

UFO

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If it's not a bird or plane, what is it?

By BETTY J. THAYER

SOUTH KINGSTOWN — Although the moon wasn't quite full last Monday, Nov. 25, some say there was something funny going on in the skies above Wakefield.

Police report that several people called to report an unidentified flying object — UFO — was flying low over Pond Street and portions of Route 1, beaming bright lights down at cars and scaring the dickens out of a motorist or two.

An air traffic controller at Quonset Point also reported getting a few calls, but said his radar showed only two high-flying airplanes that night.

most people appeared to agree on what they had seen. "People... all agreed that the thing was cylindrical, it had lights all around and it could not be a plane nor a helicopter, and it made a whirring noise."

Another witness told him that the object followed cars closely, at the same speed and at a low altitude.

Frank Makely, area supervisor for the Federal Aviation Administration's facility at Quonset, said he received several calls last week but nothing showed on the radar screen that night except two Ransom airplanes, flying at between 4,500 and 5,500 feet.



But the people who reported it were coy about leaving their names, with several telling police and one telling a reporter that they would just as soon not be the butt of jokes about lunacy and drinking habits.

And 10 residents of Pond Street, called at random, said they saw nothing that night, although a few wished they had.

"I really missed that one," said Charles Johnson of 55 Pond St. "You're really bumming me out." Later he added, "Hey, tonight I'm going to set out my lawn chair and check it out."

South Kingstown police reported getting a couple calls within two days of the alleged sightings, one from a retired Navy man who spotted aircraft at night for 10 years.

"It was his job to be on the lookout for things like this," said Clinton Salisbury Jr., the records clerk who took the call. "... And this definitely was neither a plane nor a helicopter."

Salisbury, who said he had heard accounts of sightings from 10 people who were in the area that night, said

"We looked on the radar and we didn't see anything unusual," Makely said.

Tom McDonald, the senior airport attendant at Westerly Airport, noted that radar usually can't follow something flying lower than 1,500 feet. "Anything below that they'd have difficulty tracking," he said. Westerly Airport had no records of calls about UFOs.

Capt. Richard Brown, South Kingstown's patrol captain and the unofficial "UFO officer" for the department, speculated the sighting may have been a helicopter with its spotlights pointing toward the ground. Brown is also a Pond Street resident and said he saw nothing that Monday night.

Brown, who doesn't relish the title of "UFO officer" — "I gave that title up five years ago" — said the sighting is the first reported in awhile.

"We did have a rash of them, oh, five or six years ago," he said. And where were those sightings? "Same place — Route 1 (near) Salt Pond (and) between Jerry Brown Farm and McGrath's Corner."

REGISTER-CITIZEN, Torrington, CT — March 1, 1986



William Haskell

A Cessna sits idle at a New York State airfield state police believe is one of several used by pilots who fly in formation to create mock UFOs.

New York-based 'Martians' suspected in area UFO scare

By WILLIAM HASKELL
Register Citizen Staff

STORMVILLE, N.Y. — A 3,300-foot airstrip runs across rich farm and horse country here 15 miles from Brewster, N.Y.

Its "crop" may be UFOs — unidentified flying objects.

The strip and adjacent facilities is called Stormville Airport. It is believed by New York state police, and others, to be one of the sources of the UFO phenomenon reported in Litchfield County and elsewhere in the state over the past few years.

Such a phenomenon was last seen in the Torrington/Litchfield area Jan. 9. Callers from Winsted, Torrington, Harwinton and Litchfield and south to New Milford reported seeing patterns of slow-moving lights in the sky. Observers, ranging in age from children to sophisticated adults, saw the lights, saw them for extended periods and agreed that they were "some show." Some people were frightened. Said one man, "I really didn't want to tell the kids."

Torrington police received about 100 calls that Thursday night in January. Connecticut state police at the Litchfield barracks received about 40. The lights were described by callers to the Register Citizen as hovering, flying in formation, splitting up and reforming.

A group of private pilots based at the Stormville Airport and other small strips in Dutchess, Putnam, and Westchester counties is said by police to be responsible. The pilots are said to have developed over the past four or so years the practice of close formation flying at night in their single-engine aircraft, initially as a test of their skills. Later in their association and more or less as an entertainment, a police officer at Troop K of the New York state police in Millbrook said Thursday, the fliers began manipu-

lating their landing and other lights to create the effect of a huge, silent airborne object.

A N.Y. state police statement issued Oct. 30, 1984, said of UFO sightings on that date, "This incident is connected to an ongoing problem in the southern Dutchess, Putnam, and northern Westchester area, involving small private planes flying in tight formations, changing colors of their lights and creating the illusion they are something other than they are. This problem has existed for almost two years."

N.Y. state police information officer Sgt. Wayne DeNike said Thursday the activity of the group appeared to have slackened off in his unit's area just west of the Connecticut/New York state line. He was unaware of the Jan. 9 sightings in Connecticut. "There hasn't been any significant level of public reports on them here recently," he said. "My understanding is that for a while they were basking in the light of the publicity but then it turned negative and they backed off. Our personnel have checked on any possible violations of law and have found none. Also, I understand that the Federal Aviation Agency was contacted and found no violations of its regulations."

The pilots are said to fly primarily Cessna 152 and other single-engine aircraft, of which there was a sizable number at the Stormville strip Thursday afternoon. And they are said to fly high — between 3,000 and 5,000 feet. The Cessna is a quiet aircraft by design and is said to be almost inaudible to ground observers when it is at significant heights. In addition, the pilots are said to try to fly into the wind, thus reducing their ground speed and creating the illusion, at times, of a stationary object. By tight formation flying, the pilots can present their crafts' red and green naviga-

tion lights separately in selected patterns.

Illusions, also, of rapid movement from point to point and of instantaneous disappearance can be created by all pilots in the formation simultaneously switching off their navigation or landing lights, then switching them on after an agreed-upon pause.

Writer Glenn Garelik, in the November 1984 "Discover" magazine, said the group members came to call themselves "The Martians." He supported Sgt. DeNike's statement that they had "backed off." Garelik wrote, "Several men suspected of being Martians began getting mysterious telephone calls from strangers, and one received an outright threat ... Then, too, they are worried about the possibility of violating local 'criminal nuisance' ordinances or being sued by people who have been frightened or distracted while driving."

The writer added that "The bulletin board at Stormville (airport) has been cleared of its UFO clippings." In the heyday of the fad, roughly in 1983, the board had been plastered with such clippings.

Thursday, the small office at the Stormville field was empty of pilots, although there were dozens of light aircraft tied down around the airstrip. The bulletin board and the snack bar, a self-serve unit, showed no note or sign of the peculiar entertainment of the "Martians." Once, it is said, the snack bar used to offer "UFO-burgers," basically a cheeseburger but with "a number of unidentified flying ingredients." None was available Thursday.

In the October 1984 state police report, four individuals were identified as probable "Martians." An alert state trooper had rushed to the Stormville airport as a rash of

(continued on page 2)

UFO calls began inundating his sub-station and Troop K in Milbrook. According to the state police report, "(He) met four planes as they landed. He questioned the pilots who denied having any knowledge of the reported sightings. He identified the pilots and the registration numbers of their aircraft." Sgt. DeNike said Thursday, however, that it is the belief of

the New York state police that the four were part of a group of about 10 area pilots who comprised "The Martians."

The names of the four were published by the New York police. They were men from Putnam Valley, Poughkeepsie, Stormville and one unknown location. A check Thursday of the 1986 Dutchess County telephone book turned up

none of the four. Perhaps they have opted for unlisted numbers in light of the negative publicity. Or, by another interpretation, maybe they went back to Mars. For, as one Stormville resident was quoted as saying about the UFO phenomenon, "Well, I guess it's got to be a flying saucer. I don't believe in planes."

CAROLE YUDAIN/Close encounter?

Strange lights pose intriguing mystery

It came out of the night. The first signs of it were small flashing red and white lights in the ink black, distant northwest sky. Then suddenly a very large, bright round white beam of light replaced the smaller twinkling ones. It homed in, straight toward me, as I stood silhouetted in the upstairs window. I had never seen such a large light in the sky. It was brilliant in its clarity, like an immense diamond about the size of a small full moon.

Fascinating. But what was it? As it flew nearer, I opened the window to try and make out exactly what it looked like. To my surprise, I barely heard anything. Possibly, there was the low hum of an engine.

It approached within an acre or less of the house and then veered slightly to the southwest, skimming over the treetops toward the Post Road and Long Island Sound. Straining my eyes, I thought I saw the side of a very large, completely darkened, elongated elliptical object — about 50 to 100 feet long — gliding over the trees. Possibly it was a blimp, I thought. It certainly was not an airplane. There had been no noise, and then it was gone. It was a little past 9 p.m., Thursday evening, Nov. 21.

Running back into the bedroom, where I had first heard about it moments before on the radio WGCH radio phone at the same time that I was watching President Reagan's helicopter on television descend over the capital upon his return from the Geneva Summit.

"It's not a plane," I said on the air. "There was this brilliant beam of white light coming toward me." I described what I had seen.

Other listeners, area residents, were calling in to tell of their experiences.

One woman said this "thing" had gone right over her car and that she had pulled to the side of the road, shaking. A male caller described it also as about 50 feet long. Many said that it hovered overhead and then suddenly disappeared.

Within the next couple of days, I met several people who were in other states when they saw "it."

"I saw lights overhead, going parallel to Route 84 East," said Robert E. Hagadorn, a Ridgefield resident. He was driving on Route 84 at the intersection of the Taconic Parkway in New York about 8 p.m. that evening, one hour before Greenwich residents sighted it.

"I followed the lights for at least 15 minutes, when they veered farther south. We were going about 60-70 miles per hour, keeping up with it. There were about 15 white lights in a "V" configuration, several blinking red

lights and it was trailing a small white light. It was about 50 yards across."

Mr. Hagedorn said he telephoned the East Fishkill New York State Police Barracks. The dispatcher told him that they had no reports that night but that there had been many in the recent past. The dispatcher suggested that they were ultra light airplanes from Stewart Air Force Base in Newburgh, New York, flying in formation.

WNEW's radio news director Mike Prelee was coming out of a restaurant near Tenafly, N.J., about 8:30 p.m. that night when he saw lights very low in the sky.

"At first, I thought it was a blimp," Mike said. "It was moving very slowly, very mysteriously. It had 10 lights together but I couldn't see the rest of the blimp. 'What the hell is it?' I wondered. 'I bet people will think it's a

Whatever it was that flew over Greenwich and near my home that night, I was not frightened as it came towards me, as I stood silhouetted in the window, watching it. Rather, I was amazed.

flying saucer.' It made an extreme eastern turn before the George Washington Bridge. It didn't stall."

A news reporter at a radio station in New York, received a call from a listener in Long Island about it. She said that she phoned the Federal Aviation Administration and they reportedly told her it was airplanes in formation.

"They were not airplanes," I told her. "It was one large, dark, massive object."

Phil Ambrogno, a Greenwich resident who is a science instructor with a private Westchester County school and an investigator for the Center for UFO (Unidentified Flying Objects) Studies, in Evanston, Ill., said:

"What's going on here has no natural or conventional explanations. It's a UFO. It could be from outer space; I don't know. Possibly it's a secret government vehicle. It's been going on for three years — from Albany, over to Hartford and down to North Carolina."

"The FAA has been investigating, plus the State Police and the local police. No one can track it . . . it disappears. This massive, large object seems

to be able to enter an area, terrorize the people, and leave without a trace. It's the first time that it's in the Port Chester-Greenwich area."

Mr. Ambrogno said that it was not a blimp, that it cannot be glider pilots, and that it is not a hallucination. If they were Cessna 152's in formation "you would hear them," he said.

Sherman J. Larsen, co-founder and a director of the Center for UFO Studies in Evanston, said: "Reports came in that some people just saw a big glob of light. All of the toll-gate keepers on the Merritt Parkway near Greenwich were out looking at it, from what I've been told. It's a monstrous thing apparently; one solid area. But the FAA wants to get you off their back."

A non believer in UFOs is professor Jerome Holzman instructor in astronomy at Lehman College in New York, who also teaches physical science, astronomy and astrophysics at the Bronx High School of Science. Holzman feels there is a strong possibility that "there should be life elsewhere in the universe, more advanced than us."

But as far as those people who report sightings and landings, he said, "Don't take them seriously. When you ask their neighbors or co-workers about them, they are extremely naive, gullable or disturbed, without exception. They show a lifetime of bizarre behavior. We have found nothing."

Whatever it was that flew over Greenwich and near my home that night, I was not frightened as it came towards me, as I stood silhouetted in the window, watching it. Rather, I was amazed. Never had I seen such a large, solid beam of white light traveling slowly through the sky, and then the dark mass that had quickly glided over the tall treetops behind the neighboring house.

I went to bed, hyped up after listening to three hours of talk about it on the radio with time out for the president's speech. Trying to fall asleep, I wondered about it but was not frightened at all, certainly not like the listener who had called in and said she was in a state of shock for ten minutes.

But it was difficult to sleep.

I had never believed in UFOs before, but as I lay there with my eyes closed, suddenly I had the sensation that something was walking silently in the bedroom, approaching my bed with long, outstretched mechanical arms. Quickly, I turned my head towards the doorway, held my breath and tried to peer through the inky blackness.

Carole Yudain, a Cos Cob resident, is a writer and publicist for State of Israel Bonds, in New York City. She is a member of the Greenwich Time Board of Contributors.

Rye's Peter Geremia is hooked on UFOs

By Suzanne Dandeneau

RYE — Have you ever experienced the sighting of a UFO? Would you know what to do if you did?

In this area, the right procedure is to contact the UFO Hotline in Massachusetts, or call Peter Geremia of Rye.

For the past four years, Geremia, husband and father of two, has served as state director for the Mutual UFO Network Inc. (MUFON), a volunteer international organization that is dedicated to documenting UFO sightings.

For Geremia, a self-proclaimed "open-minded skeptic," a basic interest in scientific phenomena gradually led to an increasing awareness of the subject.

He had read what little there was on the subject in UFO guides but always felt that it led to a blind alley with no real evidence to support the claims.

In 1976, Geremia accompanied a friend to a meeting in Wenham, Mass., to hear Raymond Fowler, a respected authority in the field of UFO investigation, lecture on the subject. "I was fascinated...and I was hooked," says Geremia.

Professionally, Geremia is an engineer in the field of electronics. At that meeting, he met educated, successful people from all walks of life. He saw the subject of UFO research as a worthwhile cause and slowly became involved with it himself.

Now, as New Hampshire State Director for MUFON, Geremia will follow up on reported sightings or unexplained phenomena. His interviews consist of more than 30 questions that are vital to the successful research of each case. He tries to piece together all the information in an effort to figure out what really took place.

It is his belief that studies have to proceed along the proper channels. Geremia suggests that there could possibly be interference by the government in UFO cases. Why would the government want to cover this up? Geremia says the fear of public panic could be a motive. He also explains that there is a wealth of technology that could be gained from any retrieved debris or materials. Geremia suggests reading the book "Clear Intent" by Greenwood and Fawcett, that charges the government with covering up UFO reports.

As yet, says Geremia, there is no hard evidence of the government having debris from crashed saucers or alien bodies, just unfounded reports. But he does not hesitate to add that since there are many similar reports that cannot be "debunked," the studies have to continue.

Geremia talks about the similarities — "Similar sightings seem to appear in 10-year cycles. In the mid-50s there were many reports of 'daylight disks,' in the 60s the sightings were mostly at night, and

in the mid-70s, 'humanoids' were often described in the reports."

He points out that "there is often a swirled grass pattern left behind after a reported landing, as well as dehydrated foliage that could be evidence of a short wave energy field (like that of a microwave). And there is often a magnetic field that interrupts television and radio communication in the area."

The Seacoast area has had its share of UFO reports. One of the most famous was that of a Portsmouth couple — Betty and Barney Hill — on their way home from a trip to Canada. They heard strange noises but didn't think much of it. When they arrived home, they found that it was much later than it should have been, yet they couldn't account for the time loss.

They both sought medical aid for subsequent physical complaints and recurring strange dreams. The doctor who examined them suspected marital or psychotic problems and referred them to a hypnotist who uncovered separate, yet similar, stories of UFO abduction. The couple eventually wrote a book called "Interrupted Journey."

Geremia says that there are many cases of reported abduction with striking similarities to the Portsmouth incident.

A reported incident in Exeter involved a hitchhiker who thought he saw a UFO. He ran to the police station and to humor the man, a patrolman was sent out to survey the area. It was reported that they both saw the red light and the object as it passed over the cruiser. Another policeman who was in the area also claimed to see the light and the object as it left the area. Again a book was written about this sighting — "Incident at Exeter."

Geremia reminds us that sightings are likely to occur in the vicinity of military installations. The Seacoast's close proximity to Pease Air Force Base and the Portsmouth Navy Yard in Kittery, Maine, could be reasons for sightings in the area, he says.

Geremia points out that the most recent credible report was in 1984, in Keene. According to Geremia's case report to MUFON, a police officer responded to an anonymous call reporting strange lights hovering over the city. The report claimed that what the officer and several witnesses saw, was "definitely unconventional." It was reported that they had ample time to observe the bathtub-shaped object with flashing lights that passed

overhead, hovered over nearby buildings and then sped off out of sight.

Another of the services that Geremia performs involves the writing of a small newsletter that keeps New Hampshire members up to date on the topic. The network publishes journals at a cost of \$15 per year to its members.

Currently there are 1,200 to 1,500 members in MUFON. The numbers always go up when there is a big "flap" (a nationwide trend in sightings), says Geremia. "We're in a mini-flap now with a few inconclusive reports of fireballs. There was a recent report sighted on Boxborough, Mass., that may turn out to be 'balled lighting...we'll see,'" he adds.

To Geremia the subject is a fascinating one. He plans to leave no stone unturned in his search for the truth about UFOs in the New Hampshire area.

Anyone interested in UFOs who would like more information on the Mutual UFO Network can contact Geremia at P.O. Box 453, Rye, N.H. 03870.

Again, the UFO Hotline for this area is in Massachusetts at 617-944-0686.

REPUBLICAN, Waterbury, CT - Jan. 11, 1986

Red lights in sky puzzle residents

By JULIE RASICOT

THOMASTON — Blinking red lights glided silently through the blackness Thursday night, pausing to hover over Thomaston before darting away toward Torrington.

Several people came out of their houses into the chilly air to watch them zoom away. Others, traveling along Route 8, pulled their cars over to the roadside and got out to watch as the strange shapes passed above.

What were the large elliptical aircraft that flew over Litchfield County between 8 and 10 p.m. Thursday?

The Torrington Police Department said Friday that it got several calls and determined the objects probably were five light airplanes whose flight originated in Hudson, N.Y.

But residents who watched the shapes make their night tour over Thomaston aren't so sure they were just ordinary airplanes.

"It was not like an airplane," said Paul Tracy, who watched one of the machines hover above his Elm Street home around 8:30 p.m.

"It was big and moved very slowly. It made damn little noise, and that's what bugged me," he said.

David Marcoux of Pleasant Street

was driving home from downtown when he and his wife saw whatever it was. "I thought it was a plane at first," he said, describing it as having a row of seven red lights with a bright red one like a beacon in the middle.

Marcoux said that when they got home, his wife went into the house for a camera. When she did, the several craft, which were flying in a horseshoe shape, separated, he said.

He took 20 pictures of the flying objects, he said, before they flew up the Naugatuck Valley toward Torrington. As he watched, they turned around and came back down the valley, he said.

"Where we live, we can hear any plane, helicopter or even a hot air balloon pass over our house. We didn't hear a sound," he said.

Several other residents passing through Town Hall on Friday wondered what exactly they'd seen Thursday night.

Marcoux summed up the feelings of those around town who'd chanced to glance out their windows and view the eerie sight.

"I would sure like to know what's going on," he said.

Egads, Ethel, they're back!



The Times/Chuck Groth

Frequent UFO sightings split town into believers and skeptics

By Robert Unger
National Correspondent

HILLSBORO, N.H. — If E.T. ever does phone home, he's likely to call collect from the Moose Lodge bar. Folks are friendly there; they don't mind strangers.

And besides, the lodge does sit at the crossroads of the cosmos.

At least that's how Hillsboro has come to see itself. Hereabouts, space travel has become a matter of watching the evening sky, and unidentified flying object sightings are so personal they carry the names of friends and neighbors.

By now, local folks would be downright offended if E.T. phoned from anywhere else.

If all that sounds a bit far-fetched to some, perhaps it's because they haven't walked the streets and backroads of Hillsboro and talked to the people, learning firsthand what it's like to live beneath an intergalactic freeway.

"Fact is, we just don't say as much about the space people any more," said Linda Stellato, who keeps the books for Hillsboro Crossing, the town's main restaurant. "That's doesn't mean folks don't see them up there. We just quit talking about it."

Hillsboro residents have been seeing things in the sky for decades. Not just strange lights, though there have been plenty of those, but also vessels themselves. And not just a few vessels, not just a few times, and not just a few people.

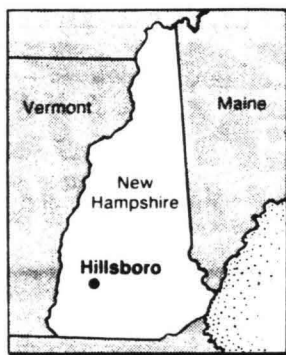
Sherman Larsen, a founder of the Center for UFO Studies in Evanston, Ill., says he

understands that phenomenon well: "It's simple. As more people are willing to tell what they've seen, ever more people become willing to talk, even if they don't make an official report. They even talk for the first time about things that happened years before. They are willing to risk ridicule. There's no proof Hillsboro has more activity than other places, but people there apparently aren't afraid to tell about their experiences."

So scanning the Hillsboro skies is virtually a community pastime. And almost everyone has a story to tell about what he's seen, right down to the guy who pumps the visitor's gas.

"About 10 years ago my wife, Roberta, and her mother were driving along at night when they saw something strange in the sky," said Lewis Pletcher, who owns the gas station. "They wouldn't have thought much about just that. Happens too often. But then their car just suddenly died. Dead. Just sat there."

"Well, after about 10 minutes it started again, and they hadn't done a thing. Never turned it off. Never turned it on. It was a new Cadillac, too. The mechanic said it



couldn't have happened, but it did."

And then there's the strange story of James Gaskell, owner of a small general store in nearby Washington. He was taking his children to music lessons when he became a believer.

"I'd always thought people who saw flying saucers were nuts," he said. "There was no doubt in my mind about that. And there's no doubt in my mind about what I saw."

Mr. Gaskell says he had just topped a low hill when he saw what looked like a dirigible hanging over the trees. It was so low, nearly scraping the treetops, that he thought it might be in trouble.

"I got out half expecting them to throw me a rope to tie the thing down," he said.

Instead, he said, a small "conning tower" emerged from the bottom, bright lights flashing and revealing small rooms inside. "Then it raised its nose and took off at incredible speed."

"There was no sound, no wind, no nothing. It was just there and then gone. One second I could have hit it with a rock. The next second it was gone. Now how could I explain that?"

And since he couldn't explain it, he didn't talk about it. After he told his wife, they both swore their children to secrecy.

That was more than 10 years ago. Since then the Gaskells have heard so many other stories that they now sometimes tell their own. But even today, some of their best friends have never heard about that evening. It is a common reaction in Hillsboro. Mark Poland understands it well.

Mr. Poland and his 9-year-old son encountered a "big orange light in the eastern sky" while duck hunting last fall. "I never said anything to anyone," he said. "I didn't want people saying I was drinking or on drugs. Or that I was just the crazy down the road."

The striking thing about Hillsboro is not the fact that strange things are seen. That happens in lots of places, though precise records are hard to come by. Rather, Hillsboro's distinction is in the attitude of its people, in the intense conviction of the storytellers. They aren't left to wonder. They believe.

"Them that say they've seen it, there's nobody in the world who would ever convince them otherwise," said Richard Robbins, the town's police chief. "A lot of people don't say much publicly because they don't want to be labeled as fruitcakes, but they still believe what they saw."

And how about the chief himself? Has he seen anything? He says it's not a question he much likes — because he won't lie. "There was this one night in Concord," he begins, "and this very strange light in the sky..."

Hillsboro's fascinating stories run the gamut:

● There's the real estate agent who woke up with the feeling he was being watched and saw something "grayish-blue and round, like a kids' beachball" outside

(continued on page 5)

Movie gives Mickey new outlook

By CLAUDIA FELDMAN
Houston Chronicle

I TOOK THE producer of *Aurora Encounter* a year to summon the courage to ask Mickey Hays' mother if her boy could be in the movies.

"How do you walk up to a lady and say, 'Your son looks like he's from outer space, and I want him to be in my movie?'" mom

• See related interview, review on Page 6.

Cindy Wilkerson asked. "He (producer Jim McCollough) told me he had seen Mickey in the papers and thought he would be just perfect as the little alien."

Mickey has received press attention because he has a rare aging disease called progeria. At 13, he is bald, weighs 35 pounds, stands 3 feet 9½ inches tall, and has the heart, the arthritis, sometimes even the disposition, of an old man.

When McCollough finally did contact Mickey, who then lived in Hallsville in North-east Texas, it was accidental, Wilkerson said. "Mr. McCollough told us he was driving down the interstate and saw the sign to Hallsville and stopped at the Dairy Queen. He told me on the phone, 'Please don't think I'm crazy.' That first meeting was in 1984. Wilkerson

was calm. She said McCollough was a nervous wreck. She told him she'd talk to Mickey, who was due home from middle school in a few minutes. It didn't take the boy long to come up with an answer.

"I was really for it," Mickey said from his new home in Longview. "I think the producer was a little nervous when he came to my house because he thought I would say no. But really, it's the best thing that's happened in my life."

Mickey tells reporters he was chosen for the part because he is "small and bright."

Wilkerson added that he is a clown and a natural actor, "but then, I would say that as his mother."

Wilkerson doesn't evade questions about exploitation. She is so used to being told that she is exploiting her son — that she is making money on him — that those questions barely bother her anymore.

"I spent a lot of Mickey's life worrying about that before I let anyone do an article on him," she said. "But then I let a reporter do that first one, and I could see it changed his life. I believe he's alive today because of it."

Before all the publicity, Mickey acted like he wanted to crawl into a hole and wait to die," she said. "Now he's a different person. He used to sit around thinking about how ugly he was and how people made fun of him. Now he goes out into the world and says, 'I'm a movie

star.' To see the change is a wonderful, wonderful thing."

Mickey attended the movie premiere in Houston Thursday and the Longview premiere Friday.

At both premieres, he wore a tuxedo and a top hat and rubbed elbows with co-stars such as Dottie West and Jack Elam.

"People treated me very special, very nice, first class," Mickey said, still euphoric. "I got interviewed, oh yeah, and oh God, I bet I signed 500 autographs."

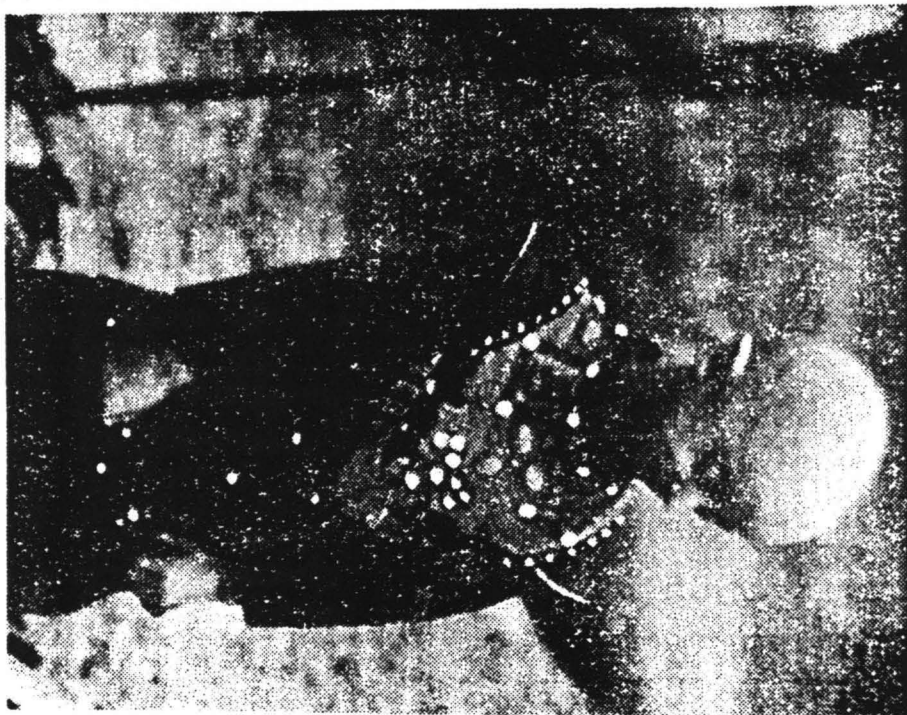
If Mickey is worried about a letdown after the openings, he doesn't let on.

"I'm feeling great," he said. "I've got no aches, no pains, none. I've got a new girlfriend, her name is Karas, and I even have two new stepbrothers and a stepsister."

A week ago Mickey's mom married Larry Wilkerson, with Heritage Business Machines in Longview. They dated for 3½ years, with the dubious mother saying most of those years that she would never remarry. She wanted to devote her life to Mickey, she said.

What she didn't say, or said only rarely, was that she was in constant fear of losing Mickey. But in the past few years, he's put on a few pounds. He's grown a few inches. And he really likes his new stepfather.

Wilkerson laughed like a bride. "Larry wanted to get married, and Mickey wanted us to get married, and so finally I said, 'OK, let's get married.' We really do have fun."



Mickey Hays portrays an alien in the film *Aurora Encounter*.

government's really going to build a landing strip.

"That's crazy," a loud voice challenges from the rear.

Just why is it so crazy? the man responds.

"Because," the voice from the rear answers quickly, "them things don't need no landing strip."

consideration, would cover much of the area where sightings have been most frequent.

"They're just gonna move everybody out of there," the woman concluded. "Poof. No more sightings. Convenient, huh?"

Someone else, now into the Hillsboro spirit, suggests that maybe the

(continued from page 4 - TIMES, Kansas City, MO - March 22, 1986)

a window.

● Or there's the couple who thought they heard something moving outside in the night. The next morning police found 18-inch-long footprints in the deep snow — tracks that went around the house, but they started nowhere and ended nowhere. Just a circle.

● Or there's the young couple who saw a "rounded-off football" hover over their parked pickup truck one evening. They followed the bright orange object until it sped away. The next day they learned others had seen it, too, though from some distance.

Hillsboro's public obsession with strange things in the sky peaked about five years ago when the town was discovered by the Boston news media. Reporters did a few quick stories and then left town. A lot of the credit for that "discovery" goes to the late Bob Giglio, then a photographer for Hillsboro's weekly *Messenger*.

"From what I understand, he was the one who really got people going, really got things stirred up," said David Grossman, the *Messenger's* current publisher. "I got rid of him when I bought the paper."

But many in Hillsboro believe Mr. Giglio's interest led more to simply lifting the lid than stirring the pot. "People had seen things but were afraid to say anything before he came along," Karen Wilson said. "He made it all right to talk about it."

Hushed talk

The whole "flying saucer" business doesn't sit well with Mr. Grossman. He makes that very clear. He doesn't think it's good for the town. From his perspective, the talk about things in the sky all but dropped off when Mr. Giglio left town, "and that should tell you something."

He tells a visitor that he hasn't heard anything about such things in years, hardly a word at all. And he obviously would like very much for his visitor to leave town with that impression, too.

Yet near the front door of the newspaper office, the visitor is pulled into a hushed conversation, right under the boss's nose. "Heard you were asking about things in the sky," offered Lynda Worcester. "Well, let me tell you what I saw on Saturday night . . ."

Down at the Moose Lodge, the house is split. Half swear something's flying around up there; the other half thinks the first half is crazy. Yet even the non-believers have a story or two to tell.

"Remember old Ben talking about that time years and years ago when something come down the river?" begins a fellow called Pudge, the head skeptic. "Said it was flashing and buzzing, lights everywhere, not really on the river. Hanging over it . . ."

The government's answer

All are reminded that the Air Force flatly denies ever tracking anything strange in the skies around Hillsboro and says that everything that has been detected has been explained. Even the skeptics chuckle at that. It seems that to some in Hillsboro the only things less believable than flying saucer stories are the official denials.

"You know, don't you, how the government had decided to deal with all this?" one woman said. "You heard about that new nuclear waste dump? Guess where they want to put it."

In fact, the proposed dump site, one of a dozen now under federal



Dorothy Kingsland says UFOs are drawn to Mount Shasta, in background, because it emanates positive energy

Examiner/Judith Carlson

The town that attracts 'pink UFOs'

By D'Arcy Fallon
OF THE EXAMINER STAFF

MOUNT SHASTA CITY, Siskiyou County — That strange pancake-shaped cloud hovering over Mount Shasta is really a spaceship. Pink UFOs zoom overhead. A colony of people 7 feet tall who wear bandannas to hide their third eyes live inside the volcano.

Welcome to Mount Shasta City, town of pure water and innovative thinkers.

"We're as independent as hogs on ice," said

Gladys Gale, a stocky, white-haired dispatcher for the Mount Shasta City Police Department.

"We've got everyone from Archie Bunkers to kooks like us," laughed Gale, 64, who is a believer in "beneficent space brothers." Although townspeople tolerate diversity, she said, "Gurus don't survive up here."

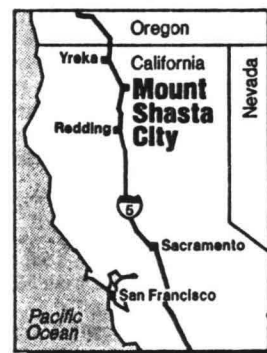
What has survived, even thrived, is a drowsy town that stubbornly clings to the legends about the 14,162-foot volcano towering above it.

Whether a mysterious refueling station for UFOs, an intriguing tourist attraction or the

source of countless barroom tales, Mount Shasta is an undeniable presence in this town of 3,100 people and two stoplights.

The young volcano's snow-capped double cones — Shasta and the smaller Shastina — are visible on a clear day for 100 miles in every direction.

Shasta is part of the Cascade range, which extends from the Canadian border to Northern California. The range is part of the "ring of



fire," a series of volcanoes that runs from the Aleutian Islands of Alaska through South America. Shasta's northern slopes contain most of the active glaciers in California.

Near the mountain summit is a bubbling sulfur spring, evidence that it is still active volcanically. In 1875, the celebrated naturalist John Muir, caught in an unexpected April storm while hiking on the mountain, spent a parboiled night in the foul-smelling hot spring to keep from freezing.

Legends abound about how Mount Shasta and the surrounding terrain were once part of the lost continent of Lemuria or Mu and served as a last refuge for survivors.

In "Lemuria — The Lost Continent of the Pacific," written by Spencer Lewis, a Rosicrucian, under the pen name of Wishar S. Cerve, he describes a secret, ancient colony of people called Lemurians who thrived and preserved their ancient ways inside the mountain. They were 7 feet tall, wore headbands to hide a third eye and paid for everything in gold.

Some members of the community, like Gale and Dorothy Kingsland, whose metaphysical bookstore is a magnet for spiritual seekers, believe Mount Shasta emanates positive energy, attracts UFOs and serves as a beacon of enlightenment.

Newcomers to the area have an uncanny way of stumbling into Kingsland's Golden Bough Books and saying, "I've been guided here but I don't know why," said Kingsland. A former model from the Bay Area, Kingsland believes she and everyone else are "the essence of God."

"I think we're all possibly Lemurian-descended," she said.

Gale said she has seen two large spaceships flying near Mount Shasta.

"They seemed to be on a mission," said Gale.

"I saw one over Mount Shasta," said Kingsland. "A flying saucer." She hesitated a moment, then added, "It was pink."

"Different spaceships have different auras, depending on their mission," said Gale, a former Marine sergeant.

Talking about UFOs and extraterrestrials is nothing new to Gale, who left her San Jose printing business in 1974 for Mount Shasta City after a psychic instructed her to travel "north and east."

Gale's Aunt Lydia was clairvoyant and her grandmother was an "unwilling medium" whose voice was taken over from time to time by an American Indian, she said. They also had "close contact with our friends from Saturn."

Or Apperson, co-publisher of the Mount Shasta Herald, a weekly paper, is amused by the stories about Mount Shasta.

The Mount Shasta City native recalled that during the '30s, curiosity was so intense that one gas station owner living in nearby Weed posted a sign that said:



Examiner/Judith Carlson

Elizabeth Stack says she felt 'channeled' by forces in the Shasta area to paint the mural behind her

"No questions answered about Lemurians or little people."

"When the hippie movement came by, we were as bad as Haight Street," said Apperson, 62. "Of course, Mount Shasta was always a reasonably tolerant town."

Aside from the town's several churches, there is also an "I AM" reading room downtown. "It's open today if you want to get enlightened," he said.

The Saint Germain Foundation is the parent organization for the "I AM" religious group. According to foundation literature, in the early '30s Guy W. Ballard encountered Saint Germain, an "Ascended Master," on the upper slopes of Mount Shasta and received illumination, which was later revealed in his book, "Unveiled Mysteries."

Asked about his own beliefs, Apperson replied, "I'm an atheist. I don't believe in a damn bit of anything."

One reason Shasta has attracted so much attention is because it isn't surrounded by other mountains, he said.

"Any mountain in the world that stands by itself has a lot of legends," he said. Mount Hood, Mount Rainier and Mount Fuji are also steeped in folklore because they're free-standing, he said.

"Who in the hell ever heard of Mount Whitney?" said Apperson.

Not everyone in town believes the mountain has special powers. But Les Harrison, who moved here from San Jose nine months ago and has climbed portions of Mount Shasta, has noticed "a weird kind of gravity" while riding his bicycle.

"Maybe it's just me," he said. "Maybe it's just my bicycle. But I should be going faster downhill."

Elizabeth Stack, painting a mural on the wall inside a store called Crystal Reflections, said Mount Shasta,

like Sedona, Ariz., is a "power place."

"When I moved here, I didn't really experience it at first," said Stack, 37.

Although it was Stack who wielded the paintbrush over the pastel mural, she said she was being "channeled" by other forces in the project. She had no idea what the gold hieroglyphics or symbols meant, simply that she was directed to paint them.

"There is definitely a lot of healing energy here," said Stack, who regards herself as a "psychic sponge" and spiritual healer. "It's not the mountain per se," she insisted. "It's the energy of the area. There are a lot of people who believe there are space beings here."

Because of the beauty and mystical aura surrounding Mount Shasta, thousands of people flock to the area every year, said Betty Stuart, office manager for Mount Shasta City's Chamber of Commerce. She's quick to point out that the town has a lot going for it besides the mountain, such as a brand-new ski park, clean air and a laid-back pace of life.

"The mountain attracts all types — including a woman nicknamed Yellow Bird who always wore a yellow slicker and believed she was from the planet Jupiter," said Stuart. "She used to come into our store and dance around until she knocked over a display."

People have called wanting to know where "the energy center is" and one man came all the way from Paris to search for Lemurians living on the mountain, said Stuart. When he stopped at the Chamber of Commerce for advice on how to find them, Stuart fought hard to keep the smile off her face.

"Finally, he looked at me and said, 'You don't believe in them?'" said Stuart, with a laugh.

"I said, 'I've never seen them. But if you see them, come back and tell me about them.'"

"Golden Space Age" sought

Group opens way for UFO communications

By Kriss Sheehy
Journal Staff Writer

ROCKY RIVER — A handful of people gathered yesterday to issue a resolution they feel will help open communications between us and our galactic neighbors.

"We are inviting them to come down, make peace and establish cooperation between our nations, so we can bring about a 'Golden Space Age,'" said Maj. Colman VonKeviczky, who said he is a former member of the Royal Hungarian General Staff and Ministry of Defense.

The group met at the Rocky River Public Library to discuss their idea of preventing "a cataclysmic collision between the earthly and galactic forces."

Maj. VonKeviczky and members of the Intercontinental U.F.O. Galactic Spacecraft Research and Analytic Network, Inc. (ICUFON) believe that the U.S. government and military are involved in a scheme to cover up the existence of unidentified flying objects.

"The public is misinformed by the military and the government in order to prevent widespread panic," said VonKeviczky. "They never deny that UFOs exist, but they don't see any solution to the problem."

"I say they (the military) shouldn't shoot at the UFOs when they see them. That will only provoke them. Instead, they should try to establish contact," he said.

The Hungarian-born VonKeviczky said he has spent 35 years in UFO military research. He said he graduated in 1932 from the Ludovica Military University in Budapest with a master's degree in military science and engineering.

He said he served with the Royal Hungarian General Staff and Ministry of Defense from 1938 to 1945, after which he served seven years with the U.S. Army's special services in the International Refugee Organization in Heidelberg and Munich. He immigrated to the United States in 1952.

He served at the United Nations from 1964 to 1966, where he said he

was a staff member of the United Nations Secretariat's Office of Public Information.

VonKeviczky said that he doesn't believe that all UFO visits are friendly. His documented exhibition, which he brought to the conference, contains information that he said details cases of injuries and even deaths caused by UFOs and extraterrestrials.

"What are we going to do? The UFO problem must be solved before it is too late. We have to do something," he said.

His solution was the resolution, issued jointly by ICUFON, the International Get-Acquainted Programme Europe, Research and Contact Network in Denmark and the International UFO/IFO Research Society of West Germany. He said the resolution has already been issued in the Far East and Europe and will be released next month in South America.

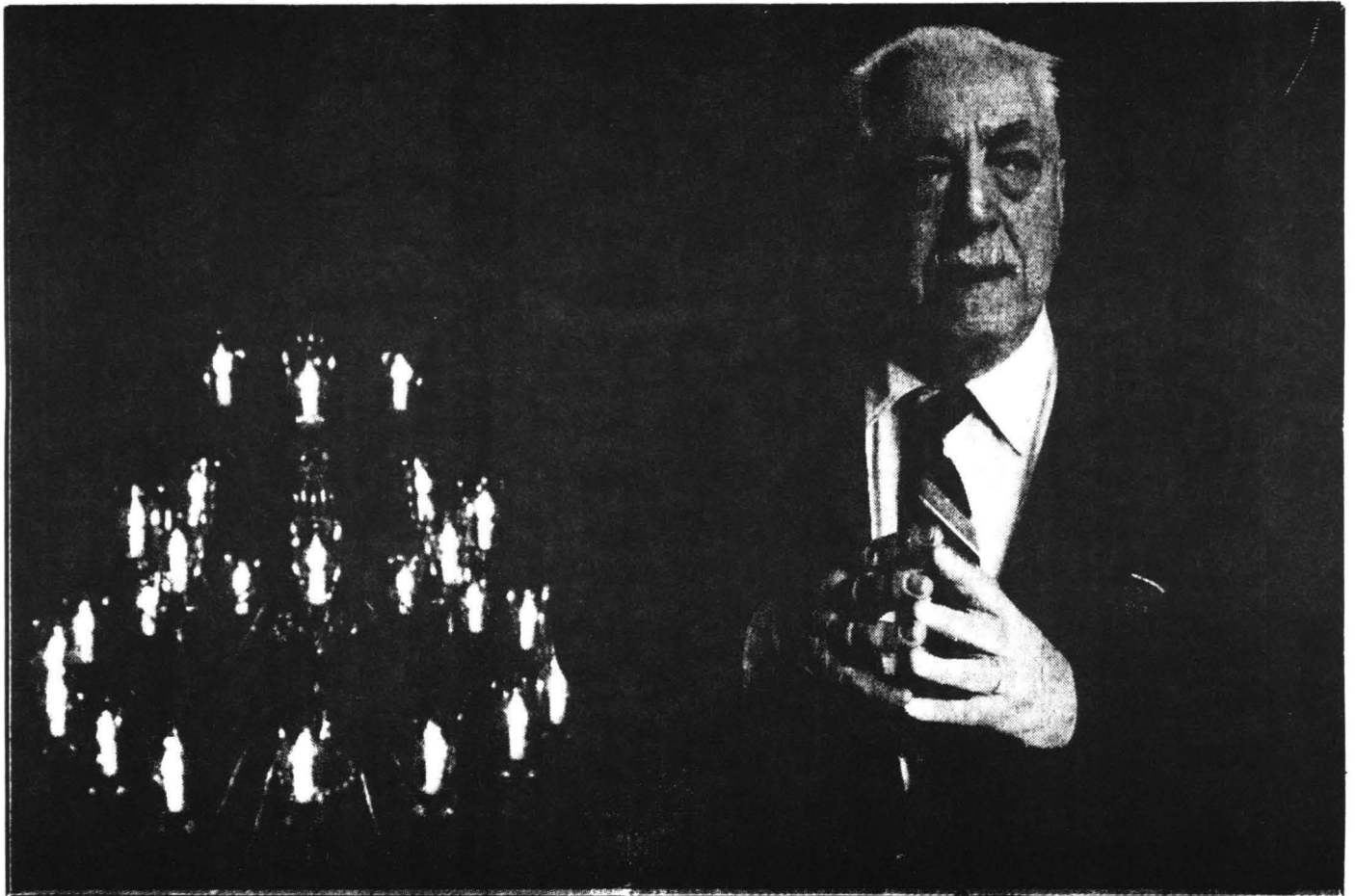
Cleveland was chosen as the site of the North American release because

of its strong UFO organization, the Cleveland Ufology Project. The project, founded in 1953, is the largest and longest standing organization of its kind in the United States, he said.

"We are asking for the government to drop its facade and to tell the truth about UFOs, and the extraterrestrials to come down and make contact. What we want is the truth," said Dale Harder, meteorologist at NASA Lewis Research Center and assistant research director for the Cleveland Ufology Project. Harder researches all UFO sightings in the Cleveland area for the project.

"We investigate everything about UFOs," he said. "We're definitely not fruitcakes. We are average people looking for answers."

The Cleveland Ufology Projects meets every third Saturday, from 8 to 11 p.m., at 5839 Ridge Road in Parma. The group invites anyone who has experienced a UFO sighting to come to a meeting, or write to them at P.O. Box 30372, Middleburg Heights, Ohio 44130.



MAJOR COLMAN VONKEVICZKY spoke at the Rocky River library about his UFO research. He is a member of the Intercontinental U.F.O. Galactic Spacecraft Research and Analytic Network, Inc.

JOURNAL/JEFF GREENE

HERALD, Bellingham, WA
March 26, 1986

Women report UFO hovering over G-P

Two Bellingham women reported seeing a gigantic bank of bright lights hovering over Bellingham Tuesday night, but law enforcement and aviation officials did not confirm the sighting today.

Robin Henley, 24, and Katie James, 23, both of 1026 N. Forest St., said they saw three rows of bright, white lights about 50 feet long hovering at 10:55 p.m. between the Georgia-Pacific Corp. mill and Squallum Harbor Marina.

The object — which Henley said she at first thought was a blimp — remained over the city for about five minutes, then moved "ever so slowly" to the north, until it disappeared over the hills, James said.

Officials from the Federal Aviation Administration, Whatcom County Sheriff and Bellingham Police reported no sightings from employees or the public.

Nor was there any unusual activity scheduled at G-P last night that would cause such lights, according to Tom Spink, pulp and chemical operations manager.

Pacific Southwest Airlines officials this morning said the last DC-9 landed at Bellingham International Airport 10:54 p.m. The last San Juan Airlines flight arrived at 11:06.

But both women maintained they observed the PSA flight approaching from over the bay from the southwest about the same time they saw the lights. They said they also saw a helicopter, which seemed to be almost tailing the object.

The women spotted the lights while heading toward the city on Boulevard. They were so stunned that Henley pulled into one of the Boulevard Park parking spots overlooking the bay, James said.

The object was a "flat cylinder" with the bottom and top lights brighter than those running down the center, according to Henley. The bottom lights beamed down, while the top lights appeared to shine upward, she said.

She studies UFO encounters of any kind

By Judy Magid
Tribune Lifestyle Writer

She's never had an "encounter" of any kind ("Nor do I have an unidentified flying object in my back yard," she laughed), but Mildred Bieseles has spent years studying the information available about UFOs and believes they are real.

Mrs. Bieseles, state director of the Mutual Unidentified Flying Object Network (MUFON), will lecture about the history of the UFO phenomenon and give a slide presentation on the subject April 29 at 7 p.m. at the Kearns Branch Library. She also will present the program May 15 at 7 p.m. at the Holladay Branch Library.

"I first became interested when I listened to a radio program where people called in to discuss their experiences with UFOs," Mrs. Bieseles said.

"These people sounded puzzled, sincere and normal. I have always had a curious mind and wanted to know more."

There is a lot of information available.

UFO News Service

"Along with books written by scientists and researchers, such as J. Allen Hynek, former professor of as-

tronomy, Ohio State University, Dayton, and a NASA adviser, there is a UFO newsclipping service that gathers news reports of UFO sightings all over the world," she said.

"Sightings and encounters occur regularly and are reported in local newspapers. These stories are not necessarily picked up by every paper."

Mrs. Bieseles explained the level of encounters named by Dr. Hynek.

"An encounter of the first kind is a sighting within 300 feet of a structured object," she said.

"An encounter of the second kind is a physical impact. This could be inflamed eyes of the observer or something like a dehydrated place on the ground where the object landed.

"An encounter of the third kind is a meeting with the 'alien,' or humanoid in the UFO."

Mrs. Bieseles said that detailed studies have been made concerning the experiences of people who have had encounters of the third kind.

"In a documented study of UFO abductions, these people have nothing in common — education, financial background, age — except that it is agreed that all have had a traumatic experience," she said.

"And, in the few interviews I have had with people who have had such an experience, I believe them. I believe that they believe in their experience."

A Sound Basis

She admits that the sensationalists are embarrassing.

"I never buy those sensational papers sold in the supermarkets, but I get the UFO clipping service so I am aware of the stories.

"The interesting thing is that careful follow-up shows that even these sensationalized stories have solid basis."

Mrs. Bieseles said that while many people accept the fact of UFOs, there are questions about where they come from.

"Some hypothesize UFOs are from another world or outer space. Perhaps they move through time or go through a black hole. Perhaps there are more than four dimensions," she said.

Mrs. Bieseles said that from eyewitness reports, the encounters of the third kind have changed in tone during the years.

"In the 50s, encounters were reported as positive, cheerful messages. The recent encounters don't bring messages but seem to be of a more investigative nature, like someone doing a doctoral study."

As for herself, Mrs. Bieseles is a believer.

"There always is a reservation, I suppose. I never have had an encounter. But the investigation of UFOs has been called the biggest challenge of the century. And it certainly is interesting."

For more information about the presentation, contact the Salt Lake County Library System.



Mildred Bieseles' curiosity spiked her interest in Unidentified Flying Objects.

She is state director of Mutual UFO Network and will present library lectures.

TRIBUNE, Salt Lake City, UT - April 15, 1986

CR: M. Bieseles

McCarthy's Pond: The Mystery Remains

By DICK CASSELBERRY
Sunday News Correspondent
WAKEFIELD — Nearly a decade after the ice on a tiny horse pond melted in near-zero degree temperatures, the events of that evening at William McCarthy's Pond remain a mystery.

It was late in the afternoon of Jan. 12, 1977 when McCarthy looked idly out his kitchen window to check the progress of a raging blizzard and saw a patch of open water in the pond behind his house.

He and his two children went out to investigate and saw what they believed was a black, box-shaped object, about 12 inches to a side, sitting in a bowl-shaped depression on the pond.

Last week, McCarthy recalled the details of the evening that suddenly threw this rural community into the national limelight. All three major television networks carried the story, and newspapers and radio stations around the country carried accounts of the happenings at the pond.

McCarthy said after seeing the object in the pond, he returned to the house to put on heavier clothing and get some tools. He returned to the pond about three minutes later with a hoe and rake to try and remove the object. When he and his son reached the pond, the box had dropped through the ice, leaving only a dark, square hole in the bottom of the ice.

"I have often wondered what would have happened if we had gotten back before it dropped through the ice and we had started poking at it with the hoe," said McCarthy.

The box was not seen again by McCarthy until photographs taken by his wife that day were developed about a week later. The pictures showed two men, one carrying a long-handled fish net and another a heavy object, partially concealed under his coat. The men, said McCarthy, were walking behind the house to a car.

Minutes earlier, others in what turned out to be an investigating team comprised of federal, state and local officials, had walked to the front of the house carrying a bag full of sediment taken from the bottom of the pond. Members of the media had gathered around the first group.



Today one maple tree (center) survives, but only the stump of the one nearest the 'spot that melted', is all that remains of the second tree.
(Photo by Dick Casselberry)

McCarthy said he was told the last two men remained in the pond area until the first group and the media left. They then carried something to their car and left. The men have never been identified.

NOTHING FOUND?

Officials maintained that nothing was ever found at McCarthy's pond and blamed the melting on a natural occurrence. Some investigators claimed the pond melted because of a build-up in pressure by the ice. Others claimed an undiscovered underground spring caused the melting.

Shortly after the object was discovered, McCarthy told a friend about the incident and soon local police responded to the scene.

The Wakefield Police Chief brought four geiger counters to the pond and reported getting high radiation readings on the machines. He contacted NH Civil Defense officials who brought in two additional, more sophisticated devices, to test for radiation.

Wesley Williams, then deputy director of Civil Defense, in his official report, wrote that he took readings that night and reported levels of radiation ranging from zero to three roentgens on different machines. He said the readings were taken about 10 feet from the melted hole.

Radiation from distant nuclear fallout is usually measured in smaller measurements of one-thousandths of a roentgen.

Officials said later the geiger counters, all six, were defective and had given erroneous readings because they had been stored in a warm building and brought

into the freezing weather where water condensed on their coils.

But tests conducted by the state in a special laboratory on the instruments indicated the counters were accurate and investigators said they were unable to duplicate any malfunction that would have given false readings.

Shortly after state officials began arriving, those who had begun initial testing were told not to say anything to anyone about the incident. Nearly every resident in the town of 1,400 people denied knowledge of the incident or had been told not to discuss it.

By Thursday of that week, McCarthy said state and local officials made plans to drain the pond to see what was sitting on the bottom. Several fire truck pumper units were brought in, but their efforts lasted little more than an hour before it was decided too much water was coming into the pond for the trucks to pump out.

At the time, the pond was about three feet deep where the melted hole appeared. Pumper trucks were successful in lowering the water only slightly, according to reports.

The pond bottom that was visible consisted of hard-packed gravel and several inches of silt-sediment. It appeared undisturbed, said Fish and Game officials who observed the pumping.

It was shortly after the pumping stopped that the officials departed the scene.

Several years ago, during a dry summer, the pond dried up and McCarthy hired a bulldozer and operator to deepen the pond. In the area where the object had fallen, nothing was found. No springs were found during

later excavations.

During the incident, several soil and water samples were taken from the pond. McCarthy said he was originally told not to let his horses drink the water, but later in the week he was told nothing was found in the samples and he allowed his animals to drink from the pond.

Official reports state the "hole was caused by natural shifting and cracking of the ice" and the "radioactivity is attributed to inherent unreliability of the less accurate equipment that was used in the cold weather."

There was also no evidence to support the theory that an Unidentified Flying Object was responsible for the incident. There were no reports of an airplane crash or falling debris.

Other officials reported the incident was not a hoax and that with the lack of tracks in the deep snow, it appeared that some object, either natural or man-made had fallen onto the pond.

NORAD officials said no object had been observed orbiting from space, but the heavy snowstorm had caused severe problems with the radar.

NO HAZARD

John Stanton, then director of the state Radiation Control Agency, reported that whatever had happened, it presented no hazard.

Reports indicate that since the object seen by McCarthy and the hole in the ice was square, "it precluded a natural object."

The report stated that some satellites contain devices that derive power from nuclear fuel, similar to a miniature nuclear reactor.

"If it had been a satellite — if it contained the device — if it survived burn-up in the lower atmosphere — it could account for the large quality of heat needed to create the melting."

The report noted the heat of the isotopes found inside the device could be sufficient to cause the device to penetrate deeper into the earth.

Once the on-site investigation was complete, crews returned to their offices, leaving McCarthy to ponder what had happened to his peaceful Ballard Ridge Farm.

DOG FOUND DEAD

Less than a week after the incident, he found one of his German shepherd dogs dead. An autopsy was conducted and material sent to several laboratories. McCarthy said sometime later he received a verbal report that the animal had died of internal burns, similar to those found in humans who had ingested radioactive material. However, McCarthy was never officially notified in writing of the findings.

Two maple trees stood near the pond. The following year, the tree nearest the location where the object was spotted died. The second tree survives.

McCarthy said more unusual incidents occurred about the time of the pond melting. He said a new digital watch he was wearing when he tried to retrieve the object suddenly stopped working. He said several investigators came and at first seemed interested in discovering what had happened, but after speaking with "someone" they suddenly lost interest.

Officially, the incident is closed, but McCarthy, who has lived on the farm nearly 20 years, said the pond had never melted before the incident or since.

He said he would just like someone to come forward and tell him what happened that cold January day.

UFO buffs seek to establish down-to-earth scientific image

By Eric Schwarz
The Patriot Ledger

BRAINTREE — Nancy Holmes began her search at 16 when she saw a disc-shaped metallic craft with whirling lights emerge from a setting sun.

"It's the only time I've seen a UFO, but that's enough," said the natural sciences teacher from Whitman. "It happens once and it opens up your mind and you want to find out. You want to find an answer."

Holmes was one of many at a four-hour seminar yesterday for licensed unidentified flying object investigators.

The event, held at All Souls Church in Braintree, concentrated on facts. The UFO buffs said it was part of a campaign to replace "lunatic fringe" UFO stories with an image of hard scientific inquiry.

There was, for instance, a lecture from astronomer Victor Zeller who cautioned, "Remember, the mind can play tricks on you."

There also was a photography clinic run by State Police crime investigator Robert Melesciuc, and a talk on public relations strategy.

"You may be interested in angels or parapsychology or other borderline things, but please confine your discussions with the media to UFOs," Marge Christensen, MUFON's national public relations director told some 20 people who attended. "If you try to mix it up with ghosts or the Bermuda Triangle or Bigfoot or something, it just confuses people."

The scientific bent of MUFON's leadership, however, does not always captivate the rank and file. Take Leonard Silverman, for example.

"The implications of UFOs are fascinating," he said. "It's kind of an escape. Maybe some higher or more intelligent life out there that could help us with our situation."

He said he views extra-terrestrials as the "ultimate grandfather figure." He decried the arrogance and ego problems of scientists and religious leaders who dismiss the possibility

of any life that would challenge their views of the world.

Others at the meeting frustrated the organization's move to respectability by saying they wouldn't give their names. "I'm a sculptor and a painter and my art is just getting off the ground. I don't want to be associated with anything controversial," said one man.

The basic MUFON strategy is to agree that about 90 percent of the UFO sightings reported are explainable by natural or human phenomena. From that admission, MUFON members hope to focus study on encounters — of the first, second and third kind — that haven't been explained even after extensive study.

One document that made the rounds at the meeting was acquired from the Department of Defense through the Freedom of Information Act, according to Barry Greenwood, author of *Clear Intent*, a book alleging extensive government knowledge of UFOs.

The report documents an alleged sighting above Peru's Mariano Malgar Air Force base, passed along by what the department called a reliable source.

"Source stated that on 9 May (1980), while a group of officers were in formation at Mariano Malgar, they spotted a UFO that was round in shape, hovering near the airfield. The air commander scrambled an SU-22 aircraft to make an intercept," reads the document in terse Defense Department prose.

"The pilot, according to a third party, intercepted the vehicle and fired upon it at very close range without causing any apparent damage. The pilot tried to make a second pass on the vehicle, but the UFO outran the SU-22."

Leaders also said numerous respectable sources have reported being abducted by aliens who conducted extensive tests on them.

"We have a New York museum curator, college professors, Wall Street executives, superintendents of schools and people high up in the military who have been abducted and studied extensively," Christensen said. She said the people would not reveal their names for fear of ridicule.

But as soon as she or others at the meeting would begin talking about "the thousands of abductions people have reported," they would step back

to the data.

"We don't draw conclusions, we just study the data," said James Melesciuc, MUFON's state director.

Others allowed, however, that theories involving spaceships from afar seem the most plausible way to explain UFOs.

"The one theory most entertained is the extra-terrestrial hypothesis. You say that if it's not from here, it must be from there," Greenwood said.

But, he added, having a thesis is not enough. "We need evidence. We need to track something out into space or hope that one of these days one will stick around long enough to be studied."

When confronted with the argument that alien spacecraft would have to have been launched eons ago to reach the earth now, Greenwood said that propulsion systems developed by other societies may be able to make UFOs go faster than scientists currently believe.

CR: B. Greenwood



Christensen

POST, Denver, CO - Aug. 4, 1965

More Lights Noted in Sky

By FRED BROWN

Denver Post Staff Writer

Reports of mysterious lights in the sky continued in Cheyenne, Wyo., for the third night in a row Monday, and a boy visiting Denver said he saw a red-and-white disc in the sky early Tuesday.

But officials at the North American Air Defense Command in Colorado Springs declared the current outbreak of aerial phenomena was "astronomical in nature."

And a former Denver moon-watcher said daylight sightings of flying lights could be explained as sunlight glinting off the iridescent bodies of insects.

STARTED SATURDAY

Beginning Saturday night, reports of unidentified flying objects (UFOs) have come from persons in widely scattered areas of the Mountain and Southwestern states.

At Cheyenne, four employees of Warren Air Force Base reportedly saw about 30 cylindrical objects with cockpits and revolving red light hovering over missile sites early Sunday morning. That night, two other flying lights were reported.

Monday night, several persons called the dispatcher at the Cheyenne Police Department to report they had seen two lights, one east of the city and one west of the city, about 11:20 p.m.

MOVING COLOR LIGHTS

The dispatcher said one woman caller said she saw the slowly moving lights, alternately flashing red, blue and white, about 11:20 p.m.

Warren AFB also received calls, but according to the Cheyenne dispatcher, no one "in an official capacity" saw the lights.

Both lights were described as "larger and brighter" than stars and flashed quick changes in color as they stood motionless, then began moving slowly.

Dennis Taylow, 13, son of Mr. and Mrs. Mel Taylow of Los Angeles, Calif., told his parents he saw a disc-like object over Denver about 1:30 a.m. Tuesday.

Dennis was sleeping in the backyard at 1624 S. Humboldt St. with his cousins, David, 11, and Gary Taylow, 12. The boys said the moving light, glowing white in front and red in back, gave out a high, whining noise—"sort of like a jet plane."

As it circled from west to north to east, they said, it left a white contrail. They said they watched it about 25 minutes.

A housewife in La Junta, Colo., said she saw a bright silver lens-shaped object turning slowly in the daytime sky 150 to 200 feet above her head.

Several objects reportedly were tracked Sunday on radar

screens at Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma and by the U.S. Weather Bureau at Wichita, Kan. These accompanied sightings by several persons, including some law officers.

NORAD officials said Monday night, however, that "an initial study of the majority of reports thus far received would indicate the observations were astronomical in nature."

They said the objects observed probably were the planet Jupiter or any of four bright stars "which are clearly visible in the eastern sky."

SCIENTISTS EXPLAIN

Scientists previously have explained that the UFOs might be in the nature of mirages—such as cloud layers reflecting lights on the ground or glinting auto windshields.

Norton T. Novitt, 2601 S. Columbine St., called The Denver Post Tuesday to offer a new explanation.

He said that when he was a member of the Denver Moon Watch Team three years ago, he and another man tracked flying lights with telescopes.

The lights, he said, proved to be sunlight reflecting off the iridescent bodies and whirling wings of flying ants in nuptial flight.

The flights, he said, occur simultaneously all over the country.

INQUIRER, Philadelphia, PA - Aug. 1, 1965

'Flying Saucer' Spotted in Okla.

OKLAHOMA CITY, July 31 (AP).—A policeman at Wynnewood, in south central Oklahoma, reported sighting an unidentified flying object early Saturday.

The policeman, Lewis Sikes, said he first saw the object at 1:30 A. M. He said it appeared to emit a red, blue and white light.

He said it appeared to hover in one spot and he observed it for about 45 minutes before reporting it to the Oklahoma Highway Patrol.

LOCATED ON RADAR

Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma City was advised of the sighting and located the object on radar at about 8000 feet. After checking with other government installations, Tinker officials said no air traffic was authorized to be in the area.

Carswell Air Force Base at Fort Worth, Tex., also located the object on radar and both Tinker and Carswell tracked the object to a point 15 miles southwest of Tinker, where it disappeared from both radarscopes.

BRIEF RETURN

It was picked up again a few minutes later and tracked to a location 29 miles south of Tinker where it again disappeared. It was not relocated.

Officials at Tinker said they had no information as to the nature or origin of the object.

EXAMINER, San Francisco, CA - Aug. 6, 1965

Radar Crews Get Solid Fix on UFOs

HOUGHTON (Mich.)—(UPI)—Personnel at the U.S. Air Force radar base in the Keweenaw Peninsula yesterday reported "solid radar contact" with seven to 10 unidentified flying objects moving in a "V" formation over Lake Superior.

The objects were moving out of the southwest and were heading north-northeast at about 9,000 miles per hour, the men said. They were 5,200 to 17,000 feet high.

One of the men at the base

said three other radar stations, in North Dakota, Minnesota and Luther Air Station in Canada, also reported spotting the objects. He said another station reported electronic jamming of its radar.

Seven other objects were spotted over Duluth and jet interceptors gave chase, he said, but they could not maintain the speed of the UFO's and were easily outdistanced.

The radar personnel, Air Force enlisted men, asked that their names not be disclosed.

DAILY CAPITAL, Topeka, KS - Feb. 9, 1955

Weird Lights Seen Hovering In Southwestern Kansas Sky

GREAT BEND—(P)—Two oil company employees and a National Guard officer reported the appearance of strange lights in this area Monday night.

Bill Whitcraft of Ellinwood and Bill Snyder of Great Bend said they noticed the lights about 9:30 p. m. while traveling from Russell, about 45 north, to Great Bend.

Whitcraft and Snyder, employed by the Lane-Wells Oil Co., said the lights appeared to be formed into a triangle at first and then appeared to string out into a straight line.

Chief Warrant Officer Charles Russell said he and from 15 to 20 other National Guardsmen observed the lights at the Great Bend Municipal Airport. He said they appeared

to be at 20 to 30 thousand feet altitude.

Russell said the lights were as bright as automobile headlights but said they did not send out beams. He said that after his group had watched them for several minutes they moved eastward and "just faded out."

About two weeks ago, several snowplow operators reported seeing strange blue lights bobbing and hovering over the Blue Mountains in Oregon. They said the lights seemed to hum. One man said he thought he was within 500 yards of the phenomenon.

None who observed the lights in this area said anything about color and sound, however.



TIMES, Derbyshire, England - Jan. 24, 1986

Survey reveals amazing public opinion

Close encounters of a shared kind



A NATIONWIDE survey has revealed an astonishing fact. That the majority of British people believe an invasion of earth from outer space is imminent. Within five years, in fact.

That's the bottom line, but just in case it should be thought the threat is not taken seriously in high places it's as well to note that Reagan and Gorbachev, when not watching each other, have an eye on the heavens. They agreed at their recent summit meeting to combine forces to fight off any alien attack.

Even the Ministry of Defence has come out of the closet to admit there could be something in so-called unidentified atmospheric phenomenon (UAP) or unidentified flying object (UFO) sightings. As a result of pressure from the House of Lords it released reports to the British UFO Research Association.

Even so the cynics will scoff. For a start the statisticians are on their side when they say that if there are a million other civilizations in the galaxy, and if all the planets are worth looking at, then should each civilization launch a spaceship annually we on earth could expect a visit every 10,000 years. And cynics pride themselves on being able to spot cranks when they're 10,000 light years distant.

Yet close encounters of a shared kind have been experienced close at hand by people who, until something happened to them, were the first to dub all reports as lunatic.

Ilene Perry ("... UFOs were just hearsay to me until I had two encounters") saw an upside-down ice cream cone-shaped object flying just above the telegraph poles near Bole Hill, Wingerworth. A bus load of people saw something odd at the same time.

In June, 1984, June Skinner witnessed a strange happening in the Staveley sky.

"I'd never seen anything like it before," she said.

"I'm very good at recognising planes after working in the RAF, but this craft was definitely not a plane and was not on any flight path."

Travelling from Mastin Moor towards Chesterfield, it was semi-circular and had bright lights on the front and underside. It made a quiet hum as it passed overhead.

And an object like a star with blue and red flashing lights was spotted over Shuttlewood last August by Elsie Lee who, until that time, had seen nothing despite an active involvement with the Chesterfield UFO Society.

By Tony Cragg

She said: "I keep an open mind and don't read science fiction books. I don't know if it was a space craft but it was not an object I can identify." And she had a witness. Pc Mark Turner watched the object for about 35 minutes before it moved off in the direction of Dronfield.

It's no use trying to explain to those who have seen the lights that it would take the inhabitants of our nearest star system — Alpha Centauri — nearly 100 years to make the round trip to earth, always assuming their craft could travel at 70 million miles an hour. It's no use pushing statistical improbability down their throats: they just won't swallow it. After all, as everybody knows, there are lies, bloody lies — and statistics.

People do see the unexplainable. Whether it is because of physical reality or because of psychic or metaphysical effect, they will continue to see things. Not that there's anything new in it. Some cave drawings have been interpreted as images of flying saucers.

And there could be a touch of the primeval about reported happenings. A year or so ago, travelling from Buxton to Chesterfield late at night, I heard a terrible screeching coming from the hillside and, at the same time, the car lights went out. The sound stopped, the lights came on again. I didn't see anything — not then anyway — but felt a malevolent presence. I, too, then saw the light.

We can't all be candidates for the funny farm. We can't all be cranks. J. Allen Hynek, consultant to an investigation into UFO activity by the US Air Force, coined the phrase *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*. It's been done to death but for those who have experienced something (and recorded events are legion) there's one comfort. The weight of evidence is impressive: encounters have often been of the shared kind.

Unfortunately, however, it's cold comfort — as cold as space itself.

CR: T. Good

ALDERSHOT NEWS, Hants., England - Feb. 21, 1986 CR: T. Good

Cabbie tells of dramatic chase with 'UFOs'

by SYLVIA WATSON



Mr. Hurn points out where he sighted the lights.

A YOUNG woman and the taxi driver who was taking her home are convinced they spotted UFOs above the Royal Aircraft Establishment in Farnborough.

And a local UFO expert has said their description of three bright orange lights is consistent with other mysterious objects sighted throughout the area.

Miss Danielle Mansbridge (20) and cabbie Mr. Gerry Hurn were both puzzled by the lights in Keith Lucas Road last week.

The taxi driver quickly turned his car around and they chased after the hovering lights, but they suddenly disappeared.

Danielle, of Pennine Way, Cove, said: "I really don't know what they were. The lights were very bright — you couldn't miss them. They were there just as I was getting into the cab."

Danielle, who works at Dialogue Distribution in Camberley, had been visiting her boyfriend, Mr. Brian Knight (23) at his home in Keith Lucas Road.

Danielle and Mr. Hurn even drove around by the Southwood golf course and RAE to try to trace the source of the lights, but without success.

There have been many sightings of mysterious flying objects and strange lights in the "News" area.

Probing

Experts investigating aerial phenomena have been probing local reports of UFOs for more than 15 years and some of the sightings have remained apparently unexplained.

Mr. Omar Fowler, a local UFO expert, said the description of the lights was consistent with UFO activity in the area.

"There has been quite a lot going on in the Farnborough area," he added.

Mr. Fowler is currently compiling a report on sightings.

He said he was still receiving reports from people who had seen mysterious objects in the skies two or three years ago, but who had been reluctant until now to come forward.

Amazed

"There was no noise at all, but they were blazing orange, very bright and big," Danielle said.

"I have never seen anything like it before — that's why I was so amazed."

Mr. Hurn (31), of Brookhouse Road, Cove, who works for Ace Radio Cars of Farnborough, said: "It was like a helicopter formation, just hovering."

"They looked about 25ft. apart, but it's difficult to guess distance in the sky."

"There might be an explanation for it — but they were definitely not helicopters or aeroplanes. I can't explain it."

Mr. Hurn said the lights "just veered away" and vanished without a sound.

"It is intriguing — I would like to know what it was."

He said the lights were so

Daughter followed by UFO - claim

A WYMONDHAM girl had a close encounter of the scary kind when she was "followed" home by a bright light in the sky, police reported today.

A middle-aged man reported the UFO incident involving his daughter, without leaving his name and address at the police station in Wymondham.

A police spokesman said there had been several reports of bright lights in the skies around Wymondham. The man who reported the latest sighting was not the sort to make things up, the spokesman added.

EASTERN EVENING NEWS, Norwich, England
March 13, 1986 CR: T. Good

MacLaine rejects charges

Actress Shirley MacLaine has rejected charges in Lima, Peru, that she was a neo-Nazi for her suggestion that space aliens could have helped the Incas build the ancient ruined city of Machu Picchu.



"It is very, very possible, maybe even more than possible, that if there are extraterrestrial beings, they were attracted by the superior spiritual advancement of the people that lived in Peru," she said at a Saturday news conference.

A Peruvian state agency three weeks ago ordered ABC Circle Films to rewrite a small portion of the script to the miniseries "Out on a Limb" removing a suggestion that aliens may have had a hand in building Peru's ancient stone ruins — Machu Picchu.

Archaeologists say the Machu Picchu stone ruins

STARS & STRIPES, Washington, DC

March 11, 1986 CR: R. Reid

cradled in the saddle of an Andean mountain ridge represent the apex of the Incan empire more than four centuries ago.

State Anthropologist Oscar Nunez del Prado told reporters that MacLaine was a "neo-Nazi" and said the miniseries script was part of "a racist campaign."

He charged that the campaign "is intended to show that people who are not descendants of the Aryans cannot have ancestors capable of the great works of humanity."

MacLaine, 51, said she believes "we are not the only living beings in the cosmos."

The Oscar-winning actress said she felt "great sadness that from a feeling of personal insignificance came an accusation of neo-Nazism."

"Out on a Limb" is based on MacLaine's autobiographical book of the same name and deals with her spiritual awakening and belief in reincarnation.

The day a giant 'serpent' hissed through the skies

June Moore reports on some spectacular UFO sightings before the century.

Whether you believe in UFOs or not is entirely up to you. If like me, you follow Brer Rabbit's policy of lying low and saying nothing until the boundaries of science have been pushed back a bit more, it may come as an uncomfortable shock to discover that UFO sightings are not exclusive to the twentieth century.

Only fifteen years ago, we were treating people who claimed to have seen UFOs as attention-seekers or boozers or those long overdue for the psychiatrist's couch. Officials gave all sorts of down to earth reasons for the sightings and when all else failed you could always blame a meteor.

However, the nineteenth century was quite rich in its own store of sightings. Its earliest UFO sighting was of an eighty foot long object flying 600ft above Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on the night of April 5, 1800. It radiated light and heat almost as powerful as that of the sun and, after it had disappeared, there followed an explosion and an earth tremor from an area where trees were later found charred and smashed.

This was curiously like a miniature version of a similar object which exploded over Siberia on June 30, 1908, with

such force that it destroyed a herd of reindeer, ripped up eight million trees and sent a shock wave twice round the world.

"Must have been a meteor" you chorus as one. Maybe. But consider the case of the sightings which were prolonged and many, of airships with motors and lights over the USA in 1896 and 1897. At this time, man had not yet invented the aeroplane. Yet on April 5, 1897, hundreds of people in Omaha watched a metal, cigar-shaped airship sailing majestically at an altitude of about 4,000ft, flying against the wind until it disappeared into the clouds. Many of such sightings were reported all over the USA in 1896 and 1897.

I often wonder how they explained that one, for meteors tend to flash by and certainly never sail majestically. They couldn't claim that one of their aircraft was on manoeuvres for they had neither aircraft nor any of the sophisticated avionic marvels of today.

This avalanche of UFOs was not confined to America but was liable to break out anywhere. As early as June 19, 1801, citizens of Hull in this country watched from midnight to 1am as a huge blue-lit sphere hovered in the darkness. Like some modern UFOs it split into several bodies, re-

assembled itself - and vanished.

On July 17, 1806, in daylight, the people of London saw an object like a conical saucer flying rapidly across the sky, shining brightly and shooting sparks. Four months later, a similar object was seen over Swansea.

Green men

Though the modern day sightings of UFOs describe different shapes, they are not so varied as the mixture which apparently blazed across the sky in front of our ancestors. Plate shapes, dome shapes or cigar shapes are quite enough for the average person to adjust to, therefore, the people of Darlington County, South Carolina, must have been close to hysteria when, in May, 1888, they saw an enormous serpent shape object gliding through the air with a hissing noise. This serpent shape was seen many times, but the weirdest sightings of this time happened in 1873 when farmers near Bonham, Texas, reported seeing what looked like a giant serpent drifting over their farms. It later appeared near Fort Scott, Kansas, and went on to frighten cavalry horses at Fort Riley.

Maybe the little green men were experimenting during the nineteenth century for their UFOs

appeared in every conceivable shape, which may be fair enough for progress and evolution but can play havoc with the nerves of everyone watching from down here.

Here are a few examples of the shapes that were seen and they name only a few. There was a thing like a twenty-foot pruning fork over Poland in 1825; a rectangular luminous body over Niagara Falls in 1833; a disc with a tail over the Atlantic in 1870; a triangular shape rising and falling in the sky over Bermuda in 1855 (has this something to do with the mysteries of the Bermuda Triangle?).

Then, in 1880, over Madisonville and Louisville, Kentucky, a complicated object like a man, covered in machinery with a sphere at each end, appeared.

Finally, there is the case of Alexander Hamilton, a former Congressman and much respected by neighbours and officials as a man of integrity. As even the purest among us can have a mad half hour once in a while, I, therefore leave an open verdict on this man, who swore that a three hundred foot-long cigar-shaped airship had almost landed on his farm at Le Roy, Kansas, at 10.30pm on April 19, 1897.

As he and two other men approached the

craft, only thirty-foot above them, they were astonished to see, in the brilliantly lit interior, six strange beings whom they could hear talking in an unknown language. The aliens saw the farmer and took off.

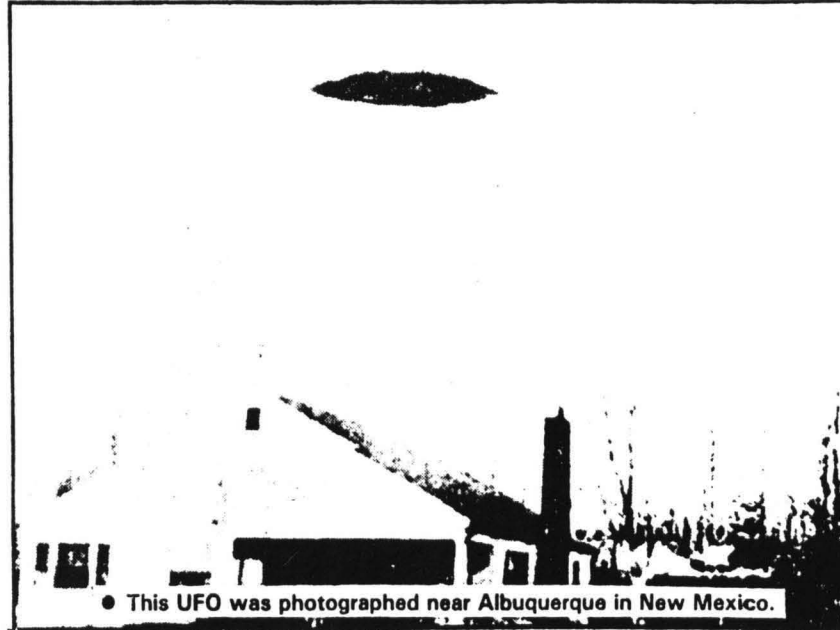
Unknown language

However, if you feel more inclined to take the word of three trustworthy astronomers, you can choose between these people.

In 1883, Mexican astronomer Dr Jose Bonilla saw through his telescope, over a period of two hours, 283 objects like flying plates moving at immense speeds and, later, 48 torpedo-like objects gliding through the atmosphere.

On July 29, 1878, astronomers James C. Watson and Lewis Swift were observing a total eclipse of the sun. They saw two disc-shaped objects, each about half a mile across, hovering at a height of 20,000 miles.

If UFOs are a reality, a debatable point even now, then it's quite a shock to find that they were spinning around in the sky before man had invented planes of any sort. And the thought that extra terrestrial eyes have been scanning us for countless centuries gives you the uncomfortable feeling that maybe Big Brother was watching us long before George Orwell was born.



• This UFO was photographed near Albuquerque in New Mexico.

A leading expert on the phenomenon, Mrs Margaret Fry, of Llan-gennyw, has received 27 reports of unidentified flying objects over Clwyd between January 4 and the end of the month.

A Penrith, Halkyn woman even claimed to have spoken to aliens which landed on the mountain near her home.

Mrs Fry, a field investigator and Welsh co-ordinator for the World Wide UFO Organisation Contact International, investigates and researches each report meticulously.



Having first experienced a UFO in 1955 when she was 'scared to death' after a flying saucer buzzed her car, she has no doubt about their authenticity, she claims. 14 separate sightings since then, she says, are still sceptical about claims of communication with aliens.

January 4 was a red-letter day for UFOs in Clwyd as 16 separate were made over Prestatyn, Tre-lawnyd, Caerwys and Denbigh. Mrs Fry has opened another 'case history' on the sightings — one of thousands submitted each year to the authorities. She conducts personal interviews, photographs the exact spot of the sighting and then superimposes a drawing of the witness's description of the craft onto the photograph.

"These people are not cranks — many are joint sightings", she said. In the latest case, a farmer and his nephew saw a red cigar shaped UFO over a field in Trellawnyd. The same object

Have you seen a UFO?

Have you seen a UFO in the last few weeks? According to active over the county unknown visitors in the last month.

RHYL & PRESTATYN JOURNAL, England - Feb. 5, 1986 CR: T. Good

N.B.

Orbiting with the cosmic cults

By JOHN OUGHTON

Doug Curran rolls his eyes in despair at the least suggestion that he believes in flying saucers or alien visitations. Conservatively dressed to repel such notions, in a pink shirt and blue tie, his beard neatly trimmed, he's sandwiching an interview with NOW between a session with a local daily paper and a forthcoming CBC Journal spot.

The cause of this recent excitement is Curran's book *In Advance of the Landing: Folk Concepts of Outer Space*. And, he writes, "Near the end of most interviews the interviewer will lean toward me... 'So tell me, Doug... do you think UFOs really exist?'"

Curran, as objectively as he can, photographs and writes about North Americans who believe they have been taken for rides on alien spacecraft, that humanity will be rescued by UFOs or they lived previous lives on other worlds. But what Curran is after is "their motivation, the cultivation of how these people built their belief systems. I walk away from the question of whether I believe or not. It's not relevant to what I'm trying to do."

Many of the people he records combine their extraterrestrial beliefs with more traditional religions like Theosophism or Christianity. One of the Canadians portrayed is Constant Bilodeau, whose glasses and muttonchop whiskers make him a double for Isaac Asimov. Bilodeau's Centre of Cosmic Consciousness in St. Jovite, Quebec displays a Madonna, Our Lady of Outer Space, who faces a model of a flying saucer.

Many of Curran's subjects believe that the universe is ruled by a kind of intergalactic council of ascended masters, one of whom is Jesus. Earth's violence and advance of the physical sciences compared with its social and spiritual knowledge makes it a danger point, a planet on the brink of armageddon.

Curran says these credos are "a logical outcome to a society that's distanced itself from traditional religion and the power of that religion."

on. It's part of the urge to hand our hopes in a bigger basket, to imagine a technology one step beyond our realm of knowledge."

Significant bulges

He adds that the records of sightings of UFOs show a couple of significant bulges in the last century. In the great airship mystery of 1896-97, thousands of Americans reported seeing airships that resembled a Da Vinci drawing: "large cigar-shaped ships in the air, powered by motors that drove air screws, propellers or wing-like sails." These sightings were never satisfactorily explained, he says.

By the late 1940s, when human-designed aircraft were a common sight, people began to report seeing craft that outperformed early jet planes: saucers that travelled at great speeds and made impossible turns. Curran explains: "prior to the second world war, most alien encounters were seen as threatening or war-like. But then, after the atomic bomb tests and the onset of the cold war, suddenly the alien visitations were seen as something welcome: they were seen as the saviours, the consciousness-bringers."

Curran was told by several believers that he had a special role as a "way-shower," a preparer of the path for others. One of the biggest cults, in California (of course), is the Unarius Foundation. Their leader is the 82-year-old Ruth Norman, who considers herself an incarnation of the archangel Uriel and who rides like a cosmic Mary Kay in a Cadillac with a roof-mounted flying saucer. She recently wrote Curran to tell him "the date of the coming of the space-ships, and that you are truly one of the way-showers."

"When they tell me that," Curran says wryly, "I say, 'yes, and I'm here to take your picture.'" Creating the book was a labour that consumed many months spread over several years, and two cars. A Ryerson photography graduate previously known for his sensitive documentary work on Metis settlements, Curran's project



While researching his book on people who are awaiting visitations from outer space, Doug Curran was several times offered prophet-status by his subjects.

started off with the title which came to him in a dream in 1975.

His research method for finding believers was original. Visiting small towns, he would show a postcard of a flying saucer from a collection he had printed of UFO folk art, to newspaper editors or waitresses and ask if any local people were interested in such things. Along the way he documented saucer-shaped homes and many commercial icons that advertised motels or tourist attractions with rockets or spacecraft.

Working saucers

But he also found people who tried to build working flying saucers such as The Bluebird, now reposing in a barn in Detour Village, Michigan. A group built the hull and other parts of the craft, but had problems perfecting its "double-vortex" engine and eventually splintered when founder Warren Goetz left.

Curran, who used large format 6x7 cm and 4x5 inch cameras for most of the photos, had to rent a special wide-angle lens and rig huge lights to photograph the Bluebird in its home. The book's stunning cover photograph of a minimalist stone saucer by sculptor Jene Highstein against a surreal night-scape, also took some ingenuity.

"After taking some shots, I drove 600 miles and then decided they didn't have enough jam in them. So I turned around, came back, used a fill-in flash and opened the lens for exposures of up to two hours. I'd open the lens, set an alarm clock and then sleep until the exposure was done," he said.

In many of his portraits the subject stares straight at the camera,

standing beside an artifact of belief (such as the Bellenium Falcon, a Ford station wagon with roof-mounted afterburners and slogans like "Hey Kids! Go to work in a real spaceship!"). "They wanted to be in the picture, testifying through me. I tried to use form to dictate the content."

He strove for a similar clarity in his writing. American writer Tom Wolfe took an early interest in Curran's project and contributed a foreword to the book. Wolfe told him: "You have to tell the truth and explain it as clearly as you can." For Curran, that meant "there were times in writing when I came across a good turn of phrase — but when it coloured things, or was opinionated, it had to go."

Curran's distance from "space cadet" status is also evident in his

practical approach to the book: "The \$19.95 price is the magic number. I wanted a real Toyota of a book that looked good but didn't cost too much so that people who care nothing about flying saucers or photography will pick it up." He also insisted on an index and bibliography so that the book can find use as a supplementary text in university courses on religion and sociology.

Curran's next project also focuses on belief: documenting gospel preachers in the U.S. who travel and preach in tents. He expresses some fears about the work — "I know they're going to call on me to testify, to get up and preach, and there's a certain point beyond which I can't work" — but he's leaving next month to trace down some leads. In a car.

SOUTH WALES ECHO, Cardiff, Wales
March 18, 1986 CR: T. Good

'Flying saucer' storm in a Welsh tea cup

UFO-SPOTTERS flooded police and airport switchboards last night to warn of a mystery array of bright lights hovering over South Wales.

But although official sources today described the "alien space-craft" as night-lights on RAF aircraft on a mid-air military re-fuelling exercise, that wasn't enough to satisfy some "flying-saucer" watchers.

South Wales police were "inundated" with calls from as far as Bridgend

and the Rhymney Valley. A spokesman for Cardiff Airport explained telephone calls were "red-hot" for an hour as the curious callers rang in.

"It was a military exercise with one aircraft approaching a larger one to re-fuel. They were travelling quite slowly and had an unusual display of lights — that is why so many people were baffled," said a police spokesman.

But Mrs Marina Davies of Ruddy Common, near Caerphilly who spent 15 minutes watching last night, said: "A military exercise? Absolutely no way.

"I'm convinced it was a UFO although I would like to think it was on our side," she said.

Mrs Davies, her 10-year-old daughter Julia, a friend and another child were travelling up a lane to their cottage when they stopped.

"We saw two bright head-lights and started reversing back. I thought it was another car — but then the lights shot up in the air," she said.

"Then suddenly the lights shot off in different directions before flying away. I'd never seen anything like it before even though we often have aircraft over here," she said.

BLAST TO SPACE

By KEITH FRASER
Staff Reporter

He built his own "spaceship" and lounged in it for hours hoping to receive signals from outer space.

The mechanical whiz even added a wood stove, a sofa and a TV to the capsule, made from two satellite dishes.

And, before he vanished six years ago, Granger Taylor of Duncan told his friends he was going to take off for another solar system.

Now police have found unidentified human bones and the blasted remains of

a truck belonging to Taylor.

They were discovered March 20 by a provincial works crew at the site of a dynamite blast six kilometres northwest of Duncan.

A case of dynamite was reported missing from Taylor's parents' farm.

And buddy Bob Nielsen is almost certain his friend was blasted into oblivion.

Duncan UFO expert John Magor believes Taylor was attempting to get to another galaxy in his "spaceship."

"He believed if he could get to this point he'd be taken aboard one of the

aliens' craft and see who they were," Magor said.

"Granger felt he was being communicated with by mental telepathy, that they were getting through to him."

"The case of Granger Taylor was very interesting to us, because he was not known as an oddball."

Striking out on his own, Taylor built a one-cylinder car and restored a steam locomotive that he'd hauled from the woods.

A burly 120 kilograms (265 pounds), he was as strong as a wrestler and even

built his own wrestling ring on the farm.

He built a replica of a Second World War fighter plane — a Kitty Hawk — that he later sold for \$20,000.

He got a pilot's licence and bought a plane with a partner.

In the late 1970s, he began turning his interest to outer space.

That's when he built the "spaceship" and prepared for his trip with the aliens.

Taylor's parents, both retired, refuse to discuss their son's fate. And it's still a mystery exactly how Taylor planned to use the dynamite.

PROVINCE, Vancouver, B.C., Canada - April 6, 1986 CR: J. Magor

Encounters with the unknown

CONTRARY to public opinion, UFOs are regularly seen over major cities and Bradford is by no means an exception.

The Yorkshire UFO Society has on record many startling encounters over Bradford and its surrounding satellite towns and villages.

Reports of strange incidents is nothing new to this area, yet how real is the phenomenon and can it all be placed in categories which support a more down to earth explanation? The evidence suggests not, and we must point out that the following documentation has been analysed by some of the leading UFO researchers in this country and much of the data suggests an unknown intelligence.

Reports of UFOs continue to build up in our files relating to the Bradford area, but we must go all the way back to 1960 to find a classic example of how the subject displayed itself to a couple of innocent witnesses. This report, compared with recent encounters, will amply show how little the UFO has changed in the eyes of the un-knowing witness.

CR: T. Good

Froze

Two women had left a house in the Low Moor area and were heading on foot towards High Fernley. Suddenly they became aware of a dark grey saucer shape just above a nearby hillside. Around the centre of the object a series of brightly lit 'portholes' were very evident. No sound could be heard even though the object was just two hundred feet away, hovering motionless just above some advertisement boards. The couple froze for a moment, and watched the very large craft move silently towards the Pennines.

There is nothing in the report to suggest a hoax or mis-identification of any known airborne object.

How physical is the phenomena and do UFOs constitute a threat to the public? A

MARK BIRDSALL, Research Director of the Yorkshire UFO Society, describes recent sightings, and concludes that Bradford is on a major UFO flightpath. Mark, a 28-year-old computer operative, formed the YUFOs with his brother in 1981. It now has some 200 members, 40 of them in Bradford.

terrified witness living in the King's Road recalls: "The year was 1967 and I was aware of a loud, pulsating, whirling sound outside my bedroom. The time was 2.30 a.m. I turned my bedroom light on and the sound grew louder. At this point my bedroom light started to flicker. I looked outside the window and couldn't believe my eyes! An enormous domed saucer was moving slowly across the street. It sent shivers down my back. It was bright silver and had a series of flashing lights around a raised dome. I would estimate its size to be no smaller than 150 ft. It was incredible."

The modern era of UFO sightings and the lengthy investigative methods and procedures YUFOs undertake to solve such mysteries are today 'dogged' by man's own advanced technological achievements in aviation. Today there are so many unusual objects to be seen in the skies. But could anything explain the object which hurtled towards Bradford on November 7, 1981?

Many witnesses as far afield as Huddersfield spotted a strange sphere cruising at tree top level and spinning rapidly. As it approached south Bradford, people observed a smaller sphere entering the large windowed ball.

1981 was perhaps Bradford's year in so far as UFO sightings are concerned. But few of the witnesses to the following daylight



Playing it for laughs

ARE there little green men out there? The UFO investigators are keeping an open mind. But members of Bradford's Quest Science Fiction Club just let their imaginations run riot.

Making science fiction masks (the ones illustrated are by Colin Thornton who recently won a two-week holiday to Hollywood on the strength of one of his creations) is just one of the activities of the club, which meets every Monday at the Bridge Project, 40 Piccadilly, Bradford.

The members are planning to make a S.F. film this spring, and to "twin" with a similar club in America, but meanwhile they've just brought out their first fanzine.

It's a lively duplicated magazine called The Chronicles of Quest.

John Hewitt

experience will ever forget the month of June. We had received calls relating to the sighting of a large saucer shaped craft hovering over the West of the city. Quite quickly our Bradford investigators hurried to the scene.

Perhaps as is always the case with UFO investigation, the object had departed! The story does not end there however. For at 7.30 p.m. the same evening further reports were made of the identical object.

Seven statements taken by our investigators related heavily towards each other, all the observers offered similar descriptions — a silver craft with a purportedly 'glass' dome being illuminated from inside.

Yorkshire has a great reputation in

relation to such encounters with the unknown and perhaps one of the most disturbing occurred near Haworth. We have tried to solve this mystery for nearly four years, but still we remain totally baffled by the strange incident at Cullingworth Moor.

On September 17, 1982 at 10.30 p.m., two women were driving over Cullingworth Moor towards their home in Haworth. The road was deserted when suddenly a cluster of multi-coloured lights took up a position directly in front of the vehicle and around 30 ft. off the ground.

The women, absolutely terrified, slowed down immediately to around 5 mph. As the vehicle passed under the lights they could clearly see a large dark structure which

emitted a brilliant white beam at the car. The driver was flooded by an intense white light, she lost control of the car. Just seconds before they plunged down an embankment, she managed to regain control. The vehicle stopped. The glowing object moved off slowly towards the Skipton area, and quite silently left the women.

Both extremely upset they raced for home. When they arrived home they noticed the clock. A journey which usually takes less than thirty minutes had seemingly taken nearly two hours.

Some four days later the women decided to re-trace the journey at exactly the same time. Both very frightened they started to travel on the same stretch of road. Their fears were to

be realised when at exactly the same locality they had encountered the UFO, a red mist appeared from thin air and engulfed the vehicle.

The driver pressed hard on the accelerator and cleared the thick red glowing mist. When they arrived home they realised they had lost some thirty minutes again.

Mystery

UFO sightings continue in the Bradford area and reports are still well above the national average. Even now, as we endeavour to evaluate the masses of information, people still come forward to relate strange encounters and observations. Such was the case just before Christmas when two astronomers claimed they saw a UFO glowing brilliant yellow in the sky over Shipley. Why Bradford is witness to so many UFO overflights remains a bigger mystery than perhaps the phenomena themselves. Perhaps the key lies with the city's locality. Bradford backs on to the vast, open areas of Yorkshire and just a short distance away the Pennines, scene of the most intense UFO activity in the United Kingdom. Is that why we are on the UFO flightpath? Time will tell.

Tomorrow the Yorkshire UFO Society will be staging a major conference with leading figures from all over Europe attending. The meeting is being staged at Centenary House, North Street, Leeds, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. (doors open at noon).

International speakers will be relating substantial evidence which will dismiss the sceptics claims of 'no material evidence'. The Society will be presenting some of the strangest incidents this country has ever seen, making Yorkshire the key in the vast jigsaw so aptly termed The UFO Paradox.

Taximen see UFO hover on Deeside

By Val Lowe

Two Flint taxi drivers are sure they weren't dreaming when they saw a UFO in the sky above Deeside.

"It's a bird? Is it a plane?" they asked themselves, as the strange craft hovered above them while they were out in different parts of Connaught Quay at about 8.20 on Saturday night.

"I was driving back to the office along Ketterston Lane when I spotted a brightly lit object about 20 feet above me," said Mr Leonard Parker, of Market Square, Flint.

"I stopped and looked out of the taxi, and it kept hovering there, with lots of yellow coloured lights underneath, and was cone-shaped.

find his colleague, Mr Paul Jones, 34, of 9 Maea Glas Ffyn, describing the same craft to staff.

"I saw it while I was driving alone Connaught Quay High Street. Several other motorists stopped too.

"It certainly wasn't a plane or a helicopter. I've never seen a craft like it before," said Mr Jones.

"Everyone is joking about it now, but I must admit I have always kept an open mind about Unidentified Flying Objects, and I'm sure that's what we saw that night."

North Wales expert on UFOs, Mrs Margaret Fry, from Llanelwney, said she had called from about six people in Prestatyn area the same evening.

"They had seen a craft with flashing lights, only half an hour or so after the taxi drivers saw something.

"It certainly sounds like a UFO sighting. But I like to interview the people first to make sure," said Mrs Fry, a member of the international UFO organisation Contact International UK.

UFOs 'common over Batley,

HECKMONDWIKE REPORTER, Yorkshire, England - March 20, 1986 CR: T. Good

Close encounters of the year to his several different kinds successors.

Philip won the award last year as a result of his work for the YUFOs.

He is particularly proud to have arranged for leading Norwegan UFO expert, Mr. Odd Gunnar Roed, to speak at the meeting.

Other "leading lights" in the UFO world to be present will be Timothy Good, adviser to the House of Lords all-party UFO study group, and Jenny Randes, Britain's only full-time ufologist.

"I have had numerous reports of large circular objects over Batley and Spenn. They've been seen on several occasions but I cannot figure out what they are," he said.

Batley's own UFO expert, Philip Mantle. —(N.S.).



I too saw the UFO

WESTERN TIMES, Exeter, England
March 14, 1986 CR: T. Good

CHAGFORD has once again been visited by what local people are becoming increasingly convinced is an Unidentified Flying Object.

Back in January, a local shopkeeper, Mr. Malcolm Rice, and his stepson Matthew, reported two separate sightings of mysterious objects over the town.

Now, a member of a local

farming family, who did not want to be named, says she too has seen the strange and terrifying phenomena.

A MYSTERY IN THE SKY

Fireball!

A MYSTERY fireball which flew across the sky over Windsor glowing red and trailing smoke, has baffled air and space experts this week.

Windsor police — who take the reports "most seriously" — have found no trace of the object, thought to have been as big as a helicopter, although it was seen to fall near the racecourse.

Express inquiries have drawn blanks from West Drayton Air Traffic Control, the Royal Air Force, the Civil Aviation Authority, the British Airports Authority, the Bracknell Weather Centre and the BBC's science expert James

Wilkinson. The flying object was seen by several people in Dedworth at around 2 pm on Monday, including staff at the Anglia Building Society in Dedworth Road.

Manager Tracey Wogan said: "We just couldn't believe it. It was travelling across the sky, and going

By John Perry

too slowly for a meteorite. "It was glowing red and there was white smoke coming from it — it looked like it was very hot. There were pieces of what seemed to be hot metal falling from it."

She added: "People just don't believe us — they think we're round the twist!"

Housewife Sheila Goulden, who spotted the fireball from her home

in East Crescent, said: "I was absolutely amazed. It was pretty large and seemed to be under power of some sort."

West Drayton Air Traffic Control, the RAF, the CAA and BAA all said there should not have been aircraft in the area at the time, and have received no reports of pieces falling from planes, a common happening in the Heathrow area.

Bracknell Weather Centre said it was "extremely unlikely" to have been a weather balloon as they are launched a long way away, and rapidly disappear above cloud level.

BBC news science correspondent James Wilkinson scotched rumours that the object might have been falling debris from last week's shuttle disaster in America.

SOUTH WALES Police were inundated with calls from the public last night reporting unidentified flying objects in the area.

Throughout the evening scores of people saw strange lights that didn't appear to resemble aircraft lights.

A police spokesman said calls came in from Caerphilly, Bargoed, Rhondda and the Ogwr district while Swansea Coastguards received numerous calls as well.

But the mystery lights belonged to the Royal Air Force which was carrying out a mid-air refuelling exercise, police said.

A Cardiff-Wales Airport spokesman confirmed that it was a refuelling exercise involving DC-10's.

Balloon

But many baffled observers said the lights couldn't have belonged to aircraft.

"I have never seen anything like it before in my life," said Mr. Howell Willcock, of Pellau Road, Margam.

"I saw six huge lights and then there was a gap of 300 yards before there was another three."

"There was no sound and they were travelling at the speed of a balloon. I had a good look and saw a faint crooked shape".

That sighting was at about 6.45 p.m. and half-an-hour later there was another sighting

by Tony Willimer, at Landore postal office, Swansea.

"I saw them coming in from Baglan", he said. "There were two lights and then they appeared to be two double lights."

"They were moving very slowly and there was no sound. There was no way it was a plane".

Mrs. Allison Grove, of Gable House, Horton, Gower, also saw the lights.

"There were about four or five of us who saw them and we have never seen anything like them before," she said.

"There was no noise anywhere and they were flying a bit lower than an aeroplane".

The lights were still in the area at 9.50 m. when they were seen moving out over Swansea Bay in the direction of Port Talbot.

One Pencroed motorist travelling between Ewenny and Waterton near Bridgend reported seeing three bright lights followed by an inverted triangle travelling at about 10,000 feet, with another very bright object going at a very fast speed even higher in the sky.

A woman standing in Blaengarw Square in the Garw Valley said she saw a cigar-shaped object followed by a further two lights.

Swansea Astronomical Society secretary, Mr. Gerry Lacey said the late sightings could have been an aeroplane bound for Heathrow Airport from America, that was a few miles south of its flightpath.

Earlier sightings could have been a satellite breaking up, he said.

"The mystery is that as far as I am aware, there are no reports of any satellites breaking up since the Russian one three or four weeks ago," he added.

Scanning the skies for more amazing sights... building society manager Tracey Wogan (left) and colleague Libbey Jones.

WORTHING GAZETTE, Sussex, England - March 21, 1986

UFO claim

AN unidentified flying object was reported hovering over the Grafton Road multi-storey car park at 9 p.m. last Thursday evening.

Mr Croft, of Grafton Road, claims his car coughed and spluttered as the triangular craft hung in the sky 200ft above the car park. He told police there was no noise from the UFO but there were strange lights at about 25ft intervals.

CR: T. Good 15



Bone bits solve 'space-trip' disappearance

Truck scraps near Duncan blast site belong to vanished UFO enthusiast



■ TAYLOR: 'Walking aboard spaceship'

Fragments of human bone and pieces of a truck belonging to a Duncan UFO enthusiast who vanished six years ago have been discovered at the site of a dynamite blast on Mount Prevost.

Granger Taylor vanished Nov. 29, 1980, after announcing he was going for a 42-month ride in an alien spaceship.

Exhaustive checks by RCMP over the years had turned up not a clue to his whereabouts.

Two pieces of bone were found at the blast site and a pathologist has confirmed they are human. Until fur-

ther evidence is found, RCMP can only assume they are Taylor's.

"The amount of indentation of the crater that was created indicate a substantial explosion," Duncan RCMP Cpl. Blair Schaufele said Friday.

It is estimated a case of dynamite caused the blast "and we determined he had that much with him," Schaufele said.

Taylor had taken dynamite, used for blasting tree stumps, from the Duncan-area farm owned by his parents, Jim and Grace Taylor.

RCMP are assuming the explosion took place the night Granger Taylor disappeared. The area is now difficult to reach.

"We don't know what the area was like six years ago. In six years terrain can change quite a lot," Schaufele said.

Pieces of the truck have been found up to 200 metres from the blast site. The largest section is about 60 centimetres long.

Schaufele said the truck was identified as Taylor's 1972 Datsun.

"Fortunately, we were able to find

the vehicle identification number."

North Cowichan municipal forest spacing crews discovered the blast site March 20. Mount Prevost is six kilometres northwest of Duncan.

The discovery may close the books on one of Duncan's longest-standing missing person files. Taylor's parents declined to comment.

Duncan resident John Magor, a UFO devotee who has heard of several sightings on southern Vancouver Island, said he had thought that "perhaps something essentially strange" had happened to Taylor.

"This is a very sad ending," Magor said.

Taylor would have turned 37 last Oct. 7. Besides his interest in space and UFOs, he was a wrestling enthusiast and a mechanical wizard.

He restored an old steam locomotive, built a one-cylinder car that now sits in the Duncan Forest Museum and even built a replica of a Kitty Hawk plane that for a time sat alongside the Island Highway south of Duncan.

In the late 1970s, he built a spaceship out of two large satellite receiving dishes.

Taylor first mentioned he would be leaving on a spaceship weeks before he disappeared.

A month before, Taylor told a friend he had had mental communications with somebody from another galaxy, during which they discussed means for powering their spacecraft.

A few days later, Granger told his friend he had been invited to go on a trip through the solar system and would hear at the end of the month where and when he would be picked up.

A week before he disappeared, Granger took several of his friends out on the town as a sort of going-away party.

The night of Oct. 28, 1980, Granger told his father how grateful he was for all he had done for him. He left two wills with detailed instructions on what to do with his possessions. The word "deceased" was scratched out and replaced with the word "departed."

The next afternoon Jim Taylor found a note from Granger tacked to his bedroom door. It read:

Dear Mother and Father,

I have gone away to walk aboard an alien spaceship, as reoccurring dreams assured a 42-month interstellar voyage to explore the vast universe, then return.

I am leaving behind all my possessions to you as I will no longer require the use of any. Please use the instructions in my will as a guide to help.

*Love,
Granger*

On the back of the note was a contour map of Mount Waterloo, southwest of Duncan near Skutz Falls.

EVENING POST, Leeds, England - March 24, 1986 CR: T. Good

The mystery of Carleton Moor. . .

● A 14-year-old boy ran home screaming in terror after being temporarily blinded by a strange object.

● U.S. military officials spent three days combing Carleton Moor, near Skipton, after "something" nearly hit a radar station there.

There were just two mysterious incidents that brought UFO investigators to a Leeds conference from all over the world at the weekend.

These, and other baffling incidents around the Carleton area last summer

had brought a "wall of silence" from the authorities, the conference was told.

Mr. Mark Birdsall, director of research for the Yorkshire UFO Society, outlined four incidents between August 18 and September 8 which he said were not just coincidental.

The UFO conference heard how a bright shape was seen over Carleton Moor on August 18, and how a red glowing spinning top structure terrified a family in a farmhouse just north of Skipton on August 21.

On August 31, Mr. Birdsall said a 14-year-old boy ran home crying hysterically and was temporarily blinded after seeing bright lights in Carleton, and a doctor had to be called.

Mr. Birdsall said UFO investigators had interviewed an eight-year-old boy who came home staggering into his house, his eyes glazed, screaming and crying, after playing in a field near Carleton Moor.

Several locals at Carleton also reported that a UFO had almost struck a radar station on the moor, and United States officials were seen asking for directions to the radar

tower in the early hours of the morning.

"There is little doubt that something hit or very nearly hit the radar tower at Carleton Moor, probably on August 14," said Mr. Birdsall.

"The Americans were in the area for at least three days looking for something on Carleton Moor."

One of the main speakers, Mr. Odd Gunnar-Roed, Norway's top UFO investigator, also highlighted a series of sightings in the Hessdalen area in central Norway.

He said he had decided to make the trip to Leeds specially to share some of the information



Mr. Odd Gunnar-Roed, UFO expert from Norway.

UFO sighting sparks probe

A PROBE has been launched after two Eastwood men saw an unidentified flying object.

The British Unidentified Flying Object Research Association, contacted the men after seeing the story in last month's Echo.

We told how firemen Ian Magrath, 24, and his girlfriend's brother John Knights, 17, saw a long pencil-shaped object from their home in Boundary Road.

Ian said: "It was not like any aircraft I've ever seen."

"I didn't think of flying saucers or of anything carrying spacemen. It looked like a military missile."

A Defence Ministry spokesman said it could not have been a missile because they travel too fast to be seen.

Now Mrs Lesley Duncan, of Waldegrave, Basildon, a member of BUFORA, has taken up their case and asked other people to come forward if they see anything odd in the sky.



She said: "I have spoken to the two men concerned. At the moment there is no simple explanation."

"It will take some time before we know any more. I have taken all the details and the papers are being studied. In the end it may turn out to be quite normal."

"A lot of people see strange things in the sky but never report them because they think people will call them mad. But they are not mad and shouldn't be afraid to come forward."

Mrs Duncan can be contacted at 79 Waldegrave, Basildon, or on Basildon 286079.

TRANSLATIONS

City and country of incident: Lodz, Poland
Date of incident: January 14, 1985
Name of paper and date of clip: KURIER POLSKI, January 16, 1985
city and country of newspaper: Warsaw, Poland

[CREDIT: Lech Galicki]

THE UFO OVER LODZ

An airplane of the An-24 type left Warsaw at 19:44 on its flight to Wroclaw. After six minutes, when the plane was near the city of Lodz, the pilot noticed a pale-red point in the plane's flight path. The question was put to the ground station, "Is the way clear?", and the reply came, "Nothing in the way - as far as we know." At the same moment, the object changed its color to rose. The crew intently observed the changes, estimating the approximate distance and the velocity of the object was on the airliner's route. It became almost evident that it was a UFO.

It was flight number 254. Initial height was 1800 meters, rising to 3000 meters. The plane was above cloud cover, visibility was normal one. The unidentified object had been noticed at several degrees over the horizon. The crew calculated that the UFO had been some 15-20 degrees above the airplane and that it moved two times faster than the plane. The distance was about 50 kilometers, perhaps more. The object was bigger than the stars which were visible from this point.

After a while, the UFO began making complicated maneuvers. It hovered and descended, passing to the right and to the left. After a dozen or so minutes, the area in front of the plane became clear and it seemed that the observation was ended. But it was not so. After several dozen seconds, it appeared again, but not for long this time. The crew lost sight of the object at 22:08 sharp. And there were no surprises during the rest of the flight.

City and country of incidents: Prata, Italy - Polcanto, Italy
Dates of incidents: October 8, October 9, 1984
Name of paper and date of clip: LA PREALPINA, March 15, 1985
City and country of newspaper: Varese, Italy

[CREDIT: Robert Reid]

TWO INTERESTING UFO SIGHTINGS IN '84

"The two UFO sightings of 8 and 9 October 1984, in Campania and Tuscany respectively, are highly interesting." So says Mario Cingolani, president of the Centro Ufologico Nazionale (Italy's National Ufological Center, or CUN), in announcing results of two investigations the center has conducted. He emphasized however that a "definitive judgment can be made only after receipt of the report from the carabinieri."

The two sightings, considered "close encounters of the third kind" because both involved contacts with an animated "entity," were verified at Prata (near Naples) and Polcanto (near Florence).

Cingolani pointed out that, despite the distance between the two locations, the fact they occurred only 20 hours apart increases their credibility.

City and country of incident: Virle, Italy
Date of incident: June 2 (?), 1985
Name of paper and date of clip: LA PROVINCIA, August 8, 1985
City and country of newspaper: Como-Cremona-Pavese, Italy

[CREDIT: Robert Reid - TRANSLATION CREDIT: V. DiBiasio]

MYSTERIOUS PRINTS IN BRESCIA

Brescia - It wasn't a thunderbolt nor a strange chemical process that left a gigantic print on a Virle (Brescia) farmer's corn field. This is the report of an analysis of the field in which the traces were found last June 2nd. The furrows, described as looking like large chicken

scratchings, were five meters long and 20 centimeters deep. Professor Antonio Chiumiento, vice-president of the "National Ufological Center," reported yesterday the results of analyses that were made by the Gorizia Agricultural Experiment Center. In excluding the possibility of a thunder-bolt or chemical process, he said, the laboratory tests revealed a high concentration of calcium, higher than in other parts of the same field. According to Professor Chiumiento, a correspondingly high percentage of calcium has been found in other areas where similar tracks were found. Later a girl said that she had seen a mysterious flying object in the area that night.

City and country of incident: Mediterranean area
Date of incident: December 13, 1985
Name of paper and date of clip: IL RESTO DEL CARLINO, December 15, 1985
City and country of newspaper: Florence, Italy

[CREDIT: Robert Reid]

ALARM, STRANGE PHENOMENA IN MEDITERRANEAN SKIES

Rome - Indistinct lights, meteor showers, Halley's Comet, a ball of fire surrounded by dark spots leaving a skyblue trail, a very bright high velocity track like a shooting star: these are the various descriptions of phenomena or celestial objects seen the day before yesterday between 5:00 and 5:41 PM over a large part of the Mediterranean, from over Teano on the island of Ponza to Brindisi to the Cyprus airport.

These were the reports of airline pilots (ATI, British Airways and Olympic) and observers on the main highway between Naples and Pomigliano and near Brindisi. Similar observations were also reported by a rescue helicopter pilot enroute to Brindisi and air traffic controllers in the airport tower at Cyprus.

The airliners reported their observations to the Fiumicino (Rome) control center of the agency for flight assistance (ANAV).

Neither the flight agency nor the Italian Air Force (who have responsibility for air defense) reported any unknown radar tracks in the area at the time of the sightings.

The ANAV records, according to some of the pilots, will be forwarded to the Italian Air Force whose job it is to examine radio reports of abnormal observations during flight.

City and country of incident: Bastad, Skane Region, Sweden
Date of incident: February 25, 1986
Name of paper and date of clip: NORDVAstra SKANES TIDNINGAR, March 1, 1986
City and country of newspaper: Helsingborg/Angelholm, Sweden

[CREDIT: Erik Fredriksson]

ANOTHER MYSTERIOUS SKY PHENOMENON

BASTAD - Once again a mysterious object has been observed in the evening sky over Bjare peninsula. At the beginning of February 1986, a remarkable sky phenomenon was reported. Five bright lighted objects were observed over the Kulla peninsula and southeast over the sea of Osterson in the northern part of Oresund. The colored objects were circling and blinking. At that time, many people saw something very big and silent flying in the air over Grevie, Western Karup, Solomons high. Earlier in the evening, it was also visible over the Simlans valley in the South of Halland region.

"I was on the road, on the way to a meeting, and observed the light in the sky. I supposed at first that it was the ordinary plane from Stockholm, arriving some minutes early. The time was about 21:30," said the farmer, Ivar Palsson, from Boarp.

"But the light was more yellow and later, was much brighter when the object came closer. At that time I was on the parking place near the shop in Vastras Karup, when the object made a slight left-hand turn, very slowly. The distance to the object was about 400-500 meters. I thought it was a remarkable arrangement they have for their positions lights, one green in the front of the object and also a green light in the back. In the middle, there were two red lights, one above the other.

"The object was as big as the famous star constellation "Hercules" near the big star "Vega." But I could not determine the exact shape because it was quite dark outside. I calculate the height was about 30° above the ground."

MORE PEOPLE

During the time Palsson observed the object, more people were on the way to the meeting. Four of them arrived in a car from near Munka Ljungby. They observed a brightly lighted object in the sky during the afternoon.

"At first we thought it was an unusually bright star, after that an aircraft, then a helicopter and later when it was quite near, the stranger it looked. When we arrived at Solomon High, just before Western Karup, I stopped the car and shut off the motor," said another witness.

"We got out of the car to listen, but despite the object being so close, perhaps only 400 meters, we didn't hear anything. It was quite silent all around. We couldn't determine what form the object had. We were all blinded by the bright light. In all, we observed the object for 12-15 minutes.

DEAD BATTERY

"After a little while, we decided to continue our drive, but the car was quite dead. The battery was discharged."

In all, almost a dozen people observed the object before it disappeared over the Kulla Hill in a southerly direction.

The meeting participants reported the observation to the nearby airfield control, but they would not comment on the incident. It is clear that a brightly-lighted, silent and gigantic object was observed by many people during Tuesday evening, February 25, 1986.



SLIME FALLS FROM SKY

By TOM WATT
Staff Reporter
SPLAT!

Teacher's aide Gladys McMurray isn't sure what it was. But she's sure it was putrid.

"It smelled like dung," she says of the slime that fell from the sky last week and splattered South Burnaby's Chaffey-Burke Elementary School.

Sandy Laidlaw, the school's

secretary, said a Burnaby health inspector told her he thought the foul bomb was caused by a jet flushing its holding tanks.

"He definitely felt it was from an airplane because it has happened before," said Laidlaw.

She said the school's parking lot was splattered three days in a row — on one day every car in two lots was hit, as well the school.

The legend of Ogopogo

By G. E. VALENTINE

When the white men first began to settle around Lake Okanagan more than a century ago, they found that local Indians believed the lake housed a demon that lived off Squally Point west of Kelowna and attacked passing boats. To placate it the Indians used to place offerings of meat, berries and other food in the water there.

Reports of actually seeing some sort of monster in the lake began to come in from white settlers, too. As the valley filled with people and became a fruit-growing area, local newspapers reported every sighting with enthusiasm.

For example, the Summerland Review of August 21, 1925, reported two sightings in the southern end of the lake in one week. A sturdy Summerland citizen out in a boat had seen the lake's surface broken by two or three feet of a creature that looked much longer and was certainly not a fish. A few days later four local boys out on a raft had been treated to a view of a peculiar animal wiggling in the water.

Queer things were seen in other parts of the lake, too, and the next year Vernon's Rotary Club entertained Vancouver visitors with a song about the lake monster, which they dubbed Ogopogo. The catchy name got wide publicity, even a mention in Punch, a British humor magazine.

Most people seem to think of Ogopogo as some sort of sea serpent, long and loopy; the city of Kelowna constructed a large artificial one to serve as a float in parades and it is on permanent display in a lakeside park bordering that city. Souvenir shops sell brooches in that shape and the few who have seen the real thing, or claim to, usually reported a wiggly serpentine creature.

Certainly Lake Okanagan is big enough to house such monsters. It is 70 miles long, averages more than a mile wide, and is up to 700 feet deep.

More than a hasty glimpse is rare and sightings may have seen a snake shape because they expected to. The four boys in 1925 said that what they saw was only about six feet in length and until it moved they thought it was a log.

Some people claim that the demon is just a big sturgeon. Those fish have been caught in several of British Columbia's inland waters and they grow to huge size; the 1925 newspaper account mentions one weighing 900 pounds.

If only someone could catch it, or take a clear picture of it, the mystery could be solved. Many have tried, and some pictures have been taken of strange shapes on the lake, but they have been too vague and ill-defined to positively identify the creature.

Last year the Okanagan Tourist Bureau, in a determined effort to do better and capitalize more fully on Ogopogo's publicity potential, took a gamble with Lloyds of London and offered a reward of \$1 million, no less, for solid evidence of what the monster is. Many eyes scanned the big lake long and eagerly but there were no sightings at all.

I have my own story to tell about Ogopogo. In the spring of 1940 I was working on a crew in Summerland that sprayed orchards against insects. Gordon Beggs drove a tractor towing a tank of spray between rows of fruit trees; Norman Armstrong and I walked behind holding spray guns at the ends of long hoses from the tank and dragging them around every tree to cover it with a fog of protective chemical — usually a solution of lead arsenate.

It was hard, wet, monotonous work and we were always glad and hungry when our noon-hour break came. One sunny May day at an orchard on high ground overlooking Okanagan Lake, we elected to eat our sandwich lunches sitting on the ground in a space among the trees that gave us an excellent view of the big blue lake about half a mile away. We ate, chatted, and watched the only thing moving on the lake, a barge towing freight cars down to Penticton.

Suddenly Norman said: "What's that?"

On the lake, 100 yards or so out from shore, a white object had appeared. It seemed the size and shape of a small boat and so we took it to be. It moved very fast, however, darting short distances in several directions. Then it just vanished, leaving no trace.

The barge was not far away; surely its crewmen would see that odd boat sinking and go over there, we thought. Perhaps at their level it would not have been as visible as it was to us for they paid no attention. Nor was there any subsequent report in the local newspaper or on radio of a small boat sinking or of a monster seen.

And we did not dare to make our own report. People who had never seen anything seemed convinced that anything that was not snake-like could not be Ogopogo. Worse, when we told people about it, they always asked: "Whose orchard were you working in when you saw this?" And its owner was so renowned for his consumption of alcoholic beverages that when we gave his name the common reaction was:

"Oh, him. Did you see pink elephants too?"

We were stone-cold sober and I'm sure to this day that we saw Ogopogo. ■

College in quiz over girl who died in flames

By JOHN ALLEY

THE heartbroken parents of a 17-year-old girl who suddenly burst into flames said yesterday: "Our daughter's death is a complete mystery. No-one seems to know what happened."

Pretty Jacqueline Fitzsimons is believed to have been a victim of spontaneous human combustion, a phenomenon on record as having occurred very rarely throughout the world.

Forensic experts investigating Jacqueline's death said yesterday: "It is a real possibility at the moment. We cannot find any other reason, but the investigation is still going on."

Jacqueline, of Dundalk Road, Widnes, Cheshire, was a cookery student on a Youth Training Scheme at Halton College, two miles away.

Torch

The incident happened minutes after leaving a kitchen at the college to go on her break. She suddenly became "a human torch," as she walked along a busy corridor.

The flames were eventually beaten out and she was taken to Whiston Hospital, Merseyside. But she died after 15 days in intensive care.

The North Merseyside coroner has now ordered a full investigation. Seven eyewitnesses have made statements and reports are being prepared by police, fire chiefs, and the Government's health and safety executive.

Link seen between comet, suicides

A wave of teen-aged suicides and airline crashes last year coincided with the appearance of Halley's comet, the "evil star" herald of death and disaster since ancient times, a researcher told the 19th annual meeting of the American Association of Suicidology at Atlanta Sunday.

"The reappearance of Halley's comet brings forth the realization of larger cycles that interplay with the phenomenon of suicide," said Loren Coleman, director of a suicide prevention project at the University of Southern Maine at Portland.

He said the word "disaster" evolved from "evil star" or "bad star," as comets were often termed. He said an analysis of suicides or epidemics and the appearance of comets "demonstrates some interesting correlations." (UPI)

Horned frog lived 31 years in stone

Texas and Houston are celebrating their Sesquicentennial this year. This column, which will appear daily through 1986, presents excerpts of Post articles as they appeared on this date through the years.

Reported in The Post on Feb. 21...

1928

EASTLAND — Rip Van Winkle of the toad family, the horned frog that was walled up in the cornerstone of the Eastland County Courthouse for 31 years, sans food, water and air, was alive yesterday morning.

More than 10,000 persons from all parts of this county viewed the frog, which is on display in the window of a local drug store. Aside from being slightly emaciated in a front leg the frog was in normal condition.

When the cornerstone was broken open Saturday the frog appeared to be dead, except there were slight signs of its breathing. Its mouth was sealed by a film and its eyes were closed. The frog appeared normal yesterday, although it has not been seen to take nourishment. The frog is a typical West Texas specimen,



about the size of the palm of a human hand.

The frog will be kept in confinement as long as it lives, county officials said.

CR: S. Parker via COUD-I

Local 'Champ' advocate urges Vermont to pass protective legislation for 'monster'

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) — It could be a prehistoric reptile, a snake-like primitive whale, a gigantic lake sturgeon — or perhaps it's a combination of all of them.

No one knows what the purported Lake Champlain monster called "Champ" really is — or has proven that it really exists — but a Saratoga Springs schoolteacher told a Senate committee Wednesday that was not the real issue.

Joseph Zarzynski, who has extensively researched Champ and the Loch Ness monster, said the most important thing was that Vermont and New York should take steps to protect the creature. Zarzynski, a Wilton resident, teaches social studies at Saratoga Springs Junior High School.

The committee is studying a resolution that says Champ may exist and the animal should be protected from harm.

The resolution also says that Vermont encourages scientific inquiry into the existence of unusual animals in Lake Champlain and encourages people to report sightings of such animals.

A similar resolution has passed the Vermont House, and the New York Legislature.

The Senate committee will vote on the resolution within the next week, but members were impressed by Zarzynski's presentation. Some seemed to believe in the existence of Champ.

The researcher showed slides of the Loch Ness monster and a 1977 picture taken by a New Haven, Conn., resident of Champ. He said there have been about 250 reported sightings of Champ dating back to 1609. Last year there were 14 sightings.

"I can't get over that picture," said committee chair Arthur Gibb, R-Addison. "That damn thing must be something... That is just as plain as can

be. This is fascinating. It makes me feel like getting out on a boat and looking."

Sen. George Little, R-Chittenden, one of the three sponsors of the resolution, said he attended a meeting in which about 10 people who have sighted Champ talked about the experience.

"You came out of that meeting nodding your head," Little said. "There are a lot of normal people who have seen the thing."

Sen. Henry Manchester, R-Lamoille had a question for Zarzynski: "You got it figured out how the Champ lives through the winter?"

Zarzynski said he hadn't.

While the resolution would not allow the prosecution of someone who harms Champ, Zarzynski said it might cause people to more careful.

"I hope it would encourage people not to shoot at something mysterious in the lake. It could be Champ, but it also could be a swimmer," he said.

The Sun Was Eclipsed by Fields of Ice

To the Editor:

Corroboration of Dr. Louis A. Frank's fascinating theory (Science Times, April 1), that the ocean waters arrived in rains of icy comets, may be found in the "Books of Charles Fort," published by Henry Holt & Company in 1941. Charles Fort, an obscure clerk who lived in the Bronx, devoted 26 years of his life to poring over scientific journals and newspapers in the British Museum and the New York Public Library in search of inexplicable phenomena. He died in 1932.

In "The Book of the Damned," he documented more than 30 falls of lumps of ice from the sky, some as large as 20 feet in circumference. Most were reported in scientific journals in the 1800's. His data also included falls of water from cloudless skies localized in one particular spot. Fort thought of his data as suggesting a super-Sargasso sea in the sky.

He said: "We accept that sometimes fields of ice pass between the sun and the earth: that many strata of ice, or very thick fields of ice, or superimposed fields would obscure the sun — that there have been occasions when the sun was eclipsed by fields of ice."



Fort's memory was kept alive for many years by the Fortean Society, a group of enlightened skeptics, whose members included Theodore Dreiser, Booth Tarkington, Ben Hecht, Alexander Woolcott. Tiffany Thayer was the last secretary. He continued to publish the cigar boxes of data that Fort left behind. EMERSON L. DARNELL Mount Holly, N.J., April 3, 1986

Dog joins hunt for wild man

Reuter
PEKING

A police dog has been enlisted to track down the wild man of Hubei, the man-ape said to live in remote areas of Hubei province in central China. The Hubei provincial daily said the dog had been brought from Shanghai to the mountain region of Shennongjia to help solve the mystery of the creature. Chinese media have reported dozens of sightings of the creatures, which are presumed to be related to the elusive Yetis, or Abominable Snowmen.

Canada - Dec. 13, 1985
GLOBE AND MAIL, Toronto, Ontario,

Israelis' research points to Bible's divine origin

Book Notes

Bill Lewis

Gazette Staff

It smacks of numerology, and yet...

Dr. Moshe Katz, a Biblical scholar, and Dr. Menachem Wiener of Israel's Institute of Technology have subjected the Old Testament to some computerized analysis that, they contend, has revealed some phenomena that cannot be explained rationally.

In fact, they recently told a news conference in Israel, their findings point to a single authorship of the Bible, as opposed to a collective one, and strongly suggest evidence of the Bible's divine origin.

The Israeli scientists said they used two investigative techniques.

"One approach," Dr. Wiener said, "entails having the [Biblical] text printed out in a specified number of letters to the line and then running one's eye down the page to ascertain whether any words emerge from the new arrangement of letters. The number is entirely

arbitrary and we constantly experiment with different arrangements."

The objective here is to attempt to find repetitions of words formed by periodic recurring of the letters that make up the words. For example, the researchers said the Hebrew word for Bible, "Tora," appears in Genesis every 50 characters, while the word for God, "Elohim," appears in Genesis every 26 letters. Both figures, 50 and 26, have "great significance," they say, in Jewish tradition.

The remarkable aspect, they find, "is not that words are being found in the text by stringing together letters at regular intervals; that can be done by applying the method to a telephone directory." Rather, in every instance, the revealed words, they say, bear "direct relevance to the text in which they were concealed."

The second research method the two scientists are using involves giving the computer a key word — Adam, for example — and commanding it to find whether the letters A, D, A and M, are concealed in a defined body of text, again at arbitrary but regular intervals.

What has astounded the two, they say, is the prophetic nature of many words revealed in the texts, giving ammunition to Dr. Katz's conviction that the Old Testament and certain later holy writings were not written by a human hand.

In Esther, which is read during the Jewish holiday of Purim to commemorate the saving of the Persian Jews during the reign of Xerxes (King Ahasuerus), there is the story of Haman, one of the king's ministers, receiving permission from the king to exterminate the Jewish population.

Queen Esther, a Jewess, succeeded in persuading the king to revoke that permission; Jews today celebrate that act in the Feast of Purim. As a consequence, Haman's 10 sons were hanged and their names listed in the Book of Esther. After the hangings Esther was asked by the king what more could he do for her and her people, and she requested: "And let Haman's 10 sons be hanged upon the gallows" (Esther 9:13), a reply that has puzzled scholars for centuries, since the 10 already were dead.

Dr. Katz said a major hint explaining the mystery is the appearance of the three Hebrew letters *taf, shin and zayen* in the list of Haman's 10 hanged sons. These three words, he explains, spell out the number in the Jewish calendar for the year 1946 of the Gregorian calendar. On October 16, 1946, 10

Nazis were hanged following their sentencing at Nuremberg. (Herman Goering, escaped hanging by committing suicide in his jail cell.)

"Inexplicably," Dr. Katz said, "Julius Streicher, one of the 10 hanged, seconds before the noose was tightened cried out, 'Purim fest, 1946!' Both Goering and Streicher had become instruments in the fulfillment of the prophecy in the Book of Ester."

In 1946, October 16 fell exactly on the annual Jewish holiday of Hoshana Raba, considered the last day of judgment in a chain of high holidays including Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur.

"Such a phenomenon cannot be explained rationally," Dr. Wiener said. "So we need a nonrational explanation. And ours is that the Bible was written by God, through the hand of Moses. Clearly, we have not scientifically proved this, but the preponderance of occurrences certainly points to it."

As for the ordered repetition of individual letters in the Biblical text that, taken together, spell words and clues, Dr. Wiener said the probability of such patterns of information appearing at set intervals by chance was on the order of one to 3 million.

CHRONICLE, Houston, TX - March 7, 1986

CR: S. Parker via COUD-I

Mutilated remains of 3 horses discovered at downtown bank

By MARK CARREAU
Houston Chronicle

A startled downtown bank customer stumbled onto a grisly scene called as puzzling as it was shocking.

An unidentified woman discovered the mutilated bodies of three small Welsh horses at the MBank drive-in facilities at Preston and Louisiana.

Investigators said the bodies appear to have been arranged in a crude triangle and that one, that of a 2-year-old mare, appears to have been sexually mutilated.

The discovery, about 3 a.m. Wednesday, appears to be the latest of four similar incidents over a four-month period, lending more credence to the theory that some sort of cult is responsible, said George Huebner, chief cruelty investigator for the Associated Humane Societies.

Each previous case involved horses killed, mutilated and dumped at another site, he said.

"I suspect this is part of some type of ritual and that someone wants some type of attention," said Huebner. "The thing we are really wondering about is

whether this is some satanic thing." The humane agency offered a \$1,000 reward for information leading to an arrest.

Houston police said the hindquarters had been severed from what appeared to be two light brown stallions about 6 months to a year old. Their intestines were intermingled, and the tails, legs and hoofs had also been cut off and the body parts placed within a crude triangle formed by the trunks.

An autopsy revealed at least one stallion had been shot in the head, and the bay-colored mare was fairly intact in spite of the mutilations but appeared malnourished, said Huebner.

There was little blood at the site, leading investigators to believe the animals had been killed and mutilated elsewhere.

The mutilations obliterated any identifying brands, forcing investigators to comb stolen animal reports for potential leads to the owners.

"It's a horrendous scene," said police spokesman J. C. Mosier, a former homicide investigator. "To look at the photographs makes you sick at your stomach. I have seen a lot, but this is so inhumane. Anyone who would do this has to be sick."

Mosier was skeptical of suggestions the bodies had been carefully arranged in a triangle. Police and MBank spokesman Dick Bryant said there was nothing to indicate the mutilations were directed at the bank as some sort of message.

"It just appears to me this was a convenient spot to dump the animals," said Mosier. "About all we can call it now is animal cruelty. Whether or not this involved satanic mutilations, nothing leads us in that direction, but we certainly couldn't rule it out."

For nearly two decades, discoveries of bizarre cattle and horse mutilations in Texas, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Colorado and states as far west as Washington have fueled speculation that cultists, secret military biological and chemical warfare and even aliens from outer space were responsible.

Typically, the animals are discovered virtually bloodless and often their sexual organs appear to have been mutilated or removed.

Most of the deaths can be traced to humans engaged in animal cruelty or to vultures, coyotes or other predators, said Dr. Conrad Eugster, head of the diagnostic laboratory at the College of Veterinary Medicine at Texas A&M University.

Eugster participated in the examination of the carcasses of cattle involved in mysterious deaths in Texas during the late 1970s. It was determined that natural predators were responsible for all of them, he said.

Houston humane officials asked that anyone with information about Wednesday's mutilations contact the Associated Humane Societies at 497-5656.