

# UFO

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CITIZEN, Tucson, AZ — Feb. 7, 1986

## Flying objects over Tucson still unidentified

### Radar tracked them, people saw them, no one claims them

By TOM SHIELDS  
Citizen Staff Writer

The droning was such an unusual sound in the quiet beauty of Avra Valley that it awoke Martha Ann Grill from a sound sleep.

"What the hell is going on?" Grill said as she stumbled to the door of her mobile home in the rural area northwest of Tucson.

She stood on the patio in her nightgown. Looking eastward through the misty overcast, she could see the reassuring glow of the lights of Tucson over the peaks of the mountains.

Her neighborhood was quiet, except for a car speeding somewhere and a dog barking off in the distance among the saguaros.

Airplanes or something in the sky were making the droning noise.

But once she began seeing the lights zipping by in all directions at varying speeds and not crashing into one another, she began to wonder if they were airplanes.

Unidentified flying objects. "You never saw such a sight in your life," she said. "It was incredible."

They looked like blue, green and white lights on planes, she thought. Some were in groups and some were solo. They came from and went to the north, the Tucson Mountains to the east, Kitt Peak National Observatory perched on a mountaintop about 15 miles across the valley to the southwest, and Ryan Field to the south.

Others skimmed the Tucson Mountains on their way eastward to the city.

Somebody must be guiding them and telling them what to do, she thought.

Late last month, Grill became the latest person to admit publicly that she saw the UFOs the night of Oct. 7, 1985.

They also were observed that night by the most professional of the watchers of the night sky.

Federal Aviation Administration radar operators at Tucson International Airport reported tracking about 15 groups of aircraft, at least 60 in all, as they flew from the Avra Valley area in the southwest, across the city, and out through Redington Pass northeast of Tucson.

Officer Timothy Clark, the pilot of Air 1, the Tucson Police helicopter that patrols the night sky of the city, saw the lights of the objects cross over the city and leave over Redington. They were going too fast for Air 1.

A man working on a plane on the ground at TIA heard the radar operator and Clark discussing the UFOs on the radio and turned on the plane's radar. For 10 minutes, that screen revealed a large

object in the sky west of the Tucson Mountains with many smaller objects flying around it.

Officials at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base and at other military installations in Arizona have said repeatedly that no military exercises, secret or otherwise, were under way during the aerial display. They said they knew nothing about the incident.

"Nope, we don't deal with UFOs," Lt. Julie Fortenberry, a public information officer at Davis-Monthan, said a few days after the sighting. "We're not pursuing it."

Nevertheless, for more than an hour that night, things with lights were seen and tracked on radar screens as they flew over the city only a few miles from the runways of D-M, a huge training base.

Likewise, the North American Air Defense Command — NORAD — in Colorado Springs, Colo., had no explanation.

In fact, no one has ever been able to explain what the objects were or where they came from. At least, no one has been willing to say so publicly.

Aerial Phenomena Research Organization Inc., an international UFO study group based in Tucson and better known simply as APRO, has been investigating the incident.

Robert G. Marsland, a former U.S. Air Force officer and deputy director of APRO, interviewed Grill and most of the others who saw the UFOs. Still, even he has no idea what they were.

Marsland said, however, that he was "very sure" the UFOs were not military planes.

"There were too many airplanes in one place at the same time," he said. "It was too close to the mountains. The military doesn't take those risks."

One major difference between the UFOs that Grill saw over Avra Valley and those seen by others over Tucson was that the UFOs over the city made no noise, Marsland said.

Grill is an artist — a trained observer. For years, she was a cook on big merchant ships. She also sailed the South Pacific in a 42-foot ketch. She has witnessed some of the phenomena of the sea, including Saint Elmo's fire, an electrical flame sometimes seen on a ship's mast during a storm.

The Indiana native said she has a strong psychic bent.

But that night in October, Grill was mystified as she settled down into a lawn chair and began counting the UFOs. She lost count at 36.

"What the hell is going on?" she asked herself again.



JOEL ROCHON/Tucson Citizen



GARY GAYNOR/Tucson Citizen

Martha Ann Grill describes UFOs she saw over Avra Valley.

Then one big UFO slowly flew about 500 feet over her head, she said. It was cigar-shaped, had a light on each side, and had a fuselage like an Army transport plane, she said.

"There was something about that thing flying over that I can't get out of my mind," she said. "It's almost like it was a dream ..."

"It was just a strange-looking thing because of the khaki, dirty color ... It still reminds me of a great big moth."

"It was strange that it flew over me," she said shaking her head. "I didn't like that thing."

Grill also said she kept questioning herself to make sure she

wasn't seeing things.

"Something was in the air, but no one on this earth will ever make me say those were flying saucers because I don't have enough information about what I saw."

"I just know that what I saw was not what you usually see ... And I didn't dream it, even though I feel like something wants me to feel that I did."

"Whether it was a flying saucer or 15 of the chorus girls from Radio City out there tap dancing on the clouds, I don't know," she said, laughing.

Then Grill stopped laughing. "I'll probably never know what it was," she said.

SOUTHERN ILLINOISAN,  
Carbondale, IL  
Dec. 9, 1985

## UFO! Students have close encounter

An "Unidentified Flying Object" described as football shaped and without wings was reported to Southern Illinois University-Carbondale Security Police Saturday night.

Three SIU-C students reported sighting an odd object over Lot 4 near Thompson Point about 4:30 p.m. Saturday.

They reported it as shaped much like a football, and white in color. They said it went south at a high rate of speed, and then reversed directions and went north at a high rate of speed.

The students told police the object appeared not to have wings, and said the sides appeared to be very smooth.

Police said they had no reason to consider the report as any type of prank, and said the report was accepted as a serious matter.

Names of the students were not released.





# Encounters with the Unexplained Continue in Pennsylvania

ALLIED NEWS, Grove City, PA  
Jan. 15, 1986 CR: S. Gordon

Reports of mysterious happenings are reported every year by residents of Pennsylvania, and 1985 was no exception.

There were hundreds of strange incidents reported from many parts of the state, including alleged encounters with unidentified flying objects, sightings of strange animals, and assorted other oddities such as large chunks of ice falling from a clear sky, and giant footprints found in fresh snow.

The Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained (PASU), is an all volunteer non-profit scientific research unit based in Greensburg and established as a statewide clearinghouse for reports of UFO sightings and other phenomena. PASU, comprised of volunteers from many scientific and technical fields, conducts open-minded inquiries into unusual incidents. Among its staff are scientists, medical doctors, engineers and technicians, as well as a variety of other specialists.

To properly evaluate these cases, PASU maintains many types of special research equipment. PASU uses two-way radio to provide communications between investigating teams and also utilizes a major radio communications monitoring facility. Among the various equipment in use are video and audio recording gear, radiation and infrared detection monitors and electrical and magnetic interference detectors. PASU (when appropriate) attempts to send field investigators to the site of an occurrence, to conduct first-hand interviews with those involved, and to gather any physical evidence for laboratory study.

Of the hundreds of strange cases reported to PASU during 1985, a high percentage of reports after investigation were found to have a logical explanation. Many UFO sightings were mid-identifications of bright planets or stars, fireball type meteors, pieces of space junk burning up, or lights on aircraft.

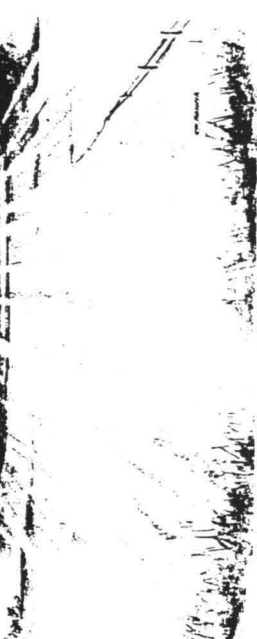
Two major UFO events in this state were related to space projects.

On the night of June 21, many people reported seeing eight-12 reddish-orange lights in a V-formation moving rapidly across the sky toward the south. This was found to be the decay of the Russian Satellite Cosmos 1530.

Then in the early morning hours of Nov. 20 numerous observers reported bright lights and strange colored clouds in many parts of the state. PASU traced these sightings to an early morning launch of a three stage sounding rocket from the NASA facility at Wallops Island, Va.

But not all of the cases reported can be so easily explained away. A number of very strange UFO sightings still remain unexplained. So do the sightings of Bigfoot, a tall hairy apelike creature that walks upright like a human. And what about the continuous sightings of the mountain lion (or cougar) that has been officially extinct since the late 1800s in the eastern part of the U.S.

The black panther similar in appearance to the cougar but solid black in color is reported yearly by responsible observers, yet science has never verified that such an animal exists in North America. Stan Gordon, director of PASU has been investigating these phenomena for more than 26 years, and says in regard to UFO sightings "the data of cases we have investigated that remain unexplainable, shows indication that the



Drawing of UFO Spotted by Pennsylvanian

phenomena exhibits intelligent control, but the actual origin of these objects or the purpose behind the observations remains open."

PASU exchanges information with reliable researchers worldwide and works closely with the Mutual UFO Network of Seguin, Texas, the largest international UFO research organization. Residents of Pennsylvania who have had recent or past strange encounters are encouraged to contact PASU by writing to PASU, 6 Oakhill Ave., Greensburg, Pa. 15601 or by calling the PA. UFO Hotline (24 hours) at 412-838-7768.

The following are some of the classic cases of 1985.

Jan. 2, Johnstown, Lebanon County — In the early morning two young men checking their animal traps observed a large oval metallic colored object about 200 feet above the ground. As it passed over a group of pine trees, it emitted a small yellow ball of light that moved toward the ground. The large object slowly moved away. The witnesses, frightened, left the area.

Feb. 13, Derry, Westmoreland County — Two men going to work in

the early morning noticed strange tracks in the fresh snow. A PASU team was at the site in a short time and attempted to follow the long trail over Chestnut Ridge, before being turned back by heavy snow conditions. The footprints were 17 inches long and nine inches wide across the big toe area. The prints compressed the 12 inches of snow and ice and strides varied from 48 inches to up to 65 inches between the tracks. A podiatrist who was at the scene estimated that whatever made the tracks would stand about eight foot tall and weigh between 450 to 600 pounds.

In February and for several of the following months, numerous sightings of Black Panthers were reported from various locations in Western Pennsylvania. Many of these sightings took place in the Greater Pittsburgh area. The animal described as a mountain lion, six to eight feet long including the tail, with black shining hair was observed many times even in daylight. On several occasions the witness was within 100 feet of the animal. The animal never showed any sign of aggression to nearby humans and slowly walked back into the wooded areas.

June 21 — On this night many people observed the burn up of the Russian Satellite Cosmos 1530, but other unexplainable UFO sightings also occurred on this night. Even though a number of sightings were reported, the best sighting occurred about 12:30 a.m. near Indianhead in Fayette County. A fellow returning home from work was coming around a bend when he noticed a cluster of lights that at first he thought were stars. As he approached closer he realized that the lights were attached to a large elongated object that was very low off the ground and moving very slowly. At first he thought that the object was the Good Year blimp. As he continued to observe the object, he realized this was not the case. The object emitted bright blue flashes of light at the top which at times appeared to turn in a counter-clockwise manner. The bottom of the object was hollow and could easily be seen by bright blue flashes emitted from that section of the object which lit up the ground below. The object made no sound and was observed for approximately 20 minutes. The witness could not believe what he was seeing, and hurried down the road to get other people to come back with him to verify the sighting. About 10 minutes later they returned to the location, but the object was gone. A car load of people reported seeing a similar object in the same general area that same night.

July 17, Greensburg, Westmoreland Co. — Six maintenance people were taking a lunch break on the cemetery ground where they are employed. It was a beautiful warm and clear afternoon. Suddenly several of the men caught something falling down from the sky, and then

they all heard a loud thump and saw pieces of material shatter around the grounds. They ran over and discovered a large chunk of clear ice about 30 inches in diameter and about 24 inches in thickness and many other size pieces that were scattered around, some the size of loaves of bread. Photographs of the ice were taken by one of the men, and PASU sent a sample of the ice for laboratory study. The analysis indicated that traces of zinc, iron and aluminum were much higher than normally found in normal rain water. No aircraft were seen or heard at the time of the occurrence.

Bigfoot sightings were reported from several locations in the state including near Ligonier and Derry, Westmoreland County.

## Shelby woman has 'close encounter'

SHELBY — Frances Shaw was driving south on N.C. 226 near her home in Shelby Sunday night when she had a close encounter with a "perfectly round orange thing" hovering in the sky.

As Shaw kept driving, she said the object grew larger and the orange light it was emitting intensified and began blinking.

"It scared me to death," said Shaw, an employee of Fasco Controls in Cleveland County. "My only thought was that it was going to land in my front yard."

The unidentified object didn't land, Shaw said it disappeared just as she was pulling up to her house. When the object disappeared, she said it left a trail of smoke.

Shaw said she was afraid that she was the only one who saw the "blinking light" in the southern sky at about 7:15 p.m. But the Cleveland County Sheriff's Department said three people called, all within 15 minutes of each other, to report a bright light traveling west to east.

"We've got no idea what it was," said a sheriff's department spokesman who asked not to be identified. The three callers all gave the same description of the object, he said.

The sheriff's department contacted the Federal Aviation Administration in Charlotte, which reported no unusual flight experiments over the area or planes in distress.

Shaw said she didn't think the object she saw was a plane. At first, she said she thought it might have been a blinking light on top of a tower. But as it grew in size and intensity, she could tell that it wasn't.

LINCOLN TIMES-NEWS, Lincolnton, NC - Dec. 17, 1985 CR: G. Fawcett

# 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 Lincolnton, 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,

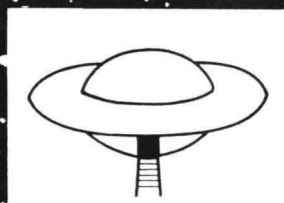
— Four people living near Lincolnton said they saw a Saturn-shaped object that maneuvered near their homes for about 30 minutes on May 1, frightening animals and causing power failures and telephone interference. They said it vibrated their houses, cast a beam of light on one of them and gave off a "heat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

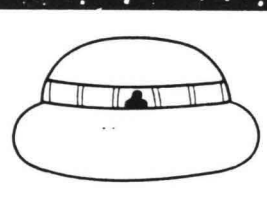
— A woman was returning home to Matthews from work in Charlotte on Dec. 5 when she saw two bright, oval-shaped objects, about 900 square feet in area, shaped like diamonds on the rear. She almost hit a truck whose driver also saw two huge UFOs with "rows of white-lighted areas surrounded by borders"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



**UFO SIGHTED In 1966**  
By Gaffney Policemen  
A.G. Huskey, Charles Hutchins



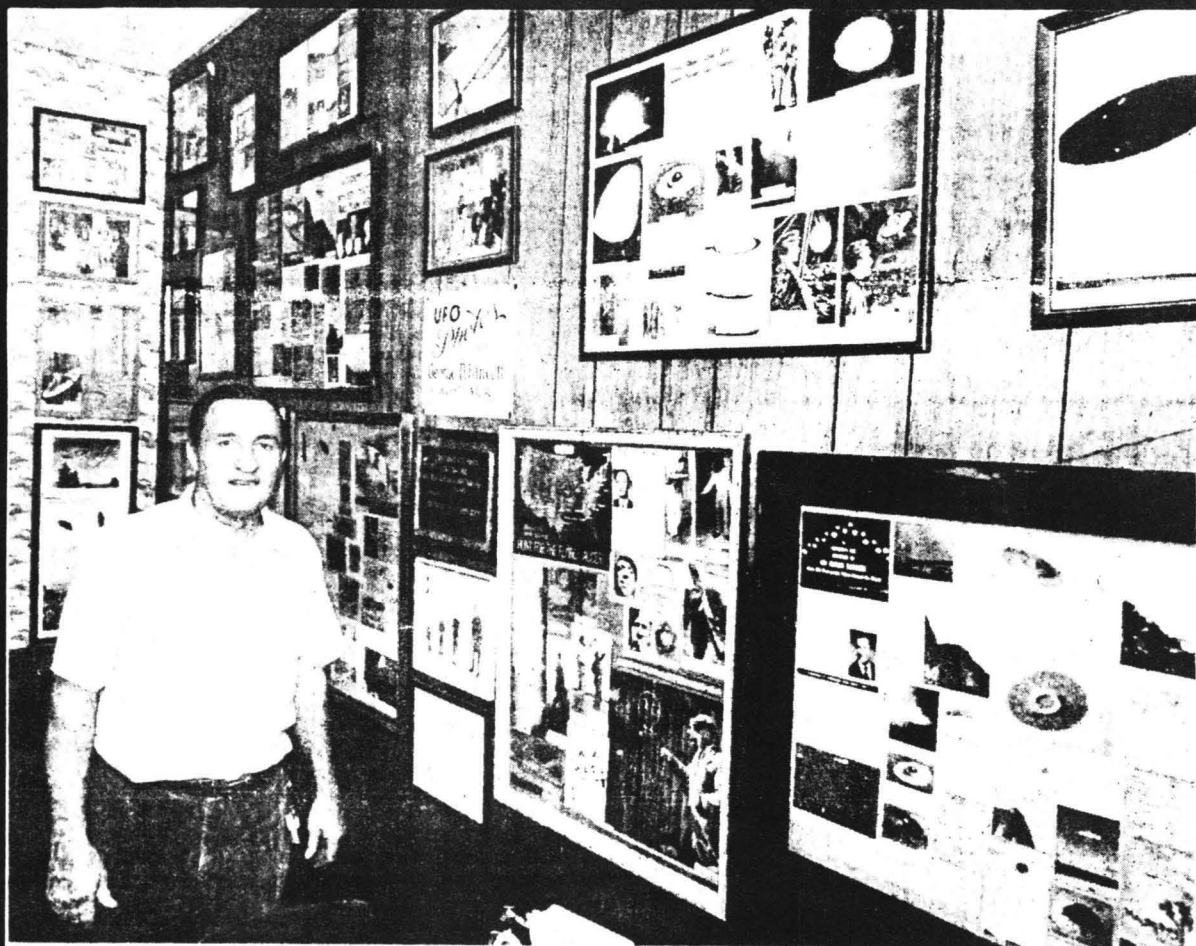
**DIAGRAM OF A UFO**  
Spotted In S.C.  
In 1979



**UFO SIGHTED SUMMER, 1968**  
In Mount Airy, N.C.  
By Mrs. Harold Eggers



**UFO SIGHTED JAN. 19, 1973**  
On Hwy. 18 In Jonesville  
By Jerry Littleton



**TESTIMONIES TO UFOs SPOTTED IN THE CAROLINAS**  
Line The Walls Of George Fawcett's 'UFO Room' In Lincolnton

Herald-Journal Photo By Jerry Suddarth

By GINGER LUNDY  
Staff Writer

The small red and black sign in the corner of the painted glass window most likely would be unnoticed by many customers and passerbys. Inside, the sandwich shop is typical of that on the main street of most small towns, vinyl booths lining the walls and an aroma of sizzling beef mingling with that of fried onion rings. The man behind the counter moves the telephone receiver away from his mouth and calls behind him to Betty in the kitchen: "I need two more cheeseburgers to go, and that'll wrap it up today."

At a glance, the setting suits the man with salt and pepper hair in the brown knit sweater, but his crystal blue eyes look deep... There is more to this 56-year-old man than running the Super Sub Sandwich Shoppe on East Main Street in Lincolnton, N.C.

Investigation of the dining area reveals a smaller room wallpapered with framed sketches and newspaper articles that explain the faraway look in George D. Fawcett's eyes, and the sign in the window that invites "Visit Our UFO Room."

Fawcett, a native of Mt. Airy, N.C., regularly sheds his apron, along with many other professional roles he has assumed over the past four decades, to investigate reported sightings and experiences with unidentified flying objects.

By April 1985, Fawcett had investigated 1,278 UFO experiences.

"It was in 1944 and '45 when Curious George (the inquisitive storybook monkey Fawcett identifies with) woke up and I got involved investigating UFOs. That was

about 41 years ago, when I was 15 years old," he says.

He had been a history buff since about age 9 and had kept scrapbooks of World War II. "In the middle of World War II, about December 1944, I began reading articles about pilots whose crafts almost collided with these large silver balls, most of them over Paris."

Newspaper articles of the time reported that Allied Forces feared the balls were new German military missiles, yet similar sightings since have been identified as UFOs. It was during that speculation that Fawcett began his studies of UFOs.

"I started reading everything I could get my hands on (560 books to date, and only one volume of science fiction) and talking to everybody who knew anything about UFOs."

Fawcett had a personal encounter with a UFO seven years after he began studying them yet insists, "I don't believe in UFOs, but I'm a nonskeptic. It's not what we believe, but what we've learned and studied. I recognize the existence of UFOs from what I've learned. I do accept UFOs are true. I was a skeptic for the first five years; I've been a nonskeptic for the other 30 years."

Fawcett, one of more than 15 million Americans who, according to a 1978 Gallup poll, claim to have seen UFOs, unexpectedly confronted his UFO in 1951 while attending Lynchburg College in Virginia. "I was walking across the campus from where I'd gone to see my roommate who was sick in the infirmary. It was about 10:15 in the morning, and as I was walking, I saw it above a building. It looked like an orange cut in half or like half of a globe with sharp edges. It was orange in color against the bright blue sky and as large as a tractor tire.

(continued on page 5)



"I watched it for about four and a half minutes... It went up and down like a yo-yo five times and then turned to a 45-degree angle and flew away. I didn't know what to do at first."

"I thought, 'Maybe it could have been the sun,' knowing inside that it wasn't and then looking behind me to see the sun there. I've tried to find a reasonable explanation to explain it and countless others away, but you can't. For many, there is no explanation."

Of the UFO sightings Fawcett has investigated, 20-30 percent remain unexplained. "The other 70 to 80 percent were traced with close investigation by military, civilian and scientific personnel and found to be meteors, planets and stars, planes and satellites."

Among the reports Fawcett has tried to explain over the past 40 years are sightings of UFOs in South Carolina cities, such as the "large round glowing UFOs" sighted near Landrum in November 1952; the "large yellow-white, disc-shaped" UFO which released a smaller similar object while maneuvering over Gaffney in August 1962; and the "domed saucer with a revolving band of square windows" that glowed red and then turned a bright reddish-orange color over Greenwood in early 1971.

"South Carolina ranks high for the number of excellent UFO encounters reported there over the past four decades," Fawcett says. "The Palmetto state has a rich history of UFO reports with sightings from over two dozen towns and cities, and the encounters follow the global patterns well established over the years. UFOs have been persistent and consistent for the past 40 years; you can't detect the French (sighting) from the Russian or the American."

One of the most intriguing sightings in the state occurred in the Gaffney area in November 1966, Fawcett says:

"Two policemen, A.G. Huskey and Charles Hutchins, watched a Saturn-shaped UFO settle to within several feet of the ground and project a ladder-like device to the ground. Shortly thereafter they encountered a 4-foot-tall figure dressed in a shiny gold-colored, metallic-like suit. The (UFO) occupant approached the two patrolmen to within 20 feet, carried on a brief conversation with them in very precise English, promised a return visit and left the area aboard the UFO. Footprints were found at the landing site."

A flurry of UFO sightings were reported in South Carolina and the southeastern region of the United States in 1973. A sighting near Spartanburg occurred on Jan. 19 in Jonesville when a supermarket employee found S.C. Highway 18, which leads to his home, blocked by a domed saucer, 20 feet in diameter, with tripod landing gears. He said the UFO had multi-colored lighted windows and was surrounded by 10-12 men dressed in white coveralls who appeared to be on guard duty. Frightened, he took an alternate road home and locked himself in the house.

Less than two weeks later, on Jan. 31, multiple eyewitnesses including police, housewives, a textile worker, students and businessmen saw a multi-colored domed saucer with windows maneuvering around Whitaker Mountain near Blacksburg in Cherokee County. "That is one of the incidents that remains unexplained after investigation," Fawcett says.

Since 1980, sightings have occurred in Anderson, Easley, Rock Hill, Gaffney, Leeslie and Lockhart. "But this report of South Carolina is far from being a complete one. One thing you've got to remember is that only 10 percent of all UFOs are reported."

Fawcett says 1973 also brought a wave of UFO sightings in North Carolina. "It really got bad for a while. We had a sighting in Mt. Airy, and everybody naturally thought, 'These are some of George's kind,' and wanted me to explain and tell about them."

"People were constantly at my door, waiting for me wherever I went, and when I didn't have a scientific or other explanation for them right away, I was the

crackpot. Finally, during that time in 1973, I had to get a motel room in Winston-Salem and live in it just to get away."

Fawcett claims that only 1 percent of reported UFOs are hoaxes. "Most of the time you can tell when you talk to the person who reports them. And when you get 25-page letters and people call you long distance and talk three hours or longer, why would they go to so much trouble and expense for a hoax?"

"Another point is that most of the people who report UFOs are highly educated, responsible and intellectual people, not your average city drunks."

Fawcett, who has been an investigator for the Mutual UFO Network Inc., a worldwide UFO investigative organization based in Seguin, Texas, and North Carolina's state director of the not-for-profit organization for 15 years, says there are certain procedures to be followed when investigating a UFO sighting:

"We work through the police stations, airports and planetariums in trying to find explanations for the sightings. We also look closely at the people who report sightings. We obtain character references by contacting their neighbors, families, employers

and so forth. What also is very important are the things you look for in the person's account of the sighting."

These "things" are the repetitions which have occurred persistently in UFO sightings. Some of the common denominators include electro-magnetic interference on compasses, airplane and automobile motors, radios, televisions and power stations; depressions, craters, ground markings and burned areas due to landings; and severe animal reactions.

"You've also got to look at the unique shapes of UFOs, especially nocturnal lights, daylight discs, domed saucers, cigar- or rocket-shaped objects, crescents, half globes and saturn-shaped objects."

Fawcett says UFO incidents in South Carolina match worldwide characteristics because they have been concentrated near military areas, nuclear power plants, power lines and substations, along with reservoirs and dams, from which the UFOs are believed to draw revitalizing energy to continue their missions.

Fawcett believes UFOs exist, a fact he says the government has just recently professed. "Several previously top-secret documents were released in 1965 from both Air Force and Navy sources, as a result of Freedom of Information Act lawsuits in Federal Courts in Washington, D.C. These

intelligence documents show that both military service agencies concluded four decades ago that UFOs were real and deserved serious attention, contrary to public announcements that the opposite was true. Also, numerous governmental agencies, including the Department of Defense, the North American Defense Command and the Defense Intelligence Agency, are still investigating and studying UFOs."

For 1986, Fawcett predicts an increase in UFO encounters during the first quarter of the year due to the number of people who will be seeking to view Halley's Comet.

Asked if he'd like to encounter another UFO, Fawcett hesitates. "I think I would, if the contact would be beneficial. But then I really don't know whether Curious George would stand and shake hands with them or be 10 miles down the road in front of them."

Fawcett requests that witnesses of UFOs mail their reports to him at 602 Battleground Road, Lincolnton, N.C. 28092, or call him at 704-735-5725 (no collect calls). The reports may be kept confidential if so requested. Questionnaires will be mailed and investigations may be made.

The UFO room at the Super Sub Sandwich Shop is open Mondays through Fridays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

TIMES, Huntsville, AL - Feb. 16, 1986 CR: M. Hall

## Many Americans Believe in UFOs, New Poll Says

By ROBERT FURLOW

WASHINGTON (AP) — Forty percent or more of Americans believe flying saucers are real, that rockets change the weather and certain numbers bring good luck, says a new poll whose author suggests the results show a technologically confused society.

Those survey results and others indicate that while some of the American public is somewhat informed on technological issues, "a substantial portion is not well informed in these areas," Jon D. Miller, director of the Public Opinion Laboratory at Northern Illinois University, said Thursday.

For example, he said his poll, sponsored by the National Science Foundation, found 95 percent of Americans agreeing with the statement that "smoking causes serious health problems" — a contention the medical profession strongly supports.

However, 75 percent also agreed with a statement that "there are good ways of treating sickness that medical science does not recognize."

Of the second finding, Miller said in a telephone interview, "It is not clear whether this result is an endorsement of folk medicine... or a vote of no confidence in the medical profession. Whatever its origins, it appears inconsistent with the idea of technological literacy."

Such literacy — or perhaps illiteracy in some cases — was the focus of a weekend conference beginning today in Baltimore. The poll also was released in Washington.

An announcement of the conference said, "Evidence abounds that we are graduating students who are unprepared and unable to grasp even day-to-day issues — the technical content of issues ranging from the safety of contraceptive devices or nutrition to robotics, gene-splicing or the recent explosion of the space shuttle Challenger."

Other findings in Miller's poll, conducted among 2,000 randomly selected adults late last year, indicated:

- Forty-three percent agreed with the statement that "it is likely that some of the unidentified flying objects that have been reported are really space vehicles from other civilizations."

- Forty-one percent agreed that "rocket launchings and other space activities have caused changes in our weather."

With 11 percent and 12 percent, respectively, saying they weren't sure about the two statements, that left less than 50 percent disagreeing in both cases. Miller said that suggests "a substantial level of confusion between real or likely technologies and fictional technologies."

On another statement, 40 percent agreed that "some numbers are especially lucky for some people."

However, on another, only 20 percent agreed with the statement that "it is not wise to plan ahead because many things turn out to be a matter of good or bad luck anyway."

"While it is somewhat comforting to find that a majority of the American people reject luck as the driving force of their lives and of society, it is important to remember that each percentage point in a national survey represents 1.7 million people," Miller said in an accompanying text.

"In real numbers, these results indicate that approximately 37 million Americans eschew planning for the future and that almost 75 million believe in lucky numbers," he said. "While these numbers may be good news for the people who run lotteries, they are not a positive reflection on the technological literacy of our society."

In another section of the survey, people were asked to rate their own understanding of what Miller called "some of the basic terms needed to communicate about technological issues."

Eighty-two percent said they had a clear or general understanding of radiation, 67 percent felt they had such understanding of how a telephone works, 57 percent of computer software and 49 percent of economic gross national product. The rest said they had little understanding of the terms.

The study was conducted by telephone with each respondent interviewed for about 30 minutes, Miller said. He gave no expected margin of sampling error.

The Baltimore conference, organized by Pennsylvania State University with support from the National Science Foundation, was co-sponsored by the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the National Science Teachers Association, among others, the announcement said.

CAPITAL TIMES, Madison, WI - Jan. 7, 1986

## Was strange light Sunday a plane, comet or UFO?

Several people in Iowa County — including the sheriff — have reported seeing a strange light in the sky Sunday night. But it may have been only an airplane landing light.

Jean and Bob Ellarson of rural Barneveld, both experienced outdoor observers, said they saw the light while driving west on Zwetler Road in the town of Vermont at about 9:45 p.m. The light, Jean Ellarson said, didn't seem to be moving at all.

They stopped their car and rolled down a window.

"All of a sudden, the thing started coming toward us — and I mean fast," she said. "It was like a big bright star. There were no blinking lights, no red and green — like you might see on a plane — and there was no noise. It moved very fast, then swung off toward Highway 14."

"It has to be a UFO, whatever that means," she said.

"I just think it was an airplane with the landing light on," said Sheriff Nick Basting, who spotted it from his patrol car south of Mineral Point. "I

wouldn't swear to it, but that's what I think it was."

Basting said he spotted the light not long after seeing some flashing lights. He didn't hear any noise and reported that the light traveled in a straight line.

Basting said he suspects it might have been someone up in a plane looking for a Madison woman who was reported lost while skiing in Blue Mound State Park. The woman, reported missing at 7 p.m., was found at about 11 p.m. at a farmhouse near the park.

Basting said he has not received any reports of anyone using a plane in the search.

A spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration at the Dane County Regional Airport control tower said he could not say whether controllers knew of an airplane involved in the search.

CR: R. Heiden

HERALD-JOURNAL, Spartanburg, SC - Feb. 18, 1986 CR: G. Fawcett

## Crash Reports Spawn A Local Mystery

By MIKE SMITH  
Staff Writer

Some folks in the Glendale area heard an explosion Sunday night and felt it shake their homes. Some saw the lights of a low-flying object. What they saw and heard they believed to be the crash of a plane or a helicopter.

Policemen and volunteers searched all night and into Monday morning and found no crash or explosion site. The mystery may remain just that. Police called off an intensive search at about noon Monday.

Dramatic reports of an airplane crash and explosion started coming into Central Communications in Spartanburg a little before 8 p.m. Sunday. Residents of the Glendale area said they saw lights in the sky, a flash of light, and heard a loud explosion that shook their homes.

They said they thought an airplane or helicopter

had crashed into the woods in the area.

The Spartanburg Sheriff's Department, the S.C. Highway Patrol, Spartanburg County Emergency Preparedness Department, State Law Enforcement Division, Glendale Fire Department and Croft Rescue Service all turned out to help search the area.

Volunteers from the area, propelled by curiosity and concern, and eager to find what they had heard and seen, joined the officials in searching the woods.

They searched through the night with flashlights, but whatever was in the dark woods evaded them.

A helicopter from the S.C. Aeronautics Commission arrived to search from the air and the search went on until noon Monday.

"We couldn't find any evidence of anything. We know they saw something, but we don't know what they saw," Lt. Harold Hines of the Sheriff's department said.

Searchers not only did not find any evidence of a

plane, or a helicopter, they did not find any evidence of an explosion or a fire, Hines said.

It had been suggested that a liquor still, hidden deep in the woods, might have exploded, but no evidence was found to warrant that explanation, according to Hines.

He said police have confirmed the presence in the area Sunday evening of a hot air balloon and a plane. However, no aircraft have been reported missing; witnesses saw the airplane leave the area, and there is no evidence of the crash of either a plane or a balloon.

Several people saw whatever it was do whatever it did, including a sheriff's deputy. Police do not believe the reports were the result of some kind of hoax.

Sherri McGraw, a resident of Goldmine Road in Glendale, said she saw the thing flying low near the treelots. It had a big white light and smaller red lights on the front of it but she couldn't see its body.

She saw it go behind the trees and then her father looked for it, she said, adding that he "saw a real big light and heard it explode."

"We saw it go down, but we didn't see it come back up," she said.

Sherri said she doesn't believe what she saw was a hot air balloon. "It moved very quick," she said.

However, her father, Charles McGraw, disagrees. He believes it was a hot air balloon. "Everything fits," he said, explaining that the wind was blowing in the direction the thing was traveling. And the burners which provide hot air for a balloon both produce noise and light up the balloon at night.

The flames and the illuminated balloon could explain the bright light and the hills would magnify the sound of the burners to explosion level, he said. And "then everybody's got to exaggerate a bit."

(continued on page 6) 5

"I never have seen one (a hot air balloon) with lights on it though," he admitted. Hines said that the balloon is the most probable explanation he has heard so far. Yet, that's just one possibility and, as far as he is concerned, the incident is still a mystery.

Another Glendale resident who heard the phantom crash says "there's no way" it could have been a hot air balloon. Phillip McGraw was at home when he heard the explosion which, he said, shook his house. "I thought there was a wreck out there in the road in front of the house," he said.

McGraw said hot air balloons float over the area all the time and he has heard them often. This explosion "sounded a lot louder than a hot air balloon. There's no way it was one of those," he said.

Some other residents of the area did not see or hear anything. Landis Whitt, who lives next to Bethesda Baptist Church, headquarters for the search, said he didn't see any lights, flashes, or hear an explosion. Louise Green, keeps watch at the Duncan Fire Tower. She was not in the tower Sunday night but can see the area of the phantom crash from her home. She saw nothing, she said.

Charles McGraw, who is thoroughly familiar with the area, led a search party into the woods from 8 p.m. Sunday until 12:45 a.m. Monday. "I've got briar scratches all over my body," he said.

McGraw said that as dark as it was Sunday night, searchers could have come within a hundred feet of a crash site and not have seen it.

However, if there had been a crash it would have been spotted by the helicopter Monday morning, according to police.

McGraw said he plans to go back out into the woods and look again, "just to make sure."

Hines said the official investigation is closed unless something new turns up. "We've exhausted all our avenues," he said.



Staff photo by MICHAEL DILLARD

Mrs. Neilson displays sketches of UFO sightings, along with a painting she made of a UFO crew member she saw superimposed on TV while she was watching "Planet of the Apes."

## Strange sightings? UFO believers ban together

DAILY PRESS, Newport News, VA - Jan. 19, 1986

By PATRICK PETERSON  
Staff Writer

Barbara Neilsen has a strong suspicion she would feel at home on another planet. Nearly certain UFOs have tried to contact her, she is ready to jump aboard if they return.

Sometimes people laugh, but Mrs. Neilsen doesn't care. "I just let them laugh. I've seen things other people wish they could see."

The 59-year-old housewife has four children and two grandchildren. Her husband works for the Navy and runs a lawnmower repair business. They live in a normal house in a normal neighborhood in a normal part of Virginia Beach.

Mrs. Neilsen says she is a normal person. It hurts when people laugh and insist she is wrong about UFOs. Most people would buckle under that kind of pressure. They would change their minds and say they must have imagined the flying spaceships.

The Neilsen children have "outgrown their interest" in watching for UFOs, and Mrs. Neilsen's husband never showed any interest. The last time she spotted UFOs, in 1978, Neilsen wouldn't even get out of bed to go outside to see them.

But a small organization supports Mrs. Neilsen's convictions and doesn't laugh when she talks about UFOs — the UFO Contact Center International.

The organization was founded in 1981 to help the "untold thousands of men and women worldwide (who) have not only seen UFOs at close range but have had apparent direct contact with the occupants and pilots of such objects."

Say the founders, Dan and Aileen Edwards of Seattle, Wash.: "Most often these people are emotionally distressed over their unusual situations and turn to police, clergy and doctors who unsympathetically ridicule them and suggest psychiatric examination." Edwards says that, after being contacted by a UFO, people ask themselves, "Am I alone, and am I crazy?"

Spouses, parents and loved ones who were not present generally do not understand the emotional turmoil caused by the contact.

Too many people have seen UFOs under similar circumstances for the sightings to be blamed on mental imbalance, says Edwards, who claims to have been contacted himself. Edwards says 22 chapters have been formed in the United States but has no total membership figure.

Last year, Mrs. Neilsen began a local chapter of the contact center. So far, about 10 people have joined. Several say they have come face to face with aliens.

Mrs. Neilsen sympathizes with those who may be reluctant to talk about such experiences.

Though she's never seen an extraterrestrial being, one appeared in her subconscious mind. Later, her children saw the face she painted from that vision as a ghostly image on her television screen during a showing of "Planet of the Apes."

After they called her to the television, Mrs. Neilsen telephoned a former neighbor, who also reported seeing the image.

The image on the canvas has been seen by others who have confronted UFOs, she adds. "Since that time, people have been abducted (by extraterrestrial beings), and this is what they describe them looking like."

The creatures wear a tight collar, a double row of buttons and a sash across their coats. They have large, hairless heads with huge eyes and faces that taper to small noses, mouths and jaws.

Mrs. Neilsen does not think she was born of alien parents, but she often has felt out of place on Earth. "I have felt like an actress playing a role."

This displaced feeling is not the only thing that persuades her she has a connection with the people who fly UFOs. After sighting a UFO in her back yard Dec. 2, 1975, Mrs. Neilsen suddenly realized two hours had disappeared without her being aware of how the time had passed.

She frequently has a ringing in her head. And minor wounds appear on her body — as though her skin had been punctured by some alien medical probe.

Others who have seen UFOs report similar experiences, says Edwards.

Ms. Neilsen says her closest encounter with UFOs was in November 1975. One evening during that time, her children spotted a light in the sky that looked like a round spacecraft with a tail. She sighted several more UFOs in her neighborhood that month.

Her husband was away on a military assignment. Though she was questioned by police about the sightings, no conclusive evidence to prove them was found.

"It was like a whole fleet was in here. It got so after awhile we didn't even go out to see 'em. I said, 'Ho-Hum. There's another one.' It was like we had stepped into another dimension."

She says that on the evening

of Nov. 6, 1975, a glowing, bell-shaped object hovered near the edge of her yard. It was about 6 feet long and had the word "local" written on it in lights, like an advertisement. Nothing appeared to be inside. "It had to be remote control," she says.

Mrs. Neilsen and her children watched the object but did not approach it. She now realizes it could have been trying to contact her. What the object tried to accomplish in her yard was not clear, but whoever sent it knows a great deal about the Earth and is very cautious when dealing with humans, she says.

"They've been around for years. They're probably watching to see if we're going to blow ourselves to pieces. Why not? It may sound funny. But they've been seen by too many people noted for having good sense."

Mrs. Neilsen says the next time she comes close to a UFO, she will attempt to approach it and communicate. "I'm going to go out and talk."

Mrs. Neilsen does not deny the possibility she might be someone UFOs have chosen to take into space. "I wish," she says. "I'd feel a whole lot safer up there in a UFO than down here with all the rape, robbery, corruption and politics."

"Yes, indeedy."



# Local man recalls Aurora investigation

By LES COCKRELL  
Managing Editor

*A farmer in a small Texas town on an April morning in 1897 is tending his livestock when he glances up and sees a cigar-shaped aircraft with a bright light in its nose flying overhead.*

*As the farmer watches in astonishment, the craft sails over the public square of the town, collides with a windmill and explodes, scattering debris across a wide area.*

*When citizens of the town reach the crash site, they find a small, mangled body amid the wreckage.*

*The citizens decide that the pilot is "not of this world," but give him a Christian burial anyway, clean up the debris and go on about their regular routines.*

If you think this scenario would make a good movie, don't run to a typewriter to finish the screenplay — New World Pictures has beaten you to the punch.

The company was scheduled to release the film "Aurora Encounter" Friday, after an extensive publicity blitz.

The title might have a familiar ring to it because the film concerns an incident which reportedly happened 90 years ago in Aurora, Texas, a small community on Texas 114 between Rhame and Boyd in Wise County. That's right, in 1897 — six years before the Wright Brothers flew at Kitty Hawk and some three years before Count Ferdinand von Zeppelin launched his powered air vehicles — citizens of Aurora reportedly saw some type of aircraft fly over their town, heard an explosion and found the remains of the craft and the badly-disfigured body of its pilot atop a hill on the north side of town.

First reports carried by Dallas and Fort Worth newspapers said the pilot was "not an inhabitant of this world," and as the story was told and retold, some people claimed that the pilot had been a Martian, flying a craft made from a strange and unknown metal.

In the years since, the story has been investigated by scientists, UFO experts and reporters, but the truth about what really happened on that long-ago April morning has never been determined.

One of those investigators, Grapevine resident Tommy Blann, said last week that his research has convinced him that something did explode in Aurora, but that there is not enough scientific proof to support the theory it was an extraterrestrial spacecraft.

Moreover, he feels that publicity surrounding the movie has sensationalized the story and could mislead people into thinking that it is based on actual fact.

"It is a mockery to the citizens of Aurora, Texas to say it is a true story," he said. "Such movies create apathy toward the subject of UFOs and prevent serious scientific research of the subject matter."

Blann has been investigating paranormal activities for 26 years. Born in Marlin, he served as a radio-intercept analyst in the U.S. Air Force after high school and attended Texas State Technical Institute, where he majored in chemical and nuclear systems technology.

He was later employed as a process technician in the Research and Development Lab at the CCD Division of Texas Instruments. The *UFO Encyclopedia* lists him as founder and Research Director of the Texas Scientific Center for UFO Studies, and Research Associate of the Center for UFO Studies. His resume also includes investigative positions with several other organizations.

He has appeared on numerous radio and television talk shows and

written national articles about UFO investigations and research in other areas, including animal mutilations and poltergeists.

Blann said he first became interested in Aurora in 1972 and spent several weeks conducting in-depth scientific investigations there with metal detectors and radiological equipment. At that time, he was Deputy Director for the International UFO Bureau, headquartered in Oklahoma City, Okla.

Blann has collected a file of news and feature articles about the case, some dating back to the early 1960s. The latest was published by *Southwest Airlines Magazine* in November 1982. Titled "Close Encounters of the 19th Century Kind," it was written by Hayden C. Hewer, a paranormal researcher, author and lecturer who was Director of the International UFO Bureau back in 1972.

Other writers who were attracted to the case included the late Frank X. Tolbert, who wrote columns about it for *The Dallas Morning News* and the late Bill Case, who was an aviation writer for *The Dallas Times Herald*.

In fact, Blann said, he and Case teamed up after the investigation began.

"We scanned the entire area," Blann said, "trying to find anything and everything we possibly could."

"After interviewing some of the people, it was apparent that they didn't want to discuss the subject. They didn't want publicity, that was evident."

The town's younger residents were especially hesitant to discuss the case, Blann said, although some of the older citizens were helpful. They interviewed one man in his 90s whose father had talked about seeing the object as it flew over, hearing the explosion and going to the crash site.

A woman in her 80s recalled her parents going to the crash site and seeing a "badly torn up body," and a 90-year-old man directed Case to the exact spot in the Aurora cemetery where the body was supposedly buried.

Blann said a stone marker on the grave contained remnants of a carving of a saucer-shaped object, and that Case's metal detector indicated there were traces of metal in the grave.

Oddly enough, the marker was stolen from the grave a few days later, Blann said, and when Case took members of the Midwest Unidentified Flying Object Network to the cemetery for additional tests with the detector, no traces of metal showed up. Three small holes had been bored into the ground around the grave, Blann said, leading the investigators to theorize that someone had used sophisticated equipment to remove any pieces of metal.

As the investigation intensified, so did media coverage. Newspapers and television reporters picked up on the story and began interviewing Aurora residents. Some claimed that the entire incident was a hoax, dreamed up to bring publicity to the town, but a few stuck to their guns, recounting what their parents had told them.

One resident said the story was obviously a hoax because initial accounts authored by S.E. Hayden, a cotton buyer and newspaper correspondent, stated that the aircraft had crashed into a windmill on a farm owned by Judge J.S. Proctor, when, in fact, there had never been a windmill on the property.

There had been a wooden windlass on the property, however, used to haul a pump out of a well, and Blann said investigators found numerous fragments of metal in and around the well, leading them

to believe that some sort of explosion had taken place nearby.

Blann said it appeared that some metal fragments had struck the windlass, carbonizing the wood. Some of the fragments, he said, indicated that molten metal had enveloped nails from the windlass tower. A few fragments were found as far as 220 feet from the well.

Investigators also consulted a bomb expert from the U.S. Army, Blann said, to plot a trajectory for a craft based on the orientation of fragments, and in the expert's opinion, the craft would have come from the south-southwest and exploded before reaching the windlass.

Blann said further evidence was found on a granite shelf 8 to 9 inches under the topsoil. The investigators found black marks on the granite, as if it had been burned in spots, although they found no indication of radiation.

"Many of the fragments were from underneath the soil and too well hidden to suggest a hoax. If it was a hoax, someone went to incredible lengths to plant evidence," he said.

Some residents who claimed the story was a hoax said it was concocted in an attempt to save the town from extinction, Blann said.

Founded in 1854, Aurora grew to be a major trade center with a population of around 3,000, making it the largest town in Wise County by 1880. However, after one railroad by-passed Aurora in 1889 and another abandoned its plans to build through the town in 1891, the town's luck began to change.

Several tragedies struck in quick succession. Boll weevils wiped out crops, fire destroyed a large portion of the business sector and an epidemic of "spotted fever" killed 20 residents, maimed hundreds and convinced hundreds more to leave. One doctor believed the epidemic was actually caused by cerebrospinal meningitis contracted from the water supply, but in any event, Aurora was never the same again.

Others supporters of the hoax theory believed the story was started by railroad telegraphers.

Between March 25 and May 6 of 1897, there were 36 reported sightings of cigar-shaped, brilliantly-lit airships in several states, including Kansas, Iowa, Nebraska, Missouri, Michigan, Oklahoma, Illinois, Indiana, South Dakota, Texas and Arkansas. The Aurora case was number 27 on the list.

Many of those sightings were allegedly made by church members and other reliable sources, and in some cases, people reportedly talked to the crew members of the airships.

Some people believed there were never any sightings, that fake reports were passed from telegrapher to telegrapher, each adding his own story, until the chain reached Aurora, where a newspaper man wanting to save the town turned it into a publicity stunt.

Blann, however, remains convinced that an explosion did occur, primarily because of the metal fragments, several samples of which were analyzed by experts in different parts of the country. Some were determined to be mostly iron, although one "puzzling" sample was not magnetic (a normal trait of iron) and one was determined to be almost 99 percent aluminum, a metal that was not unknown at the time, but probably foreign in Aurora.

He is also convinced because of the information offered by some of the town's residents.

"These were elderly people, most of them close to death," Blann said. "What reason would they have had to lie?"

"There's just something there, some gut feeling, that I can't escape."

Blann also remains certain, based on existing evidence, that no alien body was buried in the Aurora cemetery.

A "small" body could have been explained in other ways, he said, including the common practice of using small-framed men and even midgets in experimental aircraft. Exhumation of the grave may have yielded such evidence, but the publicity surrounding the 1972 investigation got so out of hand that the Aurora Cemetery Association made it clear that no exhumation request would ever be granted. Members of the association even stood guard over the grave at one point, according to published news reports.

Blann believes that a man-made aircraft could have exploded in Aurora, even though it was six years before the Wright Brothers' successful flight. There were many "backyard" inventors who may have developed such a craft, he said, and development of lighter-than-air craft was proceeding in Europe, and aluminum was one of the metals used in experiments there.

"The term UFO is not synonymous with extraterrestrial aircraft," Blann said, "Although most people associate UFOs with being from outer space."

"There were all types of things going on in 1896 and 1897. Just like today. If the average citizen saw one of the exotic, experimental aircraft being developed today, he would not be familiar with its aerodynamics and capabilities and might believe it was from outer space. People are conditioned by science fiction literature, movies and other types of quote, literature, to believe this."

"Movies like 'ET' are fine if put in the perspective that they are fiction, that they have nothing to do with reality, but we are conditioned otherwise. There's such a thing as literary license, but it can be taken too far."

The government is also part of the problem, Blann said, because certain information is commonly withheld from the public for reasons of national security.

"National security, everything is hidden behind national security," he said. "This is a problem, too. People have not been informed properly."

"I've seen the hoaxes, but I've also seen people's lives disrupted because they saw a condition they couldn't explain and the response produced tremendous emotion leading to shock. You can't discuss such things with everyone, so you have to suppress your feelings, and anytime you have to suppress your feelings, it can result in psychological problems."

He is motivated in his research by a desire to help such people, Blann said.

"If they want to come and cry on my shoulder, fine, I won't point my finger and say they're crazy. I think some of these people need to be heard."

"People also need to become more aware of what is going on around them, on all issues; the UFO issue is just one. A person who is aware is capable of doing something about a particular issue."

# 'Aurora' no close encounter of any kind

By STEVE SMITH  
Staff writer

**'A**URORA ENCOUNTER" looks like a film you or I might make if somebody bought us a couple of movie cameras and gave us enough money to hire marginal actors, except I hope you or I might do a bit better. It is reminiscent of the cheap science fiction movies of the 1950s where flying saucers looked like pie plates tossed through the air like Frisbees, except that in "Aurora Encounter," the flying saucer looks like a gray meat locker and sounds like a Hoover upright vacuum cleaner.

Still, there are several reasons you might want to see it:

■ The film marks the welcome return to show business of Dallas-Fort Worth area resident Spanky McFarland, child star of the "Our Gang" comedies. "By God, it is him," whispered one man in the theater when McFarland appeared in his brief role as the governor of Texas.

■ The movie was filmed at Big D Texas, a simulated old-west town near Wilmer. Waxahachie and Ennis also show up briefly.

## Tale of UFO crash stays alive in town

**I**T WAS APRIL 19, 1897, when S.E. Hayden, an Aurora cotton buyer and free-lance writer, filed this breathless account for Dallas newspapers:

"About 6 o'clock this morning, the early risers of Aurora were astonished at the sudden appearance of the airship which had been sailing throughout the country.

"It sailed directly over the public square and when it reached the north part of the town, collided with the tower of Judge Proctor's windmill and went to pieces with a terrific explosion, scattering debris over several acres of ground, wrecking the windmill and water tank and destroying the judges' flower bed.

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



Sue Beth (Mindy Smith) befriends an alien pilot (Mickey Hays) in "Aurora Encounter."

"T.J. Weems, the U.S. Signal Service Officer at this place and an authority on the astronomy gave it as his opinion that he [the pilot] was a native of Mars.

"Papers found on this person — evidently the records of his travels — are written in some unknown hieroglyphics, and cannot be deciphered. The ship was too badly wrecked to form conclusions as to the construction or motive powers."

The tale of the Aurora crash has managed to stay alive for nearly 89 years now, and became the basis of the movie, "Aurora Encounter." And though several investigations have taken place over the years, none has decisively proven the legend. Many investigators have suggested that the story is the product of the remarkably advanced imagination of writer S.E. Hayden; they note that the Signal Service officer and astronomy authority he referred to was really the local blacksmith, and that Judge Proctor never even had a windmill for a flying

saucer to crash into.

But Tom Bland, a resident of Grapevine and an instigator of a comprehensive 1973 investigation of the Aurora incident, isn't so easily convinced. "The evidence is all circumstantial," Bland says, "but I'm convinced something happened there." Bland, who was working with a group called the International UFO Bureau, says that although Judge Proctor had no windmill, he did have an apparatus above his well to raise and lower the bucket. And in and around that well, searchers found an unusually large amount of metal that appeared to have been melted by intense heat. Analysis of the metal was inconclusive, "but if it was a hoax, someone went to an awful lot of trouble to scatter that much metal around there."

Investigators also located a handful of elderly residents who claimed to have seen or been told of the crash. They also found a lot of residents who insisted the whole

■ Lots of local talent was used in making "Aurora Encounter," notably Drew Hunter, who has done work for the Wax Museum of the Southwest. Hunter provided some accurate and detailed sets for the movie's interior shots.

■ The plot is based on a supposed crash of a UFO in Aurora, Texas — that's in Wise County, just northwest of Fort Worth — reported in Dallas and Fort Worth newspapers in April 1897.

■ And finally, inspired casting that borders on exploitation has Mickey Hays as an alien from outer space. Mickey is the 13-year-old from Hallsville afflicted with progeria, the disease that ages its victims prematurely. Mickey made national headlines four years ago when he met Fransie Geringer of South Africa, also a progeria victim. Mickey is tiny, bald, frail; it's tragic that with only a little putty on his ears, he genuinely looks as if he's from another world. He is also a surprisingly good actor, though

it's hard to tell if the sympathy we feel is for him or his character, both of which we know are doomed to a premature death.

The plot of "Aurora Encounter" concerns the alien from outer space (Hays) who inexplicably shows up near Aurora. He and his meat locker spaceship are seen at first only by a widow (country singer Dottie West), a little girl (Mindy Smith) and the town drunk (Jack Elam, who is actually described in the production notes as "the town's cantankerous but likable rogue"). The town's schoolmarm (Carol Bagdasarian) has just inherited the local newspaper, and she sees the supposed sightings as a way to build circulation. She prints the story, much to the dismay of her boyfriend, the town sheriff (Peter Brown).

The alien gives the little girl a mysterious glass crystal that looks sort of like the drinking glasses that used to come in boxes of de-

tergent. The crystal twinkles a lot and has strange powers. Eventually the little girl and a couple of her friends are caught in a tunnel cave-in, and she uses the crystal to summon the alien, who rescues them. Later, they use the crystal again to bring the alien to downtown Aurora so the skeptics can be silenced. The alien arrives, only to be needlessly shot by a Texas Ranger. The wounded alien climbs back into his spaceship but smashes it into a windmill; he is subsequently given a Christian burial by the townspeople. Believe me when I tell you that all this makes more sense written down here than it does in the movie.

Poor lighting and sound are expected in such a minor production, but somebody should have read this script before making it into a movie. "Aurora Encounter," though sincere and well-intentioned, will be quickly and mercifully forgotten.

TIMES HERALD, Dallas, TX

March 13, 1986 CR: T. Adams

thing was a hoax. So many people attempted to locate the grave of the spaceman that the Aurora Cemetery Association, unnerved by investigators poking around the local graveyards, insisted on an end to the search.

The movie doesn't seem to have stirred up a whole lot of interest among Aurora's residents.

Sally Pegues, daughter-in-law of the late Etta Bearden Pegues who wrote a book on the incident, says she hasn't seen it, but that people in the area who have watched "Aurora Encounter" consider it laughable.

"They say it's a cute little story,

but it's just not true," Pegues said. "We hate it when the legend gets publicity because people chip off gravestones and dig around in the cemetery."

O.W. McCarty, who resigned as Aurora mayor this week after 11 years in the job, says, "People don't think too much for or against it. It's come up so many times it's not anything new to us."

UFO investigator Bland hasn't seen "Aurora Encounter," but he's read about it and watched the previews. He calls it "Hollywood sensationalism at its highest."

S.E. Hayden would be proud.

— Steve Smith and Toni Giovanetti

### Aurora Encounter

½★ (out of four) Rating: PG

The alien:	Mickey Hays
Charlie:	Jack Elam
Sheriff:	Peter Brown
Alain:	Carol Bagdasarian
Irene:	Dotty West
Governor:	Spanky McFarland

Director/producer: Jim McCullough Sr. Screenplay: Jim McCullough Jr.

**Minireview:** Locally produced fantasy based on the supposedly factual crash of a spaceship in Aurora, Texas, in 1897; what little charm the movie has mostly is attributable to Mickey Hays, the young progeria victim from Hallsville who plays the alien from outer space, and veteran scenery-chewer Jack Elam as the town drunk. Shoe-string budget and weak script give the film a distressing home-movie feel.





EVENING NEWS, Bolton, England - Jan. 6, 1986

# 'UFO chased us at 50mph,' say couple

By NEAL KEELING

THE mystery of the Bolton UFO has taken on new twist with reports of two more sightings.

In one incident, a couple in a car claimed the object followed them at speeds of up to 50 m.p.h.

As revealed in the Evening News the terrified owner of a remote farm at Edgworth claims that he and his family were held under virtual siege for three hours by the object.

The strange white glow appeared low in the sky and seemed to get as close as 300 yards.

Britain's top UFO research expert, Jenny Randles, suggested at the weekend that the object could have been the planet Venus.

But now a Halliwell couple and two Farnworth teenagers have reported seeing UFO's.

And today, UFO expert Steve Balon of Leigh, who has quizzed seven witnesses who saw the object at the farm, slammed the 'Venus' explanation as 'rubbish'.

"Myself and another expert interviewed the family and their friends at length. We definitely think they saw something which cannot be explained."

"The object is totally unknown. It is not meteoric. To say it is astronomical is absolute rubbish. We gave the family a severe grilling and they all stuck to their story."

"It was travelling too fast to be anything like a star. I respect Jenny's work but this time I think she is barking up the wrong tree," said Steve.

The Halliwell couple telephoned the Evening News to say they saw the same white glowing object that loomed near the farm.

The couple spotted it while driving near Belmont. The man who does not wish to be named, said: "It was very clear and about 500 feet up. It was like a ball but fuzzy around the edges. It seemed to be over Egerton."

"It followed us down Darwen Road travelling at about 50mph. Then it went slow, started to hover, and went down by Delph Reservoir. It was like a helicopter in its movements but the light was far too big."

The two Farnworth teenagers who saw a strange object were Christopher Scott, aged 17, of Highfield Road and his friend Craig Horrocks, aged 14.

They saw two orange and gold coloured round objects appear to land in a field near Marsh Lane, Farnworth.

As they approached to investigate the objects shot away into the night sky.

Local astronomy lecturer, Mr William Cartwright, entered the controversy today.

Mr Cartwright who teaches at a Bolton college believes the Edgworth 'glow' was probably Jupiter.

CR: T. Good

EVENING POST, Reading, England - Jan. 11, 1986 CR: T. Good



## Checking out close encounters of an alien kind

By CHRIS EARY

A READING man claims to have had a close encounter of the third kind — meeting an alien, according to Berkshire UFO researcher Stephen Chetwynd.

Stephen, from Old Windsor, has investigated two close encounters, one in Reading and one in Bracknell.

British UFO Research Association member Stephen said: "The witness had been out walking in a park when he was approached by beings and taken to a ship, given an examination and the next minute was back in the park, having lost two hours."

The witness later saw images in his room at night, and felt that a "higher intelligence" was trying to make contact.

### Mystery

Although many would scoff, Stephen keeps an open mind on the subject. "I didn't feel the witness was lying to me. They felt they had seen something, whether it was a hallucination or something external to them I can't say," he said.

He has been investigating UFO sightings for almost ten years, and says that although 95 to 97 per cent of

sightings can be explained, there are still several incidents that remain a mystery.

"Actual evidence of alien visitation is very difficult to see," he said. "I don't think there's any definite evidence that we have been visited."

"We could speculate about what people see. People are seeing strange and inexplicable things in the sky, but it's hard to prove what they are."

Lights in the sky are not a lot of use he says, because they are so intangible and hard to draw any conclusions from.

He believes the worlds of UFO's and psychic phenomena overlap, and is interested in the state of mind that may produce feelings like a close encounter experience.

"We tend to be left with 5-10 per cent of incidents which we find very difficult to explain under normal circumstances or in a normal way," he said.

Next time you are in Palmer Park, keep your eyes open, just in case.

■ Watch out for those close encounters when you take a walk across Palmer Park.



■ Stephen Chetwynd — UFO researcher.

MAIL, Hartlepool, England - Jan. 9, 1986 CR: T. Good

## Family in U.F.O. mystery

RETIRED Hartlepool newsagent Jack Kramer (left) could not believe his eyes when he glanced out of his window of his Hart Lane home.

For he saw what he thinks was an unidentified Flying Object sinking to the ground.

But Mr Kramer who used to own a newsagent's shop in

Murray Street, was not the only person to witness the strange phenomena — the lights were also seen by his wife Joyce, daughter-in-law Karen and grandson Paul.

"I just happened to look out of the window and saw this peculiar arrangement of lights sinking down towards

the ground, somewhere over the Grayfields area," he said.

"There were four of us in the house at the time and we all saw it."

Mr Kramer said the U.F.O., which was made up of a circle of white lights, disappeared from sight despite his efforts to keep it in view.

"Where it went to and what it was I don't know, but there is no way we imagined it," added Mr Kramer.

The family had their close encounter at about 4.30 p.m. on Saturday.

A spokesman for Hartlepool police said he had not heard of any similar sightings for that time.



SUNDAY MAIL, Glasgow, Scotland - Jan. 12, 1986 CR: T. Good

# SERGEANT JIM SEES UFO IN THE NIGHT SKY

A POLICE sergeant with 19 years in the force has reported seeing a UFO.

Sergeant Jimmy Begg was on patrol in Armadale, West Lothian, when he saw "a red-orange coloured object" falling from the sky.

The experience has left Sergeant Begg so baffled that he has made an official police record of the sighting.

He was in his patrol car with Constable Tommy Murphy last Monday night about 8.50 p.m. when he saw the UFO.



Sergeant Begg

He said: "I glanced up at the sky and I saw a red-orange coloured object."

"It looked like a luminous flying clothes pole. It didn't burn out. It continued to glow and

### MAIL REPORTER

then disappeared behind a housing estate."

The two officers searched the Avondale Drive area of Armadale without success.

And a check later with air traffic control at Edinburgh Airport showed there was NO aircraft in the area at the time.

Last night, Sky At Night presenter Patrick Moore told the Mail: "It could have been a shooting star or a weather balloon or even satellite debris. If it was the latter it would burn up in the atmosphere."

# 'Telling it like it is: UFOs are real

ourselves as earthlings, not as Canadians or English or Israelis," he predicted.

"There is no government on this planet that wants its citizens to hold their allegiance to the planet instead of that individual government."

Friedman believes this earthling mentality could be the key to the earth's survival.

"The easiest way to do that is to recognize that somebody's coming here. It changes your perspective."

## Physicist claims gov'ts covering up evidence

wreckage was a weather balloon. Why the coverup?

Apart from the nationalistic urge to lay claim to saucer technology, Friedman believes the big reason is political.

"There would be an immediate push on the part of the younger generation, which was never alive when there wasn't a space program, for a whole new view of

He has concluded that some governments and their militaries are withholding documents dealing with flying saucers.

"The scope of government involvement is very much larger than people have been led to believe," he said.

He thinks the coverup began when the U.S. army recovered a crashed alien saucer outside Roswell, N.M., in July 1947, admitted it, then later maintained the

traterrestrial arguments before the United Nations and the U.S. Congress. He has appeared on hundreds of TV and radio talk shows and lectured at more than 500 colleges and universities across the United States and Canada.

After pouring over thousands of previously classified documents, delving into about 2,400 UFO landing reports and hundreds of abduction claims, Friedman is convinced some UFOs are real.

and originate in other solar systems.

"I'm not a closet ufologist," said Friedman, a former classmate of American astronomer Carl Sagan.

"I'm not an apologist ufologist. I tell it like it is."

Friedman, who has a master's degree in physics from the University of Chicago and 14 years experience in the development of a variety of advanced nuclear and space systems, has laid his ex-

EDMONTON (CP) — Physicist Stanton Friedman sees eyebrows rise every time he claims governments are covering up evidence this planet is being visited by extraterrestrial spacecraft.

"This is not Kooksville," Friedman, 51, said before giving a recent lecture at the University of Alberta. After 27 years of study and investigation, the Frederickton resident has concluded that some UFOs are intelligently controlled

EVENING TELEGRAPH, Peterborough, England - Jan. 31, 1986 CR: T. Good

## Is this the solution to UFO mystery?

A CITY groundsmen claims to have solved the mystery of a unidentified flying object — sighted in Peterborough last week.

The UFO was spotted by Joan Penman (45) at 7.25 am last Friday. The Peterborough woman said she saw two bright lights in the

sky above Bourges Boulevard.

This mystery encounter was featured in the Evening Telegraph and now Frank Allen, groundsmen at the Embankment running track, has come forward to shed some light on the strange affair.

Mr Allen (61) of the Fen-gate Caravan site, Peter-

borough, was at the running track early on Friday morning.

He said: "The object was definitely an aeroplane I saw the shape of it. Sometimes when something comes down out of the dawn light it is difficult to see clearly, this is probably what caused the problem."

"I would think the plane

was from RAF Wittering," he said.

However Mrs Penman, of 10 Viney Close, is adamant her UFO was not a plane and her view is supported by home help Joan Crozier.

Mrs Crozier, of Stumpacre, Bretton, believed she saw a mysterious object — possibly the UFO Mrs

Penman claims she saw.

Mrs Crozier saw a round object with a pointed nose and two brilliant bright lights flash across in front of her at an incredible speed as she drove near the crematorium at Marholm at about 11 am on Friday.

"I could not believe my eyes, this white object

flashed across in front of me, it was only just above tree level," she said.

"I was bracing myself for an impact and it just disappeared."

Her immediate reaction was that she had seen an aircraft from RAF Wittering but the object was travelling at high speed and not making a sound.

# Flashing lights spark UFO call

HAS anyone seen a UFO? That's the question a Peterborough woman is asking after a mysterious dawn encounter.

Joan Penman (45) was driving along Bourges Boulevard when she spotted a strange object.

She said: "I saw these two bright white lights in the sky. At first I thought it was an aeroplane but then I realised planes don't usually have two flashing lights. "It was a beautiful clear sky and I am sure the object was not moving," said Mrs Penman.

The city woman was on her way to pick up husband Andrew from work when she saw the mystery object at 7.25 on Friday morning. And after collecting Andrew from his night shift she went back to the scene of the sighting.

Mrs Penman, of 10 Viney Close, Peterborough, said: "It was gone when I got back but I am sure there was something there."

But the 45-year-old — a chef at the Elephant and Castle pub — could not forget the incident and contacted the Evening Telegraph to put out a public appeal.

"I think it may have been a UFO and if anyone else saw it would they please get in contact with me," she said.



Joan Penman, who spotted the mysterious bright light in the sky over Peterborough. (Photo: T8965/35).

COURIER & ADVERTISER, Dundee, Scotland

Feb. 5, 1986 CR: T. Good

## U.F.O.s over Kirkton High?

A Dundee woman and her husband were fascinated by what seemed to be two U.F.O.s communicating with each other high above the city late last night.

The woman said she and her husband had seen two objects hovering high above Kirkton High School displaying red and white flashing lights and transmitting light beams.

A police spokesman said there had been no sightings by police but a spokesman for air traffic control at R.A.F. Leuchars said two aircraft were out at the time.

EVENING POST, Yorkshire, England - Jan. 22, 1986

## UFO men seek cash landing

An application by the Yorkshire UFO Society for a grant from Leeds City Council has been turned down — but they are still hopeful of help from the EEC.

The society hoped to get about £100 from the council's Leisure Services Department towards the cost of its annual conference in Leeds.

Mr. Mark Birdsall, the society's co-ordinator of research, said: "It was a one-off application to cover the cost of hiring a room, speakers' expenses and other costs, as we are a non-profit making organisation."

"The conference is one of the biggest of its kind in

the country, attracting about 200 people, so we thought the council might have given us some support."

The event will still go ahead as planned on March 22, at Centenary House, North Street, Leeds.

It will feature slides and films, and among the guest speakers will be leading UFO expert Mr. Timothy Good.

Members of the public are welcome at the conference, which starts at 1 p.m. Entrance costs £1.50 for adults and £1 for pensioners and under-16s. Doors open at 12 noon.

MORNING HERALD, Sydney, N.S.W., Australia - Jan. 31, 1986 CR: UFOCCI

## UFO over Orange to be investigated

The UFO Society will investigate the sighting of an unidentified flying object by four people from Orange on Wednesday night.

The Central West representative of the society, Mr Terry Bishop, will interview Mr Robert Wran, his sister Joann, Ms Sharon Kelly and Mr Jeff Eyles about the sighting.

The four said they saw the object above the paddock across the road from Mr Wran's Phillip Street home.

Mr Wran said he had heard the horses in the paddock making strange noises at about 11.30 pm on Wednesday.

"There was a shining oval object, about the size of a car, about 70 metres above the paddock."

"It's underside had a large bright red revolving light surrounded by many fixed red lights."

Mr Wran went back to his house to tell the other three, who came out and saw the UFO.

He said the object had hovered for about 30 seconds, went south at high speed, zigzagged above the city and moved east for about three kilometres before disappearing.

Mr Wran contacted Orange police, but a patrol failed to find any trace. Senior Constable David Newham said the stories of all four people matched.

Police said there had been no aircraft in or out of Orange Airport during that evening.

SUN, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia - Jan. 31, 1986

## UFO sighting sparks police search

SYDNEY, AAP — Flattened tall grass was found yesterday where a UFO seen over the central western NSW city of Orange was thought to have landed.

Police said Wednesday's sighting was legitimate but neither the Defence nor the Civil Aviation Departments was taking it seriously.

Orange resident Robert Wren reported the UFO to police at 11.30 pm on Wednesday.

When he went to the area yesterday where he said he saw the object land, he found flattened grass.

"It was all real," said Mr Wren, 22.

He said the grass was flattened over an area two metres wide and four metres long.

Sen-Constable David Newham said Mr Wren reported seeing an oval object the size of a car hovering about 50 metres above a paddock opposite his house.

Its underside had a bright red revolving light,

surrounded by about 20 fixed red lights.

Constable Newham said Mr Wren went to investigate when horses kept in the paddock became unusually restless.

Mr Wren returned to his house to tell three other people about the sighting, and they, too, reported seeing the UFO.

"The object moved off in a southerly direction at fast speed, stopped, hovered for a while and then sped off again," Constable Newham said.

"It travelled about 3 km to the eastern side of the town before disappearing."

Mr Wren rang the local TV station after the sighting. The station's report said he and his friends were hysterical and had to be calmed down.

An immediate police patrol failed to find any trace of the UFO.

Mr Newham said police had questioned the four and their stories matched.

"They did not seem to be affected by drugs or alcohol," he said.

CR: P. Norman

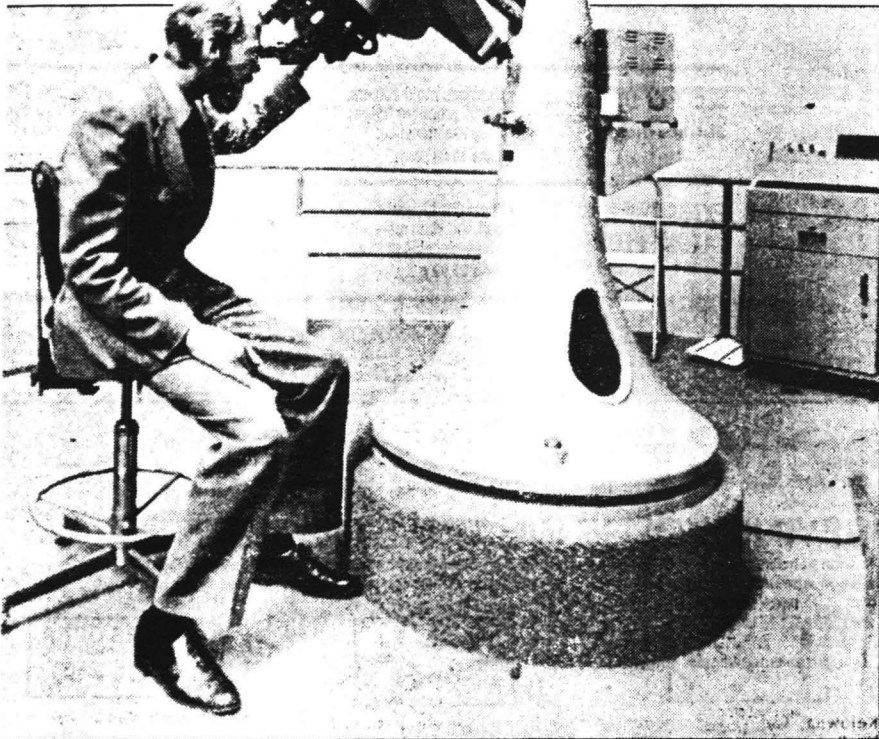


# IN SEARCH OF UFOs

## Look up!

Vancouver Planetarium director David Hurd searches deep space through telescope, but he admits his belief in UFOs is based on faith, not on scientific proof.

Staff photo



By GREG McINTYRE  
Staff Reporter

Bob Stephens is calling E.T., but he needs \$100 million to get an answer.

With that sort of spare change, the independent space researcher says he could "almost guarantee" a hello.

For the past few months, the 31-year-old electronics technician has been camped at Hay River, N.W.T., with two giant radio-telescopes.

Stephens, who attended Magee and Churchill high schools in Vancouver, collects "miles of chart paper" produced by instruments attached to the dish-shaped antennae.

But he doesn't have the \$15,000 computer that would speed his analysis of the daily data.

"If I had \$100 million in funding, I think I could almost guarantee a detection," he says.

"I would have to do a lot of the same kind of scrounging that I'm doing now — building things for virtually pennies on the dollar — to produce the final telescope that might make that detection."

There are millions of stars, so Stephens believes there must be other planets out there like Earth.

For 30 years scientists have tried to guess what form a signal from such a source might take, he said, and "we're looking for something that has evolved intelligence and a technology."

"We have to guess what's the best kind of signal to send, and then hope that the aliens have done the same homework and that they're sending us exactly that."

In the United States, Harvard University and the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) receive federal funds for the Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence (SETI).

Chicago astronomer Allen Hynek makes a living writing and lecturing on life in space.

Hynek has examined data about unidentified flying objects (UFOs) for the U.S. Air Force. He operates the Centre for UFO Studies in Arizona and edits a bimonthly magazine called the International UFO Reporter.

But Ottawa thinks there are better ways to spend research money.

University of B.C. space expert David Vogt says research into life on other planets is just guesswork.

Scientists have a formula for predicting the likelihood of intelligent life beyond Earth, but because so little is known about the other planets "it has no foundation in science whatsoever," said the astronomy professor.

As a result, Stephens has had personally to raise every penny for his own work.

"I've liquidated all my savings. I've borrowed heavily from family and friends. I've probably put up \$30,000 to \$40,000 in actual dollars," he said.

Once the first detection is made, "you can bet departments will spring up all over the place to work feverishly on the problem."

He has a supporter in the director of the Vancouver Planetarium. "I'm a believer in life in the universe," David Hurd admits.

In 10 years, 38-year-old Hurd has fielded about 2,000 UFO reports at the planetarium.

"All but one had some logical explanation," he said. "But that one was a true mystery."

"UFOs exist, but primarily my belief is faith. Not one report has yielded proof on scientific examination."

The planetarium plans a show on the subject this summer, called The Alien Equation.

Stephens, who tried to build his first radio-telescope "out of chicken wire and two-by-fours" while in Grade 6 at Maple Grove elementary school, will be invited to speak.

GRIMSBY EVENING TELEGRAPH, South  
Humberside, England - Feb. 5, 1986

## The UFO Season is here

IF YOU have a close encounter of a strange kind in the South Humberside or North Lincolnshire area then pick up a phone and call Mr. Les Sallis immediately.

Because Mr. Sallis, of Bransholme, Hull, is the prospective investigator for the British UFO Research Association and the Association for the Scientific Study of Anomalous Phenomena.

He is available any time of the day and night on Hull 826080 and would be delighted to hear from you.

Mr. Sallis's area on this side of the Humber covers a rough triangle between Barton, Lincoln and Cleethorpe.

But he will not be an "accredited investigator" for BUFORA until he has investigated and presented a case and passed it to the supervisors of the association.

**Activity**  
At the moment he is trying to compile a file of the psychic history of the area.

And he is hoping to see some activity on this side of the Humber, as North Humberside and Yorkshire are a bit on the quiet side, he says.

There are definite wind-downs in various parts of the country — Warminster in Wiltshire for example — where UFO's appear much more frequently.

All sorts of theories have been put forward to explain this or it may just be that the people of the area are particularly prone to visitations or are naturally psychic.

Mr. Sallis said UFO's often appeared where ley lines, the ancient lines of power which supposedly



Mr. Sallis —  
waiting for your call.  
criss-cross the country,  
converging points are  
often sites of ancient activity. Stonehenge for example.

**Starship**  
As a former civil servant in the Ministry of Defence, Mr. Sallis said, "I am a sceptic — that's definitely the best way to go about it."

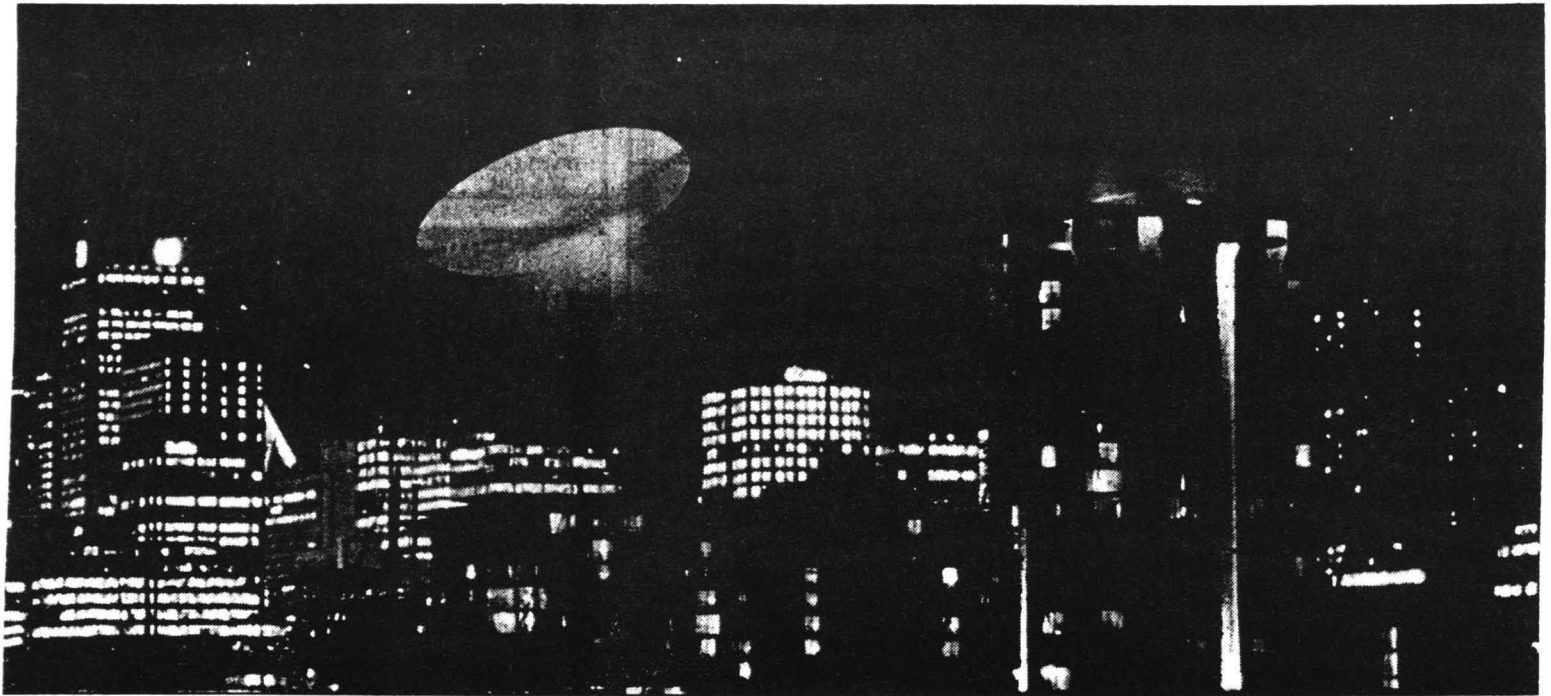
"Four per cent of the things I have come across I am still not convinced about."

One incident, which proved the basis for a book by BUFORA, Starship — was the possible landing of a starship in Redlesham Forest in Lincolnshire which has still not been solved.

The most recent local incident was at Winthorpe, near Skegness in December 1982, when a senior coastguard among others spotted what appeared to be a lit-up triangular craft which hovered over the resort for several minutes.

"Sighting of UFO's seem to come in cycles," said Mr. Sallis and by all the evidence 1986 promises to be a good year.

CR: T. Good



## 'A flying fireball'

By GREG MCINTYRE  
Staff Reporter

She was blinded by the light. It looked like a fireball the size of a house, Rosa Waldner says of her life's strangest encounter.

The event occurred at about 6:45 p.m. on Halloween night, 1974, as Rosa and her husband, John, were driving on King George Highway in Surrey, toward New Westminster.

The glowing UFO hovered and darted around their car in eerie silence, only 15 metres (50 feet) above the ground at one point.

"At first it was a bluish, sparkling light, like a giant star," said the Burnaby grandmother.

"As it got closer, it changed to the intensity of a blow torch. It hurt your eyes to look at it.

"Then suddenly it was an orange color of fire, like a glowing coal, like a flying fireball."

The retired nurse turned to John and asked if he was seeing what she was.

He was, John Waldner — "a hardened skeptic if ever there was one" — was shocked, too.

"It has a horrible effect on you," said the Austrian-born Rosa. "You are shocked, you are stunned."

"For two or three days, I was all the time with it. I would say, 'John, you saw it, too?' He said, 'Yes, I saw it.'"

The object had a red cloud of light under it and was circled by a necklace of lights.

It came within about 90 metres (100 yards) of the car, pulsing and glowing in rainbow colors, Rosa said.

"It zigzagged very fast. At King George Highway and 88th there's a wide intersection. There was a group of kids, five, six or seven, throwing firecrackers and playing with flares and sparklers."

The UFO "hovered for about five seconds, as though to take a look at them. I'm sure about that. They didn't even see the bloody thing, they were so busy running around."

After five or 10 minutes, the fireball flew south along the powerline toward the U.S.

Arriving home, Rosa phoned Surrey RCMP. But no one else had reported a sighting.

Friends and neighbors believe their story, John says. "But they always ask, 'Are you sure what you saw?'

"I say I know what I saw."



Staff photo

Rosa Waldner says this artwork shows the UFO she saw.



JOHN TANNER  
first 'zapped' in 1956

## ENCOUNTERS OF THE B.C. KIND

John Tanner was zapped by his first UFO at Okanagan Lake when he was 13.

In later years, he had two more sightings.

"Two for sure, and the other more iffy," said the 42-year-old radio broadcaster.

At first, the Vancouver space buff ran to tell everyone.

"I used to go around crusading," he said. "I'm more laid back about it now. I may believe in God but I'm not going to go around shouting about it."

Tanner was on a paddleboard in Okanagan Lake one hot sunny

August afternoon in 1956 when an aluminum-colored disc appeared between two mountain peaks a few kilometres down the lake.

"It was hovering there for two or three minutes," he said.

"It was slightly tilted and shiny silver but not glowing or anything."

"I turned to shout to my friends but they were too far away to hear. When I turned back it was gone."

His friends later confirmed they'd seen it, too. And Tanner thinks the flying saucer may have dived into the lake.

In April, 1964, while still in Kelowna, Tanner had encounter No. 2.

He saw three saucers, "the size of your thumbnail held at arm's length," in V-formation in a starry sky. The three lights zoomed straight up and disappeared in the clouds.

The last sighting came nine years ago, in Vancouver.

On a dark night, Tanner said he saw a bright light heading out over the ocean near Vancouver International Airport.

"The light blinked off. A minute later, a searchlight picked it up and I could see the form and the outline as a searchlight lit it.

"It turned its light on again and took off, psst, very fast."

Tanner's sightings are all encounters of the first kind.

He knows several local ufologists. But none, he says, has had encounters of the second kind — being affected by what they saw; or the third kind — being in contact with an alien.

A spokesman at a UFO information centre in Toronto said there hasn't been a good sighting in Canada in more than two years.

GAZETTE, Katoomba, N.S.W., Australia - Jan. 2, 1986 CR: UFOCCI

### Unusual sighting

In the early hours of Thursday morning, January 2, Mr Jim Cary believes he saw one of Nature's most unusual phenomena — an electromagnetic distortion of areas around Mt Boyce and Mt Piddington.

Bewildered and shaken, Mr Cary related his experience to the Gazette.

Over recent weeks, Mr Cary said he had been having trouble sleeping. On the particular night he decided to take his dog for a walk around 3.15 in the morning.

Mr Cary, who lives at Mt Victoria, said he looked east into the night sky where he saw flickering sheets of red light streaking across the sky.

"It kept going for a quarter-of-an hour. At first I thought it was a cloud, but then it started to glow."

"There was a high section in the middle. It looked like a mountain, but had no real symmetrical form."

"It looked like a low cloud or flat hill."

Mr Cary said he watched the object for about two hours.

"There were a couple of sections that looked like huge silver pillars, that gave out intense white light."

While it was still dark, Mr Cary raced back to his house and woke an 80-year-old boarder to show her the mysterious phenomenon.

Mr Cary said he was sure he wasn't dreaming when the woman said she also saw the object in the night sky.

He had thought about waking other people he had staying with him to show them but thought better of it, due to the early hour.

In recent days there have been further reports of similar sightings from people on that night. Some people believe it may even have been an Unidentified Flying Object.

Mr Cary said the top section of the object intermittently shot out arches of red electrical energy in the shape of hooks.

"As it became lighter and lighter, the whole white section became molten hot and flared up."

He said he had rushed back inside his house to call a woman friend about the phenomenon and to get her to come out and have a look. When he went back outside with a pair of binoculars it had gone.

All that was left was a vapour trail where the object had been hovering half-a-mile above the ground towards Mt Boyce and Mt Piddington.

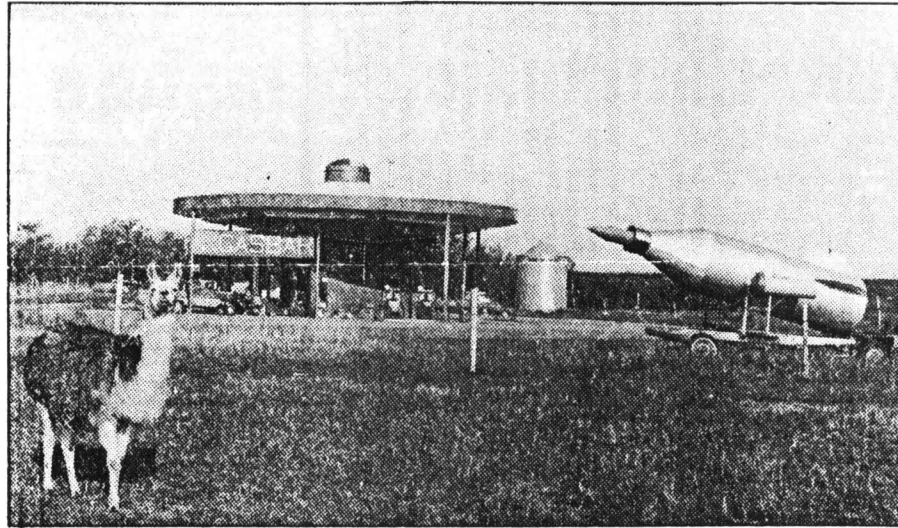
"I was awestruck that night. It was like watching a section of mountain being X-rayed."

"I've never seen anything like it. It left me dumbfounded."

Mr Cary said he later called the local police, a number of radio stations and the Department of Aviation in an attempt to find some explanation.

He said he would like to hear from anyone else who might have seen the phenomenon.





Gas bar in Lloydminster, Sask. (left); Charlie LaBranche's rocket in South Bolton, Que.

Some of the groups believe 'Jesus Christ is the commander of a fleet of spaceships'

# Close encounters with the saucer sects

BY SALEM ALATON  
The Globe and Mail

**IT** WAS A dream that aroused photographer Doug Curran from sleep one night, and in it he imagined the title of a book.

After seven years of driving around the United States and Canada with his camera, he was ready to write that book.

In *Advance of the Landing: Folk Concepts of Outer Space* sounds like an anthropological essay, but that isn't what Curran came up with. And for all the photo accounts of folk who build rocket-idols in rural California or UFO landing pads in Texas, the Abbeville Press book is not a pop culture survey of cranks, misfits and eccentrics.

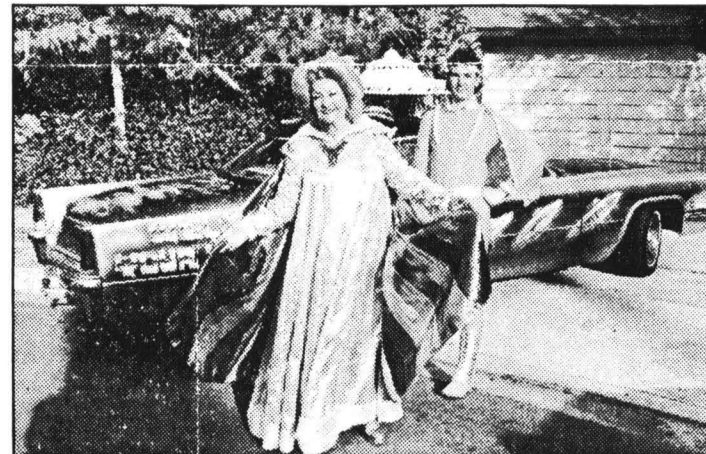
Instead, it is a respectful memoir of a series of close encounters Curran had with people for whom a flying saucer is "God wrapped in stainless steel."

A roadside in rural Quebec pointed Curran to the work that would fill in that dream title; a man named Charlie LaBranche had a big model of a rocket mounted on metal poles outside his general store, and to Curran it looked like "a totem attempting to leap away from the gravity of the earth."

Travelling when he could for one- to three-month bouts in his Renault 16, Curran financed the search that followed with carpentry work in Toronto, commercial photography assignments in Edmonton



Doug Curran (left); Ruth Norman is the head of the Unarius Educational Foundation in El Cajon, Calif.



(where he now lives), and selling postcards of his pictures of the LaBranche rocket and other spacey "folk concepts" he was brushing up against. He met the woman who would become his wife during a stopover in Albuquerque, N.M.

Asking questions at gas stations, cafes and local newspaper offices by day, sleeping in his car at night, Curran clocked more than 35,000 kilometres in the first trip alone, making an intense survey of back

roads in states like New Mexico, Arizona, Texas and California. In the "incredible country" that is the United States, he eventually found a network of saucer lovers.

"There's an incredible texture to life in the U.S. that goes beyond TV watching and four-wheel driving," Curran says. "Hindus know where they're going because they know where they've been. Americans have no idea. They're in a continual state of becoming."

and in Bellaire, Mich., he visited the elaborate electronic station that a young man named John Shepherd had built in his granny's home to keep 24-hour surveillance of extra-terrestrial visitations.

"I could talk about spirit with them, and I didn't mean the Holy Ghost," Curran, 33, says. "I could listen to them talk about spirit and not have to find the same meaning of it they did."

On the road again, Curran now goes through the sometimes dispiriting rigors of a publicity tour for his book. Ever wary of the journalist seeking "the 30-second hook," Curran has a secret he knows will drain away his media sex appeal. He couldn't care less about UFOs. If pressed, he will say that alien visitations are "possible but not likely." The insurmountable problem for Curran on this tour is to explain in 30 seconds that UFOs are beside the point.

The beliefs of the UFO devotees, Curran writes in his introduction, "reaffirmed the essential fact of human existence: the need for order and hope."

The history of UFO sightings has a couple of remarkable concentrations. In 1896-97, Curran notes, there were thousands of individual sightings over 20 U.S. states in what came to be known as The Great Airship Mystery. In the forties and fifties, sightings again proliferated, this time with tales of contacts with aliens. In one case, an alien called Earth "the home of sorrows," and it isn't hard to understand where that extra-terrestrial was coming from.

"If it (the phenomenon of UFO sightings) is because of an actual occurrence, it's wonderful," Curran says. "And if it's because of a mass hallucination, it's also wonderful."

In spiritual terms, apparently, the two possibilities add up to the same thing, the flying saucer representing what psychologist Carl Jung said was in other cultures a sun wheel or magic circle, or, in Curran's paraphrasing, "an archetype of order, wholeness, deliverance and salvation."

Among the saucer sects, Curran found a couple of other common denominators. "Jesus Christ as a figure exists for all the flying saucer groups. God as a figure does not, but the idea of a Universal Mind is common. For some, Jesus Christ is the commander of a fleet of spaceships. Christianity has always been the most adaptable of all the religions. For these people, what you need, you take and use, what you don't need you leave off."

As important is the general love-hate relation with technology. Fear of the atomic bomb is "overriding and pervasive" among the cultists, and reported alien messages often reprimand Earthlings for their irresponsible attitudes. But the saucers, gods so symbolic of the age, "are seen as rooted in nature," says Curran, who saw many a tin, welded rocket in some beautiful patch of backwoods wilderness "It is nature and technology all at once."

Not everyone in the book is likeable, and Curran's text is written in the kind of "impartial" journalistic idiom that leaves it clear he is at times describing charlatans, anti-social types and people otherwise on the fringes. Curran grew up as something of an outsider himself, his father an air force careerist who moved the family to a number of Quebec and Ontario towns before settling in "Loyalist, smug and oppressive" Belleville, Ont.

But an air of sympathetic understanding wafts through even the inevitably ironic accounts of determined sky-looking pagans (who generally lack a sense of irony themselves). "I genuinely care about them," Curran says, "which is different than saying that I want them as my friends."

He has been praised as a "way-shower" by one of the groups, and during his research he made friends with journalist Tom Wolfe, who received a Curran postcard from a friend and eventually wrote a supportive foreword to *In Advance of the Landing*.

Now Curran is getting ready for a book on tent revivalists in the southern United States. He's a little nervous about it.

"The evangelists are not as Christian as the UFO people," Curran says, meaning the evangelists "are not so generous in letting you be the way you are." Curran has already bumped into a man who "heard the call of the Lord," sold his business in Massachusetts and now tours with his wife, two children and circus-size tent in a tow-truck. In small towns they post handbills that read: *Revival Tonight*.

Curran will do less road work this time, he says, noting that he was 25 when he first started the UFO book. "I can't stand all those miles of Burger King strips through the U.S. again," he says.

# The man who records strange sightings

IT isn't only wine that has vintage years. Unidentified Flying Objects also seem to have their years of plenty.

For example, 1985, according to the experts, was not blessed with many sightings, but already 1986 has begun well, and the auspices are good.

"It does seem to go in a pattern, with one good sighting often being the forerunner of a series of visitations," says a man who should know — Mr. Frank Marshall, of Shrubbery Lane, Wyke Regis.

Mr. Marshall has been investigating reports of UFOs for over 26 years for the British Unidentified Flying Object Research Association, BUFORA.

He is a pleasant, unassuming man who absolutely bursts with enthusiasm for his chosen interest.

## CLIPPINGS

"It began when the old Sunday Dispatch carried a story on 'flying saucers' seen in the USA, in the early 1950s. It seemed so unusual that I started collecting clippings from newspapers and magazines on the subject," he said.

And like Topsy, his collection just grew and grew.

Scrap book after scrap book became filled with the cuttings that ranged from the bizarre to the ridiculous to the believable to the merely puzzling.

"It is unusual because it is global," Mr. Marshall said. "In those days, don't forget, aircraft had speeds of around 500 miles an hour.

"These UFOs were speeding around at an estimated 1,000 to 1,500 miles an hour with colour changes that seemed to be associated with changes of direction and speed."

## POSSIBLES

Like a sailor who has never been to sea, Mr. Marshall has never seen a UFO himself. "Well, not for certain.



Frank Marshall with some of his newspaper cuttings. Picture: Dorset News.

though there have been a couple of possibilities," he added ruefully.

"If I did have a real encounter, I don't think I would approach willingly. I would have to be kidnapped. I am not at all sure of my reactions."

Mr. Marshall's hesitation stems from his belief that contact with UFOs or extra-terrestrials could be harmful to the health of humans.

"And we are not at all sure everyone is friendly," he said, referring to the "hundreds of disappearances of people from this country alone over the years."

"I look at it this way. Of all the claims of UFO sightings, many are easily explained. There are car headlight reflections, aircraft lights, natural weather phenomena, gas balloons and so on. Easily distorted in the imagination into something else, but often easily put in perspective."

## SIGHTINGS

"Nevertheless, between six and ten per

cent. of sightings cannot logically be explained, and if you think in terms of six to ten mystery objects in every 100, that adds up to quite a big figure."

Events built up over the years until in the 1960s there were local sightings in Dorset.

"There are parts of the county that seem to be visited more than others, and the area around Rampisham and Eggardon Hill has become well-known for mysterious happenings," he said.

"The ignition and even lights of cars sometimes cut out there for no apparent reason. Near Beaminster a few years ago, three cars were unable to restart their engines for about half-an-hour after they all cut out together.

"There are a lot of 'nutters' around who see all sorts of things, but plenty of intelligent genuine people who see something really want an explanation.

"But when they approach the Ministry of Defence they are told they saw the moon, or Venus or a weather balloon. They know they didn't, and are not satisfied.

## DRAWINGS

"Unfortunately, the official explanation is often more ridiculous than the things they have seen. It would be much better if they were told honestly that the Ministry did not know the explanation."

Mr. Marshall fears many people never come forward about sightings for fear of ridicule. "But there surely must be a basis of fact for stories that are told in the Bible, inexplicable cave drawings showing what look like spacemen and spacecraft, and even a record in Latin from 1220 of a silver disc flying over an abbey in Yorkshire," he said.

His records, which he now puts on tape, too, tell of sightings by hundreds of people from all walks of life in every part of the world. Even the Russian Embassy subscribe to the bi-monthly Flying Saucer Review.

And with Dorset rated as an excellent area for sightings, from Blandford to Shaftesbury, Portland to Dorchester, Weymouth to Wimborne, Mr. Marshall is hoping more people will contact him with news that he can investigate.

As Tennyson said: "Maybe wildest dreams are but the needful preludes of the truth."

## Strange object is seen

TWO people claimed they saw a UFO flying over Barnet on Sunday January 19.

Mrs Pat Callaghan, of Daneland, East Barnet, and her 16-year-old son, Paul, spotted the mysterious triangular-shaped object at about 5.30 pm.

Mrs Callaghan said: "I went up to the bedroom to draw the curtains and as I looked out of the window I saw what I thought at first was stars in a triangular shape."

"When I first saw them they were stationary, but after a while they started to move. It was very cloudy that night, but it looked like a spaceship."

Paul, who goes to Finchley Catholic School, said: "The lights suddenly separated, and one

actually went over the house. There seemed to be beams coming down from it.

"It made a noise like an engine but it did not sound like an aeroplane. The lights didn't seem to be going in any particular direction."

Mrs Callaghan said she didn't call the police or tell any of the neighbours about it because she thought they would think she was stupid.

"When we saw the strange object we weren't frightened at all. We were surprised and interested."

She telephoned her parents in Kingsbury to ask them to look out of the window to see if they could see anything. But on returning to the phone, her father said: "I can't see any saucers except the ones with the cups on them!"



**EXCLUSIVE** Pilot shocked by close encounter

# CHARLES IN UFO RIDDLE

**Dad is a flying saucer believer**

PRINCE PHILIP has been a keen UFO follower for the past 30 years.

He is a keen reader of the magazine, Flying Saucer Review.

And he once invited a man who claimed to have seen a UFO landing to

**P**RINCE Charles is at the centre of a bizarre UFO mystery.

The Prince had a close encounter during a flight home from the U.S.A. last week.

The pilot of his RAF VC-10 radioed air traffic control to say

By MARTIN BRUNT

he had been startled by a "glowing red object" in the sky.

Incredibly, FOUR other aircraft reported sighting the "UFO" over the same stretch of the Irish Sea.

An immediate investigation was launched—but no trace of

the unidentified aircraft has been found.

Other explanations—such as meteors or debris from a satellite—have also been ruled out by experts.

Charles was nearing the end of a 12-hour flight from California when the incident happened.

A source at West Drayton air traffic control near London's Heathrow airport said: "The object was reported by five different aircraft, including the Prince's."

"The pilot described seeing a red glowing object. The light from it lit up his cockpit."

"We just don't know what it was. It's a complete mystery."

A Ministry of Defence spokesman confirmed: "Prince Charles's pilot did report seeing a bright flash, but we are satisfied there was no danger to the Prince's aircraft."

UFO expert Tim Good, an author and lecturer, said last week: "It may not be pure coincidence."

"It is likely that any creature from outer space that is more advanced than us would be aware of the significance of a Royal flight."



Philip—follower

come to Buckingham Palace to tell his story to a Royal aide.

Philip's uncle, the late Lord Mountbatten, was also obsessed with alien spacecraft.

# ANOTHER UFO!

by Royal Appointment

**A mystery craft over Windsor**

**A**N oval-shaped UFO has been spotted over Windsor Castle.

The mystery craft flew close to the battlements in broad daylight.

People watched in disbelief as the red, glowing machine—the size of a Mini—moved slowly across the sky.

The revelation comes after the pilot of an aircraft carrying Prince Charles home from America reported seeing a similar red, glowing object near his flightpath.

So far no-one has been able to

**EXCLUSIVE**  
by MARTIN BRUNT

explain why the Royals have been singled out for close encounters of the weird kind.

**Safe**

Office manageress Tracey Wogan, 23, who saw the Windsor UFO, said last week: "I just happened to glance out of the window and couldn't believe what I saw."

Housewife Sheila Goulden, 43, of nearby East Crescent, was startled by the light in the sky and her son Tony, a 17-year-old catering student, said: "There was a bright yellow, or white light in the centre, with a reddish colour outside."

A police spokesman said: "We checked with air traffic control at Heathrow and the weather centre at Bracknell but it was nothing to do with either of them."

UFO expert Tim Good said: "It is quite conceivable beings from outer space would be aware of what Windsor Castle is and who stays there."

**EXCLUSIVE** Pilot shocked by close encounter

**CHARLES IN UFO RIDDLE**

Close encounter—reported last week

DAILY EXPRESS, London,  
England - Feb. 5, 1986

CR: D. Speed

**Sky fireball shocks town**

**A** HUGE fireball that left a blazing trail across the sky before vanishing into thin air, stunned a town's workers yesterday.

People in offices and shops watched as the object sped over Windsor, Berkshire, and seemed to fall near the nearby racecourse.

Baffled police, however, could find no trace of it, and air traffic officials said, no planes were in the area.

# TRANSLATIONS

City and country of incident: Hoachanas, Swaziland  
Date of incident: April 26, 1985  
Name of paper and date of clip: REPUBLIKEIN, April 29, 1985  
City and country of newspaper: Namibia, Swaziland

[CREDIT: Stan Gordon]

## LIGHT BALL SUCKS FARMER DRY

A light ball, full of "little stars," which dived down to his farm dam out of the night sky and sucked up all the water was the cause that Mr. Hannes Voges and his family were without water the whole weekend.

Mr. Voges, of the farm Gomaub South in the vicinity of Hoachanas, told the REPUBLIKEIN yesterday that it was the second time in the past five months that this happened to him.

"That evening the dam was full and I fastened down the wind pump. The next morning the dam was bone dry - not a sign of a wet spot where the water could have leaked out," said Mr. Voges. He had the pipes checked, as well as the dam wall and dam basin. There are no cracks or broken places and also no sign where the water could have leaked out.

"It's a lot of water - the dam is 2 meters high and 15 meters across - and if it ran out somewhere, I should have been able to see it the following morning."

Mr. Voges tells how his wife, Caty, evidently got up Friday night to tend their child, Hanneljie. Through the window, she saw how a light ball dived from the sky into the dam. The next day, there was not a drop of water in the dam.

Are they afraid? Mr. Voges says no. He has lived on the farm since 1932, and everyone there knows of the ghost light that often wanders across the farm yard as if a bike or motor car is riding there. Then it simply disappears again.

And now the farm dam stands empty because there is no wind to turn the wind pump, says Mr. Voges.

And that twice within five months.

City and country of incident: Hoachanas, Swaziland  
Name of paper and date of clip: REPUBLIKEIN, May 3, 1985  
City and country of newspaper: Namibia, Swaziland

[CREDIT: Stan Gordon]

## LIGHT STAYS DRY

A light ball or various light balls, which annoy drivers and farm people in the south of SWA/Namibia is apparently a well-known phenomenon for those who know that part of the country.

After it was reported on Monday in the REPUBLIKEIN that a so-called "light ball" "sucked" a farm dam dry on the farm Gomaub-South in the district of Hoachana, various people had possible explanations for it.

One retired farmer told how at one stage, water disappeared out of his farm dam. He said that later he found out that the water had returned up the supply pipe as a vacuum had formed.

According to the owner of the concerned farm, Mr. Hannes Voges, last Sunday night his wife, Caty, saw how a light ball dived into the farm dam. The next day, the dam, which was full the previous evening, was bone dry, with not a sign that the water leaked out somewhere.

And Wednesday night, a farm worker saw how the light ball emptied three farm dams. Apparently it dives into the dam and then disappears.

According to Mr. Voges, someone from Windhoek will be investigating the phenomenon.

City and country of incident: Rio de Janeiro, Brazil  
Date of incident: October 12 [?], 1985  
Name of paper and date of clip: ZERO HORA, October 12, 1985  
City and country of newspaper: [City Unknown], Brazil

[CREDIT: YUFOS - TRANSLATION CREDIT: Wendelle Stevens]

A strange object with intense brilliance was seen late in the morning in the direction of the south Atlantic by hundreds of residents of the city of Rio de Janeiro. The object, which appeared in the sky, was observed for 20 minutes, beginning at 10:55, according to a telephone call originating from the Casino resort to Radio Cultural Riograndina. It fell into the sea some distance from the coast. The oceanographic base of the Fundacao Universidad de Rio Grande (FURG), according to the Sector Chief, Clovis Alt, was not officially informed of the apparition nor of its supposed submergence in the sea. Only the local news reaching the base made possible an attempt to localize the object. Lenira Amaral--who is president of the municipal Animal Protective Society--affirmed having been one of the persons to see the object and she immediately communicated it to the Fire Department Commander of the V Naval District. Merely in the rua Marcillo Dias, in the Municipal District, more than 150 people came out of their houses and witnessed the spectacle. Cars stopped in various sectors of Rio Grande (to observe). Lenira Amaral and her husband, Edson Amaral, noticed details of the object which descended vertically toward the ground at slow velocity, permitting ample vision. The object was initially seen over the Municipal District at a size of 50 centimeters more or less, growing larger as the distance to the ground diminished. Lenira Amaral said that the strange object rotated around its axis and was oval-shaped. The rotating movement could be distinguished with binoculars, including beacons of red and green as well as other colors, and a weak yellow light. After 25 minutes over the urban zone of Rio Grande, the people noticed that the object began to move horizontally

toward the north. In Casino, a resident affirmed having seen the object submerge in the sea.

Near the end of the day, after contact with the National Institute of Meteorology of the Ministry of Agriculture, in Porto Alegre, the Rio Grande Station Chief, Luis Felipe Constantino Folho, denied suggestions that the object seen was a balloon of the Institute, saying that altitude sondes were only sent up in the region to the northeast. The Commander of the V Naval District was informed, but his action was restricted to lifesaving at sea. The Embratel coastal station in Rio Grande remained on watch for the possibility of distress signals. The investigator Sadi Soares Siedler, ex-collaborator with the Conselho Nacional do Aeronautica e Espacio (CNAE), declared later that night that, "As we are launching sondes to other planets, others might also be launching them toward us." Soares Siedler also said that the object, by changing its course, could have been commanded or even remotely controlled and may be a case for study by "Ufology," a science which studies unidentified flying objects.

City and country of incident: Zagreb, Yugoslavia  
Date of incident: January 1, 1986  
Name of paper and date of clip: GLOS SZCZECINSKI, January 5, 1986  
City and country of newspaper: Szczecin, Poland

[CREDIT: Lech Galicki]

## UFO OVER ZAGREB

BELGRADE (PAP). - A group of unidentified flying objects appeared over Zagreb, Yugoslavia, last Wednesday evening. According to the statements of some eyewitnesses, the objects were oval-shaped, moving soundlessly and with great velocity. Their brightness was light yellow and they left a green trail behind them.

The event was confirmed by a captain of a West German airliner flying to the Near East. Three minutes later, Captain Fred Hammer informed radar control station that he had seen 6 unidentified flying objects at 20 kilometers [32.19 miles] distance from the town and at a height of over 10,000 meters. They were moving in formation with a velocity four or five times the speed of sound in the medium. The UFOs were also seen by the co-pilot and navigator of the airplane. However, their radio location devices did not detect their presence.

City and country of incident: Dalarna Region, Morgardshammar, Sweden  
Date of incident: February 13, 1986  
Name of paper and date of clip: DALA-DEMOKRATEN, February 14, 1986  
City and country of newspaper: Falun, Sweden

[CREDIT: Erik Fredriksson]

## SHINING WHITE BALL IN THE MORNING HEAVENS

"First I didn't believe my eyes. Not until I woke my wife and we were both able to establish the truth and nothing false. At last we were also able to see such a lighted object as we have read that many others have observed. For more than half an hour, we stood and looked at at the object before it flamed up and disappeared." That was the story told by Soren Wetterskog from Vinsbo in Morgardshammar concerning the light phenomenon which he and his wife witnessed at 04:00-04:30 on Thursday morning, February 13.

### Lighted ball

He described the object as a very brightly lighted white ball, sometimes flaming up, which went ahead and backwards over the horizon in the North. "We also used binoculars, but only saw a big lighted ball and it was too far away to have any idea about the form of the object." It is 10 kilometers up to Borlange and Soren is sure there must be plenty of others who saw the object.

City and country of incident: Dalarna Region, Hedemora, Sweden  
Date of incident: January 9, 1986  
Name of paper and date of clip: FALU-KURIREN, February 14, 1986  
City and country of newspaper: Falun, Sweden

[CREDIT: Erik Fredriksson]

## INGRID DON'T BELIEVE HER EYES - SHE SAW A LIGHTED OBJECT

"I have not believed so much in that. I have always laughed at all who have told me they have seen something. I never believed it. Perhaps that was why I was able to see it."

And now Ingrid Wedberg doesn't know what to believe. The night before January 10, she saw something confusing in the heavens. It was something which varied from standing still to moving up and down, and which at once disappeared very rapidly.

### Green light

The thing Ingrid observed was like a bus with green light from a big square window. Above there was a black body and on the top was a lighted knob. Under the object, she saw flames of fire when it was moving. It looked like a cheese-dish cover with some flames underneath. "I have never seen anything like that before. At first, I thought it was an airplane, but I remembered the time. It was at 2:00 A.M. January 10th."

She could not sleep and was observing a green light through the window in the bedroom. "I thought it was my neighbor doing something." What she saw through the window caused her to go to the front yard and look with binoculars. The night was cold and starlit. "There was no sound, it was really silent. It was 29 degrees below zero. I was both curious and fascinated, just looking at the object, and didn't feel the cold."

### Right to the South

Ingrid Wedberg observed the object right to the south from the yard in Skonsbo. To that direction is only wood and field. When the object went away, it disappeared toward Soderbarke. "As I observed the light, it came from northwest to south over our house."





## Tide May Hold Key To Enigma in Stone

Science reporter  
**ANDREW STONE** on a  
revolutionary new  
answer to a centuries-  
old puzzle.



Mr Beach ... "how many coincidences do you want?"

An Auckland scientist, using tide tables and computers in his lunchtime, has put forward an extraordinary new theory of Stonehenge, the mysterious British prehistoric monument.

The researcher, Mr David Beach, believes the Salisbury Plain structure is actually an uncannily precise tide predictor.

He asserts that ancient Britons used information Stonehenge gave them to cross the English Channel safely in tiny boats that might otherwise have been swept away by surging currents.

His theory rests on complex astronomical analysis, calculations of the tilt of the moon's orbit and a rare conjunction of lunar influences that occurred when Stonehenge took shape — circumstances that had not happened for 1500 years and would not reappear for a further 1500 or so years.

The set of events, Mr Beach argues, laid down a new pattern of British culture.

From the position of the moon — the celestial body which influences tides — communities near the remarkable circle of stone could determine with great accuracy the time of weakest and

lowest tides, Mr Beach maintains.

With this knowledge, Continental tribes crossed the channel in mass human waves almost 5000 years ago.

Mr Beach says his Stonehenge theory, based on the time of the monument's construction around 2800 BC, confirms archaeological evidence of the rise of a new culture in Britain from that time.

His startling conclusions were reached after trips to Stonehenge during his years in Britain and freetime hours in Auckland on computer keyboards grappling with calculations and lunar data.

It offers a scientific and cultural solution to the exposed windswept monoliths.

"People always have a reason for doing something," he said. "I say the Stonehenge people had a good hard motivation, something more than the spiritual explanations of classical archaeological theory."

Stonehenge, which attracts thousands of curious tourists each year, is a historical puzzle. Elaborate theories for its construction have ranged from its role as an eclipse predictor to a temple for sky worship.

Scholars have muller over

the Stonehenge mystery, taking precise measurements, excavating under its massive stone structures and marvelling at the engineering skills of the Neolithic and Bronze Age cultures which built it.

But, according to David Beach, who heads a research section in the Auckland industrial development division of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, no one has hit on a theory as simple and fundamentally basic as his in which all the puzzle pieces fall into place.

The key to his explanation is not the sarsen rock pillars which form a ring and horseshoe and feature on every tourist postcard of Stonehenge, but the barely recognisable bank which circles the familiar stone centre.

The circular mound and the 56 Aubrey Holes or pits inside it form Stonehenge I. It was built, carbon dating shows, between 2600 and 2900 BC.

Associated with the structure, but lying 50m away and marking a point on the horizon, is the 25 tonne Heelstone. It is the only rock connected with Stonehenge I.

The tribe who made it were called Windmill Hill people.

The structure, Mr Beach says, is an astronomical observatory and it told the Stonehenge people how the moon was affecting the tide.

The Aubrey Holes were dug to keep track of the lunar apogee, Mr Beach believes. The apogee is when the moon is farthest from the earth and therefore causes the weakest tides.

Although they did not know it, the Windmill Hill people had a simple lunar calendar. With it, they could count off every seventh quarter moon which defined a period of extra low tides.

From sightings through a gap in a bank over the north-east horizon, Windmill Hill groups could determine the moon's apogee as it rose above the English Channel.

Post-holes in the Stonehenge gap were placed at precise azimuths or bearings from true north. Mr Beach's computer told him the Windmill Hill azimuths were almost a perfect match to actual moonrise bearings.

And his calculations also revealed that three critical apogees, spanning 350 years, marked times of exceptionally low tides, circumstances that coincided once in a proverbial blue moon.

Mr Beach said: "I maintain they knew what they were looking for. They learned from Stonehenge about minimum tidal currents, and Continental tribes used the knowledge to cross the channel safely. Any other time and they would be carried away on tidal rips."

He believes the cyclical coincidences — the midwinter moon, the tilt of its orbit and the apogee position — are beyond reasonable doubt.

"How many coincidences do you want?" Mr Beach asks.

"Every single component in my theory backs my assertion that Stonehenge people wanted to predict the safest time to cross the Channel."

"I think we tend to overlook clever explanations for Stonehenge because we regard the ancient people as simple and primitive."

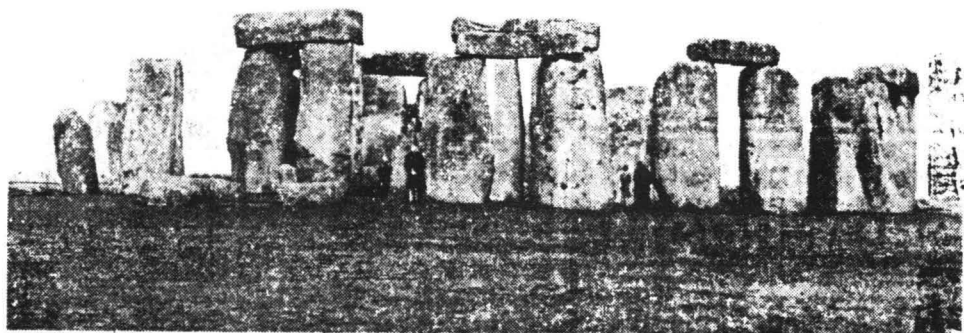
"But they were just as clever then as we are today — it is just their technology that was cruder. Smart people built Stonehenge and they knew what they were doing."

Stonehenge, Mr Beach noted, was a long way from the coast and might seem entirely unsuitable as a tide-predicting site. But features of the site made it quite appropriate — the horizon was level and treeless, the view was clear, nearby land sloped away to clear winter mists and it was far enough from sea to avoid the notorious English "pea-souper."

He first outlined his theory in the journal *Nature* in 1977. The article caused barely a ripple in the Stonehenge industry.

Since then, he has confirmed the moonrise azimuths and found the stunning connections with the actual bearings — the critical apogees which mark the beginning of a new British culture from across the English Channel.

Mr Beach has prepared a manuscript on computing Stonehenge and is trying to find a publisher. In December, he will outline his theory at the annual conference of the New Zealand Institute of Physics.



STAR, Auckland, New Zealand - Jan. 9, 1986 CR: R. Collyns

## Comet may become space vehicle next time around

By DAVID FINCH of  
Reuters

NEW YORK. — The next time Halley's Comet swings past earth in 2061, astronauts may be waiting in space to hitch a ride into the furthest regions of the solar system.

Astronomer Carl Sagan firmly believes in the feasibility of using comets for space travel on a kind of hitchhiker's ride through the galaxy.

"They're just icy, rocky objects," he explained. "It's not beyond our technical capability right now to land on a comet and ride it through space."

Of course, it is advisable to wait until the comet has finished careering around the sun, which melts the ice and sends vapour and dust spurting millions of kilometres into space as tails.

"I would recommend a rendezvous in the vicinity of Jupiter," Sagan said, noting that by then the ice would have frozen again and the comet would have regained its stability.

Sagan listed a host of advantages for mankind in using comets as a space vehicle, in particular the presence of water and useful minerals, not to mention more room for astronauts to stretch their legs.

"Nature has kindly provided comets as a kind of way station in space," he said. "All the necessities to sustain astronauts during a grand tour of the solar system are provided by comets."

Frozen water was a major plus, providing drinking water and molecules for creating breathable air and rocket fuel, he said.

"You can just land on a comet, shovel ice into your electrolytic machine and, lo and behold, you have water and air."

Comets also contain organic molecules for agriculture and biological engineering, and metal ore for manufacturing.

Many comets are certainly big enough and — except for rounding the sun — sufficiently stable for a safe landing, he added. Halley's, for example, which has returned after a 76-year trip through space, is about 10km wide.

Furthermore, there are so many comets that man could do a complete circuit on one of the short-period comets that return every five or six years, or travel a certain distance into space and switch to a comet bound for the sun.

"In other words, we could leapfrog from comet to comet," Sagan mused.

Sagan is not the first person to

advocate using comets as space transportation. An 18th-century German astronomer, J. H. Lambert, once dreamed of using comets as "travelling globes, peopled with astronomers" observing nature on a large scale.

In 1752 Voltaire sounded a similar theme in his book *Micromegas* in which: "A comet passed quite near ... so they sprang upon it together with their servants and their instruments."

Jules Verne twice conjured up stories of travel on a comet in *Hector Servadac* and *Off on a Comet* written in the late 19th century.

In his recently-published book *Comet*, written with his wife Ann Druyan, Sagan said one day we might be able to alter the orbits of comets, to park them near earth for mining their minerals or to provide a manoeuvrable spacecraft.

He wrote that "we will one day set out to explore the trans-Plutonian spaces, and it will make sense to refuel on the comets. They would still be stepping stones to the stars."

"Perhaps eventually comets will themselves be converted into spaceships bound for other star systems ... — NZPA—Reuters.

STAR, Auckland, New Zealand

Jan. 2, 1986 CR: R. Collyns

## Harden sends word on computer

LONDON, Wednesday. — Technically he should be more at home in doublet and hose than alongside a floppy disc, but that hasn't stopped Thomas Harden from finding a new home.

Oxford-educated Harden died in the 1500s and according to an economics teacher from Cheshire he is busy haunting a micro-computer.

The Society for Psychical Research is investigating the case, but remains sceptical and of the view that some inventive hacker is at work.

Teacher Ken Webster, who owns the micro-computer, said *The Mail on Sunday*, was also rather cynical about the whole affair, but after 150 messages from Thomas is now not so sure.

Mr Webster says Harden sends his messages on the computer screen in 16th century English and so far all of his communicated facts have proved to be historically correct.

Harden refers to the 20th century piece of technology as a "leems boyste," or light box, and generally asks questions about the present day.

*The Mail on Sunday's* research shows there was a Thomas Harden who was dean of the Brasenose College Chapel at Oxford.

He was expelled in the 1530s for refusing to remove the pope's name from prayer books at a time when Henry VIII was carrying out his purge on Catholicism.

Harden settled for a quiet farming life in Cheshire. *The Mail on Sunday* sought a comment from Harden via the computer and received this reply:

"Myne cooke saithe I shall repent for myne adventure and that it will come to foul issue, but methinks she be yelow and tolde her soe." — NZPA—AAP.

CR: K. Hanohano

# Horse killings puzzle deputies

YELM, Thurston County — The killing of two registered horses and the mutilation of one of them continues to puzzle Thurston County sheriff's deputies.

"It is the first real case of killing and mutilation in recent history in Thurston County," Chief Criminal Deputy Neil McClanahan said yesterday.

"We are keeping an open mind . . . on it being the work of a satanic cult, a case of revenge or something else, he added."

Gary Moon, owner of the yearling stallions, found the dead animals Thursday in a field near his home after being awakened by a commotion created by another of his horses, McClanahan said.

The throats of the horses — a quarter horse and an appaloosa — had been cut, and blood had been scattered around the field by the animals before they died.

The genitals of the appaloosa had been removed, McClanahan said. His other four horses weren't harmed. Moon lives in the Bald Hills area near Yelm.

A fence bordering the field where the dead horses were found had been cut, McClanahan said.

"He (Moon) thinks he frightened off the perpetrators," the deputy added.

McClanahan said investigators

have conferred with Mason County and Pierce County authorities about the attacks. There were two cases of cattle mutilations in Mason County last year, he said.

A series of horse mutilations also occurred in Pierce County in the late 1970s, said Pierce County sheriff's Lt. Jeff Edmunds, but he added they weren't similar.

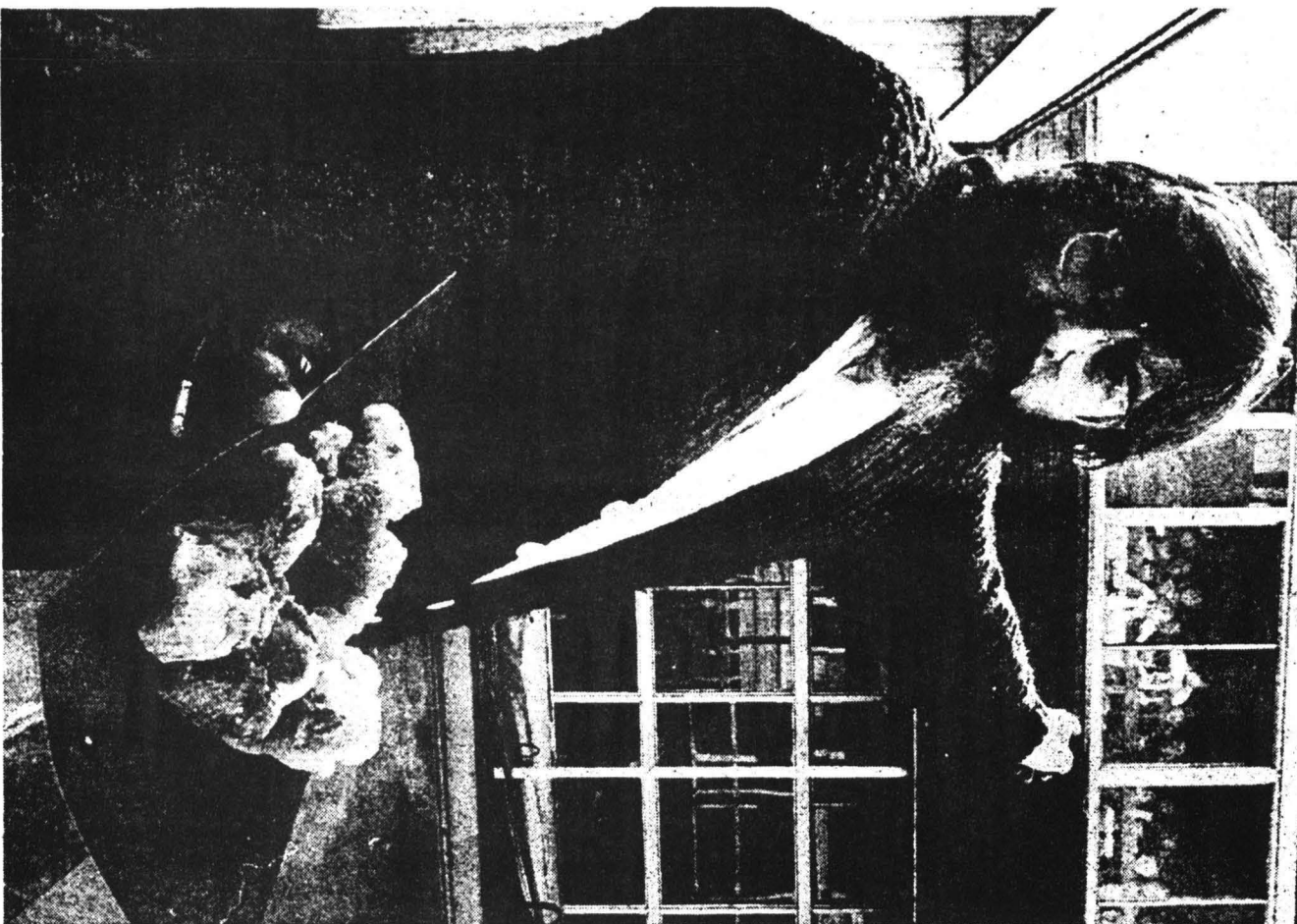
"The cases we had, the horses were not attacked or killed," Edmunds said "Ours were left with no visible trauma. Some had suffered excessive bleeding and had to be destroyed. But they were left standing, like they were sedated."

Edmunds also said investigators had been unable to link any cult activity to the earlier horse mutilations, although he said there is some cult activity that police know about in the Puget Sound area.

About 100 residents of southern Pierce County met in Spanaway in October 1984 to discuss horse mutilations in that area. It was contended at the meeting that there had been 28 horses sexually mutilated in the area over a period of 10 years.

Residents said that fears the attacks were part of an occult ritual had kept many people quiet about the mutilations.

Mr Thatcher and fragments of the ice that fell from the sky



## Block of ice hits school

CHILDREN at a Coventry primary school had a narrow escape when a large block of ice plummeted out of the sky on to their classroom.

The ice block, about the size of a football, smashed through the roof of a classroom at Potters Green Infants School where 32 children were in the middle of a lesson.

It is believed to have fallen from a plane. Luckily it did not go through the ceiling into the classroom below.

But head teacher Chris Thatcher says the incident could have been "disastrous."

### Investigation

"The children were directly underneath," he said.

"If it had gone through the ceiling with any force they could have been injured."

"We certainly had a narrow escape."

The Civil Aviation Authority is to launch an investigation into the incident which happened on Friday afternoon.

A spokesman for CAA said the ice probably had fallen from a plane.

Such an accident was very rare, he added.



# USM's Ghost Buster: Tracking 'Dover Demon' and other phenomena

"You don't look like a scientist to me. You look like a game-show host."

From the movie "Ghost Busters"

WASHINGTON — Loren Coleman doesn't like the movie stereotype, but it's an irresistible media cliché. During the week, Coleman, 38, is director of the University of Southern Maine's Institute of Fortean Studies. He supervises research projects into areas such as child neglect and teen suicide. The Portland professor holds an advanced degree in psychology. His undergraduate training was in anthropology and zoology.

But on weekends and vacations, while his fellow academics busy themselves correcting papers and organizing against President Reagan's Central American policies, Coleman jumps into a pickup truck and travels the country in search of huge black panthers and little ape-like creatures that saunter through towns and then disappear; gigantic birds capable of carrying children off in their claws; dinosaur-like monsters lurking in lakes; ghost trains; sea serpents; and that elusive creature, the "Dover Demon."

"How are you telephoned by your colleagues?" I asked Coleman in a telephone interview.

"You mean ... do they think I'm a nut?" he answered. I resisted the temptation to inquire if he looks like Monty Hall.

Yes, Coleman said, the campus newspaper has tagged him "USM's Own Ghost Buster." And the "Ghost Busters" movie theme did follow him throughout on a Halloween book promotion tour that put the professor on four tele-



Washington

By John Day

vision and 20 radio stations last month.

"The people who know me take me as a serious-minded person. I approach these things like a Watergate investigative reporter, looking for the most common explanation first," he stated.

Coleman has been conducting on-site investigations of "weird and unexplained" phenomena since the age of 13 when he became intrigued by the sightings of large black panthers in southern Illinois, where he grew up. Charles Fort, a 1920s intellectual who documented the scientific solution of many past mysteries, was the professor's role model.

The black panthers, Coleman said, probably were mountain lions, animals once thought to be extinct in the Eastern United States.

"Eighty percent of the reports I investigate are mis-identifications or hoaxes. I try to deal with the 20 percent of the hard-core unexplainable," he said. These field investigations have taken Coleman to no fewer than 1,500 sites in 40 states during the past 25 years.

red eyes, and long spindly limbs ... "like E.T."

The creature was quickly labeled the "Dover Demon." Coleman did some historical research and discovered that the Cree Indians, who used to reside in the area, had legends describing similar creatures — "little people with round heads, no noses (and) long spidery legs."

Police Patrolman James Campbell, who was on duty when authorities were called to investigate the alleged Dover Demon sighting, doesn't place much stock in the professor's research.

"Somebody apparently saw a fox, or something else with a triangular head. The way the moonlight hit gave the head a strange color," he said in a telephone interview.

"We investigated ... and never found a thing," said the Dover policeman.

At least one other scientist is critical of the Maine professor.

John Cole, executive director of the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal, faulted Coleman for overlooking easy scientific explanations for many of the supposed paranormal incidents detailed in his book. Cole told Omni magazine that investigators "who list such a hodgepodge of the explained, prejudice the case against those isolated reports that really do need serious investigation."

That hasn't daunted Coleman, who said his newest quest has him following up on reported sightings of a fish-man type creature curiously similar to the title character in "The Creature From the Black Lagoon," a popular 1950s science fiction movie.

John Day is the NEWS Washington correspondent.

## HORIZONS

# LLOYD GEERING



Sir Fred Hoyle: fascinating new picture of the origins of life.

## Design for living

**H**OW DID life begin? Are we humans here for a purpose? How and why did the universe come into being? These are questions which have exercised the human mind ever since our distant ancestors developed the capacity to reflect on human existence. Answers to these questions are contained in the mythology associated with each of the great religious traditions.

Modern science has challenged and overturned many of the traditional answers. The biblical story of a six-day creation which gave rise to all the known forms of life only a few thousand years ago has been replaced for most Westerners by the theory of biological evolution over some three billion years.

It is true that some debate still lingers on between evolutionists and creationists, but the latter are usually dismissed by the former on the grounds that their commitment to the "revealed truth" of the Bible has blinded them to the revelations of science.

Creationists, on the other hand, often complain that the Darwinian account of biological evolution is no longer treated as a theory only, but has become accepted in the scientific world as a proven fact. Indeed, they say it has been accorded the status of a dogma which is not to be questioned, and this by the very people who scorn the dogmas of others.

In this particular complaint the creationists have recently been claiming an ally in the person of the very distinguished physicist and astronomer, Sir Fred Hoyle, who in his book *The Intelli-*

*gent Universe* completely rejects the Darwinian theory of origins, especially in its dependence on the law of natural selection operating in a context of random variations.

Though Hoyle may seem at first to be something of a maverick in the scientific world, any likeness between his approach and that of traditional creationists very quickly disappears. Hoyle is not a Christian and says he is unlikely to become one. It is solely on scientific grounds that he has concluded the Darwinian theory is wrong and impossible to sustain in the light of present knowledge.

Hoyle does not dispute the fact that the rich diversity of life on this planet points to an ongoing evolving process. The two chief points he asserts in contrast with the commonly accepted account of evolution are that life (in its simplest form) did not originate on earth and that neither it nor its subsequent complex forms can be explained solely on the basis of mindless change.

Drawing on the current state of knowledge in sub-atomic physics, microbiology, cosmology and other disciplines, Hoyle sketches a picture of the interrelatedness of the universe at various levels. He sees the billions of comets as the messengers between the stars and their satellites.

The universe, according to Hoyle, is simply teeming with micro-organisms, but only very rarely are they deposited on a celestial home which provides the conditions congenial to their further development. There they build themselves into ever more complex living forms.

▶40

ARKANSAS GAZETTE, Little Rock, AR - Nov. 29, 1985

## Scientists expect to weather disclosure about interplanetary despot

LOS ANGELES (UPI) — Publication of secret documents blaming the world's troubles on an interplanetary tyrant named Xemu has held the Church of Scientology up to public ridicule.

But church officials insist the disclosure will leave no long-term scars, and they predict the controversial organization will continue to gain members and prosper.

"We have found whenever we have been attacked in court, we continue to grow and expand," Rev. Ken Hoden, head of the church in California, said.

"We are trying to tell the world about who we are," he said. "If anything, what is happening only makes our conviction stronger."

Church leaders vow to fight to prevent further release of secret scriptures in ongoing courtroom battles with opponents they say are attacking the Scientology religion.

Founded 31 years ago and inspired by the writings of L. Ron Hubbard, Scientology now says it has a worldwide membership of 6 million, including about 70,000 in Southern California, with some

600 missions and churches in 35 countries.

The church promotes the benefits of reaching one's full potential through methods described in Hubbard's 1950 book "Dianetics: The Modern Science of Mental Health." Although the book is a basic text of the religion, much of the sect's dogma, including Xemu's role in world history, has been a closely guarded secret.

But this month, the *Los Angeles Times* obtained church tracts, called "upper-level technology," that chronicle Xemu's activities.

In subsequent articles, the *Times* said those tracts trace many of mankind's troubles to a time 75 million years ago when earth, then called Teegeeach, was one of 90 planets ruled by Xemu.

According to the tracts, Xemu, fighting galactic overpopulation, ordered humans and beings from other planets captured and placed in several large volcanoes. The ancient tyrant then ordered thermonuclear attacks on the volcanoes. That killed the beings, but freed their spirits, which then were unleashed to perpetuate problems for

succeeding generations of humans. Scientology's goal is to help its followers rid themselves of those same evil spirits.

Rev. Heber Jentzsch, head of the worldwide organization, said Scientology guides its followers along "that path of wisdom that helps man" reach "total freedom as a spiritual being."

Mr. Jentzsch suggested in a telephone interview that Scientology's nearest religious relative would be a form of Buddhism. But he said

(continued on page 20)

the church uses an eight-pointed cross and clerical garb because "Scientology believes in the three-fold path of Christ."

Others, including those now suing the church in Los Angeles courts, have other opinions.

Larry Wollersheim quit the church in 1980 after 11 years of membership. He later sued for \$25 million, contending he was defrauded and emotionally damaged by multilevel counseling that promised greater intellect, supernatural powers and success in business.

His suit contends he spent at least \$60,000 in his quest for enlightenment and that church members broke up his marriage.

One of his attorneys, Leta Schlosser, said Wollersheim is not out to destroy the church. "He has said he just wants justice," she said.

The Scientologists are under attack on another front, facing a challenge from a breakaway faction.

David Mayo two years ago opened his own Scientology-based church at Santa Barbara, Cal., calling it the Advanced Abilities Center.

He said he soured on the original church because it billed followers \$800 an hour for counseling. He said he charges no more than \$100 an hour for his new, improved version.

The legal disputes heated up November 1 when Superior Court Judge Alfred Margolis decided to open the file in Wollersheim's lawsuit, including the upper-level material, the following Monday.

An estimated 1,500 Scientologists jammed the court clerk's office on the designated day, blocking outsiders from getting copies of the files. Judge Margolis then suspended public access to the file and left future decisions in the case to the judge hearing the trial.

#### Say materials stolen

Scientology attorneys also accused Wollersheim, his attorneys and psychiatric experts in a federal court suit of having conspired with Mayo to obtain the secret materials from people who had stolen them from a Scientology church in Denmark two years ago.

Wollersheim has not specified where he got his copy of the material, but said it did not come from thieves.

Mayo also denied an allegation he received the documents from thieves. He said he wrote 95 percent of the upper-level material during his years as a close associate of Hubbard. He also said he "reconstructed and improved" the teachings after leaving the fold.

STAR, Auckland, New Zealand  
Jan. 13, 1986 CR: R. Collins

## NZ settled by whites first, says expert

By CLAIRE LOGAN

An Australian archaeologist who believes Middle East explorers rather than Polynesians first discovered New Zealand will visit here next month to prove his theory.

New South Wales researcher Rex Gilroy says the Pacific region was colonised by ancient Middle East explorers from the Indo-Aryan civilisation who built enormous wooden ships for trade and mineral-seeking voyages.

He points to evidence of rock inscriptions and stone structures in New Zealand which he believes proves his theory.

Mr Gilroy also believes Maori legends which

speak of a white-skinned race who inhabited the North Island before the coming of the first Polynesian explorers.

"Who were these mysterious white-skinned people? Were they survivors of an earlier Indo-Aryan culture which established itself in the Pacific Islands and Australia centuries before?" he asked.

Definitely not, says Auckland District Maori Council chairman Rangitiki Walker, who has rubbished the theory.

The "white-skinned folk" are Patupaiarehe or fairies.

"All tribal people have legends of fairy folk but it has nothing to do with his theory," said Dr Walker.

# Two Bigfoot searchers pay beastly price for persisting

By Ed Penhale  
P-I Reporter

The monster never leaves Rene Dahinden and Grover Krantz. It's there when they wake up, there when they go to sleep.

Over the years, the monster has cost them most of the money they ever had. It has damaged Dahinden's family life and Krantz's reputation.

Sasquatch. Bigfoot. Dahinden split from his wife and two kids in 1967 to pursue his only real passion — the elusive Sasquatch, as the hairy beast is known.

Krantz's refusal to let go of the notion the creature exists may have nearly ruined his career at Washington State University.

#### A meager living

As a legend, the Bigfoot story has made millions for filmmakers, book publishers and con men. But trying to prove that the story is true has not led to riches for Dahinden and Krantz.

After 30 years of searching for Sasquatch, Dahinden, a stocky Swiss immigrant with piercing blue eyes, lives alone in an aging house trailer at the Vancouver, B.C., Gun Club. At age 54, he earns a meager living by selling back to the club the spent shot he separates from the muddy bog outside the skeet-shooting circle.

Krantz, 53, earns \$27,000 a year as a professor of physical anthropology at WSU, but he figures that during the past 15 years his hunt for Bigfoot has cost him \$100,000. And that includes wages lost because his promotion to full professor was delayed, he contends, by some colleagues who regarded his Sasquatch research as unprofessional.

Robert Littlewood, chairman of the WSU anthropology department, says Krantz has carried out his Sasquatch research in a professional manner, but he described Krantz as a lone wolf who has taken unorthodox positions not only on Bigfoot but on other subjects in his field. Dahinden and Krantz aren't the only Sasquatch hunters, but they are probably the most active, the most earnest and the most vocal in trying to convince the world the creature exists.

They have that in common, but little else. Dahinden hates scientists. Krantz, a scientist, thinks he knows why. "He openly admits he lives for the Sasquatch," Krantz said of Dahinden. "He also knows that when the Sasquatch is proven to exist, the scientists will move in and take over and Rene Dahinden is dead. He'll be shoved aside."

Dahinden believes that the scientific community never has given Bigfoot a fair shake.

"Those people should be fired. They are not scientists, just twits, absolute twits," said Dahinden.

Dahinden might like Krantz better than other scientists, but he gets livid about the famous Walla Walla "tracks," plaster of Paris casts, supposedly of Sasquatch footprints. Krantz has taken them around the world, insisting that ridges evident on the casts prove they are footprints made by a real, higher primate.



Rene Dahinden



Grover Krantz displays a cast of a footprint made in 1982 at the scene of a reported Bigfoot sighting in Oregon.

"Krantz isn't a scientist; he's a mental case," said Dahinden, who believes that the footprints, found after former forest ranger Paul Freeman reported seeing a hairy giant in the Umatilla National Forest on June 10, 1982, are fakes.

Krantz has taken the footprint casts to fingerprint experts with the FBI and other police agencies around the country. He claims mixed results but concedes that the FBI agents wouldn't say the footprints are real.

When it comes to hunting down Bigfoot — killing one, photographing the beast or just finding some bones — the serious stalkers believe that first prize is the only prize.

"If you ask around," said Dahinden, "you'll find that I'm a nice guy, but I'm also very nasty. You have to be. This is not a nice game. . . . I want to be the guy who finds it. I want to get the glory."

Krantz claims no interest in competition.

"I win no matter who finds it," he said. "I've stuck my neck out so far in the scientific world that I get publicity whoever finds it."

#### Bigfoot books

The search for a Bigfoot-type creature, a phenomenon related to the yeti or abominable snowman legends of the Himalayas, has attracted the interest of researchers around the world, but the Sasquatch has been studied the most in North America.

Dahinden says he and John Green, a British Columbia newsman who wrote several books about the Sasquatch, made Bigfoot part of the North American culture.

"I would say that Bigfoot created a minimum of a hundred million dollars, largely in the movie industry, starting back with 'The Legend of Boggy Creek' back in 1972. . . . Now, every kid in every school at one time or another talks or writes about Sasquatch," he said.

Dahinden said he was in Harrison Hot Springs in British Columbia in 1958 when Bigfoot suddenly became a media star. The town council was trying to decide what to do with some money the government was handing out for civic projects celebrating the province's centennial, and somebody suggested a Sasquatch hunt.

"That was like somebody lit a fuse on a box of dynamite," said Dahinden. "The press went wild."

The provincial government rejected the proposal, but a star was born.

The eyewitness reports of Bigfoot or his tracks in North America run into the thousands and date back to the 1700s. Northern California, Oregon, Washington and British Columbia are considered the best place to try to find the creature.

Krantz estimates that "a little less than half" of the reports are con jobs or figments of somebody's imagination. It's the rest of them that drive him on.

"Do you think that if the Sasquatch does not exist, there is a conspiracy of people going around faking tracks?" said Dahinden. "That's just stupid."

Bigfoot, however, has done little to keep its legend alive lately. Standing six to eight feet tall and weighing 600 to 800 pounds, the elusive Sasquatch breed has left behind few prints of its monstrous, 16-inch feet during the past couple of years.

"It's been real slow," said Cliff Crook, who runs Bigfoot Central, a Sasquatch investigation report center in Seattle. There may have been sightings that have gone unreported by people afraid to go public because they'd be labeled as weirdos by their friends, he said.

"If I hadn't taken the photographs, I would have kept my mouth shut," said Steve Sampson, an Eatonville welding company owner. He was out bow hunting a week before last Christmas when he found what he believes were Sasquatch tracks in the Olympic National Forest.

Each footprint was 16 inches long, seven inches wide and showed a 34-inch stride. "I really had to stretch out to keep up with them," he said.

Sampson photographed the prints in the snow with his Polaroid camera and then found some witnesses — a married couple looking for a Christmas tree — who were spooked by what they saw.

Sampson said two other hunters who had been in the area the same day also ran across similar tracks. Still another, hunting alone, reported to him that some sort of animal invisible in the brush growled at him three times before he fled in fear.

"There isn't an animal in the woods that would growl at you three times," said Sampson.

At Bigfoot Central, Crook said Sampson's find was the most credible Sasquatch trace in the Northwest in a long time.

Crook, 45, got hooked on Sasquatch searching nearly 30 years ago while camping near what is now the Woodinville area. "I sighted a hairy giant in the light of a campfire," he said. "It wasn't a bear. It was more like a human being. I've been looking for a Sasquatch ever since."

Like Dahinden, Crook has no permanent job. What employer would put up with fellows who have to drop everything when anyone sees a supposed Bigfoot print or hears what some have described as the hair-raising "Y-e-e-e T-e-e-e" cry of the Sasquatch.

Dahinden now owns 51 percent of rights to a film allegedly of a Sasquatch strolling down Bluff Creek in Northern California in 1967. Bob Gimlin and the late Roger Patterson, Sasquatch hunters from Yakima, had heard about Bigfoot prints in the area and were looking for a Sasquatch when Patterson captured one on film for 24 seconds.

#### Infrared sensor

Dahinden believes the film is of a real Sasquatch and thinks it would become one of the most important films ever made if somebody would just bring back a body.

And it's a Bigfoot body, decayed or otherwise, that Krantz wants to find. He recently plunked down \$10,000 for heat-seeking infrared equipment that he plans to take with him on a plane he'll hire to cruise Bigfoot country.

"The animals (Sasquatch) are going to die in the winter more than any other time," said Krantz, explaining his high-tech approach. "They're going to freeze and in the spring thaw they start rotting, and rotting will raise the temperature substantially."

#### Bones of contention

But Krantz still encourages hunters to kill a Bigfoot, if they can. "My system of finding a body with an infrared machine is by no means guaranteed."

The fact that no Bigfoot bones or teeth ever have been found doesn't seem to bother Sasquatch believers. They say that any experienced woodsman knows that bones of animals that die natural deaths seldom are found before predators swallow them up.

Krantz believes that Sasquatches probably have been shot and killed by hunters in the past.

"If they got to the body and looked at it, they probably thought they killed a valuable animal that belonged to somebody — a research institution — or a very deviant human being," he said. "In either case, they're in trouble, so they shut up about it."

#### Single-track mind

Sometimes, Dahinden thinks the Sasquatch is more a psychological problem than a zoological one. Among the scores of part-time Sasquatch hunters are probably many for whom Bigfoot fulfills some emotional need.

But that's not true for Dahinden, he claims. Still, Dahinden says: "I have only one thing on my mind, and this is Sasquatch."

Krantz says his search for Bigfoot has been fun, even if the creature does not exist.

"In the last minute I will not feel my life has been wasted on this," said Krantz. "I feel I ought to do this. I would be dishonest and academically irresponsible if I ignored it."