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Obituaries

J. Allen Hynek, 75, NU professor and international expert on UFOs

By Kenan Heise

J. Allen Hynek, 75, international UFO expert and Northwestern University professor emeritus of astronomy, coined the phrase, "close encounters of the third kind" to describe contact with unidentified flying objects or alien beings. He did research for 20 years on UFOs as a consultant for the U.S. Air Force and in 1973 established the Center for UFO Studies.

Services for Mr. Hynek, of Scottsdale, Ariz., will be private. He died Sunday in Scottsdale Memorial Hospital.

In the introduction to his 1977 book, "The UFO Report," he wrote: "We know so little about the vast universe poised as we are on our tiny vantage point, the Earth. Things far beyond our imagination may be possible. In the meantime, we must satisfy ourselves by studying UFO reports, not UFOs."

He added, somewhat skeptically, "Reports by people often make mistakes about what we observe."

But Mr. Hynek, in his book and frequent lectures, demonstrated he was not a pure skeptic on extraterrestrial visitations. A convincing

case, he said, was the story of two Mississippi fishermen who said they had been taken aboard a spaceship.

"At first," he said in a 1977 speech, "I thought this was a cock-and-bull story, but after talking with one of the fishermen, I believe him."

Mr. Hynek for many years published the International UFO Reporter. He also maintained a UFO hot line at the Center for UFO Studies, which was at Northwestern for 12 years until he moved it to Scottsdale in 1985.

From 1952 to 1972, he was a consultant to the Air Force on UFOs and helped put together Project Blue Book, a secret account of UFO sightings.

In his 1974 book, "The UFO Experience," he distinguished a "close encounter of the first kind" as a sighting of a UFO. One of the second kind referred to a sighting within 500 feet that left behind physical traces. The third kind includes physical contact with a UFO or an alien being.

Mr. Hynek was born Josef Allen Hynek in Chicago on May 1, 1910. He received a bachelor of science degree in physics and as-

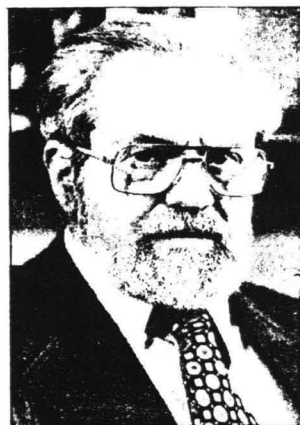
tronomy from the University of Chicago in 1931 and a doctorate in these fields from the U. of C. in 1935. From 1931 to 1935, he was a fellow of the Yerkes Observatory in Williams Bay, Wis.

From 1936 to 1941, he was an instructor and assistant professor of physics and astronomy at Ohio State University. From 1942 to 1946, he supervised technical reports in applied physics at Johns Hopkins University. From 1946 to 1960, he was associate and professor of physics and astronomy at Ohio State. He was also director of the McMillin Observatory there

From 1956 to 1960, on leave from Ohio State, he was associate director of the Smithsonian Institution's Astrophysics Observatory in Cambridge, Mass. He was head of the optical satellite tracking program. While there, he also lectured at Harvard University.

In 1960, he went to Northwestern as chairman of the astronomy department. He also was director of the Dearborn Observatory, built in 1888 on the Evanston campus with what was then the most powerful telescope.

"His specialty in astronomy was



J. Allen Hynek

the chemical composition of the stellar atmosphere," Northwestern professor William Buscombe said. "His great contribution was his conviction that the school needed a modern astronomical telescope so that students could study here and not have to face interstate travel to do research. . . .

"His enthusiasm for a facility here was controversial, but his point of view has been borne out."

Survivors include his wife, Miriam; a daughter, Roxanne; four sons Scott, Ross, Joel and Paul; and five grandchildren.

TIMES, Los Angeles, Ca - May 1, 1986 CR: D. Clements

J. Allen Hynek Dies; Led AF Investigation of UFOs

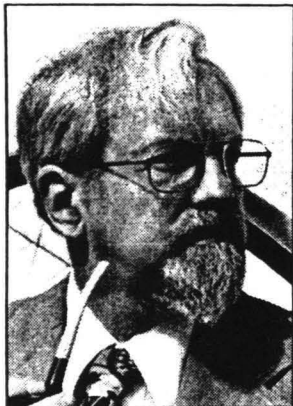
By BURT A. FOLKART,
Times Staff Writer

J. Allen Hynek, the astronomer who took on what he described as a sprawling collection of "kooks, nuts, ding-a-lings and cultists" when he agreed to head a U.S. Air Force investigation of unidentified flying objects years ago, has died.

The scientist and author who coined the phrase "close encounters of the third kind" to describe supposed confrontations with aliens from other worlds, was 75 and died at Memorial Hospital in Scottsdale, Ariz., on Sunday. Hynek had moved his Center for UFO Studies from Illinois to Arizona last year.

He was an esteemed scientist chosen in the late 1950s to head Operation Moonwatch, a volunteer network of astronomers around the world who were to undertake the tracking of American satellites yet to be launched. When the Soviet Union orbited Sputnik I on Oct. 4, 1957, a surprised Hynek managed to quickly mobilize his dozens of tracking stations around the world, and visual sightings of the tiny satellite's third-stage rocket began to be reported.

His network also led to the first, little-known American-Soviet co-



J. Allen Hynek

operation in space. The Soviets had not prepared a visual tracking network of their own and asked Hynek's team for help as Sputnik's radio signals began quickly to fade.

By February, 1958, after the Soviet achievement put an end to the intermilitary rivalry that contributed to the United States becoming the second and not the first nation in space, Hynek's crews were able to report accurate sight-

ings of Explorer I, the 80-inch-by-6-inch satellite that marked the beginning of the U.S. satellite program.

Thus Hynek became an obvious choice to head Project Blue Book, an outgrowth of the hundreds of reports of UFO sightings that had been trickling into the Pentagon since 1947 when the Air Force began keeping records.

Hynek started his investigation by chastising both the "kooks" who often confused gaseous clouds with interterrestrial travelers and the scientific community for not taking some of those reports seriously enough.

A small, bearded man, Hynek led the investigation until 1969, concluding that more than 80% of the reported UFO sightings were explainable as natural phenomena but that the remaining 20% required further study.

The Air Force, however, concluded that there was no evidence to support the existence of any of the mysterious objects.

Disagreeing, Hynek founded his UFO studies center. He had not been active recently because of failing health, said Tina Choate, the center's administrative director. She did not elaborate on the nature of his illnesses.

In his 1972 book, "The UFO Experience," Hynek first used the phrase "close encounters of the third kind" to describe some of the investigations he had conducted into reports of creatures from other planets that supposedly had visited

earthlings.

Steven Spielberg, who used Hynek's dramatic words in 1977 as the title of his \$20-million film, said Wednesday through a spokesman that he had used the retired Northwestern University professor as a technical adviser on the picture and had even cast him in a cameo role. Hynek remained a good friend over the years, Spielberg said.

Asked in 1980 if he had personally seen a UFO, Hynek said that he had not. But even if he had, he added, "I wouldn't report it unless I had witnesses. People would probably think I'd been involved in this so long it finally got to me."

Someone Out There Is Waiting for a Long-Distance Call From Earth

By DAVID WHARTON

They're here.

Now you can dial 976-UFOS and get late-breaking news of human contact with extraterrestrials, inside stories of UFO sightings and scientific verification of alien visits to planet Earth.

Plus, as an added bonus this week, hear transcripts of the conversations between Eduard Billy Meier, a one-armed Swiss farmer, and Semjase, a female celestial cosmonaut who has visited Meier in her Pleiadian beam ship a reported 130 times.

"People are always making jokes about little green men, but we can't be the only life in the universe," said Rusty Weaver as he leaned forward in his seat. "There is an infinite number of planets and stars out there."

Paul Shepherd nodded emphatically.

"There are so many people who say they have seen spacecraft and there's so much evidence of extraterrestrials that suddenly you realize, 'My God, this planet is being visited,'" Shepherd said. "I was amazed that none of this information was available to the public."

Messages \$2 a Call

Indeed, there are few outlets through which one can obtain verbatim Pleiadian communications. That's why Weaver, 27, a Woodland Hills musician, and Shepherd, 31, a Los Angeles businessman, formed a partnership to open the UFO Contact Newslines. Each day, the \$2 toll call offers a different three-minute recording narrated by radio announcer Bill Jenkins and Rusty's father, actor Dennis Weaver.

The 976, or dial-a-message, industry has boomed since Pacific Bell first made the service available in November, 1983. The 976 lines are rented to independent companies that choose the messages they offer. There are 976 lines for everything from horoscopes and stock market figures to movie reviews and adult entertainment. Weaver and Shepherd

claim that they have the state's first and only UFO line.

"This line offers people the opportunity to be exposed to this," Shepherd said. "I really believe we are offering a public service."

The recordings are produced by Weaver in his father's Woodland Hills recording studio. They are presented in a straightforward, news-broadcast manner, with Jenkins quoting from UFO studies and eyewitness accounts. The first segment of each daily recording deals with news reports, the second with scientific data.

From Vitamins to Aliens

Then comes a feature titled "In Contact." This week, the subject is Semjase's messages to Meier. A woman's voice, sounding strangely electronic and echoed, speaks calmly over the line in one segment.

"Several times we have tried to establish contact with terrestrial humans, who might want to assist us in our task, but they have not been sufficiently willing or loyal. But you have taken the trouble to learn truth. Because of your earnest search, you stand out among the many and thus we have decided to select you. After we have selected an individual, we carefully monitor his thoughts and directly observe his reactions. This is done for the safety of all concerned. Then, when he has been accepted, we telepathically influence him to journey to remote locations for direct contact."

Bill Jenkins' voice returns.

"Tomorrow, our quote from Semjase involves telepathic contact. Until then"

Dennis Weaver's voice, which introduces each recording, tells listeners that transcripts and further documentation are available by calling the UFO Contact Newsroom.

UFOS have been Shepherd's fascination since 1980. He says that he has devoted years to culling information from books, governments reports and interviews with UFO



AL SEIB / Los Angeles Times

Rusty Weaver, left, and Paul Shepherd are recording news of alien contact, then selling messages for \$2 a call on 976-UFOS line.

researchers and eyewitnesses from around the world.

Shepherd even flew to Europe to visit Meier and question him for details of his meetings with Semjase, who allegedly traveled to Switzerland from her native planet Erra of the Pleiades star cluster in the Constellation Taurus.

Until recently, Shepherd was otherwise busy selling vitamins. But he wanted to find a way to tell the public about his UFO research and, by chance, a friend offered the rights to a dial-a-message line. Weaver and Shepherd became partners, and the UFO Newslines was born.

Weaver said that friends and family were skeptical at first.

"Some of them would give me a weird look, but once I talked to them about it, they were receptive," he said. "If people don't want to see it as fact, it's still fun to call."

Dennis Weaver, who soon became involved in his son's endeavor, also expects some questioning looks from people who are used to thinking of him as a down-to-earth cowboy sheriff.

"Edison was viewed as a crackpot," Weaver said. "Anything that is away from the norm will be viewed by some people in that way. Besides, this is a subject that has

always piqued my interest."

So far, after a week and a half in operation, UFO Newslines has received about 300 calls a day. It is a slow start, but Shepherd said he is confident there will be more calls.

After all, starting the week of April 13, UFO Newslines will be broadcasting the actual voice of an

extraterrestrial picked up and recorded by a modified radio as the alien flew over South Africa, about 325 miles above Earth.

"What we present is evidence," Shepherd said.

Wharton is a Los Angeles free-lance writer.

MacLaine confidant in town

By Kris Kodrich
Of The State Journal

UFOS and extraterrestrial creatures do exist and are watching earthlings to make sure they do not blow up the planet.

That's the message of Charles Silva, an author and lecturer who says he has been inside UFOS and has talked with people from other planets.

Silva, 41, who lives in Lima, Peru, is in Madison this week to present workshops and lectures Friday through Sunday sponsored by the

Altha Herb Center. He is the confidant and guide to Shirley MacLaine mentioned in her best-selling book, "Out on a Limb," which describes her experiences with psychic phenomena.

Wednesday, Silva, a former movie promoter, said he became convinced that UFOS exist in 1974. He was in Peru promoting the movie "The Sting" when he saw UFOS, which he described as multicolored, metallic objects that were in the shape of two cereal bowls placed against each other. He later met a young woman who claimed she was from another world.

Naturally, Silva laughed and told the woman: "Nice meeting you — I'm Napoleon Bonaparte."

But after talking with the woman more, Silva realized she was telling the truth. He became convinced of the existence of extraterrestrials, he said, "when they finally got me inside the spaceship for a ride."

Silva said he stayed in contact with the extraterrestrials for about 14 months. They came from several parts of the universe, he said, including one of the moons of Jupiter. The reason UFOS come to earth is

"to see that we don't blow our planet apart," he said. "The balance of the universe is at stake here."

Ms. MacLaine first met Silva after reading his book, "Date with the Gods." Eventually they went to Peru to talk with people with UFO experiences and visit ancient ruins like Machu Picchu, the walled Inca city. Ms. MacLaine believes she once was an Inca princess, Silva said.

In Ms. MacLaine's book, Silva is referred to as "David."

WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL, Madison, WI
April 3, 1986 CR: R. Heiden

Silva will present a lecture at 8 p.m. Friday at the Ramada Inn, 3841 E. Washington Ave. Admission is \$12. Workshops focusing on revelations, astral projection, spirituality and parapsychology will be held Saturday and Sunday at the Ramada. Admission is \$35 for each.

Information is available by calling the Altha Herb Center at 251-6706.

POST INTELLIGENCER,
Seattle, WA - April 12, 1986

25th New Space Age Convention

The 25th annual New Space Age Convention, commemorating the first sighting of flying saucers near Mount Rainier in June of 1947, has been scheduled for June 21 and 22 by the New Age Foundation.

The convention will be held at Camp Edgewood, Milton, Wash. Call (206) 927-2050 for details.



GOING THROUGH the Gray Barker collection are Miss Blanch Barker, holding a pamphlet concerning the Flatwoods Monster, Merle Moore, director of the Clarksburg-Harrison Public Library, and Mrs. Michael Stump.

Barker Collection Comes to Library

The Clarksburg-Harrison Public Library has acquired the extensive collection of the late Gray Barker relating to unidentified flying objects.

Consisting of approximately 100 books, letters, and UFO magazines from the United States and around the world, the collection will become a part of the library's permanent collection and will be accessible to persons researching the subject of UFOs.

It was acquired from Mrs. Michael Stump of Richwood, Barker's niece, who is also the executrix of his estate.

Merle Moore, library director, noted that in the 18 years she has served in that position, the library annually has had a number of inquiries relating to Barker's work as a writer and as the organizer of *Saucerian Press* in Clarksburg.

She related that in the late 1970s an inquiry came to the library from the Outer Siberian School of Medicine in the USSR. It was in Russian and English. The request was for a bibliography of Barker's works. Other inter-library loan requests relating to Barker's work have come from throughout the United States and such diverse points as Australia, Poland and Austria.

Gray Barker was 59 years old when he died in a Charleston hospital on December 6, 1984. Of this Mrs. Stump remarked, "I was never able to talk to any of his doctors to find exactly what he died of. His death certificate listed smoking as contributing to the cause of death. The funeral director said he had never seen that before."

Mrs. Stump, a teacher in Richwood, went through the collection to retrieve business records essential in settling the estate.

The collection was recently moved to Clarksburg from the rural Braxton County home of Miss Blanch Barker, sister of Gray Barker, and will be available for research after it is catalogued and photocopied. A grant for this project is pending.

Miss Moore noted that Barker's correspondence relating to UFOs

filled seven file cabinets. She added that much of the correspondence is from persons claiming to have had UFO citings or claiming to have been contacted by aliens.

Mrs. Stump explained that some of the material is copied from federal government documents which Barker secured under the Freedom of Information Act.

Mrs. Stump said that her uncle became interested in the subject of extra-terrestrial beings after the reported appearance of the Flatwoods Monster.

Flatwoods, also in Braxton County, was the area where several persons of different economic, social and educational background claimed to have seen a monster in the early 1950s.

In addition to his research into the UFO phenomena, Barker published a monthly UFO newsletter and was one of the first persons to put his material on computer discs. His sister also noted that he had numerous films and was interested in cinematography.

Barker was generally reluctant to state his personal beliefs.

An Oct. 14, 1979 *New York Times* account headlined "West Virginian Finds His Niche in Writing About Bizarre Events," quotes Barker as follows:

"Gray Barker has never seen a flying saucer, never met a monster, never talked to a spaceman. But he can tell some wild stories about them all."

"A favorite is his story of the Mothman, a tall manlike creature with flaming red eyes who terrorized Point Pleasant, or the story of Woodrow Derenberger, a Parkersburg salesman who rode in a spaceship with an alien named Indrid Cold."

"The people who allegedly contact these space people have always fascinated me" said Barker.

"They hold equal fascination for others, a fact that has kept Barker in business writing about bizarre occurrences."

"Though the market for saucer lore is small, Barker has written scores of articles, edited seven magazines and published seven books. Perhaps the best known of the books was *They Knew Too Much About Flying Saucers*, a big seller in the 1950s and early 1960s. It told of a group of men in black who harrassed people who were foolish enough to talk about their sightings."

"Barker is convinced that there is more than meets the eye to the saucer sightings, cattle mutilations and strange smells and noises that periodically seem to visit the land."

"Something is going on and it just keeps going on," he said. "It all seems to be sort of tied in together."

"That elusive tie-in has been the incentive for writers specializing in the subject for years. Seldom, however, do they come up with the ever promised explanation."

"If Barker has any strong beliefs on the subject, he is not saying so. At the same time, he does not dismiss the sightings and tales lightly. 'Whether reality or folklore, it's very strongly implanted in our culture,' he said."

"And there is always the tendency for the fish to grow in the fisherman's tale."

"I don't doubt that people have these experiences, but it seems to affect them in some way," he said. "Some of their follow-up stories aren't very believable."

EXPONENT-TELEGRAM, Clarksburg, WV

April 13, 1986 CR: G. Eberhart

Whatever happened to UFOs?

Movement at a low after 20-year hiatus

By Marjie Lundstrom
Denver Post Staff Writer

Sometime between 8 and 9 p.m. on a cloudy autumn night, newspaper reporter Bill Jackson turned his car onto a deserted road between Otis and Sterling.

He stared at the northern skies in disbelief. It was 1975, and Bill Jackson was about to have...

A close encounter of the first kind.

Emerging from the blackness was an enormous airborne craft — "as big or bigger than a football field, with rows upon rows upon rows of lights." The craft drifted slowly and silently over his stopped car, then vanished into the night.

"I really hesitate to use the term UFO," said Jackson, now the agriculture editor of the Greeley Tribune.

Winged cigars, flying yo-yos

"But you stand out there on that kind of country night when there's no moon — and all those stars out there — and you just have to wonder, 'Who are we to say we're the only intelligent beings in that massive amount of space?'"

His is that knotty cosmic question that's been asked since Unidentified Flying Objects first swooshed onto the scene in 1947. Since then, the citizenry have seen whirling discs and flying platters. They've told of flying saucers. Winged cigars. Flying yo-yos.

Then, a few years ago, it stopped.

Where once the nation seemed under siege by objects that hovered and hissed and zipped and zoomed, the skies suddenly look dimly empty.

UFOs, it seems, have all but vanished from the celestial landscape.

Interest ebbing

"These things go in significant waves, but I would say that interest in UFOs is at a fairly low ebb right now — probably the lowest ebb in 10 years," said Kendrick Frazier, a free-lance science writer living in Albuquerque, N.M. Frazier is editor of The Skeptical Inquirer, a quarterly journal of scholarly scientific research.

Some might say that this earth-bound skepticism was born — of all places — in Boulder, more typically known for its love of the ethereal. Two decades ago this year, in 1966, the University of Colorado was awarded a prestigious Air Force contract to investigate and evaluate UFO sightings.

The historic and controversial CU study came to a hard-boiled conclusion: Because of a lack of concrete evidence, further scientific investigation of flying saucers was unnecessary. Case closed.

Since then, several major UFO groups — determined to document the phenomenon — have disbanded. One group that remains intact, the Center for UFO Studies in Glenview, Ill., acknowledges that about a third fewer UFO sightings have been reported in recent years to the center.

Jackson's own encounter was in the fall of 1975, when he was investigating a bizarre series of cattle mutilations for the Sterling Journal-Advocate.

Today, the journalist says, he doesn't think much about that black night on an abandoned road in eastern Colorado. Nor does he puzzle anymore over what he saw.

The fading mystique

So what's the deal, anyway? Have extraterrestrial visitors taken a break from buzzing Earth? Or, have people finally accepted what CU scientists asserted 20 years ago — that UFOs were not worth pursuing?

"I used to be, 10 or 12 years ago, if you called the National Enquirer and said, 'Hey, I was abducted by a flying saucer,' then they would send somebody to interview you and you'd be featured on

the front page," said Philip J. Klass, a journalist and author of three books debunking UFO claims.

Not so anymore, says Klass, who believes the UFO movement is running out of gas. Two reasons, he suggests, are sophistication of the news media and the fading mystique of space travel.

"Nearly 40 years have gone by, and there's not a single physical artifact. There's not a single, incontestable photo showing a craft-like object that can stand up under scrutiny," he said.

Deflating what is left of the UFO movement clearly is on Klass' agenda this Friday and Saturday in Boulder, where he will join other scientists and experts for the annual convention of the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal.

UFO buffs, of course, vehemently disagree with Klass and the rest of these sports, who would deign to rain on the astral parade.

Richard Sigismond of Boulder has investigated the UFO phenomenon for more than 30 years, interviewing witnesses throughout the world, often under hypnosis.

His exhaustive research, says Sigismond, makes one thing perfectly clear: There is something out there.

"My conclusion, on the strength of the evidence, is that this country and planet have been under surveillance by a highly advanced society of unknown origin — presumably extraterrestrial," said Sigismond.

"... I don't care who says otherwise. There is enough evidence." For scientists, 1966 was a turning point in the UFO debate. That's when the Air Force gave CU the conclusive mission: To find out whether these sightings warranted additional scientific investigation.

Named to head the University of Colorado project was Edward U. Condon, an internationally known physicist and former director of the National Bureau of Standards. Little did Condon and university officials realize that their prestigious, two-year project would be tarnished by a bitter and vitriolic debate that continues even today.

"From the perspective of hindsight, it's perfectly clear that the investigation never was intended to be serious," said David Saunders, a former University of Colorado psychology professor who worked on the project for 15 months before being fired by Condon.

The project was fraught with bad blood; another staff member also was fired, while others resigned. After his firing, Saunders, who now lives in Princeton, N.J., fired off his

own version of the investigation in his book titled "UFOs? Yes."

"The whole point of the Condon Commission was to give the Air Force an excuse to close the doors on Project Blue Book," Saunders said. "It was costing them money, it was costing them their reputation. It was an embarrassment to them."

Condon was an avowed skeptic, something his harshest critics interpreted as outright bias. But it was Condon's findings that most infuriated the pro-UFO faction.

Released in January 1969, Condon concluded in a 1,465-page report that further study of UFOs wasn't worth it. The \$539,740 study uncovered no evidence that "flying saucers" were being flown by beings from outer space.

Not long later, the Air Force snapped shut Project Blue Book — a two-decade investigation of more than 10,000 UFO reports. The government was out of the flying-saucer business.

Condon had based his findings on the examination of 59 sightings, many of which were proved to be hoaxes or were explained away by more natural phenomena.

One a dry-cleaning bag

In one case near Castle Rock in January 1968, in which more than 30 people spotted an ominous, bub-

ble-shaped object, the night-flying UFO turned out to be a clear plastic dry-cleaning bag launched by four birthday-cake candles. The UFO had been "piloted" by two teenagers.

In another instance, a Colorado farmer reported seeing a UFO land west of his farm nearly every day at about 6 p.m. — except when the western skies were cloudy. One of Condon's field teams visited the farmer and quickly identified the object as the planet Saturn.

Yet some remained mysteries. In May 1967, a ghostlike radar blip overtook and passed a Braniff plane descending into the Colorado Springs airport. No one ever saw the source of the blip, though it clearly had been detected on radar and should have been visible to air traffic controllers and pilots.

"This must remain as one of the most puzzling radar cases on record, and no conclusion is possible at this time," the report concluded.

To this day, Sigismond and many other UFO buffs insist that the Condon commission was a sham and cover-up.

Despite Condon's 17-year-old findings, UFO believers stand firm.

Betty Ricigliano, 52, of Golden, still recalls vividly the spring morning in 1960 when she witnessed what looked like "a submarine floating in the treetops" outside her home in Union City, N.J.

Ricigliano rushed to the window for a closer look at the noiseless, cigar-shaped mystery descending on her neighborhood.

"It was a wonderful sight, and it was there," she said. "I know what the Goodyear blimp looks like, and this wasn't it. This is something I've never been able to explain."

Carol Del Duca, formerly of Fort Collins, still maintains that she, her husband and 4-month-old baby were abducted by aliens in western Kansas and examined by humanoids aboard a spacecraft. The couple had been returning to Fort Collins from Ohio in June 1976 when, about 1 a.m., they were confronted by "balls of light," said Del Duca, who was 18 at the time.

Later, she said, she and her husband discovered rashes on their bodies. And, she noted, they had "lost" hours of time since they first witnessed the bizarre lights.

"Still, to this day, I know it happened," said the woman, who since has divorced her husband and returned to Ohio.

Del Duca claimed she was able to recall details of the close encounter while under hypnosis with Sigismond. She acknowledges that her artistic rendering of the alien looks remarkably like the "Michelin Man."

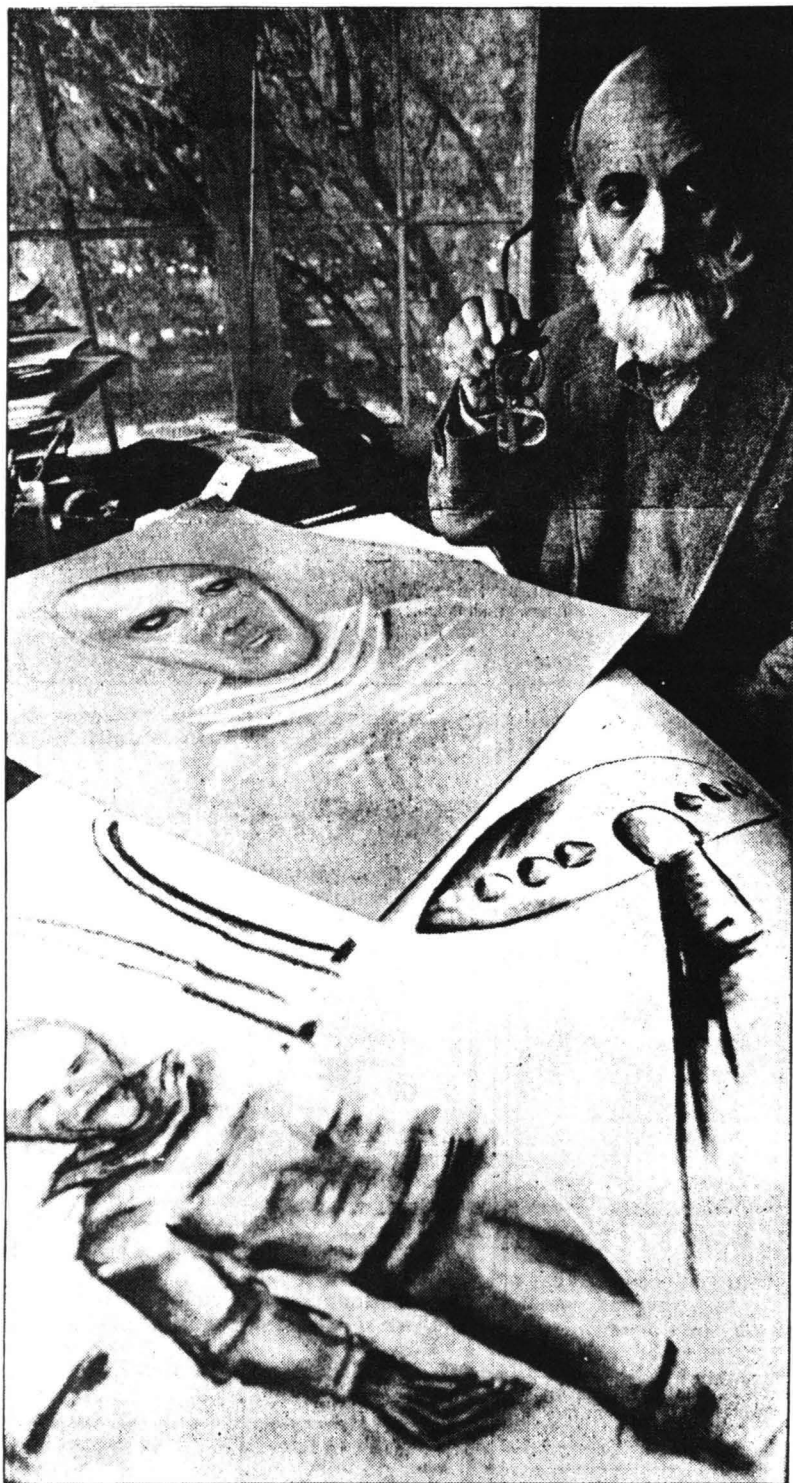
In 1980, a Longmont man and his wife said they were abducted by aliens 24 miles north of Denver. Under hypnosis, Sigismond said, the Longmont man sketched a series of pictures, including a saucer-shaped craft and the face of a bald humanoid with a high forehead and hollow eyes.

Both of these alleged experiences, according to UFO language, are called "close encounters of the third kind," or contact with an alien and its craft.

The "first kind" is a sighting within 500 feet, the "second kind" is one in which the UFO leaves physical traces. The expressions were coined by astronomer J. Allen Hynek, director of the Center for UFO Studies and the undisputed leader of the UFO movement.

That all this might sound a trifle daffy is precisely the problem, say Sigismond and other UFO supporters, who believe the UFO phenomenon is vastly under-reported.

"People still have that fear of reporting because they're afraid of being laughed at," said Sherman Larsen, a co-founder of the Center for UFO Studies in Illinois. "You might be crazy as a bedbug, but we don't laugh at you here."

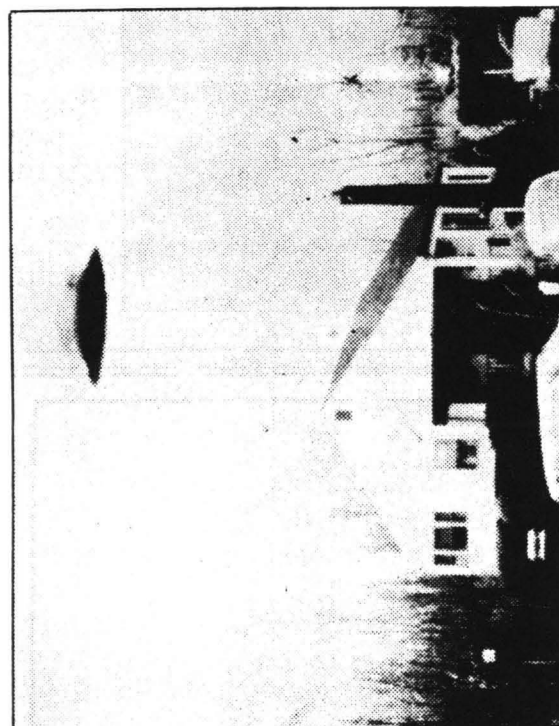


The Denver Post / Lyn Alweiss

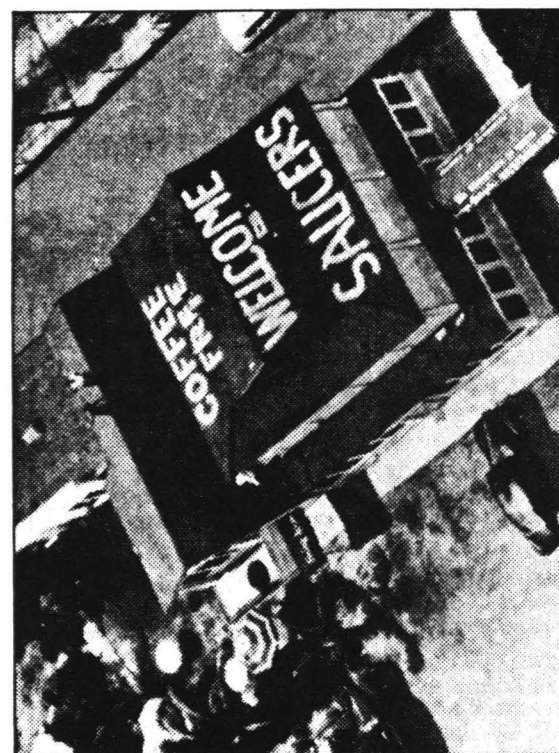
UFO investigator Richard Sigismond of Boulder displays sketches of 'extraterrestrials' drawn by their purported abduction victims while under hypnosis.



1968: Carroll Wayne Watts of Loco, Texas, said he snapped this shot of an 80-foot-long object cruising over his farm.



1967: A purported UFO hovers above the home of Ralph Ditter, a Zanesville, Ohio, resident who said he took this Polaroid photo.



1952: A St. Petersburg, Fla., restaurant carried a welcome sign on its roof after UFO sightings in the southern part of the state.

Weird stuff: Highlights from the flying-saucer file

By Marjie Lundstrom
Denver Post Staff Writer

The flying-saucer file is a fat one.

The first entry came in 1947, when Washington state businessman and pilot Kenneth Arnold spotted what he said was a string of nine aircraft, flying in formation between his light airplane and Mount Rainier.

Their shapes, he said, resembled coffee cup saucers.

It did not take long for Arnold's vision to wing its way into Colorado and the rest of the country, where the citizenry began reporting an onslaught of Unidentified Flying Objects.

Rumors abounded that the nation — already in the first chilly grips of the Cold War — was under secret siege from the Soviet Union, which was sending these phantom discs over the United States by way of the North Pole.

Sightings of UFOs have continued, rising up in waves every five years or so.

Here is a look at the highs, and lows, of the UFO phenomenon:

Flying pancakes

From the beginning, UFO descriptions were tantalizing. In 1947, a Denver woman driving home from a Fourth of July party reported seeing "an aluminum colored saucer do a flip-flop over the Union Depot."

That same year, the entire crew of a United Airlines plane flying over Idaho described seeing mysterious airborne objects, each of which looked "like a pancake standing on end."

Flying pancakes became pieces of fruit by April 1950 when an Air Force veteran living in Fort Worth, Texas, said he saw six objects that looked like "flying bananas." The notion caught on. Three months later, a flying banana was sighted over the Montana Rockies by Air Force officials and airline crews.

Aw, it's just Venus

UFOs have sparked a multitude of explanations, ranging from meteors to the planet Venus to swamp gas. Some have even thought them to be the manifestations of secret bacteriological weapons designed by a foreign power.

Sometimes, the explanations were decidedly mundane. In 1947, FBI agents in Wisconsin discovered that a reported flying disc actually had been a carpenter's circular saw, hurled through the air.

Mama disc and 5 babies

The stories rarely were dull. A woman in Palmdale, Calif., telephoned the sheriff's office in 1947 to report a saucer family. "Over the mountains south of Palmdale I saw what looked like a mama disc with three to five little baby discs flying around her."

A real pun time

Cynical 1940s-style newspaper reporters — sent out to investigate dozens of disc tales — were inspired by the craze. At The Denver Post, reporters called in and asked for the "city disc." A police reporter, cut off in the middle of a conversation with the office, called back to report he had been "disc-connected."

Wrong message

In 1965, a Denver advertising man confirmed that the "UFO" spotted over the city the night before actually had been a small plane, towing a lighted red sign.

The extraterrestrial message, spelled with blinking lights on a rotating sign, read, "It's RCA Victor Week: Showboat of '66 Models."

The insect idea

One Denverite, a trifle bugged by the UFO phenomenon, theorized in 1966 that at least some UFOs could be swarms of electrically charged insects.

Years later, a Department of Agriculture scientist postulated that UFOs were nothing more than swarms of glowing insects, darting about in natural electrical fields.

Then came Snippy

Colorado's hottest saucer story came in 1967, with the mysterious death of a horse named Snippy, a 3-year-old Appaloosa.

Snippy's demise in a field near Alamosa kicked off the animal mutilation question in Colorado and the West, which experienced a rash of grotesque animal deaths in the 1970s.

The deaths have been given many explanations, ranging from extraterrestrials to plain old humans engaged in satanic rituals.

In Snippy's case, the horse didn't return for its usual evening drink in the fall of 1967.

Later, the animal's body was found with its flesh stripped from the neck forward. The brain and spinal fluids reportedly had been drained.

Sudsy surprise

In 1975, sheriff's investigators in Arapahoe County thought they might be fast on the trail of a UFO after receiving a report of a mysterious light in the county's rolling hills.

The UFO was something far less ominous. It was a group of men, sitting around a campfire drinking beer.

LOOKING BACK

DAILY MAIL, London, England - Feb. 10, 1954 CR: C. Allan

Do Flying Saucers really exist, or is there a quite natural explanation? In this first of four articles the author gives some idea of the nature and extent of the "sightings" and how they are treated in this country by the authorities.

Britain Saw the First 'Saucers'—in 1290

by J. STUBBS WALKER

THEY are not called flying saucers any more. Since Government Departments have been investigating these fascinating phenomena at high level the saucers have been officially named U.F.O.s—Unidentified Flying Objects—by the British Air Ministry.

Their renaming may be accepted as a measure of the official interest now being taken in a subject which, since the war, has produced more world-wide controversy and speculation than any other topic except perhaps the prospects of peace or war.

Flying saucers are by no means new. Although the first "sighting" generally accepted as the beginning of the major interest in the subject was in 1947, when ten shining circular discs were seen dodging in and out of the peaks of Mount Rainier, Washington, at 1,000 m.p.h., there was a sighting centuries earlier in Yorkshire.

Documents relating to Byland Abbey, Yorkshire, dated 1290 tell of a round, flat silver object like a discus which flew over the monastery, exciting, the report says, "maximum terrorem" among the brethren.

Half in America

FLYING saucer reports have been intelligently studied—and occasionally very unintelligently!—for little more than six years. In that time, it is safe to estimate, there have been at least 10,000 sightings all over the world.

American reports account for approximately half of these, and there have been many hundreds from Europe, including some 300 from Britain. India, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, and Japan have added their quota.

The sightings work out at an average of at least four a day, and the most surprising thing is that the only territory in the world which seems to be missing from the saucer-reporting list is Russia.

In Britain and the United States U.F.O.s have been taken seriously. In both countries Air Force Intelligence organisations have carried out quite surprisingly meticulous surveys of reports, and in both countries personnel of the Armed

Forces have been warned that detailed reports of sightings must be given to Intelligence departments.

The result of these inquiries is producing almost as much controversy as the flying saucers themselves. American official sources, while not flatly turning down the theories of visitors from space of secret weapons of a foreign Power, have shown that of the thousands of cases investigated all but 15 per cent. are explainable by orthodox things.

In Britain the percentage of saucers left unexplained is even lower: the Air Ministry say that only five per cent. cannot be accounted for.

Thrilling foretaste

MOST people experience at least the temptation, to believe in flying saucers. There seems no doubt that in the foreseeable future mankind will have solved the problems of space travel, and the idea of the saucers gives a thrilling foretaste of the future.

Firm believers in the saucers complain, both in America and here, that there has been a great hushing-up of official information. They argue that because the Governments now realise that the U.F.O.s come from another planet the facts are being hidden from the people to prevent the danger of panic. Others argue that the full facts are not being given to the public because the saucers are highly effective secret weapons belonging to an unfriendly Power.

'Cannot agree'

AFTER a comprehensive investigation into flying saucers in Britain, I cannot agree with this accusation of unusual secrecy. Official investigation into U.F.O. reports frequently entails correlating the reports to other questions which affect national security; consequently a fair degree of secrecy is necessary.

Recently the Air Ministry and the War Office have issued instructions that personnel involved in saucer sightings must not make statements to the public



Two journalists took this picture off the coast of Brazil over a year ago. Flying Saucer or . . . ?

without high-level permission. Throughout my inquiries, however, I have been given a most reasonable degree of co-operation.

Some of the saucer-sighting witnesses I have interviewed have hinted darkly that they have been advised not to talk too much about their experiences, but in no case could I find reasonable confirmation that there had been any attempt by officialdom to restrict the descriptive powers of civilian witnesses.

There was one case in which the "saucer" turned out to be a piece of secret experimental equipment (and most unsaucerlike) which the Government Department concerned were not happy to have discussed publicly.

What happens to U.F.O. reports in Britain?

Almost every one that has sufficient factual background is studied by a special tech-

nical intelligence section of the Air Ministry. Remember that the Air Ministry have not denied the existence of flying saucers; they have merely indicated that of the several hundred cases investigated 95 per cent. have an explanation.

Of the other five per cent. "doubtful" some, at least, are so lacking in detail that full inquiry cannot be made into them.

Treated seriously

EACH report is treated as seriously as if it were the only one. Most detailed checks are made on the time, date, location, and direction of the U.F.O., and these factors are then related with the known movements of aircraft, weather balloons, and the meteorological conditions at the time.

Many of the sighting reports are convincing, and it would be foolish, whatever the investigation figures indicate, to accept flatly the assumption that there is no such thing as a flying saucer. Some of the eyewitnesses are most unlikely to have imagined their experience. Others are trained observers—one an experienced amateur astronomer—while in several cases there is confirmation by other witnesses.

At least one of the officially investigated saucer reports, written off in the Air Ministry files as a weather balloon, still leaves room for some doubt.

Photographs

ON the other hand, with the thousands of sightings made all over the world, it is strange that in the period of more than six years there has never arisen any absolutely convincing proof of the reality of the saucer.

Photographs have been produced. The most remarkable were those taken by Mr. George Adamski and published in his book "Flying Saucers Have Landed" (Werner Laurie), in which he claims to have had a personal interview (conducted by telepathy) with the pilot of a flying saucer which landed in the California desert in November 1952. These photographs and several others, however, have never been proved.

Tomorrow: Strange tale from Norwich.

FLYING 'PIE PLATES' REPORTED SEEN HERE

A flying disc has been reported over Corpus Christi. Mrs. Georgia Penny and Mrs. Ada Roberts late yesterday afternoon reported they had seen a flying disc or "pie plate" from the back porch of their residence at 814 Laredo.

"We were looking toward the south when we saw it speeding toward the bay from the west," Mrs. Penny said. "It looked like a bright pie plate and was sailing in a semi-vertical position, the bottom part pointing toward the bay."

"It was not sailing too high and we watched it until a tree blocked our view. It did not appear to be losing altitude."

Similar discs have been reported flying over the northern states, the last over Idaho by an entire crew and passengers of a Boise to Seattle United Air Lines plane over Emmett, Idaho.

No explanation has yet been given as to their purpose or their source.

UFO 'chases' Geyser girls

GEYSER — Jerry Skelton of Stanford, deputy sheriff for Judith Bain County, reported that two teen-age Geyser girls were recently chased to their home by an unidentified flying object.

The daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Meredith were driving home about 10 p.m. from about four miles west of Geyser when they noticed the UFO.

Skelton said the UFO chased the girls all the way to their home. They ran inside and told their parents, who went outside and observed the object hovering over their yard. A little later it took off and flew over the Geyser School, near Highway 87, Skelton said.

Skelton said no one else in the area reported seeing the UFO, but he didn't doubt the story, since he has seen some of them himself.

GAZETTE, Billings, MT - Aug. 26, 1975

CALLER-LIVES, CORPUS CHRISTI, TX

July 6, 1947

An amateur astronomer saw it through his telescope last October. It wasn't a meteor . . . or a weather balloon. Could it be . . . ? This is the problem posed in this second of four articles on the Flying Saucer mystery.

Was it a 'Saucer' They Saw over Norwich?

by J. STUBBS WALKER

WHETHER you are a saucer enthusiast or what the "saucerers" call a heretic, you have to admit that the evidence of some of the sightings is sufficiently impressive to justify fully the detailed study the Air Ministry still give to the subject.

Take the case of Mr. F. W. Potter, a 34-year-old amateur astronomer, who runs his own window-cleaning business in Norwich.

For nearly 20 years Mr. Potter has been interested in astronomy. He is a member of the British Astronomical Association and of the Norwich Astronomical Society. His wife also is a member of the Norwich society, and their interest in astronomy is sufficiently alert for them to have bought, for their own personal use, a 3½ in. refracting telescope—an expensive piece of equipment.

One night early in October last year Mr. and Mrs. Potter were leaving their home near Norwich to attend a meeting of the local society. It was a dark, clear night, and the time was about 15 minutes after seven o'clock.

A habit

AS they stepped from their porch, turning towards the garage, Mr. Potter looked up into the sky. "I always do," he says, "more or less out of habit."

He saw something which he first took to be a bright yellow star in a position where it should not have been. Then he noticed that it was moving, so he called to his wife to fetch from the house the big telescope, which they then set up in the front garden.

The object, however, was moving over their house, and they had to fold up the cumbersome telescope and its tripod and carry it through the house to set it up again in the back garden. There, for three and a half minutes, both Mr. and Mrs. Potter were able, they say, to make a close study of the "object."

"We were both pretty excited," Mr. Potter admits. At the same time, however, he was able to keep the telescope trained on the U.F.O., and his observation of detail was confirmed by his wife.

It was a dark grey hull against an intensely black sky, dome-shaped and with the curve of the dome hanging towards the ground. The flat side emitted a pulsating light which was much stronger when the object was stationary, dulling as the object moved. At the centre of the curved dome there was a kind of conning tower with eight windows through which light was beaming.

Excitement

"IHAVE seen hundreds of meteors," Mr. Potter told me, "and there was no question that this was one. Neither could it have been a weather balloon."

The Potters went on to their meeting at the Norwich Astronomical Society, arriving late and in a flutter of excitement.

Mr. W. E. Bennett, the honorary secretary of the society, confirms their state of excitement and confirms, too, that when members questioned the Potters their stories coincided in all detail. Mr. Potter immediately sketched for the members what he had seen. His wife agreed that the sketch was



This artist's drawing is based on a verbal description and a sketch made by Mr. Potter of the mysterious object he saw in the sky.

as accurate as she could remember.

Now, here is a strange thing about what the Potters saw and what Mr. Potter drew. The whole of his description is very much like the much-questioned photographs of a flying saucer supposedly taken at short range by Mr. George Adamski and published in his book "Flying Saucers Have Landed," except for the vital fact that Mr. Potter drew what he saw in his refracting telescope, which reverses the image.

Adamant

HIS flying saucer was not flying the same way up as those of Mr. Adamski, and no amount of arguing will make him change his mind. Mr. Potter had previously seen a representation of the Adamski saucer and was consequently aware that what he saw might be expected to be flying the other way up.

So far as I am aware, Mr. Potter's sighting has never officially been investigated. He himself refuses to call it a flying saucer, despite his detailed sketch of it. He and his wife have received scores of insulting letters, ridiculing and reviling them. As Mr. Potter points out, none of those letters of ridicule

seems to have been written by anyone with any scientific training.

As a witness Mr. Potter is good. He is unshakeable in his facts. His local astronomical society members have a good opinion of him as an observer.

If you believe his story in complete detail there would seem to be something in flying saucers. There is, however, always the possibility that both Mr. and Mrs. Potter were innocently and subconsciously influenced by the fact that three weeks previously Mr. Potter's brother (another amateur astronomer) had seen unidentified lights in the sky and that they had been on the look-out for something unusual.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Potter deny this strongly. They say, quite reasonably, I believe: "We didn't want to see a flying saucer, anyway!"

'Flaming tadpole'

ONE of the best-authenticated series of sightings in Britain recently was the "flaming tadpole" seen streaking over the Isle of Wight, Bognor, and Chichester in the dark early morning of a winter day, when it lit

up the streets and seemed to dodge in and out of cloud.

At least half a dozen people saw this phenomenon at widely spaced parts of the South Coast, and there were even stories that very soon afterwards it was seen in the Norwich area. The stories from the South Coast witnesses match remarkably well in timing and description.

Two milkmen in Newport (Isle of Wight) were probably the first to sight it. They were delivering milk in different parts of the town and told their separate stories before they had an opportunity of comparing notes.

Mr. Walter Liggins, 31, was in a street in the town when he saw the roadway and buildings brilliantly illuminated. He thought at first that it was some effect of moonlight, but then he saw his "tadpole," with, he says, a brilliantly green glowing head and a red, flaming tail.

Very large

THE light from it seemed to undulate (how frequently U.F.O. observers agree on that undulation of light), and, though he admits the impossibility of judging its height, he did not think it was very high because it seemed to pass through cloud and appeared very large.

Danny Breen, another milkman, saw very much the same thing from high ground near Parkhurst Barracks, just outside Newport. It was very brilliant, he said, and seemed to have a small head, a larger body, and a tapering tail of light.

Intense light

JUST about the same time Police Constable William Keates, 43 years old, with 18 years' service in the force, was cycling to Bognor police station to take over the 6 a.m. duty.

"I suddenly saw all the road illuminated from behind me, and I thought it must be a car with brilliant headlights," he says. "I drew into the side of the road and looked over my shoulder and saw an intense white light in the sky travelling from west to east."

"There was no apparent beam of light from the object. It was just a mass of light with a long moving trail, travelling horizontally. I saw nothing fall from it."

Colleagues agreed

AS soon as he reached the police station he telephoned Chichester police. Two of his Chichester colleagues had seen the same thing, and their descriptions tallied with the rest. The only difference in any of the "tadpole" sightings was in the descriptions of colour. This, however, could have changed to some degree with the type of cloud through which the object was observed.

No one claimed that these South Coast sightings were flying saucers, and the descriptions fit in very well with the classical picture of a fireball, except for the reports that it appeared to pass through cloud. A fireball is normally many miles high in the atmosphere, though it may appear much nearer.

Tomorrow: What the R.A.F. observers saw.

EAGLE, Reading, PA - Dec. 14, 1969

Passing Red Cloud Arouses Interest

A huge red cloud passed over Berks County from north to south about 5:30 p.m. Saturday and evoked a number of telephone inquiries about what it was.

The control tower at the Reading Municipal Airport, after studying the cloud for sometime, came to the conclusion that it was either a "vagrant" cloud or a jet contrail picking up the sunset. A tower spokesman judged it was at an altitude of about 6,000 to 10,000 feet.

Some of the viewers said it appeared to be coming out of the rear of some kind of an airplane.

In his third article on the Flying Saucers mystery the writer describes a strange incident during a Coastal Command exercise off the Yorkshire coast.

90,000-foot Radar 'Target' set 'Ack-Ack' a Puzzle

by J. STUBBS WALKER

SIGHTINGS of Unidentified Flying Objects by men of the Royal Air Force and by crews of airliners are treated with considerable respect by the official investigators for the reason that the men reporting are trained to observe, accustomed to the difficulties of making intelligent estimates of things seen in the sky, and should be aware of the strange visual effects that the weather can have.

Five R.A.F. Coastal Command aircrew were at Topcliffe air station, Yorkshire, during "Exercise Mainbrace" towards the end of 1952 and were watching a Meteor approach to land at the nearby aerodrome of Dishforth.

Behind a Meteor

AS they watched they all noticed that about five miles behind the Meteor and at some 10,000ft. above it there was a white object in the sky apparently following the Meteor but, as the men on the ground first saw it, travelling at a slightly slower speed.

The airmen had the white object under observation for approximately 20 minutes. They watched it lose height with a "falling leaf" movement and then saw it appear to hover, spinning on its own axis, before speeding off to the west, changing course to the south-east and disappearing at an extremely rapid speed—"as fast as a shooting-star," the witnesses said.

This group of observers, two officers, a master signaller, a sergeant, and a leading aircraftman, all insisted that what they had seen was a solid object and they did not believe it was a balloon because of its manoeuvring, change of direction, and speed.

The following day, it was reported, three Danish Air Force officers saw a very similar thing happen over Karup airfield.

Tracked on radar

THE ace of well-authenticated sightings by experts, however, must be that of a group of radar experts at a Territorial heavy anti-aircraft regiment H.Q. in South London. Here the U.F.O. was not only seen through a tele-

scope by a group of technical men but was also tracked for 15 minutes on a modern Army radar set which was able to give an accurate record of its distance and bearing and its speed of movement.

Even though this sighting has been officially explained away as a meteorological balloon there are some facts worth studying.

Sergeant Harry Waller, 35-year-old permanent-staff radar instructor at 285 Heavy Anti-aircraft Regiment, Lee Green, a man holding a "B.2" radar certificate in the Army, indicating a high degree of training, was making a routine test on a radar set early in the afternoon when on the radar screen he saw a very large response from a target. Because of its depth he at first thought that it must be something "very big and very low."

For five minutes

BUT when he checked on his instruments he realised he was wrong. His target was at a height of 60,000ft. and the "slant range" from his radar set—the straight-line distance from the aerial to the target—was 90,000ft.

Modern radar equipment can be "locked on" to the target, which means that, without any manual help from the operator, the instruments will keep the target in the centre of the radar beam.

For five minutes Sergeant Waller had his set "locked on" to his very large target and from his instruments saw that its movement was negligible—possibly a movement of 100 yards in 30 seconds.

He went outside, expecting to see something quite big in the sky, and was surprised to find that he could see nothing with the naked eye. On the radar equipment, however, fixed up on the moving aerial array is a low-power sighting telescope used for testing the alignment of the set.

Through this—which, of course, was automatically "looking" at the same target as the radar beam—he was able to see with some difficulty a white ball—"not merely reflecting sunlight, but seeming to glow of its own accord."



This photograph was taken by a U.S. coastguard at an air station after he had seen four unknown objects in the sky. Bars of light seem to extend in front and behind.

Now Sergeant Waller is an experienced, practical man. The response on his radar was three times as large as any signal he could expect from even the largest aircraft at that range. The response was completely steady, and because he has had experience with the fluctuating, rhythmic response from the reflecting aeriels of weather balloons he now has difficulty in believing that explanation.

Idea of size

SOME time before he had the radar set lined up on a big four-engined Vallerant jet bomber at a range of little more than a third of that of his mysterious target. Though he could only just see his "balloon," which at that height would have measured only a dozen or so feet, it was just as big as the Vallerant had appeared at 35,000ft. range compared with the 90,000ft. range of the "balloon."

"I cannot understand how at that range I could have seen a weather balloon measuring some 12ft., even if it were brilliantly illuminated by the sun," says Sergeant Waller.

"Imagine what a six-foot target on a 300-yard rifle range looks like in your sights and compare that with an object only twice as large and 100 times as far away."

"Besides, the extremely large radar response, as steady as a rock, has to be explained away."

Every detail of his story is confirmed by a group of half a dozen technicians at the regimental headquarters, including Mr. A. S. Trew, a civilian radar engineer. They all saw the radar response and in turn looked at the "target" through the telescope.

Another interesting feature in Sergeant Waller's story was the fact that he took the trouble to search the sky for cloud movement in order to estimate wind conditions. His target had moved out of range towards the south-east, but a small patch of high cirrus cloud was moving easterly.

An explanation

THIS, however, may well be accounted for by the unexpected movements that are to be found in the upper air. In fact, the Meteorological Office report for that day shows that at 55,000ft. the wind was north-westerly (blowing to the south-east, the same direction as the very slight movement of the sergeant's target) while at 30,000ft. it was blowing from the south-west, which would have carried the lower-lying cloud to the north-east.

The discrepancy there is that the 55,000ft. wind, according to the weather men, was blowing at 35 miles an hour, while the radar target had very little movement.

These tricks of wind at varying heights are well known to the weather men, and it is to make a more complete study of them that well over 100 met. balloons are released in Britain daily. Both speed and direction can sometimes vary enormously in different layers of the atmosphere.

Tomorrow: What the scientists think.

Student Claims He Saw UFOs Over Decatur

It may be that those unidentified flying objects claimed to be seen over southern Michigan the past few days have paid a visit to Decatur.

Dave Peckham, 14-year-old St. Teresa High School student, says he spotted three strange objects hovering over his house at 430 W. Main St. about 10 p.m. Tuesday night.

He described the objects as circular and finished with some type of grey-looking metal, except for antennas which were "dull-looking yellow." Dave says the objects also had a "hazy ring" underneath them.

"I got scared and called mom, but they took off, and it looked like real fast."

Dave is the son of Mr. and Mrs. O. H. Peckham.

HERALD, Decatur, IL - March 25, 1966

'SPACE' OBJECT SEEN CAUSE OF TREE FIRE

EGANVILLE (CP) — Something started a fire in a bush area near here and there is a possibility it came from space.

Royce Swant, 18, found the object, which has the appearance of metal that has been subjected to intense heat, in bush near this community 60 miles northwest of Ottawa. A sample has been sent to a Toronto laboratory for identification.

The high school student was

in the woods with a companion early this week when they came upon a burning tree stump. In stamping out the fire, Royce uncovered the mysterious object, oval in shape, about 10 inches long, six inches wide and three inches thick at the centre.

The student took the object to high school principal Donald Whillans, who suggested the laboratory examination. They felt the grey-green object was too light to be a meteorite.

'Flying Saucers' Are at It Again, Say Many Iowans

By Jack Magarrell

A railroad engineer reported that he saw something peculiar in the Iowa sky near Cedar Rapids—10 shiny, disc-shaped objects very high, fluttering along in a string toward the northwest.

This was June 23, 1947, and the beginning of the first major wave of reports of unidentified flying objects.

Within the next few weeks, scores of such sightings were reported around the country. Somebody called them "flying saucers."

8 Police Officers

Last week, Iowa observers including eight police officers in four counties reported they had seen approximately the same thing about the same time, 1:30 a. m. Thursday.

At Washington, Police Chief Clarence See and his assistant, Max Donelson, reported seeing a "cigar-shaped object" which gave off a bluish light and traveled northeast.

At Centerville, Policemen J. G. Turner and Gale Banks saw a white object with a slightly reddish tinge moving north.

At Grinnell, Patrolman E. D. Hawkins and Assistant Chief Harold Rose reported "some white object with an orange tint" which was "headed north and moving fast."

At Oskaloosa, Capt. J. W. Smith and Officer Roland Grandia reported "shining white objects" which were "round and moving fast toward the north."

In Des Moines, Drake University astronomer Philip S. Riggs said last week's Iowa reports probably were due to people seeing stars through hazy clouds or seeing a distant light from a high-flying jet airplane.

Flurry in Southwest

Earlier in the week, there was a flurry of reports of objects in the sky in parts of Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Kansas. The Wichita, Kan., Weather Bureau said it had tracked one of the objects on radar. The object first showed up on the radar at an altitude of 22,000 feet and then descended to 4,000 feet, the Weather Bureau said.

The next day the Air Force announced in Washington, D.C., its preliminary conclusion that the observers had been seeing stars.

A private, non-profit organization in Washington has been disputing such Air Force explanations for nine years. This group, the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena has inves-

MOON DUST?

NEW HAVEN, CONN. (AP)

— Prof. Robert L. Brown of Southern Connecticut State College said Saturday that Moon dust raised by the crash of Russia's Lunik V rocket might have caused recent flying saucer reports.

He said a cloud of lunar dust could react with the Earth's atmosphere to produce a luminous "unidentified flying object."

The Russian rocket hit the Moon May 13. Brown said the Lunik's landing rockets stirred up a dust cloud 145 miles long and 50 miles wide.

igated more than 5,000 "flying saucer" reports.

"Although a large percentage of the reports can be explained in terms of conventional objects and events," the organization said, the unexplained cases are a scientific problem which deserves further investigation.

One Incident

National Investigations has a number of Iowa reports in a collection of evidence. One of the Iowa incidents reported by the organization follows:

"Jan. 20, 1951: A bright light, source unknown, was observed from the control tower at Sioux City, Ia., airport about 8:30 p. m.

"Chief Controller John Williams cautioned a Mid-Continent Airlines DC-3, which was about to take off, thinking it was another aircraft approaching the field.

"Shortly after take-off, Capt. Lawrence W. Vinther and copilot James F. Bachmeier, in the DC-3, were startled to see the bright light closing on them very rapidly.

"Before they could take any action, the light flashed past the airliner and the pilots saw a clear silhouette of a cigar-shaped object behind the light.

"One of the passengers who also witnessed the object was a full colonel of Air Force Intelligence, who filed a report along with the pilots. He was reportedly greatly impressed by what he had seen."

Radar Net Is Alerted For 'Mystery Object'

WASHINGTON — (INS) — The Air Force alerted its nationwide radar network Tuesday to watch for a "brilliant mystery object" that has been reported flying in a crazy pattern over Texas, New Mexico and the Gulf of Mexico in the last two days.

Air force officials said the latest sightings have been placed in an unexplained category pending investigation

although they cautioned that 98 per cent of such reports have natural explanations and none has ever involved national security.

THE ALERT coincided with the release of an official dispatch to U. S. Coast Guard headquarters reporting that the cutter "Sebedo" had contacted the strange object several times by radar over the middle of the Gulf of Mexico Tuesday morning.

Comdr. Clarence H. Waring, skipper of the Sebedo, said the object looked like a "brilliant planet." His radar contacts indicated that the object was moving at from 240 to 900 miles an hour, frequently changing its direction, but at one point appeared to be completely stationary in the sky.

The Air Defense Command, with headquarters in Colorado Springs, Colo., said it had received no reports of radar contact with the object as yet.

SIGHTINGS of mysterious objects were reported in Kansas City and Willis, Okla.

In Kansas City, Frank E. Kraft Jr. said he and two other office employees saw a strange craft which "looked like a dirigible with part of its frame exposed" over Kansas City late Monday.

Glenn Northcutt, Willis rancher and member of the University of Oklahoma Board of Regents, said he and five others had watched "a brilliant, mysterious light that looked like the planet Venus magnified many, many times."

AIR FORCE headquarters said the service stands firmly behind a statement made two years ago that "No evidence of the existence of the popularly-termed 'flying saucers,' has ever been found.

Nevertheless, a spokesman said, the Air Force does not doubt that "something was seen," and has reason to believe an explanation will be found.

UFOs Reported Seen Thursday Over Boulder

Unidentified flying objects were reported sighted over Boulder Thursday night by Nate Ervin, junior student at the University, who lives with his parents at 785 33rd St.

Ervin, who said this was the first time he ever saw UFOs and has always been somewhat skeptical of reported sightings, asked if any one else spotted them.

He said he saw six objects of football shape with inverted "V" wings that came to a point at their ends. They had no tail sections and were stark white against the crisp, dark winter sky.

"They were flying in formation at what seemed to be an extremely high altitude and at first I thought they were jets, but they were followed by no jet roar—only a loud wind sound," Ervin said. The CU student also noted their maneuvers were different from any aircraft he has observed. He said the last two objects in the formation suddenly moved out from the formation, almost at right angles in a jerky movement. "Just as quickly they re-assumed their flight positions, he added.

Ervin estimated the time of his sighting to be about 7:35 p.m. He was walking across the campus between the Hellems building and Hellums Annex behind the Little Theater. The objects moved from the southeast to the southwest at apparently tremendous speed, he said.

DAILY CAMERA, Boulder, CO - Feb. 12, 1965

DESERET NEWS & TELEGRAM, Salt Lake City, UT
May 12, 1962 CR: J. Wardle

Scientists Study Film Of X15 Flight

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, CALIF. (UPI)—Scientists confirmed Friday they were studying unidentified objects filmed on a recent world record altitude flight of the X15 rocket ship. X15 pilot Joe Walker dis-

closed filming of the objects during a space flight panel in Seattle, Wash., at the 2nd annual conference of peaceful uses of space.

"I didn't see the objects during the flight," Walker said. "They were taken by the X15's camera."



Trailing UFOs easy; getting into print is harder

By JAMES ADAMS
Journal Staff Writer

For the last eight years, across the fields, streams and cities of North America, Edmonton's Douglas Curran has been tracking down and photographing home-made space ships, UFO cultists, backyard rockets and individuals who believe they came to Earth, somehow, from the farthest reaches of outer space.

It's been a fascinating, occasionally amusing, often arduous project for the 33-year-old Curran.

But it's earned him considerable attention both in Canada and the United States — attention that was to culminate this fall in the publication of his first book of photos by New York's prestigious Abbeville Press, with an introduction by Tom (The Right Stuff) Wolfe.

Things, however, seem to have gone wrong. And now Curran is unsure whether *In Advance of the Landing: Folk Concepts of Outer Space* — the title of both the book and the project — will be available for public perusal this year.

A print run of some 8,000 quality paperback copies by Abbeville in Italy was botched recently. Color plates were smeared; type was transferred to images; images were pressed against type. Curran didn't like the quality of the duotones. As a result, the edition was trashed.

Now Abbeville is going to reprint the book (to retail for \$19.95). Plans are to airfreight some 1,500 reprinted copies into the Canadian market later this month or early December, largely because the wheels of publicity are already rolling here.

The latest issue of *Saturday Night*, for

example, contains a four-page color extract from the book, while Quill and Quire recently carried a full-page profile by Journal freelancer Charles Mandel.

The American portion of the run, however, likely will be warehoused for three or four months, then released in February and March — after the lucrative Christmas sales period. A tour of Los Angeles, San Francisco, Toronto, Boston, Chicago and New York that was scheduled for this month has, obviously, been postponed.

"It's confusing and disheartening," said Curran recently of his experiences.

It's no secret in Canadian photography circles that Curran was hoping *In Advance of the Landing* would serve as a kind of capstone for his time-consuming exploration of the UFO subculture.

"To me, the book is history. I want to be done with it. I've got other projects and I want some new opportunities, opportunities I thought the book might help provide."

In the last two years, Curran has developed a considerable reputation as a movie stills photographer. He's been on the sets of movies like *Rad*, *Hypersapien*, *Draw and Loyalties*. He's also done a well-regarded series of photographs of Alberta Metis settlements.

He'd hoped to have *In Advance of the Landing* on the book shelves two or three years ago. However, a legal wrangle with a local publisher who originally planned to issue the book, as well as discussions with other, Eastern-based publishers, negotiations with writers like Wolfe and William S. Burroughs and rewriting added years to the project.

GLOBE, Boston, MA - March 6, 1986 CR: B. Greenwood

They think someone's out there

IN ADVANCE OF THE LANDING.
Folk Concepts of Outer Space, by Douglas Curran. Abbeville. 132 pp. \$16.96 (paperback). Illustrated.

By Mark Muro
Globe Staff

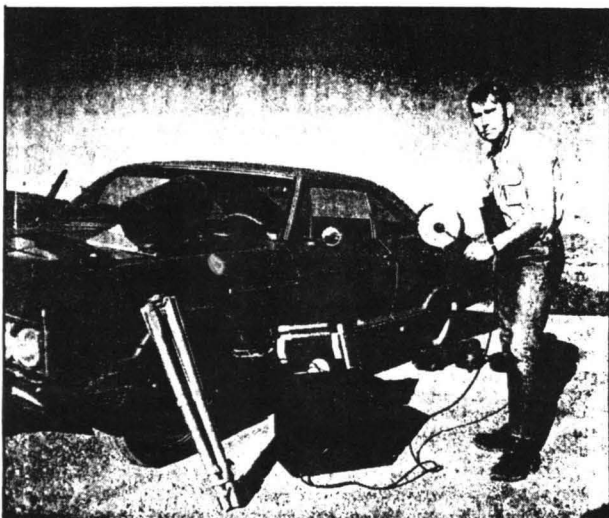
"There is no easy way from the Earth to the stars," enjoined the 1933 Medalists' Society Medal, but try telling that to Al Thomas of Russellville, Ark.

Just one of the dream-aded wackos, believers and fraudulent "professors" treated with such loving good humor in Douglas Curran's *"In Advance of the Landing: Folk Concepts of Outer Space."* Thomas, like many Americans, has a little something cooking out back in the garage. What it is is a homemade flying saucer. In 1973, it develops, Jesus appeared to Thomas on a hill and commanded him to circle the Earth distributing food, medicine and the Bible; so Thomas went right to work, drawing on his mechanical abilities and the books of Ezekiel and Revelations.

The sheet stainless steel for the outer skin came from a scrapyard in Little Rock. The motor (copper windings around a ceramic core) languishes unfinished, but it's under development pending Thomas' continued research with a dictionary and the Bible propped up on the workbench. As for Thomas' mental state, he remains, significantly, ever hopeful. As he tells Curran, an award-winning Canadian photographer, "I was saying to the wife, 'You can have chemistry, history, carbon arc welding, but when you get into the Bible you got all that beat.'"

So you do.

The point, of course, is one that emerges quite forcefully from the modest pages of *"In Advance of the Landing"*: that we are poignantly, terribly susceptible. It's not a new thought, to be sure, and to an extent it's true everywhere; but still, Curran's fascinating album of UFO enthusiasts makes it somehow especially clear. It's there in the amateurish paintings of the oil magnate's widow who believes "Humanity's only chance is in outer space." It's there in the lost expression of the unemployed bulldozer operator who spends evenings on a mountain in California flashing lights into the night. And since it is, Curran's book — product of a research quest spanning seven years, 125,000 miles driven in a second-hand yellow Renault, innumerable strange phone calls, a dream, and a cryptic letter of introduction — packs a strange wallop. More than just a tour of yet another wing in this our American nuthouse, the book



Orlando Toroni spends his nights on a California hillside tracking spaceships "hiding" behind satellites. FROM "IN ADVANCE OF THE LANDING"



Author Douglas Curran

is a valuable portrait of a rootless nation in which the search for order can become so strange one can hardly believe it.

The book begins with a vigorous introduction that quickly points out we've never not thought some little man would come down and zap us. From there it moves swiftly through a quick history of encounters and their literature. Ezekiel's wheel gets treated, as do "phantom chariots" over Rome and the Great Airship Mystery of 1896 and 1897, in which thousands across 20 states saw large cigar-shaped ships levitating over hill and dale. Then Curran discusses such early modern incidents as the evening a flying saucer landed next to a New Mexico man named Daniel Fry advising, "Better not touch the hull, pal, it's still hot."

After that it's bombs away. We meet the Unarius Foundation, which presents its members with a lot of Mylar costuming and a full-blown cosmography in which Earth is "the garbage dump of the universe." We meet Betty Andreasson who, in 1967, was abducted by a squadron of 3-foot-tall humanoids. We travel to rural Alberta where a town called St. Paul prides itself on possessing the

world's first municipal UFO landing pad. At times so much craziness blows by one wants to push the eject button.

Yet not all is sheer lunacy and claptrap. One laughs at the seriousness with which John Shepherd has converted his grandmother's house into a blinking, humming UFO detecting station — until one reads that often John will sit in his dark room, listening to the transformers and the deep peace of the night. Or take the case of Orlando Toroni, who remembers how as the world disintegrated through the '60s and '70s he grew quietly obsessed up on a mountainside near Orland, Calif. "I would stand up there for hours looking for answers in the sky and begin to cry," he tells Curran.

In moments like these little bursts of meaning break through. Suggestive here is the Southern, often Western and rural locus of these tales. Arizona, California, Al Thomas' Arkansas, those mystic wastes lay out there at the fringe of consciousness as the prime locale for all manner of fantasy, from hikers' reveries and dune buggy megalomania to early atomic testing. The point is: of course it was in the Mojave that the first claimed UFO sightings took place, and the pioneer conversations with little green men. In a landscape, in a nation, where nothing officially exists, absolutely anything becomes thinkable, and may consequently happen.



Edmonton's Douglas Curran
... book beset by problems

EASTERN EVENING NEWS, Norwich, England
April 2, 1986 CR: T. Good

Answers to 'UFO' mystery

by MARK HOULDEY

WYMONDHAM drama lovers have solved a spooky UFO mystery which has baffled police and star gazers ... or have they?

A series of not-so-close encounters in the village of Wrampingham has been blamed on a powerful searchlight shining from Wymondham Abbey during rehearsals for a son et lumiere production.

But police still have no explanation for an incident two weeks ago when a Wymondham girl was followed home by bright lights in the sky.

Wymondham police station was under siege from scared residents last night as the searchlight, which reaches destinations five miles away, shone into action at the town's abbey.

Wymondham Lions, young farmers, and amateur dramatists, were unaware of the growing furor outside as the rehearsal began in earnest.

Lighting designer Mr. Jim Laws, of West Carr Road, Attleborough, said: "We did get some calls from people in Wrampingham who were a bit worried. They had followed the line of the beam from about four miles away."

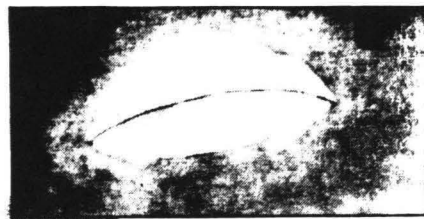
Mr. Laws had informed the police, Eastern Radar, and Norwich airport, before switching on the beam.

"The light is used to illuminate the side of the abbey near the All," he added.

But he could not throw any light on a scary encounter, as reported in the Evening News two weeks ago, when a young girl said she was followed home by bright lights in the sky.

"That was nothing to do with us. We were not operating the searchlight at that time," he pointed out.

So the residents of Wymondham still cannot sleep easily until the little green men identify themselves. Will it be the year Wymondham makes contact?



Philip Mantle (centre with radio) and fellow Yorkshire Ufologists on Carleton Moor, and (above) an artist's impression of the flying object most commonly reported in those parts.

Anybody out there?

HANGING as we do on every word that issues forth from the two joint chairmen of Planet Earth Inc., it is perhaps surprising that a tiny snippet should have slipped through almost unnoticed recently.

Following their fireside chat in cuckoo-clock land last year Messrs. Reagan and Gorbachev appeared to make a number of promises to each other, one of which was the Great Communicator's offer to share some of his Star Wars secrets with the Russians so that one day they could combine forces to "fight off alien attack."

If you are reading this over your muesli and *fromage blanc* in, say Skipton, or even your fried bread and *boudin noir* in Normanton, then try not to snigger. Particularly if you live in Skipton or Normanton.

For it would certainly seem that if we have had visitors from other worlds — and a recent survey in Britain suggested many people not only believe that we have but also expect invaders from outer space within the next five years — then they are probably from a galaxy not yet familiar with the niceties of social divisions.

Yorkshire is now the most active UFO-spotting area of Britain, possibly even the world, and much of that activity centres on the area around Skipton. The regularly-reported saucer-shaped objects often have three lights on the underside, definitely fly, and remain totally unidentified by all the official Government agencies.

Threshfield, Grassington, Addingham, Carleton Moor. For some reason there have been more sightings of UFOs in these areas than anywhere else. Even local policemen have joined in the fun but have been warned to say nothing to the media.

And Normanton? While the rural idylls of North Yorkshire are being given the once-over by something similar to the artist's impression (above), at least one family in the mining town of Normanton, near Wakefield, appears to have gone a stage further.

What follows is in the nature of a

cosmic scoop and people of a nervous disposition are advised to turn to the sports pages, where cricket news from the West Indies is marginally less frightening. In July, 1981, a miner's wife in her mid-fifties was washing up in the kitchen of her council semi-detached overlooking some fields. Her children and grandchildren were trying to knock over three sticks propped up against the kerb outside.

As the ball flew in the air and as the children looked up they saw something very odd. They rushed inside and excitedly announced that "an aeroplane has come down in the field." Their mother went outside and saw a dull silver-grey coloured vehicle, which resembled a tank with no gun turret or windows, the shape of a Mexican hat.

Three tall men in silver suits, with visors on their helmets, mittens,

Its bi-monthly magazine goes all over the world; their data relating to some 1,000 encounters of varying kinds is stored on floppy discs at their headquarters somewhere in Leeds, with duplicates elsewhere. You can't be too careful when you are dealing with the unknown.

So what is it all about? Philip Mantle, a 28-year-old engineer whose small bedroom at his terrace home in Batley is the nerve-centre of his part of the Yorkshire UFO Society's operation (overseas liaison, investigation, membership secretary etc.), is quite frank. He doesn't know.

But 90 per cent. of his spare time is spent on hilltops. Indeed, he met his wife, Elaine, a fellow Ufologist, on a hill at Carleton Moor, Skipton. Locals joke about sheep drowning themselves deliberately in that area, and not driving across the moor after dark. But not Mr. Mantle. His annual

Yorkshire is now very big in the world of Ufology. ROGER CROSS has a close encounter of the worrying kind discovering why

boots and carrying short black rods, were examining the ground. When they saw the woman and children, who were aged between five and 13 and all told the same story, they returned to the craft which left the way it had arrived. Vertically and noiselessly.

Cynics may dismiss this as the work of DHSS snoopers, or NCB outriders searching for pits to close, but there are those who don't.

Indeed visitors from another planet who bumped into Philip Mantle might go away slightly puzzled themselves. He is one of a rapidly growing breed of earthlings who spend hours in their back bedrooms studying charts, photographs, and documents. They communicate in a strange language about "UFO abductions", "RPVs" (remotely piloted vehicles), "energy pods" and more, much more.

And all in a Yorkshire accent. For Mr. Mantle and a handful of like-minded colleagues are the zealous backbone of the five-year-old Yorkshire UFO Society which now has almost 300 members here and abroad.

holiday was spent there last summer and in nine days the grand total of sightings was — one. A very identifiable aeroplane.

"It is terribly frustrating. There is something and the answer to all these happenings may be there right under our noses, but we just can't see it for the time being. I'd stop investing so much time in it if I didn't think the riddle could be solved. But it will be."

In the meantime his telephone rings constantly (a call from Norway, as we speak) but the majority are more mundane sightings in the Yorkshire areas. There was something funny hovering over Morley last week. As it is, only about 10 per cent. of such sightings and encounters remain unexplained as Mr. Mantle and his fellow Ufologists investigate as thoroughly as is possible within the combined restraints of the basic apathy of Government departments and the Yorkshire UFO Society's bank balance, which rarely tops £100.

They spend hours discussing and analysing such as the Normanton encounter (the woman insisted on

anonymity but Mr. Mantle offered an introduction); "July 23, 1984" — almost 100 separate reports in one night of two large glowing light orbs moving from Hull to Leeds and then back to the east coast and still totally unexplained.

And the "Cracoe UFO", claimed to be the best daylight colour-photo of a UFO taken in the UK, and the work of an off-duty policeman in North Yorkshire. What looks to the untrained eye like a processing flaw on the negative is food and drink and terribly significant to Ufologists.

Philip Mantle is articulate and knowledgeable about a subject which wasn't really invented until 1947, when a commercial pilot combing a mountain for wreckage in Washington State reported seeing discs flying in formation like saucers on water. Ufologists really hate such terms as "flying saucers" and "little green men", and are terribly sensitive about being taken seriously, being readily aware that many people's perception of their particular obsession is mocking and sceptical.

The Achilles heel of the movement are the fellow travellers only too ready to explain, and exploit, the simply unexplainable. Many Ufologists believe there is a world-wide conspiracy at government levels to conceal startling knowledge of extra-terrestrial visitations. Indeed, in a small back bedroom in Batley are files stuffed with photocopies of photocopies of official-looking documents from around the world which seem to confirm that theory.

In fact the next time Reagan and Gorbachev swap pleasantries they would do well to remember that the Yorkshire UFO Society are well and truly on to them. A throwaway paragraph at the end of a recent information sheet, "The Military in Yorkshire" gives us all something to ponder, Skipton and Normanton notwithstanding:

"The research team have discovered through sources that there exists in Yorkshire a secret military base where, currently, astronauts are being trained for a manned mission to Mars...."

Watch this space (no pun intended).

UFO probbers puzzled by a lack of sightings

By Toby Neal

A group of UFO investigators in Shropshire have been puzzled by the dearth of sightings in recent months.

UFO Investigation Shropshire has six members from all round the county. "There's been a big decline in reports since 1985," said member Robert Edwards of Gloucester Avenue, Dawley.

"Shropshire was once quite popular for UFO reports. Most, but since 1985 we've hardly had any. We find it when investigated, turned out to be military aircraft.

Theories on what UFOs are

There were one or two good

that they are flying saucers from another world, others seeking more down to earth explanations.

Robert said: "Personally I believe there's an unknown natural phenomena involved in some of the cases.

"I don't believe in alien civilisations, although that's not shared with my other colleagues."

When the group gets a report of a sighting it tries to get in touch with those who saw the phenomenon and arrange a brief meeting and, if they think

it's worth studying, they get all the details and check to see if there was any astronomic event which could have caused the encounter.

The last report was from Leegomery area just before Christmas, although the group thinks an aircraft from RAF Shawbury was probably responsible.

Robert, who says he has never seen a UFO, has a particular interest in close encounters, where people claim to meet aliens.

Woman spots mystery light in sky

HARTLEPOOL woman Pat Simmons has changed her views on U.F.O.s after sighting a shimmering red light above the town.

After insisting she did not believe in mysterious flying

objects Mrs Simmons has now had second thoughts.

She said: "I never believed in U.F.O.s but now I am not so sure."

"I saw a red light and at first I thought it might have been some sort of distress signal. It was shimmering high

in the sky for quite a while and then it just disappeared."

"It was very unusual and it did not look like a plane or a helicopter."

Mrs Simmons said she spotted the light at 9.20 p.m. on Good Friday as she was walking along Stockton Road towards her sister's home.

BROMLEY ADVERTISER, Kent, England

April 10, 1986 CR: T. Good

And finally . . .

WAS it a UFO that was seen hovering above Bromley on Saturday evening?

A graphic designer from Thornton Heath rang to say he spotted a strange glowing red light moving slowly across the horizon above the North Eastern part of the borough at about 9.30

He had no explanation for the eerie sign.

TRANSLATIONS

City and country of incident: Fogliaro, Varese, Italy

Dates of incidents: January 6, 1970 - Late July, 1985

Name of newspaper and date of clip: CORRIERE DELLA SERA, August 4, 1985

City and country of newspaper: Milano, Italy

[CREDIT: R. E. Reid - TRANSLATION CREDIT: V. DiBiasio]

APPOINTMENT WITH UFO IN VARESE, EVERY EVENING FROM 10 PM UNTIL DAWN

VARESE - On 2 June 1947 an American pilot, Kenneth Arnold, sighted for the first time an extraordinary flight of aircraft of discoid shape and flying at fantastic speed.

Since then, sightings of UFOs have multiplied, and various theories have been advanced as to their nature and origin.

Latest of these sightings comes from Fogliaro, a hamlet of Varese, where every night for three weeks the occupants of a villa had the opportunity to observe a bright object that moved at high speed. "I don't know what it is," said Professor Jean Brissaud, one who had seen the strange object. "During this period both Venus and Jupiter were visible, but the object we call a UFO was certainly something different from those two planets."

Prof. Brissaud's testimony is authoritative. Schooled in engineering, mathematical logic and language, he's a serious observer who wants to understand the phenomenon. For this reason, he quickly contacted experts at Euratom (Ispra) and Professor Salvatore Furia of Varese's Campo dei Fiori Observatory.

From the window of Brissaud's villa at 7 Chiusarella Street in Fogliaro, the Professor with his family and other residents observed the strange phenomenon that started every night a little after 10 PM and lasted until 5 AM.

Those who saw the UFO describe it as a big bright point in the southeast, about 35 degrees above the horizon. To the naked eye, it looked like a big star, but acted strangely. It travelled always from the north and moved about the sky, changing shape and color.

"One night I couldn't sleep," said Professor Brissaud's daughter, "so I was looking out the window. The object was there in the sky, red and very big. It emitted strange white flashes that formed a rhomboid shape." At times the unidentified object changes direction of travel and size. It moves across the sky very fast for a few seconds, then stops short, remaining there for some hours. It seems the object changes more frequently during the early hours of the morning.

This isn't the first time that unidentified objects have appeared in the skies of Varese province. At least 30 cases are recalled, known as the "white phenomena," because they were never explained. A typical sighting was on 6 January 1970 about 6:15 AM, when 30 boys at Varese's Campo dei Fiori Observatory saw through the telescope some vivid lights that seemed to emerge from Lake Varese. A strange phenomenon that lasted about 15 minutes and looked like a pulsating bright point, without identifiable shape, that illuminated all the land surface below.

Moving horizontally about 200-300 meters above the ground, in and out of the morning fog, it illuminated the Lido della Schiranna as it flew over the entire city, then disappeared near Valtellina.

In 1965 a strange yellow gold flash was noted in the direction of Monte Rosa, but later investigations (confirmed in France) ascertained that two experimental rockets fueled with liquid oxygen and hydrogen had been blown up for safety reasons.

City and country of incident: Capilla del Monte, Cordoba province, Argentina

Date of incident: January 16, 1986

Name of paper and date of clip: TIEMPO ARGENTINO, January 19, 1986

City and country of paper: Buenos Aires, Argentina

[TRANSLATION CREDIT: Jane Guma]

FLYING SAUCER REPORTED IN CAPILLA DEL MONTE

According to witnesses, it burned a sector of almost 100 meters in diameter

CAPILLA DEL MONTE - A flying saucer flew over and later landed in an area near Lomas del Pajarito, some 12 kilometers from the above city in Cordoba province, and after an undetermined period of time, it took off at great speed, leaving a circle of approximately 100 meters in diameter completely burned.

According to the government secretary of the local municipality, Jorge Suarez, the incident took place at 11:00 PM last Thursday and a few local residents were witnesses to it. They claimed having seen the craft's motions until it landed some 2 kilometers from where they were. Later, after the craft took off, the witnesses noticed that the vegetation-low and stocky-was on fire.

One of the witnesses, as nine year old boy, drew the craft giving it a circular shape with many windows, giving off bright colored lights. Other witnesses noticed also that a willow on a hill near the landing site had changed its color.

When the unusual incident was published, the local mayor, Daniel Sez, accompanied by Suarez and the county councillor Heraclito Argaranaz--who was there on vacation--went to the place and verified the truth of the allegations as regards the burning of grass. The mayor said that "the local people do not speculate with these things. They are very quiet, but they get quite alarmed when they touch on these subjects."

Locations of incidents: Ryczywol, Poland - Koszalin, Poland

Dates of incidents: October 24, 1979 - April 18, 1984

Name of paper and date of clip: SKRZYDLATA POLSKA, February 16, 1986

City and country of newspaper: Warsaw, Poland

[CREDIT: Lech Galicki]

SUBCELESTIAL CLOSE AND DISTANT ENCOUNTERS

Mr. Tadeusz Figiel of Ryczywol in Pila province, a member of the Polish Astronomical Association, made a very interesting observation in 1979 and consequently in his diary under the date of October 24, he recorded the following:

"19:00 hours. Sky free of clouds, stars visibility limited. Through the 8 X 30 binoculars, I was observing the southeastern part of the sky and at about 30 degrees above the horizon, I noted three orange-colored objects (azimuth 115 degrees) of a brightness near to the average brightness of Saturn. The round objects were situated in a straight line and remained at equal spaces to each other at about two degrees. After about 10 seconds from their appearance, the middle object, after covering the apparent distance of 2 degrees, approached the object situated above and the last one rapidly extinguished. After a few seconds, the lowest object covered the distance of 4 degrees, approaching the middle object and thereafter the last one also extinguished. After several seconds, the remaining object extinguished. The entire observation lasted about 20 seconds."

After such brief recording on the unusual observation, Tadeusz Figiel supplemented with the brief remark: "The above-cited appearance did not remind me of any astronomical appearance and it is the first of its kind which I cannot explain. I was convinced that the three objects were at a relatively small distance from the earth."

Such a brief phenomenon in the evening sky is not contributing much, but must be taken into consideration when observing it with the Night Lights.

On April 18, 1984, Barbara Slawinska, with her daughter Alicja, was returning home. They resided in Koszalin. At 20:35 hours, traveling in M. Kopernik Promenade, after passing Rolna Street, they noticed in the northwestern part of the bright sky a curious shining object.

"We were highly surprised," stated Barbara Slawinska. "This, what we saw was a lighted dark orange ball, three times larger than Venus appears when it is closest to Earth. At the same time, contrary to Venus, the object was perfectly round and was changing color in a cycle from dark to light orange, yellow to blue. At a certain moment, the object shifted slightly toward the left. From this side, the southwest, was approaching another dark orange object which was heading directly towards the first one. After a certain length covered in space, this object approached the first ball at the distance of about 10 diameters of the single object and disappeared. After a few seconds, it appeared at the same distance from the other side. Again, it disappeared after covering a short distance. The sky was relatively bright, without clouds, and there was nothing to be seen at the places where the ball disappeared. Purposely, I am specifying that the ball disappeared and did not 'switch off.' The flight lasted about 5-7 minutes."

"After several minutes, the first pulsating ball was seen at the same place as before. Again, illuminated probably the same orange ball and at the previous speed was approaching the first ball. All this occurred as before, but the second ball did not approach from the opposite side of the first ball, but appeared just under it and seemingly was absorbed by it. Such was my impression that one object absorbed the second one. At the joining moment, both balls were orange and after joining, the single ball appeared as very light blue in color and disappeared after a few seconds. A few minutes later, at the same place where it disappeared, the ball brightened again and perhaps that was the same orange ball, but without changing color, smoothly climbed and disappeared."

"This time, we thought that this is the end of it because nothing occurred for some considerable time. We just wanted to move, but at the same place as previously, appeared again the dark-red ball which was suspended without motion. After about 2 minutes, the second orange ball separated from it and suspended above the first one. A few minutes later, both the balls, being immobile with respect to each other, disappeared without any trace. The flight of the balls was very characteristic for the lightness in moving, it was very fluent without any accelerations or slowings. All this lasted about 30-35 minutes and took place in complete silence."



GAZETTE TELEGRAPH, Colorado Springs, CO - Feb. 2, 1986

Rancher claims officials ignore cow mutilations

By Natalie Phillips
Gazette Telegraph

Two months ago, 80-year-old Eldon Butler found one of his Hereford cows dead on his ranch on Murphy Road.

Its mutilated carcass and reports of a helicopter hovering near Butler's ranch the night before the death was discovered parallel the hundreds of reported cow mutilations that plagued Western states in the early and mid-1970s.

The cow's belly had a 14-inch hole cut "by some type of sharp cutting instrument," according to an El Paso County Sheriff's Department report. The animal's sex organs were missing.

The only answer investigators could offer was "it's the work of predators." That is the same conclusion that was drawn by investigators nationwide about 1980 after reviewing 2,000 to 10,000 reported mutilations.

But Butler doesn't buy it. "That kind of makes you sore when you can see with your own plain eyes a butcher couldn't leave such a clean hole," Butler said. "Coyotes would leave teeth marks."

Butler has no explanation for his cow's death, but he told investigators he heard a helicopter hovering about 300 yards from his house the night before the cow was found dead. "It was real loud," Butler said. He said he didn't give it a second thought until he found the carcass because Army aircraft often fly by his ranch.

The death of his cow and the hundreds of cows reported mutilated in Colorado in the mid-1970s are an unsolved mystery investigators have chosen to ignore, Butler charges.

Butler's dead cow is one of "sporadic reports" of mutilations in the past several years in El Paso County, according to Lt. Jere Joiner, head of the Sheriff's Department investigation bureau. Exact figures on the number reported annually were not available.

"There is no use reporting it to the Sheriff's Department," Butler said. "It doesn't do any good."

"I think it is picking up a little bit again," he added.

In Colorado, the cattle mutilation mystery began in the early 1970s. Hardest hit were Elbert and Logan counties in the Colorado plains.

The mutilations peaked in the summers of 1975 and 1976. During that time, about 1,500 mutilations were reported, according to the Colorado Cattlemen's Association.

"Once that flurry passed, then it was sort of gone," said Bob Rolston, executive vice president of the association. He said with the exception of Butler's cow found dead Nov. 23, he hasn't heard any ranchers talk about having problems.

"It's on the back burner now," Rolston said.

There were four popular theories in the 1970s about the mutilations. The first was that cows were being mutilated by members of a satanic cult that use animal organs in their rituals.

A second popular theory was that the government was secretly testing new biological and chemical-warfare weapons and using helicopters to find the animals.

A third theory was that the mutilators are visitors from outer space who swoop down out of the night sky and zap the animals with their weapons. Select organs of the animals are taken for cloning, according to the theory.

The fourth theory was that natural predators, such as coyotes, bears, mountain lions, eagles and magpies, were the culprits and somehow cattlemen were the victims of a form of mass hysteria.

It's the fourth theory that Kenneth Rommel, a former FBI investigator, concurs with. Rommel received a federal grant in 1979 to investigate the reported incidents.

"It's all a bunch of garbage and an awful lot of money was wasted by law-enforcement officials investigating it," said Rommel, who is now director of investigations for the New Mexico Department of Corrections.

Rommel documented his findings in a 297-page report in 1980.

"Things that are born, die," Rommel said during a telephone interview Monday. "Cows are dying everyday. They eat poisonous plants and grease from farm machinery which has lead in it. You name it, they are dying from it. And whatever scavenger will go in and eat on the carcass."

There is no one particular party responsible for the hysteria the mutilations caused, according to Rommel.

"Ranchers were all caught up in the same lore, the media recognized a good story and a lot of investigators forgot that if you are going to be an investigator you've got to be objective," Rommel explained.

"The media would go out and quote deputies that said the cuts appeared to be like laser surgery," Rommel said. "The follow-up question should have been, 'What do you know about laser surgery?' The media were pretty irresponsible."

Rommel said that when he received a report of a mutilation, he'd take the rancher with him to investigate.

"We'd see bird droppings on the carcass and coyote droppings nearby," Rommel said.

At first ranchers would ignore that in favor of pointing to what has become the classic signs of a cow mutilation. Those signs included missing sex organs, udders, tongues, eyes, rectums and ears. Often there would be no footprints anywhere near the carcass and no signs of struggle. Rommel said that when he pointed out the bird and coyote droppings, the ranchers would concede that maybe predators were responsible for the mutilations.

Carl Whiteside of the Colorado Bureau of Investigation also investigated the reported mutilations.

"We determined that though some mutilations did occur, the majority of the deaths could be attributed to predators," Whiteside said. "The cows died of natural causes and post-

mortem they were mutilated by predators."

At the forefront of many of the mutilation investigations in Colorado was former Logan County Sheriff Harry "Tex" Graves.

Graves said last week he knows who or what is responsible for the mutilations, "but I won't repeat it." He would not say why he did not want to discuss it. He also said he hasn't kept up to date on reported cases of mutilations.

He reportedly collected more than 200 photographs of mutilations during his term as sheriff.

Graves told one reporter, "Look at these pictures and then tell me how anyone can blame it on natural predators. I'd like to see the coyote that can do that. Predators are never as selective

"Things that are born, die. Cows are dying everyday. They eat poisonous plants and grease from farm machinery which has lead in it. You name it, they are dying from it. And whatever scavenger will go in and eat on the carcass."

— Ken Rommel, Investigator

as the mutilators. A coyote wouldn't leave all the tender parts. If he tore a piece of hide from the critter's belly, he'd leave it around, not take it within him.

Graves stepped down seven years ago and Sheriff Dan Bollish took over.

Bollish questions Graves' claims.

"I think he exaggerated, but I don't know because he cleared the files out when he left," Bollish said.

Graves said he stored the files, but did not say where.

Elbert County Sheriff George Yarnell said he still gets occasional reports of cow mutilations.

STARS AND STRIPES, Washington, DC
April 5, 1986 CR: R. Reid

world today

Halley's comet bombarding Earth with organic dust

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — Scientists studying Halley's comet said Thursday that the "dirty snowball" from outer space is peppering Earth with organic dust, a revelation that could rewrite theories on the origin of life.

"We're sufficiently confident of our data to make an announcement," said David Allan, who heads the Anglo-Australian Observatory at Coonabarabran in the state of New South Wales.

However Allan, in a telephone interview, cautioned that the discovery does not necessarily mean the particles are biological or capable of forming life.

"There is definitely something organic," he said. "It may well be bacteria but at this stage we have no strong grounds for saying that."

Allan and a colleague, Dayal Wickramasinghe, said the finding, made over the last weekend, strengthens theories that viruses and bacteria originate in outer space.

The idea is not new.

Despite ridicule, British astronomer Fred Hoyle has argued for years that comets may carry living organisms, which he believes could explain mysterious outbreaks of epidemics such as influenza and whooping cough.



Vance Orchard

Blue Mountain Ramblings

BIGFOOT UPDATE — Remember the Bigfoot sighting reported in the Mill Creek Watershed in 1982? Here's an update, from an interview in the most recent issue of "The ISC Newsletter," publication of the International Society of Cryptozoology.

Rene Dahinden, of Vancouver, B.C., has been a leading investigator of the Bigfoot phenomena since 1956. He was interviewed by J. Richard Greenwell, ISC secretary.

While Dahinden has had some differences of opinion on some aspects of the subject with Grover Krantz, WSU anthropologist who has taken the stance that we need to bring one in dead or alive, Dahinden agrees on this aspect. He tells Greenwell that "we are now at this stage" in the search for Bigfoot.

"How do you propose going about getting one?" Greenwell asks.

"Well, we either wait for a hunter to pop one off, or a truck driver or somebody to run over one, and then have the nerve to step out and pick it up, or we go out ourselves and try to find a dead one or collect a live one."

That collecting one is the crux of this matter, according to Dahinden, who says:

"Well, the only argument against the existence of Sasquatch (Bigfoot in Canada) in my view, is how come one of them hasn't been collected, especially by somebody shooting at it? ...Hunters, and so on? Well, I have an argument against that, the emotional shock of seeing something like that could stop a man from actually shooting."

Greenwell: "If you had to assign a probability to a large unknown species, a primate species, surviving like this in North America, what would your probability be? More or less than 50 percent?"

Dahinden: "I would say, looking at all my own personal experiences, all the eyewitnesses I've talked to, the footprints I've seen, the (Roger) Patterson film I investigated, taking everything into consideration, I would say that such animal exists. I have never heard a d— argument, which was based on anything sound, that would indicate to me that Sasquatch does not exist....everything points to the thing existing."

UNION BULLETIN, Walla Walla, WA - April 6, 1986

USA TODAY, Arlington, VA - April 30, 1986

Vt. protects lake 'monster'

MONTPELIER, Vt. — Champ, the reported monster of Lake Champlain, now has legislative protection in Vermont. The state Senate Tuesday followed the House — and both chambers of New York state's General Assembly — in resolving that the creature, if it exists, should be spared harm. There have been about 250 reported sightings of Champ, a Loch Ness-type monster, since 1609.

Creek features mysterious creature

*It's big, smart
— and enjoys
ravaging shed*

By DAN LUZADDER
STAR STAFF WRITER

The Rev. Tinsley Silas Rector of Wildwood Lane doesn't seem like an overly excitable man. Not the kind of man to have wild illusions, to confuse dreams with reality, or even to fear things that go bump in the night.

But something very strange has been happening behind his house. Something very strange indeed.

Silas, practical and reasonable as he is, says only that this strange event "has everybody mystified."

"My neighbors," he says, "they are mystified."

And the Indiana conservation officers who came out and took a look at the evidence:

"Yep," says Silas, "they were mystified, too."

Even the reporter who drew this assignment, after tramping around in the snow looking for mysterious signs, was, well, "mystified."

So, by now, you may be asking yourself, what has brought on all this mystification? What could be so puzzling, strange, enigmatic that it could draw the attention of a major metropolitan newspaper?

Call it the Creature of Grassy Creek.

Grassy Creek is an ambling little stream a mile from the Hancock-Marion County Line, just east of the Rev. Rector's house. It runs at the foot of a small hill, in a swale, so to speak. All around are trees and brambles and raspberry bushes and other mildly forbidding things. It also serves as home to rabbits, squirrels, possums, raccoons and a fat old groundhog or two.

Until last October, there hadn't been a sign of anything more nefarious living along the creek bank. Certainly nothing with a penchant for malevolence against mankind.

But now, who knows? It was in October that Silas and his wife came home from a vacation to Florida to discover that some sort of creature had paid them a visit.

"It had tried to eat my metal shed," Silas explained. "Tore pieces of the sheeting back. Dragged lumber out of my lumber pile and left great, big teeth marks on it. Some kind of animal, for certain. A big one."

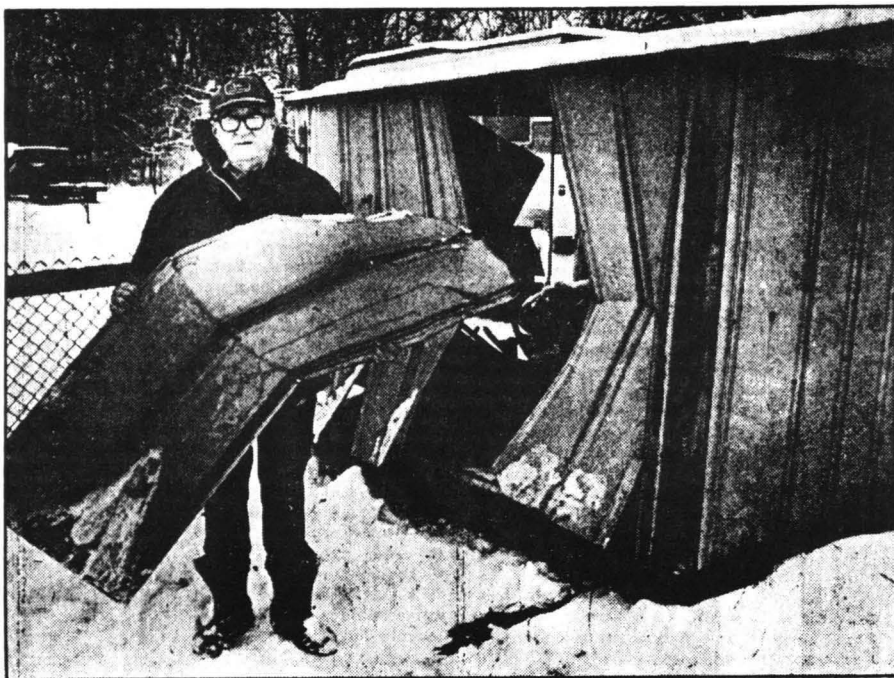
The creature, or whatever it is, also chewed through parts of the wooden floor of the shed, dragged tools outside, and ate some fertilizer. The first incident sparked curiosity and some concern for Silas.

But it was the return visits that bothered him.

"I heard something one night and went out with the shotgun," he said. "But I didn't see a thing. And my neighbor, he brought over some traps. We put traps all around the shed. But the next morning they were all tripped and wasn't a thing in them. It's smart, whatever it is."

Just a little over two weeks ago, the creature made its last visit and left the shed a shambles. It tore the door off its railing, bent tall sheets of metal, pulled the screws right out of the building, and dragged a half of bag of cement mix into the yard. It left catlike tracks.

"The conservation officers said it wasn't a bear. No bears around here. And who knows then what it might be. I tried to make an insurance claim but



STAR STAFF PHOTO / FRANK ESPICH

The Rev. Tinsley Silas Rector hopes for the return of the "creature" that has attacked his shed.

the company wouldn't pay. They said I wasn't insured against domestic animals, and that's what they thought it was."

Silas said he has a neighbor with a Great Dane. The dog was a suspect for a while. In fact, a neighbor familiar with hunting tracked the dog from the vicinity to its home a half-mile away.

"But it's only 8 months old," Silas said. "A pup. I don't think it could do that kind of damage."

Whatever it is — some Loch-Nessian monster come from the depths of Grassy Creek, or a Great Dane, or someone with a very strange sense of humor — Silas is waiting for it to come back.

"Just like to satisfy my curiosity, as much as anything," he said.

And this reporter hopes he does, and soon, if only for the fact that Silas is a neighbor, just across the field and down the hollow. And now that his mystery is known, every time the old blue hounds start baying in the dark of the moon, well, it might provoke one to wonder exactly what is out there on Grassy Creek.

STAR-DEMOCRAT, Easton, MD - March 10, 1986

Retiree reports seeing Chessie

By SORAYA SARHADDI
Staff Writer

KENT ISLAND — Chessie — the Chesapeake Bay's version of Scotland's Loch Ness monster — may have been spotted by a retired government worker last week off his property in the Tower Gardens development near Romancoke.

"I saw only three or four feet of it, but it looked like a snake with a head the size of a dog," said Robert A. Kenney, 62, of the creature he watched for almost

five minutes Wednesday evening. "It was something strange."

Kenney said he was inside his house at approximately 6:15 p.m., when he saw what he thought was his neighbor's black Labrador retriever swimming approximately 50 feet from shore. As he continued to watch it, Kenney said he realized that it was much bigger than a dog.

"There was about three feet of it above the water, making a wake behind it," he said. "It went under for about 10 seconds and then came back up and then

went back down again."

Kenney said he watched the creature swim around to the north end of the ramp at the end of a bulkhead on his property and towards a nearby beach.

"I got a good look at it with the binoculars," he said. "It had a blunt, pointed head ... and didn't have ears. I couldn't make out the eyes."

He said he watched it swim out into the Bay and it stayed above water for a longer time as it got farther away. When his roommate came back several minutes later, it was no longer visible, Kenney said, adding that this was his first Chessie sighting.

Kenney's sighting is the first one reported this year. Approximately 30 Chessie sightings have been claimed since 1978. Many of them occurred in the summer of 1984.

STARS AND STRIPES, Washington, DC - April 9, 1986 CR: R. Reid

Comets live up to reputation as 'evil stars,' researcher says

ATLANTA (UPI) — A wave of teen-age 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 said 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 in 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."

Coleman submitted a research paper at the 19th annual meeting of the American Association of Suicidology, which ended Sunday, outlining a chronological connection between the appearance of comets and suicides, deaths and disasters. His historical study represents research going back to the 1960s, Coleman said.

Halley's comet, which reappears every 76 years, returned last fall and will be visible until the end of April. It is expected to be at its brightest April 11.

Coleman said the appearance of the comet Kohoutek in 1973-74 coincided with the Watergate scandal, President Nixon's fall, the assassination of Spanish Premier Luis Carrero Blanco, earthquakes in Mexico and Pakistan that killed 5,500, and droughts in Africa and India that left 200,000 dead.

"These kinds of associations of comets and disasters are still around," said Coleman.

"In 1985, the year of the reappearance of Halley's comet, the United States held its first National Confer-

ence on Youth Suicide in Washington D.C.," Coleman said.

When Halley's comet appeared 76 years ago, in 1910, "Sigmund Freud addressed a conference in Vienna, on 'Suicide, Particularly Among Children.'" The year 1985 also marked a large number of airline disasters with a death toll in the thousands, he said.

"Halley's comet appeared like a 'sword' over Jerusalem in 66 A.D., foreshadowing for the city's residents their destruction at the hands of the Romans. Many records of mass suicides are associated with this time — Simon of Scythopolis, Jotapata soldiers and citizens ... and finally ending with Masada, 960 dead," Coleman said in his paper.

He said that, when two comets appeared in 1347-48, and the Black Death first appeared in Europe, eventually killing 25 million, a series of mass suicides occurred.

"Comets and mass suicides also are associated for 1506, 1528-9, 1582, 1666, 1823 and 1910."

Coleman said there is clear evidence of a connection between Halley's comet and suicides in 1910. On May 18, 1910, the Earth was to have passed through the poisonous tale of the comet.

"The only solution for many was suicide. Records of waves of suicides in Japan, Italy and Spain are known," he wrote.

Coleman said: "Comet Halley frames these events but does not cause them. Other spectacular comet appearances, however, seem to have influenced some people, and they committed suicide. Further historical research should be undertaken."

Legend of wolf girl lingers

Devils River a proper setting for 150-year-old Texas tale

By Mike Cochran

Associated Press

DEL RIO, Texas — The Devils River is the stuff of legends, of wild animals and phantoms and ghost ladies, but none is as compelling as the story of the naked wolf girl who roamed its banks 150 years ago.

According to legend, the girl's mother died in childbirth, and her father, John Dent, was killed in a thunderstorm while riding for help.

"The child was never found, and the presumption was that she had been eaten by wolves near the Dents' isolated cabin," recalls author Barry Lopez in his book, *Of Wolves and Men*.

Lopez said a boy living at San Felipe Springs in 1845 reported seeing several wolves and "a creature, with long hair covering its features, that looked like a naked girl," attacking a herd of goats.

Lopez said others made similar reports the next year and added that Apache Indians told several times of finding a child's footprints among those of wolves in that country.

A hunt commenced.

"On the third day of the hunt the girl was cornered in a canyon," wrote Lopez. "A wolf with her was driven off and finally shot when it attacked the party."

"The girl was bound and taken to the nearest ranch, where she was loosed and closed up in a room."

"That evening a large number of wolves, apparently attracted by the girl's loud, mournful, and incessant howling, came around the ranch. The domestic stock panicked, and in the melee the girl escaped."

According to the Lopez account, which was unattributed, the girl was not seen again for seven years.

"In 1852," he wrote, "a surveying crew exploring a new route to El Paso saw her on a sand bar on the Rio Grande, far above its confluence with Devils River."

"She was with two pups. After that, she was never seen again."

As enchanting and almost as elusive as the wolf girl, the spring-fed Devils River once ruled as the last unpolluted major stream in Texas.

The upper river today flows largely underground from a point north and east of Juno, a crumbling little hamlet along U.S. 163 in the sparsely populated wilderness of Southwest Texas.

To find the river, a motorist leaving the U.S.-Mexican border town of Del Rio would drive northwest to Comstock and up 163 to a scenic and historic point known as Bakers Crossing.

The first glimpse of the dark green river off 163 occurs there in a tiny grove of oak, cottonwood and juniper near abandoned Camp Hudson, which once protected the trail from San Antonio to El Paso against hostile Indians.

In a prize-winning article titled "Forgotten Places," Griffin Smith Jr. provides a lyrical account of the wild and remote Devils River and its bleached limestone cliffs.

"A large number of wolves, apparently attracted by the girl's loud, mournful, and incessant howling, came around the ranch."

— Barry Lopez, author

"The springs pour out of the ancient rock, lingering in pools circled by moss, maidenhair, and watercress, emptying into the river," he rhapsodized.

"A super abundance of water: dizzying, vivid, pure; ageless water knifing clear deep channels defiant of geometry, crossing and diverging and crossing again; water spun in flumes as exuberant and vital as the festive dances on a Minoan urn; a processional without music."

Now, in early spring and subdued by a long dry spell, the river surfaces above Bakers Crossing and runs along 163 for perhaps six miles until it bends southeasterly and flows beneath the highway and deep into the rugged ranchlands toward Dolan Springs and Dolan Falls.

"The Devils is a Hill Country river in a Trans-Pecos setting, serene in its accustomed moods but merciless when the floods come," said Smith.

Nourished by the fresh spring waters, it rolls on to rendezvous with the Rio Grande in the backwaters of the awesome man-made Amistad Reservoir at the U.S.-Mexican border.

"Devils River is named for the way it flows," said Emma Bendele Clark, who grew up near Juno and spent her childhood fishing, swimming and exploring the river.

"When it rains, the river roars."

Mrs. Clark now lives on a farm near Princeton, Mo., but returned to the family home recently to visit her mother and to have surgery.

"If I croak," she laughed, "I want to do it at home."

Mrs. Clark said she left Juno 40 years ago as a teen-ager but remembers still the "fantastic" stories told to her by her grandfather and other early arrivals to the semiarid region.

"We heard all kinds of stories about the Devils River, but not that one," she said of the wolf girl.

"We've got some wild boars and rattlesnakes, some wild turkey and deer, and we had coyotes and mountain lions back then, but I don't remember any wolves."

She said Indians still lived here when her grandfather arrived and that years ago Juno was a prosperous little village.

Now everything's gone," she sighed. "The old people and everything."

Down from Juno, where the spring waters gurgle beneath the bone dry riverbed, there is a place

called Mayfield's Country Store that sells anything from gas to groceries and wine to worms.

Signs urge you to stop in for a notary, a cabinette, fishing and hunting supplies, a coin laundry, a hot shower, a boat stall, half-price sun shades, ice, milk, meats, hot and cold sandwiches and a game of pool.

The complex includes the Devils River Liquor Store, a deer storage facility and a cabin with a sign proclaiming its occupant to be the "Law East of the Devils River."

Another sign promises "unsurpassed hospitality" but store manager John Vaughan looked anything but hospitable when asked about the wolf girl of yesteryear.

"They don't have many wolves out here," he said, a bit patronizing. "But there is a mountain lion or two."

Once assured he's was being queried about a legend and not a live wolf child, Vaughan spoke freely if not altogether fondly of the Devils River.

"It goes underground because there's not enough water for it to run on top," he said. "That's why they call it Devils River. About the time you need a drink, it's gone."

Still, he said, one finds bass, catfish, perch, sunfish and several other varieties in its waters, and both the river and the countryside are "even prettier" when it rains.

"This country comes to life with a little water, but there's not been much water lately," he said.

In Del Rio, magazine editor-publisher Dan Bus and rancher-historian-teacher Michael Baker say they have heard the legend of the wolf girl, but neither could pinpoint where or when.

"I think it's too far in the past to be a topic of daily conversation," chuckled Bus, "but I do recall reading about it."

Baker, a fifth-generation descendant of the Bakers Crossing clan, could shed no additional light on the wolf girl but did produce an ancient story titled "The Phantom of Devils River."

Marian Moore was author of the story, which was "expressly for the *Camp Hudson Times*" and concerns two hunters out on "one of those cold tempestuous nights, so well-known in the mountainous regions near Camp Hudson."

It is a vivid and colorful account of lightning, thunder, spooked horses and the two men's encounter with a howling and screeching phantom upon which they opened fire.

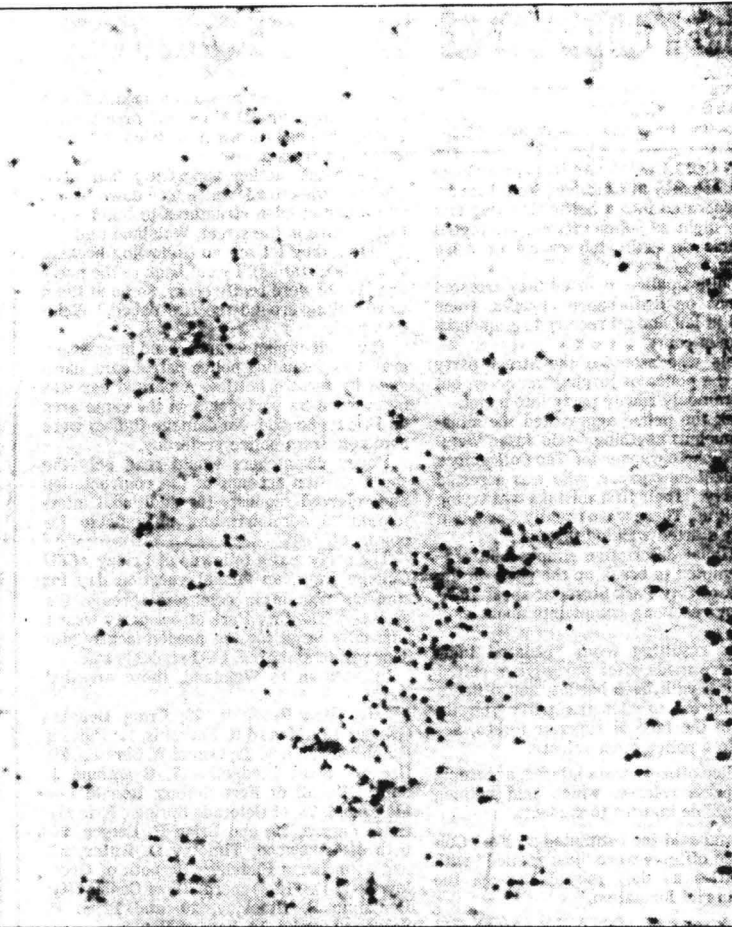
The "phantom" is exposed the next morning as a tattered and bullet-riddled shirt fluttering from tree to tree on the winds of a blue norther.

Mrs. Jack Skiles of Langtry, a schoolteacher at Comstock, says a student wrote once of a ghostly figure that stalked the river by night in search of a child or children.

Little else is known of the ghost lady, but, as the legends of Devils River grow, she may emerge as — you guessed it — the mother of the wolf child.

Phantom surgeons of the plains

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS, Denver, CO - April 21, 1986 CR: D. Perkins



FRANK MURRAY/Rocky Mountain News

Dave Perkins has spent 10 years trying to unravel the cause of cattle mutilations, represented by the pins that dot a map on his wall.

Grotesque cattle mutilations continue, but ranchers tend to stay mum

By JANE HULSE
Rocky Mountain News Staff Writer

The grotesque cattle mutilations that terrorized Colorado ranchers 10 years ago have never really stopped.

The "phantom surgeons of the plains," as they've been called, have quietly — though much less frequently — continued their inexplicable slaughter.

Just two months ago, on a biting cold February day, ranchhand Jeff Fellhauer drove his pickup truck over rutted pasture roads to feed the cattle roaming the 40,000-acre Bow and Arrow Ranch southeast of Walsenburg.

As he approached the herd on the treeless plain, he saw crows circling and knew something was dead.

The 4-year-old Limousin bull was more than just dead. His testicles had been removed with a clean slice. One ear was neatly cut off. And his tongue had been severed.

Last fall five cattle were found apparently mutilated in Elbert County, southeast of Denver, according to *Ranchland News*, a weekly that covers the Pikes Peak region. Another was found mysteriously dead last July in Elbert County. Many more are suspected, but ranchers usually keep quiet about the bizarre livestock deaths these days.

NEAR-HYSTERIA broke out in Colorado in 1975 when some 200 cattle mutilations — most of them in Elbert County — were reported by frantic ranchers. The mysterious deaths went unsolved.

Theories about the culprits flourished, though. At first, Satanic cults were suspected of using the cattle's body parts and blood for rituals. There was talk that the government was performing clandestine experiments on the cattle. Some even thought extra-terrestrials aboard unidentified flying objects were swooping down to snatch specimens for research.

None of it made sense. Ten years later, it's still a senseless mystery to Dave Perkins, who has spent the intervening years trying to solve the strange killings. While the excitement over the mutilations all but disappeared by 1980, Perkins is still on the trail, tracking the less frequent cattle deaths.

The map on the wall of his remote mountaintop home some 30 miles west of Walsenburg tells the story. Hundreds of pins mark the sites of cattle mutilations across the country. A mass of pins covers the midwest, and especially hardhit is Colorado.

"I keep thinking something will break," said Perkins, lighting a cigarette. "But I've been dealing with it all this time and I still have no idea what it is I'm dealing with."

FOR WHATEVER reason, the "classic" cattle mutilations follow something of a pattern, said Perkins. The animals' sex organs are removed. The rectum is cored out. In females, the udder is taken out. Eyes, ears, tongue, portions of the face, and patches of skin also might be gone. Often, though not always, the blood has been drained from the animal.

In the 1970s, government investigators were quick to blame the slaughter on predators. Perkins and most seasoned ranchers have nothing but disdain for that conclusion, calling it an "insult."

The cuts are made with surgical precision, making it doubtful that predators are the culprits, Perkins noted. And the meat is left untouched. Often there is no trace of blood and no evidence the animal struggled for its life. And usually a search of the area produces no footprints or tireprints.

Perkins became intrigued with the cattle mutilation mystery in 1975 when two cows were found mutilated a couple of miles from his house overlooking the Sangre De Cristo Mountains. He began collecting information and building a huge file on mutilations. He became a correspondent for a Paris, Texas, newsletter that has tracked cattle mutilations nationwide during the past 10 years.

"I thought if anyone could solve this it would be an amazing feat of investigative work," he said, piloting his 4-wheel-drive up 9 miles of gut-jarring terrain to his mountaintop house. "It's got to be solvable."

PERKINS, 40, isn't a likely sort to pursue the cattle slaughter mystery. A Yale graduate, his heart was in radical politics during the 1960s. He retreated to southern Colorado in 1969 to live in the mountain commune *Libre* where a dozen or so artists, writers and other free thinkers built their own homes on 360 acres bordering the San Isabel National Forest.

Over the years Perkins has been a freelance writer, a stonemason and a bricklayer. He occasionally sets up satellite dishes. He plays in a local rock 'n' roll band. Articulate and thoughtful when he speaks, he also serves on the Huerfano County planning and zoning commission and the county's economic development commission. He is chairman of the Democratic Party in nearby Gardner.

In pursuing the mutilation mystery, Perkins relies on tips from ranchers, sheriff's

department deputies, state patrol officers and others who know he's the state's leading private "mutologist" on the gory subject.

"People call me all the time," he said. If the mutilation is "fresh," he and his associate, Carrie Seawell, drive to the scene and view the animal. He's personally examined about two dozen mutilated cattle. As part of his investigation, he interviews the animal's owner, talks with veterinarians and scans police reports.

He estimates about 600 cattle have been mutilated in Colorado since 1975. The number declined steadily until 1980 and has remained constant since then. The "hottest zone" in Colorado is in south Elbert County, he said.

"THEY'RE NOT getting reported (by the ranchers)," Perkins said. "They don't think there's any good that will come of it." They fear they'll be ridiculed as flying saucer nuts.

Perkins doesn't have any easy explanations for the strange phenomenon. "I can't rule out anything — I wouldn't rule out extra-terrestrials," he said.

"What this looks like on its face is some sort of scientific test being performed on animals because of the delicate surgery to take specific tissue," he said.

Maybe it's some sort of environmental test involving our food chain, or someone testing the effects of radiation on animals rather than humans, he speculated. His map with its pins marking mutilation sites also includes pins of a different color marking nuclear sites and uranium mines.

The theory the government is behind the mutilations has holes in it. If the government wanted to test for nuclear contamination, why would its agents secretly slaughter privately owned cattle when they could perform surgery on a herd of their own?

As for the cult theory, cult followers might have killed a few head of cattle, but they couldn't have masterminded the deaths of thousands all over the world, Perkins believes.

After 10 years, Perkins doesn't believe the solution can simply be attributed to UFOs, the government or cults.

"I'M GETTING into metaphysical thinking," he said, tossing out names like Carl Jung, an early psychologist who held that humans share a collective unconsciousness.

"Maybe we're part of the process to make (mutilations) happen," he mused. Another theory along those lines is that the cattle mutilations are a stigmata, or a present-day "miracle," representing the arrival of a new

religion for those "space brothers" disillusioned by current theology.

Whatever the solution to the mutilations, Perkins said, "I've never had the intuitive feeling that it was anything negative. If it is extra-terrestrials, we're seeing an effort at communication."

To ranchhand Fellhauer, the sight of the \$1,500 mutilated bull 2 months ago communicated only rage. A no-nonsense cowboy, he believes someone using the state wildlife area near the Bow and Arrow Ranch probably shot the bull, although he couldn't find a bullet hole.

"I just can't force myself to believe some Martian is doing this," he said. "But I ain't going to say they don't exist."

Billie Trembly is convinced it was not vandals who mutilated a 5-year-old cow last September on a south Elbert County ranch where she and her husband are caretakers. The cow's rectum had been cored out in a circular cut about 8 inches in diameter. A rectangular piece of hide was neatly cut from the udder area. The uterus was taken. There was no sign of blood, no footprints, and the meat was untouched.

She quickly dismisses predators and cults as the culprits. She's convinced the government is doing something "sleazy." The cuts are so precise she believes they could have been made with a laser.

"It's frightening," she said. "Our dog wouldn't go near the dead cow. The birds left the area for a long time."

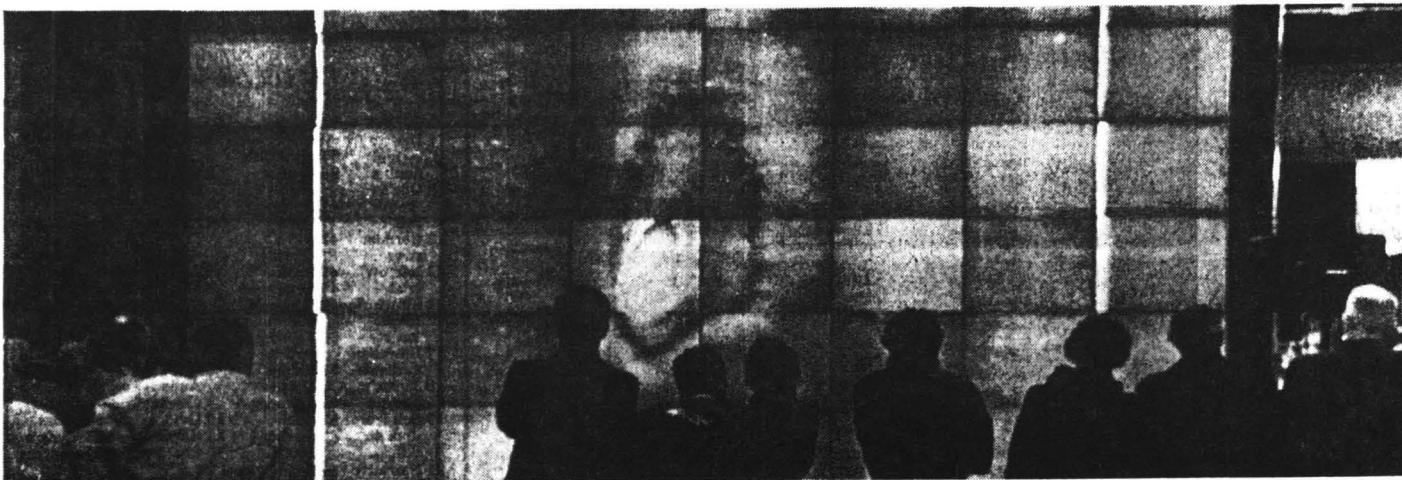
Since the mutilation, she and her husband check on the cattle two or three times a day. They watch at night for strange traffic and unusual lights in the sky.

Back in 1975 during the height of the mutilations, Billie Trembly and many other ranchers frequently spotted strange lights and heard helicopters hovering overhead at night. In 1978 a neighbor's cow was mutilated about one mile down the road from the Tremblys.

"I think people don't report (cattle mutilations) any more," she said, mentioning a rancher she knew who kept quiet about a recent one. "Nobody takes them seriously. They think (investigators will conclude) they've flipped their lid."

Elbert County Sheriff George Yarnell downplayed the recent cattle mutilations, insisting they seldom happen these days.

"I'll tell you this," he said. "When the mutilations stopped, we never got any more reports of choppers hovering around. That's the exact truth."



AP photo

Parisians study computer-enhanced giant-screen photo of Halley's comet transmitted to Earth by the European space probe Giotto last month.

New theories on comets and the oceans

By BILL BOFFEY
New York Times

SCIENTISTS FROM THE University of Iowa have proposed a startling new theory of how water accumulates on the Earth and other planets.

They believe that small, icy comets, never before detected, are hurtling into the Earth's upper atmosphere at a rate of 20 comets a minute, releasing water in 100-ton quantities that, over billions of years, provided enough water to create the oceans.

If their theory is correct, it will require a total reversal of the current scientific understanding of how key geological processes formed the Earth, its oceans and other planets.

The new theory could also help explain past ice ages on the Earth, the extinction of the dinosaurs, the origins of life on Earth and mysterious water and gas eruptions on the moon, the Iowa scientists assert. They also believe it may explain water vapor in the atmosphere of Venus, mysterious dark "spokes" in the rings of Saturn, icy cliffs on the moons of Uranus and a host of other phenomena in the solar system.

But if the new theory is ultimately proved wrong, as many experts expect it will be, the reputations of those proposing it could be destroyed; they would almost inevitably be relegated to the ranks of wild and woolly speculators who propose far-out theories that cannot be trusted.

"It's a bit fantastical," said Thomas M. Donahue, professor of atmospheric sciences at the University of Michigan. "I've yet to encounter any expert on atmospheric science that supports these notions. The proposal calls for behavior by the atmosphere that is at variance with what we know about the atmosphere."

"I'm quite persuaded that the cometary hypothesis holds up very well and is pretty unavoidable," countered James A. Van Allen, professor of physics at the University of Iowa, who is a colleague of those proposing the theory. Van Allen, who discovered the Van Allen radiation belts that ring the Earth, said the cometary theory "shakes people up a little because it seems so revolutionary," adding, "people who have spent their whole lives working in the field are taken aback to realize that they may have overlooked this."

Whatever the ultimate fate of the theory, it illustrates how bold new scientific ideas are born and evaluated. The Iowa scientists first made some wholly unexpected observations in the atmosphere, then explored a host of possible explanations for the observations, and finally settled on one explanation of revolutionary implications, the presence of vast numbers of previously unsuspected comets. Now their theory will be subjected to searching criticism by skeptical scientists determined to refute it.

The authors of the new theory are Louis A. Frank, a professor of physics, John B. Sigwarth, a graduate research assistant, and John D. Craven, a research scientist, all members of the Department of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Iowa.

Their theory, and the observations on which it is

based, will be published in the next issue of *Geophysical Review Letters*, a journal published by the American Geophysical Union, a leading professional society of Earth and space scientists.

"It's a provocative paper that can't be dismissed," said Alexander J. Dessler, editor of the journal. Dessler also is director of the space science laboratory at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala.

"If the phenomenon is real and the interpretation is correct," Dessler said, "it is probably the most important finding in space science of the last decade."

He described Frank as "a very senior, responsible guy — one of the top three or four space scientists in the country, if not the whole world." But he acknowledged that the bold new theory could "make or break" Frank's reputation, depending on whether it holds up or collapses under further scrutiny.

"If he is right, it will have such a dramatic impact on so many fields, it will make him famous to all sorts of people who have never heard of him now," Dessler said.

"But if he is wrong," Dessler added, "the next time he shows up he'll be dismissed with 'Oh yeah, he's that guy who thought he found all those dumb comets, but didn't.'"

Frank's theory emanated from puzzling observations made from a high-altitude, polar-orbiting satellite, Dynamics Explorer 1, starting in 1981. The satellite, which reached altitudes up to 14,500 miles, carried an instrument that the Iowa scientists had designed to look down toward the Earth and measure ultraviolet emissions from the atmosphere.

Ordinarily, the image of the Earth produced by such an instrument, a photometer, looks like a ball of gas. Half of the ball is illuminated by the sun, producing what is called dayglow, and the other half is swathed in darkness.

When the Iowa scientists examined the images closely, they found little black spots, or holes, that appeared temporarily in the dayglow. The holes were typically 30 miles in diameter, although one was about 90 miles across, and they typically disappeared within three minutes. The Iowa team has identified about 30,000 such holes in some 2,000 hours of viewing from late 1981 to early 1985.

The Iowa scientists' first task was to determine whether the holes were "real" or a spurious effect caused by faulty instruments or other problems. They systematically examined the possibility that sensors had failed, that paint flecks from the spacecraft had landed on the camera, that electronic transmission of the images back to Earth had misfired, that a computer had developed a glitch, or that a statistical aberration in ultraviolet particles could explain the unexpected observations. These and other explanations were ruled out. "To our dismay, it turned out that the holes were real," Frank said.

Then the team explored and rejected several possible geophysical explanations for the holes, including whether small meteors were somehow creating them.

Ultimately, the Iowa scientists concluded that clouds of water vapor some 180 miles above the Earth were causing the dark spots. These clouds blocked the instruments on the satellite from viewing the ultraviolet dayglow emissions that emanated from the atmosphere below the clouds.

The Iowa team concluded that the most plausible explanation was that small comets, made mostly of ice, were constantly injecting water into the atmosphere from above.

Frank said a typical comet might be a ball of ice 40 feet in diameter as it approached the Earth, but that it would then break up under gravitational forces and vaporize from sunlight to form a large ball of water vapor, or light fluffy snow, that would penetrate part way into the atmosphere, until finally it was brought to a stop by the braking action of the air being compressed beneath it.

To account for the large dark spots in the dayglow, Frank said, each cometary cloud would have to contain about 100 tons of water. That is not enough to cause a drenching rain, Frank said, but over the course of a year it could add one ten-thousandth of an inch of water to the Earth's surface. Over the course of geologic time, measured in billions of years, Frank said, the added water would be "truly enormous."

If the theory is right, it would force a drastic reversal of current beliefs about the formation of the oceans. The current consensus is that virtually all the water in the oceans was already here 3.8 billion years ago when the Earth was formed, and that this water has very slowly been evaporating away from the Earth ever since. But the new theory suggests an opposite trend, that water was not here in great quantities at the beginning but has been steadily brought in from outside by cometary impacts, a process which continues to add water today. "If this is true, they're going to have to rewrite all the elementary textbooks," Frank said.

The Iowa team suggests that such cometary impacts might explain a wide range of phenomena. Ice ages on the Earth, for example, might be caused by an increase in the rate of cometary impacts, producing a cloud layer in the atmosphere that would reduce the amount of sunlight reaching the Earth's surface. If the sunlight were blocked sharply enough, vegetation might die, and animals deprived of their food source might disappear, thus explaining the extinction of the dinosaurs and other species.

Although the Iowa scientists are not themselves prepared to suggest that the icy comets were responsible for bringing life to the Earth, Frank notes that scientists have been searching for years for a plausible mechanism by which life-producing organic molecules could have been brought to the Earth from outside. The water vapor clouds might provide a "soft lander" for such organic materials, Frank said, in contrast to meteors, which burn up in the atmosphere on the way down.

The best proof of the theory would be direct observation of the cometary impacts and the ensuing water vapor clouds, to see if they correspond with the holes in the dayglow.

CHAMPS IN THE MAKING

● Protecting a monster of measure

If there is a monster lurking in the depths of Lake Champlain, Vermont lawmakers want to make sure it comes to no harm.

The state Senate, following the lead of the House and the New York General Assembly, Tuesday passed in Montpelier a resolution saying that the monster, known as Champ, may exist and should be protected. It mandates no penalties for anyone who harms Champ.

Joseph Zarzynski of Saratoga, who has spearheaded a search for Champ during the past decade, says he may now take his resolution to the Quebec town of Philipsburg in case Champ swims north. Five miles of the 109-mile lake, which sits on the Vermont-New York line, are in Quebec.

He said his letters on the resolution to Philipsburg officials have gone unanswered.

CHRONICLE, San Francisco, CA - April 14, 1986 CR: J. Laurino

Virgin Mary Reportedly Seen in Cairo

Cairo

A reported appearance of the Virgin Mary in a flood of mysterious light is drawing thousands of people to a small church in a working-class neighborhood in northern Cairo, it was reported yesterday.

The newspaper Watani said a fact-finding committee established by Patriarch Shenudah III of the Coptic Orthodox Church saw the apparition "clad in light" above the Church of St. Demiana before dawn on Friday.

The newspaper said the apparition was first sighted March 25 above the two domes of St. Demiana Church in the Tera Boulakiya district in northern Cairo.

As a mysterious light flooded the area, the apparition was seen repeatedly for periods ranging from a few seconds to 20 minutes, the newspaper said.

The fact-finding panel, composed of five clergymen and a layman, visited the church Thursday and stayed on its roof until dawn.

At 3:40 a.m. Friday the six saw "the Virgin Mary clearly, clad in light" and the appearance continued until 5 a.m., the newspaper said.

United Press

Wanted: Bigfoot, dead or alive

Associated Press

SEATTLE — The only way to prove the existence of the Sasquatch or Bigfoot may be to shoot it, says a leading academic defender of the legendary man-ape of the North-west.

"Movies can be faked. Footprints can be faked. Hair is indeterminate," Grover Krantz, a Washington State University professor of anthropology, told a Friday meeting of the Pacific Northwest Archaeological Society.

"People at the Smithsonian keep telling me, 'Put a skull on my table and I'll believe you,'" he said.

Krantz, 54, who has spent years and thousands of his own dollars studying the creature he has never seen, said sightings of it in the northwestern United States and southwestern Canada go back to the 18th century.

He said the Sasquatch might be a latter-day version of Gigantopithecus.

Professor gives hunting tips

"I don't recommend that you use a deer rifle. (The Sasquatch) may go off five miles and then die, and all you'll have done is give the bears a feast," he said. "I recommend you do not shoot a Sasquatch unless you've got a very powerful gun that you're sure will bring it down."

Krantz said it took a while before he decided it would be necessary to kill a Sasquatch to prove they exist. He said he spent \$9,000 on an infra-red imager, or night-vision scope, in hopes of spotting the creature from a helicopter but didn't have the money for adequate helicopter time.

Krantz said he has spent \$10,000 to \$12,000 of his own money each year on Sasquatch studies and discussed them in an average of three appearances a year.

A few remains of Gigantopithecus skulls have been found, some from creatures that lived about one million years ago in China and one about four million to five million years old in India.

The skull fragments, chiefly lower jaws, suggest a creature considerably larger than a gorilla, he said.

Based on the fragments and what is known of apes, humans and other primates, Krantz reconstructed the rest of the skull with clay. The model, which is about twice the size of his head, is part of Krantz's efforts to save the Sasquatch.

"The Sasquatch may be an endangered species. If so, we've got to shoot one as soon as we can" to establish the credibility necessary for preservation efforts, he said.

More than 1,000 Sasquatch sightings have been reported in northern California, Oregon, Washington and British Columbia, far more than of the yeti, or abominable snowman, or other Bigfoot-type creatures, he said.

Krantz said he has personally heard 46 Sasquatch reports and about half of them were credible. Those he discounted were mostly hoaxes or cases where observers mistook a tree stump, bear or something else for a Bigfoot, a few were from lars seeking publicity, he said.

One of the sightings Krantz discussed was reported by his wife, whom Krantz said got "too fleeting a glimpse," he said.

Last December, Robert Littlewood, chairman of the Washington State anthropology department, described Krantz as a maverick who took unorthodox positions on several issues but was thoroughly professional in his research on the Sasquatch, the Salish Indian word for Bigfoot.



AP LASERPHOTO
PROFESSOR GROVER KRANTZ SHOWS PLASTER CAST
... argues only a sasquatch could make the footprint

POST-HERALD, Birmingham, AL - April 22, 1986 CR: L. Phillips

Cattlemen warned of satanic killings

United Press International

GUNTERSVILLE — Authorities warned cattlemen yesterday to keep a close watch for a satanic cult investigators believe is responsible for mutilating a cow in north Alabama.

Marshall County sheriff's Investigator Ed Teal said the department had handled similar cases in the past. State authorities said the mutilation was believed to be linked to "devil worshippers."

"Within the past year we've had several reports," Teal said. "It seems just before the full moon is when this happens. We know it to be some kind of a religious cult doing."

Kate Caswell had no idea of any religious ritual when she made her rounds yesterday about 6:30 a.m. to check on the cattle she tends for Gunterville businessman Hal Vandervoort.

Ms. Caswell said she saw a cow on its side in the upper end of the pasture near Red Hill. When she first looked at it she thought the buzzards in the area must have attacked it.

"We have so many buzzards, (and) I thought they may have been there," Ms. Caswell said. "But something kept bugging me about it."

When she returned, she saw that the animal had been badly mutilated. The cow's

heart and other organs had been cut out.

"Oh, it was just something to look at," Ms. Caswell said. "It was nerve-racking. ... I can't believe someone was so low to do that. It just hurts you to think people would stoop so low."

"The blood was still fresh this morning. I know it couldn't have possibly been done very long when I found it. I knew buzzards didn't do that."

"I just wish I could have caught the ones who done it," she said, issuing a warning to those who might be considering a return. "I'll be a-watching."

Teal said other cattlemen in the area were warned to keep a watch on their livestock, while authorities tried to round up more information on possible suspects.

"We're checking with all surrounding counties to see if they know anything," Teal said. "Last year at just about the same time it happened in the same identical way. We've had several goats (also attacked) here in Gunterville."

The way the cow was mutilated also has authorities puzzled.

"(The organs) are not just ripped out. They're specifically cut out. It's very weird," Teal said.

State authorities speculate the mutilation may be tied to a holiday and ritual for the satanic group coming up soon.

'Devil Worship' Alleged In Mutilation of Cattle

Times Marshall County Bureau

GUNTERSVILLE — The discovery of a mutilated cow in the Red Hill community near here Monday has caused local authorities to issue a warning to cattlemen about alleged "devil worship" activities.

Ed Teal, investigator for the Marshall County Sheriff's Department, said the cow was found on a farm owned by Gunterville businessman Hal Vandervoort by a woman who tends the cattle.

The heart and other organs of the cow had been cut out and Teal said similar cases had been reported in the county in the past year.

Teal said the mutilations, including several of goats, usually occur before a full moon and that it is believed that a religious cult is involved.

Authorities speculated that a holiday ritual which calls for the use of animal organs is slated soon, leading to the mutilations.

Cattle owners have been warned to keep a close watch on their livestock.

JOURNAL, Albuquerque, NM - April 18, 1986

Mystery Remains About Gas Cloud That Hit Roswell

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ROSWELL — Fire Chief Paul Sorensen said Thursday a cloud of gas that sent more than two dozen Roswell residents to the hospital could not be identified because it apparently dispersed within minutes.

He said his officers who arrived in the six-block area of the reported gas cloud Wednesday night could find no evidence of what it was or where it came from.

"The men said it had a smell like tear gas; it was an eye and throat irritant," he said. "But they saw no cloud or smoke or anything."

Twenty-seven people, most of them children, were treated for nausea, breathing difficulties and smarting eyes and throats.

Dr. Larry Ydens, who was working in the Eastern New Mexico Medical Center when the victims started arriving Wednesday night,

said doctors ruled out carbon monoxide poisoning through blood tests.

He said those who came in to be treated were given oxygen.

Mike Etheredge, 13, one of those treated, said he was attending a Boy Scout meeting at a church and he and other scouts went outside to play about 8:30 p.m. He said scout leaders called them back inside after a few minutes because "everyone who came in was coughing and couldn't see straight."

Ray Pena said he, his wife and their eight children were watching television in their home when they started breathing gas. He said he reported the gas to authorities, who told him to get his family outside.

But, he said, the air was worse outside.

Pena said the smell wasn't like normal gas.

"It's smelling that makes you choke," he said.

ADVERTISER-GLEAM, Gunterville, AL - April 23, 1986

Another cow killed and sex organs taken out

In the latest of a series of mysterious incidents, a cow was killed on Hal Vandervoort's farm at Red Hill up Browns Valley. The only parts missing were her heart and sexual organs.

Mr. Vandervoort, a Gunterville insurance man, told the sheriff's department it was done by somebody who went into the pasture. No blood was found on the ground. The cow was an Angus valued at \$250.

In the last few months at least 5 other female animals have been killed and their sex organs removed,

all in the central and western parts of the county. A mare was killed near Arab, a cow belonging to Gunterville High School Principal Les Click was killed at Mt. View on Brindlee Mountain, a cow belonging to Welton Tidmore was killed in a pasture adjoining Mr. Click's, and 2 goats belonging to Ty Dorman Sr. were killed at the old county bus shop on Blount Avenue.

One theory about the incidents is that the organs are used in religious rites. Jack Keeler, who helped hold a revival in Haiti a few months ago, says that is done in some of the voodoo rites performed there. He says the native Haiti religion has gained a few followers scattered over different parts of the U. S.

Latest animal mutilation gives Guntersville pause

GUNTERSVILLE — After Kate Caswell discovered a mutilated cow in the pasture she tends, its heart and sexual organs removed with surgical precision, she was so angry she picked up some rocks and hurled them at buzzards hovering above.

Then the spunky 68-year-old stopped and wondered what kind of person would do such a thing.

She isn't alone.

The discovery of the mutilated cow Monday — done in a way often connected with devil worshippers — is not the first such mutilation incident to have occurred in Marshall County in northern Alabama.

Almost one year ago, a farmer found his cow dead in his field with only the sexual organs and a tongue missing.

About six months ago, residents say, three goats were found in a similar condition in Guntersville.

Early Monday morning after a stormy Sunday night, Mrs. Caswell walked out to her pasture in the southern part of the county to check on her cows.

After crossing a stream by tightropeing a bridge composed of two swinging cables, one for the hands and one for the feet, Mrs. Caswell saw a cow lying motionless with her week-old calf nudging its mother's limp head.

"I thought, 'Maybe the ... buzzards have got her,'" Mrs. Caswell said yesterday. "I never dreamed of anything like this."

Mrs. Caswell, in a deer-hunting cap, Road Runner jacket and tennis shoes, stood pointing at the carcass.

She pointed to a precise circle cut out of the chest, and said she found the heart sliced out and a small slab of meat missing over the ribs.

She said the cut was clean — much too clean for buzzards.

"There was just a little, itty-bitty puddle of red blood," she said, cupping the palm of her hand.

"There isn't a drop of blood on the ground, 'cause they know how to do it. They're like a doctor; they get all the blood."

Missing, too, were the cow's vagina and one small teat on her udder.

Mrs. Caswell said she got to thinking she ought to pull back the mouth — and, sure enough, the tip of the tongue was gone.

"They cut off just that much," she said, holding her finger across one knuckle.

Mrs. Caswell, who has lived in the Guntersville area since 1949, said she thinks the culprits may be a little-known but nearly legendary group of devil worshippers.

She said she thinks several of them drove up the dirt road early Monday morning, and sneaked up in the dark to the herd of cattle owned by Hal Vandervoort and tended by her.

POST-HERALD, Birmingham, AL - April 23, 1986 CR: L. Phillips

Sheriff's investigator Ed Teal said he was tracking down a few leads yesterday. Teal said his department had been warned to be on the lookout for "weird and strange kinds of crimes" by the National Crime Information Center, a national information network for police.

He said he had been told that devil worshippers prepare for a celebration of Satan's birthday at the end of April.

"There's nothing out of the order to find the guts and the head out in the pasture," he said. "When they leave the cow and take the parts — now that's weird."

"This is the weirdest thing to happen here in a long time," he said. He paused, then retracted his statement.

He said that, come to think of it, about 1½ months ago he began investigating another bizarre crime that he thinks is unrelated.

Two men were charged in connection with digging up a human grave in a Marshall County cemetery unused since 1909, and taking the bones.

After receiving a tip, Teal said, he found the bone chips washed and drying on a paper bag in the home of one of the suspects.

"He never gave a reason why he did it," Teal said in his office yesterday. "He just said, 'I don't know.'"

Teal said he worked on a case similar to Mrs. Caswell's about a year ago.

On March 26, 1985, Sarah Tidmore found her cow dead and similarly mutilated in the field near her and her husband's home outside Union Grove.

"It was just like she laid down," Mrs. Tidmore said yesterday toward evening, pointing to the pasture under a dim and rising full moon.

She said the female organs and all the teats were gone, as were one ear and the tongue.

"It's something you wouldn't believe unless you saw it," she said.

Bizarre animal killings are rarely cult-related

By Mike Bennighof
Post-Herald Reporter

Ritual killings of livestock similar to Monday morning's bizarre slaying of a Marshall County animal occur several times across the country each year but rarely involve satanic cults, an expert said yesterday.

Instead, such killings are committed by disturbed people participating in satanic rituals or represent a bizarre attempt to draw attention to what they believe are landings by alien beings.

"This does not necessarily have to do with reality," said Chris Hatcher, an associate clinical professor of psychology at the University of California at San Francisco. "The connection between the animal mutilations and the visitations is not always worked out real well in the person's mind."

Hatcher, who often works as a consultant to police departments investigating such mutilations, said such attacks occur five to 10 times a year across the country.

Monday morning, a dismembered cow was found lying in a Marshall County pasture near the Red Hill community. Its sexual organs and heart had been removed with surgical precision.

"That does not necessarily mean it is a long-term involvement," Hatcher said. "It does mean the person has some skill with a scalpel."

Hatcher said the mutilations usually are committed by one of two groups of people: those trying to draw attention to environmental issues or supposed visits by flying saucers, or those caught up in satanic rituals.

Such mutilations usually are not performed by organized groups, he said.

"A group has membership, it participates in rituals, but it does not become involved in the type of thing you're talking about."

Once the organs are extracted, they usually are sacrificed on an altar as an offering to some evil deity, Hatcher said.

If those responsible for mutilating cattle are not apprehended and given psychiatric treatment, they could become dangerous to themselves and others, Hatcher said.

"That does not necessarily mean you have a situation which is going to progress to the killing of human beings and the extraction of organs from human beings."

There isn't much information available about people who participate in mutilations, Hatcher said, but most tend to be under 45 years old and see themselves as failures. Friends or relatives often will be aware of their activities but will try to hide their awareness from others, he said.

"For both their own safety as well as for any concern for the individual, they should contact the local police department," Hatcher said. "When you find situations which have eventually resulted in a death or homicide, the individuals who have been friends or acquaintances are frequently just as much of a potential victim or target as the individual who actually dies."

The Marshall County mutilations are similar to those that took place in the county about a year ago.

Devil worshipers suspected in animal mutilations

Scripps Howard News Service

GUNTERSVILLE, Ala. — In a pasture she tends, Kate Caswell discovered a mutilated cow, its heart and sexual organs removed with surgical precision.

Caswell was so angry she picked up some rocks and hurled them at buzzards hovering above.

Then the spunky 68-year-old stopped and wondered what kind of person would do such a thing.

She isn't alone.

The discovery this week of the mutilated cow — done in a way often connected with devil worshipers — is not the first such incident to have occurred in northern Alabama. Some residents fear a satanic cult may be operating nearby.

A year ago, a farmer found his cow dead in his field with only the sexual organs and a tongue missing.

About six months ago, residents say, three goats were found in a similar condition in Guntersville.

Early Monday morning after a stormy Sunday night, Caswell

found a cow lying motionless with her week-old calf nudging its mother's limp head.

"I thought, 'Maybe the ... buzzards have got her,'" Caswell recalled. "I never dreamed of anything like this."

She said a precise circle was cut out of the chest — much too clean for buzzards.

"There was just a little, itty-bitty puddle of red blood," she said, cupping the palm of her hand.

"There isn't a drop of blood on the ground, 'cause they know how to do it. They're like a doctor; they get all the blood."

Missing, too, were the cow's vagina and one small teat on her udder.

The tip of the cow's tongue was gone also.

Caswell, who has lived in the Guntersville area since 1949, said she thinks the culprits may be a little-known but nearly legendary group of area devil worshipers.

For years, she said, she has heard rumors and tall tales about their cult-like worshipping and sacrifices to Satan.

Sheriff's investigator Ed Teal reported a few leads in the case but said the department was on the lookout for "weird and strange kinds of crimes."

"There's nothing out of the order to find the guts and the head out in the pasture," he said. "When they leave the cow and take the parts — now that's weird."

"This is the weirdest thing to happen here in a long time."

Such ritual killings of livestock occur several times a year across the country, according to a professor who has studied such events.

Chris Hatcher, associate professor of psychology at the University of California at San Francisco, said mutilations usually can be traced to people:

- Trying to dramatize environmental issues.
- Seeking to draw attention to "visits" by alien beings from outer space.
- Plying out satanic rituals.

"This does not necessarily have to do with reality," said Hatcher. "The connection be-

tween the animal mutilations and the visitations is not always worked out real well in the person's mind."

Hatcher, who often works as a consultant to police departments investigating such mutilations, said such attacks occur five to 10 times a year across the country.

Such mutilations usually are not performed by organized groups, he said.

"From what we have seen in regard to mutilations, they're by and large by an individual or smaller group of people ... The heart, the liver and the kidneys are usually the organs that are extracted."

Once the organs are cut out, they usually are sacrificed on an altar as an offering to some evil deity, Hatcher said.

"The obtaining of the organs is as significant a part of their emotional gratification as the actual participation in the ritual itself," he said.

SUNDAY EXPRESS,
London, England
March 9, 1986
CR: D. Speed

FINGER MYSTERY

BERLIN

POLICE were mystified yesterday over the discovery of a human finger which fell from the sky with a thump on to a car roof in West Berlin. So far, no explanation has emerged.

MORNING NEWS, Dallas, TX - May 9, 1986 CR: T. Adams

Sculptured heads mystery



A.C. GREENE

TEXAS SKETCHES

Through the years, several mysterious sculptured heads have been found in Texas, leading to speculation that some were worshipped by prehistoric tribes or that the Aztec kingdom of Mexico extended far north into Texas.

In 1916, near Cisco, a small pottery representation of a human head was discovered by a woman hunting projectile points at a well-known Indian camp site.

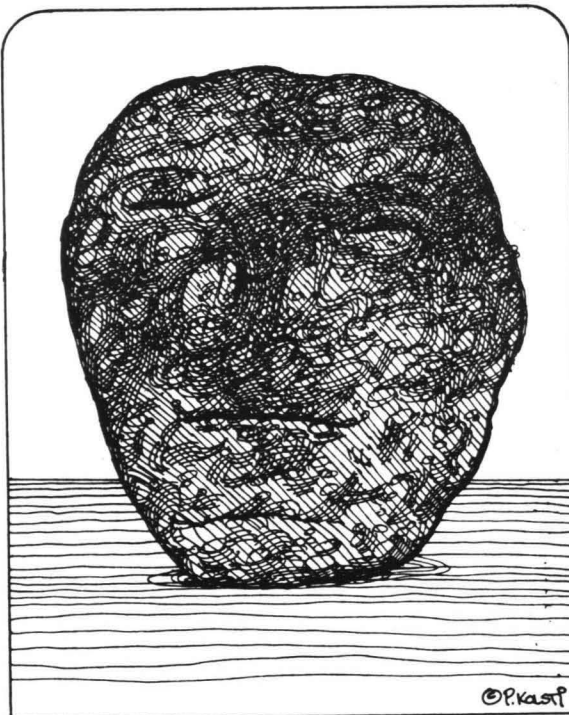
In 1946, this head was identified by three professors of the National Museum of Mexico as part of a figurine of Xipe-Totec, Aztec god of agriculture, made between the 10th and 12th centuries.

In 1928, what was termed "a finely sculptured sandstone head, wearing a conical shaped cap" was found near a gravel pit south of Cross Plains in Callahan County, the head having similarly shaped eyes and patina indicating "some age." In 1930, a Dallas woman discovered a well-carved head, from cemented volcanic ash, in a load of gravel dumper in her driveway. This head was described in an archaeological publication, "from the front the impression as Mayan; from the profile, Aztec."

Possibly the most famous Texas heads were those first discovered in 1929 in a gravel pit near Trinidad, Henderson County. Workmen, digging clay, found the first sandstone head, which was 16"x14" and weighed 98 pounds, at a depth of 16 feet.

In 1935 and 1939, two more heads, of similar image, were unearthed in the area, both at considerable depths. Although the faces are only the roughest kind of art, they are clearly man-made. Their most significant feature is the eyes, set much wider than modern Indian tribes.

When the discovery was first announced, many ar-



The Dallas Morning News: Paul Kolsti

chaeologists discounted the find as "planted," and of recent manufacture, but later study seems to indicate clearly the heads are many hundred of years old. They are now known as the "Malakoff heads" or "Malakoff man." The 1929 head is in the Texas Memorial Museum at Austin.

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