewhere. But we haven't been able to get the government to open it up and reveal it."

Network investigators have not been able to find any flight plans for military helicopters in the area on the night of the incident, said Walt Andrus of Seguin, the international director of the network. He said every airport and military base in Texas and Louisiana has been checked.

John Schuessler, network deputy director and an investigator in this case, says he thinks the investigation has been inconclusive because his inquiries were done by telephone and he was not allowed to look at military records. Schuessler, an engineer for an aerospace company in Houston, said he is convinced that there was something in the sky that night, although he said that he has no idea what it could have been.

Naturally, there are some in this town who find the tale about a flying water tower spewing out radiation a little hard to believe. Are people in Dayton talking about it? "They're laughing about it," said a woman working in a hamburger joint who did not want her name published.

The story is a bizarre but serious

one to Cash and Vickie and Colby Landrum, who have suffered various maladies since the incident that they reported. All three have suffered skin problems. Cash and Vickie Landrum lost their hair temporarily. Colby, who has lived with his grandmother since he was 4, used to have nightmares. All three have had eye problems. Cash had breast cancer and both breasts were removed. All three say they vomited and had diarrhea the night of the incident.

The story begins with Cash and Vickie and Colby Landrum riding in Cash's car about 9 p.m. Dec. 29, 1980. They had been gone to nearby New Caney to play bingo, but the game was closed for the Christmas holiday. So, after eating supper in a cafe in New Caney, they headed down FM 1485 toward Dayton and home.

The trouble started about seven miles out of New Caney, according to the lawsuit. Colby saw a light in the sky traveling along the road, just above the tree tops. "Colby saw the light," Landrum recalled. "And he said, 'Aunt Betty, what is that?' And she said, 'I don't know.' And he pulled my face around and said, 'Mamma, what is that light?'"

Then, according to the three, a metallic-colored object with flames shooting out the bottom hovered before them. The flames almost reached the pavement, Landrum said.

Cash stopped the car and the trio climbed out to look at the object. Cash, who has suffered the most physical problems, stayed outside longer than the others. "Colby was screaming and trying to get away from me to run," Landrum said. "So I pushed him back in the car."

Landrum said she got back in the car to comfort the youngster. "I was just telling him to hush because he really wasn't saying anything except screaming. And I said, 'Colby, you look at that light and if you see a man step out of the light it will be Jesus Christ, and he will take us to a better place.' I'm not what you'd call a fanatic, but I do believe in the hereafter. And that night I was weighing myself if I was ready or not. Because I was thinking this was the end."

When Cash got back in the car, according to their story, the door handle on the driver side was so hot that she had to use her coat like a potholder to open it. And though it was about 40 degrees that night, the car interior became so hot that they turned on the air conditioner, Landrum said.

After the three had watched the object for a while, it rose higher in the air and headed off with what Colby said was a "roaring noise." Just afterward, down the road, they saw the helicopters around the object, they said. They counted at least 23 helicopters, Landrum said.

"It was like a sight of helicopters that no one has ever seen," Landrum said. "They just kept coming to it. It looked like they were trying to hem it in."

After the incident, which Landrum said lasted about a half-hour, Cash took the Landrums home and then drove to her home. When they reached their homes, they got sick.

Landrum said she drew a bath, but the warm water made her skin burn. She said Colby suffered the same problem. She put Colby to bed, but he woke her up at 1 a.m. because he had vomited in his bed. She began vomiting, too.

Cash said big blisters appeared on her face and neck. She was taken to Parkway Hospital in Houston a few days later. Hospital records show that she was admitted Jan. 2, 1981, discharged Jan. 14, readmitted Jan. 25, and discharged Feb. 9.

Cash's attending physician at Parkway could not be reached for comment. But Dr. Bryan McClelland, a Birmingham doctor who is treating Cash, said he thinks her skin problems are the result of radiation.

"Certainly her skin changes, which are pretty obvious on her hands, are all caused from the radiation," he said. McClelland said he believes Cash and that it is his opinion that a high energy source hung over her head the night of the reported incident.

Few in Dayton can provide any information on the incident. But Dayton police officer L.L. Walker said he saw something that surprised him on that same evening. Walker, who has been on the Dayton police force since 1964, said he saw some military helicopters that evening about dusk. He said was driving on Texas 321 about 20 miles north of town with his wife when he saw six to nine helicopters flying in a "spread-out V formation."

He said the helicopters bore Army insignias. "My wife said, 'I wonder what they're doing.' And I said, 'I don't know, but they're looking for something.' At first I thought they had an airplane down. They were going in the gen-

eral direction of where they said they had that problem," he said, referring to the Landrums and Cash.

On the other hand, David Robinson saw nothing unusual on that night. Robinson's home is behind his convenience store, just down FM 1485 from the area where Cash and the Landrums say they saw the object.

"I'm sure I would have been home that night because I seldom go anywhere," he said. "I'd bet money on it."

The incident is not exactly on the lips of everybody in town. Many seem to have forgotten about it, if they had heard about it at all. "Nope, hadn't heard about it," said Howard Watley, who owns a bookstore in downtown Dayton. "Didn't know we had one (a UFO) around. Didn't know anything was going on."

The incident has caused problems for Colby Landrum, a sixth-grader at Colbert Middle School in Dayton. Colby had nightmares for six months, and although the bad dreams have ceased, he is still uneasy. Is he worried about something like this happening again? "No, not really," he said. "But if it does happen, I don't want it to happen."

Another problem for Colby has been kids at school who used to tease him. "They called me names and stuff," he said. "They talked about me and what happened to me, and said I didn't see it and stuff like that."

Vickie Landrum said she is not out to get the government. And she says she did not file the suit primarily for money. More than money, she wants the government to provide medical attention for her, Cash, and especially her grandson.

"The money is not important to me," she said. "I would like medical help more than anything else. You understand? I really wouldn't know what to do with the money if I got it. I've always had plenty, like the bills paid and groceries in the house and money in my pocket. I always felt like I was one of the lucky ones."

But she does want her day in court. "I'm not trying to hoax nobody," she said.

"What if it was a whole school up yonder" at the site of the incident? she asked. "Or a whole busload of kids? A thing like that could destroy a whole town. That's what I'm fighting for."



Vickie Landrum says of flying object: 'I was thinking this was the end.'

pain, she says.

Because of their medical troubles, Cash, Landrum, and Landrum's 11-year-old grandson, Colby, are suing the federal government for \$20 million. They say that while driving on a country road Dec. 29, 1980, about 20 miles from Landrum's house, they received radiation poisoning from a mysterious, diamond-shaped flying object the size of a small water tower. They contend that the object was not a spaceship, but was surrounded by military helicopters. Although they have no proof of it, they say that it was a government experiment gone awry.

"I don't believe in UFOs," Cash said. "I've had people call me and say, 'You mean there were little green men on it?' And I tell them, 'Well, if there were any on it, I didn't see it.'"

Cash and Landrum say the heli-

UFO sightings near post draw attention

By Jim Hill

Soldiers and civilians around Ft. Devens have been keeping an eye on the sky in the wake of several recent reports of unidentified flying objects sighted in the local area.

The UFOs — described by eyewitnesses as two small glowing orange spheres — have been reported by eight different individuals living outside the installation over the past ten days. While Ft. Devens officials have suggested that the eerie lights may have been caused by flares fired on South Post, a team of UFO experts arrived late last Sunday to begin their official investigation into the incidents.

According to the Boxboro, Mass. police log, the UFOs were first sighted by two police officers during a routine evening traffic patrol in the Woodchuck Hill area on October 19.

"We were headed down Route 111 toward the Boxboro/Harvard

town line, when we sighted the objects," said patrolman Stephen Trefry, who, along with his partner Robert Morrill, initially reported the UFOs. "They were these two bright orange lights hovering over the tree tops. We watched them for about 10 seconds, then they disappeared."

Morrill immediately radioed their sighting back to the Boxboro police station, when he and his partner suddenly observed the objects again about 150 yards away. Moving diagonally over the hillside, the UFOs lights glowed for another few seconds, then disappeared.

The police officers immediately began searching the Woodchuck Hill area, looking for a conventional explanation for what they'd seen. When none was found, they filed an official police report and contacted the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle, WA.

According to Jim Melesciuz,

spokesman for the Massachusetts' chapter of the Mutual UFO Network, several other sightings of these mysterious lights have been reported to the Boxboro Police since that initial incident. Over the weekend, he and several other UFO experts have begun interviewing people in the Ft. Devens area who claim to have seen the objects, gathering whatever information they can for their investigation.

"What's most intriguing about this group of sightings is the consistency of the witnesses' descriptions," Melesciuz explained. "Each of the people who sighted the objects described them as small orange balls of light hovering at tree level. The same details, the same general pattern of hovering and blinking appear in all the reports."

However, while Melesciuz and his investigators continue to search for answers, a spokesman

for Ft. Devens suggests that there might be a fairly conventional explanation to the incident.

"We had a reserve unit firing flares for mortar training on South Post the night of the first incident," said John Rasmuson, spokesman for the Ft. Devens Public Affairs Office. "These flares hang on a mini-parachute as they float down slowly. Since Harvard is so close to Ayer, it's conceivable that these flares could be the cause of that first sighting."

Even so, Rasmuson admitted that Ft. Devens personnel were not doing anything that would explain a sighting early last Friday morning in Boxboro.

Marcie Robinson, a physical therapist at Emerson Hospital, was driving her two daughters to school when they observed "two round orange balls" high over a pasture off Prescott Road.

"I'm normally skeptical about UFOs," Robinson admitted. "But I'm not sure if there's a simple explanation for what we saw."

Meanwhile the MUFON team continues its field investigation of the incident, while local residents keep one wary eye toward the sky.

For UFO Hunter, Seeing Is Believing

He watched a strange, lighted craft swoop down close to the airstrip. As he recalls it, he saw the rounded underbelly of a craft that was shaped like the planet Saturn.

By MONICA ALLEN

William Chapleau of Rutland doesn't tell many people about a hike up Pine Hill that he took when he was 13 years old. It was a dark day: It looked like it would rain. Chapleau was alone, and the time was about 11 a.m. when he came to a small rise and saw a glow emanating from somewhere behind a mound of earth.

The curious youth ran towards the glow. He could smell an odor that reminded him of static electricity.

"I can't tell you what was on the other side, but the next thing I knew what was going on, it was 2:30 in the afternoon," Chapleau recalled recently.

Somehow, he said, he had lost hours of time and he didn't know where he'd been.

Chapleau never told his parents or anyone about the incident for fear they wouldn't believe him. It was only recently that the 45-year-old Rutland man spoke of the experience to a friend.

But though he never discussed it, the incident had a strong effect on his life. He began to read about space exploration and unidentified flying objects.

By 1958, he suspected his Pine Hill experience might have an encounter with a UFO. Because in 1958, Chapleau had a second strange experience. Only this time he wasn't alone.

Chapleau and a fellow serviceman were on night watch at a U.S. Navy airbase in Malta when they saw what

they initially thought was a plane attempting to land on the airstrip, but later believed may have been a space craft. The serviceman began to panic.

"No one is ever going to believe us about this, Bill," he said.

But Chapleau was determined to see as much as he could. He hopped in a jeep and drove down to the end of the runway.

Again he smelled something like static electricity. And he said he watched a strange, lighted craft swoop down close to the airstrip.

As he recalls it, he saw the rounded underbelly of a craft that was shaped like the planet Saturn, with a ring around the circular unit. The whole unit was about 300 feet in diameter, Chapleau said.

"That's the event that definitely made me believe," he explained.

Unidentified Flying Objects. There are believers and non-believers. And then there are people such as Chapleau, a believer who has turned his fascination with the subject into a full-time hobby — or some might say an obsession.

He is the state president of the Mutual Unidentified Flying Object Network, an international organization committed to resolving the mystery of UFO's.

The group has a few members in Vermont, and many connections all over the country who keep the watch.

Chapleau runs the Vermont chapter out of his home on Mussey Street. His truck, parked out front, is equipped

and ready to investigate UFO sightings.

Two antennae, one shaped like deer antlers and one more conventional, adorn the top of the truck. A license plate with the letters MUFON lets everyone know he's serious.

Chapleau has a small television and a citizens' band radio under the dashboard. The television channels are found with a dial like radio stations, not a switch. This allows Chapleau to tune in to frequencies between the established stations. He believes, after talking to local radio experts, that a being from another planet might make contact somewhere between the established television stations.

And, he wants to be ready to receive any transmission.

Chapleau is ready and eager to respond to calls. He believes from all that he's heard and read that he should stake out the site of a UFO sighting like a murder scene, and keep people from getting too close.

Although the subject seems fanciful, Chapleau is very serious. He has investigated numerous sightings all over Vermont and New Hampshire in recent years.

The former Rutland police officer handles each case as if it were a murder mystery. He goes to the scene, takes Geiger counter readings for radioactivity and does extensive tape recorded interviews. He also compares descriptions of flying objects with descriptions from other sightings.

Chapleau said he receives about 100 reports a month. He takes about a quarter of them seriously. If there is more than one call about a sighting in one area, he usually does an investigation.

Often people will call with reports and not leave their names. Or a man or woman will call, and suddenly have to stop talking when someone

else comes into the room, Chapleau said.

People who supposedly see UFO's are often afraid their friends will think they are crazy. But sometimes even the non-believers become believers.

Such a conversion occurred on Oct. 15, 1983, following a sighting that Chapleau investigated.

The Keene, N.H., City Police received a call that there was a flying object hovering over the city.

Sgt. Jack Zeller headed out in a cruiser toward the reported sighting. Zeller took his time and "assumed it would be gone by the time he got there," according to a tape-recorded interview Chapleau had with the police officer.

As Zeller was heading south down the highway, a car coming toward him, skidded and pulled to the side of the road. Zeller stopped the cruiser as the two men got out and ran across the street to his car.

The men pointed to red, green and white lights hovering 500 to 700 feet off the ground, Zeller said.

"All you could see was light," the officer recalled. "This object was so terribly still, like it was plastered right there."

"It was absolutely quiet... no sound."

One bystander suggested shining the police spotlight on the UFO and Zeller directed his spotlight to the object.

"The minute the light was pointed directly at it, it started to move and came right toward the car," Zeller said in the interview.

"One of the guys said, 'Jeez maybe you ought to take the shotgun out,'" Zeller said. But, Zeller didn't think that was a good idea.

Zeller said he saw the belly of the long, bathtub shaped craft. He described it as seamless, but with many planes. It was 40 to 50 feet long

He believes . . . that a being from another planet might make contact somewhere between the established television stations. And, he wants to be ready to receive any transmission.

and 10 to 15 feet wide, Zeller said.

He said the UFO came within 100 feet of the cruiser, hovered for a period of time, then drifted away towards the hills.

Chapleau said similar sightings were made within the next few days in Lynn, Mass. and Portsmouth, N.H. He surmised the same craft had made a circuit through the area.

There have been recent sightings in the Rutland area over the Rutland Country Club, according to Chapleau. In fact, people began calling in to report a strange lighted object in the area last week.

Around the same time, a group of West Rutland people saw a large creature on a gravel road near Route 4A in West Rutland. Castleton State College Anthropologist Dr. Warren Cook, a specialist on the legendary creature known as Bigfoot, took castings of the footprints which measured 14 inches long.

Chapleau said there have often been sightings of Bigfoots — also known as Sasquatches — around the same time as UFO's are sighted. He theorizes these creatures may be left by beings from another world for testing purposes, as humans might leave a monkey.

Chapleau admits he has "an active imagination" that's gotten more active as he's read hundreds of books on UFO's.

But, his theories appear to conform to those of many scientists in the field.

Chapleau believes beings from other worlds have been visiting earth to study the planet and take samples.

He said there are unexplainable reports of otherworldly surgery on animals out west, and cases where investigators have found animals without any blood.

Chapleau genuinely believes we may meet up with beings and communicate with them at some point. And he also believes we must be prepared.

The chance of a meeting is increasing, he believes.

He said sightings have increased steadily since the 1950s, and that the increase is linked to the increase in missions from Earth into space.

The firing of weapons in space and general poking about may increase the curiosity and fear that other beings have of us, he said. Chapleau also believes the use of weapons in space may anger beings.

There have been a large number of sightings near military bases, nuclear installations and power plants because higher order beings are interested in nuclear activities, Chapleau said.

Chapleau investigated a mysterious cattle-kill in Dummerston, a town near the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Plant in Vernon, which he concluded may have been caused by a UFO.

On Feb. 15, 1984, more than 23 heifers were found dead lying in a circle in a farmer's barn. They appeared to have been electrocuted.

peared to have been electrocuted.

Chapleau initially thought the animals might have been killed by a radioactive release from Yankee, but he was told that Yankee was shut down at the time.

Upon further investigation, Chapleau speculated the animals may have been killed by a UFO. A UFO in the form of a ball of light was seen that same night in nearby Hinsdale, N.H., by two people at the Hinsdale race track, he said.

No other explanation for the strange death of the animals emerged.

Chapleau has many stories from his investigations. Some are more believable than others.

He's done recent investigations into sightings of purported balls of fire that move through walls, play with toys and chase people in Fairlee.

He's done investigations into sightings in the Arlington and Bennington area of crafts landing in the middle of the road.

He tells a bizarre story of a farmer and his wife in western Vermont who wandered across their cornfield one day when they suspected youths were on their land. According to the story, the couple came across a landed spaceship, and there was a woman standing in the doorway of the ship, beckoning them on board.

The couple went back to their home to alert someone of the sight. When they returned, they were seriously considering getting on board, Chapleau said. But the ship was gone.

Getting people to believe is the hard part. Even Chapleau's family isn't too hot on the idea of UFO's. But, Chapleau is convinced that the many sightings can't all be a hoax. And that people must at least begin to wonder when they look up into the sky.

HERALD, Rutland, VT - Sept. 29, 1985 CR: MUFON



By FRANK ROSSI

UFOs: Sorting fact from fiction

Before I get into this, you should know that I don't want to hear your UFO story unless you have a real UFO in your cellar.

Eight years ago, with the blessings of an editor who herself came from outer space, I spent six months off and on, investigating UFO sightings. What I found were a lot of people who'd seen the same thing at different times in different places. What they saw did tricks that ordinary aircraft and weather balloons and the like aren't supposed to be able to do.

I even interviewed a ufologist named Ted Phillips, whose specialty is studying UFO trace landings.

In the end, what did my six months produce? Some people who'd seen something and Ted Phillips' pictures of burnt grass.

I've often wanted to pursue the story further, but there's a genuine shortage of straight thinkers in the UFO movement, so I didn't do anything until a few weeks ago, when I met David Jacobs.

Credible force

Jacobs is one of the few credible intellectual forces in ufology. He wrote *The UFO Controversy*, one of the definitive books on UFOs, yet he's not a scientist. He's a history professor at Temple University. He has little time for the flukes who inhabit UFO territory, yet he does believe in UFOs.

His investigation showed him, he says, that Project Blue Book, the government's 20-year investigation of UFOs, was an impotent gesture. He has concluded that the government knows little more than most of us about UFOs, and that it probably doesn't have a crashed UFO or alien bodies stowed away in a warehouse somewhere.

"As far as I could tell, there is no secret the government holds," Jacobs says. "They did not know more about UFOs than they were letting on; they did not keep information from the public to prevent panic."

As early as 1953, Jacobs learned, the Pentagon decided that UFOs were not a threat to national security. The real threat, the Pentagon believed, came from UFO reports.

A major sighting of UFOs over Washington on two weekends in 1952 resulted in clogged phone lines at the Pentagon.

Social infiltration

The Cold War was on; McCarthy was smiting Communists from New York City to Hollywood. It wasn't a question of whether the Russians were invading, but when.

The government reasoned that the Soviet Union could infiltrate the United States and flood the air with phony UFOs. Americans would report sightings, and just when the government concluded that everybody was crying wolf, the Russians would attack.

"At the same time," Jacobs says, "they felt that the Soviet Union could come over here and use people's criticism of the way the Air Force was handling the UFO controversy as a way of undermining confidence in 'duly constituted authority.'"

How was Uncle Sam going to put an end to it? By making sure everything in the sky could be identified. A manual was concocted to give Air Force personnel a way to identify everything in the sky.

The manual, according to Jacobs, was a real rope trick. It allowed the government to identify things that couldn't be identified.

Suppose you called up and said you saw a silver object with wings and a propeller slowly crossing the horizon. That sure was an airplane. If you called and said you saw a silver object without wings or propellers crossing the horizon, it was probably an airplane distorted by sunlight.

(continued on page 9)

'A possibility'

Now suppose you reported an object shaped like a cue ball that zigged and zagged across the sky at great speeds, hovered 100 feet over your head for 90 seconds, then disappeared. You say 20 other people were there with you and all agreed it could not have been an airplane.

"The fact that the guy mentions the word *airplane* in his report, even in a negative way, suggests that there was a possibility it was an airplane," Jacobs says. "So they put it down as a possible airplane."

"In the end they collapse the statistics. Identified, probable, possible — all go up to the identified category. UFOs are kept to a minimum."

As I said, I don't want to hear your UFO story unless you have a UFO in the basement. But if you're interested in why the Air Force still takes UFO reports, even though it says it doesn't, if you're interested in why David Jacobs believes in UFOs, if you'd like to know why a history professor knows more about UFOs than most scientists, tune in here two days from now. It should be far out.

By FRANK ROSSI



An open mind about UFOs

Unless you're an apostle of UFOs, you probably missed the latest tidbit. For years, ufologists, amateur, professional and irrational, have accused the government of hiding a crashed UFO and its charbroiled occupants in a warehouse somewhere.

This is a good story, and in a minute I'll tell you why Temple University history professor David Jacobs, a real expert in the field, thinks it is make-believe. But first the tidbit.

Robert Sarbacher was educated at Princeton and Harvard. He is former graduate dean of Georgia Institute of Technology. After World War II, Sarbacher served as a dollar-a-year man for the government — he was a science consultant for the Defense Department's Joint Research and Development Board.

These days, Sarbacher is head of the Washington Institute of Technology. Recently, Sarbacher confirmed that he was one of several scientists invited in the '50s to a meeting at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base outside Dayton, Ohio, to discuss what were thought to be crashed spacecrafts from another solar system.

Stayed away

Sarbacher didn't attend. He says he had other responsibilities, and he apparently is not the least bit impressed by the whole thing. He says, however, that he was told that the objects were made of an "extremely light and tough" material.

End of tidbit. Except for one point. In 1948 an object crashed in Roswell, N.M. Lots of people saw it crash. The Air Force came, picked up the pieces and supposedly sent them to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

The Air Force also picked up a man Jacobs identifies as William Brazel, who had collected the pieces. It questioned him for five days and told him to keep his mouth shut. He did.

The thing that crashed in New Mexico was described as incredibly tough and light, something like aluminum, only a lot better.

Maybe what crashed in Roswell was a UFO. Jacobs, however, is inclined to believe it was something the government was testing secretly.

Air Force study

For 20 years the government operated Project Blue Book. The Air Force always led Americans to believe that Blue Book was a massive

Stories continue of outer space alien buried in Aurora Cemetery

Several

years ago I heard stories about a spaceman being buried in Wise County. This spaceman was supposed to be someone or something from outer space. I can't remember the whole story. Can you find out anything about this for me? — T.W.

LaVonne Odom



Contact

In 1973 a visit was made to the Aurora Cemetery in Wise County by officials of the International UFO Bureau from Oklahoma City. They were there to investigate the possibility of an outer space alien buried there.

The group said they were looking for witnesses to the crash of a spaceship in 1897. They were checking out a legend that a cigar-shaped spacecraft crashed into a windmill on a Judge Proctor's farm on April 17, 1897. It was said that the people of the town of Aurora cleaned up the wreckage and buried the pilot in the town cemetery. The Dallas Morning News carried a story about the incident the next day. The entire story, written by S.E. Hayden follows:

"AURORA, WISE COUNTY, TEXAS. April 17 — About 6 o'clock this morning the early risers of Aurora were astonished at the sudden appearance of the airship which has been sailing throughout the country.

"It sailed directly over the public square, and when it reached the north part of town collided with the tower of Judge Proctor's windmill and went to pieces with a terrific explosion,

scattering debris over several acres of ground, wrecking the windmill and water tank and destroying the judge's flower garden.

"The pilot of the ship is supposed to have been the only one aboard, and while his remains are badly disfigured enough of the original has been picked up to show that he was not an inhabitant of this world.

"T.J. Weems, the U.S. signal service officer at this place and an authority on astronomy, gives it as his opinion that he (the pilot) was a native of the planet Mars.

"Papers found on his person — evidently the records of his travels — are written in some unknown hieroglyphics, and cannot be deciphered. The ship was too badly wrecked to form any conclusion as to its constrictive or motive power.

"The town is full of people today who are viewing the wreck and gathered specimens of strange metal from the debris. The pilot's funeral will take place tomorrow. Signed, S.E. Hayden.

During this investigation by the UFO officials in 1973, Wise County historians said the entire Hayden story was fiction. Most citizens said they thought the story was a hoax.

Dr. Tom Gray, a physicist from North Texas State University, was asked to analyze some samples of metal that had been dug up near the site of the windmill where the spaceship crashed. He found the metal to be somewhat different from most metals, but said "Given the fact the earth is struck by meteorites of all shapes and sizes on occasion, it would be difficult to rule on the origin of the metal."

The UFO group wanted to dig into the grave that was said to be where the little spaceman was buried. The cemetery association got an injunction to stop any

digging not authorized by the courts. The UFO group did not seek a court order to dig.

Metal detectors were used by the UFO hunters. They claimed the signals received from the grave matched those recorded at the crash site. They also made the claim, based on the signals from the metal detectors, that the person buried there was not an inhabitant of this world.

Local citizens said the grave contains the body of an itinerant farm worker named Carr, who had died of spotted fever about the time of the alleged spacecraft crash.

After all investigations were completed in 1973, it is still not known who or what is buried in that unmarked grave in the Aurora Cemetery.

(Sources: Denton Record-Chronicle files and Dallas Morning News.)

Contact solves problems, gets answers, tracks down the facts and guards your right to know. Write Contact, P.O. Box 369, Denton, Texas 76201, or call 387-3811, Ext. 211, between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Because of the large number of letters received each week and limited space, not every question can be answered.

For information on "people services" offered in Denton County, call the Information and Referral Service, 566-2688. The service can refer you to the appropriate agency to help with your problem.

TELEGRAM, Bridgeport, CT
Oct. 18, 1985 CR: R. Collins

UFO sightings reported in area

By PETER COOPER
Telegram staff writer

Is it a bird, a plane ... or a close encounter of the third kind?

That's the question many area residents were pondering Thursday night after unidentified flying objects were seen in the clear autumn sky above Fairfield County.

The UFOs, sighted around 9 p.m., were variously described as flying saucers, blimps, space machines, "flying boomerangs," and meteorites, area police reported.

But air traffic controllers said that the objects were most likely a formation of planes flying at high altitude with their lights flashing.

"We saw them here," said Brian Mitchell, an air traffic controller at Danbury Municipal Airport. "We think there were seven aircraft flying at 8,000 to 10,000 feet. It was probably just a bunch of guys out having a good time."

However, an air traffic controller at Sikorsky Airport in Stratford said the object appeared to be a balloon of some kind.

"We saw it, but we never talked to it," said the controller, who asked not to be identified.

Fairfield police officer Jim Gallagher said that the department was deluged with calls from anxious residents who had sighted the objects.

Mark Napoli, a teacher at Whittier School in Bridgeport, was one of those who sighted the flying objects.

"I was at my girlfriend's house, man, and I saw these lights, all these lights," Napoli said, breathlessly. "It was V-shaped and moving slowly. I never saw anything like that before. It was no plane. Don't think I'm crazy, man."

"I'm so excited my heart is pumping Kool-Aid," Napoli added. "I teach social studies and we're definitely going to discuss this tomorrow."

A similar situation occurred several months ago when several small aircraft reportedly based in Dutchess County, N.Y., flew over the area at night with their lights on.

NEWS TRIBUNE, Tacoma, WA - Sept. 6, 1985

Did anyone else see UFO Aug. 15?

To the Editor: Did anybody else see the UFO over Tacoma last night (8-15)? I was lying out in my backyard watching for Perseid meteors when a super-fast object passed directly overhead, traveling from south to north in a straight line.

It was shaped something like an airplane — more like a "T" — and

colored between yellow to orange. It actually glowed but didn't leave a tail like the meteors (I saw only three in two nights of watching).

The time was approximately 10:13 p.m. There was nothing on the late news.

JACK KENISON,
817 N. Sheridan Ave.

study of UFO phenomena. It wasn't, says Jacobs. There were seldom more than three or four Air Force personnel assigned to the investigation, he says.

If there had been a crashed alien ship, Jacobs reasons, the Air Force would have investigated UFOs a lot more seriously. At the same time, the Air Force says it no longer accepts UFO reports. Jacobs says he has information that it does. It has to, he says, because that's the job of the Air Force — to know what's going on in the sky.

As Jacobs notes in his book, *The UFO Controversy*, all of the above is irrelevant anyway.

If the government did possess a crashed UFO or a few quick-fried aliens, news would have escaped long ago. Suppose an alien ship had crashed. Dozens of scientists — aeronautical engineers, metallurgists, biologists, astronomers, and on and on — would have to be called in. As the years passed those scientists would retire or die or move on, and others would replace them.

In the end, hundreds of people would be involved. In America, that many people can't keep a secret.

So why the book?

Which brings us to why David Jacobs, a history teacher, had to write

the book on UFOs. Few scientists want anything to do with UFOs. The main thing a scientist markets is his mind. That would be questioned if he started talking seriously of UFOs.

Although he hasn't seen any, David Jacobs nevertheless believes in UFOs, and his philosophy is simple:

In their arrogance, many scientists believe that if we didn't invent something, it can't exist. They reason that light travels at a speed of 186,000 miles per second. Even if we could drive that fast, it would take us 100,000 years to cross our galaxy alone.

Interesting argument. But if you look at the past of the human race, we are nothing more than a pore on the face of history. The bulk of our scientific advance has come since World War II. Forty years.

In a universe that is billions of years old, suppose another breed of people formed somewhere out there and they were a tad ahead of us — say a thousand years. Isn't it conceivable that they would have solved problems we haven't yet thought of?

That is David Jacobs' argument. And even that argument is irrelevant, he says.

At least 10 percent of the UFO reports are unsolved. The real question is this: Are people describing accurately what they see? Think about that next time you look at the sky.



In search of UFOs — any clues?

Paul Norman caught a 30-second glimpse of a UFO 32 years ago — a massive, silver, cigar-shaped flying object — and he's been looking for it ever since.

At 69, the globe-trotting American investigator for the International Committee of UFO Research, is in Darwin this week and wants helpers in the Northern Territory.

Mr Norman, who retired in California nine years ago to take up the hunt for UFOs full time, has spoken to hundreds of witnesses and since seen another two flying objects in Victoria similar to his first sighting on that day in 1953.

"I was working as a power station superintendent in Tennessee and this thing, about 10 m in diameter, flew overhead, stopped for 30 seconds and then flew away," Mr Norman said.

Nearby in that same month, two airforce pilots and their plane disappeared without trace when they were sent in pursuit of a UFO.

"The base lost radio contact but the UFO and the plane stayed on the radar until they merged — then the whole lot disappeared from the screen," Mr Norman said.

No wreckage was found. On October 21, 1978, solo pilot Frederick Valentich and his single-engine aircraft disappeared without trace over Bass Strait after he reported another 'flying cigar' — metallic-like, shiny and with a green light.

Mr Norman has photographs taken 20 minutes before on a nearby beach of a large dark object, fitting much the same description given, flying from the water into the air, at a speed later estimated at 320 km/h.

Recruit

"It was one of 20 such cases of planes being taken in the past 20 years," he said.

Now Mr Norman often spends up to six months a year in Australia and is trying to recruit researchers beyond the 400 members of the UFO research society in Victoria, where he sighted the other two 'cigars'.

Early one morning in 1980, a farmer in Gippsland, Victoria, who was awoken by the noise of disturbed cattle and galloping

By RICK FENELEY

horses, walked outside to see something flying low and fast over his water tank.

He saw a bell-shaped UFO, about 5 m high, with port holes, a white top, mainly orange and with a black "tube-like" base. It left a 10 metre ring on the ground when it took off before the bemused farmer could approach.

His 450 000-litre water tank was left almost empty.

"UFO's often go to water," Mr Norman said.

He said he had spoken to people — many of their cases well documented — who had seen humanoids, usually midget-sized and, in one case, with slanted eyes and two holes in their faces in place of a nose.



In Tasmania in 1959 a group of 37 people watched a flying craft hover above them with four humanoids on top of it.

But Mr Norman has no desire to make contact with the aliens.

"People who have made contact have blacked out and become nervous wrecks," he said.

If you've seen any UFOs, contact Mr Norman through Hotel Darwin reception.



Mr Norman with his file of evidence — but is he being watched?

'Something in the sky' poser for UFO man

DID extra-terrestrial beings visit Chickenley on Saturday night?

Mrs. Audrey Brooke is convinced that something out of the ordinary was in the sky over her house in Chickenley Lane.

"I was watching television near the window just after midnight on Saturday," she said.

"The curtains were open and I couldn't believe my eyes when I saw a bright light coming towards me. I was beginning to get frightened when it suddenly disappeared," said Mrs. Brooke (55).

She said the object had a very bright light in its centre which was surrounded by reddish pink rays in a sort of halo.

FRIGHTENED

Mrs. Brooke was on her own in the house at the time and admits to being frightened and unable to sleep afterwards.

The matter was reported to Philip Mantle, the local investigator for the Yorkshire UFO Society, who said that it was very unlikely to have been an aircraft as Leeds and Bradford Airport had closed for the night.

"I would be very interested to hear from anybody else who thinks they saw something that night but might be afraid of coming forward," said Mr. Mantle.

Anyone who thinks they have seen an unidentified flying object can contact Mr. Mantle on Batley 444049.

Mystery of the moving lights

Sir, — Further to the UFO speculation currently being aired in your paper — may I contribute the following, for what it's worth?

Some three or four weeks ago one evening — about half an hour after sunset we — (my daughter, husband and self) saw from the living room window (facing north) — two very large brilliant white orbs of light, almost merging at their inner edge. Their height was difficult to estimate. They were moving — but only just — from west to east.

Before we could focus binoculars on them they began to fade, and scanning the spot we could see nothing. Half a minute later the same or similar brilliant dual white lights appeared further east.

By the time glasses were brought to bear they were again fading — and left no after image or trace. Skies were crystal clear on this evening. The lights were some 12 to 20 times larger than plane navigation lights at the same height and very brilliant.

They did not "fall" from the sky as they faded. It could not have been a "balloon" or we should have seen it, lights or not — (and of course heard it).

I do not presume to suggest that what we saw that night was a UFO. But only the following Thursday came — in your paper — the first report of the circles of flattened corn at Fonthill, west of us, which certainly gives food for thought.

Could there have been a connection, or was it pure coincidence? Better yet, what was it? Your guess is a guess as good as ours.

Mrs W. M. Perrett
5 Lampard Terrace,
Wilton.

Sir, — Could the rings of spirally flattened wheat in various cornfields have been made by a helicopter?

Perhaps you could organise an experiment.

D. M. Scott
Lyburn House,
Nomansland,
Salisbury.

UFO author details sightings

THE recent claims that alleged flying saucers have once again been spotted in the skies over Burnley came as no surprise to self-styled UFO expert Stephen Brown.

Not that he has yet had time to evaluate the sighting reported by Mr Paul Quinn (Burnley Express, August 13th), but Mr Brown is convinced that extra-terrestrials have been interested in our solar system for some time.

He is the leading light behind the Lancashire Centre for UFO Spotters, and he is not at all worried that many people might scoff at the idea of visitors from outer space. In fact, Mr Brown is the first to tell people that in many cases there is a perfectly logical, material explanation for the strange objects in the sky.

But, as he points out in a detailed document he has just published on the subject, "there are many

explanations, but there is still a large amount that cannot be explained."

SIGHTINGS

Mr Brown, of Queen Victoria Road, Burnley, has spent two years collecting information for his work "UFOs Over Lancashire," and it contains reports of many sightings, going as far back as 1869. It also details the stand taken by the Ministry of Defence on the issue.

Prior to 1962, UFO reports were not even retained by the ministry, and although records are now kept, the "sightings," explained or otherwise, are not investigated unless they are considered "a matter of concern from a defence standpoint." This is almost never the case, says Mr Brown.

Despite his interest and work in the field, Mr Brown has never seen anything unexplained himself, although the Burnley and Pendle area would seem to have been "visited" several times.

Among the sightings he reports are:

May 8th, 1869: Several witnesses saw what looked like a "fiery flying goose" with a comet-like trail, flying around the Fence area and alighting in a field.

November/December, 1953: Three separate reports of "silvery objects" hovering in the sky in Burnley and Brierfield. All the descriptions were similar and the object was moving at incredible speed.

November 1958: More than a dozen Burnley people reported two strange objects over Burnley, on the same evening. Every description tallied in that it was silver, cylindrical, and moving silently with no vapour trail.

June, 1977: Perhaps the most bizarre reports came in throughout this month. Two separate sightings were reported over Nelson Cemetery. Both were described in great detail as having inverted portholes, a dome and a blue, flashing light at one

end, and the sightings were at exactly the same time — 1 p.m. in the afternoon on a bright, sunny day.

CHASED

A Nelson man also claimed to have followed by a UFO as he and his wife travelled home from Manchester on their motor cycle.

They claimed the silent, silver cigar-shaped object "locked" on to them and chased them from Salford to Bury.

Shortly after this, three Burnley women reported seeing the same object actually in Burnley. One of them tried to follow it in her car as it passed over the Trafalgar area of Burnley, but said it moved off silently at incredible speed.

May/June, 1979: Two reports of "lights" over Pendle Hill and Towneley Park. The "lights" hovered and then streaked across the sky at great speed.

September, 1981: A Burnley housewife de-

scribed what she first thought was a shooting star at 1.30 a.m. in the morning. She became suspicious when the star suddenly burst into a "blaze of coloured lights" and seemed to take on a horse-shoe shape, before disappearing.

1983: Four sightings over Burnley and Nelson. They varied from sets of lights, pulsating cigar-shaped objects, to a thin, green streak of light passing at speed through the sky.

January, 1984: Two Burnley sightings within days of each other of a bright light moving slowly over rooftops then disappearing vertically and silently into the night.

Mr Brown is certain there are many other reports to be had, and he hopes to publish them in a second volume in the future. His first book contains further reports from all over Lancashire and he wants to collect them together, not only for the interest of the Lancashire UFO spotters group, but because there has never been any publication concentrating just on Lancashire.

For confirmed "ufo-ologists" none of the reported sightings seem surprising, but even the sceptical among the population are being slowly converted to the idea that strange phenomena do occasionally appear in the sky.

In fact, according to Mr Brown, the very reason the Ministry of Defence decided in 1962 to retain reported sightings was: "in response to increasing public interest in the subject."

There is a part of North Yorkshire known as Flying Saucer Alley because of peculiar sightings over the years. REGINALD BRACE joined investigators in search of UFOs but sadly only managed to intercept a wink from Jupiter.

Something bright was winking through a cloud, but it was only good old Jupiter, on the blink as usual

ONE of the ironies of Ufology is that few, if any, of its disciples have actually seen an Unidentified Flying Object.

Graham Birdsall, 31, founder and president of the Yorkshire UFO Society (motto: Seek And You Will Find) has been involved in UFO research for 18 years and is still waiting the first sight of anything that defies explanation. "That's the worst thing about it," said Mr. Birdsall, who was drawn into the world of aerial phenomena at the age of 13 when he saw a ball of light skimming over a Leeds roof top. He now accepts it was probably a passing aircraft.

"I have interviewed hundreds of people over the years who have told me about sightings. I would have given my right arm to share. That's typical of every UFO investigator in the country. Jenny Randles, one of Britain's leading writers on UFOs, has never seen a damn thing. Yes it is frustrating — but you carry on."

One of Mr. Birdsall's colleagues, Philip Mantle, said: "It's similar to fishing. You go to a river you know is stuffed with big fish, but it's the beggar ten pegs up who gets one. You need patience — and if we didn't think our patience would be rewarded one day we would pack it in."

Our close encounter of a convivial kind took place in a wind jolted caravan on the remote moorland above the village of Carleton, near Skipton, which is serving as the base for the Yorkshire UFO Society's nine day, round-the-clock Skywatch. It is a publicity exercise designed to draw attention to the society's activities but there is always the hope that something amazing will happen. After all, this is the area of Yorkshire known as Flying Saucer Alley or the Warminster of the North because of a number of odd happenings over the years.

So far the Skywatch sightings have been largely routine. A reddish glare last Friday night could have been the work of some local wit bent on confusion, and although several pairs of binoculars were trained on what looked like a tadpole with lights in the small hours of Sunday, the consensus of opinion leaned towards nothing more peculiar than a light aircraft.

The trouble with Ufology today is that there is usually a solution. It was different in the Fifties, Sixties and Seventies when talk of little green men and shimmering saucers caused many a fluttering in extra-terrestrial doves. To some extent the mystery has gone. People are still seeing strange things in the sky but the source could be Venus — the Queen of UFOs — Jupiter, Mars or merely the moon peering through a cloud, fireballs, meteors, satellites, bits of space debris, weather balloons, aircraft with strobe lights, helicopters using night sun searchlights or remote pilotless vehicles.

"Sometimes we upset witnesses with our analysis of what they have seen but we are open-minded and realistic," said Graham Birdsall. "We obliterate 98 per cent. of sightings. This leaves two per cent. unexplained, and it is that two per cent. which keeps us interested. If I thought there was an explanation for everything I would save myself



Operation Skywatch: from left, Graham Birdsall, President of the Yorkshire UFO Society, Paul Chaplow, Investigator, Mark Birdsall, Research Co-ordinator, and Philip Mantle, Overseas Liaison Officer, on the lookout for UFOs at Carleton, near Skipton. Picture by BRUCE ROLLINSON

two or three thousand pounds a year, take more holidays and live a normal life again with my wife and three daughters.

"You can't come up with an explanation for the hovering object seen by two policemen at Cracoe Fell in 1981; the Mexican hat shaped craft and three men in silver suits reported by a miner's wife from Normanton; the woman on the Skipton-to-Clitheroe road startled by a battery of lights over her car; the courting couple disturbed by a similar phenomena; the North Yorkshire farmer driven off the road by a glowing craft suspended over his car."

"Several people came to us and reported seeing a large Blimp shooting purple rays over the Vale of York shortly before the York Minster fire in 1984. They included people at a bus stop, taxi drivers and a tourist from Scotland. When they publicised their sighting they were ridiculed. So were we, but we are used to it. People once laughed at the idea of man walking on the moon. We think our York report is just as worthy of investigation as lightning, particularly when the nearest thunderstorm was several miles away from the Minster."

Several police officers have reported weird sights in and around Carleton and Elslack Moors in North Yorkshire and Mr. Birdsall places great store on their observations.

"Objectivity goes right out of the window when you get policemen talking about noiseless UFOs with nuts, bolts and portholes," he said. "The only logical conclusion to some of the things which have been seen is either a secret piece of airborne craft

or an intelligence unknown to man. The more I see of the latest space hardware the more my leanings increase towards unusual surveillance craft, still in their infancy. But you cannot discount the extra-terrestrial possibility."

When he is not peering at the sky, collating research material, editing the YUFOS magazine Quest and addressing meetings, Mr. Birdsall slaps tickets on cars as a parking meter attendant in Leeds. His companions on the Skywatch include Mr. Mantle, 27, a Batley engineer, Paul Chaplow, 19, an apprentice panel beater from Leeds, and Robert Cherry, 31, a Leeds postman.

They eat ham sandwiches, fry sausages, make coffee and talk UFO language which includes classifications like CE 1, 11, 111 and 1111 (close encounters with varying degrees of intimacy), D/D (daylight disc), N/L (nocturnal light) and LITS (lights in the sky). Around them are the trappings of your dedicated Ufologist: cameras, telescope, video equipment, binoculars and CB radio.

With midnight an hour away we clambered out of the caravan to see if anything was happening in the heavens. Something bright was winking through a cloud, but it was only good old Jupiter, on the blink as usual.

Gaps between the scudding clouds revealed star formations but nothing moving. Not even a satellite tonight, and definitely no chance to echo the immortal words "Beam me up, Scottie." Not that the assembled Skywatchers were expecting too much. As Philip Mantle said, Ufologists have to be patient as they wait for the Big One.

UFO spotted at Hayle

The sighting of a possible UFO has led a St. Ives schoolteacher to ask if anyone else saw the large bright object which she watched hover over her home for an hour.

Mrs. Dilly Foster, who lives in Hayle and who teaches in St. Ives, woke up in the early hours of Sunday morning and saw an object in the sky when she looked out of her open bedroom window.

Her house looks over the new by-pass, and according to Mrs. Foster the object gave off a strange radiance.

NO CRANK

"I am not a crank or a drunk, and although I am sceptical, I don't say that it couldn't be a UFO. I have not seen anything like this ever before," she added.

Such was Mrs. Foster's interest in the object that she telephoned Culdrose who told her that they had not been flying that night. RAF St. Mawgan said that a weather balloon had been put up the day before but with the prevailing wind it certainly did not reach Hayle.

EGG-SHAPED

After she had watched the UFO for about half an hour, Mrs. Foster called her daughter, Deborah, and together they sat on the bed and watched it. Mrs. Foster says that it was occasionally obscured by low cloud.

She described the UFO as horizontal and egg shaped with splashes of sun rays like a child would draw around the sun.

MYSTERIES OF THE WORLD

ORBIS Publishing have come up with a truly magnificent series of books looking at the world in which we live — and about the way we think of it.

"Legends of the Lost" looks at the cultures of the past and the legends that have been passed down to us about them. It tells us about Atlantis, the lost civilisation, King Arthur and the Holy Grail, Ancient space visitors, the Lost Isle of Lyonesse, and Dragons.

"Creatures from Elsewhere" explains the Loch Ness Monster, the abominable snowman, the werewolf and mermaids. "The UFO Casebook" is precisely that — a comprehensive record of UFO sightings and encounters. Mysteries for which you can find no answer.

"UFOs: Where do they come from?" takes the examination further and looks at possible explanations and different interpretations of the evidence.

"Great Hauntings" is for ghost lovers everywhere. From the Grey Lady of Glamis Castle to the legend of Borley Rectory and the stories of phantom armies you will be enthralled.

"The Power of the Earth" examines man-made structures and tries to find a reason for them, including the Nazca lines of Peru, Ley lines, the Pharaoh's tomb and the sacred serpent-mounds of America.

Each book costs £1.99. A magnificent bargain.

UFO mystery of the golden balls

PHONE lines at Oxfordshire's very own UFO research centre have been jammed by a flood of frantic calls.

In the past three weeks more than 70 people have called Contact International UK, of Crown Road, Wheatley, to report sightings of golden balls and other unidentified flying objects.

Spotters jam phone lines

By DEBBIE HENDERSON

In one case two sales representatives in a Ford Sierra were shocked when five large brilliant white lights streaked low beside them along the M40.

And three young women

travelling by car from Charlbury to a party in Oxford saw strange white lights like flying saucers.

They stopped the car one mile from Oxford and got out in pouring rain to watch the close encounter.

Derek Mansell, Research officer of contact International, said: "Our last call was on Monday from a lady who saw a golden ball of light bobbing up and down. It stayed there for a few minutes then darted away."

Denied

"Most of the people who have been calling us have been petrified."

"We just have no explanation for all this UFO activity. We have been in contact with all the surrounding airports and they have denied all knowledge of the UFO."

"We have also written to the Ministry of Defence and are eagerly waiting for their reply."

"Members of the group are staying up half the night keeping a lookout."

'Disc' seen:
any reasons?

I wonder if any readers can help me? I investigate reports of unusual aerial phenomena for the British UFO Research Association.

During May of this year, we received a very interesting report from one of your readers in Ventnor. He observed, at relatively close quarters, an unusual disc-shaped object gliding over the Downs.

Usually, BUFORA prides itself in finding ordinary explanations for UFO reports, but in this case no such explanation is forthcoming.

Consequently, I would be very grateful if any of your readers can suggest any possible cause for this sighting, or possibly observed similar phenomena in the same area during May: all correspondence will be treated with due respect.

PAUL FULLER.
83 Alresford Road,
Winchester.

Sept. 13, 1985 CR: T. Good

RICHMOND & TWICKENHAM TIMES, Surrey, England

Mrs. Nobbs' space visitor

AN unidentified flying object which could be a meteorite landed on the conservatory roof of a house in Twickenham on Tuesday night.

Mrs. Eileen Nobbs of Rivermeads Avenue, Twickenham, said she heard a tremendous bang but was afraid to go and see what it was.

The next morning she found something resembling a ducks egg, weighing about four ounces and grey coloured. It had smashed the reinforced glass on the conservatory roof.

Now Mrs. Nobbs has contacted the Natural History Museum and someone will be coming to Twickenham to identify this strange object.

Sept. 13, 1985 CR: T. Good

TRANSLATIONS

City and country of incident: Chaco province, Argentina
Date of incident: August 19, 1985
Name of paper and date of clip: TIEMPO ARGENTINO, August 20, 1985
City and country of paper: Buenos Aires, Argentina

[CREDIT: Jane Guma]

UFOs: AN EXPLOSION ON A HILL IN SALTA PRODUCED COLLECTIVE PSYCHOSIS

Hundreds of phonecalls to a local radio station announced the presence of an object that remained at low altitude, motionless, and reflected the sun's rays.

The strange appearance of two UFOs near an Aerolineas Argentinas Boeing 737 that was en route from Santiago del Estero to Buenos Aires, added to the fall of an alleged meteorite--described as a "fireball" by neighbors--in a hill near Cafayate in Salta, may have caused a real collective psychosis among the Argentine residents who reported presences in the sky in different places of the country.

The Police Department phones in Chaco started ringing in the early hours of yesterday morning, advising about the appearance of a UFO in the Southwest.

A reporter from LT43 Radio Mocovi stated that the UFO "was at about 300 kilometers from Resistencia," while at the same time he said that "between 8 and 10 AM, we received calls from the cities of Coronel Dugraty, General Pinedo, Villa Angela, Campo Largo, and in Santa Fe, Tostado, among others, reporting on something in the sky."

The psychosis had apparently affected many Chaco residents. A man in Villa Angela said that "it is planet Venus which at this time of the year comes close to Earth." However, a listener called the radio station to say that "the object is at very low altitude and remains motionless. It is very bright, maybe due to the sun's rays."

Among the theories that were prevalent yesterday afternoon, there is one that linked all the latest events--from last Saturday's incident where a UFO remained almost two hours over Santiago de Chile--to the possible meteorite that fell in Cafayate.

"There is the possibility that the UFOs have followed a route from Chile passing over Ceres, then Chaco, and finally falling in Salta. The theory is not absurd, but imagination plays a role in all of this. No serious studies can be made with such poor data," said an aeronautical source.

Witnesses to the appearance of the two UFOs over Ceres in Santa Fe agreed in their statements that "the object moved at great speed. Up and down and from right to left. It looked like a banana and was bright, with blue flashes."

The testimony from a TIEMPO reporter on board the plane gave credibility to the existence of both unidentified craft, possibly of extraterrestrial origin.

While investigations are only now starting--NASA scientists have already asked for the film--collective hysteria invaded some of the country's sectors, reporting appearances in the sky similar to those in Chile and in our own country. Maybe the key will be found in Cafayate, on the slopes of the San Isidro hill.

A "FIREBALL" CRASHED AGAINST A HILL

Salta and Tucuman - A big explosion followed by a smoke column that was visible from a distance of several kilometers, was another of the milestones in this country-wide mystery that began with the sighting of several UFOs in different places, and which made the chief of the police department in Salta fly over the area following reports about the flight and explosion of an "enormous fireball."

According to neighbors, this time it was a loud explosion, in a place that has not been pinpointed exactly, and which occurred for no known reasons in an area that is very difficult to reach, located by Salta residents as being on the slopes of the San Isidro hill near Cafayate, while Tucuman residents placed it to the NW of their province, near the border with Salta.

The Salta police sent a patrol to the area, and later the chief of police himself, Dr. Alberto Javier Alderete, flew over the area.

On the other hand, news from Tucuman stated that an apparently very large meteorite fell on the NW of the province, where residents of Guarinchay, a town near San Pedro de Colalao, claimed that the huge body that fell from the sky was enveloped in "luminous rays" and made the ground tremble upon impact. Meanwhile, another neighbor said that he saw "a huge fireball that moved to the NW at great speed, making no noise; it then crashed on the Anchillo hill and the brightness continued being visible for several minutes." The chief of police had to return to Salta capital in a car due to a failure in the plane, but he will be back here early today.

City and country of incident: Salta province, Argentina
Date of incident: August 18, 1985
Name of paper and date of clip: TIEMPO ARGENTINO, August 22, 1985
City and country of paper: Buenos Aires, Argentina

[CREDIT: Jane Guma]

INTENSE SEARCH IN THE NORTHERN PROVINCES FOR TRACES OF "SOMETHING THAT FELL FROM THE SKY"

While air searches in Salta were unsuccessful, in Tucuman, on the other side of the Calchaqui valleys, TIEMPO's envoys follow a trail of reports.

San Miguel de Tucuman (Special envoys) - San Pedro de Colalao, the summer resort of the Tucuman people and the majestic entrance to the Calchaqui valleys, is located 93 kilometers from San Pedro de Colalao. It was in these valleys where last Sunday morning a luminous object was seen falling from the sky.

There is a known testimony. That of Huanca, the head of a family that lives in the Guasanco station, at an altitude of 2,600 meters.

We are going to look for him. It will be a two days' journey from San Pedro de Colalao, and another day from Guasanco. All on back of a mule. On the northern side of the Calchaqui peaks, where the mysterious object (a UFO?) is being tracked by police patrols.

We are writing this as an advance. We are describing this trip to one of the most beautiful places in Argentina. Lapacho and cherry trees are in blossom. Spring is already approaching the Calchaqui valleys.

Our "base" is at a distance of 16 kilometers, in the small village of Hualinchay. There the narrow mountain road ends. We will then be 1,400 meters above sea level. We talk to the local residents. With the Mamani family and the Pasallo family. We ask for mules. We need three. They assured us they would be ready for the rest of the trip.

We will receive more information on the phenomenon when we get to Hualinchay. And we will reach our conclusions.

Will it be convenient for us to take the ridge on the right? The one that leads to the El Balcon post where Anacleto Cruz lives.

What a character, this Cruz! He is one of the best guides. He lives at an altitude of 2,600 meters, but tends to his sheep 4,000 meters up in the high peaks.

Depending upon the news, we will be able to tackle the middle ridge passing through the Yuchayo post where the Pasallo family lives, or the left ridge where we will come upon the Guasanco station, belonging to the Huanca family. All of them at an altitude of 2,600 meters, like the place where Anacleto Cruz lives. Before that we will have to cross the Tacanas river riding the mule. This river is tame and obedient in winter. It is fearful in summer when the current washes down everything it finds in its way.

We will sleep in one of the three posts at 2,600 meters, to tackle the leg leading to the peak of the Calchaqui on the third day.

We will eat lamb and some cans we brought along. This is the last report from the mainland. We will try to follow up tomorrow. Without a phone. No telex. There is a way. The radio from a ranch down the slope of the El Balcon station. One of the members of the Pasallo family comes down the hill and meets us in San Pedro. He tells us there are low clouds over the mountains. We are already imagining what is in store for us, we are seeing them, the same as we did when we made other trips looking for indian relics.

We are in search of the mystery in the Calchaqui valleys.

Here in San Pedro we are at the gate of nature's grandiosity. We are only 16 kilometers from the lowest base of this expedition, the village of Hualinchay, where the road ends. And there the mule trail begins, in search of the high peaks, crossing an undescrivable panorama which no camera can possibly photograph.

SALTA POLICE ENDED INVESTIGATION

Salta - The chief of the local police department, Alberto Alderete, officially concluded the investigation on the strange phenomenon reported last Sunday in areas near Cafayate, when a loud explosion associated with an unusual brightness, surprised residents of the Salta and Tucuman Calchaqui valleys.

The chief of police flew over the region for almost three hours, accompanied by the regional chief of the Gendarmerie, Comm. Major Roberto Glorio, and the chief of the Federal Police, Ricardo Carmina, all of them stating upon their return that "nothing abnormal was seen" during the long aerial inspection.

The provincial plane "Arava" came to within a few kilometers from the eastern part of the border with Chile.

Yesterday the chiefs of police and Gendarmerie, together with other officers, flew over the region between 10:30 AM and 13:30 PM, navigating at some 6,000 meters altitude without trying to land.

City and country of incident: Salta province, Argentina - Santiago, Chile

Dates of incidents: August 17, August 18, 1985

Name of paper and date of clip: TIEMPO ARGENTINO, August 23, 1985

City and country of paper: Buenos Aires, Argentina

[CREDIT: Jane Guma]

IN SEARCH OF REPORTS ON THE FALL OF THE MYSTERIOUS OBJECT THAT DISTURBED THE ISOLATED RESIDENTS IN THE CALCHAQUI VALLEYS

TIEMPO envoys travel all over the Tucuman hills where it is claimed an object fell from the sky last Sunday. A loud explosion, heard in the whole region, as well as the brightness seen by some witnesses, has not been explained up to now. In the meantime, the local police has concluded its investigation, and a version was obtained in the Hualinchay village concerning the presence of two strangers that are allegedly investigating the phenomenon.

In the Tucuman Hills (Special envoy) - We arrived in Hualinchay. It is 110 kilometers from San Miguel de Tucuman, in the heart of the Calchaqui valleys where some guides looking after sheep saw a "fireball" fall last Sunday, which crashed behind the high peaks."

The road ends here. We talk to the Pasallo family, neighbors of the Mamani ranch. We want horses. There are four that will do, guided in the climb to the peaks by Cuca, the lead mare.

It's 04:00 PM. Very white clouds are seen here, over the more distant mountains.

We drink some mate tea, while Goyo Mamani prepares the horses for us and we go over our notes to send this report to Tucuman with a foot messenger, who 16 kilometers further down, in San Pedro de Colalao, will hand them over to Ana Maria Cossio, TIEMPO's correspondent. We hope the material will arrive in time. Ana Maria will have no further problems. She will have to cover the 93 kilometers from San Pedro to San Miguel de Tucuman and from there to the telex, the most modern machine used in this expedition that was organized to try to reach the alleged remains of the "saucer" or whatever it is that according to reports, fell last Sunday in the Calchaqui peaks.

We are still in doubt. We have just met the police patrol from Tucuman that went to the Huasanko region, some 1,000 meters up. They return with empty hands. They spoke with some witnesses.

"They all agree. They speak of a fireball they saw falling from the sky that caused a loud explosion followed by an intense brightness that was seen several kilometers roundabout."

They confess that the terrain is so difficult and vast that "to try to find traces is like finding a needle in a haystack," but there is hope. "These traces depend a lot on chance and perseverance. We were there only three days and found nothing, but we can't say we covered the whole area."

Martha asks them some questions which they can't answer and which makes us feel optimistic. Martha Dichiarra, who travels with us, is an Andean anthropologist and knows all about the mountains and hills in the Calchaqui Valleys.

TWO STRANGERS

Two teachers in the village approach the mate gathering. They have an important piece of news.

"Two strangers were here yesterday. One of them kept his mouth shut all the time. The other spoke Spanish. He had a strange device in his hands, like a very large camera. They asked us to prepare the camping hut because they would return on Sunday," said one of the teachers.

The other teacher thought they might be NASA experts, but the oldest son of the Mamani family asked a question that made us wonder; might they be extraterrestrials....?

Let's leave it at that. We will continue our investigation on these two men tomorrow. For now, we are being told that Huanca is waiting for us in the El Balcon post.

"Good news. Huanca is the one who had the best view of the phenomenon, and is not only a serious man but one who knows all the area like the palm of his hand," adds Martha. We ask about the weather "up there," because we can see menacing clouds down here. The young man's reply is that it is fine, with "the classical fog in the morning and the layer of white low clouds at dusk."

Everything is now ready. We have two more stretches to go before we reach the peak. If everything turns out well, we will be in El Balcon tonight. Anacleto Cruz lives there, and we will cover the 4,000 meters uphill tomorrow, thus reaching the highest platform of the hills.

"Take this lamb shoulder along, just in case you don't find Cruz in El Balcon," advises Pasallo.

We go over all our equipment.

The mare sets off right into the trail, as if she knew it by heart.

"Don't worry, sir, Cuca knows what she is doing in these hills."

End of report. We hand it over to the youngest son of Mamani who will take it to San Pedro. They will have more news tomorrow, if the planned foot-messenger system does not fail, which by this time will be made up of three persons. From El Balcon to Hualinchay, and from there to San Pedro.

The rest is up to Ana Maria and the telex.

Julio Torres Cabanillas

WHAT WAS SEEN IN CHILE WAS A UFO, SAYS NASA

Santiago de Chile - Experts of the NASA station in Chile agreed in their opinion that the phenomenon that was seen in Santiago last Sunday belongs to the UFO category. The statement by these technical experts guarantees that it was really UFOs that thousands of Chileans saw, even direct on TV, last Saturday afternoon.

The "luminous elements" that crossed the skies of Santiago were photographed by experts, among them those of the observatory belonging to the University, as well as by reporters, and many private citizens with just a common camera.

The photographs published in Santiago's papers that were taken by their own reporters, or those of the professors of the Astronomical Observatory of the University of Chile, show that the UFO has antennas and landing legs. (ANSA)

City and country of incident: Salta province, Argentina - Brazil and Iguazu Waterfalls in Misiones province, Argentina

Dates of incidents: August 19, August 22, 1985

Name of paper and date of clip: TIEMPO ARGENTINO, August 24, 1985

City and country of paper: Buenos Aires, Argentina

[CREDIT: Jane Guma]

THEY ALL AGREE THAT SOMETHING FELL FROM THE SKY AND CRASHED AGAINST THE HILL

The last news that TIEMPO envoys sent us from the hills in Tucuman last night added more strength to the story that an object fell from the sky in the Calchaqui region. In no other way can the many testimonies from local residents be interpreted, who all share the fear of the unknown. A few hours before, our reporters sent us this dispatch:

In the Tucuman hills (Special envoy) - A thick fog stops Cuca, the mare. We have scarcely climbed 800 meters since leaving Hualinchay, where the road coming from San Miguel de Tucuman ends. There are more than 2,500 meters to go until reaching El Balcon, the place where guide Anacleto Cruz lives, who saw a fireball fall on Sunday, behind the highest peak of the Calchaqui hills.

We decide to wait. We go down once more to Hualinchay, crossing the swift-flowing Tacanas river, which is calm now but in summer turns into a devastating current. Goyo Mamani takes charge of the horses they lent us 24 hours ago to try to reach the peak and search for traces of the saucer or whatever it was that fell. The village is in a state of nervousness. It is almost a feeling of mistrust towards strangers.

In our yesterday's edition, we had already said that the presence of "two strange guys" who first said they represented an American magazine and then said they were NASA experts has a lot to do with the attitude of the local residents. "They arrived on Monday. One of them did all the talking. The other remained silent all the time," says Sonia Draghi, a teacher of the Lt. Col. Pedro Zelaya school.

It is difficult to make her go on with the story. Fear of the unknown. And with reason. In Hualinchay they all saw the "fireball" fall behind the peak.

Three pupils from the school, ages 10, 9 and 8, talk more freely than the adults: Celestina Diaz, the oldest, Nelly Viallagra and Gabriela Diaz, the youngest, tell their story:

"We were playing in front of the school and suddenly saw behind the forest a fireball that went over the mountains, slowly falling behind the highest peak. It could have been in Aguas Calientes, or at least in Venado Yaco. We were very scared, because the teachers were not there. We ran to seek refuge..."

In the middle of the dirt street, some people gather around us. Slowly their fear of talking disappears.

"You know, we don't want to be taken for nuts or maniacs, but we saw it. All of us in Hualinchay saw it..."

The arrival of the two men who said they were from NASA increased the people's fear. "They were very tall. They brought a huge machine. Maybe it was a special camera. They said that whatever they found could be disclosed only in the States. They said they would return on Sunday to investigate. They asked for us to prepare one of the camping huts for them," added the teacher.

Mrs. Ermigia Bustos de Cruz, very nervous, promised to help us "so the children will lose their fear of the unknown."

"We want to find whatever it was that fell. We have the moral obligation to show it to the children who are frightened," she explains.

Elsa del Valle Carabajal and Simon Marcelo Diaz, who are in charge of the camping hut where the two strangers stayed, added: "They told us they were expecting new machines from abroad. One of them spoke Spanish quite well. The other was silent all the time while they were reserving the cabin for their return."

Simon Diaz takes us aside. He makes a confession.

"Do not misinterpret me or think I'm crazy. I never saw the like of it. There was a strong tremor when the ball fell. The explosion shook the earth entrails. It was worse than the Cauete earthquake. But there was more. There was another phenomenon at dusk on Saturday. The poultry climbed the trees, terrified..."

The story of the scared poultry and the dogs howling even before the "fireball" fell from the sky, reminds me of my grandfather telling me about Halley's comet when it appeared at the end of 1910.

(continued on page 14)

(continued from page 13)

"Suddenly everything went dark. The roosters began to cackle and the hens ran like mad. The dogs howled like wolves. We crossed ourselves. It was being said the end of the world was coming...", grandfather told us.

There are similarities. At least, the fear of the residents is the same. Goyo Mamani tells us the horses need to rest. So do we. Tomorrow we will try to reach the peak. It is getting dark here and everybody turns in.

Julio Torres Cabanillas

THE MYSTERY OF THE EXPLOSIONS

Chilean scientists attribute them to flying saucers

Santiago de Chile - Auditory phenomena that cannot be explained, but are related to the UFOs were heard in this capital.

Three loud explosions were heard in different parts of Santiago, which are unexplainable because the police found no evidence they could be caused by bombs or anything else. Military sources denied they were due to military shooting practices and the Air Force assured that no jet planes were in flight at that time.

Meanwhile, the Meteorological Office stated that the blasts were not related to atmospheric phenomena such as thunder or anything similar.

That is why the version of astronomer Rodrigo de la Vega becomes credible, in the sense that the origin of the strange blasts could be related to the many reports of UFO sightings in the last few days.

Professor de la Vega said that "it is very possible that the same as planes produce a loud boom when they break the sound barrier, the phenomenon also happens when the saucers begin their swift flights overhead.

A TV film showed an inverted pear, with something like a small basket in the lower part.

A professor from the same observatory, which belongs to the University of Chile, the largest state university of the country, said that if the UFO flew over at an estimated altitude of 20,000 meters, then its size would be at least 18 meters. (ANSA)

ANOTHER UFO SHOW IN THE IGUAZU WATERFALLS AND IN THE SOUTH OF BRAZIL

Rio de Janeiro - A UFO was seen last Thursday (August 22) flying over several cities in the state of Parana, in the south of Brazil, the local press reported yesterday.

The first sighting was made in Foz do Iguazu, on the border with Paraguay and Argentina, and according to newspaper reports. The air traffic control service in that Brazilian city detected the phenomenon, but could not explain it.

The same object was seen at noon in Cascavel, 519 kilometers from Curitiba, capital of Parana, as well as in other nearby towns.

Local residents who saw the saucer said they could not give a detailed description because it was very high up and moved very fast.

However, they said that its middle part had no definite shape.

ON THE ARGENTINE SIDE

Hundreds of people saw a strange luminous object the afternoon of last Thursday, which remained motionless for several hours over the Iguazu waterfalls, 350 kilometers to the north of the Argentine city of Posadas (capital of Misiones province).

The strange craft, which was ovoidal according to some observers who saw it through telescopes and binoculars, had two or three legs. It hovered over the place from 05:40 AM until the first hours of the afternoon, when it took off for Brazil. (ANSA and TELAM).

City and country of incident: Cafayate, Salta province, Argentina - Brazil - Chile

Dates of incidents: August 17, 20, 24, 1985

Name of paper and date of clip: TIEMPO ARGENTINO, August 25, 1985

City and country of paper: Buenos Aires, Argentina

[CREDIT: Jane Guma]

"ANYTHING CAN FALL ON THESE HILLS AND DISAPPEAR"

TIEMPO's envoys are still in the mountains without finding any saucer, but gathering many testimonies

In the Tucuman hills (Special envoys) - We send this report at the end of a long day's march climbing up and down ridges and ravines. It must be a short report because while we are getting ready to spend the night at the Vargas place, the guide will go down the valley to make contact with the portable radio that is backing us up from San Pedro de Colalao.

Here are Antonio Vargas, his wife Robustiana, and Isidro, their 19 year old son, who have offered to share with us whatever little comfort they have. This means a lot to us after today's fatigue, sun and the puna. There is a roof over our heads and a good fire where a lamb chop is already cooking. It will be a long night. The moon is well into its crescent phase, and bathes the peaks in a special light.

While we smoke the first cigarette of the day--the thin air here does not allow for more--we write that although this has once more been a fruitless day as far as findings are concerned, which on the other hand would be a miracle, it was abundant in testimonies.

Robustiana Vargas, for instance, has just confirmed that "the thing that fell on Sunday was like a fireball, with falling sparks, and

it left a smoke trail." She claims that after the slope of the mountain hid it, an explosion was heard, so loud it made the whole earth shake. The story seems a carbon copy of others. All the reports we are gathering are similar. Some add more details. Others, less, but the same fear of the unknown is a common factor, something we can well understand in the night we are spending high up in the mountain. How could we deny that this immensity could hide anything that fell from the sky? Why should WE find it?

UFO SHOW CONTINUES

Santos, Brazil - With intense silvery and, at times, red, lights, a UFO was seen in Santos yesterday, which remained overhead for 30 minutes, then disappearing among the clouds, scientific sources confirmed today.

"It was definitely not a weather balloon because I know them, as we frequently launch them," said Waldir Costa, captain of the oceanographic vessel. "Professor Besnard," when he reported he had observed the UFO with binoculars.

"The object was much brighter than an aerostatic balloon and bigger, and its West-East motions went against the winds blowing at that time," added the captain.

Officers from the Air Force base in Santos also saw the object. (AFP)

IN CHILE

Santiago - The flight of two UFOs over the Chilean capital last August 17th, was again enveloped in mystery, said local press reports yesterday. As is known, they were seen by hundreds of thousands of people while they flew in a West-East course towards Argentina.

City and country of incident: Westmanland Region, Lindesberg, Sweden

Date of incident: September 10, 1985

Name of paper and date of clip: BERGSLAGSPOSTEN, Sept. 13, 1985

City and country of paper: Lindesberg, Sweden

[CREDIT: Erik Fredriksson]

BRIGHT BALL OBSERVED

A lady living at Vasterplan in Lindesberg observed late on Tuesday, a brightly lighted ball in the heavens. The ball was about six centimeters in diameter and had a strong red light. It was not like a distress signal color, which is more orange, said the lady. Soon, the ball changed color to a piercing luminous white. It was observed for 30 seconds before it disappeared from the witness' viewpoint by going behind a roof. It was in horizontal flight. The observation was made at 23:45 on Tuesday evening.

City and country of incident: Norrbotten Region, Pitea, Sweden

Date of incident: September 12, 1985

Name of paper and date of clip: PITEA-TIDNINGEN, Sept. 13, 1985

City and country of paper: Pitea, Sweden

[CREDIT: Erik Fredriksson]

SKY PHENOMENON STARTS TELEPHONESTORM

The telephone exchange on the Milo-base in Boden was blocked at 20:00 on Thursday evening. Many people observed an aerial phenomenon traveling from Northeast to South at that time.

Mr. Bruno Ragnefjall from Arjeplog called at 20:15 and reported what he and his family observed. It looked like a big nose-cone and it was very wide in the back. It was powerfully lighted, but quite silent. "We have never seen anything like that before," said Ragnefjall.

The base in Boden reported their telephone exchange was totally blocked. At 21:00, no one could say what the object was.

In Pitea, 60 kilometers south, lots of people saw the bright object. The police there said they received a call from Umea, 120 kilometers south, where F 21, Norrbotten's air base is located. As all observers saw the object at the same time, 20:05, it was evidently far away. The wing commander at F 21 stated that they had not sent anything which might cause such phenomena. All reports will be collected and analyzed in Boden, in an attempt to explain the observation.

According to most of those who saw the phenomenon, it was followed by a blue smoke or cloud.

City and country of incident: Blekinge Region, Karlskrona, Sweden

Date of incident: September 27, 1985

Name of paper and date of clip: SYDOSTRAN, Sept. 30, 1985

City and country of paper: Karlskrona, Sweden

[CREDIT: Erik Fredriksson]

MYSTIC SKYLIGHT IN RONNEBY

It was moving slowly over Ronneby towards the southern horizon, the sky phenomenon which Karin Nilsson and Britta Widing-Berggren observed at 19:00 on the evening of Friday, September 27.

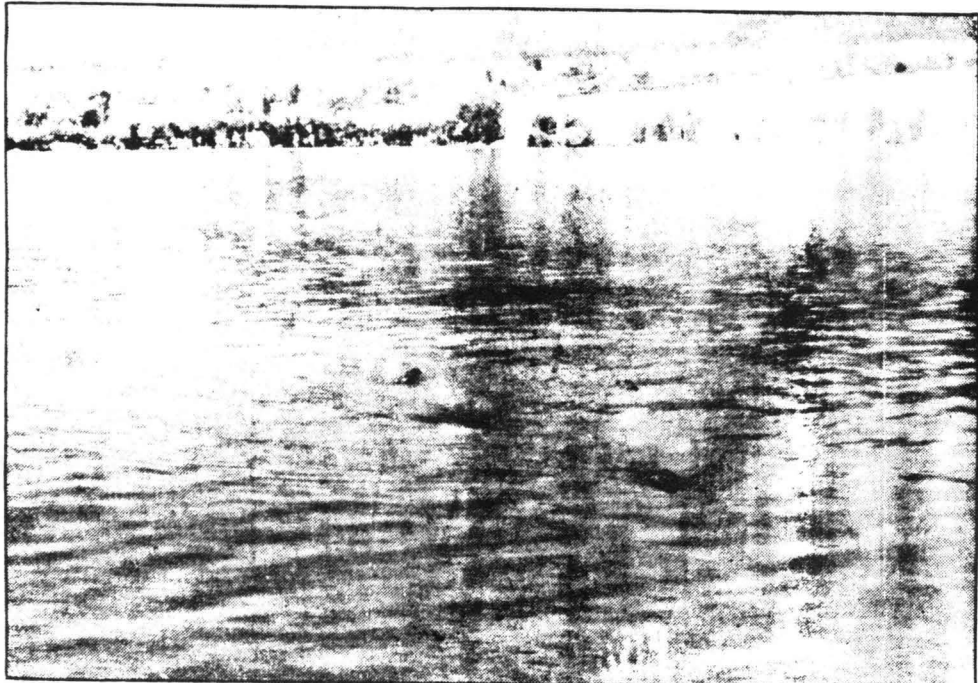
A comet-like object was a brightly-lighted tail following it was seen, according to both ladies who reported it to SYDOSTRAN. Later in the evening, at 23:30, they observed another mystic object in the heavens. It looked like a burning cross in a vertical plane with a green color in the middle, said Karin Nilsson who had never seen such an object before.

SYDOSTRAN contacted the flightbase F17, but they said there had not been any form of flight or training and nobody had reported anything to the base during the evening.

There are plenty of other reliable people who observed both these objects. What they really were, all people are curious to know.

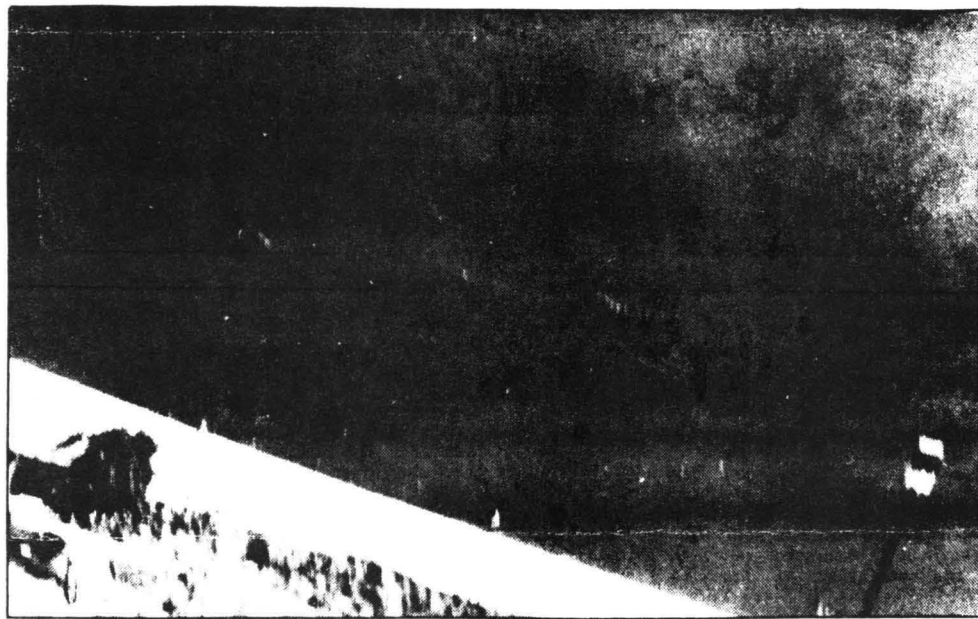


Best Ogopogo pictures yet!



These two pictures were taken on June 28 by a visitor at the Delta Hotel in Penticton. The lower picture, taken from a sixth floor window just after 6am shows a thirty foot yellow and green object which swam in a circle in the shallow water. The upper picture was taken from near lake level and shows several humps above

the surface. The originals were colour prints that gave a strong reptilian impression. If they were not a hoax, and apparently they are not, the 20 pictures represent the best photographs ever taken of the legendary lake creature.



On Fri. June 28th

Thirty foot creature sighted

by Dave Gamble

One of the best sightings and some of the best pictures ever taken of Ogopogo resulted from an incident on June 28 in Penticton.

Wallis Bierowski, a visitor from Toronto, was staying in the Delta Hotel on lake-shore when he reported waking at 6am on the 28th, and on looking out of his sixth floor window. Down below in the shallow water he saw what he described as a 'very, very large creature' in the water.

He then grabbed his camera and took several pictures, then ran to the elevator and out onto the patio where he took final pictures before the creature swam away towards Kelowna.

Bierowski took a taxi to a 1 hour photo finishing studio at 9am and waited. When

the film was developed he said "It was not my imagination, it was on my film!"

Margaret Hayes of the South Okanagan Review in Okanagan Falls talked with Bierowski, and it was from her that we obtained the accompanying photographs. She also supplied the story to the Vancouver Sun. Margaret said the man was sincere in telling of what he had seen and photographed. The pictures show a serpentine shape that Bierowski, a Toronto carpenter, said circled around the shallow water. He said it was a green and yellow striped creature. "It was a snake like thing, 30 feet long with humps. At times two or up to six showed above the water."

SEARCH PLANNED

Meanwhile, the sighting has added fuel to the planned Ogopogo sonar

search by Voyageur Enterprises of Vancouver which has been followed by the Review.

The search has been tentatively scheduled for late August, and will use a miniature unmanned submarine, divers, cameramen and a 'net' of sensitive sonar devices in an attempt to locate and later film the creature.

Voyageur representatives advised the Review last month that their search would begin in the narrow north end of Okanagan Lake, however the June 28 sighting may move the search to the south end.

Asked for reaction to the sighting, UBC marine biologist Paul Leblond who has studied Ogopogo sightings for years, told the Vancouver Province "It looks like this thing is moving", adding "It doesn't look like

a bunch of waves to me.

The pictures reproduced here were taken from colour postcard sized prints. Seen on the originals, the pictures are quite startling. The upper one shows a wake and three 'humps', the first with a definite reptilian cast to it. The lower shot from almost directly above is impressive, even though it is a bit blurred. The view down to the body of the creature through the water lends a three dimensional quality that the usual pictures showing humps above the water do not.

Not being a fisherman, Bierowski was not planning to go out and try catching the Ogopogo for the \$1 million OSTA reward, but said he was content to show his pictures to friends and relatives back east and to tell of his adventure in sighting the famous lake creature.

TIMES-REPORTER, New Philadelphia, OH - July 12, 1985

Bigfoot?

Nc'town man to hold session on sightings

By REA TAICLET
T-R Staff Writer

NEWCOMERSTOWN — Don Keating says he hasn't seen anything himself, but he believes residents here should be alerted that something big's roaming around in the rough terrain not far from this village.

He's holding a meeting Saturday night at 7 in Newcomerstown High to review his findings and those of others who say they've seen "a human-like figure ... walking on two legs with a bit of a slouch, at least 7½ feet tall."

They believe they've seen one or more of the legendary creatures of the wild which have been called Bigfoot or an Abominable Snowman.

Keating says others have described the creature as: "Something big ... about 7½ feet tall ... footprints 14 inches long and six inches wide ... what appeared to be a creature ... at least 8 feet tall ... two footprints 17 inches long and seven inches wide ... large hairy object ... 5 feet tall while standing on all fours."

TO KEATING, Bigfoot is no laughing matter.

"I'm confident there are two or three creatures — at least something resembling Bigfoot — within a 15 to 20-mile radius of Newcomerstown," he said Thursday.

"The only basic evidence I have are two photographs of a footprint and they aren't very clear," he said.

Keating, who lives here and works on a nearby farm, said he's been tracking Bigfoot since finding footprints 13 inches long and five inches wide in Salt Fork State Park last July.

According to Marlinn's Shoe Store in New Philadelphia, a foot that big probably would require a size 15EEE shoe. That's about the size worn by Cleveland Cavaliers' center Melvin Turpin (6-foot-11, 265 pounds) but smaller than the size 22EEEE worn by former Detroit Pistons star Bob Lanier.

Tuscarawas County Sheriff Harold McKimmie said his logs show several calls last year about Bigfoot sightings — all from the Newcomerstown area — but only one since he took office in January.

"If you hear anything, let me know," said McKimmie.

Newcomerstown Police Chief James Friel said his department has had only one call this year, which was referred to the sheriff department. Deputies in Coshocton and Guernsey counties said they have received no reports at all.

NONE OF THE lawmen plan to attend Saturday's meeting, which Keating said will include speakers, pictures and evidence "to let people know there may be such a creature roaming the woods near Newcomerstown."

Keating isn't sure how the creatures should be classified.

"This guy in Arizona is a professional Bigfoot follower and he's convinced they're from outer space," he said. "He sent me a photograph he took of a Bigfoot with an alien standing beside it."

"I check out UFO reports, too, but I really don't have any thoughts one way or the other about where they come from."

And that's another reason for Keating's meeting. "We would like for people who live outside of town and who may be interested in being a person to watch or listen for odd things to come to the meeting."

Tenth planet does exist

ALTHOUGH intensive searches have never found it, the existence of a tenth planet in the Solar system, beyond the orbit of Pluto is almost certainly confirmed by recent calculations by Soviet astronomers.

After some 13,000 accurate measurements of irregularities in the orbits of Pluto, Neptune and Uranus, and taking into account effects of relativity, they have concluded that Pluto was a satellite of Neptune torn from its orbit by the action of the, so far invisible, tenth planet.

The calculations show that the planet must be about ten times the mass of the Earth and predict its orbit with an accuracy which gives some hope of it being found in the near future.

CR: R. Collins

Return of the Hairy Horror

THE Hairy Horror of the Hills is apparently rampaging through the ranges of the Coromandel Peninsula once more.

After an absence of more than a decade, sightings of the mythical monster are beginning to be reported again. But sceptical locals doubt that the resurrected Hairy Man is the genuine article.

They think he is probably a smart cannabis cultivator who has hit on a novel way of keeping locals off his plantation.

The "monster" has been sighted several times in recent weeks by motorists driving from Coromandel to Coroglen. Several cannabis plantations have been uncovered in the area in recent months.

"A few people reckon they have seen him," said commercial traveller Neil Munroe this week.

"I was talking to a couple of the locals in the Coroglen pub one night and they reckon it's some bloke with one of those gorilla masks.

"But some of the local Maoris reckon it's the Hairy Man all right."

The legendary Coromandel Hairy Man triggered a rash

of newspaper articles when he was first spotted soon after the end of World War II.

Thames journalist Jack Bongard attempted to find the Hairy Man and while he never sighted him personally he spoke to many people who did.

The man was said to be tall, stooped and covered in long red hair.

Some theories were that he was a old gold miner who had gone bush; a deserter from a French warship that had anchored briefly off the peninsula; or a gorilla that had escaped from a touring circus.

Periodic sightings occurred over the years, and 14 years ago there was a rash of them.

People claimed to have had their campsites ransacked at night by the hairy creature.

Others claimed the Hairy Man was really a hairy woman and had long, pendulous breasts.

Several footprints were seen by Coromandel folk in the vicinity of the sightings. In each case the barefooted impression showed the creature had two big toes on each foot.

By JOHN WILSON

One person even claimed to have been attacked and scratched on the face by the creature.

Then, as mysteriously as he, she — or it — appeared, the sightings ceased.

Till this week.

"I hope it goes away soon though," said frequent Coromandel visitor Shelley McVicar.

"It was terrible down here last time. There were people all over the place trying to find him.

"There was even one group who came across specially from Australia to hunt it down.

"It was hell up here for months."

"Even the local radio station got in on the act.

"They had a search party going through the bush looking for him. The announcer was sending back live reports to the station every time he thought he saw something.

"It brought hundreds of sight-seers into the town.

"All they wanted to do was spot the Hairy Man.

"The locals egged them on too. Half the stories they told them were ones they had concocted the night before over a few beers in the pub."

WALL STREET JOURNAL, New York, NY - Aug. 6, 1985

Spanish Farmers Say Barren Land Victim of Buzz of Darkling Planes

By BRENT BOWERS
And ANA WESTLEY

Staff Reporters of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

PULPI, Spain—The land is parched, and the farmers swear that the cloudbusters are to blame.

It happens the same way each time, they say: they are working in their dusty fields and orchards when a big black thunderhead shoulders up over the mountains to the west. They can almost smell the rain.

Then they hear the buzz of approaching airplanes—mystery planes, they believe, dispatched from secret airfields. The intruders chew into the clouds, spewing out chemicals, and they drone back and forth, slicing the billowing masses into wisps that drift away. And then they veer off, returning to their secret runway.

And then, of course, it fails to rain. "Not a drop," says Diego Jimenez, a 60-year-old dirt farmer.

The farmers have a sinister explanation for it all. They say local tomato moguls, or their insurance companies, or the multinationals—special interests, anyway—are hiring pilots with small planes to do them dirt. And they want revenge; already shots have been fired at small planes in the region.

Charlie Carthew, who represents the U.S. cloud-seeding concern Colorado International Corp., says, "Breaking up clouds is impossible." The governor of Almeria state, which includes this sleepy farming town, has an explanation: Mass hysteria provoked by the prolonged drought has pushed local residents into a sort of aeronautical-era paranoia, he theorizes.

Various other people think the cloudbusters notion is pure fantasy. But not all. Francisco Moreno Sastre, an engineer in the Agriculture Ministry in Madrid, claims to have seen the planes in action—and, he says, so have thousands of other people.

"It's not just the collective imagination," he says. "This uncontrolled practice must be stopped."

The farmers theorize that tomato growers finance cloud crunching to protect their irrigated crops from storm damage. The tomato growers deny it. "The whole thing is beyond my understanding," says Lorenzo Belmonte Navarro, manager of Primafior S.A., a big tomato-harvesting operation outside Pulpi. "We tomato people want rain, too. The rain doesn't damage tomatoes. That's a myth."

But then he adds, incongruously, "I don't know about the planes. They could exist. It's possible. It's possible."

Father Manuel Prados Munoz of the village of Maria is a believer. "Before I came here four years ago, I used to laugh at this business of the planes," he says. "But now I realize that it's not just the rumors of country bumpkins. It's true."

The priest has become a controversial figure. Almeria Gov. Tomas Azorin Munoz describes him as a demagogue using the issue of the planes to tighten his hold on his flock. Pepe Valle, a Socialist senator from Almeria, calls Father Manuel the "main agitator." Even a fellow priest, Diego Alonso of Pulpi, wonders about him.

"He lives in a small town," muses Father Diego. "It's cold up there in the mountains. He's got a lot of time on his



hands."

Time and again, says Father Manuel, his desktop barometer has confirmed the approach of a storm that also is clearly visible on the horizon. Time and again, as he watches from his window, the planes come in. It happened one recent Friday.

"It was the 12th time in a month," says the priest, who has instructed the goat-herds of his region to report their sightings to him. "It hurts my soul."

The drought, which began in 1973, has made semi-desert of an area that is home to 100,000 Spaniards, stretching into three provinces. Judging by local graffiti, the villagers have had enough. "Death to the airplanes," reads a paint splashing in nearby Totana.

The ruddy-faced Mr. Jimenez, sitting with other farmers in the Pulpi mayor's office, says, "If we knew who did it, we'd lynch them."

Indeed, one pilot already has come under fire and filed a complaint in Lorca. Newspapers identified him as Luis Tarramera, and said his Piper plane was struck by three bullets in May. The pilot then went to the trouble of getting a statement from civil aviation authorities attesting that his craft "has no technical capacity for scattering away clouds of any type."

Almeria Gov. Azorin recently invited five meteorologists (including the general director of the National Weather Bureau), an aeronautical engineer and an agricultural expert to Pulpi. About 600 people jammed the town's biggest building, a restaurant, to hear the experts demolish the notion of cloudbusting.

It was, the experts agreed, an impossible myth. At the end of the summit, as the meeting has come to be known, a show of hands indicated that opinion among the farmers was split down the middle.

Not everybody blames the tomato growers or their insurance companies, or the multinationals. Some people accuse star gazers at the Spanish-German Calar Alto astronomical observatory, who, it is reasoned, are fanatically determined to keep the atmosphere vapor-free.

Others suspect that the advent of democracy in Spain somehow upset the natural order of things, according to Carlos Santos, editor of a local newspaper. Mr. Santos recalls reading a pamphlet commenting on the "curious coincidence" that the drought has worsened steadily since the death of dictator Francisco Franco in 1975.

Jose Martinez, a waiter in the state-run Parador Hotel in Mojacar, thinks the tourism industry perhaps is involved. "After all," he says, "they always want it to be sunny."

DAILY MAIL, London, England - Sept. 16, 1985 CR: J. & C. Bord

Beast-hunters

BRITISH explorers are hoping to prove the existence of a mythical-like creature.

They are to join African scientists in a search of one of the world's most inhospitable regions looking for an animal known as the Mokele-Mbembe.

Unlike the Abominable Snowman and other such legendary animals, naturalists acknowledge that an unknown animal might well be living in impenetrable swampland in the Congo.

A previous expedition, mounted by an American university biologist, claimed to have seen the creature but no one has produced the necessary photographic evidence.

The four Britons, all experienced explorers, are the only foreigners to be allowed into the Likouala region in the Northern Congo this year. Leader Bill Gibbins said they would be spending four months carrying out a complete ecological survey as well as searching for the Mokele-Mbembe.

"There is evidence from reputable sources that an animal exists. We intend to find it and photograph it," he said.

"I have made a thorough study of all the available papers and have

By PAUL CROSSIE

examined all the evidence and I am convinced that it exists. I would not be going if I didn't think there was something there."

Local tribesmen describe the animal as a cross between a long-necked dinosaur and a hippo. Some naturalists believe it could be a type of giant lizard.

To get to the region where the animal is reputed to live, the expedition will have to pass through

dense swampland where temperatures reach more than 100F and the humidity is intense.

The undergrowth is a breeding ground for poisonous river jacks and green mambas, huge ants and many dangerous insects.

Mr Gibbins points out to sceptics that no one believed stories of the existence of an animal that was described as a cross between a giraffe and a zebra until the okapi was discovered at the turn of the century.

The expedition leaves for Africa in November.

PLAIN DEALER, Cleveland, OH - Sept. 30, 1985 CR: M. Hawk

Spielberg activates giant antenna tuned to signals from aliens

HARVARD, Mass. (AP) — With the touch of a lever, "E.T." director Steven Spielberg inaugurated a search for real-life extraterrestrials yesterday, switching on a giant antenna that astronomers hope will detect radio signals sent from outer space.

"This marks the beginning of a really powerful search that has a decent chance of finding something," said Paul Horowitz, a Harvard University professor who designed the 84-foot communications dish, part of the most powerful radio-scanning system ever used to hunt for aliens.

The dish, capable of scanning 8.4 million radio channels, marks an escalation of such efforts by the Planetary Society, which scans the skies for signs of life from its Oak Ridge Observatory in Harvard.

Since 1983, the space-watching group had been searching with a simpler scanner, which picked up only 180,000 radio channels.

The new antenna, known as Project Meta, was funded by a \$100,000 grant from Spielberg, the science fiction filmmaker whose credits include "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" and "E.T.," which featured a lovable alien.

"It's the most sophisticated search for extraterrestrial intelligence in human history," said Carl Sagan, the popular science writer and president of the Planetary Society, who joined Spielberg, Horowitz and other astronomers to dedicate the antenna. "It's a search for our counterparts elsewhere. It's part of human curiosity."

If there is life on other planets, Horowitz said, "this kind of communications system can do the job."

The scanner, which took two years to construct, is more versatile than its predecessor. The antenna is hooked up to a computer room, which records all radio signals emitted from space.

The previous system had turned up only the radio waves that all planets naturally produce, but improvements in the scanner keep him hoping for concrete results, Horowitz said.

"A true signal from space has a unique signature," Horowitz said.

Because of his involvement in the project, Spielberg talked of his involvement: "I just thought it was time to get involved in some science-reality. I can't write the outcome of this. I just hope that there is more floating around up there than Jackie Gleason reruns."

Those tall tales of Big Foot still keep 'em guessing

By Arthur Ribbel

The legend of Big Foot, a hairy, 10-foot tall monster who has reportedly been seen in California's northern mountains and in the Pacific Northwest, is still alive.

But is Big Foot himself still with us? Is he still leaving his huge tracks in the dense forests and on the trails, or has he vanished farther into the wilds, shunning curious humans?

Big Foot had so intrigued the folks of Weaverville, an old Northern California mining town of 4,800, that some citizens refer to their area as "Big Foot Country."

Yesterday in the West

At one time they named their annual July 4th celebration "Big Foot Days."

But they changed it back to a July 4th holiday after the giant was seen no more. It was once believed that he was lurking in the vastness of the nearby mountains at Weaverville. His big tracks were reportedly discovered in California, Washington and British Columbia.

The Big Foot legend is a fascinating tale, and it has long ignited the imagination, curiosity and speculation of both natives and tourists.

Could Big Foot have been a remnant of an age long gone?

There have been believable reports by competent persons who said they saw Big Foot in the wilds.

A paperback book was published about Big Foot, entitled "On the Tracks of Sasquatch" (an Indian name for Big Foot). It was written by John Green who has gathered much material on the monster and investigated reports on sightings.

Green said that 500 reports to him insisted that Big Foot did exist. He did not write his book for "believers," or skeptics, but for ordinary people to decide for themselves if Big Foot were real.

The book makes a strong case for the existence of some huge, hairy, elusive wild creature walking upright in the hills.

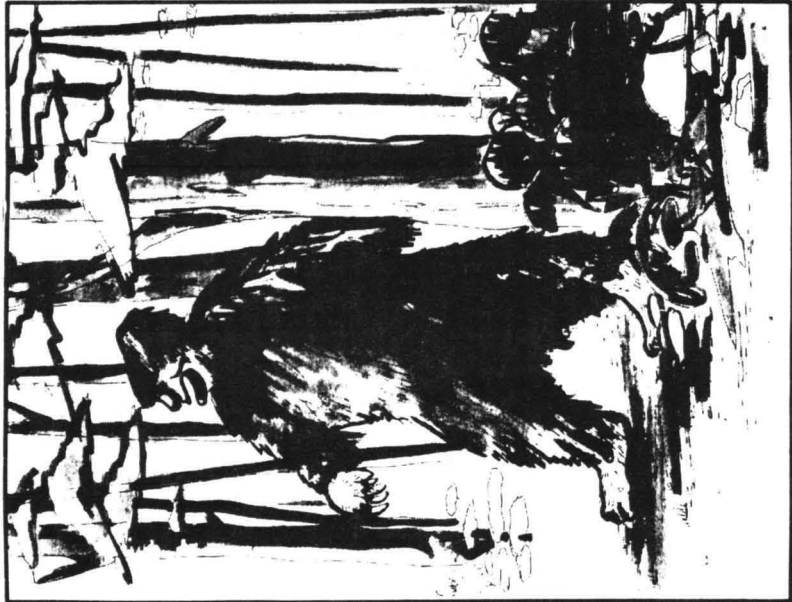
At Willow Creek, a town just west of Weaverville, a young man named Walter James McClarin carved his version of Big Foot out of a large redwood stump. He evidently believes in the Big Foot reports.

Investigators have said that reports of the sightings of Big Foot in the forests, the photographs of a large, hairy, foul-smelling wild creature, the discovery of the huge footprints and other evidence indicate the presence of a wild man-beast.

However, until Big Foot's body is found, he is captured, or other solid evidence of his existence is presented, the fascinating question must remain unanswered, said his trackers.

In this year of 1985, folks around Weaverville report that Big Foot's tracks haven't been seen around their parts for two or three years. But despite that gap in the evidence, some townsfolk still believe that Big Foot exists.

June Ross, a volunteer at the Weaverville Joss House State Historic Park,



Sketch by Virginia Ribbel

said one last report of Big Foot was from a lumber camp at the edge of town about two or three years back. She said that the tracks of Big Foot, or some other big creature, were found in a logging camp where "things were broken and scattered." Full barrels of oil of considerable weight were found to have been tossed around, in addition to some empty ones.

There was a Big Foot Restaurant at Willow Creek. In past years, when the Big Foot story was really smoking, some tourists in the woods fancied they saw the creature bearing down on them.

Over at Sonora some time ago, Sheriff Miller D. Sardella opined that a

possible source of the Big Foot reports came from a prospector who was wearing a heavy fur coat and a face full of whiskers. But the sheriff didn't sneer at folks who said they had met up with frightening hulks in the mountains.

Also, he went on, the kind of monster a tenderfoot sees "depends upon what he has been drinking."

He did not discount the fearsomeness of the sight of a growling black bear, standing erect on his hind legs, accompanied by the shriek of a screech owl in the black of night.

The "monster" reports included one from an airplane pilot who said he saw a "10-foot man with an ape-like face standing in the snow near Pincrest, about 30 miles northwest of Sonora."

One imaginative news reporter, his fingers dripping with journalistic fluff, said some years ago that "sometimes monsters loom menacingly in the gloom of the Sierra in the Mother Lode and freeze the very blood and marrow of greenhorns, braving the off-trails."

Sometimes the innards of city slickers rustle with fear, like birds in a paper bag, when certain hideous shrieks pierce the black nights of the mountains.

Sardella mentioned the "monsters" might have been bears, standing almost 8-feet tall, charging and ready to fight. Some bears standing on their hind legs present an awesome sight in the half-glow of dusk, he said. Just a screech owl in full frightening voice is enough to freeze the corpses of rookie trail-blazers.

One tabloid in 1982 contained the screaming heading: "Top Scientist Proves Big Foot Lives!"

The story read:

"Big Foot is not a myth!"

"A top scientist has solid proof that the creature is a man-ape who roams our vast American wilderness."

Then the story related that a respected Washington State anthropologist told the newspaper that "The Big Foot really does live," and that five huge plaster casts proved it. Discovered in the footprints were "fine delicate ridges, like those of a person's fingerprints, that offered evidence of the giant's existence."

Plaster casts of the massive footprints were photographed and published in Green's book.

To further confirm the authenticity of reports on Big Foot are historical accounts of early explorers, unexplained forest giants and their footprints.

If Big Foot has been a giant hoax, somebody went to a lot of trouble, and exercised a lot of imagination to manufacture it.

True, or not, the legend of Big Foot is good for business in Big Foot country. It takes the minds of townspeople off the mundane, dull routine tasks and problems of everyday living.

And it is so much more interesting to accept Big Foot than to jeer at him (or her!).

A longtime San Diego newspaperman, Ribbel is retired in Carlsbad.

Spooky 'creature' reported in small town

Associated Press

HEARNE, Texas — A tall, mysterious creature appears to have begun trick-or-treating a week early judging by calls from residents who say they've seen the creature eating their front porches, police said Wednesday.

The creature is reported to have torn window screens, gnawed on porches and pounced across rooftops in this Robertson County community. Police Chief James Bunden said.

"It's Halloween time and there might be a lot of creatures out there," he said. "Every now and then, someone calls and says they think they heard the creature."

One resident told authorities last week that something about 6 feet tall had chewed up his porch, window screen and railing at the front of his house, Bunden said.

The resident heard a noise at the

front door during the night and went to investigate. When he opened the door, Bunden said, he saw the "image of a man, but it had a head that was chewing and slapping at the door."

The resident told police he quickly slammed the door. He looked out the window and saw his frightened dog running down the street, Bunden said the pet still has not returned.

Odd Things Happen, Like Toad Showers And Psychic Fillings

Archivist of the Unexplained
Notes All, Solves Nothing;
The Falling-Ketchup Rule

By BARRY NEWMAN

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

LONDON — Things happen. For instance: In 1980, a shower of peas fell on Trevor Williams in Dan-y-Byrne, Wales.

"I was cleaning out the goldfish bowl in the garden," says Mr. Williams, a gas-station attendant, now retired. "It was a clear day, a beautiful day. I heard this plop, plop. I couldn't make out what was happening. And the next thing I knew, a real good shower of peas came down. Dried peas."

How strange, thought Mr. Williams. He called the local radio station and reported it. The newspapers picked up his story. "All my mates were ringing me up, pulling my leg," Mr. Williams says. "Then this chap phoned from London. I'd had enough of it by then. I cut him short, I did."

The chap was Robert J.M. Rickard, archivist of the unexplained. When things happen, Mr. Rickard takes note.

The Piles of Stones

He took note, a few years ago, of the piles of small stones Peter Lipiatt found on his farm, near Chipping Sodbury. Zoologists said birds couldn't have built them. They discounted furry creatures, too. "The only British mammal that does make small piles of stones," said a scientist at the British Museum, "is the Boy Scout." Mr. Lipiatt, for his part, found comfort in worms.

"If you go out in the night," he says, "they say you can actually see worms wrapping themselves around these stones and moving them. I'd go along with that, though I've never actually seen a worm do it."

But the worm theory didn't satisfy Robert Rickard. Neither did the notion that stones may move and grow and reproduce. "We take no sides," he wrote, chronicling the piles of Chipping Sodbury in a book written with John Michell, a student of the eccentric. Mr. Rickard doesn't explain. He records.

"I think of myself as a clerk, filing all these things away," he says one afternoon in the study of his house on London's eastern edge. "I have no urge to believe in explanations. If something drops out of the sky, I'm not surprised; I'm interested."

Politely, Mr. Rickard stands behind his desk-top computer while he talks with a visitor. The study has one chair and no room for another. Books jam the shelves, floor to ceiling: "Curious Facts," "Impossible Possibilities," "Enigmas," "Oddities." Folders spill from file cabinets and litter the floor with the accumulated evidence of anomalous events: mysterious ooings, freak plagues, invisible barriers, odd clouds, unusual darknesses, phantom smells.

Toad in the Coal

The toad found in a chunk of coal, as reported by the Times of London in 1862, stirred Mr. Rickard's interest. So did last year's news that a bald farmer from Wiltshire began to grow hair again after a cow licked his scalp. Mr. Rickard has files on a New Guinea fruit bat that landed in Exeter and a Baltimore oriole that put down in the Scilly Isles. He is keeping track of the unknown fungus growing on 3,000-year-old elk dung dug out of a Norfolk peat bog.

In case it ever amounts to something, Mr. Rickard has all the details on the rice, custard and mushy peas that recently fell out of a truck on the road from Gloucester to Bristol. He has put that item in the "accidents involving food" folder.

"I've got thousands of these things. The stuff just keeps growing," Mr. Rickard says. "It's crowding me out. It's taking over." He finds a loose clipping about an SHC (spontaneous human combustion) and throws it onto a pile.

Every few months, Robert Rickard rakes together 60,000 words or so of his collected stuff and puts out a magazine. He calls it Fortean Times, after Charles Fort, an American who "developed a view of reality," Mr. Rickard has written, "which seemed in his generation to be one of unprecedented craziness."

Mr. Fort, a giant of anomalistics, spent much of his life in the New York Public Library and the British Museum, scouring scientific journals for instances of the inexplicable and noting each on a scrap of paper. He died in 1932, at age 58, from "un-

(continued on page 18)

specified weakness," Mr. Rickard says. By then, he had published four volumes of anomalies, with 60,000 scraps to spare. Ultimately, Mr. Fort hoped, correlations would emerge between such things as fireballs, alien big cats, and the simultaneous filing of patents by total strangers.

"Not a bottle of ketchup can fall from a tenement-house fire escape in Harlem," he once said, "without affecting the price of pajamas in Jersey City."

In Charles Fort, Robert Rickard found a kindred spirit. Mr. Rickard, now 40 years old and patchily bearded, was born in Deolali, India, the source of the English slang word "doolally," which means "slightly mad." But not until 1968, at school in England, did he come upon Mr. Fort's opus. "I devoured it again and again," he says.

It was Mr. Fort's open mind that appealed most, exemplified by his response to the 1890 report of a city appearing in the sky over Ashland, Ohio. Some said it was the New Jerusalem, others Sandusky.

"May have been a revelation of heaven," Mr. Fort noted, "and for all I know heaven may resemble Sandusky, and those of us who have no desire to go to Sandusky may ponder that point."

Starting where Mr. Fort broke off, Mr. Rickard set out to compile the peculiar. Two journals in America had sympathy, but no space, for his torrent of oddities. So, in 1973, he launched the Fortean Times. Today, it has a press run of 1,200, and vigilant anomaly spotters in 17 countries, among them Jun-ichi Takanashi in Japan, Vladimir Rubtsov in the Soviet Union, and Ray Nelke in Missouri.

Lightning Strikes Thrice

Like his idol, Mr. Rickard keeps an open mind. He doesn't buy old wives' tales, like the one that says lightning never strikes twice in the same place; it has already struck three times in the Primarda family's back yard in Taranto, Italy. He doesn't even draw the line at "psychic dentistry," in which teeth are unaccountably filled. But he doesn't resist scientific truths: When the Shenzhen Wildman turned out to be a rhesus monkey earlier this year, Mr. Rickard willingly ran a retraction.

The only phenomenon Mr. Rickard does discount is the unsubstantiated explanation. He won't print "barefaced assertions" about ancient astronauts, or the lost city of Atlantis, or remnants of Noah's ark. The laws of magnetism haven't led him, as they have others, to think he knows why the fourth toe of the right foot of an American woman glowed for 45 minutes in 1869.

"For every expert," Mr. Rickard likes to say, "there is an equal and opposite expert."

The task of sorting genuine explanations from ingenious ones, and fact from

fancy, is complicated by Mr. Rickard's reliance on newspapers for much of his raw material. A respectable paper will reduce a werewolf to a filler. A sensational paper will make a giant earthworm out of a bulge in the road. "The standard of reporting is appalling," Mr. Rickard says. That is why he has a special interest in a more tangible kind of event: things that fall from the sky.

Rocks fall from the sky all the time. (They are called meteors.) A gopher turtle encased in ice came down on Bovington, Miss., in 1894. In 1969, there was a hail of golf balls in Punta Gorda, Fla., and four years later several thousand toads landed on the French village of Brignoles. Mr. Rickard has records of nuts and bolts falling out of the heavens, of nails, cookies, pennies.

Last year there was a fish fall in his own neighborhood, at Ron Langton's house.

"Some newspapers tell lies," Mr. Langton says, opening the front door of his row house in Newham for a newspaper reporter. "One said my lawn was covered with fish. I don't have a lawn."

No, Mr. Langton has a patch of paving stones in his back yard, along with a small vegetable garden and an old refrigerator. On the night of May 27, 1984, four flounders, three whittings and five smelts fell into the yard. Several more hit the roof.

Mr. Langton, a retired oil-burner repairman, was in the upstairs sitting room, watching television with his wife, Ellen. It was raining. "We heard things smacking down," he says. Next morning, they found the fish.

"The only place they could have come from was the sky," Mr. Langton says. "But how could anything of that weight just float up into the sky and come down in our garden?"

'Things Do Happen'

"When I was a kid, we had comics about men going to the moon," says Mrs. Langton. "We were told it was a load of bunkum. Well, it's happened, hasn't it? Things do happen, don't they?"

Mr. Langton called a newspaper, and a photographer came. Then Robert Rickard got wind of the fish fall. He visited the scene and carried the evidence to the Natural History Museum. The fish, he was told, were commonly found in the River Thames, two miles from the Langtons' house; they could have been picked up by a waterspout.

Mr. Rickard called the London Weather Center. He called the coast guard. Conditions, they said, were all wrong that night for waterspouts on the Thames. Apart from the easy answer of a prank, that left the bare facts: flounders, whittings and smelts in Ron Langton's back yard.

Mr. Rickard couldn't explain it.

Cattle mutilation strikes Weld again

By BILL JACKSON

Tribune Staff Writer

The first reported Weld County cattle mutilation in five years was investigated earlier this week by sheriff's deputies in the southeast part of the county.

Robert Holsten, who lives about two miles southeast of Roggen, called sheriff's investigators Monday after he found a second dead animal within a week in a field south of his home. The first animal, he said Friday night, was not marked, "but it was pretty obvious the second one had been mutilated."

Greeley veterinarian Larry Mackey was contacted by the sheriff's office to conduct an autopsy on the young crossbred bull, but Mackey said the animal had been dead too long to make any determination.

"Two days is too long and in this case this animal had been dead a week. That's the bad thing about these cases; it takes too long to find them. It was pretty rotted and had melted and that just makes it impossible to determine anything," Mackey said.

Holsten said the first animal, a two-year-old Hereford heifer, was found by his boys in the field about a mile from the home "a week ago Tuesday." He said the heifer, and the bull calf, had been with a group "that we had fed just before that snow we had and there was nothing down or that appeared to be sick at that time."

Monday, a man who works the oil fields in the area stopped Holsten and asked if he (Holsten) knew he had two dead animals out in the field.

"I knew of the one, but when we were out there we found the bull about 50 yards from where the heifer was. It must have happened Saturday or Sunday night sometime. It was pretty obvious it had been mutilated. Its penis was removed, the scrotum had been cut away and the anus area had been cut," Holsten said.

"There was no obvious cause of death that we (Holsten and a sheriff's deputy) could find," Holsten said.

There were no tracks around either animal, he added.

"One of the boys mentioned this in class — he goes to Weld Central — and one of his classmates said the same thing (a mutilation) had just happened to one of his uncle's animals," Holsten said. That incident had not been reported and Holsten's son couldn't remember the man's name in a telephone interview Friday evening.

He estimated the value of the heifer and bull at \$850.

The last reported mutilation in Weld came in September 1980 when two cases were investigated in the Briggsdale area, just two days after a registered Angus heifer was discovered by its owner eight miles west of Loveland.

Cattle mutilations were first reported in the western United States in the early 1960s, with the first incident officially reported in Colorado in 1974.

In less than three years beginning in 1974, northeast Colorado counties — including Weld — were hit with more than 300 of the inexorable wave of incidents that ballooned into the hundreds throughout the United States, Canada, and several other foreign countries.

What became known as "classic" mutilations occurred simultaneously in various parts of the U.S. They involved the surgical-like removal of parts of an animal, including reproductive and digestive organs, various glands, ears, eyes, tongues, and sometimes blood. Cause of death of the animal is seldom, if ever, determined.

No concrete solution to the phenomenon has ever been found, although several theories — ranging from Satanic cults to UFOs — have been presented.

Marfa's mystery lights

MARFA — The whole thing is said to have originated with a man named Robert Ellison.

He was a pioneer cattleman in the western reaches of Texas in the second half of the 19th century, and the story is that one evening in 1883, while camping with his herd, he saw a series of strange lights out on the desert.

Ellison told his neighbors that the lights were like glowing balls at the base of the Chinati Mountains.

But they seemed to be free of the Earth.

He said they floated up and down for a bit, then bounced back and forth, and neither he nor his steers got a wink more of sleep that night.

Well, everyone thought old Bob must have backed into his branding iron.

The wags said he had been in one too many stampedes. But then others began seeing the flickering illuminations as well, "like campfires that get up and move around," and the mystery of the Marfa Lights was delivered into lore.

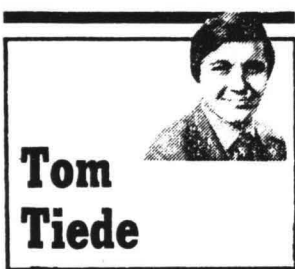
Today, 100 years and more later, the lights are still flickering in this isolated region of Texas.

And so is the confounding mystery.

There's no doubt at all anymore the lights are real. Thousands of people have seen them by now.

They are clustered on a sparsely populated prairie that is known as Mitchell Flat, and when they make their (decidedly sporadic) appearances the locals say they put on spectacular shows.

Some locals say they look like flashlights, way out in the distance.



Tom Tiede

Others claim they are the size of soccer balls, and up close.

However they are described, almost everyone agrees that they are spirited; they dance, they race about and, at times, they even chase one another across the sagebrush.

Indeed, Marfa Mayor Jane Churley says the lights are almost fun-loving.

And they have inspired what amounts to the stuff of pleasant legend here.

Songs have been composed and doggerel written, and junior high school students have drawn up and distributed a coloring book history of the curious phenomenon.

Tall tales have been created in addition. Marfa old-timers cite some amazing stories.

One man tells of the time he got lost on the desert, and started to perish from thirst: "There I was, almost a goner, and then I saw them wonderful Marfa Lights; naturally, they spelled out Budweiser beer."

Naturally. But don't snicker. Even sober Marfans like to think the lights are benevolent.

For instance, some residents say

the Chinati Mountains are inhabited by friendly creatures from other worlds, and they create the lights with their spacecraft when they fly after dark.

That viewpoint does not predominate, of course. But, on the other hand, no one seems to have a better explanation.

The obvious guesses range from car lights to fireflies, and there are a few votes for pranksters, but, as Churley points out, the facts do not support anything so ordinary:

"People will come here and say that it's nothing but swamp gas. But they forget there isn't a swamp in this desert for hundreds of miles. Then they will say that it must be ranch lights, and we have to remind them that there wasn't any electricity when the lights were seen last century."

That leaves the extraordinary. Not UFOs, but science.

Churley says professional researchers have been studying the lights for years, they have measured them, and tracked them; in the process, they have developed a variety of mostly complex opinions.

One astronomer says the illuminations may be the reflections of lights that originate elsewhere. They might possibly come from bright stars.

The astronomer thinks the lights are bent at their source, squeezed between air layers of different temperatures, and propelled to Mitchell Flat.

Then there is a geophysicist who thinks the glowing balls may be charged particles of dust.

And there is a geologist who says they could be phosphorescent minerals.

“One astronomer says the illuminations may be the reflections of lights from elsewhere.”

There is even a scientist who believes the lights resemble St. Elmo's fire, which is a form of static electricity.

Bent stars? St. Elmo's fire? The people of Marfa say it's all very interesting, but the mystery remains. And maybe it's just as well.

The mayor says the town has been through hard times over the years, oil booms and busts and the like, and it needs something like this for equilibrium.

The lights mean Marfa is unique. The lights mean Marfa is notable.

"We had some tourist agents here the other day," the mayor says, "and the lights put on a fantastic display for them. The agents were flabbergasted, I've never seen the lights so bright, and everyone had an exciting time."

The mayor doesn't conceal her pride. And she's not the only one with that feeling in this area.

The nicest theory about the origin of the Marfa Lights is that they were gathered from the heavens by angels and sent down to make things a little more important, if enigmatic, out here on Mitchell Flat.

Carl Sagan



CONTACT
By Carl Sagan
Simon & Schuster, 432 pages, \$18.95

REVIEWED BY PAUL PREUSS

Dr. Eleanor Arroway, the protagonist of Carl Sagan's first novel, "Contact," is in charge of an enormous array of radio telescopes set up in the arid plains of New Mexico, dedicated to the search for extraterrestrial intelligence. Arroway is both an accomplished scientist and a "wonder junkie." At one point, anticipating new discoveries, she imagines herself as "Dorothy catching her first

glimpse of the vaulted spires of the Emerald City of Oz" or, more idiosyncratically, as "a small boy from darkest Brooklyn plunked down in the Corridor of Nations of the 1939 World's Fair..."

Ever since young Carl Sagan, standing in a Brooklyn backyard gazing at the night sky, realized that the stars were very far away, "farther away, probably, than New Jersey" (as he noted in the 1980 "Cosmos" television series), he has yearned to see the wonders of space close up. And perhaps partly because he grew up during the pre-World War II Golden Age of pulp science fiction, Sagan holds a near-religious con-

It was the precocious Sagan's misfortune to be born some decades too early for easy travel to other planets; he compensated by becoming a gifted planetary scientist and an effective lobbyist and proselytizer for space exploration.

The principal themes of "Contact" will be familiar to readers of Sagan's many nonfiction books and to those who have seen him on television: his conviction that there is life out there and that we will encounter it if we manage to survive our own millennialist folly; his speculations on the evolution of intelligence; his contentious grappling with superstition, pseudo-science and religious fundamentalism; his stirring descriptions of astrophysical phenomena. Sagan here adds insights into the formation of a rational mind and the bittersweet quality of emotional relationships.

(continued on page 20)

Beam Me Up, Carl

Hummer a Bummer

Mysterious Buzz Torments Sleepless Houseboat Owners, Confounds Scientists

By SAUL RUBIN,
Times Staff Writer

RICHARDSON BAY, Calif.—Donna Michel first heard the mysterious sound last year as she was drifting off to sleep in a lower-level bedroom of her houseboat. The eerie humming "clicked on" in the early evening, peaked in volume around midnight, and finally went away in the morning—a pattern that would be repeated all summer.

"At first I thought it was a transitory type of thing," Michel said one recent afternoon. "Then when it didn't go away, my husband and I started to ask ourselves: 'Are we going crazy?'"

After talking with neighbors, Michel found out otherwise. The hum, Michel learned, had been tormenting her neighbors for years and was well-known among residents of Marin County's houseboat community—about 500 homes that float in the shallow waters of Richardson Bay just north of San Francisco.

Some houseboat residents describe the noise as similar to the buzzing of an electric razor—only 10 times louder. Others say it sounds like an Air Force bomber or a neighbor using a powerful generator. One houseboat owner said the eerie humming is tuned to the middle C key on her piano.

But while residents are specific when it comes to describing the mysterious sound, no one has yet discovered the hum's source or why it seems to be heard only at night and during the summer.

Theories on the source of the



Los Angeles Times

hum abound, however. Suggestions have ranged from an obscure sewer pump to a secret military device, but none have been confirmed. This week, officials at the Steinhart Aquarium in San Francisco suggested that the hum may be traced to the mating activities of fish in the bay.

Among the baffling aspects of the hum is the fact that some houseboats conduct the noise, while others do not. Peculiar also is that some houseboats carry the hum some of the time and are otherwise silent.

For example, Tom Watson, president of the Marin County Floating Homes Assn., did not hear the noise until he added a bedroom to his houseboat and floated it on several large metal spheres. The added bedroom proved to be a good conductor for the hum.

"It was so loud it gave me a headache," Watson said recently, adding that he had to cover his head with pillows in order to sleep. The noise then disappeared for a "good two-year lull" Watson said, before returning.

Michel said she has overcome the hum by "investing in a wide array of earplugs" and by using a white-noise machine that provides a more soothing sound to drown out the annoying buzz.

"Grim resignation sets in. . . . Now that we know what to expect, we have learned how to live with it," she said.

Residents here are clearly willing to tolerate the inconvenience in order to enjoy the more pleasant features of marina living.

Assortment of Boat Styles

Houseboats have been moored in Richardson Bay for more than a century. Floating homes here vary in price and style, from ragged-looking barges with makeshift coverings to the more stylishly designed \$1-million wood-frame homes with picture windows.

Most houseboat owners pay up to \$500 a month to lease a berth that allows them to tether their homes to wooden docks and connect to utility lines from shore. Others simply drop anchor in the bay, but county officials have ordered these so-called "anchor-outs" to leave the bay within the next two years.

Nestled among the Marin County hills, Sausalito and the Tiburon peninsula, houseboat owners are afforded spectacular vistas of San Francisco Bay and easy access to

aquatic recreation.

Baffled Marin County health officials have enlisted the aid of sound engineers from Frank Hubach & Associates of Berkeley to investigate the hum. The research has only added to the mystery.

Stephen Neal, a Hubach engineer, has paddled around the bay in a small rowboat several times, tracking the hum and recording its frequency with special listening devices dropped into the water.

Neal located several "hot spots"—areas where the sound appeared strongest—but further investigation turned up nothing.

"The sound appears to come from nowhere and get louder and louder," Neal said.

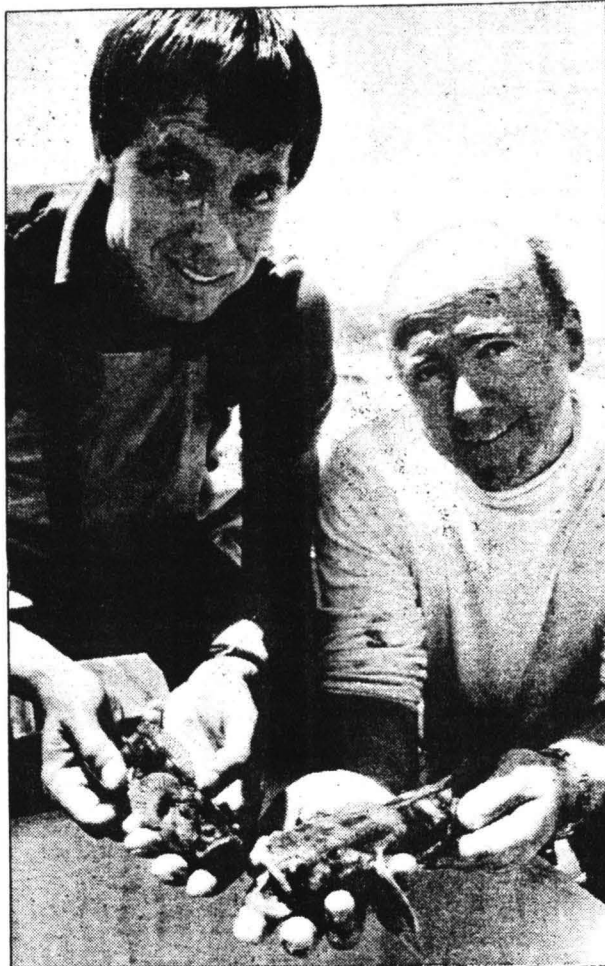
A report by Hubach & Associates did conclude that the frequency of the hum is not consistent with that of typical frequencies made by standard mechanical or electrical equipment.

Having ruled out standard machinery as the cause of the hum, engineers and health officials are now testing the noisy fish theory.

'Singing Fish'

The suspected fist-sized fish, officially called the plainfin midshipman but also known as the "singing fish," apparently favors the shallow waters and mud flat environment of Richardson Bay.

The *modus operandi* of the plainfin seems to provide a possible link to the hum. According to marine biologists, male plainfin collect in the bay during the summer, burrow into the mud and then vibrate their bladders in a seasonal mating call.



Associated Press

John McCosker, left, and John Hewitt of Steinhart Aquarium with singing fish suspected of causing noise in Richardson Bay.

But the fish theory has produced skepticism and chuckles among some houseboat residents, who doubt the hum could be produced by anything biological because it is so constant and sounds like the buzzing of machinery.

Nonetheless, researchers from San Francisco's Steinhart Aquarium went trawling in the bay Tuesday and collected several plainfin to bring back to tanks at the aquarium for study.

After the toad-like fish are given time to settle into their new envi-

ronment, sound engineers will record the sound of the fish and compare it with charts of the Marin County hum. If it matches, sound engineers are confident they will have solved the longstanding mystery of the hum.

But even if the singing fish are found to be the answer, there is little that can be done to silence them or to remove the entire population from the bay.

"Residents there will just have to chalk it up to one of the charms of living on the bay," said aquarium assistant curator John Hewitt.

GAZETTE, Gastonia, NC - Oct. 20, 1985 CR: G. Fawcett

Non-human "creature" smells bad

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — Halloween arrived early in East Pennsboro Township as far as police are concerned.

A few residents in a rural, wooded area of the township, northwest of Harrisburg, have reported an ape-like apparition, which they have dubbed the "creature."

"We are not making a joke out of it," East Pennsboro Township police Chief James Corbett said. "But I can't buy the fact that it's not... a human being."

Most likely, said Corbett, the "creature" came out of a department store costume shop rather than a dank swamp.

First reports of a strange beast, a terrible screaming sound and an awful stench, came from three to four people in August, Corbett said. On Sept. 29, police took five reports of the terrible sound and odor.

One young man claimed to have seen a 6½-foot hairy creature, with long fangs and arms that extended below his knees. Three officers were sent to investigate and "one did hear the sound," Corbett said. "He described it as like a screech, but with a guttural, deep down effect."

But the chief said he believed the creature was a costumed prankster starting a little early on Halloween.

He was so convinced that after the Sept. 29 reports he called department stores in Harrisburg to check on their sales of Halloween costumes. He found one that had put up a display two weeks earlier and had sold two gorilla outfits that matched the description, down to the fangs, he said.

Corbett said he has not closed the case on the creature and will continue to follow up all calls. "But we're not out knocking on doors and sending men out there at night," he said.

In the opening and closing sections of "Contact," where these fresher, more personal themes come to the fore, Sagan's writing is at its best. We read of a lonely little girl who surreptitiously explores the forbidden interior of a broken radio and manages to fix it; who, when somewhat older, lies on her back in the long grass of a summer night and holds on tight to keep from plummeting into the heart of the Galaxy. As a seventh grader, despite her teacher's disdain, she is fascinated by the infinite decimal expansion of π . We are prepared to believe completely in the adult she becomes, a woman who searches, finds and deciphers the first intelligent signal from the stars.

We are equally prepared to believe that Eleanor Arroway is estranged from her parents and unlucky in love. One of the novel's most affecting moments comes after her lonely mother has suffered a stroke; the bitter note Eleanor receives from her stepfather seems painfully authentic.

The convoluted and overlong middle section of "Contact" is threaded by a scientific detective story of more than usual interest, in which Eleanor's fascination with the transcendental number π comes to figure importantly. (One wants to warn her against storing those extra-sensitive documents in a safe with 314159 for a combination, however. Anyone familiar with the adventures of safe-cracking physicist Richard Feynman will have it open in seconds flat.)

Early on, Eleanor's many-eyed Project Argus acquires a signal from the star Vega. How is it to be deciphered? More than one way, as things develop. And what does it have to say? The first image to be constructed from the unending stream of radio pulses is a real shocker. It would be unfair to give more than a hint of its nature, but there are clues in the round-trip time it takes for television signals to get to Vega and back — 52 years at the speed of light — and the date when the signal received on Earth, 1998.

Even after the starry message has been read and its directions followed — resulting in the construction of a strange machine and, subsequently, a galactic roller-coaster ride for a selected few humans — puzzles within puzzles remain. Sagan ends the novel with a brilliantly imaginative stroke, posing and partially answering the last, deepest conundrum of all.

Sagan's imagination is equally fertile in creating a near-future world not quite like the one we live in. The United States and the USSR are still deeply suspicious of one another, but mutual disarmament proceeds apace. Near-Earth orbit is crowded with space habitats. A woman is president. TV advertising has been eliminated, victim of a Ted Turner-like capitalist who builds a better electronic mousetrap. Congress has funded an array of 130 radio telescopes that mostly do "nothing," not even astronomy — in Sagan's world, apparently, Senator William Proxmire never existed.

Neo-novelist Sagan has not fully grasped that character is as character does. Thus, while the huge cast of minor characters in "Contact" is generally well conceived, only rarely do individuals rise above their resumes into believability (an exception is the vivid and likable Soviet astronomer, Lunacharsky). The concept of the subplot likewise seems to have eluded Sagan. There is a half-hearted, ultimately risible effort to make villains out of fundamentalist preachers; the rude behavior attributed to the Defense Department is only marginally more persuasive.

A knack for clear, vivid description marks Sagan's nonfiction. "Contact" too abounds with fine examples of descriptive writing, from the odd-but-true observation that an "honor guard" of attentive rabbits often lines New Mexican highways at night to a purely imaginary description of a dive through other-dimensional tunnels in a space-time ship.

Some stylistic tics are less charming in a work of fiction: the endless expository dialogues, the gratuitous jaw-breakers of scientific jargon. Every few pages a blizzard of epigraphs leads us to suspect we have fallen through a non-linear word warp into another sort of book altogether, Bartlett's "Familiar Quotations," perhaps.

None of which will matter much to the huge audience that hungers for just such a feast of marvels as Sagan spreads before them. By wisely distancing his novel from the science-fiction category, Sagan stands to attract not only readers who have been forced to subsist on the kind of science-fiction junk food that comes labeled with brand names like Asimov, Heinlein and Herbert, but the many "wonder junkies" who read the popular science magazines and watch "Nova" as well.

Carl Sagan has been active since the 1950s in the sort of scientific activities that have come to be grouped under the acronym SETI, the search for extra-terrestrial intelligence. He helped develop the ideas from which most modern tales of "first contact" take off, yet it is to be expected that writers of so-called hard science fiction will howl that nothing in "Contact" is new. (Indeed, all the ideas in the novel have appeared in fictional works before, even to such minor details as the binary black holes that energize Sagan's cosmic subway system.) But in this realm, attempts "to get a patent on the idea," as the practice is known in science-fiction circles, are futile. Clever ideas are worth little outside the ethical and social matrix in which they are embedded; it is the context of "Contact" that makes it most worthy of note.

For "Contact" is in fact science fiction to its galactic core, science fiction in the grand Wellsian tradition, informed, socially engaged and above all optimistic. If Carl Sagan has more than one novel in him, there are even grounds to hope he'll become as smooth a yarn-spinner as Arthur C. Clarke, his peer in knowledge and spirit, or the young H.G. Wells himself. ■

San Francisco science writer Paul Preuss is the author of the forthcoming novel, "Human Error."

It smells bad, sounds eerie, but can't be found



East Pennsboro Twp. residents believe eerie creature stalks these woods

Unidentified W. Shore creature mystifies neighbors, silences dogs

By Wade Fowler
Patriot-News

The creature has a weird, repetitive big-animal sound; it stinks to high heaven by one account; and it silences otherwise noisy dogs as it passes through the neighborhood of Pine Hill Road in East Pennsboro Twp.

If that's not enough to raise hairs on the back of your neck, your skin probably doesn't crawl when a crab grabs a toe in the surf, and you probably aren't afraid to read ghost stories at 2 a.m. on windy nights when the windows rattle, the trees rub against the shutters and you're alone in the house.

Curiosity may kill the cat but it won't get Mike Lender's tom, who's fiercely independent but scurries indoors when the creature's afoot, Lender said.

"I've got a dog that would bark at its own shadow because she just loves to bark," Lender said. "But whenever 'it's' around that dog of mine won't open her big mouth and that's unusual."

Lender is curious, not afraid. He's lived at 65 Pine Hill Road, a quiet lane linking Valley Street and Wertzville Road, for 40 years and he's used to the sounds of nature.

But what's been stalking these parts for the last six or eight weeks isn't natural hereabouts anyway, Lender said.

"I think it's an exotic pet that somebody thought was cute when it was little but turned loose when it got big," he said.

It is unusual, however, that he hasn't seen any signs of the creature's passing. If it's a predator, it's left his rabbits alone. It must not eat vegetables either, because there have been no foreign footprints in the garden, Lender said.

Put East Pennsboro Twp. Police Chief James J. Corbett among those who'd like to find out what's been making the noises.

Corbett was unaware of the situation yesterday but he seemed willing to check it out. "I've never heard of noises [whose source] you couldn't run down," he said, adding that he'd send a patrol to investigate.

Put Kelby Steele of 71 Pine Hill Road in the camp of those who'd like to think it's a fox. "I haven't seen it and I haven't smelled it although on two particular nights I've heard it," he said.

"It's a very eerie, unusual sound that I've never heard before," Steele said. "I have a balcony on the side of my house facing a meadow and then a hill. I shone a spotlight around [from the balcony] when I heard it but couldn't see anything."

Steele said his neighbors have been watching a family of foxes that moved into the area this summer. He's prepared to believe that the strange noises belong to the foxes at least until there's some proof to the contrary, he said.

He said he's not alarmed, just curious. Put Carol Liddick of 73 Pine Hill Road among those who don't think it's a fox and who are just a little alarmed.

"I won't let my kids sleep outside until I find out what's making those noises," she said.

Liddick said she's heard the creature a half-dozen times. She's smelled it twice and it has a foul smell "like something burnt, dead and rotten," she said.

Sandy Trapolsi, who lives nearby on Hazzard Lane, was surprised at the question: Have you been hearing any unusual sounds at night?

"The only thing I can think of around here are foxes, which make strange noises at night," she said, adding she began noticing the foxes at the beginning of the summer.

"They sound like a dog that's dying. It's a strange sound," she said.

Put James Beard in the camp of those who think there has to be a natural explanation for the noises and that the residents of Pine Hill Road have nothing to fear.

"A fox bark sounds similar to that of a small dog but raspier," said Beard, a former game protector who is now law-enforcement supervisor for the state Game Commission.

Foxes breed in February and have a gestation period of 60 days, according to Beard. So the young would be born in April or early May and would have started to move around pretty well about the time people started hearing the strange noises along Pine Hill Road.

But, he said, it's hard to speculate on what the animal might be without actually hearing its cry. It might be herons, which are on the move this time of year and are capable of some "weird noises," or it could be an owl, he said, concluding:

"There are a lot of things that make noises at night."

WORLD, Wenatchee, WA - Sept. 29, 1985

The Colockum Creature?

A report that a 7- to 10-foot tall "creature" attempted to break into a Colockum area residence Friday night was investigated by Chelan County sheriff's deputies as a prowler call.

Deputies said a resident of Tarpiscan Road apparently saw the creature, which had long, dark, brown hair, after it scared the resident's goat and dog. It was unclear who saw the intruder. The report was called in by Barbara Hart, who reportedly has one of the few telephones in that area.

The creature was reportedly sighted at the Burton Tyler residence. Deputies said the intruder may have left a 3-foot wide dent in the rear of the Tyler trailer. It was reportedly last seen leaving through an orchard, "leaping over a deer fence and shed."

Deputies said they found no footprints that would have been left by such a large intruder.