

UFO

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SUNDAY SUN, Lowell, MA - March 2, 1986 CR: L. Whitehurst

Ufology isn't fly-by-night field say local newsletter publishers

By CHRISTOPHER SCOTT
Sun Staff

AYER - Like its subject matter, not many people subscribe to the Aerial/Space and Phenomena Review, a monthly newsletter on UFOs assembled at Fort Devens.

Its co-publishers - Army Staff Sgt. Raymond Keller and civilian Steve Firmani of Leominster - say the circulation of the newsletter through the mail and a worldwide computer network is only 250.

But they mail newsletters as far as Zimbabwe, Africa, and say their product is recognized in ufology circles as an "up and coming publication."

Issues carry stories such as "Saucer Fleet Passes Over New Mexico," "UFO Bathes Brazilian Airliner in Blinding Light," "Magnetic Whirlwinds Discovered in Space," "UFOs and the Biblical Prophecy" and "Soviets Intercept Alien Radio Message."

The newsletter will dispute reported sightings. In the April 1985 issue, for example, an article on Massachusetts sightings reads: "... that these sightings of 3-9-84 in Oxford and Charlton were beyond a doubt misinterpretations of astronomical phenomena as UFOs."

"Everything in our newsletter isn't our own personal opinions," Firmani notes. "We just disseminate information to the world and the country to people who might not have the chance to get the information elsewhere."

The U.S. Air Force spent 21

years investigating UFOs, from 1948 to 1969, and concluded, according to Air Force spokesman Capt. Miles Wiley, that:

- no evidence confirmed that extraterrestrial "vehicles" existed;

- no evidence suggested that the technology of UFOs, even if they are extraterrestrial in origin, was beyond the range of U.S. technology;

- and no UFO investigation, sighting or evaluation found a threat to the country's national security.

Between 1948 and 1969, the Air Force investigated 12,618 reported sightings nationwide. Of those, 11,917 were determined to be "material objects" such as aircraft, satellites or balloons.

Many explained away

Other reported sightings, Wiley said, were illusions caused by lightning, various weather conditions or astronomical phenomena.

"Some were just plain hoaxes," Wiley said.

Only 701 reported sightings were confirmed and recorded as unidentified.

"That number is pretty small," Wiley said. "The Air Force felt there was no need to continue investigations."

The Air Force has turned over all UFO-related material to the National Archives in Washington D.C.

The Army also keeps ufology at arm's length.

A Spanish linguist in the Electronic Warfare Operators Course (EWOC), Keller says Fort

Devens officials allow him to publish the newsletter on base, but have drawn the line on some related projects.

For instance, Keller once wanted to sponsor and organize a UFO lecture on base but a colonel said "it wasn't appropriate."

"But I receive no complaints or hassles from Fort Devens," Keller says. "I guess they just consider it an unusual hobby."

After conferring with U.S. Army lawyers, Fort Devens' spokesman John Rasmussen added: "What enlisted men do on their own time isn't the Army's business."

Official standoffishness doesn't discourage Keller and Firmani, however, because they get plenty of support from their readers and writers.

There's never a shortage of copy, Keller says. "Often, we have to be pretty selective."

Copy for the newsletter is gathered from dozens of UFO monitoring organizations around the globe. The organizations, Keller says, are constantly exchanging information on UFOs and space phenomena.

On occasion, Keller and Firmani write articles on personal UFO sightings, or alleged sightings they're investigating as investigators in the Mutual Unidentified Flying Object Network (MUFON).

The newsletter also regularly carries such features as book, film and lecture reviews, in addition to reports on UFO sightings and research.

Keller says the publication is mailed to 100 subscribers.

SUMMIT SENTINEL, Dillon, CO
April 24, 1986 CR: L. Whitehurst

UFO! Three flying objects seen

Truth is stranger than science fiction. Three Unidentified Flying Objects were sighted north of Silverthorne Monday night - by Sheriff Delbert Ewoldt, three sheriff's deputies, a Colorado State Patrol officer and Summit County Commissioner Dan Ulmer.

The sheriff's department received a call around 8:30 p.m. Monday reporting that a stationary object "blinking red and green colors" had been seen from the Ute Peak Horse Ranch, approximately five miles north of Silverthorne.

Mike Young, 27, Dillon, reported that the object was apparently very high in the sky - almost like a star.

Arriving at the ranch at the same time, Patrol Trooper Sid Micklich and Sheriff's Deputy Paul Szymanski exited their cars in the quiet night and followed Young's pointing finger.

High in the sky, and moving very slowly was the flashing object. The object eventually dropped from sight behind the mountains.

With visions of Isaac Asimov and Arthur C. Clarke dancing in their heads, Szymanski and Micklich drove out to the intersection of the Ute Pass Road and Colo. 9 to get another view of the object.

At the intersection, they were greeted by the sight of two other blinking objects. The three formed a nearly perfect equilateral triangle, reports said.

Sheriff's deputies Bob Curtis and William Weeks joined the UFO-gazers and the four were soon joined by the sheriff and Ulmer.

"I really don't know what to think," Sheriff Ewoldt said. "I've patrolled a lot of nights up here and seen a lot of different things - but I'd never seen anything like that before."

Ewoldt said that Kremmling police saw it, too.

"What I observed were three objects forming a triangle...What they were I couldn't begin to tell you," Ewoldt said.

Possibilities included weather balloons, satellites or military objects, Ewoldt stated, but no one knows for sure.

Adding to the mystery is that the Federal Aviation Administration said there were no planes in the area and The Civil Air Patrol was could not identify what they were, either.

Sheriff's dispatch eventually received a call from NORAD (the North American Aerospace Defense Command) saying that the objects were not a threat to security.

"Seeing is believing," Ulmer commented. "The three objects were hovering over Ptarmigan and Buffalo mountains and Green Mountain Reservoir, about 30,000 feet in the air."

The plot thickens: On Tuesday morning, Sheriff Ewoldt found a Mars candy bar on his desk. No one knows where it came from.

— ANDY SIMONS

MANIFEST, Winter Park, CO - May 1, 1986 CR: L. Whitehurst

UFOs hover over county

by Donna Daniels

Bright lights hovering over Green Mountain Reservoir and Kremmling...

Twenty-plus calls to the Summit County sheriff...

And sightings by the sheriff's department and the police departments of Dillon and Silverthorne.

Science fiction? Even after seeing them, Kremmling police officer Scott Koch would like to believe it is.

On Sunday, April 20, a call came into the Kremmling PD from the Summit County sheriff's department, reporting numerous UFO sightings and inquiring if any similar calls had been received in Kremmling.

Koch, who was on the 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. shift that night, saw stationary, colored lights in the skies directly over Kremmling. He then was informed of sightings near Green Mountain Reservoir, and drove down Colo. 9 to the county line.

There, a large group of law enforcement officers from Grand and Summit Counties was witnessing something stranger than fiction. The lights were viewed over Williams Peak and the Gore, and through a high powered telescope, the objects looked to be triangular in shape, with lights on the outer edges. They were observed to hover, then "take off" to the southwest.

The most startling aspect of the occurrence was the evasive action of a jet plane, which all present saw veer around one of the objects. Koch figured they watched for about two hours.

Fact? Fiction? These witnesses were trained observers, professional men who viewed something alien to their natures.

They really don't want to talk about it.

But they don't deny the fact that something truly strange was out that night.

Aircraft prompt reports of UFOs

Area police said aircraft in the skies last night prompted several dozen calls to the Danbury and Brookfield police departments as well as to state police barracks in Southbury and in Brewster with reports of UFOs.

State police at the Southbury barracks said the crafts were probably ultra-light aircraft, but a New York state trooper said they were regular planes "putting on a show."

"They flew right over the barracks; it was very impressive," said Trooper Peter Kontos of the Brewster barracks. "If you didn't know what it was, I could see how you would think it was strange."

Kontos said the barracks received a half-dozen calls and "a whole mess of people" who stopped at the barracks to point out the spectacle to troopers.

He said the Stormville, N.Y., barracks notified police about the aircraft. He said the pilots throttle the planes' engines to make it appear they are standing still, and then suddenly take off at a high speed.

The Putnam County Sheriffs' Department, Brookfield police and Connecticut State Police at Troop A said they received a half-dozen calls each about the planes. Danbury police said they received about 20 calls.

Forensics testing UFO evidence

Examiners at the Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences will be testing the only evidence of a UFO which fell in Washington County in an effort to unravel the origin of the object which apparently exploded before it crashed into a backyard. It left trees and plants broken and damaged, but no clues as to what it was or what caused it.

Jim Small, a trace evidence examiner with the Forensic Science lab who specializes in examining evidence from arson and explosions, said the lab received samples of damaged plants and trees from the Washington County Sheriff's Department Wednesday.

"The first thing that we will look for is some type of explosive residue. Beyond that, I don't know," Small said.

The explosion, which occurred March 5 in the backyard of the Jesse Wallace Henson family in Frankville, was investigated by Washington County Sheriff William J. Wheat. Wheat said he had no idea what caused it, whether it was a land explosion or caused by something that fell from the sky.



CHECKING IT OUT — Jesse Wallace Henson of Frankville, Ala., seems to be conducting his own investigation after an UFO apparently exploded and crashed into his back yard last week. The Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences is testing evidence to determine the origin of the object. (Press Register photo by Ron Colquitt)

Movie sparks interest in Aurora UFO legend

Associated Press

AURORA — The best thing about the "Aurora Encounter," as far as Bonnie Oates is concerned, is that it's only a movie.

The film is based loosely on the legend that a UFO crashed in the small Wise County community in 1897 and that the sole occupant of the cigar-shaped craft was buried in Aurora cemetery.

Oates, who owns the property where the UFO purportedly crashed, says the movie was an Aurora encounter in name only.

"It wasn't anything about Aurora," she said. "You wouldn't know it was the same place. I'd tell you not to go see it and expect to see anything like the legend of Aurora. It's more of a kid's show to me."

The producers say their movie owes a debt to "E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial" and acknowledge they took dramatic liberties with the Aurora legend.

In the movie, which was filmed in Ferri, the space traveler lives awhile, befriending several Aurora residents. Subplots involve an enterprising reporter and the governor of Texas, played by Spanky McFarland.

"Now some people just think it's a hoax, but I don't think it was. Back then, they noticed things like that, but today's generation, they see so much happen they just sort of brush it aside."

— Leona Stankewitz

Legend has it that the spaceman died in the crash.

Periodically, from the late 1960s to the early 1980s, newspapers and magazines published stories about the alien visit, prompting outsiders to prowl around the small North Texas town with Geiger counters and other devices designed to help them find remnants of the spaceship.

Scientists and historians say the Aurora legend was a hoax perpetrated by residents of a once-thriving town that had been bypassed by the railroad and racked by a spotted fever epidemic.

Edna Pegues, Aurora's most accomplished historian, wrote,

"What did really happen in 1897? NOTHING."

Some longtime residents prefer to believe the legend.

"I've come to believe it's true," said Leona Stankewitz, an Auroran since 1936. "Now some people just think it's a hoax, but I don't think it was. Back then, they noticed things like that, but today's generation, they see so much happen they just sort of brush it aside."

A woman who lives near the cemetery has noticed people loitering around the graveyard.

A neighbor said he would be surprised if the movie didn't spark more interest in the town.

Longview man helps Texas-based group check UFO reports

By MARY LEIGH BEST
Staff Writer

Imagine you're driving down a lonely stretch of highway that you've driven down many times before.

It's dark. Your teen-age child is with you. Your mind is on a number of things. . . bills to be paid, calls to make, appointments to keep.

The last thing on your mind is the possibility of encountering an orange and gray UFO, taller than a skyscraper, that tries to take control of you and your car.

But that, according to an area sales clerk, is what happened to a woman and her daughter a few years ago.

The woman later described it as a large orange

and gray object hovering just off U.S. 271, near Owentown in Smith County. She said it looked like a fruit jar lid and possessed "an energy field of some kind" that almost forced her car off the highway and into a ditch.

There were bright orange lights and the bottom of the UFO was grayish, she said. "It put me in a light trance. I couldn't get my eyes off of it," she recalled.

The sales clerk didn't snap out of her trance until her car swerved off the road, causing her daughter to scream. The woman pressed her foot on the gas pedal and sped down the road. They never looked back.

The woman, who had never believed in flying saucers before her experience, said she now firmly

believed the object was something from outer space.

Like many people, the woman didn't report her experience immediately for fear of appearing ridiculous.

But there is at least one person in Longview who not only would not have ridiculed her, but who would have dashed out to the scene of the encounter, conducted an investigation, and sent the collected data to his "headquarters."

"I'm the only member of MUFON (Mutual UFO Network) in Gregg County," said Bill Wright, state section director of the organization for Gregg, Upshue and Rusk counties.

"Most people don't believe it carries much water, and the fact that it's a volunteer organiza-

tion and distraught people could call you up in the middle of the night doesn't appeal to many people."

With headquarters in Seguin, MUFON is a non-profit corporation composed of people around the world interested in solving mysteries of the UFO phenomenon through research and investigation.

Founded in 1969 by Walter H. Andrus Jr., MUFON divides each state or province geographically into groups of counties, having a state section director correlating the investigative efforts of the field investigators in each section. These investigators are issued a thick manual that provides guidelines, techniques, and suggestions to

members conducting UFO sightings, interviews and investigations.

Nationally known consultants act as an advisory group to apply their expertise to UFO cases under study and to advanced research in their fields. Three amateur radio networks are used to receive and disseminate UFO sighting reports and current UFO information. A master file, containing all submitted UFO sighting reports, is maintained in the MUFON administrative offices.

And what kind of person not only sees UFOs but also becomes an active UFO researcher?

Wright says he doesn't receive strange glances or a lot of teasing from others about his deep interest in the subject. "People laugh and mention 'little green men,' but I've read about 40 books on encounters and only one came close to mentioning aliens with a greenish-shade of color. I have no idea how that term became so popular.

A photographer, Wright doesn't have a wild gleam in his eye, nor would one ever guess that he has such an interest in UFOs.

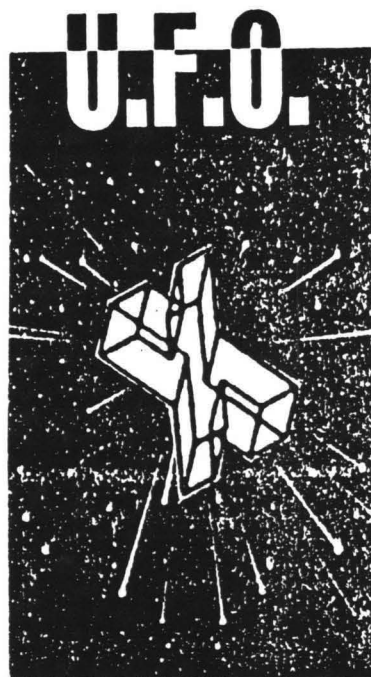
"Oh, I do get into some conversations with people who are more, let's just say, into the metaphysical aspect of human nature, and I'd really rather not have to deal with this type," says the soft-spoken Wright. "But people who have interests in the metaphysical aspect of human nature are also very interested in the UFO phenomena, so there is an overlapping of interests.

"Go into any bookstore and you'll find books on UFOs in the occult section. I don't think this is correct, but that's the way it is," he said.

Wright, who has an associate's degree in graphic communications from Tyler Junior College, has lived in the Longview area for 11 years.

"My family's attitude toward my interest is very open-minded. I'm certainly not scoffed at or anything," Wright said.

INDEX-TRIBUNE, Sonoma, CA
May 23, 1986



Is it E.T.?

UFO sighted

A California Highway Patrol officer, working the graveyard shift, reported seeing an unidentified flying object eastbound at a high rate of speed heading toward Sonoma from Petaluma late Wednesday night.

The UFO, described as a large orange "X" shaped object with white lights in the front, was not an airplane, the officer stated.

The sighting occurred at 4:30 a.m. At least 17 residents reported the sighting to local law enforcement officials.

The night before, an Agua Caliente Road resident reported seeing a large, yellow flickering light in the area of Sonoma Mountain.

This UFO was rather noisy, the resident reported. "It was loud enough to get me out of bed," she said.

THE EASTERN light, which produced a motor-like sound, disappeared behind the trees, she said.

When asked if her neighbors were awoken by the loud UFO, she replied, "I don't know. I didn't ask them. People will think you're nuts."

Petaluma's Early Birds See UFO

By George Snyder

More than a dozen early risers reported seeing a mysterious lighted object darting about the skies near Petaluma yesterday morning.

Local law enforcement agencies were besieged with inquiries about the UFO sightings, and were at a loss to explain the weird incident.

"I saw tiny lights in the northeast, hovering along the hilltops," said Arlette Cohen, who was driving north on U.S. 101 to Petaluma at about 4:30 a.m. "At first I thought it was an airplane, but then it came overhead and I saw that it wasn't."

Cohen, a radio news director, said a full moon was still visible above, when she saw the strange object.

She said she got a good look because "it seemed almost to stop over the highway."

Cohen said she rolled down her car window and listened for the sound of a helicopter or some other recognizable flying machine, but heard nothing.

A California Highway Patrol officer, who did not want his name made public, also reported seeing a "large, orange X with white lights on the front" flying east near Petaluma at a high rate of speed about 4:30 a.m.

Various witnesses agreed that the object was shaped like an X, had small green, white and orange lights and was not an airplane.

Sue Hart was driving along Mill Station Road near Sebastopol delivering newspapers when her companion tapped her on the shoulder and told her to look skyward.

"I looked up and saw several orange lights hover-



Arlette Cohen, a radio news director, saw 'tiny lights' in the northeast, hovering along the hilltops at about 4:30 a.m.

ing in the sky," Hart said later. "I stared at them and they moved on rapidly several hundred yards, hovered again and took off again to the east. We were kind of joking around about it, but then I started to think and I got scared."

Witnesses said the object appeared to be traveling about 1000 to 1500 feet above the ground.

Bay Area air traffic controllers were unable to explain the episode.

"We have had some calls, but we know nothing about it," said a public relations officer for Beale Air Force Base, located about 50 miles north of Sacramento.

Robert Sheaffer, a member of the Bay Area Skeptics, a group that seeks to prevent UFO myth-making, speculated that the object may have been an ultralight experimental aircraft. He cautioned that shifting air currents, darkness and optical illusions may have affected the witnesses' ability to hear or see clues that the UFO was a man-made aircraft of some sort.

Dee Dee Long, co-owner of Ultralight Flight Inc. of Sebastopol, supplies ultralight aircraft used at Petaluma's Liberty Field, near where the sightings occurred.

She said the law forbids such craft from flying more than half an hour before sunrise — which occurred just before 6 a.m. yesterday — and that they normally are not equipped with lights. The craft resemble motorized hang-gliders.

Long added that the ultralights can fly slowly but cannot hover, and are easily heard from the ground when they fly at a height of 1000 to 1500 feet. An ultralight aircraft has an open cockpit and is built around a lightweight frame of aluminum tubing.

TIMES, El Paso, TX - April 11, 1986 CR: T. Adams

'Something almost psychic'

Roswell man driven to solve UFO encounter 29 years ago

By Marilyn Haddrill
Times staff writer

ROSWELL — For most of his life, Sgt. Clifford E. Stone has been obsessed with UFOs, stimulated by what he describes as "a driving force, something almost psychic."

It began in 1957, when he was 8 years old.

He was playing with a friend in bright daylight at his home of Portsmouth, Ohio, when a white disk about three feet wide buzzed by him.

Its center was rotating, while the outer rim circled in the oppo-

site direction. State called 'hot spot' 2A

site direction.

"I was shaken, a little paralyzed. Logic even at the age of 8 told me that it did not exist," he said.

In the jargon of UFO investigators like Stone, it was a close encounter. And it was one Stone never could forget, even though his mother and father attributed the sighting to an overactive imagination.

He has spent the past 20 years



— Times photo by Marilyn Haddrill
Clifford Stone: "I can't stop investigating UFOs."

avidly pursuing the mystery. His study at home is stuffed with books and files containing thousands of government documents that he has obtained through use of the federal Freedom of Information Act.

The documents indicate that various government agencies continue to investigate UFO phenomena, and that they take the possibility of alien visits seriously, Stone said.

Large, mechanical android and robot figures adorn his shelf. The room's prominent telescope attests to a related hobby, amateur astronomy.

His wife, Hanh, patiently described her husband's passion as one that occupies most of his spare time and keeps him on the telephone — often long distance — for hours.

"I've been on a quest since the age of 8, trying to find an answer to what I saw that day. ... I'm like a heroin addict — I can't stop investigating UFOs," Clifford Stone said.

He works at the New Mexico Military Institute Military Science Department. But he emphasized that his hobby is unrelated to his profession.

In his requests for documents, one U.S. Air Force response was that the government stopped investigating UFOs when Project "Blue Book" was terminated in 1969.

No evidence of extraterrestrial visitations was found in the project's UFO investigations, the Air Force said.

"In all likelihood, there is a coverup going on," Clifford Stone said.

He cited many references to unexplained sightings that have been made in recent government documents. Some of those documents are censored heavily, with black marks inking out key facts about UFO sightings, he said.

Investigator cites rich history of New Mexico UFO sightings

By Marilyn Haddrill
Times staff writer

Roswell UFO investigator Sgt. Clifford E. Stone says New Mexico is a "hot spot" for UFO sightings. His file of New Mexico cases, and his sources, includes:

- Documents and witnesses provided accounts of a saucer or saucers recovered in July 1947 near Roswell. Small, humanoid bodies also are mentioned in these accounts. ("The Roswell Incident," published in 1980 by authors Charles Berlitz and William L. Moore)

- A U.S. Air Force investigator reported that three crashed "flying saucers" were recovered in New Mexico. Each vehicle contained humanoid bodies only three feet tall and dressed in metallic cloth "of very fine tex-

ture." (Strategic Air Command memo addressed to FBI, dated March 22, 1950)

- In what is described as "a UFO classic," Socorro police officer Lonnie Zamora, in an April 24, 1964, sighting, viewed a bright object from which figures like "large kids or small adults" emerged before taking off. Considerable physical evidence included burned spots on the ground. ("Official Guide to UFO Sightings" by Carl Sifakis)

- Two Albuquerque newspapers in April 1983 listed reports of UFO sightings that occurred near Kirtland Air Force Base in August 1980. A Kirtland Air Force Base report noted that Aug. 13, 1980, a "total blackout" of radar lasted for more than five hours at the military base and at the Albuquerque airport.

Clifford Stone said he backs up personal observations only with government documents he has obtained, and he admitted that there are many fictitious accounts of UFO sightings.

"I feel there are people who are out for publicity. There are people out to make a fast buck," he said. "I'm interested in it because I had something happen to me, and I want to know what it was."

One 1976 CIA account was censored extensively but appears to refer to a UFO incident investigated by highly qualified scientists, Clifford Stone said.

Who needs proof? UFO buff has faith that aliens visit us

By MICHELLE WILLIAMS
Arizona Republic Staff

Stanton T. Friedman says earthly visits by little green men from Mars is bunk.

They're gray.

Sometimes they're tan.

They're "typically" under 5 feet tall and slender with big eyes, small noses, ears and mouths. They wear one-piece jumpsuit-like outfits and they're multilingual, speaking either what appears to be their native tongue or the local language.

And they are not, Friedman emphasizes, not from Mars.

They might use planet Earth as a base, but they are from outer space, in the neighborhood of 222 trillion miles away. By comparison, Pluto, the planet farthest from Earth, is about 3.5 billion miles away.

Friedman, 51, says all of this with a straight face. There is no smile behind the salt-and-pepper beard. There is no wink, as in "Just kidding, folks!" behind those wire-rim glasses.

He's never seen them, but he's talked with people who have seen them, and the consensus is: They're heehee-ere.

Friedman, a nuclear physicist with undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Chicago, was guest speaker Saturday at the 23rd annual National UFO Convention at the Executive Park Hotel, 1102 N. Central Ave.

During a pre-convention interview, Friedman said that what he's been telling people, and what people have been telling him, for years, is: There is life out there in the cosmos and, occasionally, it visits here.

Stanton Friedman displays a heavily censored government report on UFOs. The nuclear physicist says aliens come to Earth to check out the neighbors — us.



Earl McCartney/Republic

"I have never seen a flying saucer, but I've never seen a neutron or a gamma ray, either. And I work with them," Friedman said.

He said there are too many similarities to dismiss tales he has heard of landing-gear marks in remote areas, high-speed chases between military aircraft and unidentified flying objects and hypnosis-induced revelations by people who claim to have been abducted by aliens.

Physical descriptions of aliens and their flying machines also have been remarkably similar, he said.

"I've got a whole host of stories, none of which I can prove," said Friedman, the scientist, somewhat unscientifically.

"But when you hear the same story again and again, even though you don't have proof, you get a picture that you can't ignore."

Naturally, he said, he receives reports of sightings from "nuts," too.

Most people, he said, believe UFOs exist.

A native of New Jersey, Friedman now lives in Fredericton, New Brunswick.

He is on the lecture circuit and is a science commentator for the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. He has worked at General Electric, Aerojet-General Nucleonics, General Motors, Westinghouse Astronuclear Laboratory and TRW Systems.

Friedman's interest in the subject began casually in 1958 with a book called *The Report on UFOs*.

"I figured it would be a good laugh," he said.

But pages later, Friedman found himself intrigued.

Over the years, Friedman, who always has been interested in the "unusual," has lectured on the subject and has tried to persuade governments, including that of the United States, to admit that there are visitors from another solar

system.

There have been numerous requests made under the federal Freedom of Information Act, but those and other responses have been less than straightforward. Usually, one of three reasons are cited, Friedman said.

"They say, 'It's beyond our knowledge. It's a threat to security. There's no physical evidence.' But the Air Force or government has not said there are no flying saucers. They're masters of double talk."

"The official government response is very carefully crafted."

Governments are being very tight-lipped on the subject, he said, because if word got out, nationalism would be but a memory.

"There would be no more Americans, Russians or Chinese. We would be earthlings, and I know no government on this Earth that wants to see that. Nationalism is about the only game in town."

Friedman said the Earth is being chosen with more frequency by aliens because of increasing scientific advances planetwide into the aliens' turf: space.

Aliens, he said, "are concerned about survival and security."

The way they see it, "you have to keep tabs on the local primitives. You have to keep an eye on the people who come traipsing out here."

He said there is nothing to fear from the aliens, who appear to be light-years ahead of earthlings in the brains department.

"There doesn't seem to be any reason to believe that they are here to harm us," Friedman said.

But he added, "Don't get in their way. They're not going to hurt us, but they're not going to land on the White House lawn with a cure for cancer or say, 'Take me to your leader.'"

"They are here for a purpose."

Basically, to check out the new neighbors — an old earthling tradition.

PATRIOT-NEWS, Harrisburg, PA - May 20, 1986

ADDENDA: In response to last week's question from the person who witnessed a large object flying over Lower Allen Twp., we noted that contacts with official agencies turned up no unusual sightings in this area. We also asked that if there were any extraterrestrials among our readers, to please give us a call. Well, we didn't hear from E.T., but we did get calls from several of our earthly readers, some of whom said they witnessed a similar object in recent weeks. Some of the dates and locations of the sightings were different, but the callers' descriptions of the object was pretty much the same. Just about all of them said there were three red lights in the form of a large triangle. Some also pointed out that they noticed what appeared to be a normal airplane following close behind. One caller said he previously worked in an aviation-related business and the object appeared different than an airplane in that its lights remained constant. An airplane, he noted, generally has blinking lights and the lights themselves aren't spaced as far apart as they were on the object in question. One caller suggested that the craft might have been an Air Force C5-A, which happens to be the nation's largest transport. The plane, the reader explained, is so large "it doesn't look like it's moving" and it has a "droning" engine sound. A check with Harrisburg International Airport confirmed that the craft, which has a wingspan of 222 feet, does land periodically at HIA to pick up Black Hawk helicopters. The manufacturer of the helicopters ships them to HIA where Army personnel dismantle them before the Air Force ships them to other points. The problem with that explanation is that HIA reports that a C5-A hasn't landed at the airport since February. The majority of the people who called in claim to have seen the object in recent weeks. In any event, we're sure there's a logical explanation. Just in case we're wrong, however, we've decided to lock up our supply of Reese's Pieces.

CR: T. Crain

Odd lights, movement raise aura of UFO

By CHRIS SMITH
Staff Writer

Nobody is saying it was a flying saucer, that would be premature. But on Thursday about 20 Sonoma County people — including an on-duty policeman — told of seeing something very peculiar up there in the moonlit sky.

"I'm sure there's some explanation for it," mused Wanda Madson, who spied a couple of hovering lights while delivering papers from her car at about 4:15 a.m. Thursday near Sebastopol. But an explanation eluded her.

"It really did look like nothing I'd ever seen before," she said.

Madson said she thought the UFO was dark and round, while others said it was shaped like an "X" and was orange. But

'I've not been aware in the 12 years I've been here of sightings as significant as this in the area'

—Gordon Spear
SSU prof and UFO buff

several witnesses said independently that whatever it was, it carried two bright white lights and two smaller lights.

There was consensus as well that the craft hovered and then darted — and that it wasn't an airplane.

An astronomy professor and UFO buff at Sonoma State University, Dr. Gordon Spear, was intrigued by the sightings.

"I've not been aware in the 12 years I've been here of sightings as significant as this in the area," he said.

The reports came on the heels of sightings Wednesday of multi-colored UFOs the size of pingpong balls crowding radar screens in Sao Paulo, Brazil. The government scrambled jet fighters to intercept the tiny objects, and two pilots said they saw the spots of light flying nearby.

Two sisters in Rincon Valley said they were watching a big, bright star at about 11 o'clock Wednesday night when it startled them by moving slowly toward the earth and flashing first red, then

white again, then blue.

"We knew it couldn't be a plane or a helicopter," said Marticia James, 18. She said the object, which was so far away she could see only the lights, was moving toward the earth and to the west when she and her sister lost sight of it.

But most of the reported sightings came between 4 and 4:30 a.m. Thursday. Press Democrat carrier Madson said that at about that time she and her substitute, Sue Hart, were driving slowly down Mill Station Road near Sebastopol and popping newspapers into roadside newspaper boxes when they noticed something in the sky to their right.

"When we first saw it it was still, then it started moving," recalled Madson. "It

UFO

was flying lower than a plane would normally fly."

Hart said, "I could see two big lights in the front and two small lights closer together to the back."

"It was about the height a helicopter would fly," she said. "It was hovering. It was just stopped in the sky, then it moved kind of fast backwards and then hovered again."

Hart and Madson said the object appeared to be round and was flying to the south when they last saw it shortly before 4:30 a.m.

At about 4:30, radio newswoman Arlette Cohen was driving on Highway 101 toward Petaluma when she noticed two white lights in the sky to the east of the Sonoma-Marin county line. There appeared to be two small green lights opposite the white ones, she said.

"At first I thought it was a plane landing at the Petaluma Airport or at Hamilton (Field in Novato)," said Cohen, the news director at Petaluma radio station KTOB. "Then it crossed over the freeway to the left side and hovered there."

"Now you've got this thing that can't be a plane because it's standing still," she said. She slowed her Toyota and flipped off the radio as the UFO crossed back over to the east side of the highway.

"I was trying to see the body of the thing to see if it was a helicopter," she said. She said the

craft was not so high that she couldn't hear it if indeed it was a helicopter. She said she heard nothing.

"I think it was sort of a black 'X' silhouette shape," she said. "It was really hard to tell."

A California Highway Patrol officer cruising near Petaluma at about the same time that Cohen was in the area told an investigator with the international Mutual UFO Network he, too, saw something — a flying object with five lights. The officer, who declined to be identified, said the way the lights were arranged led him to believe the craft was shaped like an "X."

"He said it was moving at a high rate of speed eastbound from Petaluma," said Officer Bill McChristian of the CHP's Rohnert Park office. McChristian said "at least a dozen" people called the office with similar descriptions of a UFO. Some said the thing was orange.

Petaluma resident Tom Page, a Marin County high school science teacher who belongs to the UFO Network, a scientific group that conducts serious investigations of UFO reports, learned of the sightings upon returning home from work Thursday.

Page said the reported "X" shape is a new one to him, but not the orange color.

"Orange is a very predominant color" in UFO sightings, he said.

The science teacher and track coach at Novato's San Marin High School said the numerous accounts of two bright white lights on the craft remind him of a spate of sightings in Marin County four years ago. From September 1981 through March 1982 his phone rang frequently with reports of a "triangular-shaped object with two white lights, and some orange discs seen at night in formation," he said.

Page said the scientists in the UFO Network, which has chapters in 33 countries, will be anxious to look into the new reports. He asked that anyone seeing a possible UFO please call him at 763-3432.

At Sonoma State University, Spear said it seems "significant" that numerous people at different locations reported "a similar type of phenomenon." But he cautioned that 95 percent of all reported UFOs turn out to be something identifiable and explainable.

If no explanation surfaces for the hovering, light-bearing object seen over Sonoma County, he said, it might be added to the 5 percent of airborne enigmas that resulted perhaps from some unknown atmospheric and psychological phenomenon.

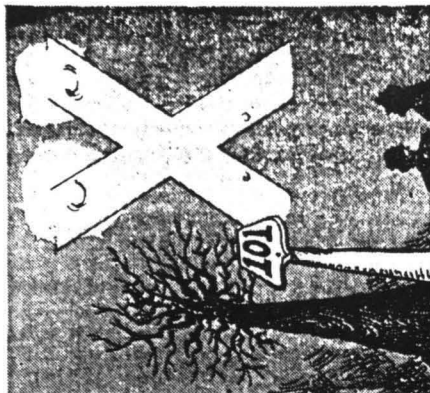
"Or indeed," added Spear, "there's everyone's favorite explanation — that maybe UFOs are somebody's space ships."



Marti James saw a 'UFO' from her bedroom window Wednesday night

—Mary Carroll

Artist's rendition of UFO based on Petaluma eye witness accounts
—ART/Sharon Henry



[Paper and City Unknown], VA - May 3, 1986 CR: UFOCCI

Group provides refuge for UFO believers

By DEBBIE MESSINA
Staff writer

VIRGINIA BEACH — After Joyce Wilson had what she believed was an encounter of an alien kind, she found a sixth sense so acute it drove her to withdraw from the world.

"I was like a radio receiver," Wilson said. "I had to shut it off. It was interfering with my own thoughts and ideas."

In a hospital emergency room, she said she could feel the chest pains of a nearby patient suffering

a heart attack. She said the sorrow of family members and close friends cluttered her thoughts.

Wilson said her psychic sense became so encompassing that for about a year, she avoided interaction with people and rarely ventured outside her Ocean View home in Norfolk.

"I was in a tremendous depression," Wilson said. "I avoided crowds and people."

Wilson sought help and comfort from clergymen, psychiatrists and psychics. But no one could explain her sensitivities.

She found, like others, that life isn't easy for people who believe they have seen an unidentified flying object or had an encounter with an alien being.

The stories of such people draw scoffs, raised eyebrows and skepticism. Friends may abandon them. Sometimes they become so upset by the rejection that they go into depression and shy away from others.

James and Phyllis Bumgardner of Virginia Beach never talked about the seven illuminated objects they claim they saw move across the sky over a U.S. military base in

Cuba because the reaction from others was too painful.

But the Bumgardners, Wilson and others have found sympathetic listeners who share similar experiences in a self-help group.

A Virginia Beach chapter of UFO Contact Center International was established about a year ago, and already it has grown to 20 members and is considered one of the five biggest in the world.

"It's helpful for them to know that they are not alone," said Bar-

(continued on page 7)

(continued from page 6 -
[Paper and City Unknown], VA
May 3, 1986)

bara Nielsen, head of the Beach chapter. "People need to know they are not crazy, they are not cracking up. It's nice to talk to people without the raised eyebrows."

"So often, people are treated like they are witches."

Wilson said she thinks the group could have helped her when she suffered through her despondency.

"I had no one to turn to," she said. "Most everyone I talked to thought I was crazy. So I had to come to my own understanding of it."

Nielsen, long a believer in UFOs, was asked by the founders of the Contact Center International, Dan and Aileen Edwards of Seattle, to start a chapter in Hampton Roads. The Edwards maintain that the area has brisk UFO activity because of the many military installations and the dense population.

Formerly researchers and investigators for the UFO Reporting Center in Seattle, the Edwards started the international group in 1981 to support people who have had contact with UFOs.

Aileen Edwards said that studies have indicated that 5 million people in the United States have had experiences with UFOs. "If you talk to 20 people, you will find that several have seen UFOs but only one will say they've had actual contact," she said.

J. Allen Hynek of the Center for UFO Studies in Illinois said there are 1,000 UFO observations a day.

People who say they see UFOs are often dismissed as being crazy, Edwards said. Or they are told that what they saw was a helicopter, a weather balloon,



Barbara Nielsen is head of the Virginia Beach chapter of UFO Contact Center International, a self-help group for UFO sighters.

swamp gas or one of the nation's military's secret weapons.

"We are just lay people trying to help each other," Edwards said.

Twenty-three chapters have been formed in the United States, Canada, Nigeria, Brazil, Japan, Thailand and Australia. The Vancouver, British Columbia, chapter is the largest, with about 100 members, Edwards said.

Members of the Virginia Beach chapter meet monthly to talk about their experiences, view documentaries about un-

explained occurrences and review research and articles about UFOs.

About half of the members say they have seen UFOs and the others are simply interested. Most of the sightings by group members are said to be one-time occurrences and primarily occurred between 1975 and 1980.

During that period, feature-length articles about UFO activity in Virginia appeared in UFO Report and TRUE Flying Saucers and UFOs Quarterly magazines. Nielsen was quoted extensively in one of

the articles, which also used photographs she took of her unexplained sightings near her Virginia Beach home over a two-week period.

The Bumgardners say that only at meetings of the self-help group are they willing to discuss their experience.

"You can talk about it here without people looking at you funny, thinking you're weird and laughing at you," said James Bumgardner, a retired Navy man. "It's hard to convince people about what you've seen."

"I know I used to think it was a lot of hokum myself. But the hair stood on the back of my neck after what I saw. It was pretty strange."

Unlike the Bumgardners, Lynn Winborn is not afraid to tell others about her sightings, but she said that has strained her relationship with her parents and has alienated some friends.

"They don't believe me," Winborn said. "It's hard to accept when people think you've gone off the deep end. They all think I'm a space cadet."

Joyce Wilson could never understand why certain things had happened to her after an incident in which she claimed a craft hovered in front of her car and zapped her in the middle of her forehead with some sort of light ray.

But since she joined the self-help group, Wilson said, she discovered she possessed signs she claims are common to people who have been contacted by aliens, such as developing cysts and the feeling of being adopted. She claims she also had certain characteristics common to others who claim to have been contacted by aliens — being of Indian descent and having an affinity for eagles and turquoise.

"After joining, a lot of things became more clear," Wilson said. "But I still have one big question: Why me?"

ARGUS-COURIER, Petaluma, CA - May 22, 1986

'UFO' seen over Petaluma

By ROD BREWSTER
Argus-Courier Staff

More than one dozen people claim to have spotted an X-shaped UFO early this morning as it hovered and darted in the sky over Sonoma County, the California Highway Patrol said.

"An unidentified object described as a large orange 'X' with white lights in the front was seen traveling at a high rate of speed eastbound from Petaluma," said a Santa Rosa CHP spokesman.

Arlette Cohen, news director at KTOB radio in Petaluma, said she also saw the object, but described it differently than the CHP officer.

"I don't drink," she said with a laugh.

She said she was driving to Petaluma from Marin County on Highway 101 about 4:30 a.m. and was near the county line at San Antonio Creek when she saw two white lights "like headlights" in the northeastern sky.

She thought it was an airplane coming in for a landing, but thought it odd for a plane to be in that location.

The lights moved to the west side of the freeway and hovered over the hills, then dropped behind them, she said.

At one point the object, a little above hilltop level, stopped still, she said.

The object then crossed to the east side of the freeway.

Cohen said she couldn't estimate distances above the ground or from her to the object. It looked about the size of "a good size small plane," but didn't look like an aircraft, she said. She also heard no sound from it.

Passing the object she saw two small green lights on it. She also thought she might have seen the object was shaped like a dark "X," but couldn't be sure.

The object did not move like a plane or helicopter, Cohen said.

Cohen said she wasn't going to tell anyone what she had seen until she learned the CHP also was reporting a sighting.

Citizens calling the CHP said the UFO appeared out of the darkness at 4:30 a.m. Among those who said they saw the UFO were a CHP officer working out of Santa Rosa who declined to provide his name.

San Francisco Bay Area air traffic controllers said they could not explain the sighting, saying radar screens did not detect the mysterious object.

The officer who saw the object said it was not an airplane.

The CHP didn't alert any agency after the sighting. The highway patrol has no established procedure for dealing with UFO sightings, he said.

Meanwhile, Six Brazilian air force fighter jets chased more than a dozen UFOs described as colored Ping-Pong balls and one jet was surrounded by the objects, the air force minister said Thursday.

Air Force Minister Octavio Moreira Lima said Brazilian air force planes saw intense green, red and white lights that moved at between 160 and 990 mph and picked up solid objects on the radar late Monday night.

"It is not a question of believing or not," Lima said. "This requires technical information and we have neither replies nor technical explanations for what happened," Lima said.

Lima said that state-run oil company president Oziere Silva first saw three colored lights in his path on Monday night as he prepared to land his Brazilian-made Xingu aircraft at an air force base 66 miles from the industrial heartland of Sao Paulo.

Picking up the objects on radar, Oziere canceled his landing, informed the Brazilian Defense Center and he chased the fast-moving lights, which were described as resembling Ping-Pong balls.

News reports said the Brazilian Defense Center entered a "state of alert" and sent three F-5E jet fighters after the lights, pursuing the objects during 30 minutes toward the Sao Paulo coast.

UPI reports were used in compiling this story



NEWS, Hutchinson, KS

April 27, 1986

High over Hutch Large planes may explain recent rash of UFO reports

By Doug Ward
The Hutchinson News

Connie Albright was horseback riding near her home northeast of Hutchinson about 8:30 p.m. Thursday when she saw it.

The dim white lights in the eastern sky looked like an airplane. But the object didn't seem to be moving. It must be some sort of tower in the distance, she thought.

But as she and four others she was riding with headed home, the huge object floated southwest, "right over the top of us," and toward the Hutchinson Municipal Airport.

She said there appeared to be two pieces to the diamond-shaped object, with intense white lights on the front and dim red lights around it. But she could see no connection between the two parts.

"It was spooky," she said, mainly because she and the others couldn't hear any engine noise and the object had appeared to hover before it moved.

Not knowing what to think of the strange object, Mrs. Albright and her companions raced toward home.

"We were frightened."

A woman in northwest Hutchinson was sitting on her front porch when she saw the object about 8:15 p.m.

She and her husband first thought it was a star.

But as it came closer, the couple could see it was cigar-shaped and had red and white lights. It moved, almost silently, "due west."

Upon closer examination through a pair of binoculars, the woman said she was sure it had to be a huge dirigible of some type.

"You know, like the Goodyear blimp," she said.

Larry Augustine left his home in the Blue Spruce addition north of Hutchinson about 9:50 p.m. Friday with his son and another boy.

They also saw red and white lights. Augustine said he thought it was unusually silent. He could hear only a muffled sound of an engine.

He said the large object flew over them and moved east.

"The boys got all excited. They didn't feel like it was an airplane," Augustine said.

The three sightings were similar to several reports called into The News Friday and Saturday.

And while Federal Aviation Administration officials earlier this week could give no explanation of the sightings, a spokesman at the Hutchinson airport Saturday night said he was "100 percent sure" of what had happened Thursday night.

He said he had talked to a flight controller at the Kansas City Air Route Traffic Control Center in Olathe, who said the descriptions would fit military refueling flights that had been taking place over Kansas "all week long."

The Hutchinson official said a KC-135 tanker from McConnell Air Force Base in Wichita had met up with F-4 fighters from Lincoln, Neb.

"There's not much doubt about that," he said. "There were no UFOs."

Officials at McConnell denied Saturday that there were any refueling flights taking place Thursday night. A spokeswoman

said there had been a mission Thursday morning, but that there were no such flights that night.

A spokesman at Airport Traffic Control at Lincoln Municipal Airport said F-4s frequently fly from the Lincoln airport.

"It happens all the time," he said.

The spokesman said there "probably" were F-4s from the 155th Tactical Operations Group, which is based in Lincoln, over central Kansas Thursday, but he referred specific questions to the guard unit's base in Lincoln. Calls there were unanswered.

Another person in the Hutchinson tower said he was at home Thursday and had seen the slow-moving object. He said he had been on a military refueling mission before and admitted that from the ground it would be "weird looking."

He said the planes are dark and against a dark sky, little could be made out except for the lights, which are used by fliers to see the booms and fueling slots on the planes.

He said that the planes were flying at 14,000 to 17,000 feet, and with the "quiet" engines being muffled further by wind, "you're not going to hear much."

From the ground, he said, the planes would appear to be moving very slowly.

"There's not much doubt in our minds" that the objects people saw were the military refueling flights.

Mrs. Albright said she was relieved when she heard the explanation given by the FAA officials.

"I can go ride my horse again," she said.

J. Allen Hynek, Astronomer And U.F.O. Consultant, Dies

By JOAN COOK

J. Allen Hynek, an astrophysicist and consultant to an Air Force project to assess reports of unidentified flying objects, died of a malignant brain tumor Sunday at Memorial Hospital in Scottsdale, Ariz. He was 75 years old.

Dr. Hynek, who moved to Scottsdale from Evanston, Ill., a year ago, was for 18 years professor and chairman of the Department of Astronomy at Northwestern University and director of its Dearborn Observatory, until he retired in 1978. He was involved in the Air Force U.F.O. research effort from 1948 to 1969.

Often his task for the Air Force was to examine at first hand more substantial reports of flying saucers and the like. In 1966, after a rash of sightings in Michigan, he went to the area to take charge of the investigation. After interviewing scores of people, he ascribed certain sightings to luminous marsh gas rather than something from space. Nevertheless, he said, "Scientists in the year 2066 may think us very naive in our denials."

He long asserted that U.F.O.'s should be taken seriously and he eventually became displeased with the Air Force approach. He said that its methods were slipshod and that it was not conducting a scientific study. The Air Force, in turn, concluded that there was no evidence of extraterrestrial craft and the U.F.O. project was abandoned.

He Avoids 'U.F.O. Nut' Label

In an interview in 1974, Dr. Hynek said that he had remained with the program as long as he did to retain access to Air Force data and to avoid being marked a "U.F.O. nut."

Dr. Hynek founded the Center for U.F.O. Studies in Evanston in 1973 and took it with him when he moved to Scottsdale.

He is credited with coining the phrase "close encounters of the third kind" to describe humans meeting creatures from space. He used the phrase in his 1972 book "The U.F.O. Experience" and it became the title of the 1977 Steven Spielberg film, on which he served as technical adviser.

When a reporter once suggested that Dr. Hynek he might be remembered not as an astronomer but as the man who made U.F.O.'s respectable, he replied: "I wouldn't mind. If I can succeed in making the study of U.F.O.'s scientifically respectable and do something constructive in it, then I think that would be a real contribution."

He resigned from the center he founded a few months ago for ill health, according to the director, Tina Choate.

He Worked on Proximity Fuse

In World War II, Dr. Hynek was a civilian scientist at the Johns Hopkins Applied Science Laboratory, where he helped to develop the Navy's radio proximity fuse.

Josef Allen Hynek was born in Chicago, Ill., to Czechoslovak parents. He graduated from the University of Chicago in 1931 and earned a Ph.D. degree there in 1935.

He joined the Department of Physics and Astronomy at Ohio State in 1936. After the war he returned there, rising to full professor in 1950.

In 1956 he left to join Prof. Fred Whipple, the Harvard astronomer, at the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, which had combined with the Harvard Observatory at Harvard. Dr. Hynek had the assignment of directing the tracking of an American space satellite, a project for the International Geophysical Year in 1956 and thereafter.

In addition to 247 optical stations around the world, there were to be 12 photographic stations. A special camera was devised for the task and a prototype was built and tested and then stripped apart again when, on Oct. 4, 1957, the Soviet Union launched its first satellite, Sputnik.

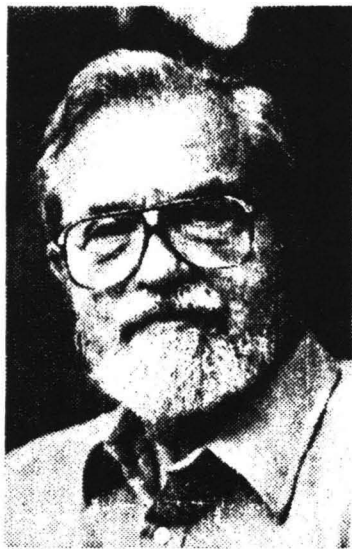
Assumed the U.S. Would Be First

"We had always assumed that the United States would have the first satellite," Dr. Hynek said ruefully at the time. "If I've ever had a traumatic experience, that was it."

Observations of the Soviet satellite were received, and with twice-daily news conferences, Dr. Hynek and Dr. Whipple began to reassure the public after what Dr. Hynek called "this intellectual Pearl Harbor, a real gutsy sock to the stomach."

Once things in satellite tracking settled down to a routine, Dr. Hynek went back to teaching, taking the chairmanship at Northwestern in 1960.

He is survived by his wife, the former



The New York Times

J. Allen Hynek

Miriam Curtis; four sons and a daughter, Scott Josef, of Waltham, Mass.; Joel Curtis, of Leonia, N.J.; Paul Curtis, of Scottsdale, Ross Allen, of Lake Forest, Ill.; Roxane, of Hanover, Mass.; and five grandchildren.

TIMES, New York, NY - May 1, 1986 CR: A. Benz

A good night for UFO watchers

By Don DeMain
The Tribune

A delightfully mysterious X-shaped craft with weird lights that flashed on and off appeared in Bay Area skies in the pre-dawn hours yesterday.

And for UFO believers who have endured years of drab skies and no sightings, it brought back the thrills of a time past when flying saucers were the rage and people believed Bill Jackson when he said he spotted a football-field-sized craft with banks of winking beams hovering over a deserted Colorado road.

Yesterday's sightings were reported by nearly two dozen observers, including a taciturn Sonoma County California Highway Patrol officer who doesn't believe in alien craft or creatures but reported only "what I saw."

"An Unidentified Flying Object described as a large 'X' with lights in front was seen traveling at a high rate of speed eastbound from Petaluma," Santa Rosa CHP dispatcher Bill McChristian said of reports from several callers and the unnamed patrol officer.

It was spotted at 4:30 a.m. also by a commuting Arlette Cohen, Petaluma KTOB radio station news director.

"I saw these two white lights to the east," she said, at an altitude of about 1,000 feet. "It hovered, for a while, then flew off." Then it came back, and Cohen said she saw two "tiny green lights on the other side."

"I think I saw sort of a black X silhouette shape," she added.

There was no sound.

In Oakland, several calls were made to The Tribune reporting early morning sightings of strange lights in the sky.

Secretary Lorie Selenides said she was awakened by her infant's crying at 1:30 a.m. in her East Oakland home. She looked out the window and saw a strange criss-crossing shape with alternating orange and blue flashing lights.

It appeared over the horizon above MacArthur in the Fruitvale District, moving past St. Elizabeth's Church toward 35th Street, Selenides said.

It wasn't an airplane, she added. It wasn't moving like one, and the lights alternated, blue, then orange, then blue.

Whatever it was, and if it was the same object later sighted in Sonoma isn't known. Bay Area air-traffic controllers couldn't explain the sightings; local observatories and

radar-watchers saw nothing.

In Colorado, the UFO sighting capital of the world, the North American Aerospace Defense Command said no satellite or human-crafted spacecraft would have been visible at that time in California.

The thing might have been debris from the satellite Cosmos, which was scheduled to re-enter the Earth's atmosphere above California, but that happened an hour after the 4:30 sightings.

Coincidentally, the local encounter came just after reports that ping-pong-ball-sized, multi-colored objects crowded radar screens in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

That country sent jet fighters to investigate. The objects flew away.

Whatever they were, or are, the sightings recall the titillating questions that mushroomed in 1947 when the University of Colorado and the U.S. Air Force decided to investigate the UFO mania of virtually daily sightings of saucers, flying cigars, luminescent yoyos, winged sausages, alien visitations and close encounters of all kinds.

UFO clubs, confirmed believers, books, articles and TV "documentaries" sprang up throughout the nation to "help" produce evidence to the Air Force that Earth was constantly being visited by crafts from other worlds.

But in 1969, after two decades of exhaustive research, the University of Colorado issued its half-million-dollar study, Project Blue Book.

There wasn't the slightest evidence of UFOs, the study said. That was that for the Air Force. It shunned any further "alien craft" reports.

It was a blow to the UFOers and the flying saucer fad waned. UFO clubs folded, and the believers went into hibernation, taking solace in the spate of new movies: "Close Encounters," "E.T.," etc.

But there is always that slim possibility, that astronomical chance ... Like reporter Jackson's observation in 1975 of a flying Candlestick Park ... Or that report six years ago of a Longmont, Colo., man and his wife who were abducted in saucerlike vehicle by hollow-eyed alien creatures 24 miles north of Denver ... Or the almost-believable report that Mission Peak in Fremont was scorched by intense heat, proving it was a refueling station for UFOs.

TRIBUNE, Oakland, CA - May 23, 1986 CR: D. Vance

Friend or UFO?

*Look! Up in the sky!
It's a bird!
It's a plane!
It's...it's...
uhh...Oh, wow!*

BY JAY RATH

"It was bound to happen sooner or later," Marvin Cook wrote in the Capital Times in 1975. "An 'unidentified flying object' was seen hovering over the capital city."

But it wasn't the first time Madisonians had seen objects in the sky other than Miss Forward's golden fingers. There have been at least eight UFO sightings in the Madison area since 1947, and, according to legend, the Indians that lived around the four lakes saw and met strange "sky-men" long before the white settlers arrived. Madison is Wisconsin's hot spot for UFO activity.

Nancy Goff, age 13, landed in the newspapers by being the first to report a Madison UFO. On the night of July 7, 1947, Goff was sitting on the porch of her home at 1042 Williamson St. Around 10:30, she saw something that looked like "a plate upside-down."

"I saw a light flash on the ground," she told reporters. "When I looked in the sky I saw a flying disc. It kept turning different colors and was moving very fast, but disappeared in a little while."

That same night, Richard Y. Schulkin, who lived at 719 Mound St., saw "some sort of gliding missile, of convex shape" flying over south Madison. Schulkin said the object was traveling rapidly and was heading south. He thought it was silver-colored, possibly made of aluminum.

In the same week as these sightings, reports filtered in from Milwaukee, Janesville, Grafton, Freeport, Ill., and other parts of the country. Even though "flying saucers" had never been reported as such in the U.S. before June 25, 1947, people in 39 states thought they had seen UFOs by the time of the Madison incidents.

After the 1947 saucer flap there were no recorded reports of UFO activity in the Madison area until 1968, when a Madison woman and her daughter saw a "white light" hovering over the Hill Farms area for about five minutes.

Shortly before 8:30 p.m. on Feb. 5, Elvi Sanchez and her 15-year-old daughter, Gloria, saw a light in the sky north of their home at 4810 South Hill Drive. They told police that the light silently passed their house at a high rate of speed, then stopped in midair about a block away. It stayed there a few minutes, hovering about 50 feet above the ground.

The UFO focused a large beam of light on the ground, then suddenly disappeared. The women first thought they had seen an airplane, but then realized that they had heard no engines during the incident.

Flying Lights

Madison's next—and most dramatic—sighting came on Sept. 1, 1970.

It was 10:10 p.m. Denise Fritz and Mike Butler were out in a boat on Lake Monona when they looked up and saw a "lighted object" heading toward the water. They initially thought it was a plane in trouble.

"It looked like it was going to crash," said Fritz. "We joked about flying saucers, but we still assumed it was a plane." They changed their minds when they saw the object hover between 50 and 100 feet above some trees near a boat landing on Winnequah Road.

"It looked like it was an oval," said Fritz. "But I couldn't focus on it well enough to make out the whole shape. I don't know what it was, but I've never seen anything like it."

Fritz and Butler had stopped their motor, but they could hear no sound from the object. Suddenly, the object beamed two lights at the boat. The couple started the motor again and began to leave. The object followed them. "When we swerved to the left, the lights turned left too," said Fritz. "When we turned right, the lights turned right. By this time, we were pretty scared."

The UFO was also spotted at the same time that night by four Monona women who wouldn't give their names to reporters. (One woman said, "People will think I'm some kind of nut.")

The women were riding in a car and had almost reached the corner of Bridge Road and Panther Trail when they saw something in the sky to the northeast. "It seemed at first that it might be a low-flying plane," one woman said, "but it had a lot of lights on."

Fritz and Butler, meanwhile, were scrambling to escape the UFO.

"We went back to the pier as fast as we could, and it—the lights—followed us," said Fritz. "We didn't even tie up the boat. We ran right into the house. I was shaking and crying for about two hours, I was so scared."

Back at the intersection of Bridge and Panther, the four women got out of their car to get a better look. Like Fritz, they said they had a hard time focusing their eyes on the object.

"We couldn't make out a shape," one woman said. "I don't believe in flying saucers or that sort of thing, but I don't understand this, because whatever this thing was, it made no sound at all."

The women watched as the object flew away. For them, the incident was over. For Fritz and Butler, it was not.

"I have no doubt that it was something not from around here," Fritz said in a recent interview. "For a long time we didn't go out in the boat at night. I have chills about it even now."

Sky Lights

Probably the most reliable sighting in the Madison area occurred on the night of May 3, 1975. Among the six or seven witnesses were two Madison police officers, who waited 10 days before filing a written report of what they thought they had seen.

The UFO was first spotted by workers at a gas station on Odana Road near Whitney Way. They watched the oval-shaped object for more than an hour as it hovered near the WKOW-TV towers on Tokay Boulevard.

"It wasn't twinkling like a star," said Scott Blanco, a 19-year-old employed at the station. He and a friend, Carol Wecklem, and at least two other employees watched the object with police officers Luis Yudice and Steven Cardarella. The officers later reported that they did "observe the object, which seemed to gradually gain brightness." In their official report, they stated that the object's position was due west of the gas station, "at an undetermined altitude and distance."

The Sky-Man Cometh

"I don't belong here," the strange visitor told the Chippewas. "I dropped from above."

We'll never really know for sure if the Chippewas came in contact with alien beings, but Indian stories collected in 1930 by Charles E. Brown, then director of the Wisconsin State Historical Society, may be of special interest to modern UFO enthusiasts. According to the legends, the Indians were visited several times by "sky-men" who traveled in strange craft. Here's an example:

"Some Indians were walking over the plains when they saw someone sitting on the grass. It was a man. When they approached, he halted them by raising his hand."

"He said, 'I don't belong here. I dropped from above.'"

"They wished to take him home with them. He told them to go home and clean the place where he was to stay. Then he would return with them. After they had done this they came back for him. He was a nice-looking man, clean and shining bright. He stayed with them. Every day at sundown, he watched the sky. In a clear voice he said, 'Something will come down. I will go up.' He said that he had been running in the sky. There was an open space, he couldn't stop running, so he dropped through."

"One day in the afternoon he said, 'Now it's coming.' Everyone looked up but they could see nothing for a long time. The man who had kept Sky-man at his home could see better than the others. He saw a bright star

shining way up in the sky. The other Indians didn't see it until it came near the ground. They had never seen anything nicer in the world."

"Two men got a hold of it and pulled it down. Sky-man got into it. Then it rose and he was gone. They had tried to get him to stay but he said that he must go. He is up there yet. You can see him on clear nights."

Was Sky-man "clean and shining" because he wore a silvery pressure suit? Is it possible that the visitor insisted on clean quarters for fear of human viruses, to which he had no resistance? The story certainly arouses curiosity, especially when considered in association with an Indian mound a few miles northeast of Baraboo.

The mound is in the shape of a man—the only known human-shaped effigy mound in the world. But if the figure is human, then it is oddly proportioned.

Mounds are rarely realistic portrayals of living creatures, so the elongated torso of the man-mound can be forgiven. But what of the two "ears" sticking out from the top of its head? Could they represent a helmet of some sort?

Since the mound is 214 feet long and measures 48 feet across at the shoulders, it can barely be appreciated from the ground. Is it possible that the figure is intended to be viewed from above? An invitation, perhaps, for Sky-man to return?

—J.R.

Blanco said that the officers wanted to follow the UFO in their squad car, but couldn't because the object disappeared several times, then reappeared with increased brightness.

Yudice and Cardarella are still Madison police officers. When asked about the incident, Cardarella said, "I just didn't know what it was at the time." But he doesn't think it was reflected light from a helicopter or a weather balloon.

Recent Reports

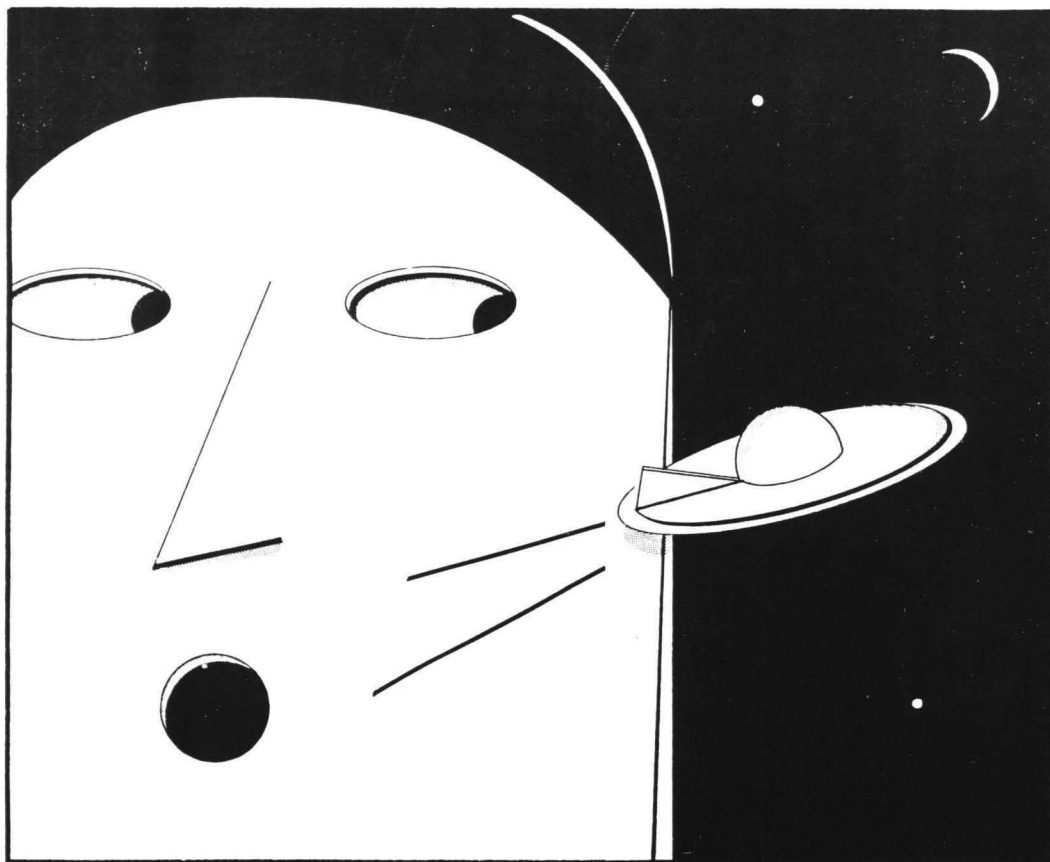
Madison's most recent recorded sighting occurred on July 31, 1976. Mary A. Tall and her mother, Isabel T. Frast, of 5201 Dorsett Dr., said that they saw a very large, bright, fast-moving object in the sky at around 2:30 a.m.

"My mother saw it first," said Tall. "I didn't believe her." Tall said the object was too big to be a star. She described it as blue and cloudlike, and twice as big as the North Star. Beyond that, the two could offer no other details.

"I wasn't eager to go outside and find out what that thing was," Tall said.

Last August several sightings of UFOs were reported in Black Earth, Blue Mounds, Cross Plains and Mount Horeb. What these objects are, or were, is impossible to guess.

But if you happen to look into the sky late some night, and see a strange light, remember that you are not alone—you're in the company of 20 other Madisonians who believe that they have seen something strange over the capital city. ■



Disproven Roswell UFO Claim Resurrected

By Philip J. Klass

THE SKEPTICAL INQUIRER

THE CLAIM that the U.S. government in 1947 recovered one or more flying saucers — along with the bodies of their occupants — from a Roswell ranch is enjoying widespread acceptance despite substantial evidence against it.

A paper on the alleged unidentified flying objects was featured at the 1985 conference of the Seguin, Tex.-based Mutual UFO Network, the nation's largest UFO organization, and at earlier MUFON conferences.

The crashed-saucer tale was first advanced in 1950 in a best-selling book by Frank Scully, then a columnist for Variety, the entertainment industry newspaper.

But Scully's claim was promptly rejected even by True magazine, which itself had helped launch the UFO era a few months earlier when it published an article claiming Earth was being visited by extra-terrestrial craft.

Scully had obtained his information on the "crashed saucers" from two men who were exposed as con men two years later in an article published in True.

For almost three decades the claim of crashed saucers in New Mexico went largely ignored. Then, in 1980, it was resurrected by Charles Berlitz and William L. Moore in their book "The Roswell Incident."

Berlitz earlier achieved fame and fortune with his book on the Bermuda Triangle, which he claimed mysteriously swallowed up airplanes and ships. Moore earlier had authored the book "The Philadelphia Experiment," which claimed that during World War II the U.S. Navy had discovered techniques that could make its ships invisible.

According to Berlitz and Moore, a flying saucer crashed on the Roswell ranch of W.W. Brazel during the first week of July 1947, and possibly a second crashed near Socorro shortly afterward. The Army Air Force position was that the debris found by Brazel was

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67th Year
Wednesday Morning, July 9, 1947

Disc Mystery Is 'Solved' For Three Hours Until Roswell Find Collapses

ROSSELL, N. M., July 8 (AP)—A rancher's discovery of a strange object at first identified by an Army public information officer as a flying disc touched off a temporary flurry of excitement across the saucer-conscious nation today.

It was a good three hours after the first official announcement before an Army weather officer burst the bubble.

The object, he declared, was nothing more than an Army weather balloon and its kite.

Even as his decision was given, inquiries from as far away as London still clogged the telephone.

'SAUCER' IS REPORTED SEEN NEAR MORA

A "flying saucer" has been reported sighted over Mora, N. M. Barney F. Cruz Jr. and Richard O. Branch Jr. wrote The Journal that they saw Sunday "a strange object, saucer-shaped, flying the skies from north to a southerly direction."

Saucers 'Appear' Over Australia And South Africa

By International News Service

A "flying disc" reported found in New Mexico caused a brief nationwide flurry of excitement late today but the object was identified by Army Air Forces experts as a weather observation instrument.

Americans lost exclusive rights in the big flying saucer mystery Tuesday when persons in far-off Australia and South Africa, as well as Denmark and England, reported sighting the strange objects.

Disc Mystery Is 'Solved' For Three Hours Until Roswell Find Collapses

By Jason Kellahan

ROSSELL, N. M., July 8 (AP)—W. W. Brazel, the New Mexico rancher who was originally thought to have found the nation's first "flying disc," is sorry he said anything about it.

The 48-year-old New Mexican said he was amazed at the fuss made over his discovery.

"I find anything else short of a bomb it's going to be hard to come tax me on," he said here today.

Brazel's discovery was reported by an overheard conversation to 112. This is a two-thirds needed for a second Presidential trip.

Speaker Martin personally took the body so decisive President had this.

Their to the leader's age.

AAF Trying to Find Out What Discs Are, General Says Here

ROSSELL, N. M., July 8 (AP)—The Army Air Force today announced a flying disc had been found on a ranch near Roswell.

Lt. Warren E. Hughes, public information officer of the Roswell Army Air Field, announced the find had been made "sometime last week," and had been turned over to the Air Force through the office of the sheriff's office.

Answering the Army Air Force's attempt to find out what flying disc was, Maj. Gen. Nathan F. Twining, chief of the AAF material division, today said the mysterious objects definitely are not the "flying saucers" that have been reported.

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Juggler's Saucers Got Out of Hand, President Is Told

WASHINGTON, July 8 (AP)—A novel tongue-in-cheek explanation for the "flying saucer" reports reached President Truman today.

A West Coast professional juggler telegraphed the Chief Executive that he used in his act "and that some he used in his act."

Press Secretary Charles E. Ross told reporters: "Strangely enough for a professional juggler he didn't name his name."

In more serious vein, he said there is no investigation going on as far as the "flying saucer" mystery.

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nothing more than a balloon-borne radar reflector, a device resembling a box kite lined with aluminum foil, used to calibrate ground-tracking radars.

Berlitz and Moore rejected that explanation, drawing on the 30-year-old recollections of local citizens and a number of newspaper clippings dating back to 1947.

One important newspaper account Berlitz and Moore omitted entirely is an Associated Press dispatch dated July 9, 1947, based on an interview with Brazel himself. The article quotes Brazel as saying he discovered the debris while riding his ranch on June 14 —

more than two weeks before Berlitz and Moore claim the flying saucer crashed.

Brazel's description of what he found, quoted in the AP article, confirms the government position that the object was only a balloon-borne radar reflector: "large numbers of pieces of paper covered with a foil-like substance and pieced together with small sticks much like a kite."

According to Berlitz and Moore, the crashed saucer was promptly flown to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, near Dayton, Ohio, for analysis. This base was the technical nerve center for the Air Force

and included its foreign intelligence operations. At the time, the base commander was Lt. Gen. Nathan Twining, who later became Air Force chief of staff.

In September 1947, following a rash of UFO reports, the chief of staff of the Army Air Force requested Twining to provide him with a situation assessment, which Twining did in a letter dated Sept. 23, 1947. Berlitz and Moore quoted extensively from his letter, including his statement that "the phenomenon reported is something real and not visionary or fictitious."

But the authors omitted a critical-

ly important statement in the same letter, where Twining noted that there was a "lack of physical evidence in the shape of crash-recovered exhibits which would undeniably prove the existence of these objects."

In early 1953, top officials at Air Defense Command headquarters in Colorado Springs received a briefing from Capt. Edward J. Ruppelt, then head of Project Blue Book, the Air Force's UFO investigations program. The briefing was classified Secret, as Ruppelt explained, in case sensitive matters, such as the coverage of the nation's air defense

radar network, came up during the question-and-answer period.

Ruppelt's prepared briefing was declassified and was published a decade ago.

The head of Project Blue Book told top Air Defense Command officials: "It can be stated now that, as far as the current situation is concerned, there are no indications that the reported objects are a direct threat to the U.S., nor is there any proof that the reported objects are any foreign body over the U.S. or, as far as we know, the rest of the world."

"This always brings up the ques-

tion of space travel ... and it is the opinion of most scientists or people that should know that it is not impossible for some other planet to be inhabited and for this planet to send beings down to the Earth.

"However there is no — and I want to emphasize and repeat the word no — evidence of this in any report the Air Force has received ... We have never picked up any 'hardware.' By that we mean any pieces, parts, whole articles, or anything that would indicate an unknown material or object ..."

Other hard evidence that denies the crashed-saucer claims can be found in material once classified Secret obtained from Central Intelligence Agency files in late 1978 via the Freedom of Information Act.

These CIA papers reveal that in mid-1952 the White House asked the CIA to make an independent assessment of reported UFO sightings. High-ranking CIA scientists went to Dayton for an Air Force briefing on Project Blue Book. Then, in mid-August, these scientists briefed the CIA director.

In one of these briefing papers, dated Aug. 14, 1952 and originally classified Secret, the briefer discussed the possible explanations for UFO reports, including the possibility that some might be generated by extraterrestrial craft.

But the briefer added that "there is no shred of evidence to support this theory at present ..." Another once-secret briefing paper, dated Aug. 15, states: "Finally, no debris or material evidence has ever been recovered following an unexplained sighting."

Philip J. Klass, a senior editor of Aviation Week & Space Technology magazine, is the author of "UFOs: The Public Deceived" and "UFOs Explained." This article is reprinted with permission from the Skeptical Inquirer, the quarterly journal of the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal.

JOURNAL, Albuquerque, NM - June 9, 1986



Star Wars? A load of old UFOs

I don't believe in radioactive giant rabbits

IT IS there in black and white, an official report signed by a US Air Force Colonel saying that unidentified flying objects had been sighted by his men in Suffolk in late December 1980.

Needless to say, people wondered whether I had gone barmy three years later when I published the report by Lt Col Charles Halt, deputy commander of the USAF base at RAF Woodbridge.

The authorities today are still saying nowt or denying all, but they cannot magic away that official report by Lt Col Halt — later promoted to full Colonel and made commander of the East Anglia base. So he wasn't barmy!

It was unearthed under America's Freedom of Information Act as part of a remarkable investigation carried out for the past five years by three British women who refuse to be put down by officialdom.

Jenny Randles, director of investigations for the British UFO Research Association, and her two helpers, housewives Brenda Butler and Dot Street, tell their story in a paperback called *Sky Crash* to be published on May 22 (Grafton £2.95).

It was their early investigations that got me excited in October 1983, particularly the report Lt Col Halt filed to his superiors about the strange events in Rendlesham Forest. He wrote on 13 January 1981:

1. Early in the morning of 27 December 1980 (approximately 0300) two USAF security patrolmen saw unusual lights outside the back gate at RAF Woodbridge. Thinking an aircraft might have crashed or been forced down, they called for permission to go outside the gate to investigate... the individuals reported seeing a strange glowing object in the forest.

Glowing lights

The object was described as being metallic in appearance and triangular in shape, approximately two to three metres (8 feet) across the base and two metres high. It illuminated the entire forest with a white light. The object itself had a pulsating red light on top and a bank(s) of blue lights underneath. The object was hovering or on legs. As the patrolmen approached the object it manoeuvred through the trees and disappeared...

2. The next day, three depressions 1.5ins deep and 7ins in diameter were found where the object had been sighted on the ground. The following night (29 December) the area was checked for radiation. Beta/gamma readings of 0.1 milliroentgens were recorded with peak readings in the three depressions...

Sun-like

3. Later in the night a red sun-like light was seen through the trees. It moved about and pulsed. At one point it appeared to throw off glowing particles and then broke into five separate white objects and then disappeared. Immediately thereafter, three star-like objects were noticed in the sky, two objects to the north and one to the south...

The objects to the north appeared to be elliptical... turned to full circles and... remained in the sky for

JUST JAMESON

by DEREK JAMESON



an hour or more. The object to the south was visible for two or three hours and beamed down a stream of light from time to time. Numerous individuals, including the undersigned [ie Lt Col Charles Halt himself] witnessed the activities in paragraphs 2 and 3.

You might have thought that this sensational report would have set the rafters alight. Not a bit of it. The Ministry of Defence admitted unusual lights had been sighted, but said there was no explanation.

Naturally the scoffers had a field day. Most reckoned those strange lights came from Orford Ness lighthouse, five miles away, and that the indentations in the ground were made by rabbits.

Nobody has yet explained

to my satisfaction how light-houses manage to fly in a blaze of lights nor how rabbits give off radiation.

The three authors have also produced some fascinating supplementary evidence and Ralph Noyes, former head of the MoD department responsible for RAF intelligence, said in a statement: "We now have evidence — I blush to say about my own Ministry — that they have lied about this case. They have covered it up."

Conspiracy

And so the conspiracy of silence continues, though these determined ladies have no intention of giving up their pursuit of the truth.

Their book raises some awkward questions about the USAF bases in East Anglia in view of Mrs Thatcher's decision to allow them to be used by F-111 bombers for the attack on Libya.

Quite clearly we have little control over the bases and, when something untoward occurs, lose no time in helping the US cover it up.

I do not believe that the UFO which disturbed the Suffolk woodland on that wintry night carried some spooky visitors from a distant planet.

No, the explanation is much simpler. A UFO it was — an American military spacecraft which had been on an illegal mission in outer space years ahead of President Reagan's beloved Star Wars programme.

1975 central Canada experienced one of its worst earthquakes.

There were similar sightings before last year's Mexico quake.

But although the scientists believe they know the reason for the strange lights, they still cannot explain how they happen.

Adam Edwards

EASTERN EVENING NEWS, Norwich, England - April 8, 1986 CR: T. Good

Letters

INTRIGUED BY UFO REPORT

I WAS most intrigued to read the page and article in the Evening News on Thursday, March 13, about the UFO sighting at Wymondham.

At 6 p.m. on Wednesday, March 12, I switched on my TV and discovered that the set was completely dead on all channels. The same socket was capable of

operating a lamp, so I replaced the fuse in the TV plug, but the TV still would not operate. After a few hours had elapsed, I tried again and the set operated perfectly.

Personal experiences in the past with UFO sightings in this area have sparked off my interest in the subject sufficiently to read

more about such things.

My own conclusion is that the UFO sighting may have some bearing on my set malfunction. I would be interested to hear through your columns whether other readers experienced similar blackouts on the night in question.

V. C. RUTHERFORD.
Maple Close, Wymondham.

GUARDIAN, Kyneton, Victoria, Australia - May 9, 1986

UFO scare for mum, daughter

A mother and daughter were a "little frightened" by a very distinctive, bright unidentified Flying Object near Lancefield on Monday evening.

Mrs Brenda Hommelhoff, of Lancefield, was returning from Romsey with her daughter O'dette at about 8.10 pm when the incident occurred.

Mrs Hommelhoff said an exceptionally bright light was noticed near Boundary Road.

"It was very bright, circular, and almost irresistible. We just kept looking at it," she said.

Mrs Hammelhoff said the experience was quite frightening.

As they turned into Graham Road, Mrs Hammelhoff and O'dette noticed the light change completely into an arrow shape, emitting yellow and green light.

She said the color was very intense. "It then took off at a steady, fast speed."

"I turned off the car and wound down the window — there was hardly any noise, just a dull hum as the light sped away."

"There was a red light at the rear," she said.

Mrs Hammelhoff said the UFO was definitely not a helicopter.

CR: J. Magee

About eight years ago during a widely-publicised sighting in Bendigo, Mrs Hammelhoff said she saw a light exactly the same as the one first noticed on Monday evening.

She said she has since heard of a Romsey man who had a similar sighting a few nights earlier.

SIMILAR DESCRIPTION

The UFO Research Centre in Melbourne said there had been no other reports from the area on Monday evening, but a spokesman said Mrs Hammelhoff's description matched descriptions which arose from a spate of sightings in the Bamawm area of northern Victoria several years ago.

Anyone in the Lancefield area who saw similar lights to those described by Mrs Hammelhoff can contact the UFO Research Centre in Pascoe Vale Road, Essendon.

OBSERVER, Morley, England - April 17, 1986 CR: YUFOS

UFO over Morley?

THE YORKSHIRE UFO Society would like to hear from anyone in the Morley area who saw a large circular object with multicoloured lights in the skies over Morley recently.

Mr. Philip Mantle, an investigator with the society, said a woman from Bradford who was travelling home along the Bradford/Wakefield

Road around 8.30 p.m. on March 24 initially saw a row of lights.

She and her husband were looking towards Leeds when they saw the unidentified object and they pulled into a layby near the Tingley Working Men's Club to observe it further.

The object appeared to be moving towards Leeds

and was about two or three miles away and a number of other people in cars pulled into the layby to look at the object, Mr. Mantle added.

Mr. Mantle said the society was trying to locate the other car drivers and anyone else in the area who saw it.

Anyone who saw the object can contact Mr. Mantle on Batley 444049.

MAIL ON SUNDAY, London, England - May 18, 1986 CR: T. Good

Shaking news for UFO-lovers

AMERICAN scientists believe they have a key clue to the mystery of UFOs.

A recent study claims that sightings of unidentified flying objects are related to earthquakes.

Dr Michael Persinger and Dr John Derr say that most UFO sightings are at night and involve red, orange or

white lights. "The majority of serious sightings are reported in the months before an earthquake," said Dr Persinger.

And most are within 20 kilometres of the epicentre, he claims.

There were frequent sightings in Manitoba, in Canada, in late 1974. In July



FROM BEYOND: Two participants in a UFO convention in San Diego

Religion of UFOs and the people who really believe

By GWEN DAMBROFSKY
The Canadian Press

EDMONTON

PREPARING earth for the arrival of space-ships from the Intergalactic Confederation is the job of Ruth Norman, known to her followers as the Archangel Uriel.

In the driveway of her El Cajon, Calif., home, the 82-year-old widow — dressed in a luminous gold gown, a rainbow cape and a blonde pompadour wig — posed regally with a handsome young attendant for Edmonton photographer Douglas Curran.

Her portrait is one of many startling images to be found in Curran's book, *In Advance of the Landing: Folk Concepts of Outer Space*.

Through photos and text, Curran looks at the UFO subcultures of Canada and the United States, from the New Age Foundation — a group which meets annually at Mount Rainier, Wash., to summon aliens — to John Shepherd, a Bellaire, Mich., man who turned his grandmother's house into a UFO-detecting station.

There are also strange examples of how UFOs have been absorbed into popular culture: a flying saucer landing pad built by the town of St. Paul, Alta., as a centennial year project; and numerous gas stations, coffee shops and houses built to represent imagined UFOs.

Curran began his research more than eight years ago, prompted in part by philosopher Carl Jung's writings on flying saucers.

"I never really had an interest in flying saucers and I still don't," Curran said in a telephone interview from Dallas, where he is working on his next book about tent preachers in the southern United States.

"But it seemed the UFO phenomenon had a higher value than just its obvious sensationalism."

IN ADVANCE OF THE LANDING: Folk Concepts of Outer Space. By Douglas Curran. Abbeville Press, \$19.95.

In fact, Curran calls it a religion and points out that every group he contacted incorporates Jesus Christ into its beliefs.

"The myopia of religions and beliefs is one of the reasons for trying to do the book the way I did," Curran said. His ideas about religion were driven home when he started interviewing tent revivalists for his new book.

"I'm now dealing with religious zealots who have far more rigid beliefs about the nature of God than any of the UFO people ever did. The UFO people were genuinely generous and gracious. It was sufficient for me to be there and listen. They never demanded that I believe, whereas the people I'm with now, it's like, 'Sure, you can hang around and photograph me, but you gotta get down on your knees.'"

Travelling in a second-hand car which doubled as a bed, Curran spent two or three months at a time on the road, visiting conventions and chasing down leads on individual UFO enthusiasts.

He also handed out postcards asking people to send any information they might have on unidentified flying objects to North Battleford, Sask. — his home at the time.

One postcard ended up in the hands of Tom Wolfe, who was at the time writing his book about the early days of the U.S. space program, *The Right Stuff*.

The two men began corresponding regularly, and eventually Wolfe wrote a glowing forward for Curran's book.

One of the misconceptions about UFO groups is "that they're filled with rank schizophrenics and misogynist paranoids," Curran said.

"Actually, they're very average people in all aspects of their lives."

AUSTRALIAN, Adelaide, S.A., Australia

May 26, 1986 CR: J. Magee

Crashed UFO may have been a spy satellite

By MATTHEW WARREN

AN unidentified flying object that crashed off the South Australian coast on Saturday may be the remains of a spy or land-resources satellite.

According to an Adelaide airport spokesman the trajectory and approach of the falling object suggested it was the re-entry of a satellite on a polar orbit.

This is the type of orbit used by low-flying spy and land-resources satellites to enable them to cover the whole Earth by traversing it from pole to pole.

It is believed the Department of Defence was not expecting any space junk to fall over Australia, which may increase the likelihood of it being the remains of a spy satellite. It is unlikely such a satellite would

be claimed or identified by its owners.

Air traffic controller, Mr Richard Challis, said the object had not been picked up by the Adelaide airport radar but all the evidence of its re-entry pointed to it being man-made.

"Meteorites are supposed to come in at a much steeper angle than this did," he said.

Police said a number of meteorites had fallen in the area since Halley's Comet passed the Earth in March, but agreed this appeared to be man-made.

A number of eye witnesses saw the object spear across the sky about noon on Saturday and described it as bright and large, leaving a trail across the sky.

USA TODAY, Arlington, VA - May 23, 1986

Brazilians investigate UFO reports

By Harold Emert
Special for USA TODAY

RIO DE JANEIRO — The Brazilian air force Thursday named a panel to investigate sightings of 20 UFOs described as red, white and green balls of lights that moved between 160 and 990 mph across the sky.

Six air force jets chased the ping pong ball-sized objects earlier this week but were forced to land when fuel ran low, officials said.

Among the witnesses was Oziros Silva, head of the state-run oil company. Silva, a pilot, was about to land his plane in Sao Jose dos Campos when he spotted 13 of the UFOs and gave chase. His radar screen picked up the objects.

Rio de Janeiro eyewitness Sonia Grumbach said she saw a bright light for 15 minutes that traveled at "incredible ve-



By Suzy Parker, USA TODAY

locity" and seemed to jump.

"It is not a question of believing or not," said Air Force Minister Octavio Moreira Lima. "This requires technical information and we have neither replies nor technical explanations for what happened."

MAIL, Oxford, England - May 16, 1986

CR: T. Good

Just a flying visit to the pub!

LANDLORD Ray Grimes insists he had not been drinking on the night he saw a UFO in the skies above his pub near Woodstock!

Mr Grimes, who runs the Duke of Marlborough, said he watched the strange object for about two minutes before it vanished.

Fascinating

"It was a little after midnight and I was out in the garden walking the dogs. I spotted a brilliant white light in the sky, moving slowly downward."

He said: "As I watched, it suddenly split into two before coming together again, then dropped down towards the horizon."

"I stood on a chair to get a better look and I then called out to my wife. But the object suddenly turned orange and vanished. It was the most fascinating thing I've ever seen."

Mr Grimes is convinced that it was not a plane, a meteor or the planet Venus.

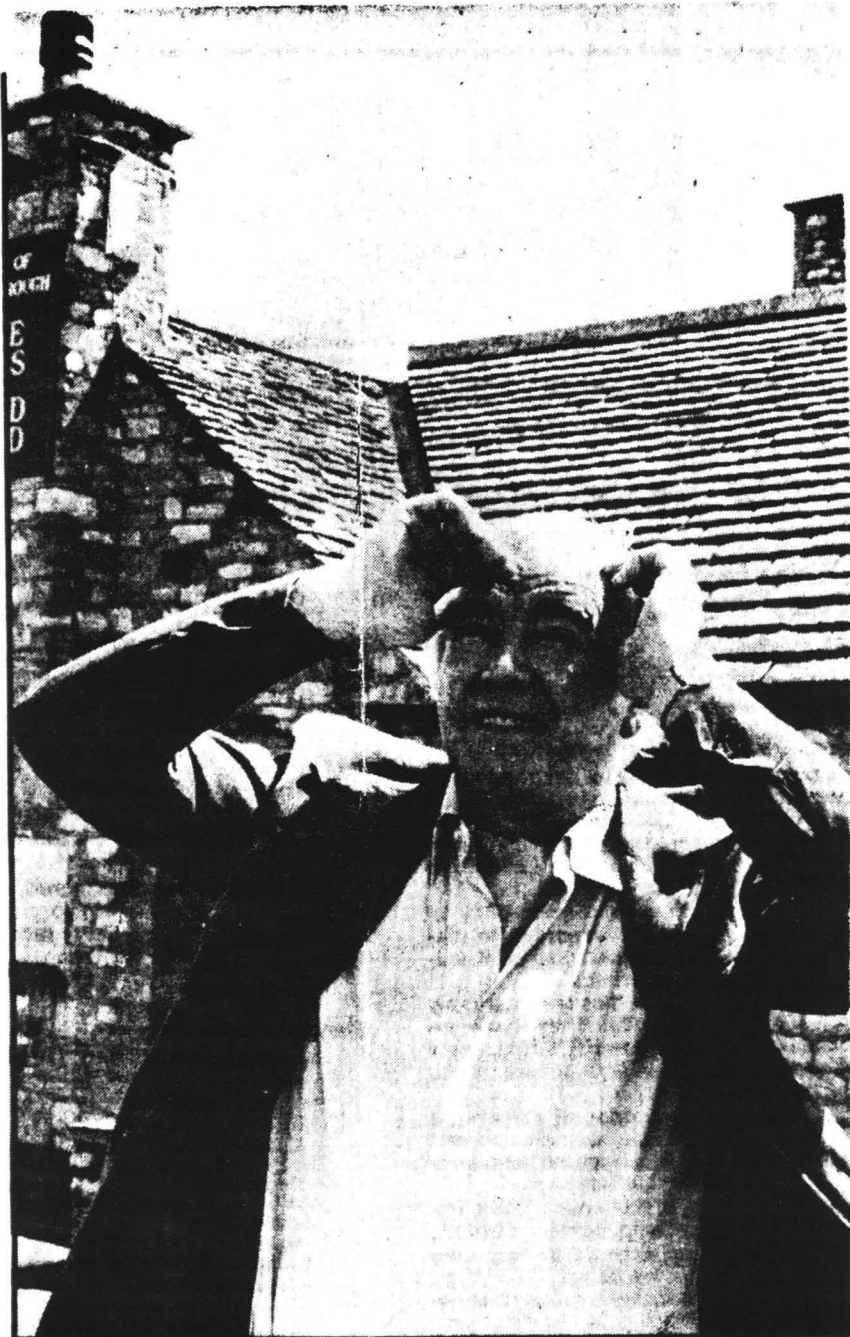
He added: "I know people might think that because I'm a landlord

It's a UFO said man who saw the light

I might have had a drink or two, but that's not true. I didn't tell the regulars the next day because I thought they would laugh. But I definitely saw something weird."

Mr Derek Mansell, of Wheatley, treasurer of a UFO research group, said: "We have had other reports in the past of UFOs splitting in two and then coming together again. There appears to be no normal explanation to this incident, and I will be investigating it."

One remote possibility was that it might have been a satellite burning up as it re-entered the atmosphere.



STILL LOOKING ... landlord Ray Grimes outside his Woodstock pub

R.A.A.F. investigation into U.F.O. sighting

ADELAIDE — R.A.A.F. officials will investigate reports that an unidentified flying object crashed into the sea near Victor Harbour, about 70 km south of Adelaide on Saturday.

The object was unofficially logged as a meteorite by the R.A.A.F. at the Edinburgh Base, north of Adelaide.

The object was seen by dozens of people throughout the State's south-east, from as far apart as Kingston, Mt Gambier and parts of western Victoria.

Newspapers yesterday carried stories of the object crashing into Victor Harbour.

One apparent eyewitness described the object as resembling a cruise missile. The stories said a R.A.A.F. Hercules had spotted the object.

Another witness, Thornleigh farmer Neil Sutherland, told local police that the object looked like a rocket, with a propeller-like device at the rear, fins "and a fair bit of red paint".

Mr Sutherland described the fast-moving tube-shaped object as "much bigger than a family car".

Beachport resident Gary Chambers said he had seen the object for only a few seconds as it came down.

"It looked like a falling star, but in broad daylight," Mr Chambers said.

"It was very high up."

"I thought it burned up above the horizon."

Defence Department spokesman Major Andy Reynolds said the R.A.A.F. would investigate the reports, as they did with every U.F.O. sighting.

"The R.A.A.F. will have to do a lot of leg work by the looks of things, going on the number of sourced and un-sourced comments on the matter," Major Reynolds said.

"But it all seems extremely loose at the moment."

"Air Force investigators will talk to everyone who reported seeing the object, and the whole thing will go ahead from there."

Major Reynolds said he did not know when the investigation would start.

BURTON DAILY MAIL, Staffordshire, England - May 21, 1986 CR: T. Good

A 'close encounter' puzzle for couple

Reports of a cigar shaped cluster of stars are to be investigated by Derbyshire UFO experts after a Burton couple contacted the Mail.

Pensioners Leo and Jose Barker, have been bewildered in the last month by sightings of fast moving stars, trailing a red light, usually shortly before dusk.

From the living room of their home in Waterside Road, Stapenhill, the couple claim to have seen the lights on 14 consecutive nights. But sometimes clouds have hidden the strange looking set of stars from sight.

SCEPTICAL

Mrs Barker is sceptical about the existence of alien objects and is keeping an open mind. But she admits she and her husband are mystified.

"I have never seen anything like it before. I have never seen a star move across the sky so quickly. I first saw it a month ago. Then I forgot about it. When I saw it again through binoculars it was cigar shaped with a mass of stars and a red piece of light at the end of it. We saw it last night but not for long because of the clouds."

"It is high in the sky and we can see it for about two hours before it disappears. We've got no theories at all about what it could be. Maybe someone who knows about stars could tell us. I've thought about writing to Patrick Moore about it. Our neighbours have seen it but just laugh it off."

Husband Leo, a retired miner of Cadley Hill colliery, has challenged anyone to come down and see the lights for themselves.

"If they don't believe us they can come and look. I didn't believe in UFO's but I believe in them now."

Mr Peter Ann, Derbyshire group leader of the National UFO Investigation Society, said checks would be made to see if there was a rational explanation.

"We get many reports of this kind made to us in good faith. Sometimes it can turn out to be a satellite or planet, or even an aircraft. We do checks scientifically. If we think this is a possible UFO sighting we will send the Barkers a report form."

● Anyone else who may have seen the object should contact Mr Dennis Harriman, 0602 730919.

CR: J. Magee

RAAF has no plans to seek car-sized UFO

By Police Reporter GRAHAM HUNTER

An unidentified flying object "much bigger than a family car" is lying at the bottom of Encounter Bay, Victor Harbor, after plummeting to earth soon after midday on Saturday.

The object, unofficially logged as a meteorite by the RAAF base at Edinburgh, was seen by dozens of people from as far south as Port MacDonnell in the South-East and south-western Victoria.

Senior Constable G. A. Clemow, of Beachport, said he and several other Beachport people had seen a large, smoke-colored vapor trail left by the object as it sped past at cloud height.

The trail had taken more than five minutes to begin dispersing.

Sen. Const. Clemow said a Thornleigh farmer, Mr Neil Sutherland, had told him the object looked like a rocket, with a propeller-like device at the rear, fins "and a fair bit of red paint".

Mr Sutherland had described the fast-moving tube as "much bigger than a family car".

Beachport resident Mr Gary Chambers said he had seen the object for only a few seconds as it came down.

"It looked like a falling star, but in broad daylight," Mr Chambers said.

"It was very high up. I thought it burned up above the horizon."

JAPAN TIMES, Tokyo, Japan - May 25, 1986 CR: Y. Matsumura

Pilots Describe Brazilian UFO Chase

BRASILIA (AP) — An air force pilot said Friday that he chased a UFO over southeastern Brazil, and said the object "couldn't be anything in existence."

Lt. Kleber Caldas Marinho, 25, said he pursued but could not catch one of the objects sighted flying over the city of Sao Jose dos Campos on Monday night.

"It was a pulsating light, red and white, mostly white," Marinho said at a press conference at air force headquarters in Brasilia. "It was not a star. It

couldn't have been another plane. It couldn't be anything in existence."

The pilot said his U.S.-made F5E fighter approached to within 19.6 km of the object, but had to turn back because of low fuel, Marinho said.

Capt. Marcio Jordao, another F5E pilot, said he saw "a red light that didn't vary, but evidently was moving. I got to within 40 km but I couldn't go any faster. Visibility was great. There were no clouds or other air traffic."

Mr George Thorn, of Victor Harbor, said his wife had seen the object falling towards the sea. Moments later, through binoculars, he had seen what he thought at the time to be a very large red and white boat bobbing up and down in the heavy swell, about five kilometres offshore.

It had sunk moments later and three boats which went to the area almost immediately had found nothing.

Police and RAAF officials said they knew of no plans to look for the object, lying in at least 20 fathoms of water.

A department spokesman in Adelaide said no RAAF Hercules had reported anything and

Col. Ozires Silva, president of the state oil company Petrobras, who was flying in a private plane near Sao Jose dos Campos Monday night, confirmed the sightings.

"It wasn't like any of the classical flying objects seen in the movies," Silva said in a televised interview. "It wasn't in the form of a flying saucer or plate. Instead, what I saw were illuminated points."

The air force said a commission had been formed to investigate the sightings.

there was no sighting on any radar screens.

He said the department would investigate but he knew only what had been reported.

He said he was curious about a witness who described the object as looking like a cruise missile.

"What does a cruise missile look like? I work in defence and I've never seen one," he said.

As for the chance that the object was an extraterrestrial that would not show up on radar, the spokesman said with a chuckle: "There's a possibility it could be anything, if in fact there is something, but at the moment we know nothing."

'UFO' book updated

AN updated version of a book which has been a talking point in Suffolk, "Sky Crash", by a female trio of UFO investigators, was launched yesterday. The book is said to contain "startling new informa-

tion" about an alleged UFO landing in Rendlesham Forest, near Woodbridge, in December, 1980.

The authors, Brenda Butler, Dot Street and Jenny Randles, allege cover-up by officialdom on both sides of the Atlantic following the alleged sighting by USAF men, from the nearby air base, of the UFO landing. The new book is published by Grafton Books at £2.95.

TRANSLATIONS

City and country of incident: Brunflo, Jamtlands Region, Sweden
Date of incident: April 17, 1986
Name of newspaper and date of clip: OSTERSUNDS-POSTEN, May 6, 1986
City and country of newspaper: Ostersund, Sweden

[CREDIT: Erik Fredriksson]

SAW ONE GIGANTIC 150 METER LONG FLOATING OBJECT

At the UFO conference in Ostersund was a visitor with an interesting experience. About three weeks ago, Karl Axelsson from Brunflo discovered something very remarkable.

"I don't believe it myself," he told O-P.

It was on Monday evening, April 17, that Karl Axelsson from Brunflo had his most remarkable experience of his life.

During the evening, his mother-in-law was visiting and when he was driving her home, they observed a strange light phenomenon in the hazy evening, he said.

Karl Axelsson returned later to the sighting location with his binoculars. What he saw was so sensational that he is still really upset when he re-tells the story.

Gigantic object.

Right over one hill, Sheepskin Hill, was a gigantic floating object, about 150 meters long. The whole object was divided into sections and looked like a lighted cement block. At the top of the object were two searchlights rotating like a lighthouse.

Karl Axelsson observed the object for seven hours. During this time he made many interesting observations. At 21:45 was the regular Linje-flight from Stockholm to Frosön-Ostersund airport. Right before the plane appeared, the object seemed to pump out steam and when the plane passed, it was coated in a cloud.

Blinded by light.

On two further occasions, aircraft were passing, but at this time the light was closed, so as not to be discovered.

At one time during the remarkable observation, Karl Axelsson was really scared. He said: "Both rotating searchlights swept in an enormous arc. When the strong light was near me, I was quite blinded. Once, one of the searchlights beamed against me and my car. It was a frightening feeling."

The cone of light was formed as an endless corridor. Inside the corridor, one was not blinded, but became aware of a strong, squared shining light. Karl Axelsson was really frightened. He jumped out of the car and ran home, telephoning two of his workmates. One of them, Hakan Forslund, also engaged in UFO studies, said: "When we came up with Karl, the object had changed its position and was floating over the Lockne sea. I can agree with Karl's description. One of the things I noticed was that the searchlight beam from the object was much stronger than the foglight from the Lockne factory."

During the observation time, the object changed position four times. During one occasion, two small objects left the larger one. One of them circled over Grytans range.

"We were at most five who observed the object at the same time. I know others who saw the object, but they don't like to tell anything of the story," said Karl Axelsson. From that evening on, there were reports of a similar object from about the same location.

City and country of incident: Various locations, Brazil
Date of incident: May 19, 1986
Name of newspaper and date of clip: O GLOBO, May 22, 1986
City and country of newspaper: Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

[CREDIT: Robert Pratt - TRANSLATION CREDIT: Wendelle Stevens]

OZIRES CAME TO FOLLOW THE FLYING DISC

SAO JOSE DOS CAMPOS, SP -- Some hours after being received by the President of the Republic on a mission concerning the interests of Petrobras on land and sea, Colonel Ozires Silva still carried out another mission almost impossible, which culminated in reasonable developments and a flood of curiosity; at 2,000 meters altitude, he piloted a Xingu airplane, chasing for 30 minutes three unidentified flying objects.

Ozires Silva was approaching Sao Jose dos Campos at 21:00 Monday night, coming from Brazilia where he had had an audience with President Jose Sarney and with the Minister of Aeronautics, Brigadier General Octavio Moreira Lima. The pilot of the airplane, Alcir Pereira da Silva, who had worked for the enterprise for six years, was in contact with the control tower of the local airport and, when he began his approach and had descended to 6,000 from 12,000 meters altitude, he was advised that

right in his route, there was, in formation, three unidentified objects. The Ferraz de Vasconcelos Radar Station had found the UFOs in the Sao Paulo region where they made the first radar detection of the craft in the paulista airspace, within a range of 200 kilometers.

"We have spoken much of flying discs, but I never cared to see or know one up close," commented Ozires Silva to Pilot Alcir. Alcir immediately contacted Air Traffic Control at Sao Paulo and cancelled his approach, intending to pursue the objects. "There were at least two of them in the air," said Alcir Pereira to GLOBO, "they were red lights, very bright and much different from stars or aircraft, which changed position rapidly."

Authorized by Sao Paulo Control, Ozires and Alcir tried for several minutes to pursue the objects, seen primarily in the direction of Mogi das Cruzes, Sao Paulo, while at the same time others went in the direction of Ubatuba-Caraguatatuba, always above the Serra do Mar.

City and country of incident: Various locations, Brazil
Date of incident: May 19, 1986
Name of newspaper and date of clip: O GLOBO, May 22, 1986
City and country of newspaper: Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

[CREDIT: Robert Pratt - TRANSLATION CREDIT: Wendelle Stevens]

BAF RECORDS 3 UNIDENTIFIED OBJECTS IN THE SKIES OF THE COUNTRY

BRASILIA -- President Jose Sarney was informed the night of Monday to Tuesday by the Integrated Air Defense and Air Traffic Control Center of the passage of strange objects in the skies of Brazil. As Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, it was up to Sarney to decide if the three unidentified flying objects, tracked in the vicinity of Sao Jose dos Campos, should be shot down by the F-5E and Mirage III fighters from the Bases of Santa Cruz and Anapolis.

The decision did not have to be made. The unidentified objects flew in the direction of the paulist seacoast accompanied by one F-5E, which broke off pursuit at the 200 mile territorial limit at sea. Asked about the affair, President Sarney indicated that he did not take such UFOs very seriously.

"It seems a thing of Antonio Carlos (Magalhaes)," commented the President, ironically, with the Minister of Aeronautics, Octavio Julio Moreira Lima, some allusion to the Minister of Communications responsible for the dispatch of satellites.

The first to see the unidentified objects was the new president of Petrobras, Ozires Silva. His Xingu airplane was making a final approach for landing at San Jose dos Campos, when he saw some lights that could interfere with air traffic in the region.

The pilot of the Xingu communicated this information to the tower at Sao Jose dos Campos, who tracked some things and alerted the Integrated Defence Control center in Brasilia. The Defense Center scrambled three F-5E fighters from Santa Cruz, and one of them, at 21:45, located three objects by radar. It approached it to a distance of four miles, and saw three lights of green, red and white color, which withdrew in the direction of the ocean.

The instruments aboard suffered interference until 22:15 when the pursuit was interrupted by lack of fuel.

At that instant, other unidentified radar contacts were discovered in the vicinity of Anapolis. Three Mirage III fighters, armed with Sidewinder missiles and Matra 530s, took off in the direction of Alvo and arrived to make contact with the unidentified objects by radar. Nevertheless, nothing was seen visually.

"For six years, I have served in this sector," said the Chief of Operations of the Air Defense Center, Major Ney Antunes Cerquiera, "and I have never seen anything like it. The last unidentified radar contact we had was in 1982."

The Minister of Aeronautics, Moreira Lima, confirmed this. According to him, "Dozens of contacts were made in the region between Rio, Sao Paulo and Sao Jose dos Campos. One of the F-5Es was chased by 13 objects that took positions on the right and left wings of the fighter."

Moreira Lima, in an informal conversation that evening, referred explicitly to "flying discs," and also confirmed the version of the new president of Petrobras, Ozires Silva, who first discovered the unidentified objects.

The Chief of the Ministry of Aeronautics, Brigadier Murillo Santos, also confirmed the fact and described the colors of the "12 objects" as "like the flag of Italy."

City and country of incident: Various locations, Brazil
Dates of incidents: May 21, 22, 1986
Name of source and date of article: Reuter News Agency, May 23, 1986
[CREDIT: COUD-1]

BRAZILIANS REPORT FURTHER UFO SIGHTINGS

SAO PAULO, Brazil, May 23, Reuter - Further sightings of unidentified flying objects were reported in Brazil today as an investigation continued into the scrambling of fighters Monday to intercept objects that appeared on radar screens.

Brazilian television showed film of a glowing, round object in the sky which was alleged to have been taken last night by a freelance cameraman near Maringa, in the southern state of Parana.

On Wednesday afternoon, the Air Force base in Fortaleza, capital of the northeastern state of Ceara, received numerous calls from residents about a dark, cigar-shaped object seen in the skies, the Jornal do Brasil said.

The Air Force Ministry has summoned pilots of three F-5s and two Mirage jets ordered into the air Monday from bases in southern Brazil to report on the sightings, which lasted for several hours, and disrupted civil air traffic.

(continued on page 16)

(continued from page 15)

Col. Ozires Silva, 55, head of the state oil company Petrobras, told reporters in Rio de Janeiro yesterday he had been piloting a light plane Monday night when he was advised by flight controllers of unidentified flying objects.

Ozires, who was preparing to land in Sao Jose dos Campos, just outside Sao Paulo, turned his plane in the direction indicated by the controllers and saw several bright lights.

The oil man, who began his remarks to journalists by saying "I am not a madman," said that in normal conditions they were the sort of lights that could be often seen by pilots.

But the difference this time was that the lights, which were orange and red and moving at a great speed, also appeared on radar, he said.

Ozires said he had felt reluctant to mention the incident.

"People who speak about flying saucers are normally not taken very seriously," he said.

"If it were not for the appearance on the radar, which is a concrete fact, I would not have had the courage to mention the subject," he said.

The government's announcement of the incident and its decision to investigate were greeted with delight by Brazilian UFO specialists.

"It is an historic happening, because it is the first time any government authority has declared itself on such matters," said Carlos Alberto Reis from the Sao Paulo Center for Aerospace Phenomena.

City and country of incident: Various locations, Brazil

Date of incident: May 19, 1986

Name of newspaper and date of clip: O GLOBO, May 23, 1986

City and country of newspaper: Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

[CREDIT: Robert Pratt - TRANSLATION CREDIT: Wendelle Stevens]

AERONAUTICS REPORTS ON THE UFOs SEEN IN THE SOUTH

BRASILIA -- The Ministry of Aeronautics is preparing an ample report on the UFOs detected Tuesday morning by the Integrated Defense Center and Air Traffic Control near Sao Jose dos Campos. Three objects were pursued, without success, by a Xingu aircraft piloted by President of Petrobras, Ozires Silva, and 13 others were pursued by F-5 fighters near the Serra do Mar.

There is still no approved hypothesis for the episode. A thesis that the objects were electromagnetic phenomena has not been discarded, likewise that the objects could be flying discs visiting Earth. The Minister of the Superior Military Tribunal, Brigadier General George Relham da Motta, remembers that, when still a Major, he observed a similar phenomenon in the vicinity of Recife, but had received orders not to comment on the event: "We don't want to be called lunatics."

"Please, I am not a lunatic!" This was precisely the good-humored reaction of the President of Petrobras, Ozires Silva, to the critical questions of the journalists of Rio concerning the three UFOs that he had pursued Tuesday morning near Sao Jose dos Campos. At the International Airport of Guarulhos, Commandante Ciro Campos, of VASP, said that in 15 years in Civil Aviation, he has never seen a UFO. "Depending on the meteorological circumstances, even a star can present different colors and forms," he explained. "The difference," reasoned Ozires Silva, "is that these objects had a positive image on radar."

The coordinator of the National Association of Ufologists of Brazil, Adilson Machado, reported that that organization was certain that the objects detected were flying discs. He added that the Vale do Paraiba, where Sao Jose dos Campos is, exactly where the UFOs appeared, is a region which includes geomagnetic anomalies in the South Atlantic, a locale where the magnetic field does not behave in a normal way.

In Bauru, astronomer Newton Eugenio Barreto, of the Astronomical Observatory, advised that to the end of the month, celestial bodies can be seen with ease in great detail. The Observatory has a Swiss-made telescope with a 1,200-power magnification. After word of the existence of UFOs in the Vale do Paraiba, the presence of persons interested in observing the universe increased substantially, raising interest in astronomy which, nevertheless, prefers to omit their opinion on the pursuit of the unidentified objects by Brazilian pilots on Tuesday night.

City and country of incident: Various locations, Brazil

Date of incident: May 19, 1986

Name of source and date of article: United Press International, May 24, 1986

[CREDIT: Robert Pratt]

Brasilia, Brazil (UPI) - Air Force and civilian pilots told a packed Aeronautics Ministry hearing room Friday how they chased "luminous, flashing lights" through the skies in an unprecedented news conference on UFOs.

It was the first time the Brazilian Air Force called a news conference to discuss the sighting of unidentified flying objects, known as UFOs.

During the two-hour conference, straight-faced military pilots occasionally broke into laughter along with the audience when they described heavily-armed fighter jets chasing "colored ping-pong balls" through the sky.

"We are just trying to present the whole truth to the press," Ministry spokesman Col. Adalberto de Rezende Rocha said. "We have registered a phenomenon of luminous, flashing lights and persistent radar screen blips that we cannot explain."

On Thursday, Aeronautics Minister Brig. Octavio Moreira Lima said the Air Force had sent out five fighter jets to chase "intense green, red and white lights moving at between 160 miles per hour and 990 miles per hour" through the sky over central Brazil late Monday night.

The lights, described by airborne witnesses as "colored ping-pong balls," were first seen by Ozires Silva, president of the state-run Petrobras

Oil Co., when he was flying toward an Air Force base 60 miles from Sao Paulo.

"What I saw didn't look like the classic flying discs I have seen on television or in magazines," Silva said. "They didn't have the forms of either a disc or a plate. What I saw were more than a dozen colored, luminous points."

The Air Force immediately scrambled two F-5E fighter jets and three Mirage F-103 jets, armed with Sidewinder and Matra 530 missiles, to "track and identify the objects," which appeared as persistent blips on a military air base radar.

A civilian pilot for the state-run Embraer aircraft-building company also was asked to search for the luminous objects.

"We saw a luminous point, and tried to approach it but it kept moving away from us," said pilot Alcir Pereira da Silva, 37. "Then we saw another and tried to pursue it, but it was impossible."

Air Force Lt. Kleber Caldas Marinho, a 25-year-old F-5E pilot who has been flying for 3½ years, flew up to 33,000 feet at 1,000 mph in chase of the luminous spots.

"One moment, it was green, red and white," he said. "I got to within 12 miles of it but figured the main idea was to observe it and since I was getting low on fuel I didn't try to get any closer and I returned to base," Marinho said.

"I would have to say it was exciting."

A second pilot, Capt. Marcio Brisolla Jordao, an experienced flyer, resumed the pursuit in a second F-5E, pushing to 945 mph in an 80-minute chase after a flashing red light that appeared on his radar screen.

The Mirage pilots also flew in pursuit, but they said all they saw were blips on their radars, saying the unidentified object moved in a zig-zag fashion at speeds surpassing 1,350 mph.

The Air Force has appointed a commission to study the case, but has not indicated when a report would be issued. Officials refused to say whether photographs had been taken of the UFOs, and said they were studying why only some of the fighter jets managed to spot the lights.

Early Friday, a private pilot who flew near Brasilia said that he had been surrounded and followed by the luminous lights for 460 miles.

"They looked like ping-pong balls that had their own light, but not like a star, which has rays or points," pilot Otto Nogueira said.

City and country of incident: Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro & Anapolis, Brazil

Date of incident: May 19, 1986

Names of newspapers and dates of clips: O GLOBO - JOURNAL DO BRASIL, May ?, 1986

City and country of newspapers: Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

[CREDIT: Alberto do Carmo - TRANSLATION CREDIT: Robert Pratt]

To intercept more than 20 UFOs over the skies of Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and Anapolis on Monday night, May 19, the Integrated Center of Air Defense and Air Traffic Control sounded the full alarm for attack. Less than five minutes later, six fighters, three Mirages from the Anapolis Air Force Base and three F5s from Santa Cruz Air Force Base, chased multi-colored lights, according to the recorded reports from the control centers.

The information is from the Minister of Aeronautics, General of the Air Moreira Lima, who informed President Jose Sarney that the Brazilian Air Force is waiting for a fuller report from the pilots.

During an interview at the Planalto Palace (in Brasilia), the minister of Aeronautics reported that at about 9 P.M. on Monday, the radar scopes in Sao Paulo became saturated with an enormous number of targets characterizing an invasion of Brazilian air space. Our interceptor bases were warned and the fighters took off, the minister said.

The Mirages flew over Brasilia while the F5s patrolled the air space from Sao Paulo to Sao Jose dos Campos and Rio de Janeiro. One of the F5 fighters was followed by 13 of the objects, seven on one side and six on the other, according to the radar controllers.

According to the Ministry, another pilot had the objects on his own radar screen and also saw them as multi-colored balls of light.

One of the most important witnesses in this event is the president of Embraer (the largest airplane manufacturer in the country), Ozires Silva, one of the most respected people in Brazil. He was on board a twin-prop executive Xingu approaching for a landing near Sao Jose dos Campos. At an altitude of 2,000 meters, the plane gave up the landing and chased three of the objects for 13 minutes.

The president of Embraer confirmed his sighting, as did the pilots, who were presented to the press last Friday at 6 P.M. They reported that, at times, instead of chasing the objects, they had been chased. The objects, which were green, red and white, flew off toward the Atlantic and left the range of the Brazilian radars.

Other objects were seen in recent days over the states of Parana, Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro and even a flying cigar over Fortaleza.

[TRANSLATOR'S NOTES: Alberto do Carmo said that Ozires Silva, one of the country's most respected industrialists, is considered so efficient as an executive that he temporarily left Embraer to take over the presidency of Petrobras, the government-owned petroleum corporation, which was in trouble. He ran both companies. Anapolis is in the state of Goias and is about 60 miles southeast of the federal capital of Brasilia. The Santa Cruz base is in the state of Rio de Janeiro. Sao Jose dos Campos is the high-tech center of the nation's military-industrial complex and is just northeast of Sao Paulo. The states of Parana, Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro are on the southeast coast of Brazil, while Fortaleza is the capital of Ceara on the country's northeast coast.]



ANCIENT FIND PROOF 'PAKEHAS BEFORE MAORIS'

A long-lost, local Stonehenge has been discovered in the Far North by an Australian naturalist who says it proves Europeans lived here before the Maoris.

But Rex Gilroy won't reveal exactly where it is.

"Because, sure as eggs, vandals will get to it and desecrate it before it can be protected," he said.

The outspoken Australian, whose views have been slammed by established anthropologists, told Truth of the Kiwi Stonehenge in an exclusive interview this week.

"It's there all right," said Gilroy from his Sydney home.

"I've seen it and I've got the photos in my camera to prove it."

He said the stone circle is about 13 metres (about 40 ft) across and the stones are between three and four feet tall.

He said it was probably a sundial of some sort.

Gilroy said it has been proved that a pale-skinned race inhabited much of the Pacific before the Maori came to New Zealand.

During his just-ended, two-week New Zealand tour Gilroy said he also photographed "Middle East-style" carvings in the Bay of Plenty.

Again he would not reveal their location for fear of vandalism.

However, he said he would post photos of the carvings and the rock circle to Truth.

Among other things Gilroy investigated on his lightning mystery-hunting tour included the Scrub

By John Wilson

Moa of Fiordland ("there is a slight chance there may be some still there") and the Taupo Monster.

He said he took a photograph of something "very large" just below the surface of Lake Taupo.

"A local professor claimed it was just a large Rainbow Trout," said Gilroy. "But if it was it has to be the biggest fish story of them all."

Reports over the years claim a water monster, similar in appearance to a small Loch Ness monster, has been seen in the lake.

Gilroy has made a life-long study of animals people claim are extinct.

He said he believes he now has definite proof that the famed — but never verified — Australian panther really exists.

Gilroy said he will be back to New Zealand to complete his investigations "as soon as I can raise enough money — probably in about two years."

His claims that Europeans preceded the Maoris have met with angry responses from Maori luminaries.

Notable among them is Dr Ranginui Walker, chairman of the Auckland District Maori Council, whose attack has been supported by leading Wellington archaeologist Jim McKinlay.

CHRONICLE, San Francisco, CA - June 2, 1986 CR: W. Thompson

Scientists to Check Out Odd Thing Off Eureka

By Charles Pettit
Science Correspondent

Navy and government scientists set sail from San Diego yesterday on a mission that may send a tiny deep-diving submarine to inspect a mysterious object moored in deep water 150 miles off California's north coast.

Perplexed marine geologists suspect that the object, discovered accidentally last fall when it snagged some instruments being towed by a research ship, is itself a package of instruments. But nobody knows who put them there, or when, or why.

Navy officials say it is not theirs. The Sea Cliff, a three-person research mini-submarine from San Diego, is expected to check to see whether it is harmless junk, high-tech Soviet eavesdropping gear or something else.

The little sub is unlikely to check the mystery object before mid August. In the meantime, several other ships will confirm its location with sonar and photographic gear during the course of other studies of the region.

The site, 10,000 feet deep in waters west of Eureka, is a volcano-dotted portion of the southern Gorda Ridge called the Escanaba Trough. The canyon runs roughly north and south 100 to 200 miles offshore from Cape Mendocino to mid-Oregon.

It is being intensely explored for valuable minerals.

The mysterious mooring was located accidentally in September, when the Samuel P. Lee, a 208-foot research ship based in Redwood City, "just stopped," snagged on something, according to Mark Holmes, an oceanographer on the vessel, which is operated by a unit of the U.S. Geological Survey in Menlo Park. When the engine was revved up and the ship moved ahead, several of the instruments trailing in the water were stripped from their cable.

When Holmes and scientist Janet Morton "reconstructed the crime," they concluded that their cable must have wrapped around another cable moored to the ocean floor.

William Normark, a USGS geologist in charge of operations in the Gorda Ridge, said in Menlo Park yesterday. "I am pretty sure that whatever it is, it was put there on purpose. I don't know any kind of lost fishing gear that would act that way, and because it tore our equipment right off the cable we know it's anchored down pretty solid."

Holmes was among several USGS scientists who left San Diego yesterday aboard a Navy tug, the Narragansett, which will use a towed "side-scan" sonar device to map the sea floor in several areas, including the location of the mysterious mooring and the Lee's lost gear.

The Lee is to join the survey in mid-July and accompany the submarine Sea Cliff and its tender to the site. An attempt to inspect and, if necessary, remove the unidentified mooring may come in mid-August.

POST, Washington, DC

June 2, 1986 CR: R. Swiatek

Return of the Bay Monster

■ Robins have been back for months (and lots did not even bother to go away last winter), summer is nigh, and so—it's sea monster time.

Yes, Chessie, the Chesapeake Bay's own version of the creature that made a legend of Loch Ness, has been reported spotted again, this time in a bay tributary on the Eastern Shore.

It happened May 25. Dr. Jack Bishop, a dentist of Easton, Md., and a friend, Kenneth Bordrie, owner of a furniture store, said they saw Chessie before sundown while Bordrie was showing his boat to Bishop. They were on a dock, and they said the creature was about 100 yards away in the Tred Avon River.

It swam in a snakelike fashion, they said, then sped off downriver.

About 30 sightings of Chessie have been reported since 1978, and a Kent Island, Md., man made a videotape in 1982 purporting to show the beast.

Bishop said the creature had three sections, each about 15 feet long and four feet wide.

— Associated Press

CHRONICLE, Houston, TX - June 1, 1986 CR: J. Buehring

'Fever' could have burned image on Shroud of Turin

TAMPA, Fla. (UPI) — A human phenomenon known as "post-mortem fever" could have burned the markings of a body on the Shroud of Turin, believed to have covered the body of Jesus Christ after his crucifixion, an archaeologist says.

The process may add credence to theories the shroud was used at the time of Christ's burial and the scorched imprint of a man's body on the cloth was caused by a "burst of energy" at the time of Christ's resurrection, James Strange of the University of South Florida said Friday.

There have been allegations the image was faked with special photographic and laser techniques.

Strange, an internationally acclaimed archaeologist, said scientists may have found a method of duplicating scientifically the markings on the shroud.

The key to the discovery, Strange

said Friday before boarding a plane to Israel, lies in the phenomenon known as "post-mortem fever."

"What we found out from morticians and pathologists was that fever actually advances for an hour or two after death, instead of just immediately dropping off," Strange said.

In an experiment this spring in Salt Lake City, Strange and other scientists took a medical mannequin to a first-century tomb in Jerusalem.

"We added enough hot water so that the mannequin's temperature at the time of burial was 115 degrees," Strange said. "We then wrapped the mannequin in cloth and added myrrh and aloes, a customary practice at the time."

One of the scientists with Strange said the "scorching effect" could have been a natural biological reaction caused by death under stressful circumstances.

STARS & STRIPES, Washington, DC

May 25, 1986 CR: R. Reid

At least 100 die, 9,000 injured in violent hailstorm in China

PEKING (UPI) — A violent hailstorm killed more than 100 people and injured at least 9,000 in central Sichuan province this week in the worst tempest in 100 years, officials said Thursday.

Huge hailstones began pelting southeastern Sichuan near the World War II capital of Chongqing at 1 a.m. Tuesday, striking 13 districts and counties in the province, the official China Central Television reported.

More than 100 people were killed and at least 9,000 injured by the shower of ice, which pounded the cities of Yongchuan, Tongchang and Dazu, officials in Chongqing told United Press International.

'Foul air' sends 27 to hospital here

By GARRY WESNER
Record Staff Writer

A cloud of unidentified gas that spread over an area between the 400 block of South Delaware Avenue and the 1200 block of West Alameda Street late Wednesday sent 27 people — 22 of them children — to the hospital.

All but one of the victims arrived at Eastern New Mexico Medical Center at 9 p.m. complaining of smarting eyes, throat

irritation, difficulty in breathing and vomiting.

Ray Pena of 412 S. Delaware Ave. said he reported the gas to authorities. He told the Daily Record he, his wife, and their eight children were "just watching TV," when they started breathing the gas.

Pena said he was told to take the family outside where it was thought the air would be clear. However, he said, it was worse outside.

While it was uncertain Wednesday night what the gas was and where it came from, Dr. Larry Ydens of the ENMMC Emergency Room said doctors ruled out carbon monoxide poisoning through blood tests of the victims.

One victim was 13-year-old Mike Etheredge, son of Peggy Etheredge of 104 S. Union Ave., who was attending a Scout meeting at Central Assembly of God Church, 1200 W. Alameda St. Etheredge said he and the other Scouts went outside to play

at about 8:30 p.m., but were called back inside by leaders after less than 10 minutes because "everyone who came in was coughing and couldn't see straight."

After he arrived home, Etheredge said he heard on a home police scanner that the victims were being sent to the hospital, "so my mother said get me down here."

Hospital personnel, led by Ydens and Nursing Supervisor Gail Peyton, started each of the

victims on pure oxygen as soon as he or she arrived, leaving some people to sit in wheelchairs and three or more children on each bed.

Ydens called for blood gas tests to determine if there was any danger and ER nurses Tracy Zogg and Monica Webb, who were joined by nurses hastily called from other areas of the hospital, began drawing blood from the crying children, some as young as 2 and 3 years old.

However, Ydens said, the results of the tests did not turn up any abnormalities and all 27 people were released to go home.

"Everybody looks like they're doing just fine," he said, adding that he told them to call their regular doctor if they feel sick in the next few days.

Two young children about whom Ydens said he was concerned were released with the rest of the victims, as was a pregnant woman doctors were monitoring.

Pena said the smell wasn't "like normal gas. It's smelling that makes you choke." He described the smell as "like a powder."

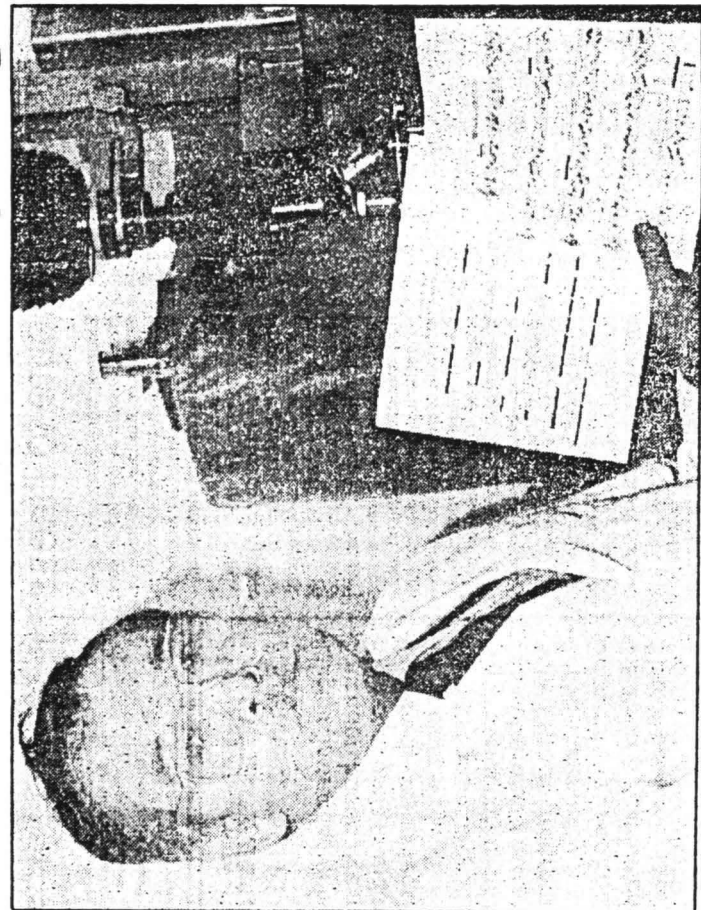
He added that, "I thought it was something inside the house... they (the children) cried all the way over — screaming and throwing up. A nightmare."

Etheredge was released to his mother and grandmother after blood samples were taken and oxygen administered.

Ydens told him to go home and sleep, the boy said, adding that the few minutes of oxygen helped his throat feel better and made his breathing easier.

Ms. Webb expressed her appreciation to the other areas of the hospital for their assistance, while Ydens said three local doctors, Don R. Clark, Jerry Z. Ainsworth and William G. Laikos, responded to the hospital from home after hearing of the emergency.

Scientist translates chemistry of genes into music



Dr. Susumu Ohno claims to have discovered a link between music and the chemistry of genes.

DUARTE, Calif. (UPI) — When Francis Crick and James Watson unraveled the structure of DNA more than a quarter of a century ago, little did they know the genetic blueprint for life also might serve as a source of music.

Not just any music — but melodies that can be likened to the Baroque and Romantic periods and to the austere dissonances and to the 20th century master composer Igor Stravinsky.

Dr. Susumu Ohno, who holds the title distinguished scientist at the City of Hope Medical Center in suburban Duarte, claims to have discovered what he calls "the primordial secret," a link between music and the chemistry of genes.

DNA, deoxyribonucleic acid, is the chemical component of genes. It is responsible for all inherited characteristics of every form of life, determining everything from susceptibility to certain diseases to eye color, height and life span.

By translating the basic chemistry of DNA into musical notes, musicians are performing Ohno's scores created from cancer genes, genes for antibodies and those that code for enzymes.

When played, a cancer-causing gene called an oncogene, sounds somber, slightly out of control.

An enzyme that breaks down lactose, simple milk sugar, sounds like a lullaby. The tune, recorded by a violinist, has been played in several kindergartens in Tokyo and always helps put the children to sleep at naptime, Ohno said.

The melody of a synthetic antibody responsible for detoxifying the chemical phenol sounds lively, light-hearted.

"I had no formal training in music," explained the reproductive geneticist. "I knew the basic position of notes but that was all, absolutely nothing more."

Scientists to Listen Harder for Signs of ET

PHILADELPHIA—In the 25 years that scientists have been listening for radio signals from intelligent beings elsewhere in the universe, they have not picked up good evidence that anybody is out there. Skeptics have taken the failure as a strong indication that earthlings are alone.

But, according to Jill Tartar of the University of California at Berkeley, there is still good reason to hope.

Tartar, who works with NASA's Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence program, told last week's meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) here that searches so far have examined less than one ten-millionth of the radio spectrum and the volume in outer space from which such signals might come.

Accordingly, Tartar said, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration is in the middle of a five-year program of research and planning to design the largest and most intensive search for extraterrestrial intelligence ever undertaken. Once started, the search would last decades.

She said searches so far have used existing radio telescopes to scan briefly for signals. The current research program, she said, will design and build equipment intended to pick out steady or regularly pulsing radio signals from the background noise of jumbled radio signals emitted naturally by stars and other objects.

There is not much time left to carry out the search, she said, because earthlings are increasing the amount of radio noise they generate, threatening soon to jam any intelligent signals that may be radiating through the galaxy.

usually in DNA.

Ohno believes in a basic quantitative way music may be the idiom through which genes, one day, will be better understood.

"I treat this as I would a mathematical problem. So the relationship between music and DNA isn't surprising at all. The question I think this poses is why do we like certain melodies?" Ohno asks.

He thinks the music of the great composers may have been inherent in their genes and that his system of creating music from genes may have some practical applications for scientists.

"If you want to study, for example, which genes are for certain antibodies, you can look at the sequences and put them into a computer and compare. That's very boring."

"But what I am hoping, instead, is that one can put them into music and by listening you can figure out what the gene is for."

Ohno's work has enlightened scientific thinking on an earlier occasion.

In 1979, he was awarded the Amory Prize for scientific research with his description of the H-Y antigen's role in mammalian embryonic development. The antigen determines the development of male characteristics.

In Ohno's scheme of linking chemicals to notes, heavier molecular weight molecules assume the lower positions, lighter weight molecules are assigned higher positions.

DNA, which has the appearance of a twisted ladder, has a distinct chemical composition.

If the helix were to be unwound, the rungs of the ladder would appear as a few repeating units, the purine-pyrimidine bases of which there are only four — adenine, thymine, guanine and cytosine.

"This is where periodicity comes in," Ohno said of his hypothesis linking melody to chemistry. "The bases always pair in a certain way. Adenine with thymine, guanine with cytosine."

"Since there are only four, you assign two positions each (on the musical staff). Once these rules were decided, one could do interesting things," the geneticist said.

Taking one of 19th century composer Frederic Chopin's nocturnes and translating the notes into a genetic sequence, Ohno found it produced the structure of the enzyme RNA polymerase-II.

Chopin's "Funeral March" resembles a cancer-causing gene. In each case, notes of the melody and refrain produce the purine-pyrimidine pairing that occur naturally in DNA.

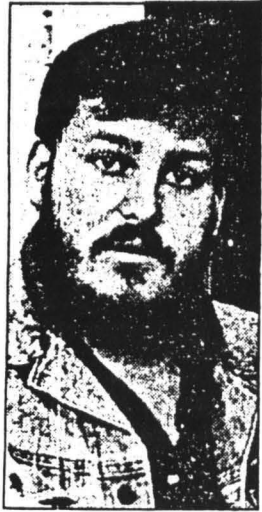
there are four seasons in the year while the moon waxes and wanes. Even mating calls of song birds have distinct periodicities in the form of repeated melodies.

"It's very simple," said Ohno of the process he has created to correlate the basic chemistry of genes to notes of the musical scale.

"The relationship is found between the molecular weights of the purine-pyrimidine bases (the basic chemistry of DNA) and the positions of notes on the staff," he said.

In a scheme he calls periodicity to reflect the repetitious nature of the musical refrain and recurring chemical components of DNA, Ohno hypothesizes that all of nature is characterized by repetitions — Earth spinning on its axis, the revolution of planets around the sun.

"Ever since the creation of life on this Earth eons ago, our lives have been dominated by multitudes of periodicities. "There are nights and days and



Bill Cacciolfi

Yellow Springs man leads search for Abominable Snowman

By Mark Fisher
STAFF WRITER

YELLOW SPRINGS — Bill Cacciolfi and four fellow adventurers spent much of February and March in the Himalaya Mountains trekking up steep, narrow mountain trails, fighting altitude sickness and searching for evidence of the Abominable Snowman.

"The whole thing was fun," he said.

Cacciolfi, 25, a former U.S. Air Force sergeant and owner of New World Expeditions in Yellow Springs, organized the expedition to Nepal, returning March 31. He was accompanied by a Fairborn restaurant owner, a Columbus physician, a Dayton tax agent and a Yellow Springs business owner who each paid \$4,000 to join the trek.

The team landed in Kathmandu in late February

and flew from there to a small air base near Mount Everest. Cacciolfi and the others then began a 10-day, 90-mile trek that took them to Pangboche, a village 14,000 feet above sea level.

"We climbed the most physically demanding trails that each of us has ever been on. I mean we're talking goat trails, with straight drops of 800 to 900 feet — and I'm afraid of heights," Cacciolfi said.

The trek took Cacciolfi to within seven miles of Mount Everest.

"It was neat to wake up in the morning when everything would be dark except the top of Mount Everest, and it would be a glowing pinnacle," he said.

The scenery made up for the altitude sickness, which Cacciolfi said caused occasional bouts of fatigue, irritability and loss of appetite.

One of Cacciolfi's goals for the expedition was to

search for and document evidence of the Yeti, or Abominable Snowman. Cacciolfi said the team received permission from Buddhist religious leaders to examine and handle a scalp- and handlike pieces that allegedly came from a Yeti and are kept in monasteries.

The team also was introduced to a woman who claimed her son was attacked by a Yeti several years earlier. She gave Cacciolfi a sample of hair from a piece of fur she said her son cut from the Yeti during the attack.

Cacciolfi said he intends to send samples of the stiff, brown-black fur to the University of Chicago and the Smithsonian Institution for analysis and comparison against native animals.

"(The fur) may be from a yak, or it may be from

some other animal," Cacciolfi said. "The best we can hope for is if it comes back 'undetermined.'"

"I'm personally skeptical, and everyone on the expedition was skeptical. But at least we had something to bring back."

After returning to Kathmandu, Cacciolfi set off on a safari through more tropical regions of Nepal. He rode on an elephant's back through thick jungles, seeing rhinoceroses, monkeys, jungle cats and Asian buffaloes.

Cacciolfi returned about 20 pounds lighter — and ready to go back. He already is planning another trek to Nepal and one to Africa for later this year.

Before embarking on the Nepal expedition, Cacciolfi said, "I'm not into doing your average sort of travel. I want to do the exciting stuff, the things that have never been done before."

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT, Little Rock, AR - May 31, 1986

Remains of Noah's ark on slope south of Ararat?

BY ZEYNEP ALEMDAR
Associated Press Writer

ANKARA, Turkey — A mysterious boat-shaped formation nestled more than a mile up a mountain in eastern Turkey has drawn attention away from the craggy slopes of nearby Mount Ararat, where the Bible says Noah's ark came to rest.

Several American explorers have said the formation, on a mountain 14 miles south of Mount Ararat near the Soviet border, could be the legendary ark and should be dug out.

Explorers have long searched for the ark on the high slopes of Mount Ararat, Turkey's tallest mountain at 17,820 feet, where the biblical account of the Great Flood places it.

Then in 1957, Turkish air

force pilots spotted the boat-shaped formation in Agri province while flying overhead.

The government did not pursue the sighting, however. The entire area, including Mount Ararat, was off limits to foreigners because of Soviet complaints that explorers included U.S. agents who spied on Soviet border fortifications.

When the government lifted the ban in 1982, fundamentalist Christians and mountain climbers rushed to the area.

In 1984, a team from the Los Angeles-based International Expeditions visited the area near the village of Uzengili, where the boat-shaped formation had been spotted.

Marvin Steffins, who led the expedition, said then that the team found the ark. But the

group did not return to substantiate the claim.

Last year another team led by Ron Wyatt of Madison, Tenn., climbed to the spot, at the 8,385-foot level, and made an identical claim.

"The boat is there, it is only a matter of digging it up," Wyatt told The Associated Press at the time.

David Fasold, a marine surveyor from Stuart, Fla., who was with the Wyatt expedition, returned this year. He said in an interview that he was awaiting Turkish permission to excavate the 11,000-square-foot area.

That permission may never come. The governor of Agri province, where both the boat-shaped formation and Mount Ararat are located, has said

that only Turks will be allowed to excavate the area.

Gov. Kutlu Aktas said he had invited Turkish geologists and archaeologists to study the formation and, if necessary, dig it out to determine the truth.

Fasold says the object is shaped like a reed-boat, stern up, and is covered with hardened soil. He says it is nestled on the side of a hill close to a large rock formation.

Fasold claims that a metal detector indicated the presence of iron at regular 16-inch intervals along the object, possibly showing nails in the boat.

The book of Genesis says Noah's ark washed up on the mountains of Ararat after the great deluge. The Moslem holy book, the Koran, says the boat

came to rest on Judi, a Turkish mountain 200 miles southeast of Ararat.

Fasold has another explanation. Ararat means Urartu in Assyrian, so the ark could be on any mountain in the ancient land of Urartu. Judi means "high place" in Arabic, so it landed high up on a mountain, he said.

Urartu was a civilization that flourished 1275-600 B.C. in what is now eastern Turkey, Soviet Armenia and northwest Iran. Urartu's neighbors were Assyrians and the Medes. Armenian princedoms took over the area after Urartu's decline.

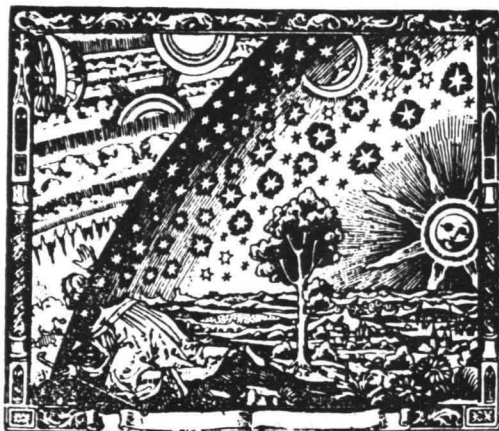
"As a marine surveyor, the first time I saw the formation I said to myself, 'that's a shipwreck,'" Fasold said.

He said the formation's measurements — 515 feet long and 137 feet wide — also correspond roughly to those given in the Bible for the ark.

The Bible says the ark was 300 cubits long and 50 cubits wide. A cubit, an ancient form of measurement, is thought to have been 18 to 22 inches. That would make the ark at least 450 feet long.

Meanwhile, more than 50 Americans have applied for permission to climb Mount Ararat this year. Among them is former U.S. astronaut James Irwin, who attempted five climbs previously.

Mount Ararat is covered with snow and ice nine months of the year, and climbers therefore prefer the summer months.



Above, the ancient astronomer, a woodcut from Camille Flammarion, *L'Atmosphère: Météorologie Populaire*, 1888. Right, Sir Fred Hoyle. Picture by Denis Thorpe.

Comets may govern our health after all. Sir Fred Hoyle talks to Andrew Veitch about a theory that is beginning to look like more than an ancient fantasy.

If Halley gets up your nose

SIR FRED HOYLE, physicist, astronomer, and maverick, has developed an interest in the shop girls of Messrs W. H. Smith. He believes they have something in common with the shopkeepers of Sienna, and that both groups may hold in common a key to his revolutionary theory of infection — bugs from space.

The question, quite simply, is why, if coughs and sneezes spread diseases, are the merchants of the crowded Tuscan city, and the cashiers in our crowded High Streets, not constantly ill?

Are they incredibly brave — sticking to their work through repeated bouts of influenza? Do they have incredible antibodies? Or could it be that the entire medical establishment has got it wrong — viruses and bacteria are not predominantly spread from person to person? Could it be that they come from above?

Until now, everyone who was anyone has sniffed at Sir Fred's theory that organic debris from comets could have started life on earth, dominated evolution, and may be responsible for the waves of disease which sweep the planet.

But it looks though as Giotto may force the medical establishment to take him seriously. Initial data from the spacecraft's brush with Halley's Comet are beginning to suggest that Sir Fred is on the right track. Comets, it seems, may indeed bring pestilence and death (and life), though not quite in the way the ancients believed.

Sir Fred and his colleague at Cardiff University, Professor Chandra Wickramasinghe, forecast correctly that the Halley's nucleus would be black. They were almost certainly right when they said that the surface was made of an organic compound — a crust of loosely stacked organic particles, as Wickramasinghe describes it, rather like the bark of a tree.

Romford influenza

Confirmatory data is expected from the Giotto scientists in a fortnight but first reports show that the particles which hit the spacecraft as it passed through the tail were made chiefly of carbon, oxygen, nitrogen and hydrogen — they were organic.

There was also a high concentration of particles that are the same size as common viruses.

An unusually jubilant Sir Fred said: "They have found a high concentration of particles weighing 10 to the minus 17 grams. That's just right for a virus. They run from 10 to the minus 17g for foot and mouth up to 10 to the minus 15g for a big chap like influenza. They are the right size and apparently the right composition. The only thing left to show is that they are of a biological nature."

Earlier this month astronomers tracking the comet detected radiation which could have come from desiccated bacteria heated, as the particles were, to 125°C.

If the bugs are lurking in space, how do they get up the human nose? Sir Fred explains all in his new book, *Viruses from Space*, written with Professor Wickramasinghe and a Cardiff GP, Dr John Watkins.

The earth is embedded in a halo of evaporated material from the thousands of comets whizzing round the solar system. As our planet passes through the tail of a comet, some of the material penetrates the atmosphere. Particles the size of bacteria may take a few weeks to fall through the air, particles the size of viruses may take 10 years or more to descend. Atmospheric conditions affect concentrations and rates of descent, but the end point is the same: a soft landing on an unsuspecting nostril.

A batch of rhinovirus on Romford will cause a Romford flu epidemic. This is what he calls vertical transmission. He argues that for the short-lived viruses it is much more important than horizontal (person-to-person) transmission.

More serious, long-lived viruses like smallpox and now the AIDS virus HTLV III, originated from space then spread from person to person — smallpox could keep going for 200-300 years once it had arrived. If he is right, AIDS began in a shower of organic material on central Africa 10 years ago.

In general, things that produce viraemias are able to jump from person to person, but upper respiratory tract infections don't — the observed waves of 'flu are due to vertical transmission.

How does the cometary 'flu virus get up the nose? Certainly not in rain because the droplets drip off the nose — "possibly the reason for the possession of a nose," says Sir Fred. Rather the bug arrives in water vapour after the rain has ended. Droplets evaporate in front of your face and are inhaled. It is misty, damp weather that is most dangerous.

The bugs might also arrive on meteorites. Data is difficult to come by because most research on objects entering the upper atmosphere is controlled by the military, but reports last year suggested that bodies the size of a football can arrive regularly, he says — perhaps 2,000 of them a year. Some might slow down enough to reach the earth intact. "A body the size of a football landing on earth would carry a tremendous amount of virus."

Periodic injections of bugs from space are the only explanation for the periodic outbreaks of 'flu, says Sir Fred. "According to medieval lore, diseases come from comets and according to our view this is true, but only in a broad sense. We cannot maintain the dramatic position

that ferocious new diseases come from spectacular comets, because for every spectacular comet there are almost certainly very many smaller ones."

Collectively, more material may descend on the earth from several small comets, and we would receive more material from crossing almost precisely the track of one small comet than from passing Halley at a distance.

Ferocious diseases

Because of the time it takes for the particles to drift to earth, we are unlikely to feel the effects of Halley for some years yet. Any immediate outbreak — which in centuries past would have been associated with Halley — would be due to a close encounter with another comet several years ago.

Sir Fred backs up his theory with detailed data on outbreaks of 'flu at Eton, Harrow, and some 300 other public school boarding houses. But if he is to convince the medics, he'll need a mass of epidemiological evidence of vertical transmission.

Hence the Sienna/W. H. Smith project. He explained: "My wife and I were in Sienna last November. The walled streets and the tiny shops were crowded with people from all over the world — it was an ideal mixing pot for viruses. The shopkeepers would be very interesting people to look at. Either they are ill all the time, which they are obviously not, or they must have incredible antibodies, or the virus is not being transferred from one to another."

"I was there for a medical conference. I tried to persuade the Italian doctors to test these people's antibodies. But they didn't really believe me. If I were a medical doctor here I'd look at the antibodies of the cashiers in W. H. Smiths. They are talking to hundreds of customers every day. That work could be done very quickly."

Viruses from Space, by Sir Fred Hoyle, Professor Chandra Wickramasinghe, and Dr John Watkins. University College, Cardiff. Press, price £5.95.

Fred Hoyle and Chandra Wickramasinghe expand their theory in *Futures* on Friday.

An abominable saga unfolds

by Peter Gilman

YETI FEVER is spreading among the mountaineering fraternity again. Climbers returning from the Himalayas, and others preparing to depart, are once more talking about the half-human, half-beast which supposedly inhabits the kingdom of the snows.

Tony Wooldridge, just back from the Garwhal Himalayas, says he found "yeti-like tracks", the size of human footprints, at 13,500 ft. Chris Bonington, veteran of five Everest expeditions who is planning to climb in the Menlungtse region, where several tracks have been found, says: "I take the yeti seriously. I think there is something there."

But is there any scientific basis for such beliefs? A controversy currently preoccupying the climbing world suggests that the crucial evidence may be more fragile than most people suspect — and may even be a hoax. The surviving key witness, whom we contacted last week, denies that.

The yeti acquired its greatest credibility from an episode during the Everest reconnaissance expedition of 1951. (The triumphal first ascent by Hillary and Tenzing followed two years later). While negotiating the Menlungtse glacier, the mountaineer Eric Shipton took two photographs, widely reproduced since.

One showed a line of tracks heading across the snow, with Shipton's partner, the young climbing doctor, Mike Ward, standing beside them.

The second showed a close-up of a single giant footprint, with a curious array of toes: two large ones on the right, a gap, and three smaller ones on the left. Measured against Ward's ice-axe, it was 13 inches by eight — the size of a gorilla's foot, or a large bear's.

Since no known creature could have made such tracks, Shipton's pictures attracted wide publicity. They were published in the *Times* under the heading "Footprints of the Abominable Snowman" and were exhibited at the Natural History Museum.

They also spawned a new science, cryptozoology. One authority, Professor Bernard Heuvelmans, produced imaginative drawings of the Shipton yeti: a cross between a bear and an ape, which used its two big toes to grip steep rock.

Sightings of footprints have followed thick and fast ever since. Many were almost certainly made by more mundane creatures — monkeys or snow leopards. But nobody has yet explained the Shipton footprint in conventional terms.

From time to time, however, there have been whispers that the crucial Shipton footprint might not be all it seemed. An early sceptic was Sir Edmund

Hillary: he suggested that it may have been "enhanced". Then the biologist Professor John Napier declared he could not imagine what kind of beast could have made the print, since the ball of its foot appeared concave instead of convex.

Most recently, the mountaineering historian Audrey Salkeld, a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, has gone further. Writing in "Mountain" magazine, she suggests that the crucial footprint may have been "cooked" — with its toes added, perhaps, by Shipton's knuckles. Mrs Salkeld believes that it may have been an example of Shipton's well-known "puckish sense of humour", and cites two previous examples.

Further doubts arise from the curious way Shipton changed his story. At first he implied that his two key photographs — the trail in the snow and the footprint with the toes — were taken from the same set of tracks.

But when Professor Napier pointed out there were discrepancies between them, Shipton apparently clarified the matter: they were not made by the same creature after all, but represented two sets of tracks found close to each other.

Since Shipton died in 1977, the best witness to events on the Menlungtse glacier is his partner, Dr Mike Ward, now a consultant at a London hospital.

Dr Ward is emphatic that the crucial footprint "was not a hoax." Yet in some ways his comments deepen the mystery.

Dr Ward says that he has always tried to make it clear that there were two sets of tracks. Yet in his autobiography, published in 1972, he, too, referred to only one set. Last week Dr Ward provided new information about the second set of tracks. He said they formed part of a trail, 50 yards from the first set, which he and Shipton had followed for "about a quarter of a mile — and it continued on down."

Why then did Shipton photograph only a single footprint of the second trail? "He was not very scientifically minded," Dr Ward said.

Dr Ward believes that, whereas the first set of prints may have been made by a sheep or goat, he has "no idea" what caused the second.

Professor Napier now expresses a more forthright view than hitherto. "I never believed that footprint," he says. "It's so phoney."

Audrey Salkeld guesses that it was a joke that went too far. Chris Bonington, meanwhile, is keeping an open mind. But, if he does find a yeti around Menlungtse, he will be strongly tempted to keep the news to himself. "If the yeti has survived all this time, you hope it can go on surviving," he says. Much better, he adds, to leave it in peace.



Abiding fable: is this what the beast looks like?

DAILY TELEGRAPH,
London, England
May 12, 1986
CR: T. Good