

UFO

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Close encounters?

A glance at what's been spotted in the sky around Fort Wayne.

Feb. 7, 1955

■ An American Airlines pilot flying over Fort Wayne sees "star-like" objects in the sky. The objects were "stationary, then speeded up and rushed away in groups of twos and threes."

Sept. 8, 1956

■ A Fort Wayne resident reports seeing a "circular object slightly larger than a grapefruit" overhead for 45 minutes. It was "silvery white and was very bright."

May 22, 1964

■ The tower at Baer Field reports receiving many calls about 9:30 p.m. concerning UFOs. One witness describes the objects as "four orange-yellow objects" that "flashed rhythmically with intense flashes."

March 4, 1966

■ A Bluffton girl reports seeing a "cigar-like" object going around the moon at 4 a.m.

Sept. 24, 1973

■ A spherical object, described as having no exhaust or visible windows, is reported sighted between 10:15 p.m. and 12:30 a.m.

The object, at an altitude of more than 1,000 feet, slowly spun, and changed from pinkish-white to bluish-white with each revolution.

Oct. 14, 1973

■ Richard Pape, a Huntington farmer, says a flying object with red and blue lights followed him home. Also in Huntington County, police report a white object zig-zagging across the sky. County police officer LeMoine Drabenstot says the quickly moving object was "bigger than a star" and in view for five minutes.

Oct. 18, 1973

■ At least two UFOs are spotted

near New Haven between 8 and 9:30 p.m. Both are described as having red and white lights.

Oct. 21, 1973

■ A fireman involved in quenching a woods fire near St. Joe, Ind., says he saw "20 or 30" lights in the sky. The lights were greenish-white and circling; one then appeared to plummet to the ground in the distance. The cause of the woods blaze is not determined.

October, 1973

■ A woman and her grandson report seeing a greyish-white object in the sky south of Fort Wayne at about 4 p.m.

Is anybody up there?

In Indiana and northwestern Ohio, true believers and skeptics keep an eye out for encounters that defy earthly explanation.

By ALAN DERRINGER
Of The News-Sentinel

"I have talked to people I've known all my life, who swear, 'John that thing was right there in the road ahead of us, or over the field next to us, or moving alongside the plane.'"

Flying saucers, triangles or cylinders are the "things" people report to John Timmerman of Lima, Ohio. The UFO investigator has interviewed hundreds of people in the two-state area who share one thing in common: An encounter with something that defies earthly explanation.

"These are people whose credibility I cannot question," Timmerman notes. "The top CPA in town told me that he and three others were driving north of Lima when they saw something in the road — a strange, metallic-looking craft. It raised off the road and disappeared. He said, 'If you ever tell anybody that, I'll call you a liar.'"

Timmerman, a graying, distinguished-looking man in his late 50s, sits behind a large desk at Lima's South Side Savings and Loan, where he is a vice president. He doesn't publicize the fact that he was named UFOologist of the Year recently by the National UFO Conference: "I'm not sure the financial institution for which I work would consider that good public relations. But when I went to work here, I told them this was part of the offer."

That's because UFOs are part of his life. The Cornell University graduate is chairman of the board and treasurer for the Center for UFO Studies (CUFOS), an Arizona-based organization that investigates unidentified flying objects.

CUFOS is the creation of a skeptic-turned-believer. J. Allen Hynek, retired chairman of the astronomy department at Northwestern University, founded the group in 1973 after working as a special investigator 20 years for the U.S. Air Force. The Air Force officially concluded that UFOs did not present a threat to national security, although not all reports could be explained.

"Hynek thought he could explain it all, and he could at first, but he found there were too many excellent, highly credible witnesses explaining too many details," Timmerman says. "He thought there was something going on that needed more study than what the Air Force was giving it."

The Lima banker arrived at the same question mark earlier — in 1947, when he read of a private pilot who reported nine saucer-shaped objects flying in a chain at

an estimated speed of 1,600 mph through the Cascade Range in Washington state. The search for UFOs has consumed Timmerman's off-hours since.

In a tiny, cluttered office across town from the savings and loan, Timmerman runs the international business office of CUFOS. A business call placed there doesn't concern fixed-rate mortgages. It could be from the CUFOS research center out in Phoenix. Better yet, it could be from an ordinarily serious Midwesterner who is at a loss to explain what he saw darting overhead or in the distance.

But Timmerman doesn't find many messages on the answering machine about local UFO sightings these days.

"We are in a slump as far as sighting reports. There are some reports, but there are very few of any consequence over the past three or four years."

The most recent area report that excited him appeared west of Coldwater, Ohio, several months ago: A family saw "a brilliant, white shiny thing" hovering over their barn.

The scarcity of UFOs in Ohio and Indiana reflects a trend around the world: In 1973, CUFOS received hundreds of reports of sightings each day worldwide, including several from the Fort Wayne area (see below). That was when saucers, strange lights and humanoids made headlines in newspapers almost daily. Now, Timmerman says, the CUFOS Phoenix center collects just "hundreds of reports a year."

He doesn't know why sightings come in waves: "If we knew what UFOs were, I could tell you. I'm not suggesting they're extraterrestrial, intelligent beings. But the evidence seems to suggest that."

When Timmerman gets right down to the bottom line, seeing is truly believing. And he's never actually seen a UFO.

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Charles Tucker, on the other hand, does believe intelligent beings are at the controls of UFOs. He differs from Timmerman in two other respects. For one thing, he says he has seen two UFOs himself: a boxcar-sized, oblong object while he was a theology and psychology student in the Southeast in the 1960s; and a wedge shape three years ago in the skies over Elkhart, Ind., where he lives.

And Tucker believes they live right here on Earth — beneath the Amazon River and deep in oceans.

Tucker, who is international director

of the Nappanee, Ind.-based International UFO Investigative Bureau, says that in 1981 he led an investigative team to an area of northeast Brazil known as the Devil's Graveyard. There, he talked to people who said they had seen saucer-shaped crafts burst from beneath the Amazon River, which is 12 miles wide and 200 feet deep in that area. He also found a hunter who said he had been knocked out by a beam of light from one of the objects.

Although Tucker never found the underwater saucer bases, he believes they are red in color.

"When we put people under hypnosis who say they have been abducted by UFOs, they describe a red city," explains Tucker in a telephone interview from the Nappanee furniture factory he owns. "Why don't they describe it as a blue or green city?"

Typically, those who say they have had "close encounters of the third kind" (a phrase that J. Allen Hynek — not Steven Spielberg — coined to describe meetings with "humanoids"), they report seeing small human-like creatures with large heads and eyes, and frail bodies. Often, they remember being taken into large, lighted rooms and being examined on tables before being released.

Alvin Lawson, an English professor at California State University at Long Beach, has published theories explaining these common recollections: He believes people are recalling their own birth. Memories of the womb might explain the color red, but Tucker prefers to believe there are red underwater colonies.

Most of Tucker's investigations are closer to home than Brazil: "Last year, we heard there was some activity and a landing in Fort Wayne. But I believe it was meteorites. There were streaks of light."

One of the strangest reports Tucker has investigated happened in 1978, east of Indianapolis on Interstate 70: Three truckers were talking to each other on CBs, when a bright blue light shone down on the trucks.

"They were not able to see beyond the hood," Tucker says one of the truckers from Nappanee told him. "The radios died, and the engines sputtered to a stop."

The blue light turned off after four seconds, and the engines and CBs started working again.

"Hey, UFO, if you have your ears on I want to go with you," one of the truckers

allegedly said over the radio. The blue light lit again, this time for 15 seconds. Everything was silent. When the radios came back on, a woman who had seen the light from her car hailed the truckers on her own CB and said, "It looked like a big, blue lampshade over the trucks."

Tucker says the trucker told him it took 90 minutes for his battery to completely recharge, and that since then the truck's clock loses an hour a day.

Tucker, who is also Indiana director for the Mutual Unidentified Flying Object Network (MUFON), another investigative group, oversees a statewide system of amateur investigators. One of them is Francis Ridge, an oil company public relations director living in Mount Vernon, Ind. Ridge says he has a device to measure any electromagnetic disturbances that UFOs could cause in the five-mile radius around his home. The siren attached to it has gone off 19 times since it was installed in 1970.

Ridge believes the electromagnetic disturbances "have something to do with the power source" of UFOs. "The only other thing that could set it off is an earthquake or lightning," he claims.

Although Ridge climbs onto the roof whenever the alarm is triggered, he's never seen a UFO because of the alarm. As a second alert system, he keeps Geiger counters in his home to measure any radioactivity a UFO might emit. That has also not netted Ridge any close encounters.

But at other times, he's seen "a lot of nocturnal lights," and in daylight, something that looked like a jet fuselage without wings.

"We are getting closer to what the facts are," says Charles Tucker. "I think they are advanced beyond us, and that they don't really need us."

□□□

There is something very strange out there, John Timmerman says. And it's either in the sky, or within people.

"If they don't really see these things, then there's something very interesting about people that we should be examining. Are they hallucinating in multiples? If, in fact, it is a mental aberration and four people simultaneously generate the same images, then science is looking the other way from something that needs

(continued on page 2)

more attention. Why worry about the tree frog when we have something like this to study?"

Timmerman is inclined to believe there is really something out there. He hopes he has a close encounter some day to wipe away his lingering doubt.

"I go to a Methodist church. I've taught Sunday School and been a head usher. I've been asked, 'Timmerman, what does this do to your faith in God?'"

"I say, 'Whatever faith I had before, it's been greatly enhanced by the thought that this isn't the only place He may have created.' When people talk about God creating the universe and all the animals, it could have happened elsewhere at an earlier time."

He may never know whether beings from a more advanced world exist. But he says that every sighting he investigates brings him a little closer to the answers: What they are, where they come from — and what they want.

The evidence, he feels, slowly builds.

In the meantime, finance and flying saucers both breed interest — interest that can cross-compound.

"I'll be helping somebody open an IRA or a certificate of deposit. And they'll say, 'While I'm here I want to tell you about something. I saw one ...'"

Vaghi Sights 11th UFO

by FRAN SIKORSKI

Dante Vaghi of Elizabeth Street, Bethel's perennial UFO contactee (a term used in Unidentified Flying Object jargon) says he had another sighting Sept. 18 at 10:55 p.m.

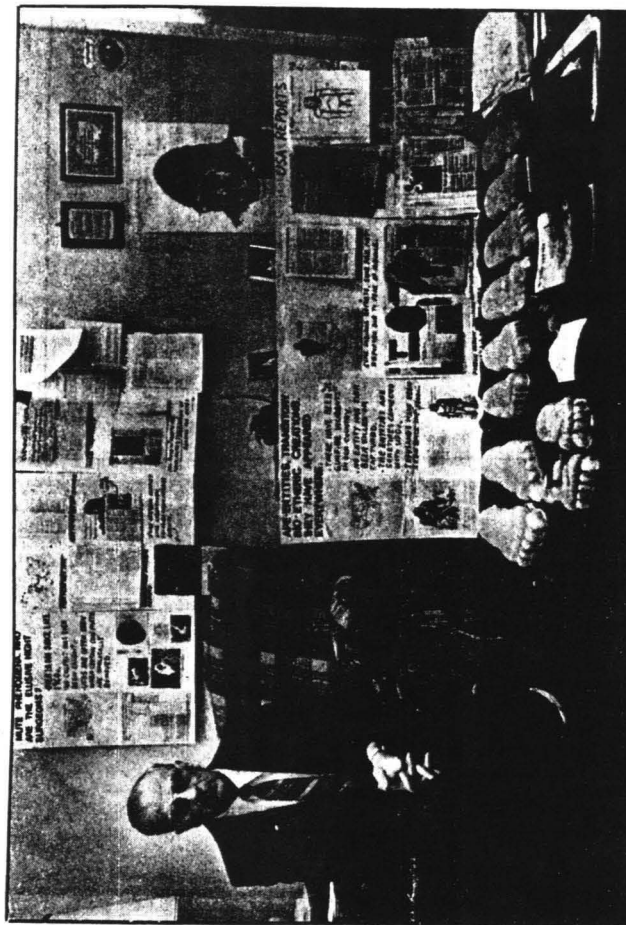
Describing his experience, Mr. Vaghi said, "I always turn the porch lights on and look outside before I go to bed. On that evening, I was looking up and saw an object with a bright light. On top of it was a red light, with a somewhat brighter green light on the tail section. I confirmed my sighting with a pair of high-powered binoculars. The object was saucer shaped, traveling along smoothly at about 12,000 feet from a southwest to a northeast direction. It passed over my home, picked up speed, and went out of sight."

"I called the Danbury and the Sikorsky airports and said, 'I guess you have something up there.' I also notified the airport at Windsor Locks, and the UFO Hotline in Brewster, N.Y., which accepts calls from UFO contactees, records them for listeners, and plays them back if the telephone number 914-739-6830 is dialed. At that time, no other area sightings had been reported, but it was too early to tell," said Mr. Vaghi, adding this was his 11th sighting. His first sighting was on March 10, 1950 at 4:40. At the time, he described it as a "huge black wing about 295 feet long and 75 feet wide." Mr. Vaghi believes that there also have been two possible UFO landings in Bethel near where the Grassy Plain Estates are now located. Another so-called landing site by a UFO in North Carolina was similar in description to Mr. Vaghi's report to an investigation committee at the time.

"I've been doing this for 35 years, and am convinced that no conventional craft would do things like this. According to recent polls taken, 48% of the people believe in UFOs," says Mr. Vaghi who has designed a UFO T-shirt (selling at \$9.99) that refers to him as a "UFO pioneer and expert," and shows a picture of the black wing he saw in one of his sightings.

"I sent five T-shirts to President Reagan and received a thank you letter from the White House acknowledging the gift. I'd like to go up in space and see the many other planets that the Lord has created," Dante Vaghi said hopefully.

UFO investigator laughing back in Connersville



Palladium-Item photos by Steve Koger
Don Worley and some evidence of "ape-like entities," or Bigfoot creatures, in his Connersville home. Worley, a UFO field investigator, has been involved in UFOs and related fields for 20 years.

seem to disappear instantly. Worley believes the creatures move from dimension to dimension rather than geographically.

The animal mutilations have been reported in newspapers. A copy of the Spencer (Ind.) Evening World, dated Oct. 28, 1976, reported a calf found dead, with a piece of flesh and most of the blood vessels gone from its neck, with no footprints or blood to be found.

While he won't bother with the "highlights-in-the-sky" type of sighting, Worley will investigate closer encounters. "If it sounds like a good one, especially with artifacts left on the ground, a landing impression, I'll inspect them," Worley said. "If it's on the order of lights in the sky, I'm not too interested."

Gradually, Worley also became interested in ape-like entities and animal mutilations. He thinks they are related to UFOs.

Worley has plastered casts from the Pacific Northwest of tracks of ape-like entities. The casts range from human size to 17 inches long. But the sightings are not just in the Pacific Northwest. Worley has a map that shows sightings have been reported in 30 to 35 states, with the heaviest concentration of sightings in a band covering New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois and stretching into Missouri.

Since about 1960, 14 sightings have been reported in Indiana. In 1962, one was sighted in the Abington area and in 1975 one was seen in the Waterloo area in northern Union County.

Worley believes ape-like entities are connected with UFOs because one has never been captured. They have been shot at, yet

Contrary to the fantasy that aliens can be contacted for mutual benefit, Worley says aliens are here solely for their benefit. "They're going to do what they want to do. They always have. And they're aloof. They don't care. There are some good ones, but most of them are evil," Worley said.

Aliens have been around since Biblical times, Worley said, citing Exodus Chapters 14 and 15, when Moses parted the Red Sea. Sections of Exodus 14:19-20 referring to a "pillar of cloud" and a "pillar of fire" in the sky above refer to UFOs, Worley said.

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HOMES NEWS, Bethel, CT - Oct. 2, 1985 CR: B. Greenwood

IDAHO STATE JOURNAL, Pocatello, ID - Nov. 18, 1985

Sees Mystery 'Bar'

At 6:15 in the morning of Nov. 9, I was sitting at the kitchen table sipping coffee. Dawn was breaking. I could barely see the conformation of the house and garage next door. The crescent moon to the southwest was bright. No stars twinkled, no clouds in the gray sky. The crests of the rugged mountains to the east were black.

Cruising above the peak to the south of Chink's Peak a luminous bar of light was moving from the northeast, arcing upward at approximately a 45-degree angle toward the southwest.

I had never seen anything like it before...a bar? I was reminded of my husband's gold tie clasp. There

was no rounded head and trailing tail. The length of the bar was probably 10 to 12 degrees longer than the breadth, and square on both ends. It was moving slowly.

The dark sky was lightening now at 6:30, revealing the color of the house next door, the branches of the tall, barren tree in the backyard of the third house south. The dark trunk and smaller limbs would impede my vision of the mysterious bar. The moon was northwest of the bar's course.

I glanced at the clock...6:45. Through the smaller branches I could trace the bar. It was between my house at 2360 South Second Avenue and the mouth of the Portneuf Canyon. The sky to the east was glowing. When the sun rose above the mountains would the

bright rays make the bar invisible?

Seven o'clock. The bar was becoming visible to the southwest of the tree trunk. I glanced at the moon. Was its brightness diminishing? The sun touched the peaks. The bar was gone. What had I seen? A spaceship? A UFO? What was that mysterious bar in the sky?

Nora Ann Allen
2360 South Second
Pocatello, Idaho 83204

The "bar" in the sky may have been a light refraction created by the sun as its rays rebounded off the snowy mountain tops beyond the horizon. — Editor.

By PAULA PAUL
Tribune Account Writer

There were nine of them in all, little E.T.s who didn't live to phone home. Something zapped them before they got the chance. Radar interfered with the mechanism of their three starships, the Air Force investigator said.

Other ships followed, apparently learning to overcome the interference. How they got here is unclear, but some people speculate that it could have been by traveling through an undetermined dimension, not unlike the way Scotty of Star Trek "beams" his comrades through space.

The nine bodies, believed to be extraterrestrials, and their starship were found in New Mexico in 1950.

Another starship may have visited Albuquerque in August 1980?

Fantastic as those stories sound, Robert Hastings has government documentation corroborating most of them. Hastings will speak at the University of New Mexico at 8 p.m. today about unidentified flying objects (UFOs) using information others have obtained from the federal government through the Freedom of Information Act. His talk, sponsored by the Associated Students of UNM, will be at Woodward Lecture Hall.

Hastings was born in Albuquerque

while his father was stationed here with the Air Force. He now lives in Myrtle Beach, N.C., and spends about four months a year on the lecture circuit talking about his UFO research. He does so, he said, because he believes the public has a right to know, and because he believes the public needs to be prepared for either an eventual government announcement acknowledging extraterrestrial visits or "the phenomena making itself known."

His lectures also are a forum to air "an honest difference of opinion with the federal government" about how much information should be made public regarding investigations of UFOs, Hastings said.

But Hastings said emphatically that his disagreement with the government is not tantamount to condemning government.

"I don't believe this is a Watergate-style cover-up of anything," Hastings said in an interview last week. "There are legitimate security concerns on the part of the government, I'm sure, but I feel more informed flying objects without jeopardizing security, and I feel it is shortsighted and potentially dangerous not to do so."

Failure to release the information could be dangerous because a sudden revelation could cause public panic, he said.



Security concerns, Hastings speculated, may center around UFOs' potential ability to disarm nuclear weapons. Many government reports mention aerial phenomena being disabled in the vicinity of UFOs. "And you can see how our government would consider it a security risk if any equipment was disabled," Hastings said.

UFO sightings are a "world-wide phenomenon," he said. However, his research has focused on the United States after World War II. Many of the documents made public by Hastings and other individuals through the Freedom of Information Act mention sightings in New Mexico. The strange incident of the three bodies found dead in their craft occurred in New Mexico, according to a memorandum addressed to the director of the FBI on March 22, 1950. The document states that three crafts had been "recovered" in New Mexico.

"They were described as being circular in shape, with raised centers, approximately 50 feet in diameter," the memo says. "Each one was occupied by three bodies of human shape but only three feet tall, dressed in metallic cloth of very fine texture. Each body was banded in a manner similar to the blackout suits used by speed flyers and test pilots," the document continues.

Other FBI memoranda mention sightings of "unexplained phenomena" near Los Alamos. A document dated Aug. 23, 1950, states that "since 1948, approximately 150 observations of aerial phenomena... have been recorded in the vicinity of installations in New Mexico."

Still other documents Hastings has assembled mention the government's concern that the UFOs pose dangers relating to "mass psychology" and to the vulnerability of the United States to air attack. Sightings by government personnel are documented in sites from Montana to Iran.

Hastings himself observed radar trackings of UFOs in Montana in 1967. Then age 17, he had been invited to visit an air traffic control tower with a friend of his father.

Five unidentified forms appeared on the radar screen. They were tracked for half an hour as they hovered over nearby ICBM silos. When they flew

away at an estimated speed of 5,000 miles per hour, a speed that far exceeds the capability of any known aircraft, Hastings said he was hurried out of the room.

His interest in UFOs was piqued, however, and his search for missing pieces to the puzzle continues. The most recent file made available is dated Sept. 3, 1980, and documents a UFO sighted in the Manzano Weapons Storage Area just outside of Albuquerque. The UFO was seen Aug. 8, 1980, by Air Force personnel and Aug. 9, 1980, by a Sandia Laboratories security guard as well as Aug. 22, 1980, by security police. The same file shows that on Aug. 10, 1980, a New Mexico State Patrol officer sighted a UFO landing in the Manzanos between Belen and Albuquerque.

Hastings said he would like to obtain more information about those sightings and others, but the task is difficult. "You have to give the government the time and place of the sighting in order to obtain the documentation," he said.

Any individual may request the information under the Freedom of Information Act, he said. One private organization has obtained 600 of the documents. Individuals who want copies of any or all of the 600 documents may write to The Fund for UFO Research, P.O. Box 277, Mount Rainier, Md., 20712.

TRIBUNE, Albuquerque, NM - Nov. 11, 1985

By Nick Adams
News-Sun Staff Writer

SOUTH CHARLESTON — Larry Tillman descends the basement stairs, giving some computer operation instructions as he goes to his friend John Farthing, who is seated before a small computer screen at a desk below.

The dimly-lit basement is lined with shelves that hold sophisticated-looking electronic instruments, meters, gauges, video tape recorders and reel-to-reel tapes. And off to one side, of course, is

Vector — Tillman's robot.

The basement looks more like a makeshift scientific laboratory than Sam Spade's detective office, but Tillman and Farthing describe themselves as investigators.

"I've been an investigator of strange phenomena since 1965," says Tillman. "Since I was in high school."

Farthing also has been investigating unexplained phenomena for 20 years.

Tillman is one of the executive coordinators of the Phenomena Research Organization (PRO). The organization has

about 15 members, says Tillman. They meet once a month, and now and then take field trips together to investigate some unexplained phenomenon.

"We're liable to end up anywhere," says Tillman, a radiological defense officer for the Ohio Department of Transportation. "The last field trip we went to North Lewisburg, O., where there's been some Big Foot sightings. We're looking for answers to these phenomena."

When someone reports a sighting of an unidentified flying object (UFO) to PRO, Tillman and others in the group go to the site and investigate it and try to determine if the sighting can be explained as the result of a natural occurrence.

"If we can't figure out what it is, we put it in the category of 'unidentified' and put it in the computer," says Farthing.

"We keep trying to get everything computerized and catalogued on computer tape," says Tillman, "so that if we have a sighting we can see how it correlates with other sightings the world round."

Tillman catalogues UFO sightings according to similarities with other reported sightings, such as whether they were daylight or night sightings, whether they were dish-shaped objects or other shapes, or whether there was a particular color of light associated with the sighting.

The bumble bee's wings don't produce enough lift to elevate the bee's heavy body, says Farthing. The bumble bee shouldn't be able to fly, but it does, he said.

"Science just ignores it (the bumble bee's ability to fly) because it doesn't go along with their thinking," he says.

We live in an "ocean of energy," says Farthing, but mainstream science doesn't accept certain energy fields, like the "N-motor." The "N-motor" is a "free energy device" that was developed by inventor Joe Newman, says Farthing. The motor is a generator that creates energy without apparently drawing energy from another source.

The government and big business aren't enthusiastic about such devices because the development of free energy devices would harm the economy, says Farthing. But people like Joe Newman are learning how to "tap" into that free energy, he says.

"There's a lot of free energy around — we just need to tap into it," Farthing says.

An energy field, or aura, surrounds all living things, Tillman says. To explain what he means, Tillman often demonstrates the art of "dowsing." He takes two thin metal rods in his hands and walks toward a tree. When he reaches a certain

"There's a side of nature that mainstream science ignores. A point in fact is the bumble bee, which according to the laws of aerodynamics shouldn't be able to fly."

—Jerry Farthing

"Every time someone reports a UFO the general consciousness automatically thinks 'little green men from outer space,'" says Tillman, "but that's not necessarily so."

Tillman says he sighted and photographed an unidentified flying object once himself. The photographs he took, which he developed in a darkroom in his basement, were published in the CUFOS (Center for UFO Studies) Association newsletter. Tillman also made a videotape reenactment of his UFO sighting. He sighted the UFO on March 21, 1981, on Ohio 665, east of London, O. There were 35 UFO sightings reported on Ohio 665 during 1980-81, he says.

"The UFO appeared as an orange ball of light that streaked across the sky," says Tillman. "The photograph I took shows it going between two trees."

There are 16,000 reported sightings of UFOs every year, and approximately 85-90 percent are explainable, says Farthing, "but that leaves 10-15 percent that's unexplained."

In addition to being a member of PRO, Farthing is a member of the U.S. Psychotronics Association, which investigates, explores and researches mind-matter interaction, he says.

"There's a side of nature that mainstream science ignores," Farthing says. "A point in fact is the bumble bee, which according to the laws of aerodynamics shouldn't be able to fly."

point, he says, the rods will cross. The point at which the rods cross — of their own volition, Tillman says — is the boundary of the object's energy field.

"When people think that it's just us manipulating the rods, we have them try it themselves," says Farthing. "And the same thing happens — the rods eventually cross."

Tillman and Farthing also are involved in phenomena investigation for their own amusement — as evidenced by Tillman's robot, Vector.

He built the robot for his children, and he often demonstrates the robot in operation at schools and libraries. Vector moves by remote control. He also talks, moves his arms up and down, and opens and closes his pincher-hands. He is the third robot Tillman has built.

"Larry is a full-blown genius," says Farthing. "He taught himself Basic computer programming in two evenings, and he hasn't had one minute of formal electronics training."

Tillman and Farthing view themselves as the "ordinary people" who must investigate unexplained phenomena because the government won't. They're not trying to make money through their research, Tillman says, and PRO isn't an organization that recruits members.

"I don't want quantity," Tillman says, "I want quality, like the army says."

"Yeah," says Farthing, "Larry's looking for a few good aliens."

CHRONICLE TELEGRAM, Elyria, OH - Oct. 16, 1985

Aliens find county a tourist attraction?

By CINDY LEISE
C-T Staff Writer

Is there something in Lorain County that could interest beings from another world?

Two reports of UFO sightings 8½ hours apart on Oct. 6 and 7 were convincing enough to draw an internationally-known expert to this area on Tuesday.

Charles L. Tucker, director of the International UFO Investigative Bureau, Inc., spoke with Laurie Christ of Elyria and Joanne Ward of Grafton who reported the sightings.

AS IN every UFO account, credibility is a factor but Tucker said, "What made this sighting unique was the fact that there was more than one of them."

Both Mrs. Christ and Mrs. Ward agreed to discuss the incidents with the C-T. However, they said they are hoping to avoid visits to their homes by curiosity-seekers because there is nothing to see.

Mrs. Christ, 23, of 208 Furnace Street, said a wedge-shaped object hovered above her parked car at 10:30 p.m. Oct. 6.

She had noticed a bright, star-like object as she was walking towards the vehicle. Once inside, she peered out and saw the white light "moving real fast" towards her.

"IT DOVE down...(and) it flipped on its side," she said. A greyish, diamond-shaped outline (continued on page 4)

OH - Oct. 16, 1985)

"blended in with the sky" but appeared to be about 25 feet long, she said.

In the middle of the object, hovering silently at the height of a telephone pole, was an "intense" light surrounded by two green lights and two red lights, she said.

"A big strobe light falling from the sky" was the way Mrs. Ward, of 1017 Chatum Court, described her UFO sighting from inside her Grafton home.

She was watching for her son's school bus when the pulsating light dropped down in the vicinity of State Rt. 57 a short distance away.

MRS. WARD said she has no way of gauging the actual size of the object but in her range of vision it was "the size of a basketball."

Both joked that they didn't want their stories to end up in the National Enquirer, which has quoted Tucker in the past.

"I told the man I'm a skeptic," Mrs. Ward said.

Still, both women said it is a relief to have someone investigating, because they cannot explain what they saw.

TUCKER SAID the credibility of the sightings is increased because both women reported the incidents to relatives or authorities before knowing someone else had reported a similar sighting.

He recorded their accounts and took samples of wilted leaves from several small trees near Mrs. Christ's home. However, Mrs. Christ said the leaves could have been damaged by frost.

Tucker, who estimates he spends \$20,000 of his own money yearly investigating UFO phenomenon, said he also is looking into a UFO sighting in Milwaukee, Wis. about 11:30 p.m. Oct. 6.

He said those who have reported seeing UFOs include former President Jimmy Carter, pilots and astronauts, citizens and military personnel.

"THEY SAY (former Gov. James A.) Rhodes of Ohio saw one," said Tucker, the president Superior Inc., a Nappanee, Ind., furniture company. His UFO organization, which boasts of 78 "bases" around the world, is headquartered in Nappanee.

Tucker himself became interested in UFOs after seeing a boxcar-shaped UFO several decades ago.

Bocce Players See Strange Sight

by FRAN SIKORSKI

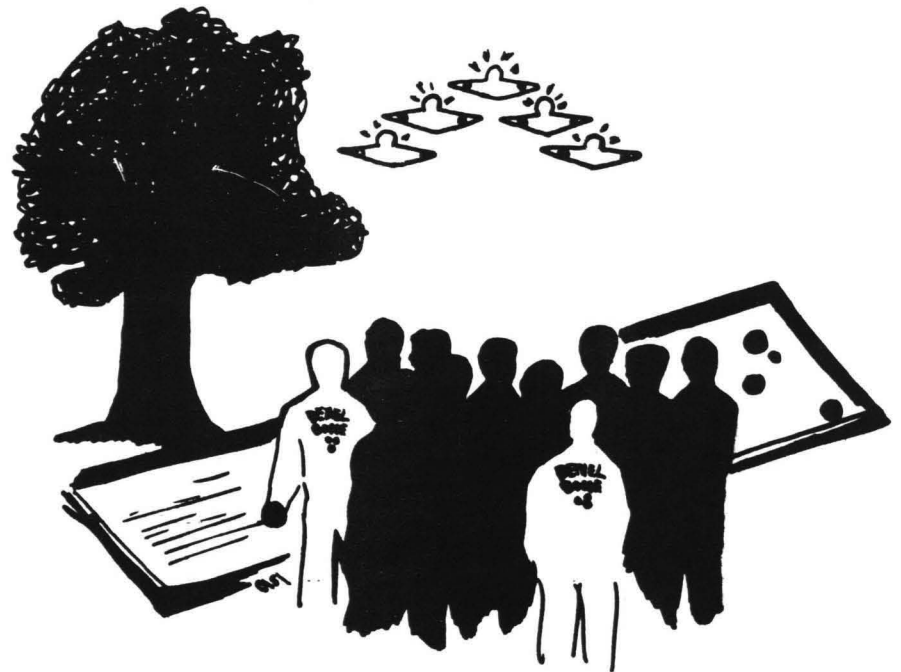
"What do you make of it?" asked First Selectman Clifford Hurgin when a cluster of "UFO's" (?) hovered above the Bethel High School athletic field where between 30 and 40 players and spectators were participating in an autumn bocce tournament about 10 p.m. on Oct. 17.

"What do you think it is? There are no sounds. It's not a helicopter, but it could be a blimp," observed Police Chief John Basile, a member of a bocce team participating in the tournament.

Ultralight Planes?

"We were playing bocce when someone spotted the lights in the sky. We didn't think it was a plane because it wasn't moving. There were quite a few lights which seemed to change colors, first reddish to white. It started to move toward Governor's Lane and then took off for Danbury," said Chief Basile, who immediately dispatched Sgt. Charles Hupp, then on duty, to Governor's Lane to observe the objects with a pair of strong binoculars. "He thought the formation might be comprised of ultralight planes, but we had no confirmation of this," said Chief Basile, adding that "someone got a video camera and taped the objects. People were stopping their cars along Whittlesey Drive and getting out to observe the formation. No one was frightened," he added. "I'd say there was more humor involved than anything else, but we were all curious as to what it was."

Attempting to arrive at a plausible explanation for the appearance of the UFO's, Chief Basile



said, "Maybe the occupants want to join next year's bocce teams."

Better Look

While team members and spectators were speculating as to the origin of the UFO's, Bethel's perennial space enthusiast, Dante Vaghi, along with another UFO tracker, was driving south on Route 53 toward Redding in an attempt to get a better look at the unusual

formation. "I was in my shop by the railroad tracks when someone came in and called my attention to the objects in the sky," says Dante. "We saw the objects about 8:45 and were monitoring them before they disappeared in the direction of Redding and Ridgefield. We wondered if the objects were ultralight planes (small one-passenger planes with a 35-foot wing span). We couldn't say for

sure. We did hear a humming noise, however, but it was difficult to classify it. I do know that UFO's do make a humming sound," he said excitedly.

"No one will admit they've really seen a UFO until it lands. Those red, green, and white lights had me baffled, especially when the formation went into a 'V,'" he said, estimating that the objects were flying at about 2,000 to 3,000 feet. "I've had no experience with ultralight planes, but I've seen pictures of them."

He's Prepared

"I'm prepared for all of this because I've studied a great deal of information about UFO's for 35 years. When I hear that other people have had sightings, I feel very good. I just wonder why planes from Danbury or the Stormville, N.Y. airports don't track these objects down."

"I hope the people in these planes are good people. They have the power to do anything, but they are staying their distance for now. I know that I'm prepared," says Dante, who last month installed a sign above the family woodworking business. It reads, "Welcome, all people from other planets, to Bethel, Conn. USA."

NEWSDAY, Garden City, NY - Nov. 22, 1985 CR: R. Loomer & B. Fisher

LI Reports of UFO Inflated?

By Patrick Brasley

Look, up in the sky.
It's a bird.
It's a plane.

No, Nassau County police said last night, the unidentified object moving across the evening skies was a blimp.

But then again, the Federal Aviation Administration and the Port Authority police said it was a prank by small planes flying in formation.

More than two dozen Nassau residents phoned Newsday last night to report a strange, silent object with blinking lights crossing north by northeast over Valley Stream, West Hempstead, Garden City, New Hyde Park, Westbury and Port Washington.

Leslie Gross reported she was coming back from a Cub Scout meeting with her children and husband in Manhasset about 8:30 p.m. when they saw an object "like a kite . . . moving slowly through the sky. There were white and red lights flashing on and off. It was a seven-dot configuration. Then it changed from a triangular shape to an oval shape. It was quite large. It was low enough so that if it

was a plane, you would have heard the motor."

Jerry Limata, of Port Washington, said the object was "very, very pretty, gorgeous. I wish I could follow it from here until it landed."

After South Shore precincts received more than 50 telephoned queries, a car was dispatched to the Hempstead area about 8:45 p.m. Officers Paul Scheibelin and Robert Schiller of the Fifth Precinct identified the object as a blimp. They said they could see the oval shape and identify the running lights.

Stanley Slevinski, a desk officer, said the calls "weren't the panicky-type calls like 'War of the Worlds,' nothing like that. It was more or less inquisitive, please-don't-hang-up-on-me, I'm-not-crazy-type call."

Despite the blimp theory, Port Authority police and the FAA said the UFO was probably four or five small planes flying in formation. Tower personnel at Kennedy Airport said they could move without a flight plan or control by the tower because they were not in controlled space near the airport.

Tower personnel said it was a prank played by pilots, which they had seen before.

UFO Sightings Unsolved

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Sylvia Bagby was running across her neighbor's yard to get a better look at a strange, white, star-like object she had seen circling around the sky near Salisbury when she felt an "instinct" to turn around and look up.

"When I looked up, I had never seen anything like it," said the 49-year-old hairdresser. "It was shining through the trees over my neighbor's trailer, bigger than any moon or any sun, and it was like it was revolving. It was so red it looked like hot coals. My first impression was, 'This is it. This thing is going to disintegrate everything.'"

But the round, red object, which Mrs. Bagby said was as big as a house and had a yellow halo, disappeared

when neighbor Irene Jones ran out to respond to her screams. Then they watched as the object reappeared in its bright star shape and circled to the east about 10 miles away.

Mrs. Bagby said she felt a tingling sensation during the experience that night of Nov. 10, as if she had been out in the sun too long.

"I looked in the mirror, but I didn't see any red places," she said. "I couldn't sleep for about a week. Every time I close my eyes, I still see it. Every time I walk out the door, I look up."

"Most people, when you try to talk about it, they think you don't know what you're talking about," said Mrs. Bagby, who never really thought much about unidentified flying objects before the experience. "I

called the sheriff's department — they just laughed. So I really haven't said that much about it . . . It makes you feel so alone."

She wasn't alone, said George Fawcett of Lincoln, assistant state director for the Mutual UFO Network. He said Mrs. Bagby's was one of five UFO sightings in North Carolina this year that remained after he investigated several reports and found other causes for some.

"I think as far as North Carolina is concerned, it was a pickup to a certain degree of sightings," said Fawcett, 56. "And the sightings we got were better than we've had the last couple of years — they had more going for them in terms of repetitions."

The previous two years

have brought about three or four UFO sightings apiece in this state. He said 1986 should bring even more sightings as people go outside at night to view Halley's Comet.

Fawcett said that in the other UFO sightings in North Carolina this year,

— Four people living near Lincoln said they saw a Saturn-shaped object that maneuvered near their homes for about 30 minutes on May 1, frightening animals and causing power failures and telephone interference. They said it vibrated their houses, cast a beam of light on one of them and gave off a "heat wave."

— A woman in Pilot Mountain said she saw a circular red, blue, green and white object with lights moving towards Elkin on

Sept. 2.

— A man and his wife watched a round, white object the size of an airplane cross the road in front of their car near Lowesville on Oct. 8. They said it had three tripod landing gears on the bottom and made an intense humming sound in the area for about five minutes.

— A woman was returning home to Matthews from work in Charlotte on Dec. 5 when she saw two bright, oval-shaped objects, about 900 square feet in area, shaped like diamonds on the rear. She almost hit a truck whose driver also saw two huge UFOs with "rows of white-lighted areas surrounded by borders" flying above the treetops and across the road.

CR: G. Fawcett

By HOLLIS ENGLELY
The New Mexican Staff

Physicist John Warren is not reluctant to talk about his position as New Mexico director of MUFON, the Mutual Unidentified Flying Object Network. Warren investigates UFO sightings in northern New Mexico and coordinates research with MUFON headquarters in Seguin, Texas.

"The bulk of the evidence indicates there's something there, something motivated by something like intelligence," he said in an interview last week.

It shouldn't be hard to believe.

On a clear, moonless night, drive to the New Mexico plains near Las Vegas, out where the land stretches flat a thousand miles to the east. Park your car and walk away in the darkness about 50 yards and look up at the sparkling bowl of the sky. You may be looking at 10,000 civilizations, light years away from our solar system and centuries more advanced than the human race.

"Those who know about the vast number of stars, about the natural way planets can be born, and the apparently automatic way life emerges when conditions are right — they no longer hesitate to believe life is a cosmos-wide phenomenon," Harlow Shapley, Harvard astronomer, wrote in *The View from a Distant Star*.

"Even if only one in a hundred of the 10 billion suitable planets has actually got life well under way, there would be more than 100 million such planets. No, it is presumptuous to think that we are alone."

Hundreds of years ago, humans routinely believed in ghosts and hobgoblins, a spirit world that made every day Halloween. Fascination with the unknown continues to this day. Polls show that more than half the American people believe in UFOs and that extraterrestrial life is likely, if not certain.



Photos by Hollis Englely

John Warren would like to meet an extraterrestrial. "Oh, yeah. I've got no fear of that," he said. "I'd love the opportunity."

But he never has met one. He has looked into the night sky and seen nothing but stars and wished, like so many who believe our planet is not spinning through a lifeless universe, that a ship would land and its crew would welcome him aboard.

Warren doesn't spend a lot of time talking about meeting creatures from another planet or another dimension. He is an inquisitive scientist who works in accelerator physics at Los Alamos National Laboratory. A responsible family man who draws a good paycheck, he lives in White Rock in a comfortable suburban neighborhood of ranch houses, two-car garages and mowed lawns.

Ghost stories of space age

John Warren believes UFOs are piloted by advanced intelligence from another planet



Aliens?
Reports of aliens seen by humans depict them as looking like human fetuses.

"That, plus all of the reading I've done, has convinced me. Plus, some of the cases are really difficult to explain away."

There are long lists of cases of automobile interference by UFOs, circular depressions and tripod marks in open pastures where unidentified objects landed, soil rendered sterile by chemicals in the earth after a ground sighting of a UFO, personal contacts of humans with aliens. The incidents are worldwide.

Warren talked about the appearance of a UFO near an Iranian air base. The object was chased by Iranian military jets and then turned sharply at high speed and pursued the jets. Interviews with pilots and air controllers after the incident yielded no satisfactory explanation of the object's radical behavior.

Three women in Kentucky who claimed a close encounter with aliens were hypnotized separately by University of Wyoming professor Leo Sprinkle. Under hypnosis, all three told the

(continued on page 6)

Most UFO sightings began after World War II. But the widespread credibility now given to UFOs may have begun in 1969, when Neil Armstrong became the first man to set foot on an extraterrestrial body. Suddenly, interplanetary travel was possible. We had done it, so could others ... if there were others.

So, do the scientists who live with John Warren in one of America's most highly educated and research oriented communities have an open mind about UFOs?

"The answer is generally no," Warren said. "You've got to understand something about scientists ... They have a curiosity, but only if it leads to something productive."

Weapons, alternative energy sources, radiation-related medical advances — but not flying saucers or creatures from Alpha Centauri — are the kind of practical projects that occupy the Ph.D.s of Los Alamos. That is where the contracts are.

Warren said a friend's reaction to UFO research typifies the scientific community. "I'm only going to choose those things where I think I can make some progress," the friend said.

So why is John L. Warren (B.S. degree from the University of Chicago, Ph.D. from the University of Maryland) different?

Warren was curious in 1974, curious that if there is something real about UFOs, then a new physics is involved in their propulsion or transportation across the galaxies to this planet. It would be a different science that is a quantum jump ahead of his own 20th century earthly work.

He was working then as an administrator at the Los Alamos laboratory. He traveled to a MUFON conference in Des Moines, Iowa. "I became convinced that there was something there."

Warren began collecting stories of UFO sightings and encounters from magazines and newspapers. Today, through personal work and with much information from MUFON and other groups, he has a catalog of more than 60,000 incidents. Most happened within the past 40 years.

"All are multiple witness sightings," he said.

identical tale of the encounter.

In December of 1980, American servicemen in England encountered strange lights in Rendlesham Forest. Their report told of a small craft on or close to the ground. Three silver-suited "entities" were seen repairing the craft.

"When you have 60,000 cases, they're not all kooks," Warren said. "The more of these cases you read, the more reasonable they seem."

"Suppose that 99 percent of them are wrong. If there's even one that's correct, you've got a new phenomenon here."

Warren and the others of MUFON are regarded as the reasonable side of the UFO spectrum. MUFON sponsors annual UFO conferences at universities and many of their representatives are, like Warren, respected scientists in other fields.

But MUFON regards some UFO buffs as nuts, the lunatic fringe of a group already walking dangerously near the edge of credibility. One Nebraska man passed through Santa Fe three years ago, handing out pens with "Formal Inter-Planetary Contact, Capulin Mtn., N.M. - March 12, 1992" embossed on them.

Others say a cryptic message is being transmitted by aliens in their encounters with humans. They say the names Johnson, Lincoln and Rose recur in sightings, carrying a message comprehensible to the earthing who can decipher the code. They see massive government conspiracies to suppress the real story of UFOs.

MUFON members themselves think a government conspiracy is possible, though some, like Warren, are skeptical.

Walt Andrus of Seguin, Texas, international director of MUFON, is convinced that the United States government is holding the bodies of 30 aliens recovered from space craft that crashed in 1947 in southern New Mexico.

"There are bodies recovered," Andrus said in a telephone interview, dry certainty in his voice. "We have an autopsy done by a doctor in the late '40s, early '50s. He said there were 30 men at that time and he drew sketches."

The sketches show a remarkably human-like entity of indeterminate sex, three to four feet in height. "The head is large in proportion to the body," Andrus said. "The bodies are slim, fragile... of a gray, ash color. The chin is small, the mouth is a slit, deepset eyes, practically no nose, only two nostrils, arms very long in proportion to the body, only four very long fingers, partially webbed."

Movie-goers will recognize the description as similar to creatures in the movies *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* and *E.T.*

"That's the pattern that repeats over and over again," Andrus said, adding that the bodies of the aliens recovered in New Mexico are now distributed among medical institutions across the United States. A massive government cover-up has kept them from the general public, he said.

John Warren is not convinced there is a cover-up. "I honestly don't know," he said. "It's conceivable, but I'm not certain."

"When unusual events have occurred, I've tried to pulse the intelligence system... They give you no answer. You put the question to them and nothing comes back."

Still, Warren is convinced that at the base of UFO sightings is something beyond our ability to understand, even with today's advanced physics.

"It will take a genius (to understand the UFO's technology)," he said. "Until then, we'll have to get lucky."

"The phenomenon is so elusive... it's unpredictable. You can't sit there and wait for it to happen and then make measurements."

Where do the UFOs come from and how do they move so quickly across cosmic distances?

"We can't conceive of visiting anywhere else (in the universe) in less than a period of years," Warren said. "Could it be that we are a three-dimensional world embedded in a four-dimensional universe?" Warren said. "It's conceivable if there were another dimension that it might be extremely easy to get here from very far away. Anything that would prove another dimension is something that physicists need to pay attention to."

What are UFOs, ultimately, after the confusion of sightings and hoaxes and Steven Spielberg movies? John Warren thought for a moment and responded slowly and carefully.

"It seems to be evidence of extraterrestrial intelligence and that makes it very important. But it is also a phenomenon we don't have control over and cannot study well."

"That's all I can really say about it. There's something there, but we don't know what to do with it."

"The answer may be that they are, in their way, ... broadening our horizons without doing essentially what we did to the American Indian."

"But it's very hard to guess, when you've got an alien culture, what motivates them."

Alcalde report leaves questions of 1984 sighting. Were lights a UFO or low-flying military plane?

John Warren has yet to see an actual UFO. But if the White Rock physicist had driven to the edge of the Pajarito Plateau and looked northeast on the night of April 24, 1984, he might have had his first encounter.

As it is, Warren investigated the report of brilliant lights moving over the Sangre de Cristo Mountains seen by 34 people from Medanales, west of Espanola, to the village of Truchas. The 19-page report he wrote with K.J. Ewing of Los Alamos is the most exhaustive and recent analysis of a UFO in northern New Mexico.

The bright lights and a strange-shaped object were first seen by Mel Medina of Alcalde, north of Espanola, at about 7:05 p.m. Medina told Warren that the object was stationary from 7:10 to about 7:25 in the direction of northeast by east. It then moved from left to right and turned toward Truchas Peak.

Finally, it disappeared from view. Medina's report was confirmed, with variations in observations, by 33 other people in Warren's investigation. After looking at Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) radar tapes from that period, Warren concluded that the object was a military KC-135, a tanker version of the civilian Boeing 707 jet transport.

The mysterious object's flight over the mountains, plotted from eyewitness accounts, was compared to the FAA radar track of the military plane. The two were roughly comparable.

"We believe that this military craft can account for many of the eyewitness accounts, but not all," the report reads. "It is difficult to understand how Medina could have observed the craft for 15 minutes before it crossed the Sangre de Cristo Mountains and entered the Espanola Valley. Almost all observers estimated the object's size as substantially larger than a commercial airliner. Medina observed the object through binoculars, but could not see any wings."

The report discounts the possibility of blimps or weather balloons causing the sighting. It also rejects theories published in newspapers that attributed the object to a Los Alamos laser used that night for environmental studies.

There are problems with the KC-135 solution. Observers claimed to watch the object for longer than radar showed the airplane in the area. Though Medina said he first saw it at 7:05, the report calculates the airplane's earliest possible visibility to have come at 7:20. Medina reported that a red light separated from the object and flew out of view, returning eventually to its original position.

Finally, the radar data showed several other unidentified tracks in the area before the KC-135 showed up. None were visible after the tanker left the area.

The report's final conclusions are listed "in order of increasing strangeness."

1. The object was only the KC-135. Witness reports were inaccurate.
2. A small private plane wandering over the valley accounted for the early radar tracks. Witness reports were inaccurate.
3. A large UFO was in the valley and seen by several people, though it did not register well on radar. It left the valley before the KC-135 entered the area.

"About all we can do," the report says, "is chalk it up to experience and wait for another UFO to appear."

Two UFO sightings reported in Boxboro

By PATRICIA MONTMINY
Sun Staff

BOXBORO - An unidentified flying object spotted by two Boxboro police officers Saturday night was seen again last night by an Emerson Hospital physical therapist, her daughter and her daughter's friend.

It might be an unidentified flying object.

Officers Stephen Trefry and Robert Morrill spotted two large orange lights at tree top level Saturday night, while physical therapist Marcie Robinson, her 14-year old daughter Jennifer and Jennifer's friend Kelley McDermott, 14, of Groton saw the UFO this morning.

According to Robinson, she was driving to work around 7:30 this morning when she spotted two large orange lights just above tree top level.

"All of a sudden we saw two orange lights beaming out of the clouds," Robinson said. "They didn't seem to be moving, they just seemed to be sitting there."

Bright orange lights

Robinson of 33 Prescott St. was driving along Depot Road. "They just sat there through the trees at a 30 degree angle, we tried driving closer toward

the direction they were coming from, but then lost sight of them."

Robinson said when she arrived at work she called people who lived in the area to see if they had seen anything, but they didn't. She then telephoned police.

Oddly enough, she spoke to Officer Trefry, who along with Morrill spotted the same thing last Saturday night.

"We were on Rte. 111 when we spotted the two orange lights, about 15 to 20 feet in diameter hovering around tree top level," Trefry said they chased after the lights going up Rte. 111 into Harvard, then up Woodchuck Hill Road, where the lights then reappeared. "We watched for several minutes, the lights seemed to move from side to side, then they disappeared," Trefry said.

Trefry called the UFO hotline in Medford to report the sighting, and said investigators will be coming to interview him this weekend.

This is the second time that Trefry has spotted a UFO.

"Sometime last summer when I was working a late night shift, I was in the area of Flagg Hill when I saw three bright lights, the one in the middle was white, and the two flanking it were orange," He said the orange lights were the same as he saw this past Saturday.

UFO sightings attract investigators to area

By PATRICIA MONTMINY
Sun Staff

BOXBORO - Investigators from the Mutual Unidentified Flying Object Network interviewed two Boxboro police officers and five Harvard residents concerning unidentified flying object (UFO) sightings earlier this month.

"I'm getting all sorts of telephone calls," said Officer Stephen Trefry.

He said that several people from Harvard telephoned him yesterday morning to report that they also saw the object October 19 in the same area where Trefry and Officer Robert Morrill made their sighting.

In addition, several residents reported seeing a UFO last week. Trefry added that Pepperell attorney Joseph Caulfield contacted him to report that he saw four UFO's and reported the sighting to Hollis, N.H. police. Caulfield was not available for comment this morning.

According to Trefry, the investigators spent two hours with him and Morrill yesterday tracing the route in which they saw the object.

Orange lights

Trefry and Morrill were on patrol on Rte. 111 in Boxboro when they spotted two large orange lights at tree top level. Trefry said they chased after the lights going up Rte. 111 into Harvard then up Woodchuck Hill Road where the lights reappeared once again before disappearing.

The investigators, two men and a woman, had Trefry and Morrill take them to the areas where they saw the object. They were then asked to take a Polaroid photo, then mark a photo as to exactly where the object was.

In addition, the investigators asked both policemen to fill out a three-page form which asked detailed information on weather, physical land conditions and airports or military installa-

tions in the area.

Trefry said that he turned over the names of five people in Harvard who also saw the object. He said three people were out walking when they made their sighting, and two others spotted the object from their living room window. Two residents said they saw orange lights in the shape of a ball, he said, and pinpointed the time to around 10 p.m. Oct. 19.

Trefry said he and Morrill saw two orange balls about three to four feet wide and about 15 to 20 feet apart. "They hovered over the tree line and lit up the sky as they pulsed," Trefry said.

Trefry said the investigators believed the stories, but could not offer any explanations pending the conclusion of their investigation.

"There is obviously something going on out there," Trefry said. He said contacted officials at Fort Devens, but they could not offer any explanations.

Trefry, who believes that it is "possible that there could be life forms on other planets," said he could not rule out the possibility that the incidents are connected to military activities.

He said that while he and Morrill watched the object, there were no signs or sounds of any aircraft. He said that afterwards they did see a jet plane, apparently on its way to Logan Airport in Boston.

A UFO was also cited last week by Marcie Robinson, of 33 Prescott Street, in Boxboro. Robinson, a physical therapist at Emerson Hospital in Concord, said she was driving to work with her daughter and daughter's friend in the car when she saw a sight similar to what Trefry and Morrill observed.

"All of a sudden we saw two large orange lights beaming out of the clouds," Robinson said. "They didn't seem to be moving, they just seemed to be sitting there above tree top level."

As she drove closer the object disappeared.

SEARCHING FOR STARMEN

By BILL SMITH

BOULDER — Nov. 10, 1981. The portrait evolving on Michael's sketchbook never will hang in a gallery, even though the charcoal strokes are those of a talented impressionist. Depicted is a standing humanoid, its nightmarish features clearly alien in origin. The artist draws feverishly — but not from model or memory. Only a deep hypnotic state can unlock that image trapped in his unconscious, haunting him for nearly a year.

If awakened from the trance, Michael could easily retrace the drive with his wife, Mary, to their Longmont home a year past on Nov. 19. The couple also could describe the intense beam of blue light which "locked onto the car," somehow lifting the rear wheels into the night air. However, neither would be able to account for the hour of missing time that followed, nor the odd rectangular mark found later on Mary's abdomen.

Michael's guide in the the hypnosis session, Richard Sigismond, silently observes the artwork from a corner of the dim room. Linda Moulton Howe (the special projects chief for KMGH-TV, Denver) logs on a tape recorder the artist's rambling remarks about what may, or may not, have been a "close encounter of the third kind."

Michael talks of a large dome-shaped object shrouded in mist. By a doorway stands "a strange looking person," wearing gold-colored cloth of some unusual design. The head is "long ... bald, with grey skin." Adding texture to a thin, claw-like hand, the artist mentions the absence of a thumb. His concentration is keen, thanks to Sigismond's suggestion that he only see the drawing and the materials. Nevertheless, the image seems to provoke Michael: one moment, he buries his head in his arms, the next, he shouts at the portrait, "Get the bastard!"

Several other drawings come out of the session, Michael's fourth. One illustrates a long ramp, apparently made of light, which extends from a saucer-shaped object. Another shows an examination table, from which Michael says he lay "naked as a jail bird," as a light floated overhead. He recalls being separated from Mary and then hearing her scream from the far side of the craft's glowing interior. Those surfacing memories merge with his present state of reality. The entity is in tune with his mind, he says, adding, "He knows everything I'm doing and thinking. He's *picking* my mind."

The session over, Sigismond guides Michael from the trance only after Howe conceals the drawings, in case the images might prove too shocking. Even so, reliving the experience in deep trance so unnerves the subject, that a year will pass before he returns for a therapeutic program of post-hypnotic suggestions permitting gradual recall.

Michael never learns that his sketched figure — the first portrait of a UFO-naut by a professional artist, claims Sigismond — bears a marked resemblance to beings in photographs seen only by those "on the cutting edge of UFO research." Property of Len Stringfield (author of the UFO classic, "Situation Red"), those pictures show burned cadavers of creatures that supposedly died in a 1950s UFO crash at Los Alamos Atomic Energy Commission Center in New Mexico. Rumor has it, says Sigismond, that the bodies are stored in cryogenic cases at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, or CIA Headquarters at Langley.

Extraterrestrials sniffing out our own backyard? Government cover-ups? Such talk is not what one might expect from Richard Sigismond, described by his acquaintances as serene, oftentimes eloquent. Born near Niagara Falls and residing in Boulder for the last 25 years, he looks every bit the philosopher with his bald pate, silver-white beard and tweed attire.

His academic training in psychology and anthropology includes a bachelor's degree from SUNY at Buffalo and graduate studies at CU. Bookshelves lining every wall in his home suggest a life-long process of self-education in fields of quantum physics, geology, political theory, fine arts and metaphysics.

**Boulder's
Richard Sigismond has
seen grotesque cattle
mutilations, heard the
stories of scared
witnesses and even,
he says, had two close
encounters. That's why
he is considered one of
the country's foremost
UFOlogists.**

Perhaps it is precisely that eclectic background that has motivated the 55-year-old Sigismond to involve himself with this enigmatic business. For three decades, he has tried to unravel a mystery which — like a crime lacking clear-cut motives — may be unsolvable: the UFO phenomenon. His search for answers demands perseverance, as most cases turn out to be misidentified weather balloons, satellites or lenticular clouds. But what hypotheses can be drawn from the truly anomalous aerial events — the 10 percent not explainable by known causes, or the more than 300 reports since 1970 — like Michael and Mary's — that allege encounters with non-humans? The Boulder UFOlogist claims that UFOs do indeed exist and are piloted by intelligent beings from ... elsewhere.

EARTH: UNDER SURVEILLANCE

"The minimum hypothesis? UFOs are artifact craft and intelligence-gathering devices created by extremely advanced technologies," he insists. "We speculate the planet is under surveillance by half a dozen societies of unknown origin. Most are extraterrestrial, and some may originate from another dimension or parallel reality."

One person's opinion, to be sure. But he presents a painstaking case for his theories, arming himself with diagrams, sketches and transcripts from his vast files. (Atop his desk is a recent report from an Iranian contact; handwritten in Farsi, it awaits translation.) He is a walking compendium of close encounter investigations, both his own and those documented by other UFO sleuths.

With missionary zeal, he takes his message to any public forum. A popular lecturer, Sigismond relished the chance to speak last year before the National Military Intelligence Association, an organization of returned and active intelligence officers. He is featured in two documentaries, "The UFO Experience" (KPIX-TV, San Francisco) and "Strange Harvest" (Linda Moulton Howe's investigation on cattle mutilations, KMGH-TV, Denver). Peter Boyles has found him a colorful talk show guest, as has Karen Telleen, host of KGNU's "Cabbages and Kings."

"He is spellbinding as an individual, and obviously takes a very scientific approach to his investigations," says Telleen. She recalls that an otherwise good show turned sour for a moment when she made a facetious remark about Sigismond's beautiful gardens. "I asked if the flowers were arranged as a signal to UFOs, and he shut down quickly, became very defensive."

Nothing can trigger sensitivity in Sigismond as much as when journalists poke fun with him about the "idiot fringe." He refuses any contact with several local UFO clubs. At one group's meetings, you can hear reports of dog fights between Iranian jets and UFOs are peppered with tales of Sasquatch, ghosts and a levitating statue of Blessed Virgin Mary. Another session features Dr. T. Galen Hieronymous, inventor of a "radionic machine," which brings about visits by the "Mother Ship of the Galactic Council."

"Unfortunately, there are a number of quacks in this field," says Sigismond. "Some are simply misguided. Then there are the con artists who

solicit funds from their followers with talks about how our ills will be solved by benign beings from Alpha Centauri. These cults did their damage in the '50s and '60s, but there are very few left."

Just as damaging to the case for UFOs, as debunkers love to point out, is that 35 years of research have failed to turn up a single physical artifact proving the phenomenon is real. To be sure, thousands of fuzzy photos and film clips have been offered as "incontrovertible proof" of UFOs — so claim banner headlines in the National Enquirer. But the UFO movement's credibility has suffered each time such evidence was identified as nothing more than swamp gas, or when skeptics exposed an outright hoax, as when one publicity hound used trick photography to make a hubcap look like a UFO.

Today, UFO investigators rely on isophotometric analysis to weed out photos that are fakes or IFOs. Even so, the leftovers — pictures of nocturnal lights or silvery objects in daylight that defy explanation — are ignored by the media. Admits Sigismond, it's a dilemma: How can you build an argument for UFOs when the best available evidence involves objects that even scientists can only classify as "unidentifiable?"

Struggling against the UFO movement's public image as a pseudo-science, Sigismond and his colleagues aim to design meaningful experiments and methodology that meet modern scientific standards. An abundance of technical literature and newsletters published by MUFON (Mutual UFO Network) or APRO (Aerial Phenomena Research Organization) set exacting guidelines for UFO research.

While there are no specific prerequisites to join the corps of UFO researchers, says Sigismond, the field includes many scientists, doctors and college professors. "There are many technically trained people like John Schessler, a NASA engineer. His most famous investigation was the 'Cash-Landrom Case.' Two women and a child sustained radiation injuries in a close encounter outside Houston in 1980." Schessler's laboratory analysis confirmed microwave radiation, possibly caused, so he conjectures, by secret military tests of advanced flying systems.

Sigismond is a senior investigator for CUFOS (Center for UFO Studies), founded in 1973 by the "dean of

UFOlogy," Dr. J. Allen Hynek. When alerted by the CUFOS Hotline about a sighting, he travels to the location to interview witnesses and examine physical traces. Details of the event — time, duration, location, weather, trajectory and object description — are documented and forwarded to the Evanston, Ill., headquarters. This data is cross-correlated to detect patterns of UFO activity. (A computer bank at Princeton stores information on over 30,000 UFO cases.)

One CUFOS study, for example, reports that 32 percent of hovering UFOs operate at low level, 45 percent are silent and 17 percent are associated with power disturbances.

"We have an embarrassment of information like this, but we still don't have an entity to talk to," confesses Sigismond. Frustrated by the tediousness of such statistical exercises, but resolute that hard evidence can be returned, he spends up to 30 hours a week on UFO research. Yet he does not earn a penny for his time, and even phone and travel expenses are paid out of his own pocket.

He earns his livelihood as a mining engineer and President of Aquarius Mining Company, which operates a silver processing plant in Caribou, dormant since the silver crash a couple of years ago. That business provides him with sophisticated equipment for his field investigation of UFOs, including a geiger counter, a magnetometer and ultraviolet black light instruments.

Sigismond has written 25 articles for publications like the International UFO Reporter, and his favorite subject involves investigation in which he has employed hypnosis. Reflecting on the case of Michael and Mary (pseudonyms, the true names and a new West Coast address are on file), he notes the adherence to dozens of classic UFO abductions. The pattern includes seizure of humans aboard a craft, examination by humanoids and telepathic communication with crew members who make assurances of safe return. Invariably, abductees are not reassured, he says. Instead, they are traumatized.

He adamantly denies that Michael or other subjects might be perpetrating hoaxes. "If faked, the individual has to consciously decide to design a hoax and then maintain it under deep hypnosis. It is unlikely that, in this state, an individual can

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control bodily functions associated with the expression of trauma, including elevated heartbeat, copious tears, body shaking and changes in pallor."

'LITTLE GREEN MEN'

The validity of Sigismond's hypnotism techniques is being challenged by Dr. Alvin Lawson, an English professor at Long Beach State, and Dr. William McCall, a specialist in hypnotism. They hypnotized a person who believed she was abducted and a volunteer who was told to imagine an abduction. Both subjects, in deep trances, described vaguely non-human creatures.

"In general, the imaginary and the 'real' experiences here are identical, which indicates that the narratives aren't real physical experiences," claims Dr. Lawson. "They believe that something happened to them, and I think that something 'real' in psychological terms does happen to these people. But I don't think little green men are doing it."

If so, counters Sigismond, how do you explain separate, but corroborative testimony by two hypnotized subjects?

He agrees, however, that there is danger of contamination of information.

"For example, you've had a close encounter and I place you under hypnosis. You describe this lighted something-or-other in the sky. In my enthusiasm, I say, 'OK, what did this space ship look like?' Notice what I have done. You describe a light. But you are in a suggestible state, and because of my directive question, you reinterpret the light as a space ship. A skilled investigator always uses non-directive questions."

A good case depends not only on the expertise of the investigator, says Sigismond, but also the credibility of the witness. Roughly 11 percent of the adult American population — 15 million people — claim to have witnessed a UFO, according to a 1974 Gallup poll. But how many of those people can distinguish between a UFO and the planet Venus? Sigismond prefers the witnesses who are trained and knowledgeable observers.

A 1976 case near Jicarillo, N.M., involved Sergeant (now Lieutenant) James Bustamanti, then an eight-year veteran of the Highway Patrol. "Highly credible,

held a degree in criminology," says Sigismond. "The officer reported a cigar-shaped craft, 60 to 70 feet long and the size of a submarine, which illuminated the landscape in a brilliant red. The craft played cat and mouse with his cruiser along winding roads, so close that it very much intimidated the officer."

Other cases, no matter how good, simply slip through an investigator's fingers. Sigismond recently interviewed a husband and wife who witnessed a close encounter of the first kind. Driving down the interstate at night, they pulled to the roadside to study a bright light. He says, "They rolled down the windows and saw an object with bright colored lights at 100 feet elevation. No sound. Barely moving 20 miles an hour. It was the size of two houses." A detailed letter and diagram followed, but the witnesses, both prominent members of a local community, refused to be identified. In an interview with Daily Camera, the husband, a successful businessman, expressed concern that the publicity would make him a laughingstock with his associates.

After 30 years in the field, Sigismond still main-

tains an intense curiosity, but finds that he functions with a complete sense of detachment about his cases, much like a surgeon conducting an appendectomy for the thousandth time. He has examined grotesque cattle mutilations, listened to traumatized witnesses and even personally experienced two close encounters, yet he denies having "any emotional reactions or feeling or fear, at all." But should he ever meet extraterrestrials, face-to-face, he concedes the possibility that his scientific objectivity might be overcome. He says, "I cannot help but feel that I would be in awe of them, respectful of their advances in physics that we haven't quite yet dreamed of."

That moment of contact might be closer than some people think. After a decade of relative inactivity, UFO reports are on the rise — major sightings involving in some cases thousands of witnesses at the same time. As a result, says Sigismond, "The Soviets have set up a probe on UFOs. France authorized a UFO study under their equivalent of NASA. They recently invited Dr. J. Allen Hynek (CUFOS founder) to Paris to explore an open exchange of data be-

tween our countries."

"I would ask them their motivations for coming, how they judge us, or scale us relative to our own change of perspectives since World War II. If mankind can look up to see ourselves as a part of a vaster order of the universe, then perhaps Contact will alter our perspectives. Perhaps this will change human behavior, keeping us from the potential of nuclear catastrophe."

BILL SMITH is a Denver free-lance writer.

(continued on page 9)

Three cases of uncomfortable encounters



Montana memory: One of Richard Sigismond's own close encounters occurred 45 miles northeast of Missoula and involved a vehicle of some 125 feet in width and 30 feet in thickness.

CASE STUDY: CE-1. Nov. 1975 — Near Sterling, Colo.

Says Bill Jackson, "This was a period of time, in 1974 and 1975, when we had many reports, by ranchers, of strange lights; these were almost always followed by cattle mutilations." Jackson, then a reporter for the Sterling Journal Advocate, and his wife, Cheryl, were returning to their home in Sterling one night, when they spotted a single red light in the sky.

He first assumed it was a small plane, but as it approached, he decided it must be a 747 because of the great number of lights. The craft flew very low to the ground. Jackson stopped the car and got out while Cheryl watched through the windshield. The object made no sound as it closed in and passed overhead at less than 100 feet. The

reporter recalls, "Row after row of lights ... at least a dozen rows ... hundreds and hundreds of lights; red, orange, green, white, all colors ... that sucker was huge! I wondered just how that damn thing stayed in the air." The Jacksons covered the last miles to Sterling at top speed.

Jackson, now an editor for the Greeley Tribune, reported the close encounter to Boulder UFOlogist Richard Sigismond, who detailed the account in an article for the International UFO Reporter in May of 1984.

CASE STUDY: CE-1. July 6, 1967 — 45 Miles Northeast of Missoula, Mont.

Richard Sigismond has had two close encounters, one in Colorado in 1969, and an outstanding case, with corroborating witness, in Montana in 1967. While driving down a mountain road on an overcast day, Sigismond and a friend spotted a fat cigar-shaped object slip beneath the clouds. The craft followed the s-curve of the road and came along broad-side, finally hovering near four large spruce pines. Says Sigismond, "That allowed us to measure its size. It was 125 feet wide and 30 feet thick. We were so close, that we could see there were no welds, no seams, no rivets. It had a soft metal sheen, but I can't say it was metal, because I didn't get a piece of it."

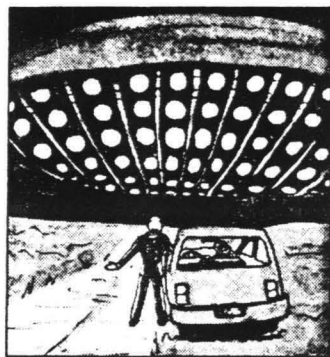
Later, Sigismond and his friend carefully reconstructed what they had witnessed and found that 11 major and minor details of their recollections matched.

CASE STUDY: CE-2. May 1982 — Near Simla, Colo.

Between 1975 and 1981, an estimated 5,000 mutilations of cattle, sheep and horses occurred in the Rockies and the Plains. The phenomenon was already on the decline when Linda Moulton Howe produced her documentary, "Strange Harvest," in 1980. In 1982, the filmmaker was considering an update of the film, when a

rancher from Simla, Colo., contacted her about a mutilation of one of his horses. She visited the sight briefly, and then returned six weeks later, accompanied by Richard Sigismond. Conforming to the characteristics of most mutilations, the horse's genitals and anus had been removed, with such skill that the abdominal track had not been disturbed. Says Sigismond, "Decay had begun and maggots had infected one of the haunches. The odor was repugnant. At the same time, the horse was in a remarkable state of preservation." The slow decay was confirmed, both when the rancher cut into the hide with a knife, exposing flesh that "looked like butcher-counter beef," as well as when lab results were returned.

The rancher noted two other unusual factors. The region was full of predators, including coyotes and magpies, yet the horse had remained untouched for six weeks. Also, when the rancher would turn his greyhound dogs loose each morning,



An as-told-to sketch: Reporter Bill Jackson remembers the hundreds and hundreds of glowing lights near Sterling, Colo.

they would race toward the site at top speed, and then "do a remarkable right hand turn to avoid the dead horse."

After a number of years of few reports of animal mutilations, the phenomenon seems to be on the rise again, says Sigismond. According to a recent issue of Ranchland News, serving Elbert and El Paso Counties, four cattle mutilations have been reported in recent weeks.



A recent cattle mutilation near Simla, Colo., as pictured in the Ranchland News. Are the mutilations a signal from another civilization?

Of alien looks, U.S. secrecy and preparing for the outlanders

UFOlogist Richard Sigismund shares his research and his thoughts:

ON THE LOOKS OF EXTRATERRESTRIALS

"There is a one-meter tall entity, hairless, large heads. A five-foot group with features one might call Eurasian is reported only occasionally. Nor is the creature with a long spindly body — like the one in Spielberg's movie — reported very often. One group of 3-footers has thick bodies and pumpkin-shaped heads. The beings we call 'Swedes' could pass you on the street without being noticed. Then there are the 4½-foot humanoids. They have a grey skin tone, elongated heads, small protuberances in place of ears, long claw-like hands. This group is reported most often in close encounters of the third kind, including the abduction cases."

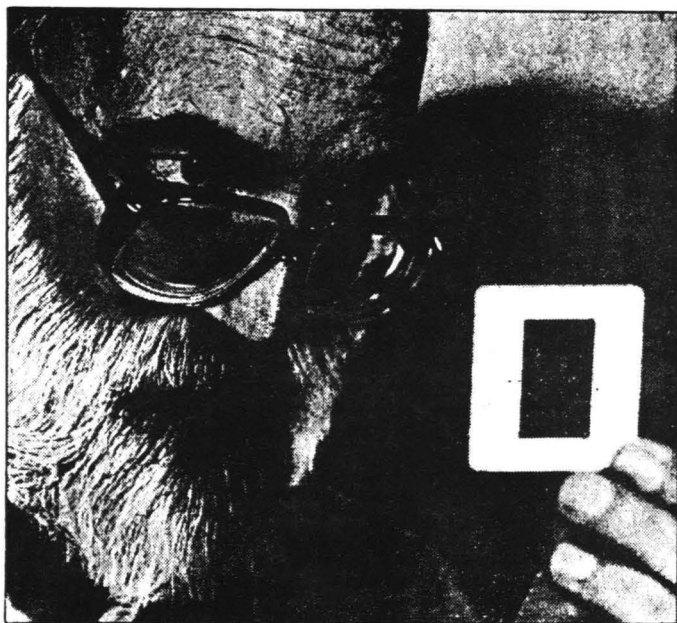
ON FEWER UFO REPORTS:

"In the '40s and '50s, the debunkers predicted UFO sightings would be a passing fad. In fact, the phenomenon persists in a most dramatic fashion all over the world, but not in every country at any particular moment. If UFOs are not over Denver where they will make U.S. news, chances are that reports are coming in elsewhere. I have a June 8 report from Antofagasta, Chile, in which hundreds of witnesses saw over their city an enormous disk which caused power outages. In China, the Communist Party newspaper, People's Daily, announced that on June 11, the crew of a Chinese 747 jet encountered a 6-mile wide UFO which paced them for 2 minutes. Recently, the Soviet Union confirmed a mass sighting on May 30, 1984 of a low-level UFO over the city of Gorki. With credible reports like these, how can you justify the 'case for the vanishing UFO?'"

"...You don't need thousands of reports a year, if 50 establish the phenomenon's reality. The statement, 'virtually nothing,' is the case only if one is monitoring just The Denver Post or Rocky Mountain News. The UFO clipping service might show that a real flurry of activity is going on over Atlanta, but if a local editor doesn't consider it newsworthy, nothing is reported."

ON THE UTILITY OF UFO RESEARCH:

"Never have we had sufficient researchers, time or money to organize the data to give you a



Picturing aliens: Richard Sigismund says he tries to distinguish real sightings from the reports of starry-eyed fanatics.

quantitative answer. Early researchers, trained in the hard sciences, tried to correlate the phenomenon with cyclical patterns, as if they were dealing with inanimate objects like meteors. These attempts to predict (UFO) patterns proved wrong. Today, we can say from the available data that the phenomenon is characterized by waves of activity which cannot be predicted with any reliability. The greatest number of sightings involve lights in the night sky which do things lights in the night sky don't ordinarily do, like instantaneous right-angle turns. The computer can tell you the greatest possibility for an encounter is in isolated rural areas. But with all this information, we still don't have a UFO, or an entity to talk to."

ON ALIENS AS REFLECTIONS OF OUR FANTASIES:

"In times of societal stress, humans invent new mythologies in order to find a renewed sense of security; and that, since WWII, this 'myth-making' faculty has given us aerodynamically sophisticated chariots as new forms of gods and angels. The evidence does not support this.

If similar testimony is given by individuals widely separated by

culture, language, religion and geography, then there is an extremely strong scientific probability that what they are reporting is not generated by their own psyches. And UFOs are reported by Australian aborigines, as well as highly trained technicians from France. We have sufficient proof that we are not dealing with modern manifestations of the 'cargo cult.'

Is this a projection of the human mind: a front page Denver Post story, Jan. 19, 1979, titled 'U.S. Reports Visits of UFOs to Bases'? I quote, 'During 2 weeks in 1975, a string of the nation's super-sensitive nuclear missile sites and bomber bases were visited by unidentified, low-flying and elusive objects, according to Defense Department Reports.' Mythologies generally are not tracked on radar, nor are they pursued by fighter planes."

ON GOVERNMENT SECRECY:

"Under the Freedom of Information Act, various groups, including CAUS (Citizens Against UFO Secrecy), filed suit against NSA (National Security Agency). We had rumors of 160 top-secret NSA documents on UFOs. Government lawyers filed with the U.S. District Court in D.C. a 21-page affidavit, heavily censored. What was left to

publish in the UFO Reporter were two pages of crossed-out lines, but there was enough to reveal that since 1969, the CIA, FBI, NSA and Air Force have continued to investigate UFOs. Why is the government so secretive about a phenomenon which does not exist? I cannot identify who is responsible, but we seem to have a coverup. The Defense Department is not doing a good job relative to our defense. The problem is the UFOs not only visit Farmer Jones' soybean field, they penetrate our national air space and hover over our military bases."

ON UFOs AS AIR FORCE TEST VEHICLES:

"That is rumored, but unsubstantiated. I would expect attempts to replicate UFOs, since such devices would give us the edge of the Soviets for the next half-century. But no government could produce a device which could do what UFOs do. You would be dealing with radical advances beyond quantum physics, in short, anti-gravity."

ON WHAT UFO RESEARCH NEEDS:

"I am not concerned with outfitting my truck with elaborate equipment so I can race around the countryside in search of UFOs. Give me the full cooperation of the U.S. government, give me time to review their top secret files. Nothing else is needed at this stage of the game."

ON PREPARING THE PUBLIC:

"As a social scientist, I feel it would be unwise to present such information without adequately preparing the public. In our hasty civilization, whenever we contacted a lesser developed society, descending upon them with our sailing ships and sea planes, the resulting cultural shock blew them out of the water. We believe we're so sophisticated that this could not happen to us. That might be so if we are dealing with a society a couple hundred years ahead of us. But suppose that society is 2 million years ahead of us? Education about imminent cultural contact is paramount, but the data must be disseminated gradually so people can assimilate it. Programming of the public should be in the hands of those qualified to understand the effects on a Southern Baptist Minister of irrefutable proof of highly advanced civilizations."

— BILL SMITH

INDEPENDENT, Fort Orchard, WA
Nov. 13, 1985 CR: L. Whitehurst

UFO reported at Retsil Field

No lights were on in the house as Janice Mutek sat watching the television. The 11 o'clock news was just coming on the air. Her husband and children were sleeping. Suddenly, she noticed a blue light softly glowing through the blinds of the picture windows that looked out from the caretaker's cottage over Retsil County Park's soccer fields.

"I was sitting there for quite awhile before I got up to see what the lights were," she said. "It looked like a saucer to me, white with three blue lights made like a triangle. It hovered over the field for a long time before I even got up to see what it was and then it stayed for awhile."

According to Mutek, the size of the Unidentified Flying Object

(UFO) was enormous, overshadowing the two soccer fields despite the height it hovered from in the air. She described the UFO as a white, saucer that held steady in the air with foggy lights that moved swiftly away, switching locations within sight of her windows.

"I saw it disappear and at first I was in shock. Then I looked to the left and saw it again. A beam of light completely lit up the old, tall fir tree that stands outside. It was lit from top to bottom and that tree must be 500 years old," she said. "I saw it go but it went so fast. Then I started sweating and shaking. I was really scared."

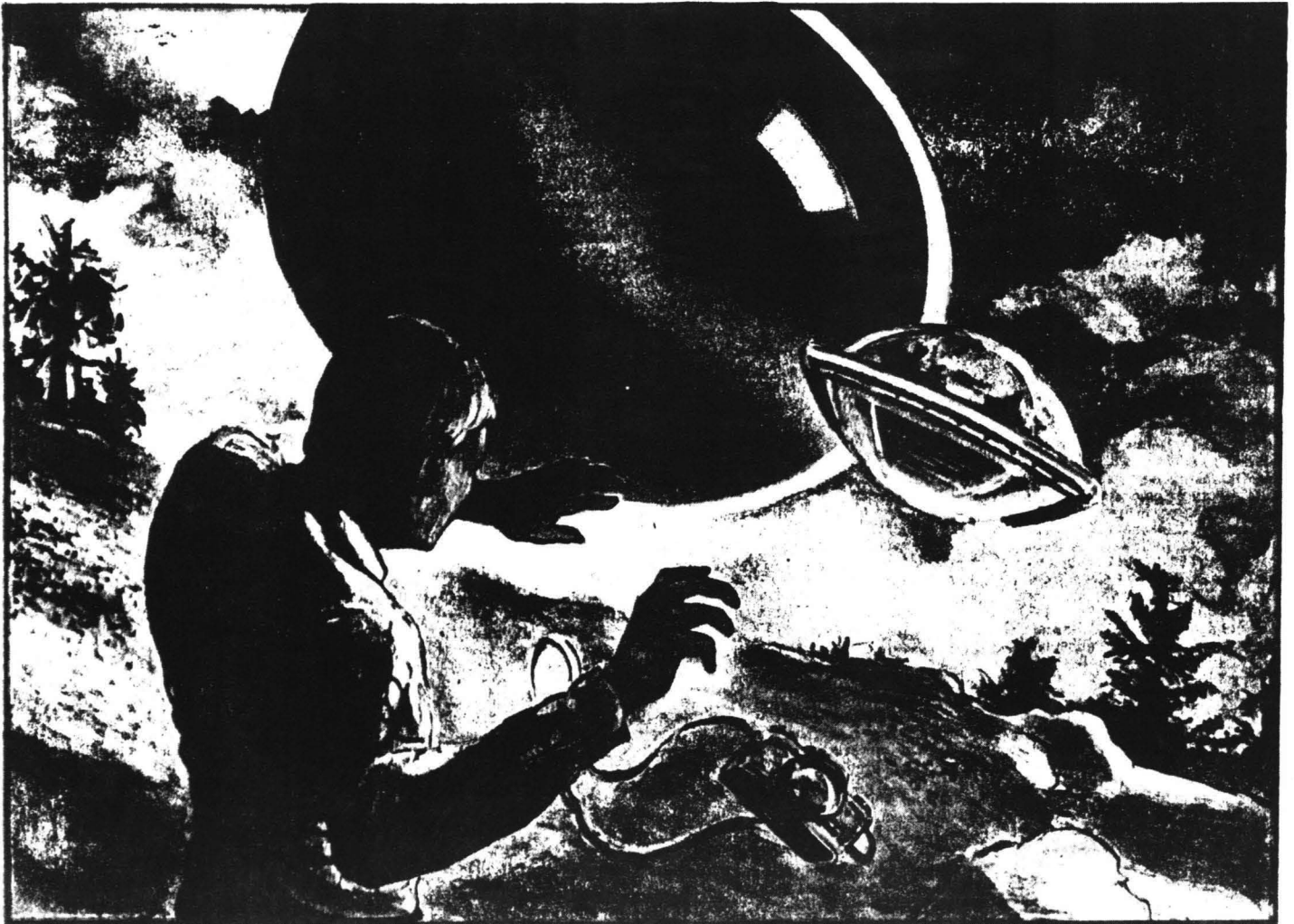
The neighborhood dogs were silent, their usual barking sprees at various sounds in the night were absent. It was unusually quiet and the UFO didn't make a sound, Mutek said.

She woke her husband up to report what she had just seen. His concern was that the Bangor base was nearby and the sighting may have had something to do with the base. He urged her to call the police and give a report.

Did she actually see a UFO, a visiting craft from another galaxy? According to the police, no other sightings of the UFO were reported that night. The beam of light cast down the tree

could not be attributed to a full moon playing tricks as there was no full moon that night. And Mutek never said what she thought it was, she simply offered a description of the event.

"When the police were taking the report they were having a hard time to keep from laughing," Mutek said. "Finally, we all started laughing but I still didn't get to sleep that night. I guess I was still in shock over what I saw."



Artist's conception of the spaceship a Bellevue man claims took him aboard last summer (story on page 2).

Clifford Vancura/Journal-American

Something in the sky

UFO researchers are convinced that we've had visitors and frequently

By Doug Margeson
Journal American Staff Writer

They are the true believers. While for most of us, Unidentified Flying Objects are little more than interesting topics at cocktail time — in the same vein as the Bermuda Triangle, the Shroud of Turin and Bigfoot — a small but dedicated cadre of Northwesterners believes in them with the zeal of the few scorned by the many.

"They don't care what the many think. Science, the currents of history and, above all, a growing body of recorded fact are on their side, they say. Fact cannot be denied."

"I've learned that no one can prove the existence of UFOs to someone else," said Wayne Aho of Tacoma, president of the New Age Foundation. The foundation is a nationwide group for UFO believers. "The only convincing evidence of a UFO is to see one. Then it's a reality to you."

And lots of people have seen UFOs:

- Since the spring of 1983, UFO investigators say, an estimated 30,000 people in New York have seen the so-called "Westchester Wing," what some claim is an extremely large triangular craft lit by a series of colored lights.
- From May through September, Compufon — a Duvall-based computer network that compiles sightings from around the country — has logged 104 cases in the U.S., including 20 in Washington.
- The UFO Reporting Center in Seattle gets over 1,000 calls a year from

people who believe they've seen a UFO.

"And that figure represents something like only 20 percent of the people who've actually seen UFOs. The other 80 percent are afraid of the consequences. An otherwise intelligent, stable citizen who says he's seen a UFO is automatically labeled as a nut," said Dale Goudie of Seattle, director of Puget Sound Aerial Phenomena Research and the UFO Information Service.

GOUDIE'S ORGANIZATION is the newest of a half-dozen UFO groups in the Puget Sound area. Others include the National UFO Center, headed by Bob Gribble of Seattle, and Compufon, a computerized report recording system operated by Mike Hart of Duvall. Hart's system, in an office in his Duvall home, started in May. Already, more than 920 people have called his computer to get information on UFO sightings.

The UFO groups receive all kinds of reports — from those that sound strangely like 747s to the incident last July in which a Bellevue man said he was taken aboard a UFO on Crystal Mountain. (See related story, page 2.)

All exchange information with one another and with the Mutual UFO Network, based in Austin, Texas, and Citizens Against UFO Secrecy, headquartered in New York. Citizens Against UFO Secrecy lobbies for release of government documents on UFO sightings.

THE GROUPS approach the UFO phenomenon from a scientific perspective. By collecting and analyzing sighting reports, they believe they will convince the general public of the UFO phenomenon.

Another group of UFO enthusiasts takes things a step further. The members of Aho's New Age Foundation and the UFO Contact Center, headed by Dan and Aileen Edwards of Seattle, believe that UFOs have far-reaching spiritual ramifications.

About some things the two groups agree: UFOs are real, they are operated by intelligent beings and, above all, they are visiting us all the time. And, UFO enthusiasts claim, the federal government is doing its best to keep the whole business under wraps.

The U.S. Air Force stopped investigating UFO sightings in 1969. However, about that same time, the Freedom of Information Act was passed and UFO groups have been using it to gain access to heretofore secret documents. Typical of the material they've managed to obtain is a 1948 Air Force study that includes a number of detailed reports on UFO sightings — many by military pilots — and the conclusion, "that some type of flying object has been observed over the U.S. seems to be substantiated," although it is impossible "... to make any reliable explanation for their appearance over the U.S."

Goudie, a free-lance television advertising producer, became interested in UFOs in the early 1970s. He started reading up on the subject, became convinced something definitely was going on and formed Puget Sound Aerial Phenomenon Research in 1982.

THE GROUP, which Goudie says is made up of about 100 volunteers from throughout the Puget Sound area, does field investigations of sites where UFOs were spotted. If studied properly, UFO sites can yield information on radiation levels, chemical changes in the soil, the effects on plant and animal life and any electromagnetic activity, Goudie said.

Such information, when combined with witnesses' stories and similar reports from other sitings, steadily builds a body of evidence proving the existence of UFOs, he said.

Typically, radiation levels at a UFO site are higher than normal for about a day, Goudie said. Sometimes, animals die. Other times, plants turn yellow. Electromagnetic activity usually manifests itself in the form of cars stalling, houses losing their lights and so forth

— returning to normal only when the UFO leaves.

"Beyond that, we have no idea what exactly electromagnetic activity is or how it does what it does," Goudie said.

Although PSAPR conducted a number of field investigations — Goudie couldn't remember exactly how many — its credibility was hindered by being an all-volunteer force. Some of the volunteers were dependable, some weren't and, in either case, filing and analyzing reports proved a bookkeeping headache, he said.

Enter the computer age in the form of a home computer with a 20-megabyte capacity which Goudie installed in his home last summer. With it, Goudie can keep tabs on volunteer investigators — "If they don't send us a reliable report, we never work with them again." Perhaps more important, he has the capacity to record and cross-index UFO information.

Since its formation, the center has collected about 150 cases from around the world, Goudie said. He categorizes the cases according to the type of object or incident — nocturnal lights, daylight disk, radar and visual sighting, sighting plus electromagnetic activity and so on — and its proximity — spotted at long distance, less than 500 feet away, it was observed to land or its inhabitants contacted or abducted to witness.

AROUND THE WORLD, UFO reports have become as regular as clockwork since an Idaho pilot spotted nine disk-shaped objects over Mount Rainier in 1947, which helped coin the phrase "flying saucer."

Among the more intriguing cases:

- The "Roswell Incident" of July 8, 1947, in which a disk is said to have crashed on a ranch near Roswell, N.M., yielding a tinfoil-

(continued on page 11)

like material that reportedly could not be dented with a sledgehammer. The wreckage was allegedly removed by military personnel.

• The 1961 case of Betty and Barney Hill, a New Hampshire couple who revealed — in separate hypnosis sessions — that they had been taken aboard a UFO. A *Look* magazine investigation reported "there is a measurable amount of direct physical circumstantial evidence to support the validity of the experience."

• On March 21, 1966, 17 students at Hillsdale College in southern Michigan saw an object consisting of pulsating red, green and white lights fly near their dormitory and then settle in a park about a quarter-mile away. They called the county civil defense director, who also observed the object, which remained in the park for nearly five hours. An analysis of the park found that all microscopic animals were dead and radiation levels were unusually high.

• In July 1984, two crewmen on a fish tender saw an orange fireball crash into Puget Sound between Lummi and Eliza islands. Divers reportedly found an object shaped "like a satellite dish" in the area the following December but it was never raised.

The most active national periods — Goudie calls them "flaps" — were in 1952, 1967 and 1973. The hottest local place for UFO activity is the area between Auburn and Maple Valley, Goudie said, although UFO activity in general is at an ebb now.

Goudie's prize local UFO cases include a videotape of a UFO buzzing the Tacoma industrial area and a report from a woman who drove under some hovering lighted objects in Federal Way.

The Tacoma UFO was videotaped on a summer morning in 1982 by a local television advertising producer shooting some test scenes. As with many UFO spotters, she has chosen to remain anonymous.

She was shooting the area from a high hill on the south side of Interstate 5 near the intersection of the freeway and State Route 7. Suddenly, a blur went across the viewing screen. The woman finished her shooting but, curious about the blur, studied it when she got home. Convinced that it was something unusual, she eventually was put in touch with Goudie.

GOUDIE AND HART ran the tape in stop motion, magnified it and used computer amplification to analyze the image. Goudie concluded that an object, which was between 30 and 60 feet across, flew at a very fast speed from east to west about 400 yards in front of the camera.

A stop-frame close-up of the object showed what Goudie believes to be a dome-shaped vehicle surrounded by a pulsating plasma field. The vehicle had what appears to be two question mark-shaped antennae and a row of squarish windows, Goudie said.

"We think it is particularly exciting because the woman who spotted it is not a UFO enthusiast," Goudie said.

The Federal Way sighting occurred at around 9:30 p.m. Oct. 3. A young woman driving south on I-5 saw two bright lights over the S. 320th Street exit to Federal Way. The night was clear and the lights were distinct, she said. As she got closer, she could see a helicopter flying near the objects. The woman took the 320th exit and drove directly under the objects, which were about 300 feet from the ground, she said.

She saw three objects arranged in a triangular formation. Each object consisted of a string of bright white lights in a V shape. A blue/green light was in the center of the triangle formation, she said. Although the white lights were too bright to make out a distinct shape, she believed the V's formed a single object, the woman said. After watching the object for a few minutes, she drove away.

The V-shaped lights are one of the more common types of UFOs, Goudie said. Silver discs — the proverbial flying saucer — and cigar-shaped objects are other standard forms.

SO, WHAT ARE THEY?

"It's obvious, isn't it?" Goudie said. "All this talk about swamp



Wayne Aho uses two plastic toy saucers to demonstrate what the real thing looks and flies like. Peter Haley/Journal-American

Once visited by UFOs, two await great events

By Doug Margeson
Journal-American Staff Writer

Wayne Aho believes UFOs have been colonizing earth for centuries. One of their focal points is Mount Rainier, where, at the turn of the century, a prospector found extensive tunnels stocked with gold, tools and tablets written in unidentifiable hieroglyphics, he says.

Aho, and local members of his New Age Foundation, periodically make pilgrimages to the mountain to psychically commune with UFOs.

Dan Edwards believes that walking among us are people who have been contacted by extraterrestrials. Most of those who have been contacted don't know it consciously, Edwards says. But some day, perhaps soon, they will be called upon to perform specific tasks in one of humankind's greatest events.

AHO AND EDWARDS don't much care about the debate over whether UFOs exist. They made up their minds a long time ago. UFOs have been contacting us for a long time, they say, and for reasons that go far beyond our limited consciousness.

Aho, a retired Army intelligence officer — he likes to go by the title of Major — says he was first contacted by extraterrestrials at age 12. One day, while hiking the hills near his Woodland home, "words" seemed to crawl from the tip of his head, down his neck and into his spine before lodging in his inner ear, Aho said. He had continuing ESP experiences over the

years including one, in 1945, in which he sensed the Battle of the Bulge was about to begin. He says he unconsciously relayed that knowledge to Gen. George Patton who was thus able to launch the counterattack that saved beleaguered American forces.

In 1957, he watched a UFO land near Los Angeles. The UFO telepathically told him of future historical events, including the Israeli-Arab War, the devaluation of the English pound and the capture of the USS Pueblo by North Korea, Aho says.

AHO FORMED THE New Age Foundation in Toledo, Ohio, in 1959. The organization was incorporated in Washington when Aho moved to Tacoma in 1965. It has no dues, no membership drives and, because its adherents don't believe in death and therefore never erase names from rosters, no accurate count of its members. Anywhere from 500 to 8,000 people show up at national conventions, Aho says.

All, to one degree or another, concur with Aho's belief that UFOs are craft that can travel through dimensions of time and space most humans don't comprehend.

"I've seen them travel through dimensions," Aho said during a recent interview at his Tacoma home. However, when pressed for details about when, where and how he observed such travel, Aho instead launched off on a series of vignettes about UFO sightings. He's seen five himself. "Anybody could, I just happen to look

in the sky a lot." Then he discussed how the government is conspiring to hush up any discussion of UFOs.

"We are a fossil-fuel society and no one has ever seen a UFO land at a gas pump," Aho said.

DAN EDWARDS, director of the UFO Contact Center in Seattle, says he was first contacted by extraterrestrials in 1979. He woke up one night to find three beings standing in the doorway. He went back to sleep. The next morning, however, he discovered a puncture mark on his arm. And the toes of his shoes were crushed. Although curious about the experience, he shrugged it off until, a few days later, a stranger came to his door.

The man said extraterrestrials had abducted him and taken him to Edwards' room. Earlier, the beings had shot lighted beams from their hands into Edwards' body, he said.

As a result of that experience, Edwards formed the UFO Contact Center in 1981. He wanted to interview other people who had been contacted and, he hoped, eventually find out what the experience meant.

Most people who have been contacted don't know it consciously, Edwards said. But they do have a sense that that they are being guided toward something. That is one of 23 symptoms Edwards has found among contactees. Others include Jewish or American Indian heritage (or a keen interest in Indians or Judaism), lower back pain, pain near the collarbone, pain near the kneecap, "missing time" (you have no memory of where you were for an hour or so), an interest in eagles, an interest in turquoise and sudden increases in ESP.

WHAT DOES it all mean? Edwards feels that Biblical and American Indian prophecies show that extraterrestrials have been contacting people since ancient times. Extraterrestrials colonized parts of North America, most notably northern Arizona, where they were known as the Hohokum People, he said. The Hohokums inexplicably disappeared in the 1400s.

Folklores throughout the world refer to the "sky people," Edwards says. He has concluded that the sky people are contacting earthlings as part of a program that will see a major change in the world.

"So much oil has been pumped from the ground that the continental plates are unstable. And look at all the volcanic and earthquake activity we've been having. The Bible says there will be massive earth changes 'in one lifetime' after the formation of the modern nation of Israel. Contactees have been given a job to do when those changes begin," Edwards said.

A tale of abduction and mysterious beings

Editor's note: The *Journal-American* reported in September a story about a 59-year-old Bellevue businessman who claims he was taken aboard a UFO while sightseeing on Crystal Mountain at about 2:30 p.m. July 14.

The man, who wishes to remain anonymous, claims that a hypnosis session revealed he was abducted soon after leaving a friend at the lodge and heading for a chairlift to take him up the mountain. He says he was examined — he has photos of five "nee-

die" marks found on his back — and left on rocky Powder Pass, 2,000 feet above where he last remembers being.

He returned to the lodge about two hours after the alleged abduction — how, he's not sure. He says the street shoes he was wearing weren't scuffed in the least.

Recently, he agreed to let reporter Bob Welch observe a hypnosis session conducted by a hypnotist chosen by the J-A, Charles Tebbetts. Tebbetts, 79, of Edmonds, has been practicing

hypnosis for 58 years. He is founding president of the Hypnotist Examining Council of Washington and author of a number of books, including *Self-Hypnosis and Other Mind Expanding Techniques* (Westwood Publishing, Glendale, Calif.).

The one-hour session took place Monday at Tebbetts' office in Edmonds. Here is an edited transcript of the interview:

(After putting the man into a hypnotic state, Tebbetts says he understands the man has had an unusual experience and says he'd like to find out more about it.)

Q. Are you indoors or out?

A. In. I see an opening in the floor ... inside the craft. At the same time, I see a window.

Q. Can you see out the window? (Nods.)

Q. What do you see?

A. It's like being on an airliner.

Q. Do you feel you're in the air?

A. Yes.

Q. What else is happening — is anyone saying anything?

A. (No answer.)

Q. Do you say anything?

A. No.

Q. How do you feel?

A. I don't have feelings.

Q. Do you have any kind of emotions?

A. All kinds of images

Q. Any such as you've seen before?

A. Same ship.

Q. Are there other people or human beings on the ship?

A. Things are slowing down.

Q. Do you see a pilot or who's running the ship?

A. Yes.

Q. Is it in a different compartment?

A. Yes.

Q. You said there's a hole in the floor. What's the hole for?

A. It's rectangular.

Q. Where are you — in a chair, on a table?

A. Like a chair — up and over there.

Q. Are they — the ones that are on the ship — near by you?

A. (No answer.)

Q. Are there other beings — or are you all alone?

(continued on page 12)

Strange Hovering Lights

by MARY KUJAWA

It was about this time in October 47 years ago that several hundred thousand Americans were sent into a panic by an alarmingly realistic radio broadcast of H.G. Wells' epic novel, *The War of the Worlds*, a science fiction tale depicting an earth invasion of hideous creatures from outer space.

On Thursday, Oct. 17, several Wilton residents in the Danbury and Grumman Hill road areas telephoned Wilton police with sightings of strange red lights. The lights hovered at treetop level for four to five minutes, started to move slowly and then disappeared, said residents in their reports to police.

On Friday morning, Oct. 18, June Dober of Crosswicks Ridge described the incident to an editor. Mrs. Dober said she and her son were leaving swimming practice at the Wilton YMCA on Thursday night when they both saw a huge, hovering object which looked like a spaceship. It flew low in the sky, but didn't make any noise, she said.

Similar Stories

About the same time on Thursday night, a man, who asked not to be identified, said he had a similar experience. The man said he was jogging on the trails in Allen's Meadows when he saw a strange light in the sky. Apparently, other people saw it too, he said, because several cars traveling north on Route 7 pulled over to the shoulder for a look at the sky.

Early Thursday evening, Melissa Lorentson of Grumman Avenue reported having seen strange red lights moving at treetop level in a northwest direction. The lights were very distinct, with no form and were moving very slowly, said Miss Lorentson, whose description coincided with one given by Lisa Sforza, a reporter with *The Danbury News-Times*.

Ms. Sforza was out in the field on an assignment on Thursday night when she said she saw strange, V-shaped red lights move silently through the night sky.

"I don't want to sound like I believe in Martians or anything like that," said Ms. Sforza, "but there was definitely something up there. It looked real strange."

Spokesmen for the Wilton police department and Danbury Airport attributed the phenomenon to seven ultra-light airplanes which had passed over southwestern Connecticut on Thursday night. The aircraft were flying in a V-shaped formation and because of the design of the engine, would not make any noise, they said in their reports.

Ultralight Aircraft

"The end result of the whole thing was that we checked with the Danbury Airport and they told us that there were several airplanes flying in formation at about the same times we received the calls," said a spokesman for the Wilton police.

The Connecticut National Guard in Norwalk reported no evidence of anyone having sighted a UFO. A spokesman there said the Norwalk office logs these types of reports, but doesn't usually investigate them.

Charles Howes of Weston, who has worked as a meteorologist for almost 40 years, said he has never seen a UFO or anything like one. Low-hanging clouds often reflect aircraft and ground lights and create an eerie effect, he said. This might explain the sightings as Thursday night was slightly overcast.

The last reported case of a UFO in Wilton took place in February of 1966 when a New Canaan Road resident told police he saw strange white lights over the Norwalk reservoir.

Extraterrestrial Life

"There are a lot of things you have to rule out before you can call a phenomenon a UFO," said Chris Larsen, a graduate student of physics at the University of Connecticut at Storrs. "You have to rule out the possibility of it being a weather balloon, an airplane, or some kind of flare."

Miss Larsen said she has never seen a UFO, but has come across the subject while studying for her master's degree. The subject interests her, she said.

"You don't necessarily have to be a scientist to be an expert on UFO sightings," she said. "Ufology is not a science because, so far, no one has been able to prove we (on Earth) have had actual communication with extra-terrestrial beings. But, this doesn't mean they don't exist."

A. No. There's a being ... looks like leather. Bent over.
Q. Are there others like it?
A. He's alone.
Q. Is there any furniture? Different things?
A. Something on my right. Looks like machinery on right. It's large ... beams upright.

Q. What's overhead?
A. A ceiling structure — tubes or pipes. There's a hallway there. It's curved. Right in front of me ... windows in hallway.

Q. Did somebody bring you in or did you just climb in out of curiosity?

A. It was a ship.

Q. Did you have to go up a ladder?
A. No. Just came in. There was an opening at the bottom of the ship.

Q. Somebody helped you in?

A. (No answer.)

Q. I understand there were more than one. Were they on the ground when they first accosted you?

A. Yes.

Q. Did they say anything?

A. No.

Q. Did they forcibly put you up in the ship or invite you into the ship?

A. I don't remember what's happening.

(Long pause.)

A. I just saw somebody lean over me ... has eyes ... Bent over me.

Q. More than one?

A. I just see the one ... I'm on the table now.

Q. In the same compartment?

A. I see hands.

Q. Are they like human hands?

A. Uh-huh.

Q. Did they touch you?

A. They're looking down ... they're like us — the hands.

Q. Look down at your feet. You're on the table now. What do you see?

A. I see people.

Q. Do they look like us?

A. Not clear.

Q. You say they're people so do they resemble us?

A. They're pouring something — can't see their faces — out of a flask or beaker.

Q. What happens when they pour it?

A. I just see it coming out.

Q. Look to the right.

A. It's a wall.

Q. Any people or beings?

A. Uh-huh.

Q. How many?

A. Four or five — five. They're there ...

Q. It's about time to leave. What's happening?

A. I'm back in the little ship.

Q. The little ship brought you up there, right?

A. Uh-huh.

Q. What did the (little) ship look like?

A. Oversized car — all glass top.

Q. Was it oblong or like a cylinder or oval or —

A. Rectangular. Two front seats.

Q. The man is coming toward you — does he say something; touch you?

A. By the arm.

Q. How did you get into the ship?

A. Top comes up. The door is open.

Q. How large is it side to side?

A. No bigger than a big car.

Q. You're in the seat. Two other people?

A. Yes, two. Up front.

Q. Do you know where you're going?

A. No.

Q. You're approaching the larger ship.

A. It's above us.

Q. What's it look like?

A. It's big — very big.

Q. What color is it?

A. It's blue ... dark blue.

Q. Any illumination?

A. No.

Q. How far do you estimate the larger ship is off the ground?

A. Not very far. The ground is slanted.

Q. About 500 feet or half a mile?

A. No, close.

Q. Do you feel yourself getting out of the small ship?

A. Being held.

Q. How many people?

A. Two.

Q. When you were on the table, did they touch your back?

A. No.

Q. When they put you on the table, did they put you face down, stomach down?

A. On my back.

Q. After you were on the table did they touch your back?

A. No.

Q. After you were on the table did they turn you over?

A. Yes.

Q. Did they appear to be examining you?

A. Uh-huh. Yes.

Q. Did they hurt you in any way?

A. (Nods yes.)

Q. Were they gentle or rough?

A. I don't know.

Q. Possibly neither. Maybe firmness would be a better word.

A. Uh-huh.

Q. Did they use instruments of any kind on you?

A. Saw hand go over my back.

Q. Their hands were quite obvious but their faces were more diffused, huh?

A. Can't see their faces.

Q. Were they out of range of your eyes?

A. No, they were diffused.

Q. Make any noises?

A. Green and gray ... want to go home.

Q. OK, you just touched the ground —

A. It's on the rocks. I'm getting pulled out.

Q. Does the little ship leave?

A. I'm on the ground. Just laying.

Q. Are you free of them now?

A. No.

Q. Which did you see first — when you first sighted the ship — the large or small ship?

A. The large ship.

Q. Was it really close to the ground?

A. Almost touching the edge. It was big. The ground was sloped.

Q. The little ship came out and landed close to you?

A. Yes, about 20 feet.

Q. How tall were the beings?

A. Oh, five-six.

Q. Apparently just about the same size as us.

A. Little smaller.

Q. Were they fat or thin?

A. Medium ... they're obscure forms ... just like humans.

Q. In some manner, either they controlled you or —

A. I had no control. I had no control.

The do's and don'ts of UFO watching

By WILL FAY
Democrat Staff Writer

CONCORD — If you see an unidentified flying object:

- Take a picture of it if you can.
- Don't call the press or the government.
- Develop the film with at least two eyewitnesses.
- Remember: UFOs can be dangerous.

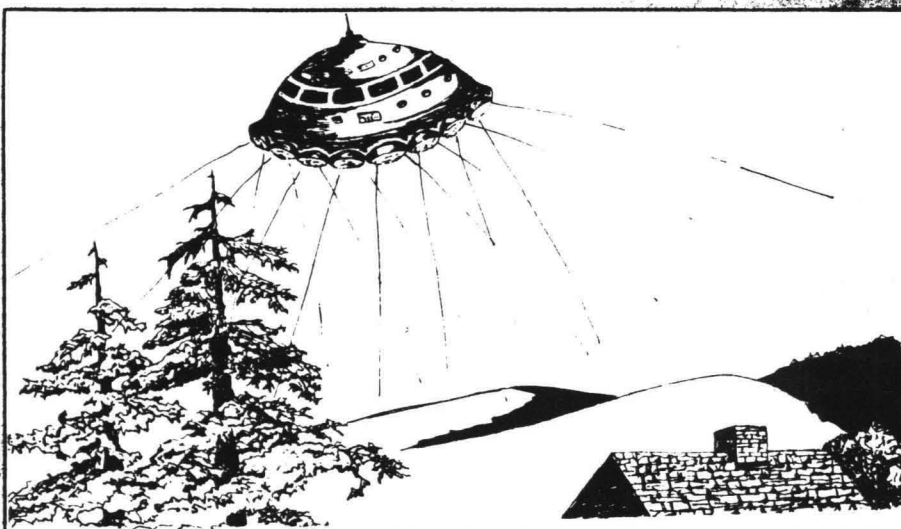
That was the message from Peter R. Geremia, a Rye businessman who is the state director of the Mutual UFO Network.

Far from being an intergalactic radio station, MUFON is trying to educate the public, especially those who believe in the extraterrestrial, how to intelligently report a UFO sighting.

About 60 people attended a workshop called "UFO Sighting in New Hampshire" at the New Hampshire Technical Institute here Tuesday night.

They were well dressed, articulate, and just as skeptical of some reported sightings as any cynic on the street.

But they also took notes, wrote down the names of UFO newsletters to subscribe to and asked questions — "relative size of the object?" queried one listener about a UFO seen in Exeter in the mid-70s.



Geremia described various UFO sightings in the state, such as the Wakefield "melted pond" incident. This case represents exactly how not to report a UFO, Geremia told the audience.

On a winter's night in January 1977 a Wakefield man discovered a

3-foot perfectly round hole in a pond in back of his house that was covered with 6-8 inches of ice.

Further examination showed a 3-4 foot square indentation in the pond bed.

Real phenomena, Geremia said, except that the man, fearing radi-

ation, called the state Civil Defense, which alerted the governor's office, which alerted the press.

By the time the investigation was underway, "the pond was completely destroyed," all evidence of the incident eradicated, Geremia said.

He went on to describe other sightings, the most recent one in the southwestern part of the state, in Keene, where a bathtub shaped object 10-15 feet in width and 45-50 feet in length was spotted by a police sergeant of that city on Oct. 15 last year.

Geremia, who derided other reported sightings, called this one "a classic," mainly because of the impeccable credibility of the policeman involved.

The police sergeant, however, failed to get the names of two witnesses who were with him, Geremia said.

Most of the talk centered on avoiding such mistakes and from sensationalizing UFO reports.

Geremia said he want's trained people to report UFO sightings, and that only with such reports will UFO sighting gain credibility.

"There's something going on. We need your input. We need to know when you have a sighting."

Geremia said some people who have had close encounters with UFOs had suffered the effects of radiation poisoning and urged caution.

And he especially urged not calling the government, who he said had covered up many sightings because they feared "public panic."

A call to the UFO hotline in Massachusetts — (617) 944-0686 — will bring a trained MUFON investigator to the place of the sighting, he said.

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The great UFO hush-up

Tim Fitzgerald

HUSH-HUSH ties exist between the South African Government and leading scientists, academics and organisations involved in UFO research.

The Government investigates UFO sightings, taking more interest in them than it cares to let on.

An investigation by The Sunday Star revealed that South African Air Force (SAAF) intelligence officers keep two files on UFOs — one of them classified — and that scientists from the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) investigate sightings.

The disclosures come after a spate of UFO sightings over the Reef.

In the last three months, the Planetarium in Johannesburg has been inundated with calls from individuals who claim to have seen UFOs.

Asked about the unusual number of sightings, a Planetarium spokesman said: "When there has been a sighting in the area, many people who have not looked up into the sky for several years do so for the first time. There are a lot of natural phenomena up there."

The recent hype surrounding Halley's Comet could also have something to do with the increase in sightings.

The Planetarium has a form which is given to people who have seen UFOs. The forms are then filed at the Planetarium and are available to the public.

The SAAF also has a form, but when first questioned, SAAF spokesman Commandant J P J Smit said: "We keep no file and do no research. We take notice of it (reports of UFOs) but that is about all."

"We are air force. We have other priorities. We have to take notice of it, but we can't spend hours or days on this. That is not our field."

But a colonel in SAAF intelligence told The Sunday Star he was in charge of collecting and analysing information on UFOs.

Mrs Cynthia Hind, author of a book on South African UFOs and head of the UFO-spotting Mutual UFO Network (Mufon), said people had been questioned by "a man from the government" and told not to tell anyone that the government had been to see them.

Mr Danie van Graan, in the Cape, was questioned in 1975 by a man from the CSIR and told not to worry about being ridiculed in the Press. The scientist told Mr van

More Government interest than it will admit

Graan: "There is something here."

In another incident in 1972, mentioned in Mrs Hind's book, "UFOs — African Encounters", residents of Rosmead, near Middelburg, said a team of government officials from the CSIR and the South African Defence Force descended on the town after an unexplained incident in which a school tennis court was torn up.

Several national servicemen on guard reported seeing red lights circling the tennis court about 200 m away.

Rifleman Stephanus Rosseau said: "The lights were about 1,5 m above the ground and



THE DAY AFTER . . . the damaged tennis court in Rosmead where servicemen saw "strange red lights".

after turning around a few times they disappeared. I couldn't hear any sounds."

School principal Mr Harold Truter had just parked his car in his garage when he noticed a strange light in the sky, similar to a searchlight beam.

About 30 minutes later the light had moved and he noticed dark black patches on the tennis court surface. Pieces of asphalt were lying about and there were holes in the surface.

Rosmead petrol-station owner Mr Hennie Coetzee told The Sunday Star the officials "took samples and

made measurements and all that jazz".

The Sunday Star discovered that the SAAF has a form which it sends to people who have seen UFOs. The form is supposed to be returned to the air force whose intelligence experts determine whether the phenomenon is worth investigating.

In 1982, Mr Alf Widman, PFP MP for Hillbrow, asked Minister of Defence General Magnus Malan to describe the SAAF procedure for investigating UFOs. The General replied that there was a form that was sent out, but nobody had ever returned it.



DANIE VAN GRAAN . . . "don't worry".

Mr Widman also received a letter in May 1984 from the Minister which elaborated. "The South African Defence

Force has no formal investigative task as far as UFOs are concerned."

Said the air force colonel involved filing UFO reports: "My job is to follow up the sightings. We must give people a plausible answer so we aren't put in a bad light."

The SAAF had yet to come across a case which could not be explained. If such a case came up he would ask for "additional help".

The air force has contacts which include professors in Cape Town who are consulted. But these contacts are not official, according to the colonel.

Said the air force colonel involved filing UFO reports: "My job is to follow up the sightings."

Mr Johan Potgieter is a scientist in the electronic engineering branch at the CSIR.

Although Mr Potgieter says the CSIR has no official investigation into UFOs, he has been involved personally in investigations which he has reported to his superiors.

Again, this involvement is "unofficial".

Mr Potgieter has investigated several UFO incidents and discussed his findings with his superiors at the CSIR. He insists, however, that

all these investigations were done in his own time, sometimes on his holiday.

On a business trip to the United States, Mr Potgieter secured permission from his superiors to stop at Northwestern University in Chicago to discuss his findings with a Professor Hynek.

Mr Potgieter was careful to point out that these investigations were "unofficial".

Professor Hynek supervised the official American UFO investigation known as Project Blue Book.

"Professor Hynek and I had a beer and I told him about what I had seen. He was able to tell

me about a lot of incidents in South Africa."

An address on an official SAAF UFO-sighting form is the same as the old address of Professor Hynek's UFO research group in Chicago, the Centre for UFO Studies.

Both the SAAF and Mr Potgieter insist this is a coincidence.

Mr Potgieter keeps his own file on UFOs with the understanding that he keeps his superiors informed of any important developments.

He said he was allowed to say he was from the CSIR when he went on investigations, but he could not say he was sent by the CSIR.

He said his department obviously worked closely with the SADF and that there must have been an official procedure for exchanging UFO information.

He said that he would occasionally receive telephone calls or a telex from the SADF . . . but these calls were unofficial.

A hollow Earth or windows in time - boffins' secret theories

Tim Fitzgerald

EXPERTS on unidentified flying objects (UFOs) are tight-lipped about their pet subject — they fear being branded cranks.

Scientists questioned by The Sunday Star would speak only off the record and did not want their names mentioned.

Said one: "As soon as you mention the word UFO, your credibility as a scientist goes down the drain."

Most of those interviewed stressed there was a difference between believing in the existence of UFOs, and the explanations for them, which were much more sophisticated than visitors from Mars.

One man who is not shy about his interest in UFOs is Mr Alf Widman, PFP MP for Hillbrow, who said he would love to see one. He also said he ran a political risk admitting this.

The Sunday Star tracked down a network of secret UFO organisations whose membership includes scientists, businessmen and administrators. All but Mr Widman asked to remain anonymous.

Three of the more popular theories on UFOs did not involve anyone — or anything — from outer space.

The grid theory was developed by an ex-pilot in the New Zealand Air Force, Mr Bruce Cathay.

He proposed that the world was crossed with lines in another dimension called "Ley lines" which could intersect to form "windows". Things could appear in the "windows" and become visible to us.

Because the "windows" were subject to different physical laws, time could be altered — time loss and gain were prominent features of UFO sightings.

This theory has a large, mainstream following and overlaps with other physical and mathematical theories such as nuclear fission.

The hollow-earth theory was explained in detail by a businessman in Pretoria who claims to have copies of NASA photographs which show holes in the North and South Poles. The theory is that these holes are passages to the centre of the Earth.

He says there is a sun in the centre of the Earth and that US Air Force jets had flown into the hole — but their discoveries were being covered up.

The presumption of a hollow Earth was used many years ago when Tarzan author Edgar Rice Burroughs wrote his "Journey to the Centre of the Earth". He had a team of explorers enter through a hole near the North Pole.

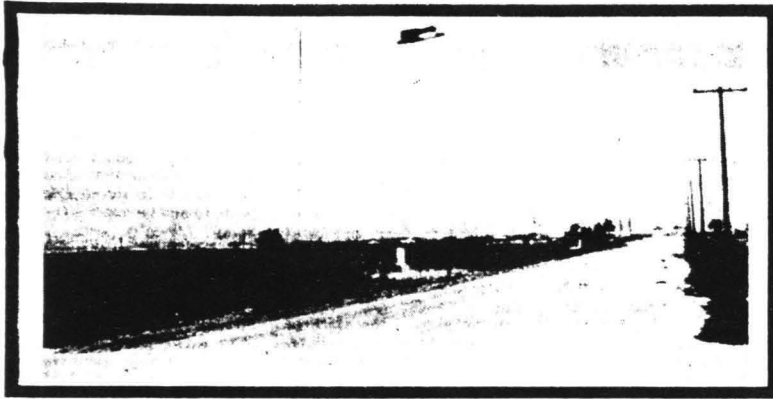
The geological theory was explained by a Pretoria hospital manager who said UFO sightings seemed to follow areas of geological instability.

When certain rocks were rubbed together they produced gases similar to methane. When these gases contacted the surface air, they ignited causing the sudden appearance of light.

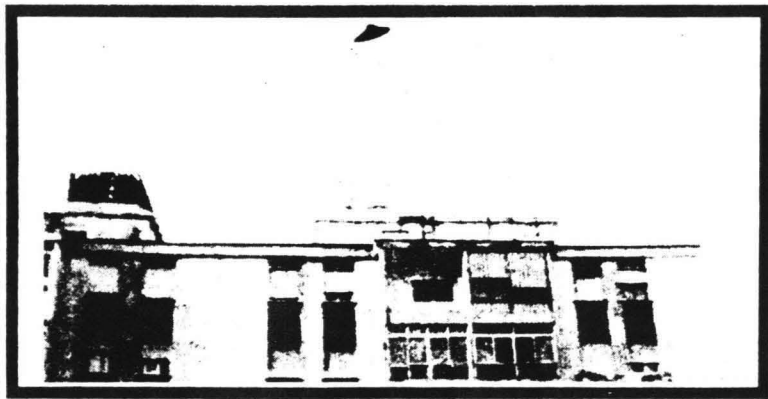
The most common feature of UFOs, however, remains reluctance to talk about them.

Mr Widman once brought the question up in Parliament — "and everyone laughed".

"I would dearly love to establish the truth. I would like to see it proved scientifically one way or another," he said.



BOATER OR UFO? A photograph taken in California in 1965.



FLYING SAUCER... a picture taken in Malaga, Spain, in 1984.

Blame the balloons - but it's not all hot air

Robin Drew

HUGE hot-air balloons up to 40 m in diameter launched from Pretoria for the French space agency may have been responsible for the spate of UFO sightings in Southern Africa recently.

So believes Mrs Cynthia Hind, Harare-based Africa representative of Mufon, the American organisation which collects reports from all over the world of strange sightings in the skies.

Mrs Hind, who has

been investigating unidentified flying objects for the past 15 years, is convinced that it was a research balloon of the "Centre National D'Etudes Spatiales" which led to the scrambling of Zimbabwe Air Force jet fighters last July when a mysterious

object was reported over Matabeleland.

South Africa's CSIR co-operates in the balloon programme. The balloons have been known to stay aloft for 50 days and to have drifted right around the Southern Hemisphere.

They rise to 30 km above the earth.

Other sightings described in South Africa indicated that the French Space Agency had again been responsible.

However, Mrs Hind

stressed that intensive investigations had failed to provide explanations for hundreds of other sightings of mysterious objects.

All reports were now fed into a computer by Mufon and a pattern was emerging of the presence of humanoid

shapes who travelled in spinning disc-like bodies, which disappeared and re-appeared in an instant.

Had she herself witnessed anything from another world or dimension?

No, although she would dearly love to.

Was UFO claim just hot air?

by MALCOLM CURTIS
Staff reporter

It wasn't Santa Claus, says Victor Holt.

And it wasn't Halley's Comet, the Tumbler Ridge resident says.

And no, he hadn't been nipping at the egg nog.

Holt, a professional photographer, says he saw a spaceship that shone its light on the northeast British Columbia coal town last week.

"Nothing's going to convince me it wasn't a spaceship up there," said Holt, 33.

Unfortunately he didn't have a camera with him at the time.

But Brenda Hillier, a high school student, said she saw something matching the description given by Holt as she walked home from the town recreation centre Dec. 7.

About 10 p.m. Holt said he saw a

barrel-shaped object above the trees while walking home from work.

"It was like a barrel with lights on the side of it," he said in an interview Friday.

"There was a row of orange lights and a row of blue lights, it was kind of like a starburst.

"It hovered down in front of me then a white rotating spotlight shone on Tumbler and then shone right on my face like a flashlight.

"It flickered on me and then it took off like a rocket right into the Big Dipper (a constellation) and faded into the sky with an orange glow until it disappeared."

Holt reported his sighting to the RCMP immediately.

"They asked me if I'd had a nervous breakdown, if I was on any medication, all that," he said.

Mounties believe Holt is the victim

of a prank although they initially sent a report of the UFO sighting to RCMP headquarters in Ottawa.

After an article appeared in a local paper Wednesday, two youths came to the police station and admitted to setting a dry cleaning bag on fire.

"They were just trying to make a hot air balloon," said Const. Dave Downey. "I suppose the light reflecting off the plastic bag could have given off a lot of colors."

The youths used straws to make a frame to which they attached birthday candles. "They lit the candles and off she went," said Downey.

No charges are being laid.

Holt is convinced it wasn't a prank.

"I'd like to see how they did it. I saw that thing hover up and down vertically and horizontally for 10 minutes."

He admits to being the butt of a lot of joking from friends. "People don't believe you, there are a lot of sceptics, but what can you do?"

Hillier, 18, is one believer.

She says she saw a barrel-shaped object with three orange lights appear above trees near a mobile home park.

"I just thought it might be a UFO and I walked home fast," she said. "I took a different way home. I was scared."

Hillier believes it was a spaceship, perhaps manned by creatures from outer space "exploring" the world.

Holt does too.

"You never believe it until you see it."

ASHBOURNE NEWS TELEGRAPH, Derbyshire, England - Nov. 7, 1985 CR: T. Good

UFO sitings prompt 'energy' theory

The possibility that an energy phenomenon might have caused numerous UFO sitings near Windley is being considered by the Derby Group of the Nottingham UFO Investigation Society.

Last week Mrs Marian Thomson reported seeing a strange object in the sky for several nights and added that the same or similar object had haunted the area for several years.

NUFOIS, in conjunction with the UFO Investigators' Network, has issued a statement this week which reveals: "Far more people in the locality witnessed UFO sitings than had at first been thought," and that similar sitings have been made in the area over a number of years.

The statement continues: "Investigators are now almost certain that what has been seen is not Sirius or some other astronomical body and as the objects have been observed when aircraft were also present, it is reasonably certain that they are not planes."

One witness claimed to have seen three objects apparently attacking each other — but this could have been caused by two of them crossing the path of the third from opposite directions.

"The investigators suspect that the cause of the sitings may well be attributable to some form of energy phenomenon of which there are several kinds, though at this stage they feel unable to specify any type as being the likely candidate," concluded the statement.

INFORMATION

Whatever the cause, further information is urgently required and anyone who feels they may have witnessed a sighting within two miles of Windley would be doing the investigators a service by contacting them.

The number to ring is Derby 559293 and all calls will be dealt with in complete confidence.

A series of sightings of coloured light balls made in Ashbourne towards the end of 1979 were explained at the time as the natural phenomenon known as Kugelblitz or ball lightning.

FREE PRESS, Dorchester, England

Oct. 25, 1985 CR: T. Good

The first sighting

AN unidentified flying object which brought out enthusiasts at Warminster during the weekend first appeared in the skies over Shaftesbury. It's the first time this year that a definite sighting has been made according to Mr David Wright who helps run the UFO centre at Warminster.

The UFO which was described by witnesses as moving at high speed across the sky and then hovering for several seconds before vanishing, had switchboards in two police force areas buzzing.

Mr Wright said: "We had calls from as far away as Weymouth. It apparently plotted a course across Dorset before turning and finally disappearing around Cleary Hill."

Warminster is one of Britain's foremost UFO areas with specially arranged package tours organised annually for enthusiasts.

SOUTHSHORE EVENING TELEGRAPH, Lincolnshire, England Oct. 25, 1985 CR: T. Good

Flying saucer... or just Venus?

A strange phenomenon was spotted in the early morning skies today — hovering over the sleepy village of Worlaby, near Brigg.

Mrs. Ruth Empson was in the sun lounge of her home at Fountains Corner at 7 am when she saw the object above her house.

At first, naturally enough, she thought it was an aeroplane, but she became increasingly curious when it failed to move — and got out the binoculars.

She described it as round with green flashing lights, "I don't know what a flying saucer looks like — but it was certainly that sort of shape."

About 20 minutes later the object had disappeared, leaving Mrs. Empson baffled.

RAF Binbrook could throw no light on the mystery. "We don't know anything about it at all, and I can't think of anything which would exhibit those features," a spokesman said.

But at Humberside Airport a spokeswoman felt there was chance that Mrs. Empson had seen not a flying saucer — but the planet Venus.

"It actually had us wondering a month or so ago," she confessed.

The planet often appeared with lights flashing either side of it. "It doesn't give an impression of being a planet — but that's what it is," she added.

CAMBERLEY NEWS, Surrey, England

Oct. 25, 1985 CR: T. Good

UFOs? Nothing new

THE reports of the bright lights or UFOs reported in your editions of September 20 and October 18 are not new.

My father, travelling from Lightwater to Woking when he worked with horses, was considerably frightened some time in the late 1920s by a bright light, which he described as being of dazzling brightness, which travelled parallel with him across the common from Lightwater Manor, disappearing abruptly near the Gordon Boys School junction with Red Road.

He was cycling at about 4.30.5 a.m., as was his habit in order to feed the horses before work. He was the most unimaginative man in the world, just a simple country man.

It was talked about in our family for years whenever anything of a supernatural happening was under discussion.

I was about 18 at the time and remember it well. He was, he said, "shaking with fright." — J. Davies (Mrs.), Brahm's Road, Brighton Hill, Basingstoke.

Aliens are watching us says Kevin

ALIEN spaceships fly regularly over Walton. claims a 22-year-old plumber.

Kevin Rossiter, of Garrick Close, Walton, has spotted unidentified flying objects no less than five times over the past four years, and on at least one occasion he saw aliens inside a craft.

Mr Rossiter said he felt that humans were being observed by beings from another planet.

His first brush with extraterrestrials happened one night in 1981, at the Selwyn Road estate in Walton. Mr Rossiter, who was riding his motorcycle, stopped when he saw a brilliant, revolving translucent cone in the sky, with red lights like lasers.

"I could clearly see outline humanoid shadows inside the craft, being only 75 metres away," he said. "At an estimate, I guessed there to be 50 crew members inside."

Suddenly, the huge cone disappeared, leaving no trace behind, he said. Other sightings of UFOs had mainly been of revolving discs which appeared and then disappeared, although six months ago, he spotted a yellow spaceship.

Mr Rossiter is anxious to hear from anyone else who has spotted UFOs. He can be reached on Walton 224816.

● Three weeks ago, Chertsey post office worker, Jimmy Mason, sighted a UFO for the second time from his home at Harpesford Avenue, Virginia Water.

TRANSLATIONS

City and country of incident: Portonovo, Italy
Date of incident: August 8, 1985
Name of paper and date of clip: LA STAMPA, August 9, 1985
City and country of newspaper: [City Unknown], Italy

[CREDIT: Walter Langbein]

SQUADRON SIGHTED IN THE SKY OF ANCONA

TRIESTE - 28 UFOs were sighted in Portonovo near Ancona last night. The report was given to the National UFO Centre in Pordenone by a family who was on holiday in that Adriatic locality and by another holiday-maker from Florence.

According to the report of the people who saw an extraordinary event (such a quantity of UFOs had never been seen before), the appearance of the UFOs in the sky lasted for an hour, from midnight until 1 o'clock A.M.

The UFOs made several evolutions flying in formation before disappearing on the horizon. The objects were of different colors (from gold to light blue) which kept on changing. Today in Pordenone, another report came from Paterno near Ancona. It came from two people who sighted a UFO at 20:35 yesterday. They told of seeing an object formed by two shining yellow balls tied together; under them, there was a much smaller red ball that flashed. The object stayed in the sky without moving for twenty minutes, then it rose vertically very quickly and disappeared in a few seconds.

In order to dispel the skepticism caused by these sightings, the UFO Centre has made the proposal to involve the civil Protection that would be able to get a serious and deep documentation with its means.

Country of incidents: Italy
Dates of incidents: April-August, 1985
Name of paper and date of clip: LA STAMPA, August 23, 1985
City and country of newspaper: [City Unknown], Italy

[CREDIT: Walter Langbein]

ALL THE SUMMER UFO

Prof. Antonio Chiumento of Pordenone, teacher, vice-president of the National UFO Centre, who collects all the Italian witnesses with the help of 200 collaborators all over the country, has given us a long list of sightings.

In Castaldia, on the Monte Cavallo, in Friuli, on April 14, at twenty past ten P.M., a young man and his fiancée were driving. Suddenly he noticed two humanoid shapes on the left of the road; they were 1.80 meters high, as well as large (honestly, this is not a human largeness), without any arms. The girl was inattentive, she did not realize, and the young man accelerated. But after a few meters, their car was wrapped in a yellow fog and the engine stopped. The man tried to start it again without any success; he succeeded, though, in moving his car with the help of the starting device, and the engine started again out of the fog. Further on, some other fog, and so another stop, but there was the providential descent, and it was the third time. Prof. Chiumento underlined that, during that night, in the same place, many people noticed a discoidal object spreading a yellow light and flying low in the sky.

During the night of June 2, in a field in Virle (Brescia), a strange object was noticed. It looked like a top and spread lights of different colors. It turned round and round, then it rose and disappeared. On the following day in that same place, some incisions were found in the earth.

A physician of Mestre, on the evening of August 2, was driving on the road from Oderzo to Ponte di Piave when he saw a strange being that was crossing the road jumping like a kangaroo, and then it reached a discoidal object of about 5 meters in diameter which was flying

low over the field. A cone of blue light coming out of the lower part of the object "sucked" the creature inside; afterwards it left vertically looking like a fireball.

On August 13, at 4:45 in Falconara Marittima (Ancona), two large shining circles appeared on the sea surface, at 800 meters from the shore. One of them moved 100 meters away and stayed there for 45 minutes. Then it got near the other one again and they sank together.

Near Ancona, in Portonovo, a few days ago, a shining globe spread shining beams that hit the cliff with a blinding light.

City and country of incident: Aosta Valley, Italy
Date of incident: September 15, 1985
Name of paper and date of clip: STAMPA SERA, September 16, 1985
City and country of newspaper: Lunedi, Italy

[CREDIT: Walter Langbein]

"WE SAW A UFO"

TORINO - A UFO in the sky of Aosta Valley could be seen in the district of Turin. Many people saw it--Rita and Achille DiMarco, Diego Zaccarelli and his mother Anna, the journalist of the RAI (the Italian broadcasting corporation) in Aosta, Luciano Caveri and a worker, Luciano Bozzo. It was a triangular object which looked like an enormous grey butterfly. Somebody described it as a "C", looking like a horse-shoe.

Some people could watch this "object" with a telescope or with binoculars. But it seems that it was really very big, even with the naked eye. The extraterrestrial show lasted for about two hours, with the UFO moving quite quickly, "without any clear logic"; then some clouds arrived and covered it.

"It was exactly on the top of the 4 Ambin Teeth, over Chiomonte. It looked like an enormous grey butterfly and it shone very bright. It could be seen with the naked eye; it was really a very big object." Rita and Achille DiMarco, who live in Turin, were in the Susa Valley and were the first people to notice the UFO which, yesterday morning, flew mainly over the Aosta Valley at about 12,000 meters in height.

"My wife and I were going for a walk with our dogs," Mr. DiMarco said. "Suddenly I saw two men who were watching the sky with binoculars. There was a shining dot that was moving. I went near them and the man holding the binoculars told me, 'Have a look! What do you think it is?' Thanks to the amplification, I was able to see three feet coming out of a sort of triangular base. Then everything disappeared suddenly."

The object was seen also by Diego Zaccarelli, aged 16, who lives in Turin. He was in Bastia of Corio Canavese with his mother.

"We saw it," he said, "with a telescope that magnifies 300 times. We observed it carefully. At first it looked like a sort of letter "C" or a horseshoe that had different facets in its lower part which sometimes grew longer."

"The sighting," his mother, Anna, said, "lasted from 8:30 to 10:30 A.M. Then the clouds arrived. At that moment I went downstairs and called Caselle on the phone; it was 9:00 o'clock. 'I saw a shining object,' and I was told, 'Perhaps it was a sounding balloon.' Perhaps, I replied, but it didn't look like that. 'Don't worry, Madam.' After less than one hour, ten jets were passing over this area."

The extraterrestrial show was filmed for a long time by a moving studio of the RAI in the Aosta Valley. In the plane that got up to 6,500 meters in height were also Luciano Caveri, a journalist, and Luciano Bozzo, from the regional weather station. "That object," Mr. Caveri explained, "was sighted over Pila yesterday morning at 8 o'clock. Apparently, it seemed to fly at 11,000 or 12,000 meters in height. It seems, though, that at the beginning of the phenomenon, it was much lower, and then it suddenly got higher. It could be seen with the naked eye, and it looked like a little white ball. On the contrary, with the binoculars, it looked like a balloon with shining appendices."

The "flying ball" moved from Pila to the area of the Gran Paradiso, then toward the Monte Bianco; afterwards it went back to Aosta where people could admire it until 2 o'clock in the afternoon. "The UFO," Mr. Caveri said, "kept on moving, but nobody was able to understand what its logic was. At high altitude, it looked like a triangular object that was moving as if it was driven by rockets, giving out metallic dazzles."

City and country of incident: Oxelosund, Sodermanland Region, Sweden
Date of incident: December 12, 1985
Name of paper and date of clip: FOLKET, December 13, 1985
City and country of newspaper: Eskilstuna, Sweden

[CREDIT: Erik Fredriksson]

REMARKABLE OBJECT OBSERVED

At 13:15 yesterday, December 12, a driver from Norrkoping observed a remarkable flying object and now he is interested to know if anyone else observed the object. The man was driving by Sundsors scrap store in Oxelosund, situated 100 kilometers southwest of Stockholm.

Suddenly, he observed a strange thing gliding through the air at an altitude of about 30-50 meters. The object looked more than a little like a crushed cylinder, quite transparent, and about a half-meter in size. The object was traveling from Sunda village on the way to Frosang, in a west-east direction. He observed it from a distance of about 500 meters and later when he was on the higher branch of the road, he observed it passing behind a house in the village of Frosang. Now the surprised driver still wonders what he really observed and if there others who observed the strange "flying bubble."

S.F. Cops Baffled by the Nighttime Hum

By Steve Rubenstein

The mysterious hum kept humming in San Francisco yesterday.

The cause of the noise that has kept the Marina District and Pacific Heights awake for nights remains unknown. All that seemed certain was that the singing toadfish of Sausalito were off the hook this time.

Police operators have logged more than 50 calls about the low, droning noise. Finally, an exasperated police sergeant wrote a message to his operators on the bulletin board:

"Disregard reports of loud hum in Northern District."

Communications division officer Robert Corley said callers have offered many possible explanations for the noise.

"I've heard it's everything from a Russian nuclear submarine to the matrons of Pacific Heights

leaving their vibrators on," he said.

Corley said his operators have been instructed to dispatch no more officers to investigate the noise.

"Why do people call us about this, for God's sake?" he said. "It ties up all our lines. What are we supposed to do about it? It's a pain. We're telling everyone to call the Coast Guard."

Coast Guard spokesman Larry Marshall said the Coast Guard is trying its hardest to solve the mystery. "We've got all our people on alert," he said. "We're going to try to hone in on this thing."

The noise, which one caller said, "sounds like mzmzmzmzmzm," is similar to the hum that has kept Sausalito's houseboat community awake for the past 11 summers.

Last month, that hum was identified by acoustical engineers working with biologists at Steinhardt Aquarium as the mating call of a fish named Porichthys notatus, better known as the toadfish.

Steinhart assistant curator John Hewitt said the toadfish was free of blame this time.

"It's not the toadfish," he said. "They've pretty much wrapped it up for the season. They've spawned and gone."

Acoustical engineer Frank Hubach of Berkeley, who identified the toadfish as the Sausalito culprit by studying tape recordings, agreed.

"It's doubtful, doubtful," he said. "For the toadfish to pick up stakes and swim across the bay would be a little illogical. They like shallower water, as in Sausalito."

While the scientists talked it over, the noise appeared to migrate from the northern part of the city to Potrero Hill. Doug McKechnie, a composer who lives on the northern slope, said the noise kept him awake for much of Sunday night.

"I had to cover myself with a pillow to fall asleep," he said. "It's like a propeller. Something

like a helicopter. Brrrr, brrrr, brrrr. Like that."

Some callers said the noise seemed to come from underground sewer or electrical lines. Spokesmen for Pacific Gas and Electric and the city sewer system said it wasn't them.

"We don't have any crews in the area," said PG&E's Martha Eickhof.

"We can't explain it from our end," said sewer spokesman Steve Laughlin.

In Pacific Heights, where the noise seemed loudest, poet Whitman McGowan was moved to write a tribute to the nocturnal nuisance after lying awake listening to it. He called his poem "Hum-on-um":

An unmistakably uncanny intonation

To boggle the aural sense.

Was it the foghorn of a ship?

Or was it the harmonic grinding

Of the hulls of two ships

Passing in the night?

By MIRROR REPORTER

Tombs said: "He was dashing about the road in a ball of flames." The fire was eventually put out by passing motorists who rolled

Philip in earth.

He was taken to Fenchay Hospital, Bristol, suffering 50 per cent burns. His condition was described as "serious" last night.

The accident, which happened in Station Road, Westbury, Wiltshire, near Philip's lodgings, has puzzled police.

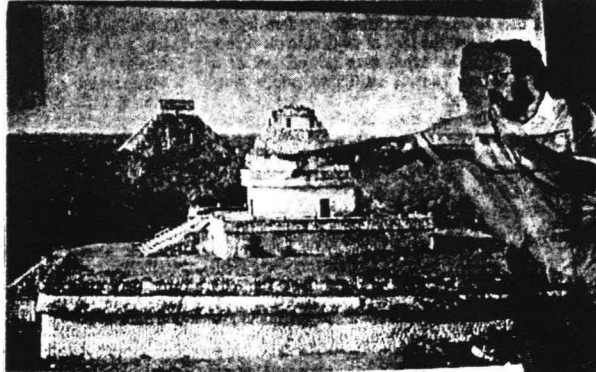
They are investigating a theory that gas from a lighter leaked into his clothing and ignited when he lit a cigarette.

MIRROR, London, England
Aug. 1, 1985 CR: D. Speed

FORTEANA NEWS

Riddle of man who burst into flames

A MAN burst into flames as he walked along a street yesterday. Shoppers rushed to help 26-year-old Philip Hayes as fire engulfed the top half of his body. Fire officer Roger



Tom Kane/THE POST

Friedman says Mayan temple was observatory

Man Questions History

By Jeffrey Savitskie

Staff Writer

STUART — Rick Friedman has evidence that 30,000 years ago, give or take 10,000 years, there was a civilization that flew airplanes and communicated globally through quartz telephone transmitters that were shaped like skulls.

"I think on Earth 20,000-40,000 years ago there was a civilization better than our own. They had done away with war, with famine. They were an extremely advanced people... people who knew more than we give them credit for," he told an audience of Martin County High School students yesterday.

Friedman theorizes that a natural catastrophe forced these people into a primitive lifestyle; that they started from scratch after the Great Flood.

He uses slides from archeological digs and elaborate research to back his theories on why history may not be as it is generally presented in classrooms throughout the world.

He links the Mayan civilization in Peru to the Egyptians and to other ancient civilizations through a series of slides showing art, fashion and artifacts of those times. The similarities prove, he said, that the different cultures had to have a way to communicate with each other.

During a two-hour lecture, the

bearded archeologist touched on a number of items which don't fit into his version of ancient history. The Great Pyramids in Egypt were not tombs, were not built by Hebrew slaves, and for the most part were not built by Egyptians, he said. They also were not built, brick by brick, over a 20-year period. He claims this historical account is based on shabby information gathered by a Greek wanderer who had been kicked out of his country for being a liar.

"The Great Pyramid of Egypt was not designed to be a tomb for anybody. It was an observatory," he said, explaining that after the Great Flood, the structures were built by survivors who wanted to view the heavens to figure out where they were. It was the Egyptians who came along later and built peaks on top of the flat-topped observatories and made them into tombs.

Similar observatories can be found at sites of ancient civilizations throughout the world, he said.

But Friedman, a teacher at South Plantation High School, readily admits his lectures are designed more to make students think, than to convince them his theories are correct.

"I'm not asking you to believe what I tell you. I am asking you to examine what you are taught," he said.

Mutilated horse reportedly found

By FRED MILLER III
Tribune Staff Writer

A horse was found dead and mutilated late last month near Fairfield, according to its owner, Tom Denning.

The horse was first seen lying in a strange position on the top of a hill, about a half mile from a country road 12 miles east of Fairfield on what is known as the Crow Bench.

It was Halloween night before Denning and some friends went back to check the horse and found its body mutilated.

"We noticed the face was stripped back on one side, completely cut back right down to the bone," Denning said. "All you could see was the jaw and the skull. On the back end, the sexual organs were cut out in circular pattern and removed, and the mammarys were also removed."

He said an ear and an eyeball also were missing, and neck muscles were removed to expose the windpipe.

"It's really strange," Denning said. "The cuts are so precise. Where it's skinned off her face, it's an absolutely straight cut with nothing left at all except the bone structure."

Denning said one of the most unusual aspects was the total lack of blood.

Denning, an eighth grade teacher at Fort Shaw/Simms elementary school, said he didn't have the slightest idea what may have caused the animal's death.

"It could be a UFO, it could be a cult," he said. But, he added, "if it's a cult I don't see how they could get up there without causing some attention." He said there were no tracks

visible around the horse.

However, Cascade County Sheriff Glenn Osborne said Capt. Keith Wolverton investigated the horse's death and "said it was nothing but predators."

Based upon Wolverton's observations, Osborne said the mutilation was caused by a predator. "It looked like skunks and other small animals had been eating on it," Osborne said. Wolverton refused comment Thursday when contacted by the Tribune.

Denning disagrees with Wolverton's analysis.

"He tried to tell me it was predators on the back end," Denning said. "There's no way I'd agree with that because it was too precise a cut — it wasn't something that was chewed out."

"It was a perfectly circular pattern. If it was a predator, it would have had jagged edges."

While Wolverton said predators might have caused the cuts on the back of the animal, Denning said Wolverton could not explain the cuts to the horse's face.

"He said it was unusual and he had no answers," Denning said.

There have been reports of cattle mutilations in the Sun River Valley over the past nine years.

In 1976, Wolverton displayed a piece of hide from a mutilated cow to a local service club. He said the animal was cut with an instrument and not by predators.

Wolverton also co-authored a book that year titled, "Mystery Stalks The Prairie." The book could not provide an answer to the questions of who mutilates the animals, when, and for what purpose.

TRIBUNE, Great Falls, MT - Nov. 8, 1985 CR: J. Leming

NESSKY IS NO MONSTER

News Services
PROVINCE, Vancouver, B.C., Canada - Dec. 5, 1985 CR: G. Conway

MOSCOW — Nessky, the Soviet version of the Loch Ness monster, has been debunked.
For years, witnesses of the Central Asian republic of Kazakhstan reported sighting a bellowing "dinosaur" in the Kok-kol lake.

The beast, they said, had a twisty body 20 metres (about 22 yards) long and made loud, trumpeting sounds.
But a team of Soviet scientists yesterday said they've investigated and found the monster is merely a cluster of whirlpools.

The researchers said the lake is connected to underground cavities by mud-covered cracks. When the mud is washed away and water rushes down, large whirlpools appear on the water surface. The noise is made by air being sucked in along with the water.

Nessie

Fact or fantasy, it's drawn scientists, tourists for eons

BY MARCUS ELIASON

DRUMNADROCHIT, Scotland (AP) — Alistair and Susan Boyd were sitting in their car in a rest area overlooking Loch Ness. Hunting for the Monster had gotten them nothing but headaches and eyestrain from hours of gazing through the rain onto the forbidding gray waters. They were about ready to give up.

Then, Alistair says, he saw it.
"There was a tremendous disturbance in the water. There was nothing on the surface at this stage, but I could clearly see that it was a large animate object. There was a swirling on both sides. There was on the right-hand side a pushing around, rather as if you were to wish water around the bath, and a stopping, like if you wanted to turn a rowing boat around with oars."

And then, a hump. "It was wet and black. You could see the water running off its back. The hump was absolutely symmetrical. It was about 20 feet long."

"Get the camera," cried Susan. Alistair rummaged frantically for it, but he was too late. Within seconds the water was flat and calm again, and there was little they could do but sketch from memory what they had seen, and brace themselves for the ridicule they knew would come.

The Boyds are art teachers in their early 30s from the London area. Their description has all the hallmarks of a "classic sighting." That was six years ago, and they have returned to Loch Ness every summer since that sighting in 1979, bristling with binoculars and powerful camera lenses.

Fifty-two years after the first reported sighting this century, the Loch Ness Monster stands with UFOs, the Abominable Snowman and the Lost Continent of Atlantis among the world's most enduring legends.

The methods used to track it have ranged from high-tech to high jinks: sonar probes, a submarine, a blimp, a gyrocopter, computer-enhanced underwater photography, a trained dolphin, a model monster smeared with salmon oil, a baited cage, and an amphibious Volkswagen.

People have reported seeing whale-like humps, long necks, vast tails, a primeval flipper and, in one case, a dinosaur-like creature ambling across the lakeside road.

The hundreds of sightings have been explained away by skeptics as otters, ducks, seals, swimming deer, cormorants, boats, mirages, shadows, wind slicks, waves, rotting vegetation, logs and shoals of fish.

Right now, the theories about a marine dinosaur, a giant eel, a shell-less turtle, outside sturgeon or super-slug are down, but not out.

On the one hand, a spoilsport named Ronald Binns has exhaustively studied the major photographs and eyewitness accounts and, to the anger of what he calls "the Monster Fraternity," has published a persuasive argument that Nessie never existed.

On the other hand, there are the tantalizing sonar readings taken by the Loch Ness and Morar Project, a 10-year-old British scientific expedition to locate the monster.

Through 1982, operating 24 hours a day, the sonar registered 40 strong and inexplicable targets at depths of up to 350 feet which could indicate moving objects larger than any known life in the lake, which is 750 feet deep.

The expedition, funded by public subscription, is now looking for \$135,000 to buy underwater video cameras that lock onto sonar targets.

Anthony Harmsworth, a businessman who

runs the Loch Ness Monster Exhibition at this village on the western shore of the lake, says he once believed it was a plesiosaur, a long-necked prehistoric reptile, but has since changed his mind.

"I think that if there is something in Loch Ness, it's probably going to be something like a huge fish, which would be equally interesting of course," Harmsworth says. "The Loch Ness Monster doesn't have to be a dinosaur to be interesting."



The shadowy figure in this 1961 photo is said to be the Loch Ness Monster.

Alistair Boyd keeps watch over Loch Ness with dreams of taking the photograph which will conclusively prove the existence of a monster. (AP)



He also believes "we are talking not about one creature, but about a colony of large animals."

Although he makes a handsome living charging an annual 150,000 tourists \$1.60 each to visit the exhibition, Harmsworth candidly admits there is no hard evidence either to prove or disprove the Monster's existence.

Loch Ness is very much the stuff of monster legend. The 24-mile-long, one-mile-wide lake is banked by steep mountains. Its water is cold enough to sink dead bodies. Peat particles in the water make it impenetrably murky. A ruined lakeside castle deepens the aura of mystery.

Geological shifts and the effect of the Ice Age make it theoretically possible that ancient beasts became trapped in the lake when it was cut off from the sea and were left to mutate peacefully into monsters.

Ronald Binns, a 37-year-old literary critic, writes in "The Loch Ness Mystery Solved" that "the entire Loch Ness Monster tradition crumbles at the first skeptical probe." He claims to show that virtually all the accepted evidence is in fact baseless and demonstrates how easy it is to fake photographs.

"The great appeal of the Loch Ness mystery is perhaps the way in which it offers everyone the chance to become an amateur sleuth, pore over the evidence, visit the dark mysterious waters, and concoct a new theory about what it is which has baffled the world for so long," Binns wrote.

Believers point to giant squids and the prehistoric coelacanth fish which were thought to be extinct until they were caught this century. They also note the intriguing coincidence that all the lakes reputed to contain monsters lie in a globe-girdling belt above the 50th parallel.

Loch Ness Monster legends date back to A.D. 565 when St. Columba, according to his biographer, castigated the creature for

attacking one of his followers. "The holy man gave a great shout and commanded the beast to go back into the depths from which he came," it was written.

In 1527, one Duncan Campbell described how "a terrible beast" came ashore and killed three men with a flick of its tail.

The legend got going in earnest in July 1933 when the Inverness Courier, a local newspaper, reported "Strange Spectacle On Loch Ness," quoting an unnamed businessman and his wife as having seen how "the creature disported itself, rolling and plunging for fully a minute, its body resembling that of a whale..."

The hunt was on. In December 1933 the Daily Mail commissioned M.A. Wetherall, the big-game hunter, to find the beast. Within days he found large footprints, prompting the Daily Mail to proclaim that the Monster "is not a legend but a fact."

Unfortunately, it soon transpired that hoaxers had manufactured the trail using the stuffed foot of a hippopotamus.

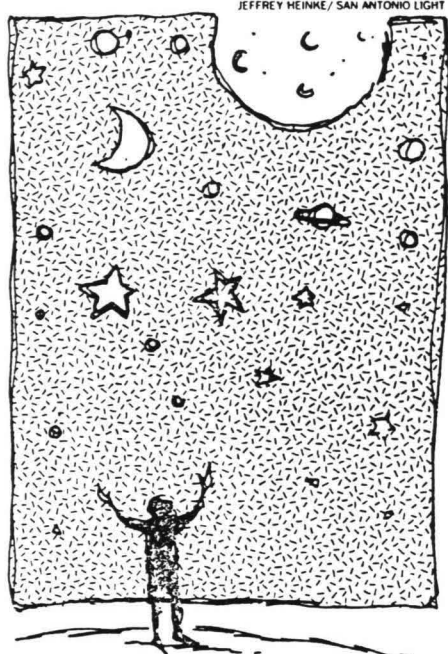
The Monster was saved from complete ignominy the following year by the famous "Surgeon's Photograph," a snapshot taken by Lt. Col. Robert Kenneth Wilson, a London gynecologist, showing a long neck and head protruding from the water.

With the believers gaining ground, Sir Peter Scott, a distinguished British naturalist, gave the Monster a scientific name, *Nessiteras Rhombopteryx*, and wrote that while the existence of large animals in Loch Ness was improbable, it was equally improbable that all the people who had claimed to have seen the Monster were lying or hallucinating.

Today, the lake is dotted with monster-watchers, ranging from summer amateurs to well-equipped professionals. Harmsworth says half a dozen sightings are reported each year on average, two-thirds of which can be dismissed.

Preparing to talk to otherworldly aliens

LIGHT, San Antonio, TX - Sept. 2, 1985 CR: MUFON



JEFFREY HEINKE / SAN ANTONIO LIGHT

By JAMES FISHER
Orlando Sentinel

WASHINGTON — Allan Goodman, a dean and instructor at Georgetown University's prestigious School of Foreign Service, believes it's time that scientists and politicians seriously plan to deal with aliens. Not boat people, not Mexicans illegally crossing the border, but the spaceship kind.

Goodman, 43, a former CIA analyst and author of books on international negotiations, has devised a plan for communicating with extraterrestrials and welcoming them with diplomatic immunity if they land on Earth.

And he knows what people may think.

"I don't smoke pot," Goodman said. "I don't read science fiction. And if you'd said to me a year ago, 'Gee, you're going to get involved and work on this problem,' I'd have said that you smoke pot."

He considers the question of how to deal with aliens the ultimate foreign policy challenge, an area of theory and planning that has never been formally addressed.

If we make contact with aliens by the year 2000, as National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) chief James Beggs expects, we should be ready, the foreign policy scholar said.

Goodman, in an interview at his office at the university's Intercultural Center, considers himself an

"agnostic" on the aliens issue. He's not sure if any exist, he said, but the United States and other countries may be on the verge of finding out.

Next year, shuttle astronauts will put into orbit the \$1.2 billion Hubble Space Telescope, a highly advanced instrument capable of seeing objects 50 times dimmer than can be seen now. It may spot an undiscovered planet orbiting a faraway star, a possible haven for a society heretofore seen only on Hollywood sound stages.

By the 1990s, NASA plans to equip powerful radio telescopes to make a detailed analysis of radio waves from distant sources, ferreting out what is explainable and trying to explain what is not. If aliens are speaking, NASA will have its hearing aid turned on high.

"The possibility that planets accompany the billions of galaxies and stars that exist has to impress someone," Goodman said. "It's hard to be-

—ALLAN GOODMAN
Georgetown University

66
How do we 'repress the instinct to get a baggie, capture E.T., open up his heart and see what makes him beep?'

lieve we could be utterly unique." The aliens that Earthlings run into "could be plants or ... things we don't envision. They could be squat, warty little figures with long fingers that light up in the dark."

E.T. may live.

If he does, what do we say to him? And, more importantly, Goodman said, how do we "repress the instinct to get a baggie, capture E.T., open up his heart and see what makes him beep?"

Goodman began pondering these issues last fall after hearing Beggs of NASA speak of the potential for communication with aliens. Beggs said NASA hasn't considered how it would respond if an extraterrestrial were heard or discovered.

Goodman did, and came up with a number of concerns. He worries about individual countries sending messages from Earth without getting a worldwide consensus about what to say, or whether to say anything.

In 1974 U.S. scientists transmitted a message describing humans toward M13, a cluster of stars in the constellation Hercules, 35,000 light years away.

A plaque with a drawing of a man and a woman was on Pioneer 10, a satellite launched in 1972. After studying the asteroid belt and Jupiter, the planetary probe in 1983 became the first man-made object to leave the solar system.

The Voyager 2 probe, launched in 1977 to study Jupiter and Saturn, included a record with familiar sounds from Earth, including a kiss, music and crying.

"I think we should be very cautious about communicating," Goodman said. He would prefer that scientists only listen and then decide after international consultation whether to respond to an incoming signal.

A response could give away Earth's position in "the cosmic jungle" to a dangerous predator, he said.

Goodman also is worried that someone who receives an alien communication will keep it mum. "I think there are some scientists who would prefer to keep it a secret because they believe mankind is not yet ready for the knowledge that we aren't alone," he said.

In the 1960s the British kept their discovery of pulsars — pulsing stars — secret for nearly a year while they figured out what they had, he said.

To avoid these problems, Goodman devised a plan for communicating and greeting aliens. He sent it to a dozen scientists around the world earlier this summer and asked them to comment. He hopes to get groups of scientists to approve it, then their governments and eventually the United Nations.

Now is the time, he said, "when people consider this so unlikely or think of this as a potential problem 15, 25 or 50 years from now." It will be easier to reach an international agreement while there is no pressure.

His proposal includes these provisions: ■Any scientist, observatory or government that believes it has detected some indication of past or present extraterrestrial life will report it publicly as fully as possible without violating national security.

■Any response or investigation would be made only after international consultation. ■Visiting extraterrestrials will be given diplomatic immunity, along with protection and aid in the event of an accident, distress or emergency.

■If aliens appear to pose a threat to human safety or peace, no nation will act without consulting the U.N. Security Council.

Goodman admits in his proposal that an international agreement is "a long shot"

(continued on page 20)

Champ observed 14 times in 1985

LAKE CHAMPLAIN—Is the 109 mile long Lake Champlain the habitat of a colony of 15-25 foot long Loch-Ness-like mystery animals? Recent evidence indicates that possibly Lake Champlain is another Loch Ness.

"There were 14 reported sightings of Champ in 1985," announced Joseph W. Zarzynski, of Wilton, director of the Lake Champlain Phenomena Investigation.

Sighting of Champ have persisted for decades and the 35 year old Zarzynski says he has catalogued over 250 Champ sightings.

"Of the 14 Champ sightings in 1985," said Zarzynski, "10 were reported on the Vermont side of the lake and 4 from the New York side." The lake resides in Vermont, New York, and Quebec and it is 400 feet deep.

Zarzynski says some of the sightings could just be cases of honest misinterpretation but that others show validity. In his 1984 book, "Champ-Beyond the Legend," Zarzynski theorizes that Champ may be a plesiosaur, a zeu-

glodon, or a sea-lion type creature. Plesiosaurs, marine reptiles, have been extinct for over 60 years. The zeuglodon, an ancestor to the modern day whale, has been thought extinct for 20-40 million years. If it is the sea lion-like animal it might be a new species of wildlife.

"Although the Champ controversy remains unresolved," Zarzynski said, "the evidence on Champ is impressive and tantalizing."

Zarzynski's research team completed 31 days of fieldwork at Lake Champlain in 1985 and his team's report on Champ will be published in 1986 in the scientific journal *Cryptozoology*.

"We had no sightings of Champ this past year, but the reported sightings in 1985 of Champ are very encouraging as they suggest science has not yet scratched the bottom of the zoological bathtub," concluded Zarzynski, a teacher in the Saratoga Springs area.

Channel riddle of drifting boat without a crew

YACHTSMAN Fred Miskimmin met a strange sight when he boarded a drifting motor cruiser in the English Channel.

For the Annabelle Lee, a converted fishing boat worth about £40,000 was completely deserted.

As Mr Miskimmin glanced around the cruiser he became increasingly puzzled.

On the cabin table was the remains of a half-eaten meal and on one of the bunks lay a pile of neatly-folded clothes.

It was the start of a Marie Celeste-style mystery which three months later is still baffling police, coastguards and harbour authorities.

For since that day when the craft was towed into Ramsgate harbour, Kent, no one has come forward to claim her.

Fault

Officials can only puzzle as to how she came to be drifting in the Channel and why she has not been claimed.

What happened to the crew? Coastguards and the police have had no reports of anyone missing. The craft was equipped with a radio, but there had been no appeals for help.

The only sign that anything was wrong was that the engine had developed a fault and an attempt had been made to anchor the vessel.

The Cardiff-based General Register and Records Office of Shipping and Seamen has the Annabelle Lee registered

by ANDREW ALDERSON

as belonging to a Mr Gordon Gleeson. His address is given as the High Street, Ramsgate. But Mr Gleeson does not live in the first-floor flat and neighbours do not remember him.

The Annabelle Lee is registered as being based at Brixham in South Devon. But harbour authorities there have no knowledge of the vessel.

Mr Miskimmin, a retired publican who lives on the Isle of Wight, said: "It was an eerie feeling—like stepping aboard the Marie Celeste."

A Coastguard spokesman said: "Every effort has been made to find out what happened to the crew of the vessel. We have to admit we are totally stumped."

And a Customs and Excise official said: "We are holding the boat as receiver of wreck. If after a year nobody claims it, the Annabelle Lee will be sold and any claims for salvage settled."

Both Mr Miskimmin and Mr Ron Cannon, the local lifeboat coxswain who towed the boat into the harbour, are claiming salvage rights.

SPOKESMAN-REVIEW, Spokane, WA

Oct. 3, 1985

1,000 Bigfoot sightings on record

This letter is in response to Professor Walter A. Becker's letter to the editor ("Doubts Bigfoot's existence," Sept. 26).

It is apparent that Becker is not familiar with the scientific literature concerning Sasquatch.

What does Becker mean in saying that Bigfoot populations must have families?

The word "family" normally means a situation in which male, female and offspring are in constant contact.

But the social structure of the Sasquatch probably is similar to those animals (such as bears) who contact during mating, but the mother then cares for the offspring on her own.

Professor Grover Krantz estimates the Sasquatch population in just the Pacific Northwest at a minimum of 200 individuals.

If those animals are in genetic contact, that is a viable breeding population — taking disease, accidents and starvation into consideration.

Yes, it is reasonable that with all the people in the forests, there would be sightings.

And we have them. There are at least 1,000 sightings on record, with the majority probably going unreported.

Those reports have come from people of all ages and occupations.

Having known Grover Krantz personally and professionally for more than 12 years, I can testify that he has paid all of his Sasquatch research expenses out of his own pocket.

He also has paid an unmeasurable price in his academic standing due to people who are unwilling to take seriously any idea, despite the evidence, if it does not fit in with the mainstream.

DONALD E. TYLER
Pullman

TIMES OF TL, Ticonderoga, NY
Dec. 31, 1985 CR: J. Zarzynski

SUNDAY EXPRESS, London, England
Dec. 29, 1985 CR: D. Speed

(continued from page 19 - LIGHT,
San Antonio, TX - Sept. ?, 1985)

but one worth pursuing. He expects comments on his draft proposal by September and from there will begin working for wider approval.

Bernard Oliver oversees NASA's Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence program, which will use the radio telescope analysis. He called Goodman's plan "kind of amusing," and said he is "not very concerned about it."

Oliver, of Ames Research Center in Mountain View, Calif., believes there is virtually no chance of an alien landing, and that Earthlings would have plenty of time to decide whether and how to respond if any communication is received.

Others think the timing is good.

The thought that alien communication could be received "is no longer considered fanciful," and scientists should start thinking about how to deal with it, said John Billingham, chief of the life sciences division at Ames. He suggests the issue be discussed at international scientific conferences.

Goodman said his foreign policy research entices him to look more often to the stars at night and wonder.

"I think near one of those stars is a planetary system like our own, with an Earth similar to ours. And there also is some life form looking out into the void and saying, 'I wonder if there is anyone else out there.'"

SUNDAY EXPRESS, London, England - Dec. 22, 1985 CR: D. Speed

Mystery of the noise

AT three in the morning engineer John Mizen and his wife, Johanna, were awakened by a strange noise that sounded like a muffled heartbeat.

Puzzled, they crept downstairs to try to trace the source, but no record player or radio had been left on.

The pulsating noise was at the same pitch wherever they went in their stone-built Victorian house in the Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire.

Yet when they stepped into their garden the pressure on their eardrums ceased. The mysterious sound was from inside their five-bedroom house.

Since that night three months ago, Mr and Mrs Mizen have been tortured with the noise which throbs through the house 24 hours a day. Yet none of their four sons who live at the house can hear it.

Now environmental health

Sunday Express Reporter

officers are conducting a painstaking investigation into the cause of the pulsations at Paisley House.

And special machines used by them do register a low frequency noise on the verge of normal hearing.

Musician

It seems that other people with sensitive hearing can be disturbed by it. Another of Mr and Mrs Mizen's sons, a teacher and a keen musician, was instantly conscious of the sound when he visited his parents.

Mrs Mizen, 57, said: "We have considered selling the

place, but I would not want anyone else to suffer this."

Mr Norman Davis, chief environmental officer for the Forest of Dean, said: "Noises can be transmitted over land from as far as five miles away."

Mr Davis said tapes of the noise were being analysed. "It is a long, tedious, and slow exercise," he added. "We might never find the source, and even if we do we may not be able to do anything about it."

Scoffers, Believers Abound In Mutilated-Cattle Mystery

Strange Events in Colorado Still Inspiring Unusual Theories

By Fred Bayles
Associated Press

TRINIDAD, Colo.—For 12 years, Lou Girodo has been looking for the missing part of a strange puzzle.

It is a puzzle of odd pieces: cattle mutilated with a surgeon's precision, mysterious helicopters, unidentified lights in the sky and rumors of Devil worship, government conspiracy and extraterrestrial visitors.

"We really still don't know what it means. We hope that one day, somewhere, somebody will find the piece that fits," said Girodo, chief investigator for the district attorney's office in Colorado's 3rd Judicial District, a large and lonely expanse of valleys and mountains on the New Mexico border.

In the mid-1970s, officials in dozens of states were inundated by reports of cattle mutilations. Livestock owners from Wisconsin to Washington told of finding dead cattle with ears, eyes, tongues, genitals and other organs skillfully removed as if with a razor or scalpel.

Estimates of the number of cases over the years range from 2,000 to 10,000. And even with official explanations that blamed scavenging animals for the damage, a dozen or so new cases are reported each year. Last summer, six cases were reported in northern New Mexico and one in Colorado.

Field investigators like Girodo believe many more cases are unreported.

"Ranchers are saying, 'Hey, I've reported it before and nothing's been done about it so I don't want people stomping all over my pastures and laughing at me,'" he said.

Cattle mutilations, or "cat mutes" as the locals call them, were no laughing matter a decade ago.

Colorado Gov. Richard D. Lamm called it "one of the great outrages in the history of the western cattle industry" and ordered a statewide investigation in 1975. In New Mexico, National Guard helicopters were sent to ride shotgun over cattle ranges. In 1979, Harrison Schmitt, then a U.S. senator from New Mexico, held a hearing into the mutilations.

Stockmen's associations in Colorado, Wyoming, Montana and Utah offered rewards as high as \$25,000. There were scattered reports of ranchers firing at helicopters that strayed over their land. Lawmen from ranching states held seminars to compare notes.

No one was arrested; no one came forward to tell of seeing a mutilation take place. Officials sorting evidence in Denver and Santa Fe concluded the cattle were victim of the natural forces of lightning, toxic plants and bovine disease. The mutilations, they said, were performed by coyotes and buzzards.

"As far as we're concerned, it was the result of predators attacking dead animals," Carl Whiteside, deputy director of the Colorado Bureau of Investigation and head of an inquiry into the cattle deaths then, said in an interview.

While some still debate the causes, no one denies that the reports of mutilations became a social phenomenon.

"There were a lot of official explanations for it, from predators to mass hysteria," said Tom Adams, who still publishes an annual newsletter on mutilations. "Regardless of what it was, it was something that affected a lot of people."

Headlines from regional newspapers of the time reflect the concern. There were reports that some animals' blood had been drained without a trace, leading to speculation that the

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mutilations were the work of satanists or devotees of Mithraism, a pre-Christian religion that performed animal sacrifice and blood ceremonies.

When Iowa investigators discovered all books on the occult had been checked out of the Des Moines public library in 1979, they tried to discover who was reading the books. The investigation created a minor brouhaha when the library said the records were confidential.

Reports of lights in the sky and unmarked helicopters prowling cattle lands led to speculation about unidentified flying objects (UFOs) or military testing of chemical or germ warfare. There was even a rumor that oil companies were removing organs from cattle to determine what minerals lay beneath the grassland.

George Yarnell, sheriff of Elbert County, Colo., recalls patrolling his district at night, sometimes using aircraft to try to catch the low-flying helicopters.

"These were honest people who were report-

ing these," he said. "We had one family who saw a helicopter land in a corral."

Yarnell, who has been sheriff of the eastern Colorado county for 23 years, estimated he has examined more than 100 reports of cattle mutilations. He feels 40 percent of them were real.

"I haven't changed my mind on that," he said. "I'll believe it until the day I die."

Investigators were baffled by the lack of evidence at the scenes. Many police reports described cows found in isolated fields unmarked by human footprints or tire tracks. In some cases, the bodies were bruised and broken as if dropped from the air.

Gabe Valdez, a New Mexico state trooper, recalled times when animals, including predators, avoided the dead cattle.

"I watched a pack of coyotes circle a dead animal from 20 feet out. They wouldn't come any closer," he said.

But by the late 1970s, other evidence pointed to those same predators as the culprits. Deputies in Arkansas and Texas staked out dead animals and watched as buzzards tore at the carcasses, leaving wounds similar to those blamed on mutilators.

The ruckus seemed to die away after publication of a 297-page report in 1980 by Kenneth Rommel, an ex-FBI agent who had received a federal grant to study the mutilations. Rommel, who worked for the Federal Bureau of Investigation in New York, Chicago, Puerto Rico and San Francisco before retiring to New Mexico, wrote a scathing criticism of local investigators and news coverage, concluding that with a few exceptions, the deaths and wounds were of natural origins.

"It was amazing how educated and well-educated people got sucked into the thing," Rommel said.

James Stewart, chairman of the social behavior department at the University of South Dakota, called the mutilations a case of "mass delusion."

"Once something like this gets rolling, people are reluctant to accept a mundane explanation," he said. "Talk about satanic cults and visitors from outer space adds excitement to a drab existence."

But far away from the state capitals and college campuses, ranchers occasionally still find things in their fields they cannot explain.

Myron Scott, 23, a rancher who has spent his life in the fields near Trinidad, tells of feeding hay to his livestock one night last fall when he saw lights hovering above a pasture two miles away. The next day he found the cow.

Scott is used to death; he loses a few head to lightning and disease each year. But he said he had never seen anything like this. The 600-pound steer's hide was pulled up over its body "like you'd roll a cigarette paper"; its tongue was cut out and its horns and spine were broken, as if it had fallen from a considerable height.

Yet there was no trace of blood, no footprint. Coyote tracks stopped about 30 feet from the body.

Scott had heard about the mutilations of the 1970s and was familiar with the official explanation of predators.

"I don't pay them a whole lot of mind," he said. "I know what I seen."

POST, Washington, DC - Jan. 1, 1986 CR: B. Pittman