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MONTACHUSETT REVIEW, Fitchburg, MA - Aug. 28, 1985 CR: L. Whitehurst

Close Encounters of the Montachusett Kind

LEOMINSTER, ASHBURNHAM, WESTMINSTER SITES FOR BIZARRE UFO ENCOUNTER

by Steven Castle

Editor's Note: The following article is based on information obtained from the residents of 77 Howard Street, Leominster. Ray Fowler's books on the Andreasson Affair and the author himself. It is intended as a journalistic account, not as an essay proving or disproving other forms of life. We leave that judgement up to you.

When Janet Labor sold waterfront property on Cape Cod in favor of the two-story house where she, her family and Arthur Thomas now reside at 77 Howard Street, Leominster, she had no idea that their home was a setting for one of the most documented, and peculiar UFO cases ever.

In fact, the news that the Howard Street house is part of what has become known as the Andreasson Affair arrived in almost as strange a way as did the aliens who allegedly visited and abducted Betty Andreasson. A neighbor on Howard Street received the information from a niece's father in Oregon who noticed the mention of Howard Street in a book by Ray Fowler.

The aliens arrival was stranger, but equally roundabout. It occurred in South Ashburnham in 1967 when Betty Andreasson was 30. Under hypnosis, Betty recalls being abducted, taken aboard a spaceship and examined.

According to a team of 12 investigators who worked 12-14 months examining Betty Andreasson, the stage for that abduction was set in 1944, at 77 Howard Street in Leominster, when Betty Andreasson was seven years old.

She thought she had been stung by a bee while playing in the backyard. But she had no bee sting. She remembers the bee as a bright light circling her head, stopping inches from her forehead right in front of her eyes, then hitting her on the forehead. Researchers claim it could be a probe they feel was removed from Betty during an abduction years later in South Ashburnham. And they're serious!

"The interesting thing about this case," said Ray Fowler, UFOlogist and "Andreasson Affair" author, "is that others have had similar experiences and remember them without hypnosis."

What originally attracted Fowler to this case was that there had never been a thorough UFO investigation in Massachusetts, and he was curious to see if this case bore any resemblance to other cases. Ironically, Fowler now compares other cases to this one. In most cases, however, there is little to compare. Betty Andreasson's case was just that bizarre.

Under hypnosis, Betty Andreasson has relived seven different encounters with extra-terrestrial beings. Her first was the "bee" at 77 Howard Street in Leominster. In the summer of 1949, when 12, she encountered a short, silvery man with an egg-shaped head crawling out of a hole in the woods, she recalls. She also recalled en-

counters at ages 13, 18 and 24 in Westminster, and at age 38 in Ashburnham.

The zenith of Betty's extra-terrestrial experiences was January 25, 1967, in South Ashburnham. With her husband in the hospital, Betty was taking care of her children and parents. A bright, reddish-orange light pulsating outside a small kitchen window disrupted a normally quiet day, and shocked the family.

Betty's father and the children were motionless — paralyzed, not just with fear but in some sort of state of suspended animation. Under hypnosis, Betty recalled how four entities floated through a wooden door, jerky in motion and leaving a vapory image behind. The tallest of the four was the leader, Quazgaa. He resembled the others with his large, slanted eyes, gray, clay-like flesh and three-digit hands.

They communicated telepathically with Betty. She asked if they wanted something to eat. They nodded. Betty cooked some meat. They then communicated that they could not eat food that wasn't burned, so she burned the meat. The aliens said that their food is knowledge tried by fire. Betty offered them a Bible.

Quazgaa, in turn, gave Betty a blue book she was to study within 10 days. To prove they hadn't harmed Betty's family, they removed Betty's daughter Becky from her frozen state. Becky stirred, and was returned to her state when Betty was convinced that she was alright.

Betty relived her incredible experience with the help of hypnotist Dr. Harold J. Edelstein, who induced trances of hypnotic regression on Betty. She was a good hypnosis patient, and, according to the researchers present during these sessions, she relived her experiences so vividly as to convince these practitioners of the scientific method of the authenticity of her incredible ordeal. Betty later passed lie detector tests, and a psychologist, Dr. James Cornell, examined Betty and found nothing abnormal about her.

According to Betty, she was coaxed into a huge spacecraft sitting amidst a fog in her backyard and toured the craft. She described her journey in great detail.

The aliens wanted to examine her. This part of the ordeal she relived with immense fear and pain. Supposedly, the aliens inserted a needle-like probe through her navel, and declared that something was missing. Betty had had a hysterectomy. They also violated her through the nasal membrane with their probe, and removed a small, round object. The researchers believe this to be the "bee" that Betty encountered when she was seven.

After the examination, she was taken to some sort of alien realm. She experienced going through a green part and a red part. She

even had an intense religious experience with a Phoenix. A huge bird appeared before her while in an alien realm. The heat was incredible. Betty cried in pain during the hypnosis reliving this. The bird burst into flames, and from the ashes squirmed a fat worm, curiously reflecting some of our Earthly mythology.

The aliens returned Betty to her home, telling her she would forget everything. Quazgaa's farewell message to her was that knowledge is sought through the spirit, and that man must better understand many of the natural things on Earth, such as water, fire and earth itself.

Betty sometimes spoke a strange tongue during her trances. She said, "Man seeks to destroy himself through greed." This was a common theme the aliens allegedly preached to Betty throughout her abduction. She also stated that 70 different races of aliens live on Earth, at a place on or in this planet that nobody knows of. This theme is similar to one proposed recently by occultist Brad Steiger, who warns of friends, relatives and acquaintances whom act strangely, being aliens transplanted from another planet.

Dr. Edelstein concluded that a good portion of Betty's experience reflected actual reality, but he could not deduce how much was real or imagined.

Betty's ingrained religious beliefs further compounds the matter, and leaves the episode with the Phoenix completely unexplainable.

One is apt to disregard this story at first glance, but there are some startling correlations with other reports and sightings. There were other UFO sightings in Central Massachusetts, and across the state in early 1967 — among them episodes in Phillipston, Royalston, Orange and Tully. There were also quite a few sightings very near to the date of Betty's abduction, January 25, 1967.

On January 15, ten days before Betty's abduction, a sighting occurred in Buxford. Another occurred three days later across the state in Williamstown, and another five days later in Methuen. On February 16, a sighting took place in Amherst. The next day, an unidentified flying object hovered over the junction on Routes 93 and 495 in Andover, causing numerous earthly aggravations taking the form of tender bend-ers. Another sighting took place February 26 in Marlboro, and another UFO was reported March 1 in Sharon.

There are numerous correlations between Betty's experience and that of others who have claimed close encounters of the third kind. For instance, the famous case with Betty and Barney Hill in Woodstock, New Hampshire shares some of the same details as Betty's. The aliens were described similarly: silvery, clay-

like short men with egg heads and large, slanted eyes. In both cases, the aliens communicated telepathically.

While the Ashburnham Municipal Light Company records show a power failure in Betty's neighborhood on the night of January 25, 1967, other sightings in Eastern Massachusetts during the early part of that year showed the same. Other correlations with UFO sightings and close encounters include the vacuum-like stillness experienced at the onset of the experience, concurrent television interference, the entities' ability to float, the suspended animation/parallization of Earthlings, the general configuration of the craft, noises associated with it and the physical examination.

"It's too much of a coincidence, having abductions with similar details from across the country," said Art Thomas, in reference to the case in which he is quickly becoming an expert.

"I believe it all. I'm not a UFO person. I never followed it, but as I read the book (by Fowler), it's convincing. And when talking to the author — he's convincing too."

But the author himself, at one point in the investigation, had doubts. "Some parts of her story were so far out that it was hard for me to accept it. All throughout writing the Andreasson Affair, I had to grit my teeth and accept it without scientific proof." That says much for the startling realism of Betty's hypnotic recall.

"The whole facet of UFO investigation is still in its infancy," explained Fowler, "primarily due to cranks, charlatans and loonies." He considers Betty none of these, not after seeing her relive her ordeals many times. "If you saw her relive that...it would send shivers up and down your spine. It was that believable."

Fowler has since disengaged himself as principal investigator of the case, but still has a large interest in it. He hasn't conversed with Betty recently, she being on vacation in Bermuda.

Fowler did say he was coming to Leominster August 27, at the Knights of Columbus Hall, to talk about the Andreasson Affair, beginning at 8 p.m.

Betty and any alien visitors are not expected to be there.

**Mysterious Choppers
Pose More Questions
by Steven Castle**

Just when Ray Fowler thought he had found the answer to one question, another challenged his expertise in UFOlogy.

When he thought he was through piecing together Betty Andreasson's incredible story, it was further compounded by reports of mysterious black helicopters appearing outside of Betty's homes — in Massachusetts and in Florida.

The sightings have been numerous. The helicopters are unmarked and flying illegally close to the ground.

Fowler thinks it may be the work of an unknown secret agency investigating UFOs.

Don't laugh. The CIA and Air Force both investigate UFOs, and according to Fowler, official government documents run consistent with many reported cases.

Fowler is presently collecting information from people out of the Armed Services about UFO investigations, through the Freedom of Information Act.

One agency exempt from that act, however, is the National Security Agency, a little-known government agency which is rumored to have a stake in UFO investigations.

The National Security Agency does not own or operate any unmarked black helicopters, as far as anyone outside knows.

UNION DEMOCRAT, Sonora, CA - Nov. 1, 1985

Channel 3 to explore UFO reports

Viewers of television Channel 3's Evening Magazine will see familiar faces on tonight's 7:30 p.m. show.

Sonoran Marv Taylor spent seven hours Monday with the show's film crew at a Highway 108 site at which four people in two separate incidents lost large blocks of time. Taylor, a field investigator for the

Mutual UFO Network, said their experiences may have been close encounters with space visitors.

Interviewed on the show with Taylor are Martha and Ernest Throne, who experienced the phenomenon in 1978, and a woman identified only as Kathy.

Kathy and a friend drove through the area near Knights Ferry in 1975, according to Taylor, and several hours mysteriously disappeared from their evening. Kathy, said Taylor, was put under hypnosis by a state licensed hypnotist for the filming.

Taylor said the Throne incident was recreated with simulated effects for the filming.

UFO sighting in New Market

A county patrol car was dispatched to the New Market area last night when a resident reported seeing a strange object and lights in the sky.

A sheriff's spokesman said the woman, a resident of Bill Miller Road, telephoned authorities after seeing an object with three lights "going up and down and sideways."

She was quoted as saying, "it's not an airplane."

Deputies checked the area for a possible UFO, but after finding

nothing, filed only a misdemeanor report,

NEWS, Huntsville, AL

Nov. 6, 1985

CR: L. Whitehurst

La Habra man tries to cash in on reward UFO tracker challenges skeptics

By Andrew Sheridan
DEP Staff Writer

LA HABRA — For John DeHerrerra, the inspiration to study unusual phenomena was quite simple: "My mother, when she was living in the Colorado mountains, once saw a glowing object land near her farmhouse. She told me about that when I was 15... she just gave me the facts, never embellishing. She just gave me an objective view."

She also planted seeds of curiosity in the mind of her awed son, who hasn't stopped searching for answers since the day of that influential conversation. And today, at 46, DeHerrerra is obsessed with anything that defies explanation.

Here's a full-time technical writer who in his spare time once staked out a flood control channel to solve the mystery of "Buena Foot," a huge, hairy, foul-smelling beast which supposedly roamed streets in Buena Park in 1982.

"He turned out to be a hobo who needed a shave and some new clothes," DeHerrerra claimed.

On another occasion, the part-time scientist teamed with a physician and a California State University English professor to conduct a hypnosis experiment which determined that "mental powers of (entranced subjects) are not limited to facts."

But UFO's are the chief concern of DeHerrerra, who has been known to stay up late monitoring flying saucer detectors in his Fullerton workshop, investigating local sightings of alien spacecraft and writing chapters of his only book, "The

Etherian Invasion."

Reclining in his La Habra business office, DeHerrerra warned that he doesn't believe every UFO story, noting he has attributed many flying saucer sightings to environmental or man-made phenomena. But others, he contended, can't be explained away.

"Many (UFO's) are intelligent devices, very possibly machines

reward offer 23 years ago.

"He's trying to do what Houdini did," DeHerrerra added. "Houdini made up a lot of challenges so he could get publicity. (Randi) talks a lot about the challenge, but there's no way anybody can win.... I would never see a dime from any skeptic."

"If I could get a fair hearing, I would present my information, but they chicken out on me. So I'll

"Many (UFO's) are intelligent devices, very possibly machines rather than living entities."

— John DeHerrerra, 1985

rather than living entities," he said.

And now he wants to test his beliefs. DeHerrerra said for months he has tried to cash in 30 years of UFO studies for a \$10,000 reward offered by Southern California Skeptics to the first person who can prove he has or has had a "paranormal" ability or experience.

But he said the organization refuses to give him a fair hearing, despite his claims that he has "absolute proof" that intergalactic intruders have had one on one encounters with earthlings. On the other hand, SoCal Skeptics Chairman Al Seckel, an astronomer, maintains DeHerrerra has failed to produce evidence upon request.

"He's a nut," Seckel said tersely in a recent phone interview from his Los Angeles office. "Who's telling the truth? You decide."

"This is just a game with him," DeHerrerra said of magician James Randi, who initiated the

try somebody else," he continued. "They know I'm serious. They know I'm not a pushover."

But when asked to share his UFO findings, DeHerrerra declined, only saying: "The theory I have is very complex. It is so complex that it gives people headaches when I try to explain it to them."

Seckel sighed in acknowledgement when he heard about DeHerrerra's response. He said the UFO specialist once stormed into a skeptics' meeting claiming to have proof of genuine UFO encounters but that he refused to reveal his findings.

"He hasn't shown anything," Seckel argued. "We can't give out \$10,000 to anyone who says he has evidence but won't reveal it. If he has it, I'd love to see it."

Seckel also denied DeHerrerra's claim that the challenge is rigged, noting the \$10,000 is turned over to a non-partisan judge before contestants attempt to demonstrate their powers.

But the astronomer said none



(Star-Progress Photo by Jack Hancock)

MYSTERY BUSTER — La Habra businessman John DeHerrerra gets to the bottom of another mysterious phenomena with the help of his computer, on which he stores helpful data.

of the hundreds of reward candidates has successfully proven his abilities, probably because they have not been able to perform under strictly controlled conditions laid out by the skeptics.

Nevertheless, DeHerrerra said he will continue his quest for

a fair hearing. But don't be surprised if he suddenly begins to concentrate on something other than UFO's.

"I'm curious about anything, as anybody who knows me can already tell," he said. "I read all kinds of literature.

"My goal is to find out what each of these unusual phenomena really is. They're all different. You can't dispense of all of them as untrue like the skeptics do. And you can't take all of them for face value like the believers. My mind is open."

SOUTH TOWN ECONOMIST, Chicago, IL - Sept. 17, 1985

Weird UFO awes firefighters

ORLAND PARK — An unidentified flying object was sighted in the northern skies Sunday morning by several on-duty firefighters who watched through binoculars until it disappeared from sight.

"It wasn't a flying saucer and had no flashing lights — it was just weird," said one of the three firefighters who witnessed the sighting. All asked not to be identified.

The firefighter, on duty at the 11st Street and 97th Avenue

firehouse, said the UFO looked like three brown odd-shaped objects on top of a box-like device.

A spokesman from the National Weather Service at O'Hare Airport said the description did not match weather balloons that are lofted from Peoria daily at 5:30 a.m.

The 30-foot-wide weather balloons are sent up one at a time, the spokesman said.

The object climbed in the northern skies until it faded from view, according to the firefighter.

Reagan to Gorbachev: Threat from ET's would unite Earth

STAR, Lincoln, NE - Dec. 5, 1985 CR: R. Boeche

FALLSTON, Md. (AP) — President Reagan revealed Wednesday that his discussions with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev touched not only on "Star Wars," but the extraterrestrial.

In an address to students at Falmouth High School here, Reagan departed from his prepared remarks to say that in his private discussions with Gorbachev at last month's Geneva summit, he noted that "we're all God's children."

"I couldn't help but say to him, just think how easy his task and mine might be in these meetings that we held it suddenly if there was a threat to this world from some other species from another planet outside in the universe," Reagan

said.

The president went on to say that such an event would force himself and Gorbachev to "forget all the little local differences that we have between our countries" and they would find out "that we really are all human beings here on this Earth together."

"Well, I don't suppose we can wait for some alien race to come down and threaten us," Reagan added. "But I think that between us we can bring about that realization."

The president then ended his remarks, without giving his young audience a clue as to how Gorbachev responded.

Flying saucers broken?... Sky stays empty for UFO spotter

By STEVE KINNEY
Courier staff writer

MOUNT VERNON, Ind. — The beige telephone with the red receiver in Francis Ridge's basement remains silent, just like the siren that's supposed to warn him of unidentified flying objects.

For unexplained reasons, business is slow for Francis L. Ridge, UFO investigator. During 1985, not a soul has dialed 838-3120 to reach his UFO hot line.

Nor have any flying saucers altered the electromagnetic field above Ridge's home on the fringe of town, triggering the MADAR detection system he designed himself. As a local representative of MUFON (the international Mutual UFO Network), Ridge knows that when it comes to extraterrestrial visits, it's feast or famine.

"There's a possibility that they get disgusted and leave," Ridge said of those mysterious UFO pilots. "Kind of like the Marines in Lebanon." The 42-year-old oil company employee makes few such attempts at humor. He's dead serious about UFOs.

"We're not kooks," he said. "If the town drunk calls us we're not interested in it. There are sightings occurring all the time, but they're just not reporting them. We need reports. We need people to call."

Ridge said the drop-off of UFO reports locally is part of a worldwide trend. That's one of the reasons why MUFON is sponsoring the first-ever National UFO Information Week Aug. 18-25. Joining MUFON in the observance are the Center for UFO Studies and the Fund for UFO Research.

Ridge, who covers Posey, Vanderburgh and Gibson counties for MUFON, is providing information packets for interested skywatchers who write him at 618 Davis Dr., Mount Vernon. He's also looking for UFO spotters, especially in Gibson County.

Ridge became a member of the National Investigation Committee on Aerial Phenomena while a Vincennes high school student in 1960. Ever since his work with a department store brought him to Mount Vernon in 1973, he's been a volunteer for the UFO network.

Since the last two waves of UFO sightings in 1973 and 1977, Ridge has modernized his basement command center. Its centerpiece is the MADAR unit, which stands for multiple anomaly detection and automated recording. The basic machine is a magnet variometer that measures "electromagnetic events" within a five-mile radius of his house and records them on computer tape.

Ridge isn't quite sure why the equipment works. But he said pilots often report that their gyrocompasses go berserk when a UFO passes near, and regular compasses are also affected when unexplained phenomena enter the electromagnetic field.

Since he first installed MADAR in 1970, Ridge said 19 electromagnetic events have been recorded. The high was seven in 1977. In 1985 — none. Sometimes lightning will touch off the equipment, but Ridge made it clear that some UFOs may not affect electromagnetic fields.

Usually the MADAR goes off "in the wee hours," Ridge explained, so he attached a siren to the equipment loud enough to roust him from his bed upstairs. A police scanner plugged into the system will capture any emergency radio transmissions about UFO sightings, and another device will automatically register the precise time of day when the "event" occurred.

"When I hear the siren, I'll go downstairs and punch a tape into the computer," Ridge said. "Then I'll go outside — usually up on the roof — with a portable phone. I'll call the control tower at Dress Regional to see if they've seen anything. I notify my people and they go to spotter posts."

Two people from Mount Vernon and two from Evansville serve as volunteer UFO spotters. Although Ridge has never personally sighted a UFO from his rooftop after a MADAR warning, he said sightings often come in to his hot line a few days after.

"There's a possibility that they get disgusted and leave. Kind of like the Marines in Lebanon."

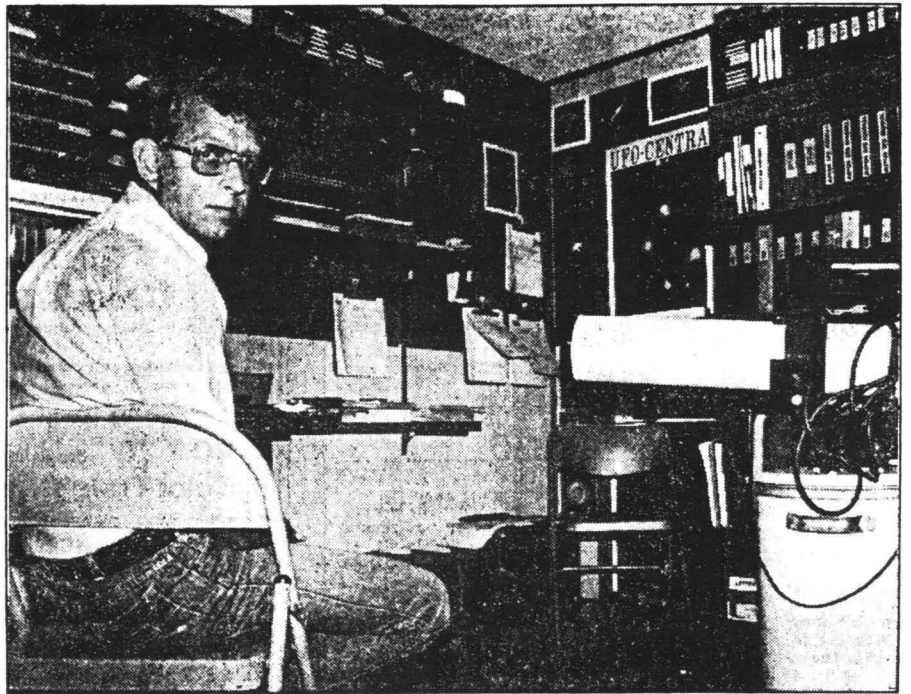
— Francis Ridge

Of the 26 "incidents" reported to him in 1984, he said 11 turned out to be UFO-related, "which is a damn good percentage, really." The other 15 false alarms included Soviet or U.S. spacecraft re-entering the atmosphere, stars, planets, and small rockets launched by amateurs.

Ridge logs every UFO sighting and inputs it into his computer. At the touch of a button, he can call up every Tri-State UFO event since 1947. His last entry is dated Nov. 30, 1984. At 9:15 p.m., two witnesses saw a nocturnal light that looked like an aircraft going down. Explanation: meteor.

Seven days before, witnesses near Monroe City, Ind., reported seeing an unexplained black triangle about 10:30 at night. That was the kind of UFO that makes Francis Ridge's late-night siren worth it.

"The people that report to us, they just want to find out what they saw," he said. "Non-believers don't bother me. Because there's so much data available. We've got so much you still couldn't prove it if they don't want to believe."



Courier photo by Steve Kinney

Francis Ridge watches — and waits — but the UFO business is slow these days.

NEWS-TIMES, Danbury, CT - Oct. 18, 1985 CR: R. Collins

Sane, sober and seeing lights in sky

How many nights have I sat in the newsroom and answered phone calls from self-professed "sane" people who claimed to have seen lights in the sky?

"You shoulda seen it. This was no plane," they'd say. "I swear, I'm not crazy or drunk ... I've never seen anything like it."

And I'd say, "Don't worry. You're not alone. People are calling in from all over the place. Now, tell me, what did it look like?"

Then I'd hang up and chuckle just a little.

Well, last night I saw a UFO too.

And I wasn't alone, either. At least 15 people — from Danbury, Bethel, New Fairfield — called The New-Times from about 9 p.m. on, the editors say. I wasn't here answering calls this time. I was out on a field at the Bethel Educational complex covering a bocce ball tournament.

Play stopped for about 10 minutes when about 30 of the men bolted to the far side of the courts to watch the lights. They knew there was a reporter there.

"Hey, Lisa," called bocce player and Police Chief John P. Basile. "You wanna real story? Come here and look at the UFO."

Skeptical from the start, I walked to where the crowd was.

It was close. At first I thought it was one of those advertising blimps with moving red neon words. Just too far away to make out.

Then the spinning of the lights changed direction. Then they changed to white. For about 10 minutes, we watched it move quietly and slowly from left to right. Then it hovered for a long time in one spot.



Lisa Sforza
Staff writer

Some of the bocce players were making jokes about it. "This is the strangest thing I've ever seen in my life," one said.

The Chief called headquarters to see what was going on and he re-

ported that cruisers were tracking it on Governor's Lane in Bethel. First Selectman Cliff Hurgin, also a bocce enthusiast, called his son — who has a high-powered telescope — and asked him to keep an eye on the thing.

The rational among us on the field gave the usual explanations: ultralight planes (too cold, others said), helicopters in formation (too quiet), one plane with many lights (no plane has lights like that), blimps (strange flight pattern).

Soon, after a very brief speed spurt toward us, the object started taking on a "V" shape and the lights turned back to red. Then, the quickest and straightest it ever moved, it headed in one direction out of sight and never came back.

Bocce resumed. As one player put it: "Maybe they saw what was going on down here and left."

REGISTER-STAR, Hudson, NY - Sept. 19, 1985 CR: P. Bartholomew via W. Thompson

Sept. 9 'plane crash' reports linger

WEST GHENT — Area residents are coming forward with more details on what authorities chalked up as an "unfounded report" of an explosion at 10:21 p.m. Sept. 9 in the West Ghent-Stockport area.

Barbara McCagg of County Rte. 22, said she is convinced she saw a plane crash despite reports from area airports that no planes were missing.

A check with police, who sometimes fly helicopters in the area, revealed they had no aircraft there at the time either.

Mrs. McCagg said she was standing at her front door at the time of the incident and saw something that appeared to be on fire tumbling through the sky. When the object appeared to pull into a glide, she recognized what she said were airplane lights.

Mrs. McCagg said she thought a plane might be on landing approach at nearby Columbia County Airport, a common sight at her house. But the lights dipped below the tree line and went out, she said.

A tremendous white flash, like an explosion, followed and rose above the trees to a distinct line — like a pencil line across the sky. Because her television was playing, she heard no explosion, she said.

Mrs. McCagg also thought something may have hit the power lines running through the area, but she experienced no power problems.

Richard Schumaker, district manager of Niagara-Mohawk Power Corp., said no power outages were reported in the area.

Mrs. McCagg said she has been unable to sleep nights wondering whether someone was lying killed or injured in the wooded and swampy area between her home and County Rte. 25. She said the woods would obstruct the view of anyone looking for wreckage from the road, as firefighters did.

"I really believe I saw an airplane crash that night," she said, adding she does not believe pranksters were behind the incident.

She also said an acquaintance, John Knitt of Knitt Rd. in Stockport, heard two "cracks" that night and found a large tree limb had broken off the same time as the incident.

Mr. Knitt said he was awakened by two cracks, which sounded like someone pounding at his door, at about 10:30 p.m. Sept. 9. He later found a maple tree limb, two feet in diameter, had broken from a tree in his yard.

Mr. Knitt said he saw no activity in the area that night and found no debris besides the limb.

Mrs. McCagg and Mr. Knitt said they wondered whether a plane may have been on an illegal drug run, which would explain the lack of any report of a missing plane.

Coxsackie police started the official check of the incident when they reported what appeared to be an explosion and fire on the east bank of the Hudson River.

A Stuyvesant Falls woman reported the day after the incident seeing a glowing, bulb-like object hanging in the air and spitting sparks.

Gary Levine, professor of social science at Columa-Greene Community College, has spent time checking on reports of this and other similar sightings.

He said a similar sighting was reported in Greenville in February.

The best way to record such an event is to photograph it, he said.

"Unless someone gets a picture, there's nothing to go on," he said (jak,cc)

Central Ohio shares a border with the outer limits

By Bob Batz
Staff Feature Writer

LONDON, Ohio — Quite a few people around here are telling strange stories these days.

Like The Rev. Leroy Birt, who says he has investigated 100 reports made by people who claim they have seen creatures that resembled huge and hairy apes cavorting about near Woodstock, Ohio.

And Peggy Tussing who recalls the afternoon she spotted two brightly lit disc-shaped aircraft in the sky above the McDonald's restaurant in London. Tussing says she grabbed her binoculars out of the back seat of the car just in time to see one of them tilt, revealing what appeared to be a dome on top.

Then there's raspy-voiced Betty Powell, who tells about how she fed dog food and deer meat to a trio of red-eyed Bigfoot-type creatures that lived in the woods behind her home near West Jefferson for more than 18 months.

Bizarre stories are nothing new among the sprawling corn and soybean fields of central Ohio, according to Larry Tillman.

Tillman, one of the founders of Phenomena Research Organization (PRO), which was established three months ago to investigate reports of unidentified flying objects, Bigfoot creatures and other offbeat goings-on the area, says, "there have been some strange things happening out here in the last few years."

Tillman says many of those who have seen unusual things in the sky and elsewhere are contacting PRO instead of their local law enforcement officials.

A check of area police agencies bears this out.

When asked if the Madison County Sheriff's Department at London is called upon to investigate many reports of unidentified flying objects, Lt. Chuck Reed chuckled and said, "I've read newspaper stories about UFO sightings around here, but I don't think we get a lot of those reports here."

After talking with dispatchers, Reed said one dispatcher who works the 4 p.m. to midnight shift recalled one such report in the past year while a second dispatcher, who works the midnight to 8 a.m. shift, said he has received two reports of UFOs in the last 12 months.

"Of course we'll check out any report we get, but the truth is, we don't get that many," Reed said, adding: "I think many of the people who say they've seen odd things are reporting their sightings to members of the local organization which investigates those things."

Shane Manning, a dispatcher for the Ohio State Highway Patrol at West Jefferson said, "Yes, now and then we'll get a report from someone who says he's seen something unusual, but

not that many." A spokesman for the London Police Department said basically the same thing.

Birt, pastor of the 126-member Jenkins' Chapel, a non-denominational church near the crossroads hamlet of Woodstock in Champaign County, says many of the people who claim they have seen strange things are calling him instead of the police.

"I've investigated 100 such reports in the last five years, including two in the past three weeks," the 58-year-old Birt says. "I've only seen one Bigfoot myself, but I've got photographs and plaster casts of several Bigfoot footprints. I also have recorded the yell of a Bigfoot on tape."

Most of these reports have come from people who live in the Woodstock area, he says.

"When I get a report, I investigate it right away. I go to the spot where they say they saw a creature and then I check out the scene, to see if there is any evidence that something was there. I think that's why people call me instead of the police. The police tend to think of this as . . . ah . . . rather preposterous so they really don't do a thorough job of checking out these reports."

Birt recalled a man and wife from Columbus who told him they spotted five Bigfoot-like creatures in a field not far from Woodstock. "They said it appeared to be a family because the creatures varied in size. They said one of them, presumably the mother, was carrying what appeared to be a baby Bigfoot."

Tussing, who claims she has observed strange flying objects in the skies over London on several different occasions since the 1980 incident outside the McDonald's restaurant, says she gets two or three calls a month from others who claim they have seen something unusual.

Tussing, who also says she once observed from a distance a creature "that might have been a Bigfoot," is secretary of PRO.

"You can't ignore these reports or dismiss the people who are making them as crackpots because there have been too many sightings in the last five years," says Tussing.

PRO had two public meetings in August. The first attracted 73 people; the second, more than 100. And according to Tillman, an executive coordinator of the organization, the people didn't just sit on their hands during these sessions.

"It seems like most of them had stories to tell," Tillman recalls.

Some of the most captivating stories being passed around are coming from Betty Powell, 48, who lives near West Jefferson, about 50 miles east of Dayton.

Powell says she watched one "UFO" land in a creek near her home and she also claims huge, ape-like creatures frequently take up residence in a wooded area near her place.

Powell, who says she doesn't talk much about the strange things she has seen because, "if I did, my friends and neighbors might think I'm a little nuts or something," insists her imagination hasn't been playing tricks on her.

"I realize it sounds weird but I know what I saw," she says.

Sitting on her screened-in back porch, her pet parrot, Billy Boy, at her side, the 48-year-old Powell dug deep into a dilapidated cardboard box and brought out snapshots and other paraphernalia which she maintains proves beyond a shadow of a doubt the existence of Bigfoot.

"These are the berries Bigfoot eats," she explains, holding up a plastic bag.

"And right here is a piece of tree bark a Bigfoot chewed to a pulp," she says, producing another bag.

Powell said the berries, bark and other items were gathered the previous weekend when she and four other members of PRO camped overnight on a hill near Lewisville after a farmer there reported seeing four large, hair-covered creatures on his property.

Then, on the night of July 17, 1981, Powell and her son, Grover, then 24, were sitting on the porch talking when they spotted bright lights above a stand of trees about 100 yards from the house.

"We saw right away that it was some kind of saucer-shaped aircraft. It was silver and all around it there were these real bright lights. The lights were about three feet apart and resembled automobile headlights, except they were much brighter than any headlights you've ever seen."

Powell says the craft appeared to land in Big Darby Creek, which cuts a meandering swath through the woods behind her house.

"It didn't make a sound as it settled down behind the trees. After about five minutes, all of the lights on the craft went out. Me and Grover, we were afraid to walk down there and look at it so we sat there on the porch all night, but we never did hear it leave. The next morning, when we went down to the creek, it was gone and the only evidence that it had been there were black marks on some rocks, like maybe they'd been burned or something."

After the aircraft incident, Powell says she didn't see any evidence of Bigfoot in the woods for several days.

"Funny thing about Bigfoot," she said. "When they are around, you have no night sounds. Crickets don't chirp. Frogs don't croak. The good old



Betty Powell says she fed Bigfoot-like creatures

country night sounds are gone. The woods are completely silent. It's sort of like you're living in a vacuum. But, after the craft was here, there were night sounds again."

Powell believes there is a link between the UFO and Bigfoot sightings in this area.

"Bigfoot seems to come and go. Even though we're very close to I-70 and not very far from two big cities — Columbus and Dayton — the woods out back are a paradise for wildlife. Maybe this is some kind of R&R area for the Bigfoot. Maybe the UFOs drop them off here, they stay awhile, then they move on."

Both Powell and Tussing think the abundance of power lines in the London area may have something to do with the alleged UFO activity.

"It could be that the UFOs come here to rejuvenate their power sources or something," Tussing says.

Birt thinks the Bigfoot creatures frequent the area because there is plenty of food there for them to eat.

"Many of the sightings have been in wooded areas where there is plenty of wild blackberries and apples," he says, adding: "The Bigfoot likes to eat these things and, take my word for it, a few of those creatures can really clean out a woods."

"Whatever they are," Powell adds, "they are not of this earth."

Tillman, a highway maintenance employee for the Ohio Department of Transportation, agrees.

"Yes, I think there are extra-terrestrial beings visiting our planet," he says. However, Tillman figures only about 2 percent of all the reported sightings in this area actually involve bona fide UFOs.

"It's possible some people are seeing meteors or picking up the lights of planes using Port Columbus Airport. Members of PRO try to investigate every reported sighting. But, no matter how hard we try, some just can't be explained."

An artist and UFO detective

Budd Hopkins pursuing mankind's 'biggest story'

By MARNIE SAMUELSON
STAFF WRITER

WELLFLEET — For most people, UFOs are the stuff of childhood nightmares, Hollywood films and hallucinations. But 10 years of investigation has convinced one of the Cape-tips most prominent artists that UFOs not only visit this planet frequently, but that they are here, in part, to conscript human subjects for some gigantic, unexplained research experiment.

Budd Hopkins, a longtime seasonal resident of Wellfleet, is an artist of international reputation. He is a collageist, sculptor and printmaker, whose work is represented in major collections, among them the Guggenheim Museum, Whitney Museum of Art and the Hirshhorn Museum. At 54, he has under his belt at least 50 solo exhibitions.

Twenty one years after spotting what he believes was a UFO floating in the clouds outside of Provincetown, this self-described "rational, peace-loving artist" has also become one of a group of lay investigators working outside of traditional science to track what he insists may be humankind's "biggest story."

Working mostly in the evenings and on a shoe-string budget, Hopkins has interviewed hundreds of people who believe they may have been abducted by UFOs. He has pursued more than 90 subjects in depth, and used seven case histories as the focus of a first book, published in 1981.

Included in that book, entitled "Missing Time," is an author's note in which Hopkins asked people to contact him if they believed they might be abductees.

Two years ago, a woman named Debbie Davis (her name has been changed for confidentiality reasons), did just that. As her story and her family's stories unfolded, Hopkins found himself launched in a new direction, which now is the subject of a second book.

Debbie, a 26-year-old beautician and divorced mother of two living in a suburb of Indianapolis, has been abducted on at least six occasions, Hopkins says. Debbie's sister has been abducted, along with one of her sister's sons, and "almost everyone in the family has had something strange happen," he says.

About this pattern of family and related abductions, Hopkins remarks, "I don't know why some people are so honored. It is as if their (the UFO occupants') interest in some people is intense and ongoing." The most convincing explanation, he says, is that these strange creatures are using families like the Davises as part of a huge genetic experiment.

Interviewed recently in Wellfleet, Hopkins was soft-spoken. He laughed easily, and his voice carried the lilt of his West Virginia roots. But as he talked, the pressing of his bare foot against the sofa was testimony that this is a quest that has shaken his deepest assumptions.

"It sounds unbelievable," he said, "but it is going on."

For Hopkins, the pursuit of the Davis family abductions has been much more than an academic exercise. Since first talking with Debbie, he has flown to Indiana on three occasions and spent blocks of time with her in New York. He has been there when a professional hypnotist worked with her, and he has directed

hypnosis sessions himself. He has taken soil samples from the Davises' backyard, where he believes a UFO landed, and had the results analyzed by two different labs. And he has concluded that what happened to Debbie that early summer evening was "definitely an abduction experience."

Flash back to that evening in June 1983, as Hopkins describes it. Here, says Hopkins, is part of what happened:

At about 9:30 p.m., Hopkins begins, Debbie's mother is looking out the kitchen window, when she is surprised by a strange globe of light by the bird feeder. Alarmed, she picks up the phone and calls Debbie, who comes home from a girlfriend's and goes outside to investigate.

"Outside, Debbie goes to the garage. Something touches her arm. She looks at the garage door and sees the side of this thing — with a leg sticking out. She can not move." Standing near the garage, she feels "something inserted in her ear that hurts." She is being scanned with "a ball of light, bigger than a basketball," that seems to be moving up and down in front of her. She sees silhouettes. "She is being talked to and touched and told she will not be hurt, as if a person is there."

Debbie thought she was outside for about 10 minutes, Hopkins says, but when she came in, it was close to 11 p.m. and about an hour's time seemingly had vanished.

Debbie and other family members told Hopkins that almost immediately, grass in the backyard began to wither around a 10-foot circle. Describing this area where he believes a UFO landed, Hopkins says: "Within about four days, the grass had withered totally and was beginning to crumble and blow away."

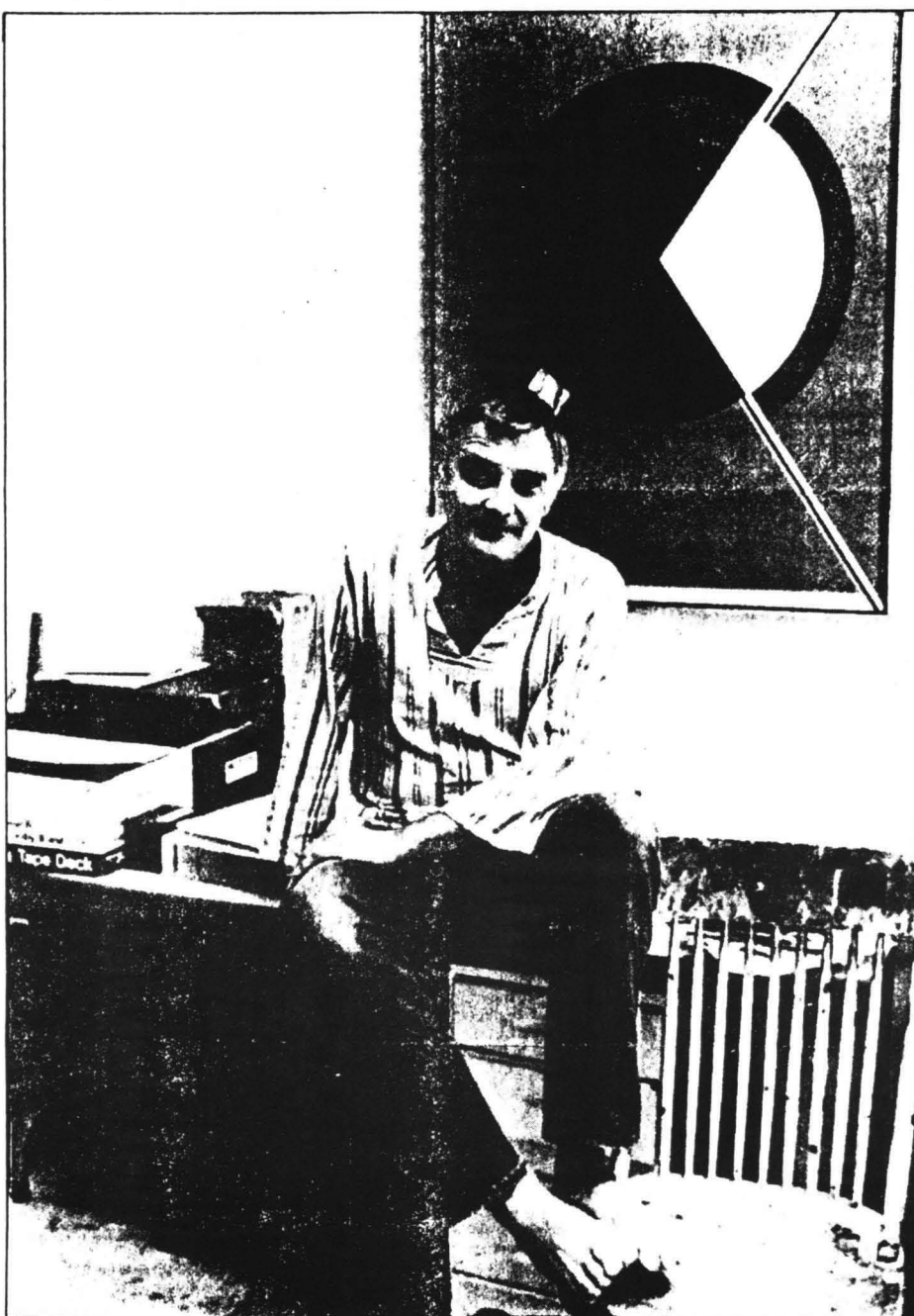
Hopkins makes it perfectly plain that he does not have any answers to the big questions raised by the UFO phenomenon. He does not know where the UFO occupants, as he calls them, may have come from, or what they might be after. He cites a number of reasons —, such as the way the UFO occupants seem to control their human subjects, their apparent ability to communicate telepathically with abductees — for believing that the UFO occupants are technologically superior to earthlings. Their science, he contends, seems to encompass knowledge as we know it, and more.

"Whatever they are doing," he suggests, "is very, very large, indeed, and many-faceted." In their earth expeditions, he hypothesizes, "they are probably doing 6,000 things, 5,000 of which we can not understand."

Hopkins concedes that on the subject of UFO abductions, there is a scarcity of evidence that would be convincing to the scientific community.

For now, he says, investigations are the province of lay detectives like himself, engaged in sifting through the experiences and tales of hundreds of people, zeroing in on descriptions and patterns that finally, Hopkins says, "are hard to shake" and in themselves "carry the weight of the evidence."

Take for instance the eerie resemblance between two images of UFO creatures drawn independently by two of Hopkins' abductees. Both pictures were drawn before Hollywood released the movie "Close En-



Budd Hopkins, an artist whose work has been shown at prestigious art museums, is also an investigator of UFO reports. His interest in UFOs was sparked by a personal experience in Provincetown 21 years ago.

counters of the Third Kind." And both pictures were drawn by people who had never met each other, according to Hopkins. Each drew a nearly identical creature that also matches other abductees' descriptions of UFO creatures: a small figure, perhaps four or five feet tall, with black egg-shaped eyes, a cranium larger than a human's, a slit of a mouth, no ears, a diminutive neck and body.

So how does a UFO detective get to the bottom of his case?

The first step, he says, is to rely on common sense to screen out anyone who is obviously crazy or in a borderline unstable condition. Further, he routinely works with a battery of psychologists and psychiatrists to test possible abductees.

When dealing with physical effects, he has insisted, for example, that an individual with a strange scar or other unexplained physical symptom seek a doctor's opinion. And he is in the process of arranging for three people, including Debbie, to undergo CAT scans, on the remote chance that a high-powered X-ray could pick up evidence that they might be carrying some kind of monitor or device implanted during a UFO encounter.

"It would mean a great deal to me, if we got scientific validation," Hopkins says.

Central to unraveling most abduction encounters is intensive hypnosis sessions, performed either by a professional hypnotist or by Hopkins. Writes a hypnotist, Dr. Aphrodite Clamar, who has worked with Hopkins: "If there is anything that links (Hopkins' subjects) to one another, it is that all of them are deeply perplexed and troubled by their experience. Most often they are troubled by the time lapse or amnesia they have experienced ... They feel

something "strange" or "weird" has occurred, but until they go under hypnosis, their memory fails them."

Once a picture of an abduction experience begins to emerge, Hopkins puts on his Sam Spade detective hat and searches for witnesses to support or reject someone's abduction story. In the Davis episode, it was the neighbors who Hopkins says provided "an important piece of corroborating evidence."

Under hypnosis, a couple living nearby recalled that on that June evening about 10:45 p.m. there was a flash of light outside their house, Hopkins says. Inside, at about the time Hopkins and Debbie believe the UFO would have been leaving, the neighbors remember the lights "started flickering madly" and the television screen they were watching turned bright red. When they tried to call police, they remember being unable to move.

"In a very strange way," says Hopkins, the whole investigative process "is an earth-anchored business. It is trying to bring the mystery down to something quite tangible and to get some answers. Referring to the Davis case, he says, the detective work is about "trying to find out exactly who was where at 9:15 p.m."

Budd Hopkins was born in the mountains of Wheeling, W.Va., and went to Oberlin College in Ohio. He recalls arriving in New York City in 1953, "all fired up about Abstract Expressionism," and he remembers being closest to artists Franz Kline and Mark Rothko. He names Matisse and Mondrian as other strong influences.

Today, Hopkins is the husband of writer April Kingsley and the father

of an 11-year-old daughter. He spends summers in Wellfleet and winters in New York.

He describes himself as an intuitive artist, a modernist used to 20th-century fragmentation, and he works in a variety of media. In his paintings, he gravitates to crisp lines, obsessive central images and pure, bold colors.

Often he chooses precise methods, but it is an abiding sense of mystery that is at the heart of much of his recent work — such as a three-dimensional construction of a temple exhibited in Provincetown last summer.

Asked about possible links between his art and UFO investigations, Hopkins seems at first uncomfortable, happier seeing the two worlds as pieces of a life that could be described as something of a collage. But he acknowledges there may be a connection.

Before he became involved with UFOs, he says, he used to believe the world was knowable and familiar on some fundamental level.

Since acknowledging the very real possibility of UFO encounters such as those experienced by the Davises, that feeling has changed. About his art, he says, "I am now very self-consciously, deliberately, dealing with the idea that there is mystery around us. I like to point out the existence of certain unknown territories and (suggest) the world is not as comfortably closed as (one might) think."

Mysterious lights made him a UFO believer

I've seen UFOs. There. I've admitted it. In print. I pondered for a long time whether to admit this because most people I've met have never seen one — let alone more than one — and they think anyone who says they have must be a little dotty at best or a raving lunatic at worst.

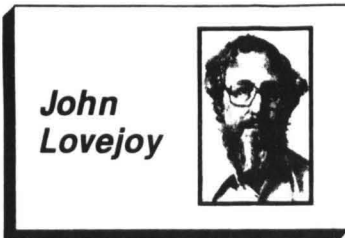
Most of the times when I've seen something strange in the sky, others have seen it with me. Sometimes they agree that the thing or things are truly unidentifiable, but other times they'll either try to explain away the phenomenon in ways that don't make sense, or deny later that they ever saw it.

The first time I ever saw something amazing in the sky, I must have been around 7 years old.

Now, a kid of 7 is not going to be believed when he says he's seen "flying saucers," the term coined by businessman-pilot Kenneth Arnold in 1948, but I know what I saw.

I was out in the backyard all by myself when I heard a Piper Cub overhead. Being an airplane buff, I looked up. The plane was just going behind some pine trees.

But directly over the yard in the sky were dozens of gold, saucer-shaped objects, blinking or shimmering in state-



John Lovejoy

ly unison as they moved slowly in a solid triangle formation.

They were heading due north and making no sound whatsoever. (I knew what due north was because I owned a compass).

I watched them for about 15 or 20 seconds until they went behind the pines, then I dashed inside to get my parents.

Of course, when my mom and dad came out, there was nothing to substantiate what I saw.

The next time I saw anything weird in the sky was when I was about 11 or maybe 12. My sister and I were asleep when we heard our parents' voices outside. We got up and went out, too, to see what was going on.

The night sky was filled with orange

objects darting about, and sometimes coming to a sudden and complete standstill. They often made right-angle turns.

They, too, made no noise. They were too high for us to make out their shape. They looked like dots.

We watched them for at least a half hour before giving up and going back to bed. I don't know why my parents were outside in the first place. My mother said years later that she remembered nothing of that night.

Both my parents are dead now, but my sister, Jennifer Kelly, still remembers.

The next time I saw an unexplained thing in the sky was when I was about 13 years old and camping with the Boy Scouts at Camp Pico Blanco near Big Sur. Lying outside one night, I saw two blue things that looked much like stars go across the sky, side by side. This was before Russia or anyone else had launched satellites.

Then, when I was 17 or 18, a kid named Joey Timar and I were walking out of the music room at Pacific Grove High School when we saw the Astronomy Club members looking through a telescope. They were trying to spot Venus, which was supposed to be bright enough to see in the daytime.

We looked in the general direction their telescope was pointing, only to see something that looked like two sugar cubes stuck together, spinning as they traveled at a high rate of speed.

As we watched in amazement, the cubes separated and spun off in opposite directions.

"What was that? Sky cells?" I asked my companion.

"I don't want to talk about it!" said Timar. And he never did. The astronomy members missed it altogether.

The next time I saw a UFO I must have been about 24 or 25 years old. I was riding in a Greyhound bus from my home to Hamilton Air Force Base. The bus was just pulling in at the San Jose depot on its way to San Francisco when I thought I saw something in the sky out of the corner of my eye.

I looked up and saw nothing. And then, along came this huge, green fireball, with little pieces breaking off as it passed slowly through the dusky sky and disappeared behind the roof of the depot.

The guy sitting next to me, a perfect stranger, saw it too. "What in the hell is that?" he said.

The next day, the a local paper carried a tiny squib saying that police switchboards had been swamped by

callers who had seen something strange in the sky.

The explanation was that Venus had been unusually bright that day.

The next time I saw something weird I was on my honeymoon. I was 27 years old. My wife, Diane, and I were on a little island off the tip of the Yucatan Peninsula, a place called Isla Mujeres.

The hotel in which we were staying had a stairway to the flat roof. It was a relatively clear night with just a few clouds, and I asked Diane jokingly if she wanted to go to the roof to look at UFOs.

We'd only been lying on the roof for about five minutes when an orange thing zigzagged crazily across the sky. It looked like the orange dots my family and I had seen so long ago. Two more weaved across the sky during the next five to 10 minutes. It was impossible to say how high they were, but they passed behind the scattered thunderheads that were overhead that warm night.

My wife, who up to that time had scoffed at all my UFO stories, became a believer.

Later, natives we talked to said they

often saw strange things in the sky and that they believed they were from other worlds.

And the last time I saw something was about seven years ago at Lake Alpine in the Sierra Madre.

My wife, our son, James, who was then 2, and I were having a little picnic on a hill in the forest away from the lake when I saw what looked like a white meteor streak across the sky in the bright sunlight.

I couldn't believe a meteor would be visible in the middle of the day, so I kept looking in the sky, hoping that whatever it was would return.

After about 40 minutes, it did. A white or silver disk — or ball — that looked from our vantage point to be about the size of a dime came back from the direction I had seen the earlier object go, only this time it seemed to be moving at about the same speed as a jet. I pointed it out to my wife and son, who both watched with me.

Then, unbelievably, it came to a sudden halt and stood completely still in the sky.

It stayed there for about 20 to 30 seconds, then slowly started moving off behind the trees.

My wife remembers it, but James doesn't.

And that's it. No little green men. No messages of love from outer space. No tall, blond visitors from other galaxies or envoys from parallel universes. Just good, old-fashioned UFOs.

Mystery surrounds lights in the sky

By Michael Hanchard
Staff Writer

In Scarsdale, residents lined up at the train station and craned their necks skyward.

Folks in Yonkers called their neighbors, their newspaper, their police department.

On the Saw Mill River Parkway, motorists pulled off the road for a better view.

All the attention was paid Thursday night to a strange group of lights in the sky — lights that Westchester County police said represented a formation of small planes flying in formation.

Many dazed spectators, however, preferred to use another phrase — UFO.

The sightings, made shortly after 9 p.m. from Yonkers to Putnam County, were described most often as slow-moving red and white lights shaped like a triangle.

That description matched those attached to similar area sightings in the past — some of which were later determined to be planes flying in formation.

County police officer Edward Quinn said Thursday's lights represented about seven small planes, but New Rochelle police officer Ann Marie Finney swore it was just one large blimp that later landed at Davenport Park there.

In West Harrison, Marie Shofit was driving with her husband and son when they noticed

several lights in a v-shaped pattern headed southwest toward White Plains. She recalled having "a strange kind of feeling" because the formation appeared motionless.

Dorothy Wyka of Yonkers had the same feeling.

"It was strange and eerie," she said. "If it was a plane, I never knew a plane could move so slow."

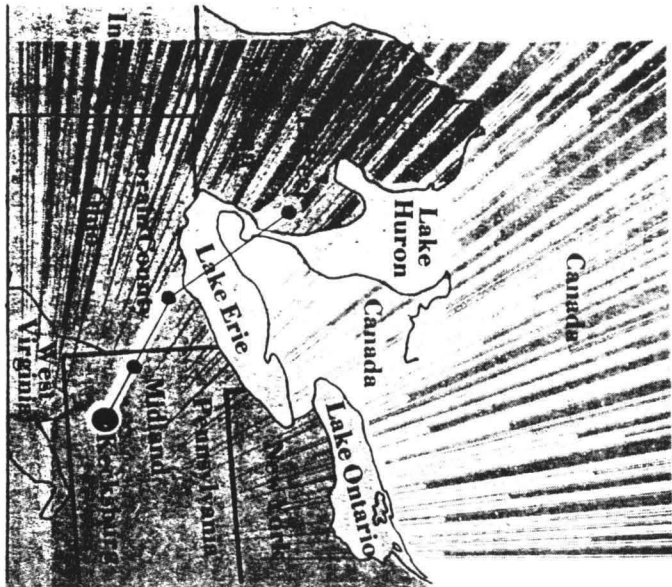
Yonkers police reported receiving more than 100 calls about the lights, and police departments in New Rochelle, White Plains and Putnam County also received calls. Sightings were reported virtually throughout the Westchester-Putnam area.

A spokesman at Westchester County Airport said he had no information about any special flight formations.

A number of sightings last year were traced to Stormville Airport in Dutchess County, where four pilots regularly look off and flew in a pattern over Westchester County. Stormville is located about 45 miles north of White Plains.

Officials at Westchester County Airport said they had no knowledge of the flights because when the airport control office closes at night, pilots come and go as they please, using remote control to turn on the landing strip lights.

Staff writer Phil Waga contributed to this report.



1965 INCIDENT

Keeksburg's UFO Mystery Unsolved

By DAVE LESTER
Of The Tribune-Review

It was shortly before sundown Dec. 9, 1965 that a fiery bright orange object streaked across the sky over Michigan, the tip of Ontario and western Lake Erie. Described by one observer near the lake as a fireball, the brilliant object continued across the northeastern corner of Ohio (Lorain County) and western Pennsylvania and was seen in at least six states and Canada before it plummeted to earth in Westmoreland County.

What landed that evening in a densely wooded area near Keeksburg remains a point of contention. The Air Force maintains it was a meteorite while others insist it was a man-made object — a fallen satellite, a spy plane or a test vehicle. Still others suggest it could have been an alien spacecraft.

(continued on page 7)

Despite reports from eyewitnesses that the military retrieved a large object from the woods, concealed it under a tarpaulin and hauled it away under cover of darkness the Air Force has never confirmed that anything was found.

If searchers did find something they aren't telling. Twenty years later the identity of what the military termed an unidentified flying object remains a mystery shrouded in official secrecy.

Amateur investigators say the search for documents that might offer a clue to what landed near the small rural community has led to puzzling revelations of the disappearance of entire sets of records belonging to a military unit that participated in the search.

What is known is that the object was of great interest to the military and the excitement it generated was not unlike an epic science fiction drama, says Greensburg's Stan Gordon who has spent the intervening years attempting to unravel the mystery of what landed in the woods.

"It was just like *War of the Worlds* happening right in our backyard," says Gordon, who serves as director of the Pennsylvania Center for the Study of the Unexplained, a research group that serves as a clearinghouse for reports of unusual phenomenon.

Curiosity seekers jammed the narrow roads leading to the village as government officials, the military and media converged on the scene. Pittsburgh's Allegheny Observatory was deluged with phone calls from people who reported seeing the object hurtling across the sky. At various points along the path of the object in Michigan and Pennsylvania came reports that metallic material fell from the sky.

Seen By Thousands

The Elyria (Ohio) *Chronicle* reported that thousands of observers saw chunks slam into the earth from Lake Erie to Eaton Township, a municipality about 15 miles south of the shoreline. One Elyria fireman blamed falling fragments for starting 10 small grass fires in a 1,000-foot area along the east bank of the Black River. In Lorain, a group of children playing near a school reported another chunk dropped into the school yard. The newspaper reported, however, that nowhere in the county or state were fragments found.

In Michigan, 40 miles north of Detroit, a deputy sheriff reported finding a scrap of shredded leaded foil which may have come from the fireball. Similar fragments were recovered in Midland, Beaver County.

Gordon, who has interviewed civilians who were close to the scene, says it appears the military established a direct line with NORAD, then known as the North American Air Defense Command. Records indicate that among the agencies requesting information was NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, which in the days prior to lunar landings was studying meteors.

Among government and military units summoned to Kecksburg were members of the 662nd Radar Squadron, a unit located at a U.S. Army support facility in Oakdale, and members of Project Blue Book, a special unit which operated out of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base at Dayton, Ohio for the purpose of investigating UFOs.

The search was concentrated in the area of a steep ravine on a farm about 1 1/4 miles north of the village. Search teams included state police troopers from Greensburg and volunteer firemen from Kecksburg. Observers also reported seeing large lead-lined containers apparently brought in by the military. Geiger counters were in use and one reporter mentioned that the consistent explanation offered for the tight security was the possible danger of radioactive contamination.

Shortly before the search was reported to have broken off about 2 a.m., several persons reported seeing a bright, blue light in the woods about 150 feet from where they were standing on a hillside. The light suddenly disappeared.

Gordon questions whether the search ended with nothing found.

Robert L. Bitner, who was then chief of Kecksburg's fire department, recalls seeing a heavy military truck leave the scene but he said a tarp covered the back, concealing what cargo, if any, it carried. "It was covered completely," says Bitner. "You couldn't tell if there was anything inside."

Bitner estimates the truck departed the scene about 10 or 10:30 p.m. Other military or government personnel remained on the scene, keeping the ravine off limits.

The first indication the military may have retrieved an object appears in a declassified Air Force memo that states a call was made to the Oakdale radar unit.

"A three-man team has been dispatched to Acme, Pa. to investigate and pick up an object that started a fire," the memo reads.

As near as Gordon can tell there was no fire although one observer reported seeing a trail of blue smoke in the area.

Others reported feeling a vibration and hearing a sonic boom but firemen reported no fire in the vicinity at the time.

The Air Force's official explanation that the object was a meteor was supported by Dr. Paul Anneer, then director of the Baldwin-Wallace (College) Observatory in Ohio who theorized that it was actually a shower of meteors which were expected five days later.

Dr. Nicholas Wagman of the Allegheny Observatory in Pittsburgh said it could have been a meteor from the constellation Gemini.

But several UFO researchers discount such explanations.

One investigator went so far as to attempt to calculate the speed of the object to demonstrate that it could not have been a meteor.

In an article published a year after the incident, the late Ivan Sanderson demonstrated that the aerial object made an abrupt turn, a change in course not possible for a meteor or bolide.

Relying on sightings by commercial and private pilots and observers along the path of the object, Sanderson pinpointed the direction of travel on a map, demonstrating that the object or objects traveled in a straight line from east of Flint, Mich. over Lake St. Clair to Oberlin and Elyria near Cleveland in a southeast-by-southerly direction before making a 25-degree turn to the east. From that point, Sanderson writes, the line of travel was straight through Midland to Kecksburg.

Based on the exact times the object was observed at points along its path, Sanderson was able to calculate the speed of the so-called meteor at 1,062.5 miles per hour, fast for any man-made object but comparatively slow for a meteor, the minimum speed of which has been clocked at 27,000 miles per hour.

Gordon doubts that in 1965 the U.S. possessed a spacecraft or nose cone with the capability of executing a 25-degree turn in flight.

Like Sanderson, Gordon and Leonard H. Stringfield, a UFO investigator who lives in Cincinnati, doubt the Pentagon's explanation of a meteor because of the secrecy displayed by the military and other government agencies in the mysterious fireball.

"What is so secret about a meteorite? It has not been the responsibility of the military to pick up meteorites," says Stringfield.

The researcher says he is certain the military retrieved an object and suggests it could have been a U.S. military device, an instrument of some sort falling from an aerial object.

Gordon is of the same opinion. "I've always felt this was a manmade device from a country unknown that went out of control," he says.

One group, Citizens Against UFO Secrecy, which has used FOI requests to obtain thousands of declassified documents, has come to realize that the government treats UFO sightings very seriously.

According to Ray Boeche, a member of the CAUS advisory board, the Air Force has insisted that UFOs have never posed a threat to national security. But when CAUS went to court in 1980 seeking the release of hundreds of UFO-related documents from the National Security Agency, the court dismissed the case on the grounds of national security.

Project Blue Book, the Air Force's 21-year investigation into UFOs was concluded in 1969 but Boeche says the Air Force remains very interested in reports of UFO sightings.

Boeche says rumors of the existence of Air Force units that do nothing but investigate UFOs could be pure speculation but a memo dated Oct. 20, 1969 from Air Force Brig. Gen. Carroll H. Bolender hints that UFOs would continue to be investigated through existing intelligence channels. The memo, according to Boeche, also suggests there were reported UFO cases investigated by outfits other than Project Blue Book.

Air Force Lt. Col. Chuck Wood, director of public affairs at NORAD headquarters in Colorado Springs, Colo. says the Air Force's investigation into UFOs ended with Project Blue Book. Reports of UFO sightings are referred to other agencies, including the Federal Aviation Administration, according to Wood.

But Stringfield insists there is a special unit of the Blue Berets, an Air Force outfit which operates covertly in the U.S., investigating reports of UFO crashes.

"They are involved behind the scenes," says Stringfield. "They have their orders and they know what to do if they encounter a UFO."

Wood says many documents have been declassified and made available under FOI requests but Boeche says the Air Force has come to regret the release of some of those documents because they have given researchers insight into sensitive subjects. "Things have apparently slipped through," says Boeche, who attributes the disclosures to oversight.

Perhaps the most interesting aspect of the Kecksburg case concerns documents Gordon and Boeche have failed to obtain concerning the 662nd Radar Squadron.

The 662nd, which was under NORAD in 1965, was deactivated Dec. 31, 1969. According to Gordon, neither the Army nor Air Force can locate records of the group.

What strikes Gordon as curious is that the group that headed Project Blue Book and the 662nd Squadron were both deactivated during the same month — December 1969.

Is it possible that the radar squadron's real mission was to retrieve UFOs?

"We're wondering what the mystery is concerning a radar unit attached to an Army support facility in Oakdale. They can tell us the date the unit was deactivated but they have no records," says Gordon.

"I find it hard to believe the records just vanished; they have to be somewhere," says Boeche.

Information Sought

The Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained, an all-volunteer, non-profit research group which investigates strange and unusual occurrences, is seeking information concerning the incident at Kecksburg and other UFO sightings.

PASU Director Stan Gordon is particularly interested in contacting anyone who served or has knowledge of the deactivated 662nd Radar Squadron, a unit that was attached to a U.S. Army support facility in Oakdale and was involved in the search of an object believed to have crashed near Kecksburg Dec. 9, 1965.

PASU, which serves as a statewide clearinghouse for reports of UFOs and other strange occurrences, works closely with the Mutual UFO Network of Seguin, Texas, the largest international UFO research organization. Gordon is director of the Pennsylvania MUFON chapter.

"People can report sightings and other occurrences to us confidentially without fear of ridicule or publicity," says Gordon.

All reports are kept confidential. The Pennsylvania UFO hotline is 838-7768. The address is PASU, 6 Oakhill Ave., Greensburg, Pa. 15601.

Lights in the sky

ARIZONA DAILY STAR, Tucson, AZ - Oct. 13, 1985

Imagination takes off when no explanations are offered

Somebody knows.

Somebody — probably many somebodies — knows why those 60 flying machines washed over Tucson in waves in the wee hours of Monday.

But why does no one seem especially curious to find out? The uniform shrug of shoulders from the Air Force, the Federal Aviation Administration — even from Jim and Coral Lorenzen at Aerial Phenomena Research Organization — reads like the opening scenes of a Steven Spielberg script.

Officialdom agrees that there were no reports of U.S. military activity in the area at that hour. The idea that it could have been foreign aircraft is dismissed out of hand.

Foreign aircraft would have been detected somewhere else in the nation before being spotted over Tucson. Surely they would have been picked up by scanners at the North American Air Defense Command, in Colorado Springs, as they headed northeast from Tucson. But not a peep of explanation from NORAD was forthcoming, either.

Evidently it was not a convention of crop dusters out on the town, or the filming of some new cross-country-race movie. If it was, no one was talking.

The fertile fields of Imagination begin to

bloom. Perhaps they weren't aircraft at all, but multiple laser beams bounced off the ionosphere from a new "Star Wars" transmitter that a U.S. space shuttle put in place last week. The nature of the shuttle's mission was, after all, kept under wraps.

Maybe the visitation explains the rash of disasters in the world of late — the earthquake in Mexico, the mudslides in Puerto Rico, the hurricane on the East Coast and the dozens of tragic airplane crashes. Some journal or other will no doubt make such a connection soon.

Maybe it has something to do with the upcoming summit meeting between Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev.

There should be some sort of explanation, even the Air Force's tried-and-true swamp-gas explanation, or that it was a freakish reflection of the northern lights would be better than a casual shrug.

The FAA says that aircraft going over a city at 7,000 feet or so don't have to check in with that city's air-traffic controllers. Davis-Monthan Air Force Base says that military planes that pass more than five miles from a military field don't have to check in either.

But 60 of them? Flying in "waves"?

Somebody knows.

UFO hunters keep their eyes on the sky

By DAVID TORTORANO
United Press International

They're five average folks living relatively obscure lives in northwest Florida, but they all have an unusual avocation they don't discuss much — at least not with outsiders.

They hunt UFOs in their spare time. "I figured that by becoming an investigator I'd find out some answers," says Ralph Dalton, 67, a retired soldier and one of five people in northwest Florida who investigate reports of unidentified flying objects. So far, he's had scant opportunity.

"There hasn't been much going on the last year and a half," says Col. Donald Ware, 49, a former Air Force pilot who trained Dalton and heads the team from his home in Fort Walton Beach. In fact, "ufologists" say overall sightings worldwide declined in 1984 and have been spotty this year.

Despite the paucity of local UFOs, Dalton has his truck packed and ready to go. When there's a sighting, he'll take along a tape measure, camera, magnifying glass and 11 forms to record everything from animal reaction to weather conditions.

UFOs have been around for years. The first were reported in the United States in 1896 as "great airships," then popped up as "foo fighters" in World War II. They gained wide publicity after a 1947 sighting at Mount Rainier, Washington. Alleged abductions, supposed crashes and even rumors that Uncle Sam has alien bodies stored in Ohio hangars have become part of the national psyche.

The Air Force looked into sightings for a while, then publicly dismissed them. The civilian groups that began their own investigative efforts have been called open-minded by some, crackpots by others.

"We don't have a vast radar network, we don't have paid personnel, and we don't have laboratories at our disposal," says Raymond Fowler, chief investigator for the Texas-based Mutual UFO Network — MUFON — which has had its eyes on the stars for 16 years.

There are 300 card-carrying MUFON investigators worldwide, including a

"We don't have a vast radar network, we don't have paid personnel, and we don't have laboratories at our disposal," says Raymond Fowler, chief investigator for the Texas-based Mutual UFO Network — MUFON — which has had its eyes on the stars for 16 years.

police chief from a major northeast city and scientists. The organization says its investigators can explain 90 percent of the 20 to 30 UFO sightings it receives daily from around the world. Only two or three a day end up listed as unexplained.

Fowler of Wenham, Mass., author of several UFO books and the man who developed MUFON's investigative technique, says authorities and witnesses don't always take investigators seriously.

"They take the subject seriously. Sometimes they don't take the investigator seriously," he says. Recognizing that, MUFON's Field Investigator's Manual has tips on how investigators should present themselves for a professional image.

Ware's crew includes Dalton, a homemaker, a corporate pilot and a retiree who worked in electronics. Most of the group declined to discuss their interest, and even Dalton said he doesn't go around telling everyone he hunts UFOs.

"If it comes up, I'd mention it. Other than that, no," he says.

Dalton had eight weeks of training before taking a multiple-choice, open-book test with 100 questions about light and optics, physics, conventional aircraft and what's called "the UFO experience."

Among other things, the test asks for

the name of the president who claimed to have seen a UFO, the name of the pilot whose 1947 UFO sighting prompted the term "flying saucer," and the year an inauguration shared headlines with UFO sightings.

The answers: Jimmy Carter, Kenneth Arnold and 1952.

Dalton says he saw a UFO when he was a child and for years was haunted by a recurring dream of a mysterious "wheel." Seeing the movie *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* made him think the "wheel" might be the underside of an alien craft.

It was after a rash of UFO sightings in the Southeast in 1973 that Dalton asked himself, "Is anybody doing anything? Is anybody writing anything? I couldn't find an answer. I had a gut feeling there was more. You couldn't write it off. I figured being an investigator I would find out some answers."

Another MUFON member, physicist Willie Smith of Longwood, Fla., has spent the past 18 months compiling a computer listing of "exceptional" UFO sightings.

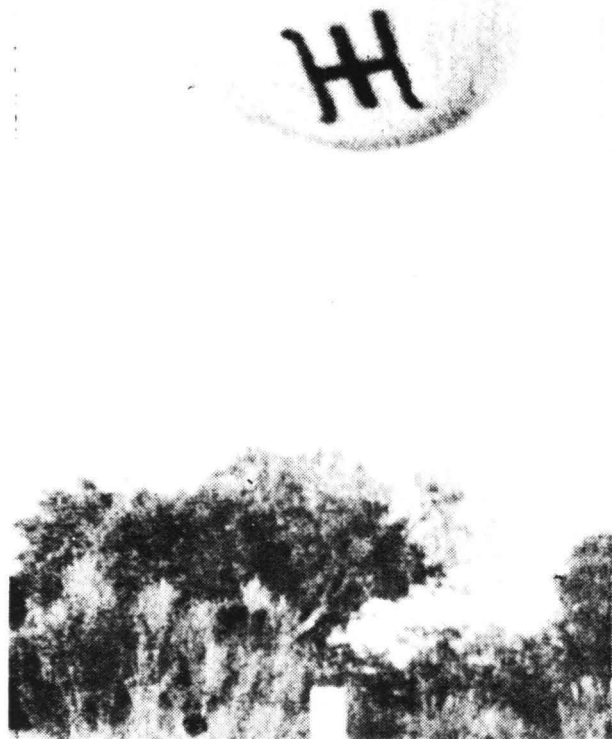
"This has not been done before," he says, explaining that only a fraction of sightings are good enough to get listed on his computer.

"What we have been doing is building a database with no conclusions," he says, while admitting it's a temptation to try to draw some. Smith says he'll refrain from that until there's sufficient data.

Ware thinks it's time MUFON goes on record. The group's charter says it's dedicated to finding out if UFOs are spacecraft controlled by alien intelligence or unknown physical or psychological manifestations.

Ware says published statements by a majority of MUFON board members indicate they would agree that "at least some UFOs are spacecrafts controlled by advanced intelligence." He thinks it's time to find out where they come from and how they got here.

In light of that, Ware has prepared a resolution noting that millions of people have seen UFOs and that some have fired on them. The resolution says "UFO occupants" have shown no hostility and resolves "not to shoot at UFOs no matter how strange they appear or how frightened I may be."



Chronicle File

More than 50 people reported seeing this UFO in Spain in 1967. Later, a man in Florida reported seeing the same object.

AMERICAN, Allen, TX - Oct. 27, 1985 CR: L. Whitehurst



FATHER Tom Cloherty, pastor of St. Jude's Catholic Church, displays part of his UFO library. The local priest has studied the phenoma of UFOs and in-

telligent life on other planets since the age of 10, and often is asked to lecture at schools, colleges and civic organizational meetings on the topics.

Priest studies heavens

By Lori Fairchild
Contributing Writer

Father Tom Cloherty, pastor of St. Jude's Catholic Church, finds it difficult to believe that ours is the only planet God chose to inhabit with intelligent life. He has been pursuing his hunch since he was 10-years-old, when, while researching a science project, he stumbled

upon an article concerning a UFO citing in New Mexico.

Throughout grade school and high school, the young Tom Cloherty watches the newspapers for UFO reports. He recalls that those years, the late 1950s and the 1960s, were termed "flap years."

In high school, Cloherty joined the National Investigative Committee on

Aerial Phenomena, which allowed him access to books and pamphlets written about UFOs.

While some of his classmates challenged his unusual interest, he says many shared it and found it fascinating.

How did an impressionable teenager resist getting car-

ried away with his imagination?

"I've always been very pragmatic, very practical. I have to say I haven't seen a UFO close enough to identify," he relates.

Once, though, he may have come close. During his senior year in college, Cloherty observed a bright, whitish light moving in a series of "zig-zagging" motions, in what he thought was outside what would be considered a normal flight range or pattern.

Cloherty does not use a telescope, but rather prefers to view the heavens with the naked eye. He says he can usually determine whether he is seeing a "legitimate" aircraft, a comet or a falling star by its speed and direction.

"I personally believe there is life in outer space, although it would be difficult to define its form," declares the priest.

When others learn of his avid interest in UFOs, they often ask how his beliefs fit in with Church teachings.

"It's not against any of the theologians I've read, nor is it an undoing of our Christian beliefs," he answers.

Ever the pragmatic, Cloherty admits the subject of the UFOs has always been wide open to hoaxes. He says only two citations have produced actual particles. Both occurred in the late 1950s, one in Norway and one in Brazil.

In each instance, more than 80 percent of the metallic content in the particles was unknown to the planet Earth.

Cloherty adds that only one reported sighting supports the contact theory, or a "Close Encounter of the Third Kind," in which contact is established with humanoids. That case is known as the Barney and Betty Hill case, and took place in the early 1960s in the northeastern United States.

It seems the Hills were traveling in their car when their dog became frantic. (Cloherty explains that UFOs have been reported to emit a high-pitched sound most easily detected by animals.)

According to the report, the Hills saw a space craft hover above them and then land. They later said they had been taken aboard the craft, questioned and physically examined.

The couple was able to describe the humanoids, and both of their stories continued to match under the effects of separate testing, including hypnosis, polygraph and Sodium Pentathol (the "truth serum").

Reported UFO citations have decreased in recent years, a statistic which Cloherty attributes to several factors.

He says, at one time, pilots who submitted UFO reports

(continued on page 9)

were automatically grounded for three days and subjected to psychiatric analysis. Under the U.S. Air Force's Project Bluebook, civilians who reported sightings also were questioned extensively, and friends and neighbors were questioned about their character.

In addition, Cloherty suggests a hostile environment could be keeping UFOs from making an appearance.

"It's a standing order that jet interceptors be set up to ground or shoot down any UFO, especially in certain forbidden areas. There's really no opportunity for them to peacefully explore or establish contact with us."

Cloherty says he believes the inhabitants of UFOs are friendly, and that if they had hostile intentions, they could have acted on them by now.

"Some of the speeds these vehicles have (reportedly) attained are faster than ours; they've out-manuevered and out-angled us, going up to 10,000 miles per hour."

Cloherty says he would not hesitate to go on board a UFO, should the opportunity ever present itself.

"It's part of my inquisitive nature; it's something that has always been out of my grasp."

Since his sophomore year in college, Cloherty has been lecturing to various groups and classes on the historical development of UFOs. He has spoken locally to the Rotary Club, Ford Middle School students and St. Jude's youth groups.

Although he enjoyed "E.T., the Extra-Terrestrial" and "Close Encounters of the Third Kind," and has seen "Back to the Future" five times, Cloherty insists he is not a "sci-fi freak," but is more interested in interplanetary travel.

"It wouldn't surprise me to see humanoid contact in my lifetime, with all the advances that are being made," Cloherty concludes, in a voiced tinged with home and anticipation.

SAY 'CHEESE'



This is a real satellite photo. The dark object inside the ring is reported to be an Unidentified Flying Object traveling at 4,500 mph.

Photograph of a UFO is the real thing

AT LAST. FINALLY. Documentary proof of extraterrestrial visitors. Photographic, incontrovertible, unequivocal proof.

Steady, there. Examine the photograph carefully, make a judicious determination. See it?

Right. That's a UFO, and not just a normal shot of a UFO. What that is is the first documented evidence of a UFO that was photographed by a United States satellite and released to the public.

Sit up and look again. This is important. Now do you see it? That squarish, black thing that looks like either a '49 DeSoto or a rabbit dropping in the lower center of the photo?

No, not the the pornographic shape at the left or the image of St. Thomas Aquinas at top right. The blob in the low center is what we're talking about.

HEY, THIS IS IMPORTANT. The information came via an overnight packet from Anchorage, Alaska. The packet was slugged "Extremely Urgent," and inside, along with the photographs, were several authentication documents proving the veracity of the evidence.

So we're treating it like urgent news. According to John T. Smith, who acquired the photo in October 1978 during his U.S. Air Force service as a staff communications officer, the shot marks the first time evidence of a genuine unidentified flying object has been released by the government.

And Smith has gone to great lengths and consulted numerous experts to attest to the photo's authenticity.

Consider this one, from Thomas C. Kind, Ph.D., and professor of Geosciences at Murray



Jim Gosney

State University.

"The image in question appears to be the output of a satellite remote sensing device. To the best of my knowledge the information depicted on the image in question is authentic."

(Translation: It's a satellite photograph.)

OR THIS ONE, from B. Ray Knox, professor of geology at Southeast Missouri State University:

"The background terrain appears to match a portion of irregular coastline and associated islands centered approximately 40 kilometers southwest of Vladivostok, U.S.S.R., in the vicinity of latitude 40 N., longitude 131 degrees, 30 minutes E."

(Translation: The photo was taken around Vladivostok.)

Want more proof? OK. Here's the entire testimony of Stephen J. Robertson, proprietor of Robertson's Creative Photography at Cape Girardeau, Mo.

"On the evening of Oct. 30, 1985, I examined an electronic negative image which appears to be a genuine, untampered, unretouched image. In the presence of Dr. Harley Rutledge, Mr.

James S. Bounds, and Mr. John T. Smith, I made a color contact print from the negative, and several black and white contact prints. The prints were not altered or 'doctored' in any way, and in fact I took careful precautions to ensure the highest quality, sharpest prints possible would result.

"From the color contact print, I then exposed a roll of color negative film using high-resolution equipment and strobe lighting to ensure accurate copy negatives."

(Translation: I developed and printed the shots, and didn't mess with them.)

NO, THE OLD H-R is not the first to run the photo. Turns out the Southeast Missourian got first poke at it last Sunday, complete with an interview with Dr. Rutledge, who described the shot as "the most clearly defined shape" of a UFO ever photographed.

Then Smith, who inexplicably held onto the photo for seven years before doing anything about it, got the floor. "What we have here is a semi-rectangular vehicle with no wings climbing out of the earth's atmosphere. I'm not saying it's alien, but it's not ours (the U.S.) and it's not one of theirs (the Soviet Union)."

Smith then said the craft was flying at about 4,000 miles per hour. He did not, however, explain how he determined that speed from a single photograph. It's usually pretty hard to do.

But enough of doubt. There it is, right there in front of you, the first government satellite photograph ever released of an authentic U. F. O. over Vladivostok and zipping along at 4,000 miles per.

(Looks more like a '52 Studebaker when you stare at it for awhile, doesn't it?)

Sightings reported in Boxboro

Police officer reports 2 UFOs

By DONALD ST. JOHN
News Staff Writer

BOXBORO — Police officer Stephen Trefry is not going to forget two close encounters he's had this year.

Trefry says he and a partner saw an unidentified flying object while on patrol last Saturday night near the Harvard town line, his second such sighting this year.

His immediate reaction? "I'm going to keep a camera in the cruiser."

The Oct. 19 sighting came at about 10:10 p.m., as Trefry and patrolman Robert Morrill were driving westbound on Rte. 111, toward Harvard.

Trefry said the two had just taken a shortcut onto the road when they saw a pair of bright yellow lights hovering about 20 feet over a grove of trees near Woodchuck Hill in Harvard.

"They lit up the whole sky and the ground bright yellow. You could see everything right around them."

— Stephen Trefry, Boxboro police officer

"They lit up the whole sky and the ground bright yellow," Trefry said. "You could see everything right around them."

He said he and Morrill began to pursue the lights as they floated over the trees, momentarily losing sight of them and regaining it as they went up the hill.

"We were gaining on it. It took no more than 10 seconds to get to the top of the hill," he said. "When we got there, they had disappeared. They just weren't there."

Trefry said the two returned to the station, where they contacted radar monitors in the area, who

had seen no trace of the object on their screens. Military police from Fort Devens also reported no unusual maneuvers, he said.

At that point, Trefry filed a report in the police log and telephoned the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle, Wash., to notify it of the sighting.

"I wish I'd known about them (the reporting center) when I saw the first one during the summer," he said. "I'd seen the number over at the Stow police dispatcher's station in the meantime, so I called them."

Trefry said his first sighting

came while he was alone atop Flag Hill in Boxboro, between 1 and 3 a.m.

"That time, I observed it with my headlights off for about 10 minutes," he said. "It was out over some trees near the intersection of Rte. 495 and Rte. 2."

In both cases, Trefry said, he got a good look at the objects.

"This one (last Saturday) was a pair of round lights, about 20 feet apart, maybe the size of a car door each," he said. "They moved sideways at a 90-degree angle."

The first sighting was even more vivid, he said.

"The lights were the same, except that there was a larger, white light between them. They also moved the same way, and pointed down once."

"After they moved back up, I could see it was filtering something. You could see stuff floating down."

At one point, Trefry put his headlights on and shone a spotlight toward the object.

"I flipped them off fast. I thought it was coming towards me," he chuckled. "It was sort of scary for a minute."

Trefry said he doesn't doubt that "there's something out there."

"The UFO center said they're swamped with sightings from around here," he said. "I know I'll be looking to see if this happens again. I just wish I'd gotten a picture."

MIDDLESEX NEWS, Framingham, MA - Oct. 25, 1985

CR: L. Whitehurst

Something was out in the sky Tuesday night. Lots of people saw it. They were impressed. They called Anchorage police, Alaska State Troopers, the Air Force, Anchorage International Airport, the National Weather Service. They called each other. They called the newspaper.

Federal Aviation Administration air traffic controllers said it was a meteor shower. All other officials echoed that explanation. But that was a pality — and in one case at least — entirely too normal explanation of what people from Can-twell to Soldotna saw about 10:30 p.m. By their own ac-

counts, the watchers of the night sky were treated to a display of celestial pyrotechnics, a Roman Candle with large.

It was, one eyewitness said, "the most amazing thing I've ever seen in the night sky." Mike Jancek was on the Parks Highway, adjacent to the Wasilla Airport, when he saw "a lead object, bright white, trailing other objects." The phenomenon, Jancek said, was headed Southeast, but not moving all that fast, at "a rate similar to a jet at 30,000 feet."

A Hillside resident described it as "weird stuff, a slow motion, multi-colored meteor shower." He said the lights were "blues, reds, whites, with tails, not high up in the sky at all."

"It would have to be a satellite," said a resident of South Anchorage. "It was too slow to be anything else... It was one item, then basically burned up. It was very bright. It took about 25 seconds to traverse the visible sky."

From Raspberry Road: "It was low, about 5,000 feet... There was no sound. It moved from northwest to southeast. It looked like several pieces breaking up."

Troopers reported sightings as far north as Cantwell and as far south as Soldotna. Piecing the sightings together:

What began as a line became a single, large object that fragmented as it moved northwest to southeast. It didn't make any noise and it didn't move very fast and it wasn't all that high in the sky. The fragments were all different colors. Some people said the biggest part of it seemed to explode. Every-body said all the lights just went out.

And then there's what Steve Stevens saw while sitting in his car at the intersection of Spender Road and Minnesota Drive. He and his wife sat there all the way through the green light, watching it.

They saw, Stevens said, "what looked like the body of an airplane without wings, with three lights and sparks like a sparkler." The body, he said was "about three times the size and length of a 747" and "kind of a glittery gray-black." It was, he said, "holding a level plane, not falling." Then, Stevens said, "It vanished. It disappeared. It was, Stevens said, "the strangest thing I've ever seen in my life."

UFO's make visits to Nebraska

Out of Old Nebraska

Mysterious lights in the sky over Alliance were reported earlier this year, but investigators declined to say it was a UFO. In 1984, a farmer living in the same area said that an unidentified flying object hovered over his farm and beamed a bright white light on his driveway for half an hour.

Reports of similar sightings in almost every section of Nebraska have circulated for many years. In fact, Rudolph Umland writing in the 1930's said that "phantom airship parties" were held in many Nebraska communities, as early as the 1890's, so that people might watch the strange phenomenon.

But probably the most unusual tale of all surfaced on June 8, 1884 when the Daily State Journal at Lincoln printed the following:

"Benkelman, July 7—A most remarkable phenomenon occurred about 1 o'clock yesterday afternoon at a point thirty-five miles northwest of this place. John W. Ellis, a well-known ranchman, was going out to his herd in company with three of his herders and several other cowboys engaged in the annual roundup.

While riding along a draw they heard a terrific rushing, roaring noise overhead, and looking up, saw what appeared a blazing meteor of immense size falling at an angle to the earth. A moment later it struck the ground out of sight over the bank. Scrambling up the steep hill they saw the object bounding along half a mile away and disappear in another draw. Galloping towards it with all their speed, they were astounded to see several fragments of cogwheels and other pieces of machinery lying on the ground, scattered in the path made by the aerial visitor, glowing with heat so intense as to scorch the grass for a long distance around each fragment and make it impossible for one to approach it. Coming to the edge of the deep ravine into which the strange object had fallen, they undertook to see what it was. But the heat was so great that the air about it was fairly ablaze and it emitted a light so

dazzling that the eye could not rest upon it more than a moment. An idea of the heat may be gained from the fact that one of the party, a cowboy named Alf Williamson, stood with his head incautiously exposed over the bank, and in less than half a minute he fell senseless. His face was desperately blistered and his hair singed to a crisp. His condition is said to be dangerous. The distance from the aerolite, or whatever it is, was nearly 200 feet. The burned man was taken to Mr. Ellis' house, cared for as well as circumstances would allow and a doctor sent for. His brother, who lives in Denver, has just been telegraphed for.

"Finding it impossible to approach the mysterious visitor, the party turned back on its trail. Where it first touched the earth the ground was sandy and bare of grass. The sand was fused to an unknown depth over a space about twenty feet wide

by eighty feet long, and the melted stuff was still bubbling and hissing. Between this and the final resting place there were several other like spots where it had come in contact with the ground, but none so well marked.

"This morning another visit was made to the spot. In the party were E.W. Rawlings, brand inspector for this district, who came into Benkelman tonight, and from whom a full verification of particulars is obtained. The smaller portions of the scattered machinery had cooled so that they could be approached, but not handled. One piece that looked like the blade of a propeller screw, of

a metal in appearance like brass, about sixteen inches wide, three inches thick and three and a half feet long, was picked up on a spade. It would not weigh more than five pounds, but appeared as strong and compact as any known metal. A fragment of a wheel with a milled rim, apparently having had a diameter of seven or eight feet was also picked up. It seemed to be of the same material and had the same remarkable lightness.

"The aerolite, or whatever it is, seems to be about fifty or sixty feet long, cylindrical, and about ten or twelve feet in diameter. Great excitement exists in the vicinity and

the round-up is suspended while the cowboys wait for the wonderful find to cool off so they can examine it.

"Mr. Ellis is here and will take the first train to the land office with the intention of securing the land on which the strange thing lies, so that his claim to it cannot be disputed.

"A party left here for the scene an hour ago, and will travel all night. The country in the vicinity is rather wild and rough, and the roads are hardly more than trails. Will telegraph all particulars as fast as obtained.

Betty Loudon,
Nebraska State
Historical Society

DAILY SUN, Beatrice, NE - Nov. 13, 1985 CR: J. Clark

UFO sighting reports aren't so far-fetched

By George Hesselberg
Of The State Journal

I know the sister of a woman who saw a flying object, in Madison. The woman doesn't call it a "UFO" because she certainly identified it as a flying object.

The woman I know is a quiet, somber, serious sort of person — traits she says she shares with her sister, the FO sighter. She is certainly not, to put it bluntly, a crackpot.

But the media have implied as much, sort of, in reporting her sighting. In this newspaper, for example, the brief story of her sighting was coupled with a headline that read: "Oh, oh, UFO: Two are sighted here." And the first line of the story was "Fade in with the tune from Twilight Zone."

So. Not because her sister knows me, but because the story is indeed strange and so detailed, here is the woman's own account of what she saw:

Street Scenes

"It is after 11 p.m. on Nov. 19. The streets are deserted and all the houses dark. The only light comes from my car's headlights and a street light.

"Three lights above a row of trees, next to the East Madison Baptist Church (on Milwaukee Street), catch my eye. I assume they are the lights on a helicopter. The craft is descending towards a house on the north side of the street, and is now 10 feet above the road.

"I was curious, because if the craft continued on its present course it would crash into the house. So I decided to pull over to the curb, never taking my eyes off the lights.

"Surprisingly, it makes a sharp and graceful 90-degree turn just short of the curb. Now moving towards me, it rises slightly in the middle of the block. Ascending straight up, several

feet in front of my car, the craft avoids hitting the powerlines.

"The street light illuminates one side and I can now make out its shape and color.

"The craft is triangular, about 12 feet in length and black. A light shines from the narrow nose. The body gradually widens but remains trim. Too trim for a person to be comfortably seated. A wide silver streak extends from the nose to the tail. The view is partially obstructed by a light. There are no wings, propellers or visible engines, and the craft moves in complete silence.

"It is not an aircraft and I continue to watch in complete fascination.

"Sweeping north, the craft hovers 12 to 15 feet above a house. The rear of the craft, about half the width of

the roof, now faces me.

"Two white lights flank the rear and a small red light is near the light on the right. Rectangular white lights flash on near the top and are blinking in rapid succession. The lights are moving in a seemingly circular motion. The bottom is slightly convex. The motion of the lights and the shape of the craft give it a 'flying saucer' appearance.

"I was frightened, so I left and called the Madison Police Department.

"After giving the description to the officer, he mentioned he had seen something similar about 12 years ago, and he asked me to draw what I had seen.

"A check was made to see if anything had been picked up by radar at

WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL, Madison, WI - Dec. 1, 1985

CR: M. Anderson



E.T. — please call Vancouver

THE POLL

● No. 39. Conducted Aug. 1, 1985 — 106 persons questioned.

DAVID HARTLINE

He would have little to worry about if E.T. buzzed the Lower Mainland — 64 per cent of the more than 100 people interviewed in downtown Vancouver for this week's poll said they wouldn't report a UFO if they thought they saw one.

And, while some told us it's because they don't believe in extraterrestrial life (55 per cent in an earlier *Poll* said they do), most said they'd be too concerned about damaging their reputation or credibility.

One man, who preferred not to give his name, even feared reprisals from the aliens themselves.

Nevertheless, several suggested they'd make a report as long as there were other witnesses to the sighting.

1. If you saw what you thought was a UFO would report it?

Yes: 36%. No: 64%

WHITBY GAZETTE, Yorkshire, England

Oct. 4, 1985 CR: T. Good

UFO sighting

Another UFO was sighted over Whitby at the weekend.

Two visitors from Middlesbrough staying at the Sandbeck Hotel on West Cliff saw strange lights in the sky above the rooftops as they looked from their top floor bedroom at the back of the hotel in the early hours of Sunday morning.

The sighting occurred at about 2 am when they saw a

large white light low in the sky, which was obviously not a star. Some smaller yellow lights appeared to the left of it, moved to join the main light then left it at another angle.

This movement was repeated at intervals of about five minutes. The couple, who could think of no rational explanation for the lights, were watching for about an hour.

ADVERTISER COMMENT

The Leckford UFO mystery deepens week by week, and it's really got the flying saucer enthusiasts buzzing with excitement.

Everyone enjoys a good mystery, and even if this one is an elaborate hoax — by no means unlikely, of course — it hasn't prevented some pretty wild speculation. We have had suggestions that the strange circles were caused by anything from a helicopter to an alien craft, like the artist's impression in last week's 'Advertiser'.

Then there's the strange substance found in the centre. Now what can this be? Our photographer thought it was deer droppings, but the UFO experts have had it analysed and say the results are 'sensational'.

We all await the results of this analysis with interest, but in the meantime we can continue to speculate. Perhaps our photographer was half-right: perhaps the substance is no more than droppings — but what droppings?

The answer is simple: earth is a troubled planet, treated largely with disregard by its inhabitants, so doubtless this fact has not escaped the super-intelligent beings that so many flying saucer freaks would have us believe are constantly observing us.

Like our motorways, space is not provided with convenient stopping places for its travellers, so perhaps the planet earth, having reached what appears to be an all-time low, is seen by aliens as a handy service centre — a kind of galactic lavatory. And what more obvious place than Andover, parts of which are freely used by some of its populace as a toilet?

Please, UFOlogists, don't get offended, it's only our cynical minds. Seriously, it IS a mystery, and even if it is a hoax, it poses one question: what sort of mind goes to such elaborate and painstaking lengths to fool the public — particularly as there was no guarantee that his, her or their efforts would ever be noticed?

CITIZEN, Johannesburg, South Africa - Oct. 7, 1985

CR: D. Powell via G. Conway

Latest UFO spotted by a party of journalists

Citizen Reporter

THE sighting of a UFO in Sandton on Saturday night comes close on the heels of a Sunday sighting by a Germiston man just over a week ago.

The latest UFO was seen by a party of journalists while drinking on the porch. One of them was Mr Gary Edwards of Radio 702 who described the UFO as being "large

and round, like a hot-air balloon."

A spokeswoman for the Planetarium in Johannesburg, when asked about whether the sightings were in any way connected, said:

"There is no rational or scientific explanation for the appearance of UFOs. It all depends on what one counts as 'unidentified'. But there have been

no records kept of the number of UFO sightings in Southern Africa, so we cannot really say whether there has been an increase in sightings or not."

She also stressed that there was no connection between the appearance of Halley's Comet, expected later this year, and the recent sightings.

STAR, Doncaster, England - Aug. 27, 1985 CR: T. Good

computer-enhanced techniques" confidently confirm that no faking has taken place.

And it's easy to wonder why so many sightings are rarely experienced by more than one person — and why so few ufologists, for all their enthusiasm, have actually sighted UFOs themselves.

Steve Greathead, of Rosedale Road, Sharrow, one of YUFO's ten Sheffield members, is no exception. He's had no sightings himself, but can quote exhaustive details about recent Sheffield sightings — glinting objects zig-zagging over Wincobank, flashing lights over Ecclesfield.

Both are being investigated, and RAF Finningley, with who YUFOs are in constant touch, have already confirmed that they know of no official flying craft that could explain the first sighting.

The authorities may suppress UFO information so not to alarm people," says Steve Greathead. "They might not want to cause panic."

Conspiracy theory or not, UFOs are likely to remain a mystery. Earthly in origin — secret foreign

The only good UFO is a debunked one



Stephen
McClarence

Some of the reported sightings in the Sheffield area over the past six years:

February 1979: Thurston; March 1979: Chapeltown; April 1979: Barnsley; June 1979: Barnsley; Sept. 1979: Eckington; January 1980: Rannmore; March 1981: Manor; April 1981: Throughout the area; May 1981: Rotherham; July 1981: Swinton; August 1981: Throughout the area; October 1981: Wingerworth; December 1982: Swinton; October 1983: Treeton; June 1984: Slaley; July 1985: Chesterfield, Foxhill, Wincobank.

makes UFO-spotting sound as down-to-earth as train-spotting.

Or Steve Greathead, YUFO's Sheffield area investigator, who admits: "We don't claim. This is a spacecraft with little green men in it." We try to disprove every case.

Birdsall, Greathead and fellow ufologists gave a slide-show lecture in Sheffield the other night. In an upstairs room at the Foresters Hall in Trippet Lane — complete with peeling plaster and an upright Victorian piano — they pulled in an audience before his main meal. He

SOME blamed the Bishop of Durham for last year's fire at York Minster. The Yorkshire UFO Society have another theory.

"Witnesses said they saw a blimp — some kind of airship — giving off purple rays over the Minster just before the fire," says Graham Birdsall, president of the 130-strong YUFOs. "Was the fire an act of God... or something else?"

He leaves the matter teasingly unresolved. For YUFOs, the only certainties about UFOs seem to be the debunked, disproved cases — the flying saucers that turn out to be car headlights, weather balloons, and football floodlights.

There is nothing crankily fanatical about YUFOs — one of half a dozen societies dedicated to investigating lights in the sky, to identifying the unidentified.

The members seem to delight in knocking down weird theories about things-on — none more so than Graham Birdsall, a bluff Leeds fellow who tells mother-in-law jokes and undoubtedly eats his Yorkshire pudding before his main meal. He

Steve Greathead spots a flying teapot... or is it a hub cap?

occurred after the much-out of it — frail-looking creatures seen at Woodbridge US Air Force Base on the night of December 27, 1980.

Strange lights were observed in a forest, air-men investigated, and a triangular metal craft was found zig-zagging through the trees.

With touching patriotism, it had a red flashing light on top, gave off a dazzling white light that lit up the whole forest, and hovered on a carpet of glowing blue beams.

The base commander eventually spoke to three alien beings who walked



repairs were carried out on the craft, it flew off, and a massive alleged cover-up started.

Later, the commander and other participants in this curious drama, recorded a tape describing what had happened. "It's probably the most important tape ever on UFOs," said Graham Birdsall. "And we have it here."

True enough. But unfortunately, they had brought

military aircraft? Some of the 15,000 bits and pieces of space debris orbiting the earth?

Or, more romantically, extra-terrestrial craft — flying saucers, to use the term so successfully coined as recently as 1947?

Whichever, YUFOs admit that 99 per cent of sightings can be explained away, that the number of sightings has declined in the last half-dozen years, and that reports of one sighting tend to spark off others.

But no-one has yet explained the two lights hovering over a hill near Skipton four years ago — the greatest number of sightings anywhere in Britain.

When the policemen climbed the hill, they found the ground and trees badly scorched and... well, the story will be taken up in the next issue of *Quest*, the bi-monthly YUFOs journal.

"This forthcoming article is one of the most explosive ever to appear... trail YUFOs. You cannot afford to miss the full story behind one of the greatest UFO incidents ever recorded on film..."

Wran in mystery UFO sighting

By JOHN DIKKENBERG

Pilot, ministers, radar report 'shiny object'

AUTHORITIES were today unable to explain the presence of a UFO near an aircraft carrying Premier Wran and State Agriculture Minister Jack Hallam over the NSW north coast this week.

The two politicians were passengers in a Government chartered jet which passed near the mystery object over northern NSW at 8am on Thursday.

The UFO, which was described as "extremely bright and spherical," was photographed from the cockpit of the Premier's chartered jet by the first officer, Gary Elsass, of Rose Bay.

The pilots of an Ansett Boeing, believed to be AN 62 travelling from Sydney to Brisbane, also sighted the UFO and reported it to the Brisbane Airport control tower.

Yesterday, the Sydney Meteorological Bureau reported contact with "an object" hovering almost stationary 100,000 feet above Coffs Harbor.

"It appears to be too high and too unmoving to be a normal weather balloon," a spokesman said.

"We are trying to work out what it is."

There were conflicting reports between the Weather Bureau and airline operations whether the object was slowly edging East or West.

Mr Wran yesterday said the object was "quite eerie, quite spooky" and had a large oblong shape.

He said what he had seen was "very bright and shiny", and could not identify it.

"I have never come across anything

like it before and neither has Mr Hallam, or the two pilots, who are very experienced," Mr Wran said.

"We thought at first it was an optical illusion."

Mr Elsass said the Citation aircraft was travelling at 35,000 feet 100 kilometres south of Coolangatta about 9am when the object was sighted.

"Our aircraft was travelling at about 380 knots and the object appeared to be almost stationary by comparison," he said.

"It was very high, too high to be properly identifiable, but I don't think it was a balloon, radar deflector, satellite or rocket case."

"I contacted Brisbane operations that evening and was told there were

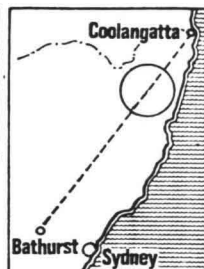
no weather balloons in the area at the time.

The daily NOTAM to air pilots also made no mention of weather balloons."

The photographs taken by Mr Elsass show the UFO as a pin-prick of light on the horizon.

A 77 Squadron Mirage fighter was vectored from Williamtown at 12.30pm to identify a radar contact 250 kilometres north of the base which was suspected of being the UFO.

The Mirage pilot, Flight Lieutenant Ray France, was unable to positively identify the object because of its great altitude, some 10 kilometres higher than the Mirage.



□ Where UFO sighted



□ Pilot Greg Elsass

Mr Wran's Press Secretary, Mr David Hurley, said the object was visible from the Citation for about three minutes.

"The strange thing was that its underside remained aglow even when it was opposite to the sun. You would have expected it to go into shadow," he said.

A meteorological spokesman said the only weather balloon which could behave like that reported by the Wran party was the HIBAL (high balloon) which used to be launched out of Alice Springs.

"They stopped launching them some years ago," he said. "It's either one that has remained aloft all these years, or one that was launched from another country."

"The modern weather balloon couldn't hover in the stationary manner this one is doing. I don't know of any other Australian agency that has a balloon which could."

According to the RAAF report of the incident: "The most likely explanation is that it is some sort of research balloon, operated by sources unknown at this stage."

TIMES, Oxford, England - Oct. 4, 1985 CR: T. Good

Fresh spate of UFO sightings over county

Planet Earth, especially Oxfordshire, seems to be a popular choice with alien tourists this year.

Last month alone, Contact International (UK) — a worldwide association for objective UFO researchers — has been inundated with sightings of mysterious craft and strange lights.

The reports have been passed on by Derek Mansell, treasurer of the association, based at his home in Crown Road, Wheatley.

He explained: "We're not saying they are all craft from outer space. They could be, but they are things out of the ordinary that can't be explained."

Among the strange reports are:

September 9: seven sightings from Oxford, Bicester, Boars Hill, Kidlington and Wheatley of a fairly low, fast, silent swept-wing aircraft at 9.05 pm with unusual lights.

September 11: from 8.50 pm to 9.04 pm over Wheatley, a satellite-type light circling silently and then fading out, viewed through binoculars.

September 11: between 9.30 and 9.45 pm at Bicester, two orange-yellow discs flying fast towards Oxford silently, witnessed by a husband and wife. One disc travelled in a straight line, the other weaved from side to side.

September 12: at 10.15 three nurses and others saw three large silver discs, perfectly round, reflecting a lot of

light, moving west to east very fast.

September 12: two Abingdon housewives saw a huge object, reflecting light and metallic in texture at 11.05 am. Two airliners passed underneath. They watched it for 35 minutes and then it faded away.

September 12: in Marston Link Road, Oxford, at 10.20 am three men saw several round shining objects moving east very slowly.

September 12: two reps travelling along the M40 near High Wycombe saw five objects follow each other across the motorway at a low height. They were about the size of a football and appeared to be lights.

Mr Mansell an Oxford University laboratory technician who has been

involved with the association since it was formed in 1964, said the rush of sightings over Oxfordshire came after a long slack period.

"It had been fairly quiet this year, and now for some reason there's been a sudden build-up," he said. "I don't know why that should be, but Oxfordshire is normally quite a busy area."

He said he took his role as research officer very seriously. "If I get one report in about a strange sighting, then I might have some doubts about it," he went on. "But when you've got several people all seeing the same thing, then you've got to believe them, especially when the people don't know each other. You've got to accept it as genuine."

CROWTHORNE NEWS, Berkshire, England - Oct. 18, 1985 CR: T. Good

UFO SPOTTED BY MUM AND DAUGHTER

A MOTHER and her teenage daughter watched in amazement as a light brighter than any star swung backwards and forwards in the night sky.

Mrs. Joyce Rapley and her daughter June (19) are convinced that the bright yellow light they saw from a bedroom window at their home in Ambleside Road, Lightwater, was not a star or an aeroplane. They believe they spotted a UFO.

Their sighting comes exactly a month after Farnborough butcher Mr. David McMurray and his family saw what appeared to be a massive spacecraft in the nearby Bagshot Heath area.

The "close encounter" ex-

perienced by the McMurrays, of Broomhill Road, was later backed up when two other sightings were reported on the same evening, one in the Bagshot area and one over Wokingham.

The activity has led local UFO expert Mr. Omar Fowler to speculate that Bagshot Heath could have been singled out by aliens as an area for special study.

Attention

He said the activity of the light seen by Mrs. Rapley and her daughter was "typical of UFO activity."

Mrs. Rapley woke at 6.05 a.m. on Tuesday and got up

to let out the family dog. Even without her glasses on, her attention was caught by a brilliant light shining in the sky in the direction of Chobham.

Explaining away the light to herself as a particularly bright star, Mrs. Rapley crept back upstairs to bed, saying nothing. But June awoke quite independently and with sharper eyes could see at once that the light was not a star.

Mrs. Rapley said: "She said, 'Good God, look at this!'"

June added: "I was staring at it for ages. It went from one side to the other and back and forward. I went to

get a camera, but when I came back it was gone."

"I looked to see if there were any red lights like an aeroplane. You could not hear anything. At that distance you would hear an aeroplane's noise. I opened the window."

Invaded

June, who works at Lenthic Morny in Camberley, said she deliberately left off the lights. Even so, she said she wondered if the occupants of the UFO realised she had gone downstairs to get her camera.

She added: "I could see the shape of it; a dome shape like a hat."

Mrs. Rapley (55) said:

"Getting up without my glasses on I had just thought that is a bright star, although I couldn't see any other. Then my daughter pointed it out and I thought 'Good God, we are being invaded!'"

She continued: "The swinging from side to side was very conspicuous, like someone swinging a lamp from side to side."

The couple said they had wondered whether or not to say anything, but if no one did, nothing would ever be confirmed. They would like to know if anyone else saw the light.

Mrs. Rapley said: "I did not believe before. I was very sceptical. You think like

everyone else the reports are just someone thinking they have seen something, but having seen it like that it makes you wonder."

"I said I wondered where they are coming from, but I suppose there are so many planets."

June now plans to keep her camera at the ready beside her bed in case the light should reappear.

Mr. Fowler said: "The movement of the light is typical of UFO activity. We have had reports over the years from Lightwater, Chobham and Bagshot Heath areas of strange noises and lights. It is not new, but nevertheless it sounds very interesting."

Curran on UFO cultists

JOURNAL, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
Aug. 31, 1985

LOCAL PHOTOGRAPHER Douglas Curran will have his first book published Oct. 15 by New York's prestigious Abbeville Press. Entitled *In Advance of the Landing: Folk Concepts of Outer Space*, the book chronicles Curran's near-decade long "obsession" with UFO cultists and artifacts throughout North America. The book will carry an intro by long-time Curran devotee Tom Wolfe Jr. and a jacket blurb by William F. Burroughs. A book tour of major American cities is scheduled for November, including an appearance on the popular *Studs Terkel* radio program. Toronto's *Saturday Night* magazine will excerpt the book in its October issue. *Rolling Stone* also has expressed interest in the material.



June Rapley and her mum looking out for more mystery manifestations.

UFOs, 'aliens' cap off Italian summer

ROME, Sun. — According to UFO experts, this summer has produced more sightings of flying saucers than ever before.

From the northern alps to the island of Sicily, dozens of UFOs have zoomed over the peninsula.

"It is the best year yet for the UFO," said Dr Eduardo Rosso, president of the National Centre for Ufology.

"We've had hundreds of calls. Ninety per cent were proven to be normal objects such as planes, balloons, and other flying things. But 78 were confirmed as unexplainable UFOs."

Last week an alarm was given by a Boeing 747 pilot of the Greek Olympic Airways as he was flying at 8000 metres over Milan.

The pilot informed the control tower at Milan's Linate Airport that a "cigar-shaped object" had passed the Jumbo some 100 metres away.

"It looks like a missile," he told the control tower.

The Ministry of Defence denied any missiles had been launched.

Experts say his description is the same as many other UFO sightings over Italy.

Twenty-eight UFOs were seen doing aerial acrobatics over Trieste for an hour with dozens of witnesses.

Others were seen over Florence, Rome, Pavia and Bari.

From JOHN KERR

Two motorists claimed they were approached by aliens in Pordenone.

A huge footprint like a chicken's, covered in grey ash, was found in Brescia.

A man and a wife said they were followed along the Venice-Milan autostrada for 320 km by a UFO.

Another couple claimed they saw a saucer land and send out a yellow fog which, they said, killed the engine of their car.

Two army generals are reported to have watched a luminous cigar-shaped object over the army base in Pordenone.

Another couple said they were approached by an armless humanoid.

This summer's UFO sightings have brought reports of everything flying through the skies but the kitchen sink.

"It's very exciting," said Dr Rosso. "Normally more UFOs are sighted in the summer because the air is clearer, the weather conditions are good and there is good visibility."

However, after all the proof of sightings of UFOs, a Ministry of Defence official said: "We don't believe these things and we don't want them in our files."

CR: P. Norman

SUN, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia - Oct. 21, 1985 CR: P. Norman

7 years on, a family holds a cliffside vigil for lost pilot

THE parents of missing pilot Frederick Valentich still hope they will be reunited with their son.

It's seven years today since Valentich vanished while flying a Cessna plane over Bass Strait.

The 20-year-old pilot disappeared soon after telling air traffic control he was being pursued by a UFO.

His parents and twin sisters, Olivia and Lara, 11, will spend today at Cape Otway contemplating the mysterious disappearance.

Mr Guido Valentich, 53, said he did the annual cliffside vigil, past the isolated Cape Otway lighthouse, as a mark of respect to his son.

"It seems like only yesterday ... We're always hoping something will come up and we'll know what happened," he said yesterday.

"We're still hoping to see Freddy one day."

Mr Valentich, a member of the Victorian UFO Research Society for the past six years, still believes a UFO interfered with his son's flight on October 21, 1978. Every new UFO sighting renews the family's hopes.

"I've never seen a UFO but that doesn't mean I don't believe," he said.

Mr Valentich said he did not think the blue-and-white Cessna flown by his son crashed and sank.

"There would have been debris or a slick of oil. Nothing has been found."

"He was determined to get his commercial pilot's licence — I know he always followed the book."

By STEPHEN MEESE

"I don't think he would have crashed."

The Victorian UFO Research Society's vice-president, Mr Paul Norman, said Frederick Valentich was not the only person to report a strange object over and near Bass Strait on October 21, 1978.

"Researchers have found more than 60 reported observations from that area which occurred before, during and after his encounter," he said.

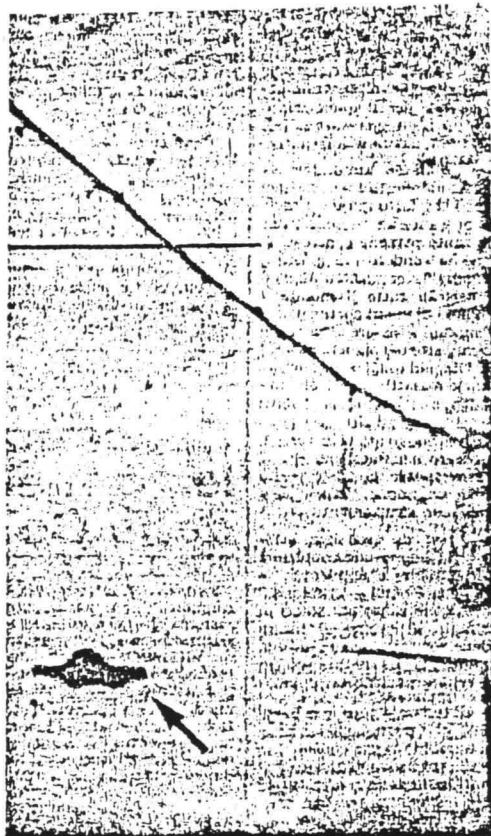
Mr Norman said UFO activity had built up for more than six weeks before Valentich's encounter.

People from unrelated locations up to 300 km apart told similar stories of round objects and silver cigar-shaped UFOs moving at variable speeds with no visible means of propulsion, no wings and no sound, he said.

TV 'CAPTURES' UFO

A 25-MINUTE film of a UFO—a flying saucer—hovering over Rome taken by a cine director will be shown on Italian TV today.

(see translation from IL PICCOLO, June 4, 1985, below)



Il misterioso oggetto volante fotografato dal camionista vicentino. Sulla destra una casa e nel centro il ramo di un albero; la linea centrale è un'imperfezione della foto

The mysterious flying object photographed by a truck driver from Vicenza. On the left side of the photo, a house, in the center, a branch of a tree. The central right line is due to a photo imperfection.

TRANSLATIONS

City and country of incident: Ancona, Italy
Date of incident: May 5, 1985
Name of paper and date of clip: LA NAZIONE, May 7, 1985
City and country of newspaper: Florence, Italy
[CREDIT: Massimo Greco]

NIGHT WATCHMAN SEES UFOs

Trieste - Six Unidentified Flying Objects have been spotted by a night watchman of Ancona, Mr. Ugo C. (surname deleted upon his request), 25 years old. The sighting occurred on Sunday morning between 4:40 and 5:10 A.M. The young man was on a hill and had binoculars.

The objects made some evolutions almost at the surface of the sea and they had different shapes; disc, cigar and saucer. They also had some lights of various colors. His report has been investigated by local ufologists and also by C.U.N. vice-president Antonio Chiumiento. The witness claimed to have seen, at first, three objects and then after a few minutes, the other three. Mr. Chiumiento said that in Italy, a "wake-up" of UFO sightings is occurring, after the last wave of 1978.

A few days ago, on April 30, two policemen in their car at Pordenone, spotted an object that flew over their car at a height not more than 400 meters, and with very high speed.

City and country of incident: Valdagno, Italy
Date of incident: June ?, 1985
Name of paper and date of clip: IL PICCOLO, June 4, 1985
City and country of newspaper: Trieste, Italy
[CREDIT: Massimo Greco]

A REGION FULL OF UFOs

Pordenone - A truck driver of Vicenza, Ernesto Pellizzari, 33, shot a photo of a flying saucer in the skies of Valdagno. Mr. Pellizzari, who works for a forwarding agency, was driving his truck when he noted the disc. After a first moment of amazement, he noticed the saucer had an erratic movement, with continuous stops and departures in an East-West direction. So he took his camera and shot three photos.

When he tried to find a better place to take photos, the disc was far away. The film was developed and he informed C.U.N.'s vice-president, Mr. Antonio Chiumiento of Pordenone.

(continued on page 14)

(continued from page 13)

Mr. Chiumiento found also another witness, Gastone Urbani, 28, worker, who saw the same disc. Other witnesses claim to have seen, the preceding evening, a bright sphere hovering over a river.

To increase the reliability of the sighting were two additional witnesses, one from Gorizia, the other from Fontanafredda (near Pordenone). The same day, at 11:00 A.M., Mr. Walter Sfiligoi sighted a strange object in the sky of Gorizia. His description (with a sketch of the object) is very similar to that of Mr. Pellizzari. At 12:00 noon, the flying saucer appeared in Fontanafredda, sighted by Gilberto Del Tedesco. He told Antonio Chiumiento that the UFO oscillated on its axis and had an erratic movement.

Prof. Chiumiento took the photos and sent them to a photo laboratory for analyses. The quality isn't excellent, but the disc's shape is clearly visible.

City and country of incident: Pordenone, Italy
Date of incident: August 7, 1985
Sources: IL GIORNALE D'ITALIA (Rome), August 13, 1985
LA NAZIONE (Florence), August 13, 1985
IL MESSAGGERO (Rome), August 9, 1985

FOUND UFO TRACE

On August 7, an Army pilot, while flying in the area comprised between Castions di Zoppola and Domanens (Pordenone), noted a geometric shape, round with a diameter of 25 meters, on the ground. It seemed drawn by a giant compass and at the circle's center, there was a hole of two meters depth. The pilot shot some photos and then contacted the C.U.N. (Centro Ufologico Nazionale). Its vice-president, Antonio Chiumiento, at once began an inquiry at the site of the trace.

All along the circumference of the circle, the maize plants were "pushed," as if under a pressure with a rotating sense. The plants were cut up and "cooked," not burned. Inside the area of the central hole, the plants were all cut the same size.

Chiumiento asked local farmers if special works had been done in that area, but received a negative reply. Even if a tractor or other machine was working in the area, it wouldn't have left traces. On the contrary, all the fields show no traces other than the circular one.

Another interesting fact is that, at a few hundred meters from the trace, there is an Army powder magazine. But the military authorities don't speak about the fact.

City and country of incident: Vicchio, Italy
Date of incident: August 30 (?), 1985
Name of paper and date of clip: LA NAZIONE, August 31, 1985
City and country of newspaper: Florence, Italy

[CREDIT: Massimo Greco]

Vicchio - A lot of people sighted it, in the skies of Mugello. From 20:15 to 21:00, a bright object, spherical, bluish clear, made strange evolutions.

At first, it descended very rapidly, then it climbed and descended again, now it seemed to crash on the ground.

"We saw it very clearly," said Francesco Manfieri, living between Vicchio and Borgo San Lorenzo. "When we saw it descend, somebody took a car to examine the place of the alleged crash."

But, no trace of the UFO. Afterwards, an airplane flew over that place as if it was searching for something. Also, this airplane was a strange fact because that area isn't an air route.

City and country of incident: Piacenza, Italy
Date of incident: August ?, 1985
Name of paper and date of clip: IL RESTO DEL CARLINO, August 25, 1985
City and country of newspaper: Bologna, Italy

[CREDIT: Massimo Greco]

UFO SIGHTED

Three tourists from Venice--Giorgio Penzo, Grazia Mauro and Gino Paschetto--claim to have sighted in the sky of Sassi Neri di Bobbio (province of Piacenza), three phosphorescent objects with a diameter of eight meters which made some evolutions over a wooded area.

City and country of incident: Vale de Santiago, Mexico
Name of paper and date of clip: O GLOBO, November 24, 1985
City and country of newspaper: Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

[CREDIT: Irene Granchi]

GIANTS IN AGRICULTURE - A MYSTERY

Vale de Santiago, Mexico - Gathering 20 people together to enjoy a vegetable stew would be nothing extraordinary, if this meal hadn't been prepared with just one single carrot, one onion, one celery stalk, one cabbage leaf, one pumpkin and one potato...in a quantity large enough for no one to go hungry. This and other marvels happen in Vale de Santiago, a region in central Mexico, where for years, gigantic vegetables and flowers have been growing, that do not employ any special formula for their growth. But there are people who say that the phenomenon is produced by a prescription furnished by extra-terrestrial beings. Hardly believing what they saw, the group of visitors, comprising mostly reporters, found carrots measuring 1.80 meters, onions weighing 4 kilograms each, lettuce leaves large enough to cover a car and red carnations that would hide the bearer's face if he wore one on his lapel.

Vale de Santiago is a prosperous Mexican city lying on the outskirts of seven extinguished volcanoes that have been dormant for centuries. This part of the land, called "The Region of the Seven Luminaries" by the ancient Purepechas Indios, because of the flames that went up into

the sky, has craters holding the waters of lakes that change color or suddenly bubble up from the volcanoes, and cave paintings that seem to depict beings of another world. They also have stone statues and no one knows how they got there. There are land workers living in the region who swear that the giant vegetables growing there are not treated with any kind of fertilizer or hormone-shots, and this has been proved by research carried out in Mexican universities.

The "Club of the Seven Luminaries" in Vale de Santiago, whose members do research on the rare cases of the region, include Oscar Arredondo, President, who assures one that he received the formula for the giant products from extra-terrestrials. According to him, at 18 kilometers beneath the earth, there exists an advanced civilization from another planet, who came one night to teach him their secret. Arredondo says that the recipe is simple. Based on the astral chart of the region, the seeds are planted that start producing large amounts of large-sized plants. Some say that the size of these vegetables and flowers depends on the quality of the earth, that is related to its ancient volcanic activity. In rebuttal, the members of the "Seven Luminaries Club" moved to another place where the soil is extremely arid, starting a plantation based on its astrological chart. The result: the growth of huge cabbage leaves.

City and country of incident: Halland Region, Halmstad, Sweden
Date of incident: October? November? - 1985
Name of paper and date of clip: HALLAMSPOSTEN, November 16, 1985
City and country of newspaper: Halmstad, Sweden

[CREDIT: Erik Fredriksson]

NOW DAGMAR DARES TELL ABOUT THE STRANGE LIGHT PHENOMENON

The shining light was 20 meters wide and moved slowly ahead nearly over the field, said Dagmar Bexell from Breared.

Today, she dares to tell what she witnessed one cold and clear night a short time ago. But she was not alone. There were altogether five people, three unknown to each other, who saw the light phenomenon they can't dismiss as an airplane or helicopter.

At the same time, the flight control at Halmstad air field dismissed the idea that it could be any kind of UFO. It must be, they said, some kind of flight training.

Some hours before Dagmar Bexell saw the strange light over the field, police assistant Lars Lindquist was walking on the road in Ullasjo, as well as Anna-Maria Isilis, her husband and 11-year old son, but in Snotorp, near Skedala (all near each other). All of them saw the light phenomenon in the starry heavens.

Lars Lindquist was going on the road, but stopped as he first supposed he was witnessing a meteor. During five minutes, he stood still and observed one blue-white light, 30 centimeters in size, perhaps two kilometers up in the air.

It was quite silent, no sound of autos or from the light. Lindquist stood watching it for five minutes, then he continued to his home. But he turned around often to see if there was any change in its appearance. Nothing happened. The star was not falling to the ground and the stubborn blinking continued.

No airplane - "It can't be any helicopter or plane, nor any star," he said. The light was too bright and big for that. He won't say it was a UFO, but thinks it could be possible. In any case, he is not sure and still wonders what he really saw.

It was about 20:00 hours in the evening as Lars observed the light in Ullansjo, between Oskarstrom and Simlångsdalen. Thirty minutes later, the family Isilis was walking to their home in Snotorp when they observed a light moving slowly and silently in the air to the north, near Andersberg. All three exclude both plane and helicopter. What else it could be that they saw, they don't know.

Very beautiful - It was very beautiful, said Anna-Maria. The body was oval-shaped and illuminated with many tightly placed white points of light. The light was like a bright fluorescent tube, but much stronger.

But then comes the amazing end, she said with an embarrassed laugh. It closed down in a flash and from that flash released a reddish body like a rocket. It started very quickly and ascended to the heavens, disappearing in a few seconds.

The "play" lasted only a few minutes, but the family is agreed it was neither a plane nor a helicopter. Anna-Maria said she was the only one who believed it was a UFO. The flight control in Halmstad said there was flight training at the same time in the south of Sweden, but they didn't know if there was a plane to the north of Simlångsdalen. A spokesman dismissed the idea of a UFO, saying it must have been a plane they saw.

Examination - Dagmar Bexell's experience the same night at 03:00 will be examined as all other cases. In the night, she was unable to sleep. She got up to heat a glass of milk and eat some bread and butter. She put out the light in the kitchen and had just gone upstairs to go back to bed. She was surprised to see a light in a field between the fence and woods.

No car or other vehicle was able to reach the spot. There is no road and neither any wheeltracks nor imprints, she said.

Nothing was heard - Exactly as in the earlier observations, there was no sound. "It was quite silent. If there had been any plane or helicopter, I would have heard the sound. After all these years, I know very well how sound is heard through these thin walls."

It was quite silent and a dark, starlit night. The light illuminated 20 meters of the field in front of the object, as it slowly moved only a few meters over the field. It continued its course toward the high spruce forest and disappeared behind the barn. She didn't observe the way it disappeared.



Bacteria could have survived in space, tests hint

FORGET ADAM AND EVE. Our original ancestors were organisms from another solar system, transported through interstellar space to seed the Earth billions of years ago. That, at least, is the theory of "Panspermia."

And now earthbound experiments to expose bacterial spores to interstellar-like conditions have shed new light on the theory. They reveal that such spores could indeed survive an interstellar journey — provided they were enshrouded in molecular clouds that are known to float through our galaxy.

Of course, the majority of biologists have already forgotten Adam and Eve, preferring instead evolution. But nobody knows what started off the evolutionary process. Was there some crucial initial chemical reaction? Some say that the gap of about 400 million years between the Earth's birth and the appearance of life is too short for the necessary reaction to have occurred.

Peter Weber and Mayo Greenberg of the University of Leiden in The Netherlands, who carried out the experiments, however, have no such doubts about the power of conventional chemistry and biology to deliver the evolutionary goods. Nonetheless, they were curious to put Panspermia to the test. So they subjected bacterial spores to interstellar conditions in their laboratory.

The interstellar medium is particularly hostile to spores because of the high vacu-

um, ultraviolet radiation from stars and temperatures down to 10 degrees above absolute zero. So Professors Weber and Greenberg used a vacuum chamber, helium refrigerator and ultraviolet lamps to simulate conditions in space. The bacterial spores they used, *Bacillus subtilis*, are renowned for their resistance to harsh environments — but they had never previously been subjected to a space environment.

The results were indeed surprising — because they indicated that spores exposed to ultraviolet radiation stand a much better chance of survival in interstellar space than on Earth. Another surprise was that ultraviolet radiation of shorter wavelength and hence higher energy was less harmful than that of longer wavelength. The converse would be expected to be true.

Professors Weber and Greenberg propose two mechanisms to account for these findings. First, exposure to ultraviolet light at room temperature is known to initiate photochemical reactions within the nucleus of a spore which damage its genetic material. Extremely low temperatures may alter or inhibit these reactions.

Second, the spore's outer protein coat partially blocks the harmful radiations. This applies in any environment. However, the two researchers think that spores in interstellar space will gradually accumulate mantles of molecules which will

give added protection. Spores on which they deposited chemical layers were indeed more resistant to ultraviolet radiation.

Despite the good showing in the laboratory, however, the spores could survive no longer than 150 years in space, calculate Professors Weber and Greenberg, too short a time to make it to a neighboring star. But our galaxy of stars also contains comparatively dense clouds of hydrogen and other molecules. Such clouds move through our region of the galaxy and occasionally encounter a star. Spores inside such clouds would be exposed to ultraviolet radiation at only one ten-thousandth of its normal intensity and might therefore expect to live for more than a million years.

Where does this leave Panspermia? The journey from one planetary system to another is potentially more survivable than previously thought. But we do not know how many, if any, other stars have planetary systems. Nor do we know how spores would be ejected from such planets, assuming they exist. Finally, we do not know whether the spores could survive a "landing."

Enthusiasts of Panspermia still have a long way to go to make the theory workable. But perhaps Professors Weber and Greenberg have shown how our descendants could impregnate the galaxy with the germ plasm of our species the next time Earth encounters a molecular cloud.

'Nessie' Back Again — Like Fireman's Helmet

From Reuters

DRUMNADROCHIT, Scotland—A bagpiper has reported the first sighting this year of the elusive Loch Ness monster.

Murdo Urquhart, 55, said he was sitting in his car with two tourists Sunday when he saw a black object about six feet across in Britain's biggest lake.

"I just saw a hump," the bagpipe player told reporters. "It looked like a fireman's helmet. It seemed to be between two waves and was submerging. I'm convinced it was the monster."

The first reported sighting of the creature was in 1933, and more than 3,000 have been reported since. Experts have searched the loch in vain, although serious research has produced 40 unexplained sonar contacts.

TIMES, Los Angeles, CA - Sept. 18, 1985

AIR FORCE TIMES, Springfield, VA - Sept. 16, 1985 CR: R. Reid

43-Year-Old Blimp Mystery Still Defies Solution

By BILL KREH

The recent announcement that the Coast Guard is considering using airships for some of its coastal patrol work reminded me of a story I heard many years ago about blimps.

For those too young to remember, these giant craft and their pilots (who had the designation of LTA for lighter-than-air) were an important, though mostly unheralded, part of the U.S. Navy's air arm for many decades.

Back in the late 1950s, I visited what was then NAS Glynnco, Ga., an airship station, to do a *Navy Times* story on how Navy blimp pilots were trained.

While there, I heard an eerie tale of a still-unsolved blimp mystery.

It happened 43 years ago, Aug. 16, 1942. At 7:50 that morning, the radio operator at the naval station on Treasure Island, Calif., received a short message and entered it routinely in the log book.

It was from Lt. (jg) Ernest D. Cody aboard Navy airship L-8. He and Ens. Charles E. Adams from NAS Moffett Field were on a routine anti-submarine patrol. Cody's message was that they had spotted an oil slick about five miles east of the Farallon Islands, near San Francisco, and they were going to investigate.

Fifteen minutes later, the Treasure Island radio operator tried to contact the L-8 again. There was no answer, so two search planes had taken off from nearby NAS Alameda to investigate. They found a 500-foot ceiling over the

area and decided to stay above it.

At about 1045, Moffett Field received a call from Army officials at Fort Funston, reporting that an airship had touched down there, that two men had gotten out and that the craft had taken off again.

At 1100, the silver blimp came floating gently to earth in the streets of Daly City, a suburb of San Francisco. It was empty.

Perplexed Navy officials sent a salvage crew to the crash site. They found the ship in fair condition. The cabin door was open. One bomb was missing. The radio still worked, indicating the cabin possibly had been empty as early as 0805, when Treasure Island had tried to call the blimp but received no reply.

Spectators in Daly City said that the airship's motors had been stopped when it hit the ground, yet one throttle was open full and the other half-way. The ignition switches still were turned on.

Further investigation showed that the life jackets were missing but that the life raft was still in place. There was no evidence that the cabin had been immersed in the sea. There had not been any fire. There still was plenty of fuel aboard and fuel lines were not plugged or otherwise damaged.

The investigators turned their attention to Fort Funston where they learned that the Army's 1045 report had been wrong. No one had gotten out of the L-8 there.

What actually happened was that the blimp was seen drifting in from the Pacific and then descending into the beach about a mile from the fort. Two bathers saw it and had tried to seize the

handling lines. Others, seeing the bathers near the downed blimp had thought they were crewmembers who had jumped out.

A bomb was found in the sand. It apparently had been knocked off when the blimp hit the beach, and the lessened weight had given the craft enough lift to rise and drift over to Daly City.

The bathers said that when the L-8 had drifted in from the sea there was no one on board. The engines were stopped and the cabin door was open, they said.

Further probing revealed that at the time the L-8 was investigating the oil slick, there was a Coast Guard cutter, a Navy patrol boat and several fishing boats in the immediate vicinity. Crewmen in the boats said they saw the blimp come down low, drop two smoke flares and then fly off into the overcast.

An airliner had sighted the airship at 1000. Ten minutes later, one of the search planes saw the

L-8 break through the overcast, rise to about 2000 feet and then descend out of sight into the overcast again. Less than an hour later, she hit the streets of Daly City, empty.

What happened to her crew? There was a lot of speculation. Some suggested that an enemy submarine had surfaced and surprised the pilots while they were investigating the oil slick. But others pointed out this was not likely because of the number of surface craft in the area. A surfacing submarine would have been seen.

Both pilots were experienced enough to know that if they had engine trouble, the prevailing winds would carry the powerless blimp back to the mainland. And even if they had decided to abandon the craft, it is inconceivable they would do so without radioing their intentions.

Some believed that one of the officers may have leaned out of the car, lost his balance and fall-

en part way out. The other man might have tried to help him and during the struggle to get back in the car, both could have fallen into the sea. That would account for the open door. But since the life jackets were not in the downed craft, the men must have been wearing them. And with so many vessels in the area, why were they not picked up or their bodies found? What had caused the oil slick? Why had the pilots dropped smoke flares?

It's a mystery that probably never will be solved.

Bill Kreh is a former editor of *Navy Times*.

USA TODAY, Arlington, VA - Nov. 20, 1985

Signal crosses up satellite

By John Hillkirk
USA TODAY

Is someone, perhaps an angry TV watcher, starting to interfere with satellite broadcasts? Maybe so, says the *Home Satellite Newsletter*.

The trade publication said: ■ From Oct. 23 to 25, an unidentified signal interfered with broadcasts handled by Hughes Communications' Galaxy I satellite. (The signals were transmitted by Showtime/The Movie Channel and Eastern Microwave Inc. serving New York TV station WOR.

■ The alleged jamming caused severe interference that made it impossible to watch some TV broadcasts.

Penelope Longbottom, a Hughes spokeswoman, said Tuesday: "There was some interference and we'd like to know the source of the problem. We have no way of knowing if it were deliberate or not."

■ In a letter to the Federal Communications Commission, Eastern Microwave said: "Given the nature of the signal and its intelligent manipulation or control, deliberate interference must be considered."

EMI said TV watchers upset with attempts to scramble satellite TV broadcasts "may well be attempting to interfere."

A jammer can be built for under \$1,000, the newsletter said, and 24 USA communications satellites are vulnerable.

SUNDAY EXPRESS, London, England - Sept. 15, 1985

Chinese puzzle

PEKING: Scientists in Liaoning Province, north east China, are baffled by a strip of land where the temperatures soar in winter and drop to below freezing in summer.

The freak heat spot, 1,000 metres long and 15 metres wide, runs down from a hill and across a river.

During the winter, the temperature on the strip rises to 17 degrees above freezing point. In the summer, despite surrounding sweltering conditions, rain turns to ice as it hits the ground and the soil freezes.

For local inhabitants, who say the natural phenomenon has been known for over 100 years, it is the ideal winter vegetable patch and the perfect natural refrigerator for the summer.

CR: D. Speed

SUNDAY EXPRESS, London, England - Nov. 3, 1985

Bermuda riddle

CR: D. Speed

HAMILTON: Three fishermen have mysteriously vanished in the Bermuda Triangle. A week-long air-sea search has failed to turn up any trace of the small fishing boat My Toy and its three-man crew who disappeared 20 miles from the mid-Atlantic island while taking part in a fishing competition.

Experts are baffled. The weather was moderate with

six to ten knot winds and choppy water, and two of the three missing men were experienced fishermen.

Scores of ships and aircraft have disappeared over the centuries in the area, also known as the Devil's Triangle which stretches for several hundred miles between Bermuda, Puerto Rico and the Bahamas.

Bigfoot: The search and the legend live on

By DAVID FOY
Staff Writer

It was the middle of last February, and Lyle Geary of Rosamond and a friend thought it would be a nice day for a hike in the snows of Angeles National Forest.

While walking through the cool, pristine air near Jackson Lake, he saw some unusual tracks, similar to those he had seen 11 years before: 22 inches long, 10 inches wide, spaced as much as 5 feet apart.

He had the feeling this would be the day when he might come face to face with one of the world's most controversial mysteries.

He and his friend, Vern Wisdom, sat on a boulder for about 15 minutes when a rock came flying down and landed 10 feet away. A few seconds later, more rocks came down.

They looked at the nearby trees but saw nothing, so they hiked up a ridge.

Suddenly they saw them: two huge creatures, with sloping foreheads, flat noses, covered with black hair. One of them was looking over a tree.

Their faces were vaguely human, but more primitive, like Neanderthal's, Geary said.

This was it! And two of them! From his distance (about 100 yards) it was hard to see how tall they were, but Geary has no doubt that the

creatures he saw were indeed bigfoots. Or would that be bigfeet?

They decided to walk away, in hopes the hairy hulks would follow them, but the creatures soon disappeared. Going back to the tree where he saw them, Geary was shocked to see the tree was at least eight feet high.

Geary estimates the bigfoot that looked over the tree must have been about 10 feet tall, while the other was about 8½ feet tall.

Geary's is the latest reported sighting of a bigfoot, or sasquatch, and it helped convince Rich

Grumley, head of the dormant California Bigfoot Organization, to come out of a five-year hiatus from bigfoot hunting.

At its peak in the 1970s, the Lancaster-based CBFO had 85 members, all trying to document sightings and tracks of the bigfoot.

Now, Grumley said, the CBFO is reforming with an even more ambitious goal: the live capture of a sasquatch.

Until one is caught, Grumley said, all the reported sightings, tracks and photographs in the world will not convince the skeptics who laugh at anyone who believes in bigfoot.

"Anyone who gets involved with bigfoot has to be prepared to be laughed at and ostracized," Grumley said.

Scientists and much of the general public do not believe in bigfoot. Headlines in tabloids such as "I gave birth to bigfoot's baby" certainly do not add to the group's credibility.

But to the CBFO, the existence of the bigfoot is beyond question. The task now is to raise enough money — Grumley thinks it will take \$500,000 — to capture one alive.

He said he has tried scientific foundations such as the Smithsonian Institution, but has gotten nowhere.



It's hairy

Creature haunts E. Pennsboro site

By Wade Fowler
Patriot-News

It's tall. It's hairy. It slinks. And it has 1½-inch fangs.

If it isn't Big Foot, it may be his kissing cousin that's stalking a rural section of East Pennsboro Twp.

The events recorded here do not come from a horror movie starring Vincent Price, Boris Karloff or Lon Chaney.

They are a slice of real life, starring two ordinary people who are convinced they've seen something extraordinary.

There's even a supporting cast of several people who admit that they've heard something they cannot associate with the indigenous.

Something unusual has been happening along Pine Hill Road — an otherwise sleepy country lane that connects Wertzville Road and Valley Street.

The Patriot-News reported in late August that Pine Hill Road residents were hearing things that went bump in the night.

There have been a few more "bumps" since then. The records of township police bear that out.

On Sept. 29, police investigated three bizarre incidents beginning in the early morning, at about 12:20, when Tom Leach of the 2000 block of Valley Street was on his way home.

Leach had just turned right onto Pine Hill from Wertzville when "I saw something move," he said. "I thought it might be a deer or something, so I



PATRIOT-NEWS, Harrisburg, PA
Oct. 9, 1985 CR: S. Gordon

a 16-year-old boy described seeing a large, hairy creature about 8 feet tall walking on two legs, with a very heavy build but small head and no neck.

—In May, ex-marine Ron Bailey saw an "eight-foot, dark figure standing near a telephone pole" as he arrived at his Palmdale home at 4:15 a.m. He said it created a foul smell, like rotten apples.

—In June, two children reported seeing "a thing like an ape" looking at them on a butte on the east side of the Valley.

—Also that summer, Mike Pense of Lancaster saw a "black hairy figure" standing near a butte. He said it threw a rock in his direction.

—On Sept. 17, two people delivering newspapers by car in Quartz Hill saw a "huge, heavily-built creature" about 50 feet away, covered with dark matted hair.

—On Dec. 27, a Palmdale woman saw something like "a big person, all one color," which took off running "as fast as if it was on a motorcycle." She said it appeared to be twice the height of a man.

Green concluded that although some bigfoot enthusiasts have been known to fabricate seeing the creatures, he does not think that was the case in the Valley.

"If those were hoaxes, someone was wearing a fur suit and taking a very real risk of being shot full of holes," he wrote.

Grumley said he believes the bigfoot is simply another animal species, as yet unclassified but probably a primate. He said it is "ridiculous" to believe it is some sort of space alien or missing link to man, as some people have suggested.

People wishing to join the the organization should write to CBFO, Box 4254, Lancaster 93539.

turned on my high beams and I slowed down to about 5 mph.

"It was standing behind a guardrail, waving its arms like crazy, like he didn't know whether to cross the road or not. He seemed to be confused."

Leach was about 50 feet away from the creature and passed within eight feet of it as he drove by at about 5 mph. Here's what he saw:

"It was 6½ feet tall and covered with hair from top to bottom. It didn't have a neck. The head set right on the shoulders and the arms were longer than normal."

Leach can't remember anything specific about the facial features, save for one thing — "the teeth," he said. "It had normal inner teeth, with two long fangs hanging down. They were an inch and a half, or two inches long," he added, pausing to reconsider.

Then he said, "It could have been two long fangs going down and two going up."

The police report of the incident shows that the investigating officer was convinced that Leach was sober and sane.

There's even a notation that Leach was asked to repeat his story several times, and the details always were the same. That's an indication that the subject is telling the truth, professional interrogators will tell you.

Leach returned to the scene with the investigating officer, James Karns, and the two stayed there into the wee hours of the morning.

The creature didn't reappear, "but we heard it three more times that night," Leach said.

Police Chief James J. Corbett said Karns did report hearing unusual sounds that night. The chief also said Karns is a reliable officer whose reports are to be believed.

Corbett is convinced that something was seen and that something was heard, but he's prepared to mark it down as the work of pranksters. Besides, he points out, "it's coming up Halloween."

"It wasn't a bear and it wasn't a person standing there in a [mon-key] suit," Leach said flatly.

The creature also was sighted earlier that same evening by another resident, who did not call police and who requested anonymity.

The second witness — let's call the person Meredith — said there was no way the creature could have been a human in ape's clothing. It moved too fast, too fluidly, Meredith said.

"We were in here watching TV when we smelled it," Meredith said. "I think it probably was looking in the windows. We were gagging, it smelled so bad."

Meredith went outside to the end of a hedge and saw the creature standing in a neighbor's driveway about 45 or 50 feet away. "It was dark, but there was a full moon that night," Meredith said. "It had great big shoulders like that," Meredith said with hands about 3 feet apart. "It was between 6 and 7 feet tall."

The head of the creature came back into a broad point and was just sitting there on its shoulders, Meredith added.

It was big all over — as wide at the hips as it was at the shoulders — with very long legs, and it was covered with shaggy, brown hair, the second witness said.

The creature, Meredith said, was not bearlike — it had no snout in profile. Its arms hung to its knees or a little below. When Meredith screamed, the creature loped off, jumping a small stream with ease.

It ran with its arms swinging at full length and not pumping tight to the chest like a human runner, Meredith said.

Two other eerie reports were called in to township police later that same day.

One Pine Hill resident told police that she had heard strange noises and that her horse had seen something that scared it so much that it had bolted into the barn.

Another called to report that for the second time in a month or so a cat had mysteriously disappeared from a pen that had been secured with a hasp and pin.

More Yeti to come?

Some say there's a mysterious creature stalking Wisconsin

By JAY RATH
Special to The Journal

JUST IN THE outer fringes of the headlights, not quite out of headlight range, I saw this big hairy thing. It scared the devil out of me. It was probably seven or eight feet tall. It was running across, from north to south, and it jumped a four or five-foot barbed wire fence."

The story of what Dennis Fewless saw near Delavan one night in July 1964 is one of Wisconsin's reports of the Sasquatch. Known by a variety of names in the 27 states where he has been sighted, including Mountain Devil, Smy-a-Lykh, Bushman, Dsonqua, Omah, Bukwas, Seeahatik, Wild Man and Creek Devil, Sasquatch is best known to the white man by his nickname, "Bigfoot."

The creature is variously described as looking like an upright ape with dark fur. Various sightings put Sasquatch's height at between six and 12 feet, with huge strides that leave 16-inch footprints.

The creature has been described by hundreds of people since the 1800s, but proof of its existence is yet to be found.

While most sightings occur in the Northwest, stories of the creature come from across the United States and Canada, from Arizona to Maine, from Alaska to Florida.

In Wisconsin, bow hunters in Fremont, near Weyauwega, said they saw the creature in October 1968. Their reports were published in the magazine Argosy.

Bob Parry, Dick Bleier and Bill Mallo were hunting in Deltos Marsh, near Fremont, when they saw what appeared to be a large and powerfully built man, covered with short dark hair and long legs. It moved too quickly to be an upright bear or man, they said.

There were sightings around the same time in Duluth, Minn., and Port Huron, Mich. Then in November the



SASQUATCH WISCONSINUS?

By Journal artist Gregg Klees

three hunters saw the creature again, while with several other people. Grass that grew four feet high in the marsh came only halfway up the creature's thighs, they said. Footprints were found and photographed.

The history of Bigfoot in Wisconsin goes back farther. Charles E. Brown, chief of the Wisconsin State Historical Society in the 1920s, collected stories of what the Chippewa called "Windigos."

"The Windigos are powerful giants," Brown wrote in 1927. "They kill Indians for food, cut them up and boil them in their kettles The belief in them still persists."

The Chippewa stories, when compared with "average" Bigfoot sightings, range from fantastic to plausible. Modern sightings consist of little more than brief, visual contact. The Chippewa, however, occasionally spoke to the Windigos. The Windigos were greatly feared, even though their social patterns reflected those of the Chippewa.

Windigos, for instance, had families, with brothers, sisters and wives. A Windigo and an Indian could even marry, though the couple would not be welcome in the village.

Windigos had great strength, but no supernatural power. Fear of them was based only on their raids on Indian villages.

From Charles Brown's collection of Windigo stories:

"A good many years ago there was a large Indian village. In it were a hundred or more bark-covered wigwams. A Windigo went to this village and killed all of the Indians. He left only one woman, whom he wanted for a wife. He didn't eat all of the Indians, but cached them away for the winter. An Indian who was away from the village hunting rabbits saw the Windigo's tracks. These he followed and killed the Windigo. He married the Indian woman the Windigo had spared."

Other stories are less romantic: A Windigo once stalked an Indian village, catching an Indian every day or so. The village was soon terrorized. The Windigo moved near a different Indian village then, possibly because residents of the first were staying close to home. At the neighboring village, the Indians joined together and hunted the Windigo while he slept. They surprised him and attacked him with axes. After a hard struggle, during which several Indians were killed, the Windigo was destroyed.

Perhaps the most interesting Chippewa account of the Windigo is the story of a group of castaway Indians who befriend the creatures, later escaping on a passing ship.

"Four Indian families left their camp for the summer," Brown wrote. "They made a big boat with a sail. They sailed for a long time and finally reached an island where they landed. When they left the boat, a large number of Windigos came and wished to kill them. But the Indians gave them rings and brooches and made friends with them. They (the Windigos) killed a deer and gave it to the Indians. The Indians lived on the island a long time."

"One day they saw a ship. They waved a blanket and it came to the island. The Windigos were sorry to see the Indians leave. They wanted to get into the ship, too, but the white men on the ship were afraid of them. But for the gifts the Windigos would have killed and eaten the Indians."

This is the only recorded Windigo story in which whites figure. Of all the Windigo stories, it is the most fascinating and, by the standards of modern Bigfoot reports, the most realistic.

It's also valuable because it places the Windigos in history. Trade with the Chippewa did not flourish until the mid-1700s, when Britain took control of trading in what later became Wisconsin.

If Windigos were familiar to the Chippewa, it seems logical to assume that lumberjacks in Wisconsin's North Woods would also have come in contact with the creature. In fact, they may have. But the lumberjacks' reputation of creating and exaggerating reports of North Woods monsters leaves the researcher hopeless. Besides Windigo-like creatures like the Canadian Leprechaun and the Whirling Whimpy, there are stories of fur-bearing fish, mermaids, bee-eating cats and Rhinelander's Hodag. Possible accounts of the Windigo are hopelessly lost in this tangle of tall tales.

Modern sightings afford little insight into the habits of the Windigo. They are characteristically brief, such as that of Dennis Fewless.

A Delavan native, Fewless was driving home from his job at the

(continued on page 18)



Ty Dorman examines one of his 3 goats whose throats were cut in his rented shed below Blount Avenue.

Goats killed & mutilated —but blood is missing

3 pregnant goats belonging to Ty Dorman were killed on successive nights, and the manner of their deaths has created a mystery.

All 3 of their throats were cut, but there was no sign of the blood that must have been spilled when that happened.

The sexual parts of one goat had been cut out. A hole had been cut in the side of another goat, and parts of 3 ribs removed.

The carcasses were found in the old county school bus shop on Ligon Street, behind Finis St. John's plumbing and boiler shop. Mr. Dorman has been renting the property from the Hospital Board, which now owns it. He buys and sells scrap materials and has been using the property as a storage place.

"I had the goats there to keep the grass down," Mr. Dorman said.

He found the largest of the 3 when he went there Saturday morning. She was about 7 years old and weighed about 150 pounds. She was

on the verge of giving birth. She had been killed in the night. She was lying on the floor of the old shop, as if she had been run inside and cornered. Two smaller goats, each pregnant for the first time, were fine.

"I thought at first some dogs had probably killed her," Mr. Dorman said. He hauled her body to the woods to dispose of it and noticed there that her sexual organs had been cut out.

Sunday afternoon Mr. Dorman and his wife Betty went to the shop and found both of the younger goats dead. A hole had been cut in the side of one of them, and some of the fat under the skin had been pulled out. It didn't appear that any interior organs had been removed but Mr. Dorman couldn't tell for sure. Their sexual parts hadn't been cut out.

There was some blood over near one side of the shed, possibly where one of the goats had been stabbed or slashed while it ran, but no sign of a large volume of blood from cutting the throats.

Policeman Justice Ashley investigated.

Last March a whiteface cow belonging to Weldon Tidmore was found dead in his pasture on Union Grove 1. Her tongue, ears and sexual parts had been cut off. Not long before that a mother horse was killed and her female colt stolen in Madison County, and some people there said it looked like the work of devil worshippers. They said they always go after female animals.

Milwaukee, WI - Sept. 5, 1985)

Admiral Television Corp. in Harvard, Ill. It was around midnight sometime in July 1968.

After turning onto Wisconsin 89 from US 14, his headlights picked up an animal running across the road, from field to field, on two legs. It was dark-colored and weighed between 400 and 500 pounds.

"I was awful scared that night," said Fewless, 44. "That was no man. It was all hairy from feet to head."

The next day Fewless and his wife returned to the spot, to look for footprints and other evidence. The hot July sun had hardened the ground so that there were no tracks. "But we found where the corn had been pushed aside," Fewless said.

Fewless did not call police or reporters about his sighting. He wrote to Canadian Bigfoot researcher John Green about what had happened. Green, without Fewless' knowledge, published the report in 1973. It wasn't until 1984 that Fewless learned the account had found its way into print.

The most recent recorded sighting of the Wisconsin Windigo occurred in 1972, in Jefferson County. According to David Gjetson of the Department of Natural Resources, which was called to investigate the sighting, a large ape-like creature was haunting a farm around five miles east of Fort Atkinson. A woman living on the farm called the sheriff's office and reported that an eight-foot animal with long black hair had wandered around her farm.

A few weeks after the initial incident, she called again. The creature had returned and rattled the doors of her farmhouse, apparently trying to break in.

The creature then went to a shed where a horse was kept.

"It took a swat at the horse and left a gash across the chest — 30 inches from one shoulder to the other," Gjetson said.

Leaving the shed, the creature crossed the garden and left tracks that were "larger than one foot."

While witnesses believe in the existence of the Windigo as a real creature, Robert A. Brightman, a professor of anthropology at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, believes the stories can be explained from a sociological standpoint.

Brightman has studied reports of Bigfoot in the sensational press. He doesn't believe the creature exists, but he still is interested in studying why people believe the reports.

"I think it fits into a larger tendency that you can observe in every human society," he said. "Images like Bigfoot, images between humans and animals, seem to be common to people of all states of society. If it's not universal, it's close to universal."

Stories of near-human creatures are indeed widespread. Ancient Greece and its half-man, half-horse centaur. Besides the Sasquatch of the Pacific Northwest, there is Nepal's Yeti, or Abominable Snowman. China has its Wild Man and Russia has its Snowman.

Society may feel a need to separate itself from animals, Brightman said, so that we now were different. Creatures that merge the characteristics of man and animal let us define ourselves more clearly. The closer the creature comes, the more specific we can make the rules for being human.

Dennis Fewless, however, knows what he saw.

"I'm no nut," he said. "I'd been making that same drive night after night. It wasn't just a one-night affair. I know what to look for. You know what a deer looks like, or a skunk or bear — you know what that looks like."

"This didn't look anything like that at all. As far as I'm concerned, it was real. And no one can tell me it wasn't."

And so the mystery remains.

CR: J. Laurino

Detours on the Trail Of Mysterious Hum

By Steve Rubenstein

It isn't an earthquake fault, it isn't a Navy generator and it isn't a portable hospital machine.

As the mysterious hum grew more mysterious in San Francisco yesterday, several experts said they were sure of what it wasn't. No one was sure of what it was.

After reports of the noise became widespread, several members of the public offered theories about what was causing the low buzzing that has been heard in Pacific Heights and the Marina District since Friday.

Penny Johnson, a sales supervisor who lives in Pacific Heights, said that she stalked the mysterious noise during the weekend and finally traced it to a pier at Fisherman's Wharf.

She said the noise was caused by a diesel generator hooked up to the McKee, a 644-foot-long submarine tender tied up at Pier 45 for public tours over the weekend.

"It was so loud I couldn't hear myself think," she said. "I tried to talk to sailors standing next to the ship and I couldn't hear my own voice."

Ken McNeill, a public affairs officer for the Navy, confirmed that a portable generator had been hooked up to supply power to the docked ship, but called the device "quite quiet."

"It makes about as much noise as a small diesel truck," he said. "There's no way you could hear it more than a block away, let alone in Pacific Heights."

Anyway, he quickly added, the machine was shut down when the ship left town Monday morning.

By yesterday morning, some residents said the hum had stopped humming. But others said they could still hear it.

A Presidio Heights woman said that she was certain that the hum was caused by a portable CAT scan machine at Marshall Hale Hospital on California Street.

"They pulled this thing in real sneakily over the weekend," contended Ann Paisley, whose home, she said, is directly behind the machine. "It's like a refrigerator, but louder. It's practically in my back yard."

Hospital officials confirmed that they had installed a temporary machine inside a van in the doctor's parking lot while their own machine was being repaired. Although several residents have complained about the noise, a hospital official denied that the \$1.5 million machine could be heard more than a block away.

"It's inconceivable," said Netta Monahan, coordinator of the CAT scan, or computerized axial tomography machine, which takes three-dimensional X-rays.

"I can't believe they could hear it that far away," she said. "Maybe they're suffering from an acoustic neuroma. Tell 'em to come in for a CAT scan. They only cost \$635."

Another resident, who identified himself as a geologist, said that the sound was being caused by shifting geological faults, possibly related to the recent earthquakes in Mexico City.

But Wayne Thatcher, a geophysicist with the U.S. Geological Survey in Menlo Park, said he strongly doubted the hum could be related to earthquakes, especially the ones in Mexico.

"I'm skeptical," he said. "At a distance like that, it's very unlikely."

Other residents of the affected areas said that the hum was surely the sound of underground electric lines. Pacific Gas & Electric Co. said it surely wasn't.

Biologists have already ruled out an amorous species of fish called toadfish, whose mating rite was discovered last month to be the cause of a similar hum in Sausalito. The toadfish, experts say, have finished mating for the season and are quiet as clams.

TIMES, New York, NY - Nov. 18, 1985 CR: J. Clark

Mysteries of Sirius Are Deepened By 6th-Century Report of It as Red

By WALTER SULLIVAN

The long-standing mysteries surrounding Sirius, the brightest star seen from Earth, have been deepened by the discovery in a sixth-century manuscript of a description of the star as red.

This discovery implies that the star changed to its present bluish-white brilliance less than 14 centuries ago, even more recently than scientists had thought.

Astronomers have long puzzled over far earlier descriptions of Sirius as being red — chiefly in Greek and Roman sources as well as in Babylonian cuneiform texts dating from 1000 to 500 B.C. In Rome, red-coated dogs were sacrificed each year when Sirius rose just before the sun.

Some scholars have challenged the translations or interpretations of those sources, none of which was much more recent than 200 A.D. In the newly discovered manuscript, written by Gregory of Tours in the sixth century and described in an article in the Nov. 7 issue of the British journal *Nature*, Sirius was referred to as "Rubeola" or "Rubeola" — the "red" or "rusty" star.

Subject of African Lore

This Merovingian text, preserved in a West German library, was designed to help monasteries to determine when the constellations were properly aligned for nocturnal divine services. Sirius is also referred to as "Stella Splendida," implying that then, as now, it was the brightest star.

Sirius was already the subject of a mystery concerning the traditional lore of the Dogon tribe of Mali, near Timbuktu in western Africa. According to this lore, confided to French anthropologists who observed the tribe from 1931 to 1979, Sirius has a small invisible companion of extreme density and the two bodies circle each other every 50 years.

The existence of such a companion star had been deduced in 1836 by the German astronomer Friedrich Bessel, based on his observation that the motion of Sirius through space was irregular because of the gravitational influence of an object circling it. But the Dogon lore was thought by some to have originated centuries before that discovery, and a number of writers have expressed amazement that the secret lore of the Dogon priests should include such knowledge of Sirius as well as the existence of Jupiter's four inner moons, the rings of Saturn and the fact that all the planets including Earth fly elliptical orbits around the Sun.

By the 1920's it had been deduced that this companion star, Sirius B, was a "white dwarf," a small, extremely dense remnant of a star that has exhausted its nuclear fuel and collapsed because it no longer generates the heat needed to support its gaseous envelope. The stage of a star's life cycle that precedes such a collapse is typically that of a huge "red giant."

The authors of the *Nature* article, Wolfhard Schlosser, an astronomer, and Werner Bergmann, a historian, concluded that the most likely explanation for the star's reddish color came from the red giant that collapsed into the white dwarf circling Sirius.

According to the authors, light observed while the red giant was in existence would have originated both from that star and from Sirius itself, producing a combined red image.

If the collapse of the red giant into a white dwarf was rapid in the form of a great explosion, or supernova, the effects on the nearby solar system would probably have been catastrophic. If it was slow, according to current theory, it should still be under way.

According to the authors: "The rapidity and smoothness of this transformation are quite unexpected, and its time scale is surprisingly short. Furthermore, no traces of catastrophic effects connected with such an event have been found."

The only supporting evidence, they report, is the "somewhat higher" than normal metal content observed in Sirius itself, deposited perhaps when the red giant blew off its outer shell as it collapsed.

Explanations of Dogon Lore

The existence of the Dogon lore has provoked a variety of explanations. In his book, "The Sirius Mystery," the British writer Robert G. K. Temple argued that the Dogon were too isolated to have gained such knowledge from modern sources.

Dr. Kenneth Brecher of Boston University, a theoretical astrophysicist with a special interest in early astronomical observations, has disputed Mr. Temple's theory.

In an article he wrote in *Technology Review*, a journal of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Dr. Brecher said that in the 1920's, discovery of the superdense nature of Sirius B created ripples of excitement around the world and was well publicized. He contended that this was well known to Jesuit missionaries who visited Mali — then French West Africa — who passed the information on to the tribe.

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT, Little Rock, AR - Nov. 23, 1985

Paul Harvey



Perpetual motion machine?

What are we going to do with Joe Newman's Perpetual Motion Machine?

Joseph Westley Newman was a Lucedale, Miss., inventor whose manner is polite and whose credentials are impressive.

But for six years he has been unable to convince the Patent Office that his "Revolutionary Energy Machine" really can run forever, producing more energy than it consumes.

Mr. Newman is a persistent fellow, convinced that his energy machine will make inexpensive and abundant energy available to the world — and can be mass-produced within six months — if he can just get the Patent Office to hear him out.

He has persuaded Congressman Dan Burton of Indiana to seek legislation which would compel the Patent Office to capitulate.

He conducted a recent demonstration in New Orleans which spellbound a thousand spectators including engineers from the United States and Canada.

The *Wall Street Journal* concedes his non-polluting generator does "go on and on and on and on..."

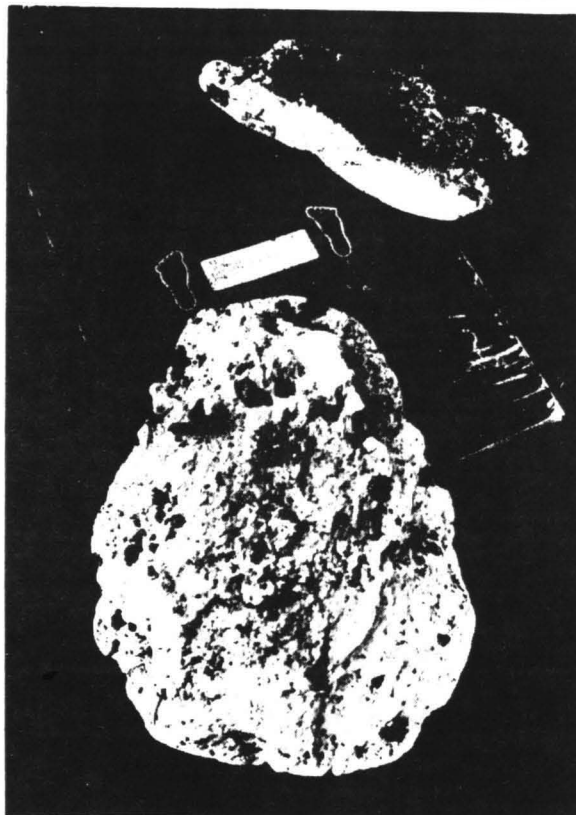
Mr. Newman says it is adaptable to cars, refrigerators, air conditioners, aircraft, will render the internal combustion engine obsolete. He says, "With this machine within 30 years the average work week will be one hour."

How does it work? Copper wire and spinning magnets appear to effect a mechanical unification of the gravitational and nuclear fields.

His investors concede that it contradicts scientific principles which have been accepted for centuries; that it really does produce more energy than it consumes.

His machine has been examined by at least 30 engineers and physicists who arrived skeptical and departed willing to swear under oath that "it works."

The principal physicist for Sperry-Univac, Roger Hastings, says, "The future of the human race may be drastically uplifted by large-scale commercial development of this invention."



T-R/Eric Albrecht

PLASTER CASTS OF "BIG" FOOTPRINTS
Made from tracks found near Newcomerstown

Creature hunter believes; do others?

By JOE MIZER
T-R Staff Writer

NEWCOMERSTOWN — Don Keating of here Saturday night produced what he considers "almost positive proof" that a Bigfoot-like creature exists in secluded areas south of this village. Not all of the 100 attending the public meeting, however, went home convinced.

The "evidence" presented by Keating, who says he has been tracking the so-called creatures for about a year in this area, included three plaster casts and several photographs of four different sizes of big footprints.

He also related how he and two other Bigfoot trackers had heard strange noises and found broken tree branches more than seven feet above the ground in an area where the footprints were discovered in recent weeks. There also was discussion about how the creatures manage to hide from human eyes and whether they migrated here from the western U.S.

Among those in attendance were five people who are members of the Alliance Tri-County UFO (Unidentified Flying Object) Study Group, Akron Flying Saucer Investigating Committee or the Goodyear UFO Society.

One of the five, Bob Garfield of Canton, said he believes there is a connection between UFOs and the Bigfoot phenomenon.

SOME OTHERS in the audience were less certain, evidenced by muffled snickers during Keating's presentation — especially when it was asked whether strange odors could be evidence of a Bigfoot, and someone jokingly answered that it could be proof of the existence of "Frogman."

Another highlight was the playing of a tape recording of sounds — similar to those heard in a monster movie — that have been used in documentaries about Bigfoot creatures.

Keating discounted one woman's inquiry about whether the creatures could have migrated to this area since the eruption of Mount St. Helens in Washington state in 1980. Keating said evidence of the creatures existed in Ohio before then, adding that one theory about why they hide so well is that they exist in a network of underground tunnels throughout the state.

The public presentation of Keating's most recent findings — including plaster casts of footprints — had to be split into two sessions to accommodate the large crowd at the new Duke's Inn at I-77 and Rt. 36 near here. It originally was scheduled in the community room of Newcomerstown High, but Keating said he was told by school officials late Saturday that the building was being used by another group and he had to move his meeting at the last minute.

THE FOOTPRINTS were found while Keating and the other trackers, Tom Archer of Reynoldsburg and Richard Kieldsing of Weston, W.Va., were

looking for clues in an area about 10 miles south of Newcomerstown on Aug. 25. Keating said the area is near the Tuscarawas-Guernsey county line, but wouldn't reveal its exact location because he said he doesn't want it to be overrun by curiosity seekers.

The day before the footprints were found, Keating said, they also heard noises like the hooting of an owl and dogs barking, which they believe could have been made by a Bigfoot because they have been known to mimic the sounds of other animals.

The next day when they returned and found the footprints, Keating said they also heard "some pretty heavy breaking noises" such as the footsteps of a large creature from a nearby hillside. He said they were unable to find out what made the sounds because they had no way of getting up the hill.

One of the footprints they said they found was embedded three inches deep in soil. It was 14 inches long, 7 inches wide at the toes, and 5 inches wide at the heel, and Keating said it matched a

similar footprint nearby and indicated a stride of 50 inches.

Keating added that a Bigfoot expert in Arizona told him the depth of such a footprint indicated it was made by a creature weighing about 750 pounds.

The following week, he said, they found two more smaller footprints — these being 11 by 7 by 4 inches. "I can't say this is a Bigfoot, but it is similar to what has been reported," he said.

Keating said he, Archer and Kieldsing have come to the conclusion that the tracks "aren't hoaxes," but feel the only sure way of identifying the creature is by an actual sighting "by one of us," or a photograph.

Archer, who has been investigating alleged Bigfoot sightings for more than 12 years, said he's still a skeptic.

Keating plans to continue his quest to prove the existence of Bigfoot and to continue holding open meetings on a regular basis. The next one will be Oct. 5 at 7 p.m., at a location to be announced.

PATRIOT-NEWS, Harrisburg, PA - Oct. 12, 1985 CR: S. Gordon



Associated Press

Police Chief James J. Corbett heading up investigation

Hoax Hunt for creature ends as man admits to caper

By Wade Fowler
Patriot-News

East Pennsboro Twp. Police Chief James J. Corbett says that the Big Foot-like creature that's been pestering the neighborhood is a big hoax and that he has a taped confession to prove it.

On the strength of that confession, the chief announced yesterday that 24-year-old Craig Alan Brashear of the 1100 block of Valley Street has been charged with disorderly conduct for monkeyshines along Pine Hill Road.

The summary offense carries a maximum fine of \$300.

Specifically, police allege, Brashear dressed himself in a homemade ape suit and scared the devil out of young Tom Leach of the 2000 block of Valley Street.

Interviewed yesterday at his place of employment in Mechanicsburg, Brashear admitted that he made the crude costume of fake fur specifically for the purpose of scaring people along Pine Hill Road.

Some residents there were jumpy because they'd been hearing strange sounds and smelling foul stench at night all summer long.

The sighting was fuel for the fires of imagination, and some folks, at least, were convinced that Big Foot, the legendary half-man, half-beast, was paying a call on East Pennsboro Twp.

The incident occurred at about 12:20 a.m. on Sept. 29, just after Leach turned right onto Pine Hill Road from the Wertzville Road.

Brashear admits that he was wearing the suit and standing along the roadside that night when a Chevrolet Blazer passed by, and he's pretty sure that Leach was the driver, he said.

Brashear also said that Leach, when the two talked yesterday, was pretty sure that the creature he saw standing along the roadway wasn't Brashear in an ape's clothing.

But there are some discrepancies in the two stories.

Leach's description of the

creature he had encountered went like this:

"It was standing behind a guardrail, waving its arms like crazy, like he didn't know whether to cross the road or not. He seemed to be confused."

Brashear said: "I did move around a little."

Leach said: "It was 6½ feet tall and covered with hair from top to bottom. It didn't have a neck. The head set right on the shoulders and the arms were longer than normal."

Brashear is 5 feet, 10 inches tall. He has a neck, and his arms aren't longer than normal.

The costume he said he was wearing that night was in a paper bag at Corbett's office yesterday. It was sewn from a furlike material that Brashear had purchased from Cloth World in the West Shore Shopping Center in Lemoyne, the chief said.

The costume was constructed like a coverall, with full trousers but only partial sleeves, which would leave the underside of the arms exposed.

Brashear also wore a wolfman mask with four fangs and a snout nose that he had bought at a K mart in Carlisle, Corbett said.

It was a primitive costume. But it fooled Leach, Corbett said, writing off the discrepancy in height to exaggeration borne of fear.

Brashear's admission, however, leaves some questions unanswered.

He denied, for example, that he had pulled the stunt more than once.

But earlier that same evening, another eyewitness reported seeing a Big Foot-like creature along Pine Hill Road.

Strange Hum In Pacific Heights

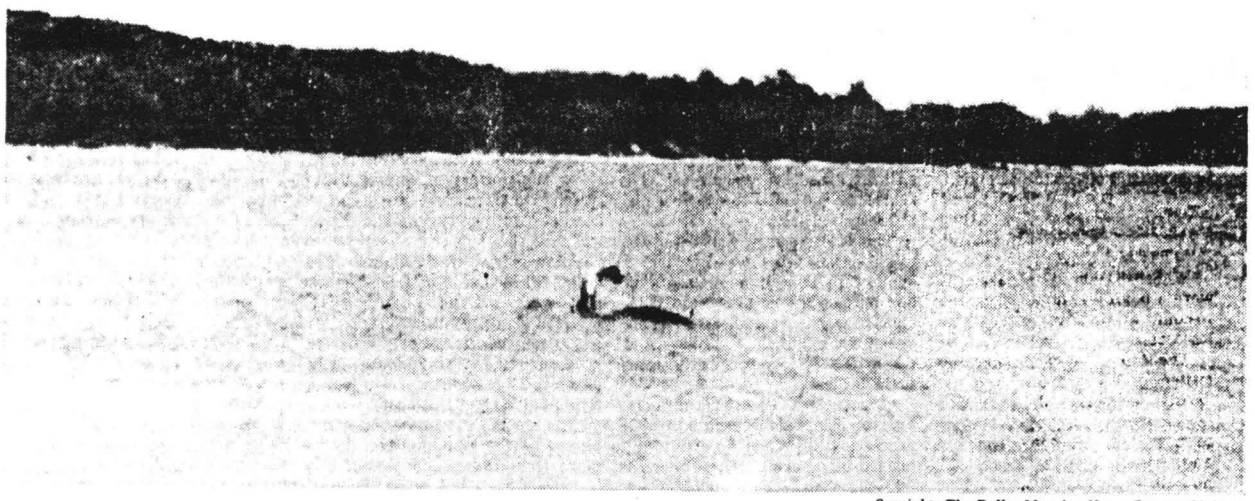
A mysterious hum in San Francisco's Pacific Heights neighborhood baffled residents and police during the weekend.

A mechanical sound, similar to that of a helicopter, began plaguing the neighborhood Friday night, police said.

"One woman said it sounded like it was coming through her wall," said a patrol officer dispatched to locate the aural assault. "It frustrated us. We couldn't track it."

Police Officer Joanne Welsh said the sound "seems to fade in and out," but police ruled out low-flying military helicopters after calling officials at the nearby Presidio.

CHRONICLE, San Francisco, CA
Sept. 23, 1985 CR: D. Vance



This 1977 photo, taken by a Connecticut woman, is the clearest known photo of "Champ."

Special to The Dallas Morning News: Gamma-Liaison

Hunt goes on for Lake Champlain legend

By Douglas Wilhelm

Special to The News

BASIN HARBOR, Vt. — On June 29, 1985, at 4 p.m., Peg McGeoch and Jane Temple were relaxing in the living room of a waterside home, about 40 feet above the calm surface of Lake Champlain — the long, deep lake that divides Vermont and New York and runs into Canada.

It was an overcast day, no boats were on the water. The two middle-aged women, who run the bookshop at the nearby Basin Harbor Yacht Club, were pet-sitting for the home's owners.

As they sat talking, Ms. McGeoch's eyes took in a window that framed the water. Out there, a fish jumped.

That, Ms. McGeoch remembers thinking, is a very big fish. Suddenly another big fish appeared behind the first. Then, a third. Her eyes opened wide. That, she realized, is no fish.

The two women went to the window and for several minutes at a range of about 250 yards watched a dark-colored creature with a long, thick neck, a head "like a brontosaurus" and two humps that showed above the water — in all, about 30 feet of animal — swim with calm purpose from north to south.

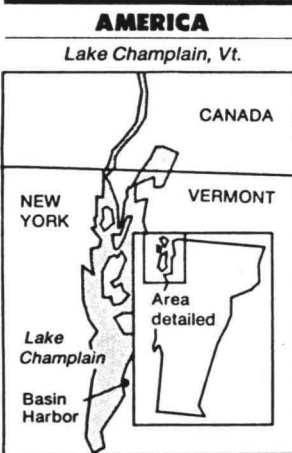
Twice it submerged, and they could see the dark form roiling the water around it. When it reappeared, the head and humps remained in the same relative positions as the creature moved along.

"He was just motoring down the lake," said Ms. McGeoch, as though powered by underwater fins. The creature left no wake. It continued steadily south until it was out of view.

The women watched in "disbelief, surprise, amazement," Ms. McGeoch later said. But they knew what they were seeing. Nearly everyone who lives near Lake Champlain has heard of "Champ," the large, elusive water creature that has been seen up and down the lake since Indian times, and that bears apparent similarities to the more famous "monster" of Scotland's Loch Ness.

Ms. McGeoch and Ms. Temple's sighting of Champ was among 13 re-

Many believe 'Champ' bears similarities to Scotland's famed Loch Ness 'monster'



The Dallas Morning News

ported during the warm months of 1985. Since the advent of official records and newspapers, something large and unexplained — often resembling closely what the two women said they saw — has been reported on Lake Champlain over 250 times.

Nobody knows how many have seen Champ but never spoken up.

In 1977, a clear photo was shot from close range by a woman from Connecticut, who was scrambling to get her children back into the car. The photo that she whirled and took shows a dark creature with thick neck and a head that looks like a plant-eating dinosaur's, and a section of hump or back.

The creature is turning its head, scanning the lake: sunlight glints off the muscled, smooth-looking neck. The photo has been analyzed by experts and pronounced genuine. That photo resembles very closely the best-known photograph of "Nessie," taken in 1934 and also showing a thick neck, small head and section of back above the water.

Despite long efforts in Nessie's case, searchers have never completely proved the creatures are

there — but as the mysteries persist, scientists point to similarities between Loch Ness and Lake Champlain. Both long, narrow lakes were cut into the land by glaciers of the last Ice Age, about 10,000 years ago.

When the glaciers retreated, the North Atlantic rushed in, creating long, narrow inlets. Over time, the land beside the inlets, freed of the pressing weight of ice, surged upward, leaving both bodies of water landlocked.

"Conceivably, there were these oceangoing, monstrous creatures that found their way into Loch Ness and Lake Champlain as they (the lakes) were transforming themselves over quite a long time from saltwater to fresh," said Joseph Zarzynski, author of the 1983 book *Champ: Beyond the Legend*. The change from salt- to freshwater lakes, he added, was so slow that the creatures could have adapted to their new environments.

Both lakes, today, are cold and deep — Loch Ness almost 800 feet, Champlain about 400. Both are popular with fishermen: Champlain in particular has an abundance and variety of marine life. Whether Champ eats fish or plants, the large creature, vulnerable to no known predators, could survive in either lake, said Montgomery Fischer, former director of the Lake Champlain Basin Program.

"If it were a vegetarian, it would eat algae or weeds — if a meat-eater, it would eat eels, trout or salmon. All those foods are common to both lakes," Fischer said.

Zarzynski, a teacher from Saratoga Springs, New York, has made himself the leading seeker of Champ. He collects detailed reports of sightings, searches with scuba gear and sonar, travels often to Scotland and works with Loch Ness investigators.

Zarzynski said most Champ sightings have taken place on calm, warm days, when a good insect hatch would have lured fish to the surface. He said, however, that the

time also is when the most people are out on the lakes, and the visibility is best.

"It may be that these creatures are nocturnal, and they're surfacing all the time at night," he said.

"He seems to be a very benevolent creature," Ms. McGeoch said, and Zarzynski added that Champ has never been reported menacing anyone.

What is Champ? No one knows, Zarzynski said, but there are three leading theories.

One is that it is a reptile, possibly a descendant of the plesiosaur, a seagoing relation of the dinosaur that had the long neck, small head and fins that both Champ and Nessie are thought to possess. Or Champ might be one of two types of aquatic mammal — a descendant of a primitive whale, or a long-necked, unknown relative of the seal and walrus.

Zarzynski said he "tries to walk that jagged fence" on the theories — but "the romantic in me hopes that it's the plesiosaur." The plesiosaur theory, he added, has sort of risen to the top, over there at Loch Ness.

A sonar trace and an underwater photograph from Loch Ness appear to outline a thick-bodied, long-necked fin-swimmer much like the ancient reptile.

Plesiosaurs are thought to have vanished about 60 million years ago. But Zarzynski points out that the coelacanth, a primitive fish, was thought to have been extinct for 70 million years until one was caught off South Africa in 1939.

Ms. McGeoch and Ms. Temple were not particularly interested in Champ's legend when they saw what they saw. Since then, Ms. McGeoch says, "we've taken an awful razzing about this, but we've stuck to our guns — mainly because there were the two of us."

After that June day, Ms. Temple wrote this: "As it traveled southward, I couldn't help but speculate about its identity, origin, progeny, diet, habitat."

"Has it evolved from some early species and adapted to its landlocked environment? How old is it? How many are there?"

MESSANGER, Athens, OH - Oct. 28, 1985 CR: J. Moseley

Mason Monster rises once again — on radio program

The Mason County Monster, or Moth Man, if you prefer, is about to be resurrected by National Public Radio.

For newcomers, or those whose memories may be foggy, Moth Man flitted up and down the mid-Ohio River Valley in the mid- to late 1960s. He, she or it was a nocturnal creature and was usually reported in what is known in Mason County as the TNT area. That is where the Point Pleasant (W.Va.) Ordnance Works was located in World War II and is now the home of Mason County Fair.

Most of those who "saw" the creature described it as a huge bird. It was reportedly seen sitting in or along the highway and, on occasion, pursued vehicles. It never did any harm, except to the nervous systems of those who said they encountered it. There were some searches to try to find its lair, but they were unsuccessful. Finally, whatever it was disappeared.

About the same time, there was a rash of sightings of unidentified flying objects in the area. Those drew the attention of John A. Keel, a New

Yorker who is an authority on UFOs. He included mention of the Mason County sightings in a book, "UFOs: Operation Trojan Horse," published in 1970.

Now come Larry Massett of National Public Radio, and Dave Stillerman of Washington, D.C. with new interest in the Mason Monster. They have been in the area this week, reviewing news accounts and interviewing people who had some connection with the night flyer.

Massett, a producer, said the idea came from Stillerman, who had been in the Point Pleasant area and had learned of the Monster from residents. Massett recorded interviews with news people who had handled stories, and was to talk with law officers and anyone else who may have seen the creature or who had any knowledge of its activities.

He said he will present his findings on NPR's "All Things Considered" program, maybe sometime next week. Massett promised to announce when the program will be aired.