

# UFO

## NEWSCLIPPING SERVICE

## U.F.O. NEWSCLIPPING SERVICE

ROUTE 1 — BOX 220

PLUMERVILLE, ARKANSAS 72127 U.S.A.

CO-EDITORS: LUCIUS FARISH  
ROD B. DYKE

NOVEMBER 1986 NUMBER 208

COURANT, Hartford, CT - Sept. 5, 1986

## Mystery jet photographed before crash

By James Hart  
South Bay Daily Breeze

REDONDO BEACH — Andy Hoyt admits he has no proof — not anymore, at least — that he witnessed the crash of an aircraft that may be the Pentagon's most carefully guarded secret.

His sister, Lisa, and her 16-year-old son, Joey, reportedly also saw the plane, but both declined to discuss the alleged incident. Hoyt, an unemployed Redondo Beach carpenter, says he snapped photographs of the plane as it plummeted to the ground in the Sequoia National Forest near Bakersfield.

But the photographs were given to the Air Force, Hoyt says, and the Air Force isn't talking.

Defense experts, however, say Hoyt's description of what he claims he saw that night fits the most educated guesses of the configuration of the top-secret F-19 stealth fighter — a plane the Air Force will not confirm even exists.

In a scenario that sounds like a science fiction movie, Hoyt says he and two relatives saw something drop out of the sky and explode into flames on the other side of a hill about a half-mile away.

"It seemed like it was something other than an airplane," said Hoyt, 26, who was on a camping trip. "Believe it or not, I thought it was a UFO."

Whatever it was, he says, the military has been treating him royally since he called Edwards Air Force Base when he returned home the following Sunday evening and told the Air Force about the photographs.

Hoyt says he and his party were driving east on state Highway 178 about 15 miles northeast of Bakersfield in the early morning hours of July 12 when they pulled over for a brief rest. He was just climbing back into his truck when he saw it.

"All I saw were three red lights and a dark image behind them like an upside-down triangle," Hoyt said, adding that each light was at a point of the triangle. He said he pulled a camera from the dashboard of the truck and managed to take two or three pictures before the plane disappeared over the hill.

Then, a pair of explosions "lit up the sky like it was daylight out."

Contrary to published reports on the day of the accident, Hoyt says, the aircraft did not explode before it crashed. At least one Air Force source has been quoted as saying the plane exploded in midair, which could explain why the pilot, who was killed, was not able to eject safely.

"It was definitely not on fire when it came down," Hoyt said. "Why couldn't the guy eject?"

After making sure the blaze was reported on an emergency roadside phone, the party continued to its campground north of nearby Lake Isabella.

His call to Edwards upon returning home brought a sudden response from the Air Force, Hoyt says. "They took my name and number and within an hour someone had flown down here and talked to me," he said.

"They didn't press me, but they wanted to see the film in my camera."

The next day, the Air Force officers took Hoyt, his sister and nephew to Hawthorne Municipal Airport, where they flew them to a command post a few miles from the crash site, he says. The visitors were treated to lunch, then driven back up the mountain road where Hoyt said he saw the crash.

"They wanted to know what the angle was when it came down," he said. "They used some tool to measure something after we pointed at the spot."

After developing the film in Hoyt's camera, he says, the Air Force returned two sets of enlarged prints of the family camping trip — minus the frames that could have shown the descending aircraft.

An Air Force officer who interviewed Hoyt and his relatives asked them not to talk to anyone about what they saw, "but said he couldn't force me," he said.

The Air Force will confirm only that a plane crashed, killing its pilot. It refuses to divulge what kind of aircraft, the base from which it took off or its mission.

Military guards armed with M-16 rifles have sealed off a large area around the crash site.

Back home in Redondo Beach, Hoyt says he feels a bit bewildered by all the attention his claims have brought.

"Right now," he said. "I'd just like to get a job."

## A Harmless Imagination Takes Off With UFOs

Passengers idly peering out the windows of their Amtrak cars stopped at the station might notice on a nearby building a cheery sign of greeting: "Welcome all people from other planets to Bethel, Ct."

Folks from this planet could be forgiven their confusion, but it is Dante Vaghi's hope that any aliens passing by would appreciate the thought.

Dante Vaghi thinks a lot about people from other planets. More than 35 years ago, he spotted a huge, mysterious craft soaring above his family's woodworking shop; since that moment, his life has been dominated by the prospect of the inhabitants of that spaceship's stopping by to say how do you do.

Many have seen unidentified flying objects, but few approach the phenomenon with Vaghi's gusto. For decades, he has told the authorities of his observations; regularly, he takes out ads in the local papers offering holiday messages to UFO-ites and outer-space visitors; he speaks to anyone who will listen; he has mounted large signs on his car and his brother's shop.

All of which has made him something of a local celebrity in Bethel. And, all of which forces the delicate question of whether, maybe, he has slipped a few gears over this.

He laughs.

"I've heard that. People say I'm all rocked out, cruised out, spaced out. I've been called everything in Noah Webster's dictionary and plenty that would only show up in a dictionary of words considered disrespectful. I thank the Lord that I have two good ears: Criticism like that goes in one and out the other." He laughs again.

Indeed, Dante Vaghi laughs a lot. He is a genial, rough-hewn man of great energy and easy good cheer. Surely such qualities account for the affectionate spirit with which his neighbors greet him — a spirit less likely to be enjoyed by a citizen of a more sour or demanding personality.

"I've taken a great deal of abuse, but I know these things [UFOs] exist. I've seen them. I can stand on my own two feet and say that."

Sitting in the back of the cluttered, busy woodworking shop, he says that. He also says just about everything else that comes to mind, sharing with a visitor his views on life, religion, work. His eyes bright behind rimless glasses, he recounts the accomplishments of his family, discusses his hopes for international relations, details his diet (he is big on milk and Shredded Wheat), recalls how, as a young serviceman, he helped reclaim the body of actress Carole Lombard, killed in a 1942 airplane crash in Nevada. What he won't talk about is his age. "Just say D.J. is 39, like Jack Benny." He is no more 39 than was Brother Benny, but who cares?

Mostly, he talks about spacecraft and space people.

In a simple but concentrated way, he is almost electric in his animation describing the space machines that have flown his way. The first, back in 1950, was more a flying wing than a saucer. Since, he has spotted the more traditional flashing lights, investigated two possible landings in the area. Last year, a submarine-shaped craft hovered before him deep in the darkness of the night.

Why is Bethel so blessed with visits?

"I really don't know, but it happens. I think there's something to do with the limestone around here. There's also a possibility of magnetic fields' attracting their curiosity."

Why don't they show themselves?

"I think maybe there's a language problem or maybe they fear we'd be hostile and that someone would try to harm them. I think they're here to study us, to investigate our planet. They're obviously great scientists. They been coming here from Mars or wherever they live for decades."



Denis Horgan

And what manner of creatures might they be, these space fliers?

"I think they're probably good people. They're probably not monsters in horns with slits for eyes and no ears, like you see in the newspapers at the supermarket. If you look at it, people tend to be good as children and good in their most developed state. These people are at least very developed. I think God would make them that way."

Vaghi has had little success with the authorities over his views and viewings.

"I've gotten some letters back, but they [the Air Force] are out of the UFO business now. I called the airport after my last sighting and talked real fast to get my message across before they cut me off. People jumped out of windows when the stock market crashed; imagine what they'd do when this is revealed."

"I think a lot of people have seen these things but are reluctant to come forward. People are afraid to face the ridicule. I'm not. My family doesn't get so involved. But they think, if that's what you live to do, go ahead. People look at me with a question mark. They wonder about what I say. I welcome that. It makes them think, pay attention. If people paid attention to things, to nature, maybe they wouldn't have time to make things sick."

And so, undaunted, Dante Vaghi continues his vigil, watching the skies over Bethel.

"History will reveal the truth. Hopefully someday, someplace on the planet Earth, they'll come to visit with us. I'd like so much to meet them. That keeps me going."

Well, what if they showed up one day and said, "D.J., let's take a ride."

"I'd probably faint and wouldn't wake up until they got me home. But why not? I've been at this for so many years. Think of what's up there. If they're really peaceful people, wouldn't that be nice?"

So, if this gentle fellow dedicates himself to the proposition that there are friendly, peaceful creatures floating around us from whom we could learn a great deal, where's the harm in that?

Besides, what if he's right?

## Two UFOs sighted in area

Grandview residents were among several people who reported seeing unidentified flying objects on Thursday morning and Sunday evening.

On Thursday, a Wapato policeman was the first to spot a UFO, about 4 a.m. The object travelled slowly, and was last seen near Prosser about 6 a.m. It was described as large and changed colors. Although small in the night sky, it was larger than a star or planet.

An object brighter than a planet was spotted over the Rattlesnake Hills, north of Grandview, on Sunday evening about 10:30 p.m. It changed colors rapidly. A witness described it as alternating red and green, and a ray of light seemed to be coming out the bottom.

# Light, 'boom' may have been firework

BY LISA FROST  
Sun staff writer

Although authorities don't have any answers yet, an anonymous caller to the Winchester Police Department Wednesday may provide some clues to the cause of a bright flashing light and house-shaking boom many county residents reported Tuesday night.

Clark County Sheriff Gary Lawson, whose department is investigating the incident, said the caller said "that he did shoot off a Class B fireworks left over from the Fourth of July... It was a rocket-type firework that could go one to two miles in the air and then explode."

Lawson said the caller said he had the explosive in his home and was afraid to keep it there any longer and that he "didn't mean

to alarm anybody."

Several residents along the Flanagan Station Road said that between 9 and 10 p.m. Tuesday they heard a boom, like an explosion. Some saw a bright flashing light and others reported smelling strong odors, much like gunpowder.

Rumors began Wednesday that a meteor had fallen in the area, that an airplane had crashed or that a B-52 aircraft had caused the strange light and sound. It was reported that a meteorite or perhaps a piece of a Japanese satellite had been tracked by radar down the eastern coastline and into Clark County. People jokingly suggested that UFOs had landed or that the Russians were invading.

Lawson and other members of his department searched the area in the southeastern Clark County on foot and covered a 40-square mile area by air, but could find nothing.

"We were flying about 2,000 feet up and had a pretty good view, but we couldn't see anything unusual," he said.

This morning the incident remained a mystery.

Lawson questioned the reliability of the anonymous caller, but said he would bring people in to try to figure out his identity.

He said the caller's story was logical, because the light people saw lasted a long time and many smelled gunpowder or something burning. He also said the type of firework the caller described would not leave a large mark on the ground.

He said the mortar-like bombs give off a round ball of fire with a gaseous tail, which matches what an amateur astronomer said he saw Tuesday night.

Lawson said if the caller is found, he could face criminal charges, because shooting off one of the rockets without proper authority is a misdemeanor under state law.

Although an exploding-rocket could explain the mysterious light and explosion in Clark County, there still are numerous unanswered questions about a glowing, illuminated object many people in Clark County, Lexington and throughout the eastern United States reported seeing Tuesday night.

Some Clark Countians said they thought the strange light was the moon reflecting off a cloud.

Robert Gribble of the National UFO Reporting Center said the cloud may have been caused by a barium-filled rocket that the National Aeronautics and Space Administration exploded from its Wallops Island, Va., base. He said NASA often explodes such

rockets to study the electromagnetic field.

There was some speculation that the cause of Tuesday's boom may have been a meteor since that night was the peak of the annual Perseid meteor shower, however Dr. Thomas Boone, director of the Rauch Memorial Planetarium at the University of Louisville, said an exploding meteor would have caused a brief fireball lasting no more than 10 or 15 seconds. The cloud and the light seen by county residents was seen for a much longer time, according to reports.

The National Weather Service in Lexington and officials at the Federal Aviation Administration offices in Louisville, Lexington and Atlanta said Wednesday there had been no unusual meteor activity in the area Tuesday night.

As for the Japanese satellite, an official at Japan's Tanegashima Space Center, the site for Tuesday's launch, said nothing was wrong with the rocket or satellite.

Lawson said he is continuing to look for evidence and planned today to continue a foot search along the Flanagan Station Road at the places where the most vibrations were felt.

(Information for this story also was gathered by The Associated Press.)

SUN, Winchester, KY - Aug. 15, 1986 CR: T. Adams

# Police study ash for blast, flash clues

A fine white ash found covering a new car may be considered a clue to Tuesday night's mysterious light flash and boom observed by a number of county residents.

Clark County Sheriff Gary Lawson said Nancy White who lives in Calmes Subdivision off the Old Boonesboro Road reported finding the ash covering her car Thursday afternoon.

He said she told him she hadn't

driven the car in a few days and didn't notice the ash until Thursday.

Although Lawson didn't speculate on what the ash could be, he said it was whiter and more fine than other ash he has seen.

Residents along the Flanagan Station Road said that Tuesday night between 9 and 10 p.m. they saw a bright flash of light and many heard a boom like an ex-

plosion, but so far there have been no answers to what may have caused them.

Lawson said he received three calls shortly after speaking with Mrs. White from the Oak Ridge laboratories in Oak Ridge, Tenn. He said he didn't know how the scientists found out about the ash, but they wanted to run tests on it to determine where it may have come from.

He said they speculated it may be from a meteorite.

Lawson said he was asked to get a sample of the ash, but when he returned to Mrs. White's residence, she was not home and her car was gone.

Lawson said he expected a call from Oak Ridge today to see if the scientists were coming to Winchester.

Mrs. White was not available for comment this morning.

The sheriff's department also is investigating a phone call

received by the Winchester Police Department Wednesday from an anonymous man who said he exploded a rocket-type firework left from the Fourth of July in the Flanagan Station Road area Tuesday night.

It was rumored that the Clark County Fire Department had some fireworks missing from their July 4 display at Lykins Park, but the fire department said today that all its fireworks had been accounted for.

JOURNAL, Alexandria, VA - Oct. 21, 1986 CR: L. Bryant

# Blow the whistle on UFO disinformation

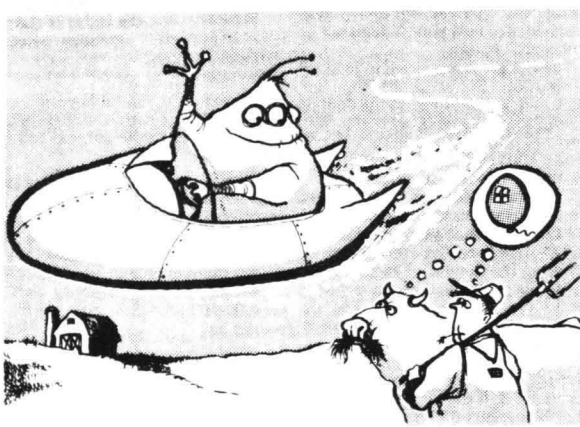
Editor, *The Journal*:

The nation's news media ought not to have been so surprised at the recent revelation that the Reagan administration has indulged in disinformation to further some of its political goals.

After all, every administration since Harry Truman's has been perpetuating one of the earliest episodes of disinformation.

It started back in Roswell, N.M., in July 1947. According to the latest findings reported by private UFO researchers concentrating on such UFO crash-landing accounts as the "Roswell Incident," U.S. military officials have succeeded not only in pulling the wool over the news media's eyes but also in keeping the wool there for nearly 40 years.

The scheme was simple — and effective — enough: Bring in some high brass from the Pentagon; call a press conference at Fort Worth Army Air Base for a show-and-tell session with local press people. Have them look over and photograph the "evidence" — consisting of some debris from an old weather balloon. Explain to them that this stuff had been misinterpreted by some local citizens as being part of



the alleged wreckage from a disabled flying saucer reported earlier that month. All the while, look and sound so absolute and authoritative that the newsmen dare not embarrass you (or themselves) by asking the hard questions, such as: "Where is the original material re-

ferred to by your intelligence officer Jesse Marcel when this story first emerged?"

The original material, which retired Lt. Col. Marcel today contends was unlike any weather balloon ever conceived or launched, resides within a Pandora's box of

other such UFO artifacts, just waiting for an inopportune time to burst forth upon the public's consciousness.

Meantime, even though the public and the news media all have come to accept the emperor's UFO clothes — as paraded most recently through the auspices of the now-defunct USAF Project Blue Book — it's time for them to awake from their 40-year sleep.

If in their slumber they hear a faint whistle-blowing, they should know it emanates from a number of sources who are fed up with official UFO news management, with their roles in protecting what essentially is a political secret, and with their being pawns in an ill-conceived program of disinformation calculated to deceive the American people as to the true nature of the UFO problem.

And if you're one of those potential whistle blowers, won't you join me in helping expose and counter this official policy that can only erode the public's confidence in our government's veracity and integrity?

LARRY W. BRYANT  
Alexandria

## Fawcett Proposes UFO Museum

Lincolnton resident George Fawcett, a self-described "civilian UFO investigator, researcher, organizer, writer, lecturer, and teacher in the field of the scientific study of unidentified flying objects (UFOs)", has unveiled an ambitious proposal to build a UFO museum.

The museum would serve as an archive for "UFO materials", as an education center, and a "reporting center."

Fawcett says he has "over 14,000 items in my collection over the past four decades."

He doesn't name a specific building site for the proposed museum, or whether any funds have been raised to finance the project.

"My previous suggestions to the National Enquirer and to Walt Disney World have been turned down," he says.

Nevertheless, Fawcett remains convinced the idea can be a success.

"It is my firm conviction that the time for the establishment of a UFO museum and the fulfillment of my dream for such a project is an idea whose time has come. Branch UFO museums could be established in future years," he says.



# UFO spotted in Lower Valley sky

By CRAIG TROIANELLO  
Of the Herald-Republic

Witnesses from Wapato to Grandview reported an unexplained glowing object traveling slowly across the Lower Valley sky early Thursday morning.

The object, first reported by a Wapato police officer at about 4 a.m., appeared to be moving in a southeasterly direction. It was last seen traveling toward Prosser shortly before 6 a.m.

Attempts to reach the two Zillah and Wapato police officers who first reported seeing the object failed. One officer told his superior he didn't want his identity released.

ed. A second officer failed to return phone calls.

But the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle said it received three reports from police officers in the Lower Valley on Thursday.

"It was described as a very large mass. It seemed to block out the stars as it passed overhead. It appeared to have several lights attached and size was estimated at about a half football field," said Robert Gribble, a staff member of the reporting center.

"It moved at a slow rate of speed and without sound of any kind," Gribble said. Altitude was estimated at about a mile,

but at night distances are difficult to determine, he said.

Witnesses in Sunnyside and Grandview described the object as smaller and more distant.

The object was moving too slow to be an airplane and shined too brightly to be a star or satellite, they said.

"It was pretty wild," said Frank Allec, news director for KREW radio in Sunnyside. Allec was preparing his morning news broadcast when his police scanner picked up Wapato police chattering about the light.

A skeptical Allec walked out the station's

front door and observed the object in the southern sky.

Located at about the 10 o'clock position, it was blinking blue, green and yellow, he said.

"It wasn't too much larger than a star," he said.

Allec said he then phoned Sunnyside police dispatcher who also said she saw the object.

At about 5 p.m. the object was spotted by Grandview police officer Earl Ripplinger.

"It was way off when I saw it, it looked like it was over Prosser. It looked just like a distant star, but it was changing colors and

holding motionless," he said.

Ripplinger said distance made it impossible to determine the object's exact shape. But the intensity of the lights assured that the object wasn't an airplane, he said.

Even after dawn broke the object was bright enough to be seen, Ripplinger said.

Every 10 seconds or so the object would flash either red, green or white, he said.

"There was not a regular pattern to the way the light would change," he said.

"I'm surprised no one took a picture, it

seemed to be holding right in the same spot," he said.

The reports appear to rule out the possibility of a satellite because they don't blink, Gribble said.

Air traffic controllers at the Yakima Airport Terminal said they received two or three inquiries from Lower Valley police departments. But a lower spokesman reported no indications of abnormalities in the sky Thursday morning.

A spokesman for the Yakima Fire- ing Center denied the Army would be responsible for any of the sightings.

"We have received no reports and we aren't doing anything that would contribute to those (other reports)," said Maj. Garth Germond.

"There is no reason to think we caused any sighting. In short, we are not responsible," he said.

Police said they were at a loss to explain the lights.

"It's kind of funny, it's been years, at least five years or better since the last sighting," said Grandview police Chief David Charvet.

During the early 1970s, sightings of mysterious lights were reported throughout the Yakima Valley. But nowhere were the sightings as regular as at Toppenish Ridge southeast of White Swan.

Consisting of desolate, rugged hills and deep canyons, the ridge is partly located in the closed section of the Yakima Indian Nation. Many of those sightings were made by fire spotters working in watchtowers.

During the early 1970s, the sheer number of sightings in the area attracted such noted investigators as Dr. J. Allen Hynek, a former consultant to the Air Force's UFO study, known as Project Blue Book.

Reports of the lights began declining in the mid-1970s and have since slowed to a trickle.

Over the years, parts of the Yakima Reservation have been the focus of many UFO reports, such as structured wingless objects and lights, Gribble said.

Hamford Nuclear Reservation has also been the source of UFO reports for many years, Gribble said.

Gribble is part of a 12-member staff at the National UFO Reporting Center. Established in 1974, the center collects UFO reports from North America, Hawaii and the Caribbean.

On a national scale, the center has been averaging six reports a day for the past six months.

"We consider that extremely quiet," he said.

BEE, Modesto, CA - Oct. 12, 1986

CR: J. Laurino

## Encounters with UFOs unforgettable

By MARTHA FREEMAN  
Bee staff writer

SONORA — Bruce Sullivan, an information technologies consultant, saw three elongated discs doing zig-zags in the sky over Minnesota when he was a child.

Postal worker Bill Banks was a third-grader on the school playground when he looked up and saw "teeny rocket ships, like chubby V-2's" leaving contrails in the sky.

Science teacher Tom Page was driving through Oregon with two buddies in 1960 when they saw two large white lights, one ahead and one behind, behaving unaccountably.

D.J. Long, a broadcasting student, was 13 when he watched a silver disc gliding up the slope of Mount Palomar for 15 minutes.

Those firsthand experiences piqued the curiosity of those men and resulted in their lifelong interest in UFOs. Saturday afternoon they were among about 150 people attending a symposium on the subject sponsored by the Mutual UFO Network Inc. (MUFON) at the Mother Lode Fairgrounds. Another symposium was held last night.

The event continues 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. today, with a panel discussion among people who say they have been abducted by extraterrestrials scheduled for 2 p.m. Admission will be \$6.

Among the speakers Saturday evening was Richard Haines, who works as a senior research scientist for NASA.

Haines said before his lecture that he has never had a close encounter himself, but 20 years of researching the phenomena has convinced him that something unexplained is going on out there.

"But that's different from saying these objects are from outer space," he said.

Haines emphasized that he is not speaking for NASA but as a private citizen whose hobby is investigating reported sightings of UFOs.

Haines said researchers through the years also have improved the types of questions they ask people making reports.

In questioning, a researcher might ask what significance the event had for the person who experienced it. For example, was it "a message for mankind"? Did it leave him or her with evangelistic fervor?

One person whose experiences with UFOs have left him with that kind of fervor is Allen Michael, a 71-year-old Stockton retiree who says he has spent \$40,000 to publish four books that intertwine the Bible and his experiences with extraterrestrial beings.

Michael says he has met with the beings, whom he believes are part of the universal mind, three times since 1947.

"The first time I was drawn out of my body into a big room in outer space," he said. "I was told I would act as a new world comforter. At the time I didn't know what that meant, but it's in the Gospel of St. John and in Revelations."

A different interpretation of extraordinary events comes from speaker Bruce Sullivan, who has worked as a United Nations consultant. Sullivan said people's preconceptions about the world make them less than receptive to all sorts of phenomena, including advances in medicine and physics as well as UFOs.

POST-CRESCENT, Appleton, WI - Sept. 7, 1986

## Post-Crescent story for 'Enquiring minds'

By Tom Richards  
Post-Crescent staff writer

MENASHA — A recent article in The Post-Crescent about two local women who say they have been abducted aboard alien space ships has attracted just the right attention, including that of the National Enquirer, according to one of the women.

"It's been just crazy," said Judie Woolcott, referring to the attention she and Bonnie Meyer, heads of the Fox Valley UFO Discussion & Support Group, since the Sept. 21 article.

She said the two have done radio and newspaper interviews with reporters all over the country.

Ian Calder, editor of the Enquirer, said from the offices of the leading grocery store tabloid in Lantana, Fla., that his paper was investigating the two women's story. A decision will be made later on whether the paper would publish a story.

Denny Johnson of the Enquirer staff said there were three people in Wisconsin working on the story, one in Milwaukee, and two here. The tabloid has Johnson and another staff member here since Wednesday morning and brought in a hypnotist to examine the women.

The women had said originally that they had not realized that they had been abducted into space by visitors from other planets until they were hypnotized. They said they were abducted seven times each.

The hypnotist they had been seeing in Milwaukee declined to participate in this latest flurry of attention, Woolcott said, because he feared that such publicity might damage his practice.

She said that one of their space contacts, "the head of 16 planets, told us that something big was going to happen."

She asked him, she said, if there were any media they should contact, and they were told that the right ones were carrying the story of their meetings with space aliens.

Though Woolcott and Meyer have been investigating unidentified flying objects for the past 11 years, Woolcott said, "I wasn't aware of how many people are interested."

"The response has been unreal. Three people (who also have had contact) came out of the closet. We all cried together over it."

The two said they signed a contract with the Enquirer that prohibits further interviews about their experiences until such time as the tabloid publishes an article.

NEW ERA, Hopkinsville, KY - Sept. 11, 1986



## WATCHING THE PARADE

JOE DORRIS

### It Won't Die

Could it be that those of us who have never put too much credence in the alleged invasion of Kelly by a spaceship and its shining occupants 31 years ago were just too close to the situation?

Too close in both time and distance for us to do an objective job believing?

But a trip to the scene after all these years has not shaken the faith of one recent visitor from Wisconsin that the glistening little men really did get off their space vehicle near a farmhouse and battle with the occupants of the dwelling just off Highway 41 north of Hopkinsville.

Marian J. Anderson of 6609 Regis Road, Madison, Wis., had seemingly not been to Hopkinsville until late in August of this year when she came through going to Murray. She said she had always wanted to study the Kelly story firsthand, and so she did.

We were one of those to whom Ms. Anderson talked. She said "someone" at Kelly had given her our name and that of Mrs. Claymont Rougemont of East 7th.

Mrs. Rougemont, then Lucy Reeder and wife of the late NEW ERA photographer Harvey Reeder, is one of the few survivors

of the "army" of officers and news people who descended upon Kelly the night of the incident.

We visited the scene two days later and wrote a byline story. Any reader of this column knows we have also written gobs about the case since.

### 'As They Said'

Ms. Anderson did research at the library while here and also went to the farmhouse where the skirmish was fought in August of 1955.

Let it be said the Wisconsin resident did not get much encouragement from either Mrs. Rougemont or this writer. But did this change her belief in the story? Not a bit, according to a letter she wrote us after her return to Wisconsin.

Faith may be hard to come by, but if one believes in anything, the faith is difficult to destroy.

Writes Ms. Anderson: "After careful investigation by a Miss Isabel Davis there is almost overwhelming evidence that no matter how bizarre it all seems, it probably happened just as reported."

"I am a student of the phenomena and can assure you that similar occurrences have happened throughout the years around the world — although the one at Kelly ranks right up there for its 'strangeness' factor."

CR: M. Anderson

'Flying saucers' captured the world's imagination in the 1950s. Now sightings are rare and interest is lagging — except for a few seemingly normal people who have seen UFOs in the skies. They include Tiger Darrell Evans, Betty and Joyce of Laingsburg, and Marie and Walter, who have seen nine and think they have been chosen.

# TAKE US TO YOUR BELIEVERS

BY SUSAN AGER

ILLUSTRATION BY BOB ZUBA

**D**eep in the heart of Michigan, in a small home with flowered wallpaper, miniature spoons hung on the wall and an embroidered dining room tablecloth, lives a middle-aged woman from the South who believes that when she was 9, she was abducted from the family farmhouse by two aliens.

Marie figured this out only recently, although for years she suspected something very strange had happened to her family. On her left thigh was a deep scar, in the shape of an upside-down heart, that she didn't remember getting. In her head was a vivid memory of her mother, a very religious woman, kneeling in a white nightgown in front of the window, her long black hair braided down her back and a shotgun on her shoulder. She was firing into the night at what she has always insisted were three little boys, dressed in white, trying to steal her chickens.

"My mother," says Marie, "wouldn't harm anything, or anyone. Now, why would my mother take a shot at three little boys, when she had 10 children of her own? She certainly remembers firing the gun, but oh, she won't talk about it. She gets so upset."

In 1983, Marie and her husband, Walter (they have asked that their real names not be used) began seeing UFOs. Between them, they have seen nine, the last one in April. Usually they appear in the couple's large yard, but once a UFO followed them home from bowling, and once it accompanied them to a Flint radio station where they were to appear on a talk show about UFOs.

Marie and Walter began to suspect they had been "chosen." To see a single UFO is the event of a lifetime. To see more than a half dozen raises eyebrows, even among UFO believers. So Marie documented their sightings, writing the details in perfect penmanship in a spiral-bound notebook.

They joined the Texas-based Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), the nation's last remaining organization for UFO devotees. Its membership has dwindled to about 1,500 people for whom UFOs are a mystery more profound than the Holy Trinity, more meaty than why there is air. The sky is their laboratory.

Marie and Walter, who had never belonged to anything but a bowling league and a few fraternal organizations like the Elks, became volunteer UFO investigators, hanging a map of local UFO sightings on their laundry room door.

Last year, at a MUFON symposium in St. Louis, Marie gingerly submitted to hypnosis by a New York City artist who claims success in helping people remember abductions by aliens.

Under hypnosis, she recalled the night her mother shot at the chicken thieves. She remembered, she says, being called from her bed by two short, skinny beings with enlarged heads, big eyes and slits for mouths. She remembered them helping her float through her home's locked front door. She remembered being examined in a spacecraft. She remembered a cut being made in her left thigh and samples of skin and blood and flesh taken from the wound. She remembered the sound of something being shoved deep up her nose, "like when you bite into an apple and there's a snap."

She suspects a "teletracer" was inserted in her nose, to mark her the way rare wild birds are tagged. She believes the many UFOs she and her husband have encountered are no coincidence. She believes they are tracking her.

"We're awestruck by it," says Walter, "but we are trying to investigate it. We would like to experience more. I want to communicate with them. I want to see them. I would like to go on a craft if I could do it, and experience what they've got... I have tried to leave my mind as blank as I could, as receptive as possible, and I have tried to communicate by thinking, 'Come closer. I want to know you. I want to know where you are from, and what you are doing.' I've tried both," with no apparent success.

With Marie and Walter when she was hypnotized was Dan Wright of Lansing, a member of MUFON's board of directors. "I can't tell you with certainty that it really happened to her," says Wright, accustomed to incredulity. "But I think you'd be impressed by how traumatized she was in reliving it under hypnosis. If that's a fantasy, it's a real extreme one. She was crying her eyes out, just hysterical."

Each night before she goes to sleep, Marie sits on her bed and searches the sky, visible behind bowling trophies on the bedroom window sill. UFOs are table talk in that household. Although few of their friends know of her abduction, all know about the lights and shapes the couple have seen in a sky that's black and boring for them.

"Nine people out of 10 are envious," says Marie.

**W**e may suspect Marie is nuts. But what a cosmic kick it would be to believe her!

Unless we dine at her table, we don't hear much about UFOs anymore. We're a nation grown weary of lights in the sky and suspicious tales of cryptic missives from Arcturus, popularized by Hollywood and trivialized by big, black tabloid headlines such as "I Bore a Space Alien's Baby."

Big-city newspaper editors dismiss most UFO reports as old hat or the gibberish of geeks. Establishment science won't embrace UFOs any more than it embraces the Loch Ness monster. The government closed its formal UFO investigation in 1969 and hasn't reopened it. And certainly very few people are seeing things anymore.

"The last three years have been virtually without UFO activity nationwide," says Dan Wright, who in his unpaid job with MUFON keeps track of UFOs in 17 Midwestern states. "We in the business feel we're overdue for another flap."

"We haven't had a major wave of sightings since 1973, which makes it the longest dry period ever," says David Jacobs, a Temple University intellectual historian whose specialty is the UFO controversy in America. He also teaches the only regularly scheduled course on UFOs at any American university. Enrollments for the course have fallen from about 30 in the mid-1970s to as few as eight in recent years.

Public opinion seems to have hardened on UFOs. The last Gallup Poll that asked about them, in 1978, found that one in nine Americans said they had seen a UFO, something in the sky they couldn't identify. Most Americans — 57 percent — said they believed UFOs were real, and not imaginary — about the same percentage as say they believe in angels. That poll never asked people what they thought the UFOs were.

But a 1985 poll by Northern Illinois University presented this statement to 2,000 Americans: "It is likely that some of the unidentified flying objects that have been reported are really space vehicles from other civilizations." Forty-three percent agreed; 46 percent disagreed. Only 11 percent weren't sure.

Documented within the computer system of the Center for UFO Studies (CUFOS) in Evanston, Ill., are some 180,000 UFO sightings dating back four decades. Most — more than 90 percent, experts say — are easily explainable as aircraft, satellites, birds, stars, planets, meteors or weather equipment. Others can be identified as rare but scientifically accepted natural phenomena: ball lightning that runs along utility wires for a moment, then vanishes; swamp gas that sends flames flickering over marshy areas; even strange, glowing plasmas that some geologists believe are forewarnings of earthquakes in seismologically unstable areas.

Only about five percent of reported UFOs cannot be explained away by conventional means. Most UFO researchers say only one possibility remains: We are not alone.

For much of the befuddled public — too smart to buy the extraterrestrial explanation without proof, too human to reject such a fantastic notion outright — the UFO issue is in the same bag as John F. Kennedy's assassination. Will we ever know for sure if Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone or as part of a conspiracy? What would we demand as proof? Who would we believe? Do we care anymore?

For others, UFOs are somewhat akin to life after death. There is no physical proof that heaven or hell exist, and God may be a figment of our frail psyches, too, but it can't hurt to believe.

Says historian Jacobs, "We're floating in a never-never land regarding UFOs. The evidence is not complete one way or the other. These are the most amazing and spectacular and extraordinary claims ever made. Extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence." UFO researchers admit theirs is almost entirely circumstantial.

"It's really one of the most mind-boggling situations, yet my firm conviction is that this is not just a nonsense subject," says Jacobs. He pauses for effect: "It's either the most important, most amazing event ever, or it's an interesting-but-worthless trivial footnote to history."

**N**ext June will mark the 40th anniversary of the Modern UFO Era.

Of course, folks have seen bizarre things in the sky since they started looking up.

The changing constellations amazed early man. Solar eclipses and lightning were signs from the gods. St. Paul was knocked off his horse by a bright light on the road to Damascus. The prophet Ezekiel saw wheels in the sky, "so high they were dreadful." The French philosopher Voltaire wrote in 1752 of visitors from outer space who traveled to the earth on light waves. Hundreds of people in Michigan and thousands more around the country reported a mysterious airship in the skies throughout 1896 and 1897.

Kenneth Arnold is the man responsible for the UFO hoopla of the past four decades, although if it wasn't him it certainly would have been someone else. A pilot from Pendleton, Ore., Arnold in June 1947 spotted nine bright, saucer-like objects flying near Mt. Rainier at a speed he estimated at 1,200 miles per hour. "It seems impossible," he said, "but there it is."

Within weeks, thousands of reports flooded in, including many from people who said they had seen something strange before Arnold had, but lacked the courage to speak up.

The first Detroit report came two weeks after Arnold's sighting, when a housewife said she saw a flying silver cake pan with a silver halo above it. Others saw donuts in the sky, washtubs, spiders, saucers emblazoned with the American flag. Most of the reports were junk, the ignorance and illusions of people propelled by news of flying saucers to scrutinize the sky for the first time.

Things got crazy. Jet fighters chased lights in the sky near the White House. Navy Hellcat planes were ordered on alert at the Grosse Ile Naval Air Base, in case any flying saucers threatened Detroit. The state of Kansas, which still observed prohibition at the time, announced that none of its residents had seen a flying saucer, but that proud claim didn't — couldn't — last long, since tipplers and teetotalers alike were seeing things.

Newspapers reacted with bemusement: "Here, There, Everywhere!" one headline read. It became "the flying saucer craze"; the nation was "disc-crazy." Capt. Eddie Rickenbacker, the World War I flying ace, said, "There must be something to them, for too many reliable persons have made reports on them." But, he said with patriotic fervor, "If they do exist, you can rest assured that they are ours."

Hoaxes sprung up almost immediately. Students lit candles, wrapped plastic dry cleaning bags around them, then set them aloft, triggering a flurry of UFO reports until the candles burned out 20 minutes later and the hot air that kept the bags up cooled down. "Unretouched photographs of genuine spaceships" later proved to be pictures of hubcaps tossed in the air.

(continued on page 5)



According to one psychiatrist, "hysteria over the world situation" was to blame. "Everyone affected," he predicted, "will recover."

Neither the world, nor the population, recovered. UFO sightings continued into the 1950s and '60s. Outlandish claims were made. Some people described long conversations with lovely women from Venus. A few recalled sexual interludes with aliens. Books like "Chariots of the Gods," which claimed astronauts from other galaxies had been visiting the earth for centuries, stretched credibility to the breaking point.

Legitimate UFO researchers writhed and moaned. The lunatic fringe, over which it had no control, was casting all UFO reports into doubt.

In 1969, after a controversial scientific commission concluded UFOs were explainable or harmless, the Air Force shut down the formal UFO investigation it had begun in 1947 (which was only half-hearted at best, critics say.) Though sightings continued in spurts, the government's dismissal of the phenomenon was the beginning of the end of big-time UFOlogy.

Yet, the fantasy appeal of extraterrestrial visitors remains, fed by such Hollywood blockbusters as "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" and "E.T.," which depict aliens as sweet-tempered and even vulnerable.

Even those who would dismiss people like Marie as nuts are silenced by certifiably sane people — celebrities, even — who have reported UFOs. Among them:

□ Actors William (Capt. Kirk) Shatner and Jamie (Klinger) Farr.  
□ Former WJR disc jockey Marc Avery.

□ A former Florida governor (who saw UFOs from airplanes on two different occasions) and a former Ohio governor (who saw one while driving through Michigan with his wife.)

□ Jimmy Carter, who as Georgia governor saw an object in 1973 that was "bluish at first, then reddish, then luminous but not solid."

□ And Detroit Tigers first baseman Darrell Evans, who spotted a UFO with his wife from the patio of their former Pleasanton, Calif., home in 1982. They waited two years before telling anyone about it.

Evans, a long-time believer in extraterrestrial life and UFOs, said this of the silent, triangular craft with brilliant white lights that he and his wife watched: "It was as if they had singled us out... I guess I'd always hoped there'd be something like this, something that would come in peace."

**D**an Wright was 21 when his father, a trucker, returned from a long trip and told about a brilliant pulsating light, "as big as a house," that accompanied him up U.S.-31 near Hart. "I've driven thousands of miles, from 1947 to 1970, and that's the only time" he saw a weird light, said Marshall Wright recently from his home in the Grand

Rapids suburb of Wyoming. "I'm convinced it was from outer space, although when it came out in the newspaper, they said it was a weather balloon released from Duluth."

But Dan shared his dad's conviction. Eight years ago, having read every book about UFOs that he could find, he joined MUFON. "I wanted to do good," he says. "I wanted to be part of the solution."

Binoculars accompanied Dan Wright everywhere those first few years with MUFON. He was a novice skywatcher. He didn't want to miss a thing. And he wanted to be sure before he allowed his heart to start pounding wildly.

So he was primed for something amazing that cool evening in September 1978, and he spotted it immediately. "Pull over!" he shouted to a companion who was driving. He leapt from the car before it had quite stopped and whispered "Wow!" as a craft resembling a huge boomerang, with two mammoth spotlights, whooshed silently over all four lanes of I-94, then over Dan Wright's head. He dashed after the thing and happily sprawled belly-down in a recently harvested cornfield to watch the craft through his binoculars as it hovered seductively over a nearby grove of trees; too distant to make out distinctly, too near to be mistaken for anything but unusual.

Dan Wright describes his first UFO as artfully as a fisherman describes the big one that got away, as poignantly as a poet describes his first lost love. The memory lingers sweetly years later.

His second UFO, two weeks after the first, appeared while he was with his wife on the patio of their home. She shrugged her shoulders and strolled inside as he sped away, alone in his car, to chase the thing for miles on twisting country roads.

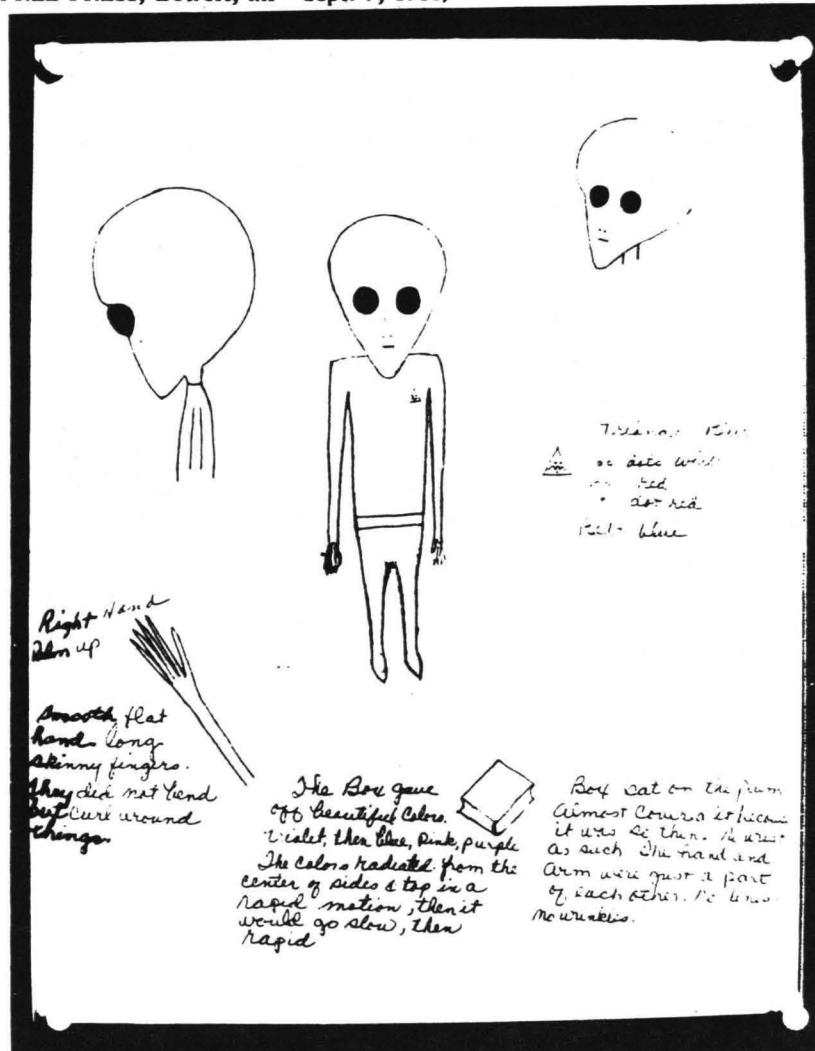
He finally came face-to-face with it in a moonlit field. Contrary to his deepest ambitions, he could not approach it. He stood paralyzed at his car, the door open, flashing his headlights at it like a fool.

Then he got in his car, started it, backed it out of the field and drove away, waving goodbye to the lights. "I was probably five miles away before a fog lifted in my mind and I realized what I had done. I had acted exactly the opposite of the way I wanted to act. My conclusion was that I had been had. I had been kept at bay, perhaps for my own good."

"Whatever these intelligences are, they do not need weapons. They just bend your mind a little, and you go away."

Hours later, shaken and awed, he told his wife the amazing things that had come to pass. "She thought it was interesting — but not compelling," he says. UFOs had become a tumor in their once-compelling marriage; they split soon afterward. The same thing has happened before, to those on the margins of science.

Now 39, Dan Wright is alone, sharing a modest Lansing home with another man,



a linen truck driver. On paper, the two are incompatible. Wright has a master's degree in political science, and makes \$32,000 a year as a policy analyst for the state Department of Social Services. He has a well-ordered mouth of chunky white teeth, wears knit ties and slip-on leather shoes. He looks like a young Republican.

He leads a Clark Kent existence: a mild-mannered bureaucrat by day, a leader in a shrinking national UFO movement by night, fighting a never-ending battle for truth, respect and the Intergalactic Way. In his bedroom are his bed and his MUFON office: a desk and two file cabinets.

He owns a videotape of "Close Encounters of the Third Kind," which includes the classic line, voiced by Richard Dreyfuss' whiny and disbelieving wife: "Was it like a taco? Was it like one of those Sara Lee moon-shaped cookies?" It is Wright's favorite movie. Last year, he spent about \$2,000 on postage and printing for MUFON, although the expense is deductible, since MUFON is a non-profit organization. This summer, he took two-thirds of his three-week vacation to research correlations between UFO sightings and Michigan's fickle weather conditions.

His housemate has a high school degree, tends toward jeans, T-shirts, motorcycles and stock cars, has more lady friends at a time than Wright has ever had, and "doesn't need to read books to be successful."

Yet the two have become friends of sorts. "He thought my interest in UFOs was a curiosity. He'd never read or gone out of his way to learn about them. He just accepts

it. He's typical," says Wright. "He is Joe America."

**N**ot money, but cookies and coffee have fueled UFO research in this country for the past decade and a half. "There's nothing as exciting as sitting across the kitchen table from someone who has just seen something," says Wright, who has investigated about 50 UFO sightings in eight years. A small cavalry of amateur investigators around the country takes UFO reports (referred by local police departments and airports), then interviews witnesses and visits the area of the sighting. Standardized forms are filled out. Sample question: "Did the object(s) or light(s) flutter? Spin? Blink? Pulsate? Appear solid? Have fuzzy edges? Have outline? Wobble? Vibrate? Glow? Appear transparent?" Pencil sketches are made of the UFOs, many of which resemble onions, pickles and other kitchen items. Nerves are soothed.

Wright even sends Christmas cards to UFO-spotters he has interviewed, "to let them know I'm still here if they need me."

"Most observers don't want me to tell them it's a UFO," says Wright. "They want me to provide them with a prosaic answer that will relieve them. The closer it was, the more the person wants it to be something normal."

The investigative process is imprecise. A minuscule percentage of UFO sightings is ever reported. A UFO is there and then it's gone. Witnesses are startled and often terrified, especially if it came close. Recalling the event in exact detail may be as difficult

**Among Dan Wright's UFO collection is this drawing of an alien, with notes describing the vehicle it arrived in.**

as recalling a dream. Estimating the size of objects in space, especially when seen at night, is a challenge. Accounts from witnesses of the same UFO differ, as accounts differ of the same auto accident. And UFO investigators, busy with their lives, don't have the time or energy to follow up every case.

Says Ron Westrum, a sociology professor at Eastern Michigan University who has been a UFO investigator for 12 years: "I wrote up one investigation just this month that I'd been sitting on for three years. A typical case, an ordinary, run-of-the-mill case, takes a good eight hours of time. You're talking chunks of three evenings. When there really is a big flap, as there was in Michigan after 'Close Encounters of the Third Kind' came out (in 1977), I had 25 cases. There's no way you can investigate 25 cases. At most, I did half a dozen."

Plus, it's a lot like working at an airport security check: most suspicious things turn out to be nothing, and the work can get boring. People call about UFOs that turn out to be Venus, for example. Westrum's favorite is one incident he calls "the Herbie case," in which a man nicknamed the UFO that nightly flew over his house "Herbie," and conversed with the thing by flashing his car headlights as it flashed its lights back. Westrum watched one night and concluded within moments that Herbie was an airliner switching from cruising lights to landing lights as it glided over the man's house toward a nearby airport.

(continued on page 6)

So, an investigator calls airports and the National Weather Service to check out mundane possibilities before concluding an object is truly unidentified and passing it along to MUFON headquarters in Seguin, Tex. There, the most legitimate of the cases are sent to CUFOS in Illinois, where a committee of scientists attempts to solve them.

"They're a group of more or less anonymous people, some known, some not," says CUFOS president Sherman J. Larsen, who founded CUFOS with skeptic-turned-researcher J. Allen Hynek in 1973. Larsen says CUFOS' review committee wants no publicity, partly because UFO research is not considered an asset on one's curriculum vitae. "We don't talk about them," he says, refusing to name any members.

Hynek, the godfather of the UFO movement, invested half of his life in UFO research. At first, he was a UFO investigator for the Air Force, a diehard skeptic who made enemies in Michigan in 1966 when he dismissed the lights that hundreds of people saw that year as "swamp gas," a conclusion he said he later regretted. By the late '60s, he had become convinced UFOs were a mystery worth pursuing, saying: "You can't call all of the people liars all of the time."

In his first book, "The UFO Experience," he said of those who see UFOs: "They... have had experiences as real to them as seeing a car coming down the street is to others." He wrote that, after investigating the topic for many years, he felt "the frustration a person might experience in describing the colors of a sunset to one born blind."

Although his name is not well known outside UFO circles, he described in that book three categories of UFO sightings in words that, like a Biblical litany, raise goosebumps on the necks of those who believe, or want to.

In a "close encounter of the first kind," Hynek wrote, a UFO is visible in the air within 500 feet of the observer. In a "close encounter of the second kind," the UFO lands within 500 feet of the observer. In a "close encounter of the third kind," humanoids are visible within the UFO, or are seen on the earth outside of it.

Hynek died in April, a puzzled man. He never saw a UFO himself, and he never learned what it was that everyone else saw.

**B**etty Carlisle and Joyce Burt had never heard of J. Allen Hynek when they experienced their close encounter. Six years later, they consider themselves hostages to its memory.

"When I come home at night, I still run from my car to the door. I won't look at the sky, because I'm so afraid if I look it might be there," says Betty, 40, who lives next door to Joyce in Laingsburg, a small town near Lansing.

"It wasn't too long ago, maybe a month ago, that she called me," says Joyce. "She

had just gotten home from the supermarket, and could swear it was there, and she would not go out to get her groceries. I went over and helped her." Joyce saw nothing, and felt no dread that something was lurking nearby.

Betty, a computer operator at Michigan State University, will not talk about what she saw six years ago. When she reluctantly agreed to appear at a regional MUFON meeting several years ago, she sat trembling as Dan Wright described the encounter to the crowd. She had refused to tell it herself.

"It's the type of thing — I just really don't want to talk about it," she says. "I was very non-believing in this sort of thing, totally. It was extremely frightening to me, and it's not over. I've always felt it was something that would occur again. It has interrupted my life for too long a time. Even to talk about it now makes me shake inside."

According to accounts the women wrote within days after their sighting, Betty was standing at her back door waiting for her dog to finish its business when she first saw it, an amber light, misshapen like a rising sun, that "was so bright I squinted." It was about 70 feet from her, she guessed, and 20 feet high and approaching her as if it intended to land in her yard. "I got 'spooked,'" she wrote, and came inside. "I leaned against the door and tried to convince myself I didn't see anything."

When she looked again, it was still there, 100 feet more distant, as brilliant as before. She called Joyce, who walked over with her teenaged daughter. Joyce, Betty and their adolescent daughters all stood at the door of Betty's kitchen for an hour and a half, the drawn drapes behind them, and watched as the light blinked on and off, visible at times to only some of them, spinning and changing colors — red, blue, green, amber and off-white — occasionally flashing beams of light on the house. For a few moments Betty saw one of her rose bushes illuminated by a beam from the object.

Joyce urged Betty to call someone for help. But, at least for the first hour of the encounter, Betty wouldn't. "I felt I *couldn't*," she wrote. Now, she says, "I'm not a person normally controlled by anything but myself, but I absolutely felt I was controlled by this... It is something that does have power, and can more or less get you to do what it wants... I had the feeling this thing did not want me to tell anyone. Maybe that's part of my fear now."

"I've had friends say, 'I hope it happens to me.' I wouldn't wish that on anyone."

Betty will not read about UFOs. "I've told Dan (Wright), if you ever come up with something and can sit me down and say, 'These are the facts,' I wanna hear from you. Until that time it's so much theory."

Joyce at first found herself oddly frightened by lit candles, even in church, because they reminded her of the burning brilliance of the UFO she saw. Unlike Betty, she has read book after book

about UFOs, although "before, I couldn't have cared less about it." Often, she sits up in bed in the middle of the night, as if a voice had called to her. "I wake up and think, 'It's out there. I know it is.' But I'm not going to go to that window to look."

Says Joyce: "We know what we saw. We know how we felt that night. It's in the past for both of us, but this little fear is around every once in a while. We have no idea why it picked her, or us."

**W**hat those Laingsburg women saw six years ago fits a changing pattern of UFO sightings, according to data collected by CUFOS. Experts say the pattern holds worldwide:

UFOs have gotten bigger, from the size of a house to the size of a football field. Flying saucers, or disc-shaped UFOs, have given way more often to flying boomerangs. Silver and metallic objects have been replaced by things with very bright lights; sometimes witnesses aren't even sure there is anything tangible behind the light. The lights are almost always red, green and white, or a combination of those. No one ever sees purple lights.

Almost 75 percent of sightings occur between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m., compared with the early days when daylight sightings were much more common. UFOs used to fly very high, but now they come down to earth. They hover over treetops, backyard sheds, freeways. Sometimes they change colors. Sometimes they vanish, then reappear.

"They've come closer to the ground with each succeeding wave," says historian Jacobs. "Nobody knows that — it's not reported — so it's not possible the whole world could be in cahoots (on) this."

Still, UFOs rarely land. Only about 2,000 cases worldwide include any evidence of a landing, which may include a circle of scorched earth, a ring of swirled grass (always in a counterclockwise direction), and/or depressions in the earth, presumably from landing gear. In Michigan, says Dan Wright, the last good landing case was in 1968, in a farmer's field near Albion.

Here is where believing becomes a real challenge: In about 600 cases, investigators say, psychologically stable people have reported being abducted by aliens. Some UFO researchers believe aliens from perhaps a half-dozen different parts of the universe may be visiting the earth, because descriptions of the beings fall into several categories.

"In the 1950s, almost every charlatan went to Mars and did the two-step with Jesus, who was alive and well there. These people were an enormous problem" for serious UFO researchers, says Jacobs, and the researchers responded by rejecting as a hoax any story involving abductions. Until the stories started piling up.

Says Jacobs: "If you have one (abduction) case, you gotta say, 'Forget it.' But if

you have 100 cases, or 200, and they all fit the same pattern, describe the same things, say the same things, and give details that are amazingly similar, you have to step back and say, 'What the hell is happening here?'"

Sociologist Westrum says abductions by aliens are real, but are not given credence because people don't want to believe such things can happen. "It's the same reason it took so long for the battered child syndrome to become a public issue — people just couldn't believe it."

Larsen, at CUFOS, is skeptical about any case involving humanoids: "That's primarily where the kook fringe fits in. We're very, very cautious of those."

Yet, because such reports are unbelievable and frightening and titillating, abduction cases recently have stolen almost all the attention in UFO circles.

"It's the longest shot, and there's more potential for fraud, but what a payoff you can get if you've got something!" says Marcello Truzzi, an Eastern Michigan University sociologist who directs the Center for Scientific Anomaly Research, reflecting on the publicity, mass public interest and scientific renown a well-documented abduction would generate. But he adds that he is "not personally impressed" with the stories. "I do think these



**UFO tracker Dan Wright:** "Most observers don't want me to tell them it's a UFO."

people experience something potentially interesting to psychology. I don't know *what* the hell's wrong with them."

UFO researchers say the parallels among the abductees' accounts are inexplicable, since their stories rarely are published in newspapers. However, the researchers do not hesitate to describe out loud what some of the parallels are:

□ Many abductees have a straight-line scar on their upper left thigh, running from the buttock to a small gouged area. This presumably is where aliens cut into earthlings to take tissue samples.

□ The abductees never speak aloud to their captives. They communicate telepathically. If they make any audible noise, they hum.

□ Most often the abductees are not led fighting and screaming to the spacecraft, but are "floated" in against their will.

□ Although the aliens fall into several categories, the most common visitor is about 3½ to 4½ feet tall; extremely thin, almost flat; with smooth skin as pale as parchment; with absolutely no hair, not even eyebrows or lashes;

with a slightly enlarged head, no neck, arms that reach to the knees, very large, almond-shaped eyes, and a slit of a mouth. They are often dressed in a silver, one-piece garment with built-in footies, made of a substance that resembles woven aluminum foil. No alien has ever been reported to resemble E.T.

□ The abductors show no emotion except surprise, and perform physical examinations of their victims very clinically.

□ The abductors communicate only rather mundane things like "Come with me" or "Lie still." They never make paternalistic promises or cosmic pronouncements about the fate of the earth. None has ever said, "Take me to your leader."

**N**ow, for a word from the skeptics:

"They're just plain kooks. You wonder how they tie their shoes in the morning," says Jack McConnell of those who say they've been abducted. McConnell was, until July, an astronomer at Michigan State University. He has since taken a job with NASA's Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore. He is a member of a national organization called the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal.

Its acronym is CSICOP. UFO believers call it Cyclops.

McConnell attended MUFON's annual national convention in June in East Lansing. Only about 150 people attended, about half the number that came in the late 1970s. "They are small-town people," McConnell says of those he met, "many of whom I would consider quite gullible."

"They are not scientific thinkers."

"This kind of stuff," continues McConnell, "whether faith healing or UFOs, (suggests) there's lots of illogical thinking and silliness out there, and that's dangerous for our society. We feel an educated, modern society should have as little of this kind of stuff as possible."

CSICOP's aim is to debunk not only UFOs, but astrology, numerology, the Loch Ness monster, Big Foot, the Bermuda Triangle, faith healing, reincarnation and other paranormal phenomena that many people have believed in for many years.

Its members, and other skeptics, pose three pointed questions about the notion that UFOs are piloted by extraterrestrial visitors:

□ Even if they have devised a miracle technology to allow them to travel close to the speed of light, it would take many years for them to get here. Why would they spend that effort to visit us, a planet in the boondocks of the universe, with technologies apparently far inferior to their own?

□ Why has one never landed in a spot where there are plenty of witnesses: on the White House lawn, or in Central Park, or in the Yosemite Valley, or even on a parking ramp in downtown Cleveland?

(continued on page 7)



□ Why hasn't a single UFO ever crashed? Why hasn't a single being, clearly not of earthly origin, ever been left behind or expired here? Why hasn't a single rivet or screw or piece of a headlight that is clearly not of earthly manufacture ever turned up at a UFO sighting site? Why is there no physical evidence left behind — not even an alien earring?

"They do the Japanese one better," says Dan Wright. "These things don't break down."

The grim fact remains: The ideal UFO has not arrived, the one to blast away all doubt, suck away millions of federal defense dollars for UFO research, and firmly establish UFOs in the public and scientific mind as a mystery worth solving.

Susan Ager is a Detroit Magazine staff writer. Bob Zuba is a free-lance artist from Plains, Pa.



"It would happen during the daytime," says Dan Wright. "It would be tracked by both a military base and a commercial airport on radar, with no other known traffic in the area. It would land after having been seen by hundreds or thousands of people at a low altitude so as not to be mistaken for a conventional aircraft."

"It would land on some public property, such as in a park. It would have been photographed by at least two persons from different angles and locations. It would leave

**Darrell Evans, who spotted a UFO in 1982: "It was as if they had singled us out."**

landing traces, in the manner of depressions in the ground, scorched or swirled vegetation underneath, and a high incidence of magnetic radiation.

"And following that would be a public official to say, 'Yes, it was real, and I saw it, too.'"

When that happens, those of us who didn't yawn or roll our eyes would certainly believe. ■

# DETROIT

DETROIT FREE PRESS

SEPTEMBER 7, 1986



Cover illustration by Bob Zuba.

Detroit Magazine staff writer Susan Ager, who wrote our cover story about the dwindling number of UFO hunters, has never had much truck with extra-terrestrials. Her only sighting of an unexplained object in the sky occurred when she was a child, and it left her less than overwhelmed.

"I was sitting on the swing on my parents' front porch at dusk, and looking up into the southern sky I saw a cigar-shaped object," she recalls. "It intrigued me for a few moments, and while I couldn't explain to myself what it was, I immediately dismissed it as something that was probably perfectly mundane and never gave another thought to it."

That is, until she began to talk with people who claim to have had experiences involving UFOs — as well as UFO researchers and skeptics who want to debunk such beliefs. After she started doing research for her story, she began to scan the night sky with a sense of purpose, but to no avail.

"I was, in fact, hoping to see a UFO," she says, "but all I saw were many, many airplanes at varying altitudes. And I also saw Venus — but I had been forewarned that Venus is often mistaken for a UFO."

Although many scientists and objective observers dismiss UFO spotters as gullible, misguided innocents, Ager found them to be ordinary people who feel affected by extraordinary events. "I do believe all of these people saw or experienced something. I'm certainly convinced they're not liars."



UNION DEMOCRAT, Sonora, CA - Oct. 13, 1986 CR: J. Laurino



CLOSE ENCOUNTER PANEL — Alien abductions and other UFO experiences were discussed by this five-member panel consisting of

(from left) Larry Jacobsen, Mekiel Israel, Martha Throne, Kathy Dean and Sara Shaw.

— Union Democrat photo by Linda Wilcox

## UFO SYMPOSIUM

### A 'visual' weekend, but no aliens sighted

What has pointed ears and spindly limbs and grunts like a pig?

An alien, of course. At least that was one description offered to those who attended "Bridging the Gap," a UFO symposium held Saturday and Sunday on the Mother Lode Fairgrounds.

As many as 400 showed up to see models of outer space creatures, peruse displays on UFOs and listen to speakers tell of the latest scientific findings and personal experiences related to the controversial phenomena.

People came from all over California — the Central Valley, the Bay Area and as far away as Los Angeles. One speaker was brought in from Texas.

The symposium was presented by the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) and organized largely by Sonora resident Marv Taylor, MUFON director for Northern California. Taylor held his first symposium here six years ago.

"We had a quantity of high-level speakers," he said. They included Walter H. Andrus, the international director of MUFON; Ronald Lakis, a television producer and director; and author Richard F. Haines, a senior research scientist at the NASA Ames Research Center at Moffett Field.

The symposium was also "a lot more visual," said Taylor, who brought his entire collection of

UFO materials to the fairgrounds for the event.

"I think we met our goal," he added. "We wanted to bring people up to date on the current status of the phenomenon, and we have."

A number of those in attendance said that was exactly why they showed up.

"We were just driving by," said Kathryn Bloom of Santa Cruz, who came with her husband, Gil. "We're interested in UFOs, and we wanted to hear about some of the later reports on flying saucers."

Her husband commented that, as far as the existence of extra-terrestrials is concerned, "I don't doubt it at all."

"I think the planet was colonized by them," he said. "That's why they look like us."

Janet McGuigan of Los Altos Hills said the phenomena "seems to be credible."

"I'm easily duped, but too many reliable witnesses have seen them. You can't dismiss all of them." Has she seen one? "No, but I'm dying to. Everytime I see lights, it turns out to be just a plane."

Kay and Don Wilkerson, who drove from Sacramento both days to attend the symposium, have both witnessed UFOs and call themselves "true believers."

"It just makes sense to me," said Kay Wilkerson. "I don't care if people think I'm a crackpot. I think it's good the public is being made aware of what's going on."

Andrus said symposiums like this one serve to point out that people in this area "are fired up" about UFOs. And they are just a few of many.

According to the latest Gallup poll on the subject, Andrus said, 15 million people in the United States have sighted UFOs, and 10 percent to 20 percent of those have "defied earthly explanations."

"The higher the academic level of a person, the more they are likely to accept UFOs," he said. Statistical information run through computers proves they exist, he said.

"There's no question we have UFOs. If you look at the data, you can't deny it."

# UFO tales aplenty at confab

By LINDA WILCOX

Kook, lunatic, weirdo, crackpot.

That's what those who think they know better might call people who believe in aliens and spaceships.

They're out of their minds, they say. Everyone knows there's no such thing as flying saucers and little green men. They must be on drugs.

Not necessarily.

By some estimates, at least half of the 400 attendees at the UFO symposium held at the Mother Lode Fairgrounds over the weekend had close encounter stories to tell, and none of them came in straitjackets or even wore those little bobbing antennas.

They were eager to share their experiences with others, saying they didn't care what people thought of them. They trusted their own eyes more than the opinions of strangers.

One of those people was Mekiel Israel, a Tuolumne County resident who says he has sighted UFOs on numerous occasions since childhood and was even abducted once by aliens.

It was 1975, and he was living in an apartment in Fremont.

"They used to come in and play with me," he said. "I saw them — they looked very human, somewhat like a fetus, with large heads. They wore metallic suits."

The visitors hung around for several months before the abduction. Then, in the middle of the night, it happened.

"I awakened and I was sitting on what appeared to be a hospital bed," he recalled. Tall male and female aliens with deep, dark eyes were inspecting him.

Israel then realized that he had been put into a different body — one about three feet tall, lightweight and "highly energized."

He could think of just one thing to ask them.

"Do you have any UFOs around here?"

Israel said they responded, "Yes, there's one arriving from Mexico any minute."

He said he leaped off the bed and ran to the window and, without his glasses, was able to clearly see a space ship the "size of a football field."

His abduction eventually ended, and he found

himself back at home. But his experience didn't end there. Along with a friend, he once saw a beach near Los Angeles that didn't exist. And, locally, he has seen hovering white lights fly in and out of a hill near Jupiter.

"I think there may be a base there," he said.

Another local resident, who along with Israel spoke on a panel at the end of the symposium, said she, too, was taken aboard a spaceship.

Martha Throne said she was driving home to Sonora from Oakdale in 1977 when, all of a sudden, the engine stopped, the headlights turned off and she saw a "huge light by the side of the road."

"They took me out and took me up on the ship," Throne said. "They put me on a hospital gurney and said, 'Don't worry, we won't hurt you.' They didn't touch me except on my head. One of them I couldn't see was pressing his thumbs behind my ears."

The aliens were about five feet tall, thin and wore sandy-colored suits, she said. They had large round eyes, slits for mouths and no eyebrows. They never spoke, instead communicating with arm movements, according to Throne.

They put her under a number of times, the last time to return her to her car.

"I ended up slumped over the wheel, and the car started up again," she said. But the car eventually had to be junked. It never operated correctly again.

Others at the symposium also reported seeing bright lights while driving.

Oakdale resident Jerry Warden said he and a friend were out driving one evening about 13 years ago and saw a light over the car.

They pulled over to get a better look, got out of the car — and it was gone.

They went home, rather quickly, and Warden mentioned the experience to his mother, who thought his story was a little bizarre. The next morning, she read the newspaper and discovered the light had been seen by more people than just her son.

"From then on, I've been interested in UFOs," he said. "There's something out there."

Jackie Metzger of Vallejo said she saw a similar UFO years ago, outside Las Vegas.

"It seems so doggone farfetched," she said. "But

we were driving down the road from Hoover Dam, and saw this light over a mountain, and it got bigger as we got into town.

"At first I thought it was an airplane, but it was just hovering there over Montgomery Ward, making no noise. We tried to take a picture, but it went away. Then it started chasing us, and followed us all the way to this guy's sister's house. It kept hovering above us."

One woman at the symposium said she, like several others, first saw a UFO while driving. But the second time was closer — and frightening.

"My sister and I were snowbound with the kids in a cabin in Colorado, in the middle of nowhere," said Altaville resident Susan Wilson.

They turned in after midnight, and she began to doze off when she felt someone sit down on her bed.

"I thought it was my sister, but she was five feet away, on her bed," said Wilson.

"I knew someone was there, because I could see an impression on the bed. And I could smell a male fragrance. I got out of bed, went over to the fireplace, and walked into another fragrance. There were at least two of them there. It began to turn super warm, and we heard crickets outside — in the middle of winter.

"We told them, materialize, or get the hell out of here. They left. The next morning, we went outside. The snow had melted to the ground in a four foot perimeter around the house, and it wasn't even muddy.

"Everybody told us we were ready for a padded cell. But it was enough to make a believer out of me."

A La Honda resident who would not give his name said he'd seen it all — a flying saucer, a mother ship with four small vehicles flying in and out of it, and an alien face to face.

"I was in a bar with a group of friends, and this guy walked up to me. He said, 'I appreciate your light here tonight. I'm from the ship over there.' Then he made this noise." He croaked a sound, resembling a cross between a sick chicken and synthesizer.

"Then he touched me on the back of my neck and said thanks."

## Lots of questions, but few hard facts

Why question whether UFOs exist?

Why not just accept them and try to discover where they come from and why they come here?

That was the topic discussed by Sonora resident John Dunlap, one of the 10 speakers at the UFO symposium over the weekend.

"The question is a moot point," said Dunlap. "The numbers and types of sightings prove there is something going on. What we should be concerned about is what are they, and why are they?"

He added that, with his background in mathematics and mechanics, he is "into UFOs totally as an investigator. I've never had a first-hand experience."

Tom Gates, who hosts "Stargazer" for radio station KCBS in San Francisco and teaches UFO classes at Foothill College and San Jose State University, spoke about public attitudes toward the phenomenon.

"People are definitely more accepting now," he said. "It used to be, if you believed in UFOs, you also had to be a little paranoid. That's still around, but to a lesser degree."

People tend to describe the experiences and sightings by others as "outlandish," he said. "But many people have had the same experiences."

He added that some of the stories could be related to the use of mind-altering drugs, "but some clearly are not."

To believe or not to believe? That is not the question, according to Gates.

"There are the believers, and then there are the debunkers," he said. "They fall at each extreme. It's best to just learn what you can and stay aware."

Speaker Walter H. Andrus, international director of the sponsoring Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), presented the facts of a case in which three people were burned from the propulsion system of a craft which was never identified.

Richard Haines spoke about the case he wrote about in his book, "The Inflight Disappearance of Fredrich Valentich."

Valentich, an airplane pilot, disappeared off the coast of New Zealand in 1981 while attempting to identify a flying object nearby. The National Guard was sent out to try and find him, but he and his plane were nowhere to be found.

James McCampbell, an independent business consultant and research director of MUFON, talked about the electromagnetic effects of UFOs on people's senses, including paralysis, tastes and smells.

Television producer and director Ronald Lakis spoke on the media's approach to UFOs, why they choose not to report stories on them and how difficult it is to acquire reliable information on the subject.

MUFON Assistant State Director Tom Page narrated a slide presentation and showed a movie about close encounters.

Other speakers were information specialist Bruce Sullivan, parapsychologist Joyce Needles and symposium coordinator Marv Taylor.



# U•F•O•B•I•A..



## Coming Soon To A Neighborhood Near You!

By Rose Angotti

While June and her friend Sherrie were walking around the block at dusk in their neighborhood on August 31 they were struck speechless by the sight of a large rounded object, with yellowish-green spotlights, landing soundlessly in a nearby field. It was gone by the time June and Sherrie could get anyone else to look, and when the story was passed along they were ridiculed by their neighbors.

The next Thursday when June received a phone call from one of her neighbors telling her to call a number to report unexplained sights, she asked him to quit kidding her about the incident. The fellow was serious, and when June called, it turned out four others saw the same thing at the same time and place.

We've been hearing about people seeing unidentified flying objects for years, but during the last few weeks in August there has been a marked increase in UFO sightings in Western Pennsylvania — including "lots of reports in Allegheny County," according to Stan Gordon, director of the Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained (PASU).

"There have been dozens and dozens of sightings in the last few weeks," said Gordon. "Throughout the United States — the whole world — there's been quite an increase in the last couple months." He says that many of these unusual sights can be

explained as meteors, weather balloons, space junk burning up, or the brightness this time of year of the planets Venus, Jupiter and Mars.

But many can't be explained. "We don't know for sure if the objects are from space," said Gordon. "I'm convinced that whatever we're dealing with is advanced and can go in and out of our reality, with the capability to be here one minute and change into another dimension. There appears to be intelligence behind it."

This appears to be the case with what June and Sherrie saw. (Both women in their thirties, with five children between them, have requested anonymity because of the ridicule they have experienced in the plan of homes near New Stanton.) The object landed near the Volkswagen plant and was gone, leaving a nine-foot in diameter circle of burnt grass.

The other four individuals who saw the landing were traveling by car along Rte. 119, one of whom was an air traffic controller visiting from California. According to Gordon, this man was certain the object was not a conventional aircraft.

PASU representatives inspected the site and are now having samples analysed, which will have been completed within two weeks.

"Space grass" samples, residue made up of aluminum, silicon and titanium have been analysed from other sites where people have called

sightings in to the PASU. Recently on display at Westmoreland Mall, this "space grass" drew people from all over the state, said Gordon.

Three individuals saw one of the last sightings, on September 7, in Fayette County between Connellsville and Vanderbilt. Bright white lights and several balls of light were traveling over a field at low level in a zig-zag pattern, then passed cars overhead on the right.

Another sighting occurred in the daylight, August 12 at 8:30 a.m. over Monroeville Mall. Two people reported that a huge cigar-shaped, elongated object came out of the woods away from the road and hovered over the mall in three separate spots. These people were amazed how it moved, between hoverings the object shot like a jet, since it was the length of three PAT buses.

"People are reluctant to come forward," said Gordon, "but we do know the government takes these sightings very seriously." Since the Blue Book closed in 1969, the Freedom of Information Act enabled many recently de-classified documents to become available. Gordon said government investigations continue at a very high level.

The PASU, available to the public since 1966, is a statewide clearing house which tracks UFO reports and follows any physical trail left behind. There are currently 80 people involved in this strictly research

group of volunteers, including medical doctors, engineers and scientists. Time and equipment both are freely given 24-hours a day. An example is that laboratory analysis is done on unidentified samples as a professional courtesy.

Not only UFO's are looked into, without giving a caller incredulous ridicule, but other unexplained occurrences such as black panther and BigFoot sightings in Pennsylvania as well. In fact, a Bigfoot sighting was investigated in South Park, according to Gordon.

"We're a unique, trained group," said Gordon, a 37-year-old engineer, who has been keeping clippings and files on sightings for 27 years. "Ninety-eight percent of the reports are not publicized."

Gordon has seen depressions in the ground, residues and burn marks, but never a UFO first-hand. But the possibility doesn't scare him. "If I was frightened, I wouldn't go out at 3:00 a.m. myself to investigate a report," he said.

The PASU Hotline number is 412-838-7768. The address is: PA Association for the Study of the Unexplained, 6 Oakhill Avenue, Greensburg, PA 15601.



DAILY HOME, Talladega, AL - Nov. 12, 1986

## No clue as yet to mysterious red light

By The Associated Press

A red-glowing light with a tail that flared across the sky in the Southeast prompted searches in several states for traces of a possible meteor or other space object, but no remnants have been found, authorities said Tuesday.

The flashing light was spotted about sunset Monday over parts of Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi as it streaked westward, and aviation officials said it was probably a meteor.

Maj. Walter Chipchase, a spokesman for the North American Air Defense Command, said the light was not believed to be a disintegrating rocket or satellite.

"NORAD did not detect any rocket body or space debris re-

entering the atmosphere," he said.

Sgt. Ray Williams, a spokesman for Eglin Air Force Base in Fort Walton, Beach, Fla., also said no weather balloons or flights were launched from the base at the time the light was seen.

Although authorities said the object likely burned in the atmosphere hundreds of miles from Earth, some local officials looked for fragments in fields and other areas where residents reported sightings.

Joe Kelich, a deputy with the Rhea County Sheriff's Department in East Tennessee, said he scoured an area near Graysville where a caller told authorities something had fallen out of the sky.

"We got a report that it might have been a piece of a plane," he said. "We looked around and

didn't find anything."

An area near Ducktown in the southeastern corner of Tennessee also was checked, but no debris was found, said Polk County sheriff's dispatcher Edna Wilcox. "So far, we haven't seen or heard anything," she said.

Searches also were conducted in Fannin County in northern Georgia, Cullman County in northern Alabama and other areas as hundreds of calls were made to airports and local authorities, but no one turned up any evidence of the object, officials said.

"There were reports that it was a fireball falling out of the sky, a downed plane, a possible satellite explosion . . . or a shooting star," said Gene Jones, director of the Gilmer County (Ga.) Emergency

Management Agency. "Apparently it was a meteorite entering the atmosphere."

Curley Wainwright, a traffic control supervisor at McGhee Tyson Airport in Knoxville, Tenn., said the light had "quite a red glow and a tail behind it" when he saw it behind some clouds.

Other sightings were reported in eastern Mississippi around Meridian, Birmingham and Montgomery in Alabama and Morristown and Chattanooga in Tennessee.

Jones said chances of finding any pieces of the object were slim.

"A meteorite could be the size of a pin-point to a bowling ball," Jones said. "It's like trying to find a needle in a haystack. It may have landed on the ground, but where, God knows."

CR: L. Phillips

# UFO



BY DOT ROBERTSON  
The News  
in the foothills

The artist was a retiree from Mauldin and he was shy, at first, about showing his work. He was also shy about giving his story. And his name.

The pencil drawings he laid down on the cafe table, at the McAlister Square, were neat and efficient; most of us would not know for certain whether the likenesses were good, for most of us have not seen the subject. And some of those who may have seen it would never say so.

It was a domed saucer-shaped object. No — more, as he noted, like an inverted soup plate, or a squashed bell. As he recalled it, there were two of them, hovering in the pale dawn sky several years ago, on the coast of Florida, where he and his wife were staying.

He explained his drawing: bucket-shaped protrusions he believed to be some sort of exhaust system made a pattern around the bases of the things. The two mystery ships had glowed with colored lights as they hovered briefly over the horizon and then buzzed out of sight.

"I'm not exactly one that follows all that," the artist told John Timmerman, who is the public relations director of the Center for UFO Studies in Lima, Ohio.

Timmerman was in Greenville with a traveling exhibit of reports, pictures and descriptive letters from people who, like the man with the drawings, had seen something aloft that the Wright brothers never dreamed of.

As Timmerman recorded the retiree's story, told almost in a whisper, lines of shoppers moved slowly past the panels of the exhibit. Later, some gathered around a television set where Timmerman was showing a tape of a discussion by scientists Jacques Vallee and astronomer J. Allen Hynek, founder of the Center for UFO Studies.

Vallee, an astrophysicist and computer scientist, was the model for the French scientist in the Spielberg movie *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*. Astronomer Hynek, who died of a brain tumor last April, was the founder of the Center for UFO Studies, and one of the first to bring the UFO phenomenon under serious scrutiny.

It was Hynek who, in a system rating reports of sightings by how much, and how intimately, the reporter was able to observe, coined the phrase "close encounters of the third kind."

Since sightings of unidentified objects by airmen in the 1940s started a wave of reports credible and otherwise, human imagination has been captured by airborne saucers crewed by Little Green Men. Or appealing, sweet-faced lizards.

Sometimes, to the science community's dismay, the human urge to create a little excitement also created headlines. In Jonesboro, Ark., two little silver men were charged with obstructing traffic after their "spaceship" dropped them on a busy highway. Investigators found two fun-loving locals wrapped in tinfoil.

At Marietta, Ga., a discussion in a barbershop led to a convincing tragedy on a highway near town. A little green man was found on the road, where he had — it was told by certain witnesses — been hit by a car after a fall from his saucer. After much to-do, the corpse of the alien was found to be that of a monkey who had only coincidentally met death,

perhaps of natural causes, and had been shaved and painted green.

Naturally, it came to pass that sightings of unexplained aircraft and occupants of same became suspect. Not many who saw odd things, then, were brave enough to tell it.

But some did. Over the years, Hynek, who had been, with considerable skepticism, a consultant in the Air Force inquiry called "Project Blue Book," collected and explored thousands of reports from people around the world. These he ranked according to the "closeness" of the close encounters:

The "first kind" was observation of a UFO that while it may have been near, within 200 yards or so, there was no interaction between the object and the environment or the observer.

The "second kind" included some sort of interaction; a car's electrical system may have failed, as the thing passed near.

(The center has recorded 441 instances where that appeared to happen.)

Sometimes vegetation, or even humans or animals, may have been burned by the object's heat. This was the "kind" scientists most treasure because there would be some evidence.

A close encounter of the "third kind" involved sighting of entities (who were, by reports, more likely to be done up in silver or bright white than green) and might even involve some contact, or even detainment or abduction. In this realm fell the reports by two fishermen at Pascagoula, Miss., who said they had been taken aboard a UFO and studied by entities.

This kind, of course, has the capacity to give science both tentative joy and splitting headaches.

A surge of sightings occurred in the late '60s and early 1970s, peaking in 1973. Not all, of course, were reported to Hynek; some were likely reported to no one.

As one fellow at Timmerman's display observed, "They're liable to come get us and take us down to Columbia and lock us up on Bull Street." But the man had a story to tell, off-handedly. He had not seen the thing; his brother had.

It was a huge lighted ship of some sort that hovered over his brother's neighborhood in Greenwood and then was later seen over Lake Greenwood. "But he didn't tell it," the informant said. "I'll bet he's not told over a half a dozen people about that," though it was a remarkable and memorable event.

Several others came forth quietly, during the exhibit's long weekend at McAlister Square, to share with Timmerman sightings and experiences of their own.

Timmerman is not an astronomer; he is a savings and loan executive, and a veteran volunteer with an organization that is kept running largely by fascinated volunteers. Simply, "I am a curious man," he says.

Very serious about his avocation, he took pains to draw out the often hesitant accounts, answer questions and to pooh-pooh no opinions — which were more common than stories.

"How do we know they come from outer space? I think they come from inside the earth," one woman said.

We don't know where they come from, Timmerman replied. And, he added, "We have reports of objects emerging from the sea."

The most interesting report he added to the center's collection,

while in Greenville, he said, was a man's story of an incident that occurred not in Carolina but on a highway between Chicago and Hammond, Ind.

"The time was 7:20, on the 27th of November 1980, and he was driving down the road on the way to Hammond. He was behind three cars and was about to go around a curve when suddenly, his car seemed enter a snow storm. Except, the 'snow' seemed to be tiny, silver particles.

"A loud sound enveloped his car and around his head. At 9:15, he found himself on that same curve, with other cars ahead of him ...."

That, Timmerman surmised, may have been a "missing time" experience, so-called after a book on the phenomenon by Budd Hopkins, called *Missing Time*.

Listening in on some of the accounts was George Fawcett, of Lincolnton, N.C., whose own collection of reports and other information now totals, he figures, some 14,000 items.

His own files hold hundreds of entries from the Carolinas. In one, in the early 1970s, a Spartanburg County man reported seeing a lighted airship sitting in the road one night, surrounded by several men in brilliant white suits.

A housewife in central North Carolina told Fawcett, and later a reporter, about watching, with her infant in her arms, a glowing ship descend on her front lawn and entities climb out of it.

There are, Fawcett says, about 150 reports of sightings daily, around the world. The most amazing thing, he says, is their consistency. "Little Men" were landing on Malaysia, in flurries, just as they were visiting the Carolinas.

(There are also fairly consistent portraits that emerges of the "aliens," he notes. While some could pass for any fellow on the street, others are small, the size of, say, fourth-graders, with large heads and large eyes. And sexless. Possibly they clone, he says, instead of doing like earthly mortals. Which may, one might decide, explain their intellectual advancement.)

Fawcett, founder of several study organizations across the country and a member of several others world-wide, dreams of building a museum soon to house all of the research material he has gathered and much more.

He feels sure, he says, that it would be a tourist attraction as well as a center for independent study. Somewhere in Carolina would be a good place, he says.

**Since sightings of unidentified objects by airmen in the 1940s started a wave of reports credible and otherwise, human imagination has been captured by airborne saucers crewed by Little Green Men ...**

But wherever investors want to invest, that would be a good place, too.

Involved scientists dream of serious funding for research. The Center for UFO Studies exists on private donations. And yet, as Hynek liked to say, "We never would have gone to the moon if we'd only had volunteers who can only work on weekends."

The data-collecting goes on. Anyone who has an experience to report can do so by writing John C. Timmerman, Center for UFO Studies, P.O. Box 1621, Lima, Ohio 45802-1621. Or George Fawcett, 602 Battleground Road, Lincolnton, N.C. 28092.

No salesman will call. And no one will be carried off to Columbia.

WHIDBEY ISLAND RECORD,  
Langley, WA - Oct. 21, 1986

## U.F.O. Society

The Rev. Bob LeRoy of the Maxwellton area has created the National U.F.O. Society with the first meeting set for Sunday, Nov. 2 at his Christian Sons of Liberty Chapel, LeRoy Circle and Swede Hill Road. There will be a slide show, chart lectures, and first hand testimonies. LeRoy spotted his one-and-only U.F.O. in 1951 in Puyallup. Anyone interested can call him at 221-3916.





# from outer space?

## Our young Mars probers say yes

STUDENTS at Sutherland Primary School thought the discovery of a face on Mars more earth-shattering than the news that 330 Woodside workers had been sacked.

So much so, they devoted a whole archeology lesson to working out their own theories on the revelation.

And some budding journalists in Mr Paul Stein's Years Six and Seven classes had some probing questions for *Sunday Times* staff during a press conference they staged.

Displaying youthful scepticism, they asked if it was a hoax.

"If it wasn't a hoax, why did you put the story on Page 59?" asked a puzzled Janelle Craig, 11.

Perceptive Year Seven student, Kelly Gray, noticed the article did not state the qualifications of the NASA scientists.

### Theory

According to Ian Finkelstein, Year Six, the scientist who made the discovery could be an "absolute nobody".

"If it is so important," asks Peter White, Year Seven, "Why is it not in all the newspapers?"

Nicole Sully wanted to know why more people didn't support the scientists' theory, ignoring this discovery.

The class, under the direction of Mr Stein, and deputy principal Mr Bob Somerville, came to the conclusion the discovery of the face and pyramids is a message for earthlings.

According to Natasha Hyde, Year Seven, Earth inhabitants are following those of Mars, without realising it.

"Maybe we inhabited Mars until the conditions became unsuitable," she said. "Then

By GAIL WILLIAMS

when we came to Earth to live, our memories were distorted and we started once again from scratch."

Michael Skivinis said Earth and Mars were joined thousands of years ago, which explains why the pyramids are similar to those in Egypt.

"The reason they had a holocaust is because the Martians got the worst part of the land," he said.

Ryan English believes the two planets were sisters, with some humans escaping from Mars to Earth.

Anthony Fisher, believes the face is a warning to us not to make the same mistakes the Martians did.

Norman Peovitis is more sceptical. "If there was a holocaust there should be some trace of weapons left over," he said.

### Holocaust

The most impressive theory came from Thu Thang: "I think that the people destroyed themselves from a holocaust. They couldn't have come to live on Earth and be our descendants because if they were they would know so much about the planet, and we wouldn't be having to explore it."

"The people from Mars were probably destroyed by a holocaust, but at the same time they might have known we existed and this might be a warning to us when the time comes that too much power can be dangerous and this is what it can do to your planet."

□ This is what John West, 12 (left), thinks: "Humans inhabited Mars thousands of years ago and were destroyed by their holocaust. After the holocaust survivors could have come to Earth, their sister planet, and started our race."

□ Young stargazers (from left) Natalie Baines, 11, Richard Usher, 11, Janelle Craig, 11, and Jimmy Koski, 12, all of Dianella, with the article from last week's *Sunday Times*.



## Some stellar close encounters



The Krankies — UFO?

### What did the Krankies see?

"FAN-DABI-DOZI" duo Janette and Ian Tough — the Krankies — are confounded by their own close encounter of the paranormal kind.

The couple, who were at Blackpool's Grand Theatre for a series of Sunday shows last month, spotted a UFO above their chartered aircraft during a 1978 New Year's Eve dash through appalling weather.

The "strange white object" hovered above the aircraft, whose instruments malfunctioned, for several minutes before vanishing... and the aircraft's electrical equipment resumed operating.

Did they see a sort of "externalised hallucination," perhaps for a satellite which burned up that night?

Tommy Steele, another Blackpool attraction earlier this season, has a more remarkable tale... of when, at 15, he fell ill with meningitis and by the time his parents arrived at his hospital bedside it was feared he would not survive.

Tommy heard a child's laughter, then a brightly coloured ball bounced over his bedside screens.

He threw it back, and fell back exhausted. The pattern continued until Tommy found the strength to take the tentative steps which placed him on the road to recovery.

Doctors, unable to comprehend his recovery, were told to thank the boy "across the ward." But there was no boy... but his parents were reminded of the favourite toy of his younger brother, Rodney, who died at three.

Had Rodney returned to save his brother's life?

WEST LANCASHIRE EVENING GAZETTE, Blackpool, England - Oct. 3, 1986 CR: T. Good

EVENING TELEGRAPH, Scunthorpe, Lincs., England - Sept. 18, 1986 CR: T. Good

## New light on sight in sky

THE source of much of the suspected extra-terrestrial activity in the Scunthorpe area may have been traced to a Hull hotel.

The Evening Telegraph was inundated with telephone calls at the beginning of the month as people reported sightings of flashing in the sky.

Mr. Les Sallis, national secretary of the British UFO Research Association, reckons at least 80 per cent could be explained by a Hull laser display.

He explained that two powerful laser beams were projected from the roof of the new Manche-

ster Hotel, at about that time.

"They were projected pretty high in the sky in the direction of Gainsborough," he said. "If there was low cloud they could be reflected down."

But he is continuing his checks into the motionless flashing object which appeared two days after the hotel stopped its publicity stunt.

As for the report from a Scunthorpe teenager of a low level flash which snaffled his bag of chips, Mr. Sallis said: "I should take that one with a pinch of salt and vinegar!"

THE closest some stars get to a "paranormal" experience is a close encounter of the lucrative kind with their ghost - writer - but for the 50 famous folk featured in "Beyond Explanation?" nothing could be further from the truth.

The psychic secrets of the stars are featured in a new book which runs the gamut of paranormal experiences from the so-called curse on "Coronation Street" to past-lives, UFO sightings, voices from the grave and things that go BUMP! in the dressing room.

Probed and penned by Warrington writer Jenny Randles, director of investigations for the British UFO Research Association, and co-ordinator with the Association for the scientific study of Anomalous Phenomena, "Beyond Explanation?" (Ravette, £2.95) makes intriguing reading.

The writer, adopting a scientific rather than a superstitious approach to the theorising involved claims she settled for celebrated storytellers because their credibility counts for more.

"It's all very well to be told that Mr Smith of Anytown saw a funny light in the sky one night but these things mean precious little unless one happens to be a friend of Mr Smith. It's all too easy to persuade yourself... well it's only a book, these people are not real."

Readers have no such escape from the stories presented.

"You may try to dismiss their reality but you cannot dismiss their storytellers — Abraham Lincoln, Tommy Steele, John Lennon and

## The stars' psychic secrets

Jules Verne. The fact that they have undergone these alleged encounters somehow makes the stories seem all the more interesting and all the more 'true'."

She's investigated the subject for 12 years and reckons most of us have met the paranormal head - on without flinching - let alone realising what's happened.

"Upwards of 50 per cent of the population have probably faced a situation which commonsense cannot explain. Simple, honest, reliable folk who have genuinely observed something under dependable circumstances which all their past experience tells them cannot be."

Hers is a crusade to boost such awareness, and reduce public ridicule. She sees the book as a "mental fillip for suchfortunates. It is an ego boost and aid to morale."

"To learn that the famous with whom we all share our lives are human and fallible just like ourselves is in itself pleasant — but to be told that they, too, face the unknown and then have the courage to say so is perhaps a lesson worth contemplating."

JACQUIE MORLEY

EVENING TELEGRAPH, Scunthorpe, Lincs., England - Sept. 2, 1986 CR: T. Good

## Can you throw light on UFO?

THE British UFO Research Association is to investigate the sighting last night of a motionless flashing object in Scunthorpe's northern skies. It was spotted just after midnight at about 15 degrees above the horizon.

Observers in Messingham said it was flashing approximately once every second and remained in the same place for around 10 minutes before slowly moving off to the east.

Today, the national secretary of BUFORA, Mr. Les Sallis, based in Hull, said he would investigate the sighting. Checks with other organisations, such as the RAF, might reveal the cause of the flashing light, but it was too early to say. A sighting over Winterton two months ago turned out to be a weather balloon.

Anyone in the area who spotted the mysterious flashing light should contact the Scunthorpe Evening Telegraph on 843421.

NORTH CHESHIRE HERALD, Hyde, England - Oct. 10, 1986 CR: T. Good

## Spotted any UFOs lately?

Sir — Have any readers recently seen something in the sky that they are sure cannot be explained as aircraft, stars or balloons etc or any other identifiable phenomena, natural or man-made? In other words, have you seen a UFO?

If the answer is yes, then no matter how strange your experience sounds I would like to hear from you.

I am a member of the Manchester Unidentified Flying Object Research Association, and I am the investigator for the Tameside area.

All reports are accepted in the strictest confidence, and I can be contacted by phone on 339 3412. — Yours etc.

GEORGINA MILLS

40 Cumberland Grove, Ashton.

RHYL & PRESTATYN VISITOR, Rhyl, England - Oct. 9, 1986 CR: T. Good

# UFO sighting reported above town



Mr. James Perry points to the skyline above Princes Street, Rhyl, where he spotted the UFO.

SIGHTINGS of a mysterious glowing object has left people in Rhyl wondering if they have seen a UFO.

Mr. James Perry, of 32 Princes Road, Rhyl, saw a large rectangular object, with flashing lights, which moved slowly across the sky on Thursday evening and other people in the area have reported similar sightings.

"It was travelling very slowly in a straight line," he said. "There were lights that looked like windows, but it wasn't like a plane. There was no sound or hazard lights like you would see on a plane."

Mr. Perry watched the plane from another window and the lights change and started flashing. "They looked like disco lights," he added.

"I have always been rather sceptical about UFOs, but I have no idea what this could be," he said.

Since the incident, Mr. Perry has heard of several people who had also seen something similar.

Mrs. Margaret Fry, of Contact International, who are one of the largest UFO organisations in the world, said she would be interested in hearing from anyone else who saw something unusual. "The last sighting I had of something was in August by a lady in Mold but we are interested in hearing from anyone who has seen something."

Mrs. Fry added that the organisation annually send their results to the Ministry of Defence. She can be contacted on Llangernyw 537.

HERALD & PIONEER, Craben, England - Sept. 19, 1986 CR: T. Good

## U.F.O. sighting

Fourteen-year-old Kingsley Wiggins claims to have sighted an unidentified flying object hovering over Skipton's Rockwood estate earlier this month.

Kingsley, who lives in the town's West Bank Road, says he was on his morning newspaper round, when he saw an object which glowed very brightly: "about two or three times for about two seconds rather like a very bright star."

He says the shape of the object was unclear, but he is sure that it was not an aeroplane: "or anything else I could think of."

Kingsley saw the object at about 7.35 a.m. on September 4, but when he later returned with his father, the object had disappeared.

WEEKLY EXPRESS, Daventry, Northamptonshire, England - Oct. 9, 1986 CR: T. Good

# Village is UFO 'focus'

A VILLAGE near Daventry has been singled out by six eyewitnesses as the focal point for the town's extraordinary UFO mystery.

They all claim to have seen unexplained objects heading towards Preston Capes — or hovering over the village itself.

The mystery began a fortnight ago when two fishermen saw six UFOs early one morning over the Daventry Country Park. The objects disappeared in the direction of Preston Capes.

A week later, company director Pauline Dunn and husband Stanley claim they saw brilliant lights in the sky from their Staverton home. Again, the objects were going towards Preston Capes.

This week, retired couple Daphne and Edward Underhill say they saw what appeared to be a huge, glowing UFO in the sky in the area of Preston Capes.

They believe it could have been a spaceship.

"We were getting ready to go to bed when my husband called me over to look out of the bedroom window," says Mrs Underhill, of Central Avenue, Woodford Halse.

"We saw a great big object in the sky which had an orange or red look about it. It was fairly high and we

## Witnesses agree on sightings

stood there for about 20 minutes looking at it," she adds.

"Part of it broke off from the rest and went across the sky in the direction of Preston Capes. It was circular, but the part which came away was jagged," adds Mrs Underhill.

She says it was definitely not an aeroplane because it was moving too fast. She says it disappeared for a while but returned several minutes later.

"I have no idea what it was. People say about these things, but if you talk about them, they think you are queer," adds Mrs Underhill. "My husband didn't believe in UFOs until he saw this and was absolutely astonished. It makes you think — seeing is believing."

"If anybody else had told me they'd seen something, I wouldn't have believed them. But when you have seen it yourself, it makes you realise," adds Mrs Underhill, who says her sighting was around the same time as that of the fishermen.



© WOODFORD Halse couple Daphne and Edward Underhill... "absolutely astonished" by the sighting.

## Mystery object in the skies

Territory authorities are baffled by last night's sighting in three different centres of a mystery object in the Top End sky.

Humpty Doo residents, Rick and Moya Trippe, were driving home along the Stuart Highway about 10.20 pm when they noticed an object with a flaming orange tail moving towards the ground at a 45 degree angle.

A short time later Groote Eylandt and Roper River police reported sightings of a mystery light over the Katherine region.

To add to the intrigue, Katherine's power supply suddenly cut out late last night and there were reported disruptions to phone lines in the town. The hour-long disruption was reported to have been caused by an earthing problem.

The weather bureau and Aviation Department can give no explanation.

There were no scheduled flights over the area and the bureau reported no unusual weather phenomenon.

N.T. NEWS, Darwin, N.T., Australia - Sept. 16, 1986 CR: P. Norman

CHRONICLE, Barnsley, Yorks., England - Aug. 29, 1986 CR: T. Good

# Encounter of the blurred kind...

by IAN THOMPSON

A BARNSELY man is recovering after a close encounter with a flying saucer!

Mr. John Brook fled in fright after the UFO turned a blinding white fluorescent type beam on him. Mr. Brook, of Derby Street, Barnsley, felt a tingling sensation throughout his body for the few seconds he was transfixed by the light coming from beneath the oval shaped, 60 feet wide object.

He has spoken for the first time this week about the experience which left him ashen-faced. The UFO was hovering at a height of about 50 feet in the night sky somewhere in the direction of the Co-op Dairy in Summer Lane. The object had flashing red and purple lights on its side.

Mr. Brook, an unemployed technical illustrator, said the close encounter took place at about 10.50 p.m. on a recent Friday.

He told the Chronicle: "I was on my way home from the pub when I saw the object in the sky. From where I was standing, it looked as though it was spinning on its axis. Suddenly, this bright white light with a fluorescent tint shone down on me. I had to close my eyes, it was so bright."

"I felt this tingling sensation all over and through my body and the hairs on the back of my neck stood on end."

"I just turned and ran as fast as I could towards home. I know that people will suggest that either I was drunk or just another nutter but I had only drunk about three pints that night because I am unemployed and that was all I could afford."

When Mr. Brook got home, he and his wife Josephine watched the UFO from their garden before it disappeared. Mrs. Brook said: "When John got home he was out of breath and his face was as white as a sheet. I have known him for

about six years and I have never seen him so frightened."

This was the third time that Mr. Brook has had an encounter with a UFO. His first sighting was in the early 1970s and the second, which took place last year while he was with his neighbour, Mr. Richard Shirt, was reported to the Royal Air Force.

SANDWELL MAIL, West Midlands, England - Oct. 9, 1986 CR: T. Good

## Experts to probe city UFO sighting

Reports of an unidentified flying object hovering over a Birmingham hospital are being investigated by UFO experts.

The 400ft long by 60 ft wide cigar shaped object was spotted by staff at Good Hope Hospital in Sutton Coldfield during a night shift.

Three nurses and a doctor who were taking a tea break all saw the silent object hovering about 800ft up.

The matter has been reported to UFO-Studies Investigations, an amateur organisation funded by British Aerospace, and the sightings are being investigated.

Mr John Hurley, of the Midland branch of the organisation said: "Ninety-five per cent of all sightings can be explained away after investigation as an aircraft, an airship, balloon, helicopter or even a bright star, but not in this case."

He added: "Birmingham airport said they spotted something on the radar."



# Was it a flying saucer?

**A FOREST Row woman still can not believe her eyes after sighting what she can only describe as a UFO.**

Last Thursday evening just after midnight Mrs Penny Crowder was leaving Ursula and Tom Scratchly's house in Post Horn Lane, Forest Row. Before getting into her car Mrs Crowder looked up at the clear night sky and saw a glowing orange ball with a pale orange aura surrounding it move across the sky from the west over the Royal Ashdown golf course.

Thinking she might be imagining things she called out to her friend Penny and they walked up the lane to get a better view. The two women were so astounded that they asked Penny's husband Tom to confirm what they were seeing. "It was a fiery colour and looked as though it was lit up in some way," said Mrs

Crowder. "We were just incredulous, you couldn't relate it to anything because you had never seen anything like it," she said.

The three stood watching the UFO for about ten minutes as it progressed noiselessly to the east and out of sight.

Looking for a rational explanation for what they had witnessed, they telephoned flight control at Gatwick. Gatwick said nothing had showed up on radar but asked them to file a detailed description and a diagram.

They considered all the other possibilities, a hot air balloon, a satellite, but none of these fitted the description of what they had seen. They sat and talked until three in the morning about the strange fiery object.

"It gave you an eerie feeling as it came straight towards you," said Mrs Crowder, who has never before spent time puzzling over the arguments for and against the existence of UFOs. "When you started thinking about it you got a bit

frightened," she said. "I had the spooks all a the way home."

Mrs Crowder is not the first to be "spooked" by ball-shaped objects flying over the Ashdown Forest. In the late 1970s a spate of sightings over the forest exactly match the description of what Mrs Crowder and the Scratchlys saw last Thursday evening.

In April 1978 local police launched a search of the area after a Nutley woman saw what she called a "ball of fire" hurtle past her window. She then saw bits break off the object and fall directly on to the forest. At least six people in the Forest witnessed it, and on that night firemen were called to put out fires in two areas of the forest.

News in Focus would be interested to hear from anyone else who saw the Thursday night fireball.

## WEIRD WONDERS OF WALES

# A ghost of Xmas past —or a UFO

From the 'light in the sky' interest of a few weeks ago, there came a story from a friend of mine. In the late 1950's, he and his family lived in a house which was later demolished.

It stood in St. James Square, Aberystwyth, adjoining the auction rooms and behind the big church.

by Llowarch

One night - in about 1958 or '59 - my friend's small daughter awoke in the night and her waking roused him. Going into her room, he noticed immediately that it was illuminated by a green light. Clearly, the little girl had been disturbed by the light.

My friend looked out of the window which faced towards the Angel Inn in the upper part of Great Darkgate Street. What he saw surprised him and he called his wife to witness the sight.

Hovering above the pub was what he describes as a "Christmas bell shaped object". The lower part of what he saw - whatever it was - was green. The upper part glowed red. And the light, in common with many UFO's pulsed.

I must mention that his wife had always been sceptical of such reported sightings, and to a certain degree she still is, but what she saw made her apprehensive.

My friend decided to leave the house and go and see if he could obtain a better view of the object. He pulled on some clothes over his pyjamas and went outside. He reasoned that the UFO could best be seen by heading towards the pier, for that was the direction in which the thing appeared to be.

Going down Pier Street, he stood to the right of the pier facing the sea. Out there, he again watched the object. Its light was reflected by the waters of Cardigan Bay, making a pathway of light to the shore in the same way the moon would.

He observed it for some time on that mild summer night. The UFO moved in some sort of pattern. It would rise, move across a little way, descend towards the water and then return to its original position. There was no noise to be heard and the sea was fairly still.

Then, suddenly and surprisingly, the light zoomed off at enormous speed as if towards North Wales. My friend re-

turned home, puzzled.

Nearby, there lived a policeman and my friend mentioned the incident to him, hoping to find out if there had been other witnesses to the sighting. A little later, the policeman neighbour told him that he should have a word with another member of the constabulary who had been on duty that night.

Seeing this other constable in the town, my friend approached him. At first, the young policeman was wary. He thought my friend might be ridiculing him. The reason for his reticence soon became apparent.

On the night in question, the constable had been on duty. He had indeed witnessed something odd in the night sky, and at about the same time as my friend. In fact, he reported the matter when he went into the police station.

Most of us can be sceptical at times. Our 'funny' comments can be hurtful to someone who has seen something which can't be explained. The constable reported not only seeing this peculiar light, but also that it had landed on top of Constitution Hill. His colleagues laughed at his report. Such things don't really happen, do they? Further, he was, for a little while, suspected of drinking on duty.

It is understandable that the policeman was reluctant to tell my friends what he had seen.

The matter was not reported generally, of course. Yet, though it happened a long time ago, I feel it should not go unrecorded. Remember that this happened to perfectly reliable witnesses and it was in the days before the advent of laser beams.

The subject of UFO's has brought me so much correspondence of late that I shall return to it in a couple of weeks. In the meantime, may I wish a happy wedding anniversary to my wife...

## Australia's greatest aviation mystery remains unsolved

Last night marked the eighth anniversary of the disappearance of a young pilot over Bass Strait. The case has been taken up by the Victorian UFO Research Society as the greatest space mystery in our history. The society's vice-president PAUL NORMAN tells the amazing tale.

On October 21, 1978, a mystery sound interrupted transmission between Pilot Frederick Valentich and Melbourne Flight Service which has never been explained, or identified.

Prior to the mystery sound, pilot Valentich had been reporting the approach and description of an unidentified flying object similar to those reported from all over the world by people of all walks of life. Eight years after that fatal Saturday evening, no trace has ever been found of either the pilot or his blue and white Cessna aircraft.

Frederick Valentich, was not the only person who reported a strange object flying over and near Bass Strait that day and night. Researchers have found more than fifty reported observations from that area before, during and after his encounter.

The period of UFO activity around Bass Strait had been building up for more than six weeks prior to that famous encounter. The activity reached a peak the weekend the pilot and his aircraft disappeared.

Australia's greatest mystery in aviation history was not the only such encounter of this type which has occurred in various parts of the world during the past three decades.

Another example: On November 23, 1953, U.S. Air Defence Command radar detected a UFO near Soo Locks in Michigan. An F-89C intercept-



Frederick Valentich: The mystery remains.

tor was scrambled from Kenross Air Force Base and vectored the interceptor to the proximity of the UFO.

As the pilot, Lieutenant Felix Monclea, described his approach toward the object, his radio transmission was lost due to electromagnetic interference (an effect associated with presence of UFOs when near electrical equipment such as power lines, motor cars, aircraft ignition systems, radio and television sets). After communication was lost, ground controllers saw the F-189 close in on the UFO. The two blips merged and then faded from the radar screen. No wreckage of the aircraft or the pilot and his navigator were ever found.

Another example concerns a startling encounter with a UFO over Mansfield, Ohio which took place five years before the Bass Strait mystery.

Larry Coyne and his crew were flying a US helicopter when an object took up position overhead. At the time the helicopter was flying at about 500 metres. The object, a silver metallic-like cigar shaped object with a green light, pulled the helicopter to 1150 metres without movement of the helicopter controls.

There was also loss of communication during the encounter, as well as similar manoeuvrability of the UFO as described by Valentich five years later, including a green light associated with the UFO. Larry Coyne and his crew returned to tell about their experience. Frederick Valentich did not.

Whether Frederick Valentich and his blue and white Cessna went up, down or disintegrated, there is no doubt that a UFO was involved, as reported by scores of observers who reported UFOs that day and night to radio stations, TV stations, newspapers and to the Victorian UFO Research Society.

EVENING POST, Nottingham, England Sept. 5, 1986 CR: T. Good  
Central Weekend returns tonight (Central, 10.35).

The programme will also feature people who have seen UFOs and are convinced that the planet is being visited by intelligently-controlled spacecraft.

They include former Admiral of the Fleet Lord Hill Norton, who says there have been hundreds of sightings, many by experienced police officers, pilots and "other sensible people who don't make up silly stories or hallucinate."

NEWS IN FOCUS, East Grinstead, England - Sept. 19/20, 1986

## From last week's Focus



## LETTER Mystery object

I LIVE in Ashurstwood, overlooking Forest Row and the Ashdown golf club in the distance. Not last Thursday, but about a month ago, I also saw an orange bright light like an enormous star in the clear sky.

At first I thought it was a plane, but it didn't move. The moon was low in the sky and I was facing south, this big star was quite close to the moon on the east side.

I called out to my husband but he dismissed my viewing with the remark "It must be a plane," and I went to bed. It was not a ball but a sparkling object like a star. I'm eager to hear if more people have seen anything like it. Mrs E. Abendanon Woodstall, Cansiron Lane, Ashurstwood

# 100 UFO'S A DAY

There are more than 100 UFO sightings reported around the world each day according to UFO researcher Paul Norman who is in Leongatha this week to meet people who may have seen an unidentified flying object.

But Mr. Norman stressed that 85 per cent of sightings are cases of mistaken identity and turn out to be aircraft, navigation lights, weather measuring devices and things of that sort.

Mr Norman is a member of the Victorian UFO research society which is affiliated with similar groups worldwide. He spends the northern summer in the northern hemisphere doing research with colleagues and the southern summer in the southern hemisphere carrying out his investigations into reports of unidentified phenomena.

Mr Norman says he only follows up on sightings of significance.

"Most sightings can be assessed and disproven by a single phone call," he said.

Mr Norman will be available by appointment to discuss sightings at Leongatha Opal Motel this week.



Paul Norman, UFO investigator, in Leongatha this week to check out local sightings.

## TRANSLATIONS

City and country of incident: Santiago, Chile

Date of incident: June 15, 1986

Name of paper and date of clip: THE PRESS, June 18, 1986

City and country of newspaper: Managua, Nicaragua

[CREDIT: A/SPR]

### CHILE: UFO BLOWS ROOFS OFF SIX HOUSES

Santiago, Chile (EFE) -- A UFO in the form of a blue cloud "sucked up" the roofs of six homes in a neighborhood of the South Zone of Santiago in the early morning hours last Sunday.

The rest of the roofs, chimnies, and electrical cables remained scattered, in turn, to each of the houses.

The neighbors, according to an account that was published today in the newspaper, THE THIRD, said that at 2 a.m. on Sunday, they felt as if there was a very strong wind, or an earthquake. At the same time, everything lit up in a bright blue for 30 seconds.

"It was a force that threw everything up," declared Patricia de Salvo, one of those affected in their home by the strange phenomenon.

The Weather Bureau, consulted by THE THIRD, reported that at 2 a.m., there were no winds that exceeded 20 kilometers per hour and that "under these prevailing weather conditions, there did not exist a reason for the strong wind in the area of these houses."

The Weather Bureau added that it (the phenomenon) could not be considered as a tornado, neither a hurricane, because these phenomena affect entire cities.

The neighbors Juan Lagos and Enrique Ceron described the phenomenon as a "blue cloud" that passed over, leaving this devastating effect to the roofs of their houses and their clarified it (the blue cloud) as an apparent "UFO."

City and country of incident: Lagoinha, Rio Grande do Norte, Brazil

Date of incident: Unknown [Summer 1986?]

Name of paper and date of clip: Unknown

City and country of newspaper: [City Unknown], Brazil

[CREDIT: Wendelle Stevens]

### FLYING DISC ABDUCTS A GROWER IN THE NORTHEAST

Many of the apparitions of flying discs over Earth are the extraterrestrials conducting their own investigations on our planet, with several objectives, the majority trying to help us overcome certain problems that we have created for ourselves. The "sightings" and the contacts in Brazil have been constant, as verified by professor Irene Granchi, investigator of C.U.F.O.S. in the Northeast Region.

In the city of Lagoinha, in Rio Grande do Norte, D. Irene Granchi personally investigated the case of a rancher and grower Leonel Herminio dos Santos, of 47 years, "a serious man, of halting speech, who answers questions, in conversation, without adding anything not essential," according to professor Granchi. Leonel reported an encounter together with his son-in-law and another grower who were cutting posts, to be used in constructing a fence on his ranch.

It was 07:00 in the morning and Leonel had outdistanced his companions, who had stopped to eat something, since they had gotten up before sunrise and they were hungry.

Leonel continued to walk, selecting small trees which, when cut down, made straight posts when, passing through the bed of a dry creek, he noticed a shadow pass above him. At that moment, Leonel began to feel bad and, leaning on the axe which he carried, he saw outlined on the ground, a circular shadow. As he was in the bed of the creek, there were no trees near, and he looked toward the sky trying to discover the cause of the shadow, which besides everything else was very round, "as true as if it had been made by a compass." He only could note that there were no clouds before losing consciousness, from which he only recuperated four hours later, in a place more than four kilometers from where he had been,

in a place called Itauna, and there the grower remained a good space of time recuperating from the pains that he felt in his body, especially his left leg, besides suffering from great thirst, and his mouth had a very bitter taste.

Days later, he felt hot and many water blisters appeared on his body.

When Leonel's companions reached the dry creekbed, they found the axe and were astonished, since the footsteps of the rancher stopped there, with no other mark in the sand to indicate what had happened to him. Leonel later told Irene Granchi that in the morning of the day in which he had the contact with the extraterrestrials, upon leaving the house, he said to his wife that something was going to happen to him that day, not knowing what it would be, but that he was going to be carried away from there.

An experiment in regressive hypnosis performed later by a sensitive demonstrated that Leonel had been really taken into the interior of a flying disc and subjected to various examinations.

### RELATED INVESTIGATIONS

Along with the work in local investigations, as carried out by Irene Granchi, there are groups of ufologists who use telepathy to communicate with the occupants of the flying discs, and receive accounts of the investigations that the extraterrestrials are making on Earth, including the time in which the work is being done and where it is located.

The Clube Cosmico (Cosmic Club), with its center on Rua Jupiter, 194 -- Vigario General, has a vast archive of these messages, which gives us a sample of the variety of the types of investigations that the beings from other planets are carrying on here.

On the 10th of June, for example, Sr. Gutao, who has the planet Mars as a base, sends the following message: "I am aboard, in a field in Paraguay, conducting a particular investigation. We have no time to give a demonstration of our presence, since a fortnight of your time is equal to 3 days of ours" (1 year of ours equals 73 days of theirs, as explained by the being Gutao).

And the extraterrestrial continued: "This investigation is intended to purify that which really still is useful. There is going to emerge a new disease among bovine animals of this region, which is known as Three Stars. In our language, this disease is called Malaik. It is a worminess transmitted to the hairy hide of the animals. We are placing substances to combat this disease in the potable water around here, but some of the cattle are already infected."

Another communication arrived the same month, but now from Brazilian territory. This time emitted by the extraterrestrial Krain, of the planet Neturia, saying the following:

"I am in the South Matto Grosso, conducting an investigation in the swamps. I have only arrived this morning in a very lonely place. I found a very beautiful stone, which contained a rusty liquid and emitted a sound like a computer. I am going to take it for study. I am also conducting investigations on a planet known as Caravelha. I am going to extract its contents and change the temperature, to see if it accumulates solar energy. There are two observers watching me from some 800 meters distance. I am going to increase and diminish my size, as a show, and after that leave an object present for them. I will leave here in 15 hours. My ship is camouflaged. It measures 54 meters in diameter. It is good to have friends wherever we go. At the next opportunity, I will contact you. It is time to leave here. The ship is in operation and I am going to begin ascent. Until soon, Peace."

At this moment we consulted the clock of the Clube Cosmico. It was 15:08. At this, according to the director of the Clube Cosmico, Sr. Filomon de Lima Cardoso, "It is now evident that the beings are here primarily to help us. And we now need to recognize this and accept their presence as cosmic brothers, and not as hostile beings who come to invade us."

City and country of incident: Karlshamn, Blekinge Region, Sweden

Date of incident: September 18, 1986

Name of paper and date of clip: BLEKINGE LANS TIDNING, September ?, 1986

City and country of newspaper: Karlskrona, Sweden

[CREDIT: Erik Fredriksson]

### LADIES GOING HOME FROM BINGO SAW "SPACESHIP" NEAR YSANE VILLAGE

"None of us has seen anything like that before. We were very upset and it was difficult to sleep that night."

It is Dagny Stonsebro from Solvesborg telling the story. On Thursday evening, she and four girl friends were on the way home from a bingo evening in Karlshamn.

Near Ysane, they observed a shining light in the heavens. At a distance, it looked like a big star. But it changed form when it came nearer. "We felt observed and pursued. It was quite unpleasant," said Mrs. Stonsebro. The time was some minutes after 10:30 when the ladies first observed the phenomenon. It passed very quickly through the sky, went back and circled around.

"The object was orange and the color glowed. The body was oval-shaped and appeared to be made of metal. When we approached the BP gas station, I estimate that the object was about 100 meters away and perhaps 50 meters high. It disappeared then behind the trees. But later, it was observed in the village of Falkvik and was described as elongated, said Dagny Stonsebro.

"One of my girlfriends could observe the object right to the village of Mjallby, about 5 kilometers away, where she lives. I don't know what it was, she said, but it was absolutely not an airplane."

From the airfield F13 in Kallinge weather station, they suspected it could be from the big NATO maneuver outside Denmark. Perhaps some shining light.





MILL CREEK ENTERPRISE, Lynnwood (?), WA - July 9, 1986 CR: R. Dahinden via W. Thompson



CLIFF CROOK provided everything from news clippings to a recording of alleged Sasquatch sounds for a Hollywood movie about the legendary creature. Crews for the Universal

Productions film "Harry and the Hendersons" last week concluded five weeks of shooting in the Seattle area. (Photo by Don Kirkpatrick)

## Bigfoot expert Cliff Crook leaves imprint on Hollywood movie

By DON KIRKPATRICK

Cliff Crook's 30 years of tracking Bigfoot proved useful to a Hollywood film crew, which has left the Seattle area after five weeks of on-location work for a movie about the legendary creature.

Crook, who lives in the Queensborough neighborhood of south Snohomish County, provided information, news clippings, photographs, artwork, books, plaster casts of footprints, a tape of alleged Bigfoot sounds and other materials for the Universal Productions movie "Harry and the Hendersons."

"He just talked about what a real person who was involved in Sasquatch would talk about and what he would be an expert in," said Linda DeScenna, the movie's set decorator. "He was wonderful. He gave us a lot of stuff from the Bigfoot information center."

Actually, "gave" is not the right word. Crook did not say how much he was paid, but added, "I'm happy."

John Lithgow, Melinda Dillon and Don Ameche will star in the film, which has moved to Los Angeles for the final seven to eight weeks of shooting, DeScenna said. It will be released around Christmas or next summer, she said.

Much of the material Crook provided was used to fashion a "Bigfoot museum" at Pacific Northwest Studios in Seattle.

"We had a number of sources and Cliff was one of the main ones," DeScenna said.

"They spent a long time talking to me about the subject, basically," Crook recalled. "It's going to be based on 'E.T.' — a peaceful character."

Crook and his family received a tour of the set and a promise of getting "goodies" — T-shirts, posters, hats, etc. — once shooting

was completed. They already have gotten a few souvenirs, including Bigfoot bumper stickers and windbreakers that say "I Saw Bigfoot" on the back.

"It's kind of fun being a part of it," Crook said. "It's interesting seeing how they do those things."

CROOK, whose telephone number can be found in the white pages under Bigfoot Central / Sasquatch Investigation Reports (it's listed in nine states), thinks the movie will reverse the current trend in reports of Sasquatch sightings.

"One of the reasons I'm excited about it, is when it comes out, it's gonna make Bigfoot like a household word," he said. "I'm gonna get reports from all over the place."

"That's what I'm here for — reports. This Sasquatch stuff has been so dead for so long, maybe people will start coming out of the woodwork again."

Crook said he has tracked Sasquatches since 1956, when one of the creatures interrupted a teenage camping expedition with friends.

"It picked up a German shepherd and threw it right next to our campfire," he recalled. "Nobody I talked to believed my story."

Eventually, Crook became involved with a network of Bigfoot investigators. He works primarily with a Canadian man, Rene Dahinden, co-author of a book entitled "Sasquatch." Together, they travel to locations of Bigfoot sightings to interview witnesses, to look for footprints, to examine disturbed vegetation.

The rest of the time Crook works as a free-lance cartoonist, poster-maker and landscaper, he said. He does other odd jobs, like one he's got right now — designing an eight-foot sculpture of a Sasquatch

that will grace the front of a restaurant and gift shop.

"I'm really not tied to any job, never have been," said Crook. "In case I get a call, I can go out on things."

A spare bedroom in his suburban home serves as his office, which is uncluttered but full of Bigfoot evidence and memorabilia. Dominating the room is a display case containing footprint casts, samples of hair and excrement, and a six-pound rock that Crook says a Sasquatch near Sultan threw at him in 1978. A file of tape-recorded interviews with Bigfoot witnesses sits on the display case.

TWO WALLS nearly are covered with pictures and news articles about Sasquatches and about Crook. There also are letters, such as one from a young girl thanking Crook for his help in her Bigfoot research project. In a 1977 letter, then-Gov. Dixy Lee Ray thanks Crook for his interest in passing a Bigfoot-protection law.

"When the necessary proof does exist," Ray writes, "I assure you I will give proper consideration to the matter."

A map of Washington is posted on a third wall. It is stuck with tacks, indicating reported Sasquatch sightings. The most recent report, in central Whatcom County in April, is marked with a black tack. Crook, however, said he could not comment on the case, at his partner's request.

A room also houses a small desk and a bookcase, which books bearing such titles as "The Bigfoot Casebook," "On the Track of the Sasquatch," "Bigfoot: Man, Monster or Myth?" and several editions of "Ripley's Believe it or Not."

Crook said he has seen a Sasquatch "a couple of times" since his 1956 camping trip, when he was

16. But do most people really believe the elusive creature is real?

"It's about half and half," he said. "I think most people are concluding that there's got to be something out there. A cynic will tell you it doesn't exist because he's never seen one and he's been all over the woods."

Many scientists are "really cynical," said Crook, but "there's no way they can explain away the evidence."

Evidence includes tracks, measuring up to 21 inches long and 10 inches across, and hair strands that have been analyzed as coming from an unknown type of primate.

Crook said he used to get about 10 "solid" Sasquatch reports each year, but now the average is down to about one a year.

"It's been slow, real slow," he said. "Probably because, I think, the people are getting more afraid to report than in the past."

Why?

For one thing, he said, people are afraid a Sasquatch will be shot and killed if it is reported. And, Crook added, people are "fed up with calling in to people who don't believe in their story."

The drop in reports appears to coincide with the May 18, 1980, eruption of Mount St. Helens. But he does not know whether there's any connection.

"We're just using it for a marker," he said. "The reports just started to fade like you wouldn't believe."

In fact, Crook gets many more requests for information than he does reports of sightings, he said. He used to speak to classes at area schools, but he found each presentation led to a deluge of other requests.

"Once you start . . . it's a chain you just can't believe," Crook said. He now has plans to market

Bigfoot information kits for \$5 to \$10.

Many of the requests he gets come from reporters. He recently was interviewed by representatives of a Japanese magazine. And *Sports Illustrated* called him for a story included in its Jan. 6, 1986, issue. He asked to be left out of the story, and said he was glad that he had been.

"They made it sound like everybody who sees one is nuts," he said.

THOUGH BIGFOOT often is thought of as peculiar to the Pacific Northwest, in fact, Crook said, the creature lives all over the world — as the abominable snowman or yeti of the Himalayas, the yowli of Australia or simply the X of Africa.

"All seven continents have Bigfoots," said Crook, although he said he discounts the two sightings in Antarctica of which he is familiar. "It's easy to start seeing things down there."

One of Crook's ongoing investigations involves a woman in San Juan County, who says she repeatedly sees a Sasquatch outside her windows after dark.

"There's definitely something going on over there," Crook said. "It's not bears. It could be someone trying to hoax her out."

"Her husband think's she's getting senile. She's only 40-some years old. I don't know. There is a sign that something's been going through."

One problem that Crook has to deal with, he said, is impostors who fabricate Bigfoot evidence — "jerks," he called them.

"There's so many impostors in this it's incredible. And they come and go."

# Is It Perpetual Motion?

## Inventor Has Science Offices Spinning

By Boyce Rensberger  
Washington Post Staff Writer

"Joseph Newman's device," as government scientists gingerly refer to the contraption, may be the most successful perpetual motion machine ever invented.

Not that scientists are convinced it really works. It's just that it has succeeded in getting more attention, much of it exasperated, from the Commerce Department's Patent and Trademark Office, from scientists at the National Bureau of Standards, from the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia and from the news media than any such device in recent memory.

Newman, a self-taught inventor from Lucedale, Miss., has been battling for nearly seven years to obtain a patent on his machine, which he claims produces more electrical energy than it consumes from a battery pack.

The patent office, without testing the device, rejected his application on the grounds that the invention's claimed ability contradicts accepted laws of nature, specifically the Second Law of Thermodynamics.

Newman, arguing that his invention does not contradict scientific law but instead taps a previously unknown source of energy, has sued the patent office. The trial is scheduled for December.

Patent office officials will not comment on the Newman affair but do say that lawsuits from disgruntled inventors are rare. Of 120,000 patent applications received in a typical year, about 40,000 are rejected, but the office is sued only about 100 times a year. Newman's suit is the only one patent officials can remember in which the invention was judged impossible because it would violate a law of nature.

The court ordered Newman to submit his machine for testing by the National Bureau of Standards, also a Commerce agency, which has long experience in evaluating electrical equipment.

After spending more than \$75,000 to test the device, the bureau last week submitted a 36-page report to the court that concluded, "At all conditions tested, the input power exceeded the output power.

That is, the device did not deliver more energy than it used." The machine's efficiency varied according to the test conditions, with output ranging between 27 percent and 67 percent of the energy consumed.

Newman alleges that the bureau rigged its test to obscure the machine's true performance and vows that if the District Court rules against him, he will carry his fight for a patent to the Supreme Court. He asserts that the science establishment is so beholden to its own interpretation of the Second Law that it cannot accept his "revolutionary" discovery.

In colloquial terms, the Second Law of Thermodynamics says that you can't get something for nothing. More formally, it says that in every process some of the energy consumed is lost forever, most commonly as heat. The amount of energy put out by any machine, therefore, is equal to the amount put in minus certain unavoidable losses within the system.

Although the greatest minds in physics have repeatedly affirmed the Second Law, this has not stopped some inventors from thinking that, if they are clever enough, they can find a design that eliminates all internal power losses.

Newman claims to have gone one better by making a machine that creates additional energy. Newman says that in his own lab, his devices are 400 to 500 percent efficient, putting out four to five times as much energy as they take in.

The key, Newman says, is that his machine, like an atomic reactor or a hydrogen bomb, converts matter into energy. The matter in this case is something Newman discovered and named "gyroscopic particles." These, according to Newman's theory of atomic physics, are building blocks of the usual subatomic particles—protons, neutrons and electrons.

Newman's discovery has not been embraced by the scientific community. However, he says his experiments have convinced him that gyroscopic particles exist in all forms of matter and that his machine simply captures their energy and channels it into wires as elec-

tricity.

"I'm just an old country boy," Newman says. "I've never had a physics course or an electrical engineering course in my life. But I do know what I see and anybody with conventional equipment for measuring power can see for himself that it works."

Newman's machine consists of four main parts—a battery pack containing 116 nine-volt batteries wired in series to put out about 1,000 volts, a large coil of wire that becomes an electromagnet when hooked to the batteries, a permanent magnet that spins like an electric motor in response to the electromagnet, and a commutator, a wheel with electrical contacts that spins with the magnet and repeatedly connects and disconnects the power supply to the coil and also repeatedly reverses the flow of the battery power.

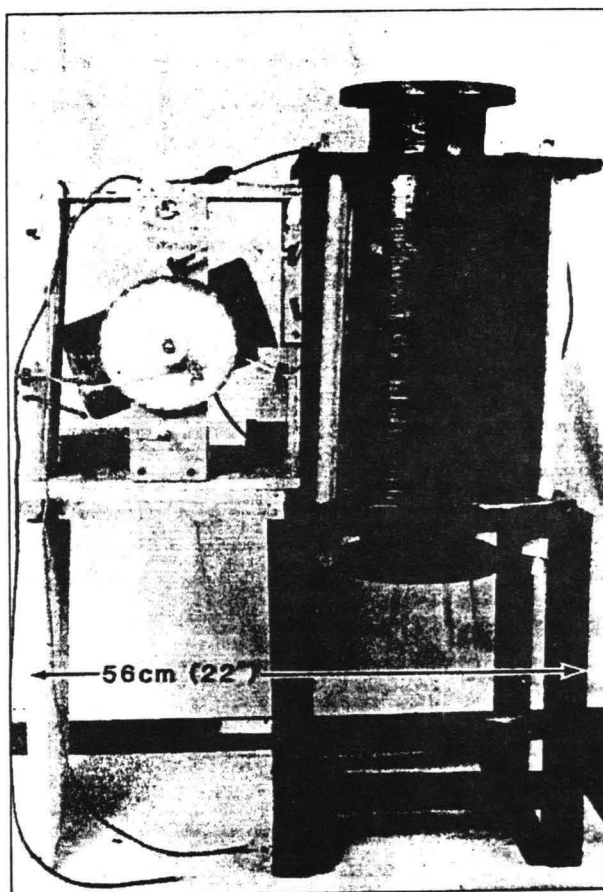
Despite the elaborate design, the Bureau of Standards report says, the device performed with less efficiency than would a simple pair of wires, which would deliver nearly all the energy put into them.

The report also says that because of the way the device works—rapidly starting, stopping and reversing the flow—it produces sharp "spikes" in energy output that give spuriously high readings on conventional measuring equipment. The bureau says it had to find special equipment to get accurate readings.

It is this use of special equipment that Newman says was an attempt to hide his device's true performance. He says the bureau first used ordinary equipment and then, seeing a high output that would show their colleagues in the patent office to be wrong, found other equipment to produce a lower reading.

"I'm not fighting for myself," Newman said. "This is for humanity. It's obvious what a thing like this would mean."

Whether it will be obvious to the U.S. District Court is another question.



"Joseph Newman's device" has generated a lawsuit against the patent office.

## The Big Bird (Or Something)

HEARD the one about the Yorkshireman dive-bombed by a pterodactyl?

The story has turned up in an intriguing publication called *Brigantia*, organ of the West Yorkshire UFO Research Group.

It concerns a certain Mr Pollock, of Pudsey, who was taking his dog for a late-night stroll when suddenly, for no immediately discernible reason, it began to whimper and refused to take another step.

From overhead Mr Pollock then heard a piercing, high-pitched shriek which 'he will never forget', followed by a series of low moans. Not unnaturally, Mr Pollock looked around to try to identify the source of these unnerving sounds.

He quickly did so. Perched on a roof 100 yards away was a bird-like creature about four feet tall. It had a huge hooked beak and large talons and to Mr Pollock it looked distinctly reptilian.

This ornithological weirdo opened its beak and screeched once more, then appeared to notice Mr Pollock and his dog. As it flew with apparent malice

aforethought towards them, Mr Pollock heard the beating of 'leathery wings'. The wing-span itself appeared to exceed eight feet.

Mr Pollock flung himself to the ground, and, looking up, saw the silhouette of the winged reptile soaring off into the night sky.

Funnily enough (*Brigantia* has reported) something decidedly pterodactylish was seen around the same time emerging from a patch of woodland known as the Devil's Punchbowl just below Shipley Glen. One witness said it flew in a rather haphazard fashion. Its wingspan this time was judged to be about six feet, but, said *Brigantia* optimistically, 'was probably larger'. Coloured grey, it had relatively short legs.

Three days later a Yeadon woman saw a similar creature being mobbed by a team of rather brave rooks. In an escape bid, this lily-livered pterodactyl flew over her garden and headed, appropriately, for the airport.

One theory that has been voiced is that the creature was an American condor that flew off course after being scared out of its wits by a current of hot air from a volcano.

IVOR SMULLEN

# Old Joe residents fear 'big cat'

## Pets and livestock have been attacked by wild animal

By KRISTIN TURRILL  
Staff Writer

Being afraid to let your children out of the house for fear of wild animals may seem a far-fetched situation for city folks, but a number of Old Joe residents are currently living with that fear. During the last several weeks, at least five or six sightings of a large cat have been reported, while goats, cows and dogs have been attacked, some fatally. Residents are literally up in arms.

Smaller animals have been disappearing for months, but no one is certain if they as well have fallen prey to whatever seem to be stalking the area.

Some residents feel the animal may have young nearby, while others believe it may be hurt, as many of the attacks have occurred during the day, many in their own back yards. Their general feeling is that it is some sort of a cat, and they are scared.

### Cats disappear

Jackie Weese said it all started a few months ago with the disappearance of several stray domestic cats. Because the animals had wandered onto her property in the first place, she said she was not concerned when they "left." But little by little, she said, larger, pet cats she had had for many years wound up missing, with no trace. With the help of neighbors, she scoured the nearby mountain in

search of her pets, with no luck. All together, she lost seven adult cats and an untold number of kittens.

"About a week or so ago," she said, "that's when trouble really started."

An errand in town one day took Weese away from the mountain she said she seldom leaves. She returned not long after to find her female goat "ripped up" at her barn. She said the doe was too weak to be taken to a veterinarian so Weese "sowed her up." The animal did not survive.

A few days later, she had to leave again. She came home to find her dogs "nuts," and "crazy acting," as they had been after the doe was attacked. This time, her large male goat was "torn up." A neighbor had to be called to shoot the buck, putting it out of its misery. Neither animal had been eaten, only sliced open, which Weese believes was because her dogs scared the predator away.

### Dogs frightened

Weese said she has worked with dogs for many years and has never seen them act that way. "I think it has to be something wild to frighten them like that." She also helped attend to the wounds of the other animals who had been attacked and said they had slice marks about three-quarters of an inch apart. The only other time she said she had seen similar cuts was when she worked as a social

worker and saw people who had been attacked with a knife.

About a week ago, three dogs were reported to have been attacked. Two belonged to Roy and Barbara Dail, one to Ivan and Sheila McKinney. Although all three had been ripped open they managed to survive. A cow and its calf also fell prey to an attack.

The night one of the Dail's dogs was attacked, Mrs. Dail said she heard an "eerie noise." She described it as first sounding like moaning, then a strange echoing sound, as if someone were blowing through cupped hands. The McKinney's dog was hurt the same night. Later, a large male Doberman belonging to the Dails had his sides ripped open.

### Cat spotted

About a week ago, Sheila McKinney said, her husband saw a greyish cat, about the color of tree bark. Dail said five or six other neighbors have reported spotting a cat, usually just before dawn. But recently, the animal was seen in broad daylight. Several of the residents have unsuccessfully attempted to track the animal. The McKinney's have as well lost all their chickens and a duck, without a trace. The strange part, Sheila said, was that one chicken remained on the property when the others disappeared. It was found lying dead, without a mark on it, as if, said her son, it had had a heart attack.



# KEEPING THE MONSTER WATCH

BY JENNIFER HARPER

**F**ancy this. You're staring into a rose and gold sunset on Chesapeake Bay. The water makes appealing noises under the old gray dock, you can hear the kids playing up on the lawn — so peaceful. Then everything stops.

Out on the water. A dark thing — a big thing, swimming not 100 feet off the dock. You're on your feet. It's huge and undulating, sending out a wake, gliding by while your heart's in your mouth, your voice won't work and the moments tick off.

What to do? Laugh? Cry?

"Hey! Hey, everybody!" you finally blurt. "Look! Look!" and you're dancing around on the dock, pointing out to the water. The realization slowly sinks in. You've just seen Chessie. The Chesapeake Bay's sea monster.

And you're not alone.

It used to be that people who saw monsters were Bozos. Just like in the movies, some poor slob would come running into town screaming, "Monstah! Monstah!" and everyone would laugh until the monster showed up, tore down the electrical plant and headed back to sea.

Not anymore. Seeing a monster is not something to hide. In fact, it's become a matter of pride, like being the chosen earthling who had a close encounter of the third kind. They're legit. Beyond all the Spielbergian instincts to seek out magic, legends and so forth, monsters, or more appropriately "unexplained phenomena," are seriously studied by scientists. They've even become mixed up with conservation issues in various state legislatures.

The documented encounters with creatures such as Chessie, in locations around the world, are legion. Sea and lake monsters have lumbered across roads, hissed, stunk, roared and blinked with oval eyes. They have appeared to be patient, shy, benign, curious or outraged. Or pathetic — such as one account from The Associated Press in 1947, detailing a collision between a Greek ship and a 36-foot "snake," which left the creature "writhing in agony."

But Chessie has remained intact — usually described as a 30- to 40-foot, serpentine animal, dark gray or black, with a long neck and a football-shaped head. She — he or it — has moved from the stuff of Grandma's tales into the monster mainstream, with 50 documented sightings since 1965. In warm weather, Chessie seems to frequent locations near the mouth of the Potomac River, various sections of the Eastern Shore, and Love Point, near the mouth of the Chester River off Kent Island. The general theory is that Chessie follows the bluefish runs.

The most recent sighting was only seven weeks ago. Jack Bishop, a dentist from Easton, Md., and his friend Ken Bordrie, owner of a furniture store, were looking at a boat around sundown, May 25.

"We were standing there on the dock," Dr. Bishop recalls, "and Ken says, 'Jack — hey look! I turn around and saw this thing about 100 yards away, right in the middle of the channel heading west toward the Choptank River. We saw snakelike arches coming out of the water, two or three at different times, undulating up and down, heading out at a good rate of speed."

"We estimated it was about a foot and a half in diameter, maybe 20 feet long and dark brown. At one time I saw the head — it looked kind of pointed, and would go up and down just like the arches, like a sea serpent. We watched it for about two minutes."

"When the media gets a hold of these stories," Dr. Bishop laughs, "it gets to be a National Enquirer thing — going in with the stuff about babies with three heads and so forth. Or people will say, 'Yeah, sure — and how many Mount Gay rums did you have?' You start wondering if you should talk at all. But hey, we just happened to be there on the right dock at the right time. So we talked about it. We have nothing to gain — it's an unforgettable kind of story. We may get T-shirts printed up that say 'Chessie Spotter One' and 'Chessie Spotter Two.'"

But some people say they have gotten very close to Chessie. Jan and Bob Snead, also of Easton, were on their first cruise of the early spring season in 1984 along the Choptank River, when they say Chessie paid them a visit.

"We were going at trolling speed, and I looked down into the water," says Mrs. Snead. "There was this thing beside the boat — it reached the whole length of it, which is 34 feet. And it was thick enough to put your arms around — like 2 feet, and just under the surface of the water. I couldn't believe what I was seeing."

"It would go below, then resurface, very graceful, with a wake like a small boat — I got the impression that it was as curious about us as we were of it. But it wouldn't allow us to approach it — it would come to us instead. It seemed shy, truthfully, and this went on for about 45 minutes. I'd give anything in the world to see it again — every time we go out now, we watch, we wait."

Mrs. Snead pauses for a moment. "But there is something strange. Now Bob and I — we're friends with Jack Bishop, you know, and the day before he saw it this year — we were out in the smaller boat, right in the same area. Well, I got the strangest feeling that the thing — the thing we'd seen two years ago — was there again. I had this feeling. I looked and looked for it. But no luck."

**C**hessie has many peers — the most famous being, of course, "Nessie," the Loch Ness Monster, whose history dates back to 565. St. Columba, an Irishman, had come to teach Christianity to the Scots when the monster rose out of the River Ness with a roar and interrupted the sermon. It came within 10 feet of a bystander.

"Go thou no further nor touch the man; go back at once," the saint said, according to accounts in "The Life of Saint Columba." The beast obliged but has made appearances ever since — more than 3,000 since 1934. There have been 17 sightings of Nessie ashore — usually wending its way back into the water as if caught in an embarrassing act. No fewer than 30 photographs and movies have been taken, including those of the Academy of Applied Sciences in the 1970s, using sonar, stroboscopic cameras and mini-submarines.

Lake monsters in general seem to have provided a kind of common forum that laymen and scientists can agreeably share.

Scientists have really gotten into the act in the past 20 years. When the Loch Ness monster first made big headlines in the 1930s, it was dismissed as mass hallucination, hoax and fantasy — plus scientists wanted an actual "specimen." This attitude has changed considerably, with marine biologists and zoologists employing some of the best high-tech toys in existence to track down the creature.

Books have been written on Nessie, speculating on whether it can hear or vocalize, its sex life, its humps, its lack of humps, what it eats, where it defecates — you name it.

Scientific groups have built complex lake monster traps, complete with kipped herring bait. They have invented "biopsy harpoons" designed to extract living tissue, sent down recording equipment and hung out for weeks by Loch Ness, armed with telephoto lenses and motion picture cameras.

Beyond all the affectionate nicknames that laymen have given lake and sea monsters, scientists have taken the next step in making the creatures legitimate by coming up with a formal name: *nessitera rhombopteryx*. The term was coined in 1975, meaning "strange or marvelous creature with a fin." Marine biologists and zoologists speculate that the animal's possible origins include a misplaced pleiosaurus, or an overgrown eel,

anaconda, newt, sea slug, Tully-monster or manatee.

And there is lots to apply all this new knowledge to. Lake or sea monsters have been reported in Ireland, a dozen other Scottish lakes besides Loch Ness, Africa, New Zealand, Siberia, Mexico, several Asian countries, Chile, Sweden, Norway — a very international breed, indeed.

In America, we not only have Chessie — there's also "Champ," hiding in the 700-foot depths of Lake Champlain in New York, the "White River Monster" in Arkansas and "Slimey Slim," who summers in Idaho. There have been eight different creatures sighted in the lakes of Wisconsin — plus versions in eight other states. But Canada has us beat. They've got monsters in 94 of their lakes.

**S**ocially, Chessie lags somewhat behind its counterparts. There is no formal Chessie Society — though there's talk among the sighters of forming a fan club. Outside of sporadic reports, the bay creature did not really hit the big time until 1982. Over Memorial Day of that year, Karen and Robert Frew of Kent Island managed to make a videotape of a Chessie appearance during a family outing.

"Wonder and surprise — that's what all seven of us who were there felt," recalls Karen Frew. "We watched through binoculars, then grabbed the camera because it had a good zoom lens on it — that's how we got the footage. It was accidental — and we all kept saying, 'Do you see what I see?'"

"The creature seemed to be curious, not aggressive, as it was heading for some swimmers. We were yelling to them to watch out, to watch what was coming their way — but it dove before it got to them. Swam right under them."

The videotape — a bit blurred and indistinct, as a lot of monster chronicles tend to be — contains an impressive sound track. Kids' excited voices shout, "Gee!" and "It's a giant eel!" and an adult chimes in, "It's amazing." It took about a month before the media laid claim to the curiosity. The Frews were bombarded by 150 calls from journalists, TV and radio stations from all over the world. The tape itself was reviewed by the Smithsonian Institution, Johns Hopkins University, the Maryland Legislature and the Enigma Project, a Baltimore-based group interested in unexplained phenomena.

"People continue to want to see the tape even after four years, even after all the publicity," says Mrs. Frew. "It's become the 'summer we saw Chessie.' But I'd love, really love, to see that animal again. The odds are slim to none, I'd think."

The Enigma Project has become Chessie's unofficial guardian since the tape was made, documenting sightings and keeping records. "No one really knows when Chessie was first actually sighted. I know of only a half dozen reports that predate the 20th century," says the project's research director, Mike Frizzell, a chemist in Baltimore. "The only way to confirm dates would be long sessions at the Library of Congress, checking small journals and newspapers. I haven't had the time."

But Mr. Frizzell is also keeping tabs on public reaction. "In Chessie's case, there have never been any instances of harm or damage — so the general instinct among the natives is to become protective of it. In view of the current movement to protect the bay's fragile ecosystem — the idea of protecting the creature, as well, fits right in."

"We are not reaching any level of cultish behavior here — not to my knowledge, anyway. There are some researchers who believe that lake monsters are in the paranor-

mal realm — not within what we know as reality. I don't share that belief. As far as I'm concerned, Chessie is an animal — unclassified or extremely rare — but not esoteric."

"Testimonies, photographs and so forth do not hold much validity among scientific circles," he continues. "But I think that if you get enough credible, reliable witnesses, people who've been on the bay for many years — you have to pay attention to them. It may not constitute scientific proof, but it is proof, nonetheless."

There have been no grand scientific expeditions organized to study Chessie, though Mr. Frizzell has a standing offer from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to officially chart Chessie locations, once a comprehensive list of sightings has been completed. At one point, a Japanese group was interested in chartering a two-man submarine to go down for a firsthand look, but that has not materialized.

Mr. Frizzell was on hand last year when Democratic Sen. George Della of Baltimore introduced a resolution in the Maryland State Senate designed to protect Chessie. Mr. Della cited the fact that the New York state legislature had passed a similar bill to protect Lake Champlain's resident monster. The resolution was not passed, but Mr. Frizzell has not given up.

"There is little doubt in my mind that there is something rare and unique out there. We have to persuade the right people to believe it, as well — both in the scientific and legislative realms. As it stands, there are no conservation groups, no formal clubs that have taken a stand. Chessie has got to be protected."

Mr. Frizzell says that persons who have sighted Chessie can report it by writing to the **Enigma Project**, P.O. Box 462, Reisterstown, Md. 21136.

And for the Chessie-watchers, who have momentarily peeked into the deep and mysterious realm of dark water and slow currents — how does all this settle?

"Well — I really don't want to see a lot of pictures or hear other tales of Chessie," says Jan Snead. "I want my own memories to be clear — the soft, blue-gray of the water, the sunny afternoon. The bay is really a mystery, with so many hidden depths — anything could go undetected. And who's to say there isn't more than one? I'd think Chessie would be miserable if she were alone."

"It's been a couple of years now since I saw her. But it seems like yesterday. It's the kind of thing I'll remember the rest of my life."

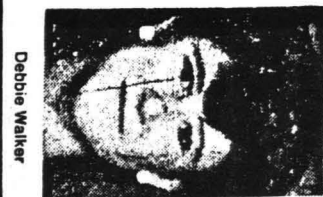
(continued on page 18)



## THE LAKE TOP TEN MONSTERS OF THE WORLD

The Earth seems to be full of great and mysterious creatures who favor the dark depths of lakes, bays, rivers and seas. They've shown up in ancient paintings and sculptures, had starring roles in family tales and folk lore, and have been pursued by scientists and devoted monster buffs alike. Shown on the map are some of the world's leading lake monsters — those who have endured long enough to switch their public titles from "just a hoax" to "unexplained phenomenon." Our apologies to the hundreds of lake monsters who are not mentioned here — there just wasn't room.

Map by Ed Haddock. The Washington Times



POLICE are examining a 40-year-old file on two missing men to try to solve the mystery disappearance of two teenage sisters in 1953.

Debbie and Jackie Walker vanished off Fliley beach, North York, last August. New police have discovered that two men disappeared under similar circumstances in almost the same place in August, 1947.

This has sparked suggestions that there could be a "Bermuda Triangle" there.

The girls were last seen paddling an inflatable dinghy about 50 yards off shore.

Their bodies were never discovered, or any trace of the flimsy dinghy or boat which became clothing despite intensive searches.

Again intensive searches failed to reveal a scrap of evidence that could suggest what happened.

The men who disappeared, George Smith and Thomas Shaw, were both in their 30s. They lived in Scarborough, a caravan near Fliley, and were experienced sailors.

They were seen off Fliley beach in a 10ft wooden boat which became their dinghy, was ever found — a similar mystery to the one we now have.

The son of one of the men who disappeared, Henry Shaw, who now lives in East Avon, Scarborough, said: "A number of theories were put forward — even suggesting that there may be some kind of Bermuda Triangle out there."



Jackie Walker

# Probe into sisters' mystery

STAR, Chesterfield, England - Aug. 7, 1986 CR: T. Good

## 'Plumes' over Soviet isles continue to baffle experts

Cox New Service

WASHINGTON — Large icy clouds, similar to plumes of gas that rise over volcanoes, have appeared over islands along the coast of the Soviet Union during the past several years, baffling experts, who cannot explain what they are or what causes them.

The clouds dissipate in a few hours, vanishing as mysteriously as they appear.

Among the plumes are a series of massive clouds that during the past four years have periodically swelled over Novaya Zemlya, the Arctic island long used by the Soviets for nuclear weapons tests.

However, there appears to be no correlation between the clouds and known Soviet tests, which are usually detected by Western governments. Further, non-government scientists said the 200-mile-long plumes appear are many times larger than the largest conceivable nuclear explosion could produce.

Officials at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which detected the first Novaya Zemlya plume in 1984, thought at first it was a volcanic eruption.

However, there is no volcanic activity in that area, a NOAA scientist said.

Other speculation has included Soviet "weather modification" tests and research into the "nuclear winter" hypothesis that smoke and dust from a nuclear war would cause permanent climatic changes.

"It's a puzzle to me," said Michael Matson, a hydrologist with NOAA. "Since this doesn't involve ice or weather or volcanoes, NOAA has no interest in it."

"It's not in the NOAA mission statement to pursue things like this because it's not in the weather or volcanic areas. Perhaps other scientists in the world, or other groups, would be interested in pursuing it further."

Matson said he planned to offer an account of about eight NOAA sightings on Novaya Zemlya — the most recent in February — to a scientific publication.

He said he didn't know whether the clouds were manmade "or the result of some natural event."

"It's a puzzle, which is why it's so interesting," said John Pike, an analyst with the Federation of American Scientists, an arms control group.

Matson said the Novaya Zemlya plumes appeared different from other mysterious clouds that have been sighted in Soviet other coastal areas.

In early 1983, analysts at the National Weather Service in Anchorage were scanning infrared images sent from a NOAA satellite when they detected a large plume coming from the Arctic Ocean near Bennett Island, north of the Soviet Union.

Using computers to enhance the images, they were able to spot three distinct sources — one on the island's northeast corner and two others about 9 miles offshore coming from the ice-covered water. Together they formed a plume that was six miles wide, 135 miles long and nearly 23,000 feet high. But when the satellite made its next pass several hours later, it was gone.

Two weeks later the satellite picked up a similar plume in the same area. It, too, quickly disappeared.

According to separate sources, the Central Intelligence Agency was so intrigued by the phenomenon that it ordered a high-speed surveillance plane to the area to take a look. What the CIA determined, if anything, is not known.

Some scientists have concluded the Bennett Island plumes may have been caused by the release of methane trapped underground for centuries in rock formations. The methane would have rapidly condensed as it mixed with the air.

But Andre C. Change, a seismologist living outside Washington who has studied unexplained phenomena for the federal government, says that theory is "rather unlikely." He said data show that the rock formations on and around Bennett Island are "pre-Cambrian" — one of the earliest geologic periods — and are therefore "too old to still hold methane."

"I don't think it was (methane)," he said, "but I have no other explanation."

Lindsay McClelland, an official at the Smithsonian Institution's Scientific Event Alert Network in Washington, noted that "inexplicable mushroom type clouds can sometimes be from volcanic eruptions" that release underground or underwater gasses. But geologic data indicate that the area around Bennett Island is "not a very promising place for volcanism."

"The basic problem in getting an explanation for this is that it's in the Soviet Union," he said. Not only are the Soviets tight-lipped, he said, "but it's in a very remote place" that is virtually inaccessible for scientific study.

Roughly a year after the last Bennett Island plume was detected, another mysterious cloud appeared one moonlit night near Japan. A least four airline pilots witnessed an eruption that appeared to be a nuclear explosion cloud that billowed to a height of 60,000 feet and a width of 200 miles within a span of just two minutes.

One of those who spotted it, Capt. Charles McDade, was so alarmed that he issued a "Mayday" alert directly to U.S. air controllers thousands of miles away in Anchorage. "We have a ... round ball cloud," announced McDade, a former Strategic Air Command pilot, "(that) looks like a nuclear explosion, only there was no fireball."

STARS & STRIPES, West Germany  
Sept. 30, 1986 CR: R. Reid

## There's a kernel of truth to falling-corn stories

EVANS, Colo. (AP) — To some it's "cornfusing." To others it's "cornfounding." But to three homeowners along Pleasant Acres Drive it's just a nuisance.

For the past four years, they say, corn kernels have sporadically fallen out of the sky onto their roofs and back yards.

"I'd probably have a ton of it if I picked it all up," said homeowner Gary Bryan.

"Everybody kind of jokes it off as if you're pulling their leg until they've seen it," said his neighbor, Mike Kobel.

Last week, they invited several reporters to come by and see the phenomenon for themselves.

Mike Peters, a reporter for the Greeley Tribune, said he saw some kernels fall and then scrambled through the neighborhood looking for a prankster with a slingshot. He didn't find one.

Kobel and Bryan say all the obvious explanations don't seem to fit. There are no cornfields near their houses, and the closest grain elevator is about five miles away.

There are no trees or overhead wires for squirrels to drop corn from, and frequently no birds or planes are visible when the corn starts to fall.





## Facts about creature walk in shadow of legend

By JIM WRIGHT  
State-Land Examiner outdoor editor

**H**e lives up there in the mountains someplace, wandering the moonlit ridges and secluded valleys, his presence made known only by an occasional shriek, his famous footprints and what can be politely described as a severe case of body odor.

He's Big Foot. Sasquatch. The American Yeti. He's the stuff of lore and legend, out of place perhaps in the 20th century nourished by computers and BMWs and nuclear throw weights. But if you can believe your fellow man, he's out there.

He's been sighted in Utah many times, by people who you'd trust with your life and by folks you wouldn't trust with your neighborhood garbage route. There are Sasquatch reports from

the Uintas, along the Wasatch Front, near Tremonton. In a semi-celebrated case, one (or more) of these creatures reportedly wandered the Weber River from Uintah out past Interstate-15 for several months in 1980.

While Big Foot reports have tapered off in recent years, there was a surge of sightings in the late 1970s and early 1980s. In 1977, two North Ogden men, Jay Barker and Larry Beeson, were hiking with a group of six young-

sters in Cuberant Basin in the Uintas. They came over a ridge between Pass Lake and Cuberant Basin at the head of the Weber River drainage. About a half-mile below, on the edge of a small lake, stood what Barker swears was Big Foot.

The men and boys watched the creature for about four minutes. It saw them when the boys kicked some loose rock down the slope, and ambled off, on two legs, into the timber. The group climbed

down to the lake, where they found what Barker described as "pawlike" imprints in the ground. Most of the terrain was too hard to retain footprints.

It was described as about 10 feet tall, with a white mantle of hair over its shoulders and about halfway down its body. The rest of the animal was dark colored.

Jerry Dahlberg, a conservation officer for the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, led a small expedition to Cuberant Basin af-

ter Barker's sighting. He didn't find anything.

"We went up the East Fork and the West Fork of the Bear, the head of the Weber, all through Cuberant Basin and into Naturalist Basin. Ruth Lake, Naomi Lake. We never did find anything. No signs of feeding, no feces, no tracks, places to rest or sleep, no caves, no odor."

Dahlberg said he's can't say one way or the other whether

people are actually seeing Big Foot or something else.

"The philosophy of it, well, I can't completely deny it," Dahlberg said. "These people saw something, and they know enough about bear and moose to not be confused. I don't know."

Where other people collect stamps, Ryan Layton collects Big Foot stories. Layton, who lives in Layton, has interviewed more than a dozen Northern Utahns who claim to have seen or heard Big Foot.

In the fall of 1983, Layton was camping in the Uintas, east of Hoyt Peak, with Mike Adams of East Layton.

"About 11:30 at night, we heard this horrendous, ungodly, wicked, bizarre scream," Layton said. "The volume and power of it were impossible for a human to duplicate. Later, about 4 a.m., I mimicked a noise they are capable of making (Layton heard the noise on a tape recording made by a Montana rancher). It's almost like barks, very high volume barks in different cadences and octaves. I got a reply back almost instantaneously; what I heard was something high volume, a lot of bass, too powerful and loud to be a human being. We were shaking in our boots. That doesn't prove anything, but you can understand what an impression the sound made."

One of the most compelling Big Foot stories comes from a Clearfield man, Larry Darley.

In the fall of 1979, Darley and his wife were elk hunting near Mount McKinnon in the Monte Cristo range.

"We were sitting at a water hole at twilight," Darley said. "We were about 50 yards away. We heard a commotion, then smelled something real rank. And there was a big, hairy thing on the edge of the water hole."

Darley's wife held the rifle, and she looked at the thing through the telescopic sight.

"She said, 'It's a monster, you kill it,' and she threw me the rifle," Darley said.

He picked up the rifle and looked through the scope.

"His face took up almost the whole scope. It looked like a blond ape," he said. "The face was mostly hairy, but it had bald spots and sharp teeth. There was a real wild look in its eyes."

(continued on page 20)

Darley said he watched the animal for a couple of minutes, until it turned its head slightly and looked directly at him.

"That's when we got out of there," he said. "Our car was probably about 25 or 30 yards away, and we ran. I probably killed the car three times trying to get it started."

Darley said he's still troubled about the incident, and still wonders about a couple of things. He wonders why he was so scared.

"That's probably the most scared I've ever been in my life, but there wasn't any reason for it," he said. "It didn't do anything but look at me; I guess it just had such a wild expression, and bared teeth, but I don't know if it was threatening or if that was its natural expression."

He was asked why he didn't shoot.

"I don't understand that," he said, "because I was going to. I was going to shoot it. I can't ex-

plain that at all."

By taking his finger off the trigger, Darley lost an opportunity to provide science with what it's always needed to prove that Big Foot exists.

"It's absolutely essential that we get a body," said Grover Krantz, a professor of anthropology at Washington State University. "These things might become extinct without us knowing about it. We need to analyze them, and their needs, to protect them. The only proof is a body."

Krantz quickly added that there is justification for killing or capturing only one Big Foot.

"All of the people who are seriously investigating this are sure it's an animal," he said. "It's not related to humans any more than a gorilla is. No one would advocate killing a thinking, sentient form of life. We would also advocate killing one, and then protecting the rest."

## Expert sets his sights on sighting

There are two types of people in the world: Those who believe in Big Foot, and those who don't.

Grover Krantz, an anthropology professor at Washington State University, is a believer. Krantz has spent much of the last 17 years seriously studying Big Foot in the northwestern United States.

Krantz is a member of what must be one of the most exclusive scientific circles — a Big Foot expert.

Krantz said he has talked with dozens of people who claim to have seen the creature, and he said he figures at least half of them are telling the truth.

"You get a feel for legitimate sightings after a while," he said.

"Like the hunter who sees something, drops his rifle on the spot and runs in a panic to the authorities."

Krantz has studied footprints, photographs, and heard or read countless eyewitness reports. He said he's never seen it himself, but he doesn't hesitate an instant when he's asked whether he believes in the creature.

"Oh, yes, I believe in it," he said. "And it's creatures, not creature. There are more than one."

He's even assigned Big Foot a scientific name — *Gigantopithecus blacki*. *Gigantopithecus* is known to scientists from several fossilized skulls found in China and India. Krantz said the skulls are about a million years old, although other scientists think they may be older.

"From the (fossils) you can presume it's something between human and ape, twice as large as a male gorilla, and a good presumption of erect posture. It was a contemporary of early man, so it wouldn't be related any more than a gorilla is related to man."

According to Krantz, Big Foot is a huge, shy creature of the night. The typical Big Foot is about eight feet tall and weighs around 800 pounds. He said he believes Big Foot is mainly a vegetarian, but is also a "carnivore of opportunity."

Krantz said Big Foot shares the same country as bears, and is most active between midnight and dawn when it doesn't compete with the bear.

"The best parallel is to a large bear," Krantz said. "They're well equipped for hunting, and because they're so large, they need a lot of food. It's primarily a vegetarian, but is also an opportunistic carnivore — it eats meat when it can get it."

The first question a skeptic asks is this: "Well, if they're really up there, why hasn't anyone found a dead body, or the bones?"

To which Krantz replies, "That's an absurd statement. Let's go back to bears. I know almost nobody who has ever found the body of a bear that died a natural death in the mountains."

ENTERPRISE, Beaumont, TX - Sept. 8, 1986 CR: S. Parker via COUD-I

## Geologists burst Rockwall's bubble

Rockwall, Texas — R.F. Canup believes the well-known rock wall here is manmade masonry . . . from the Enterprise, Sept. 8, 1936.

Rockwall County is the smallest of Texas' 254. The town of Rockwall itself holds no similar distinction, although it would be considered smallish by some standards.

Both the county and the town were named for a strange rock wall, mostly buried, a mystery that has intrigued those normally intrigued by rock walls.

I've never been to Rockwall County to my knowledge, and would hardly be regarded as an authority on the wall except that I feel sure I've been within a few miles of it at one time or

### Another Day

Don Streater



another. Closer than a lot of people I can think of, Lewis and Clark didn't get within miles of it.

With my credentials so solidly established then, I side with R.F. Canup, who 50 years ago was busying himself excavating the wall.

Canup unearthed the wall for about 100 feet, and eight feet down and was

convinced he had found the masonry wall of an ancient city. He hadn't determined what city this was, but I suspect it was Troy.

Troy was known to have a rock wall around it just like Rockwall, and it's a pity Canup couldn't have found the wooden horse's tail, which would have clinched the matter.

Geologists, always quick to pour cold water on a layman's discovery, maintained the wall was nature-made, and pointed out that Troy was in Asia Minor, not Texas, failing to take into account the movement of the earth's tectonic plates.

Not everyone believed Canup's theory. I do, just because it's more exciting that way.

Don Streater is retired managing editor of the Beaumont Enterprise.

EXAMINER, San Francisco, CA  
Nov. 9, 1986 CR: W. Thompson

**WALKING WITH THE YETI:** Mountain climber Reinhold Messner meets the strangest creatures when he goes climbing through the Himalayas. He wrote an article for a West German magazine describing two encounters with the yeti — the legendary abominable snowman. "It popped out from between the trees," Messner wrote. "In the first instant I thought — a yak. But it was no yak. Neither was it a man, nor an ape nor a bear. I know all about hallucinations — from the summit of Mount Everest. What I saw in the Tibetan highlands was reality." The magazine story was accompanied by Messner's photographs of the yeti's squat footprints. Messner, who has conquered the Himalayas' eight highest peaks, says he was within 30 feet of the yeti and described it as about 6½ feet tall with shaggy black fur all over except for the face.

SUN, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada - Aug. 28, 1986

CR: R. Dahinden via W. Thompson

### SKEPTIC NOW A ...

## BIGFOOT BELIEVER

By NAOMI LAKRITZ  
Sun Staff Writer

A close encounter of the hairy kind has converted a Winnipeg man from skeptic to believer, according to a local Bigfoot investigator.

"He never believed in those things before, but now he says he guesses he'll have to," said Bill Mason, Manitoba regional director of the Michigan-Canadian Bigfoot Information Centre.

The 71-year-old man, who asked Mason not to reveal his name, was driving north on Highway 59 near Rosa last April 9 when something standing on the blacktop in the southbound lane caught his eye.

"He said it was seven feet tall and had brown hair but he didn't know if its eyes glowed. He thought at first it was a gorilla," said Mason.

The man, who was alone in his car, pulled over and watched the creature through his back window as it crossed the road. No

other cars were near at the time.

"He realized what it was and he was pretty shaken up. It waltzed across the road and into the ditch. Then the man drove off," said Mason.

Mason himself is planning some weekend excursions into the bush this fall in hopes of spotting one of the elusive creatures. But he's not quite sure what he'd do if he really ran across one.

"I used to be an advocate of shooting. But now I think I'd settle for a good clear photograph," said Mason.

He said there have been a smattering of sightings in the past few years in the province, but nothing as significant as the Highway 59 incident.

"People have said they've seen this or that. It's been very slow," he said.

One of the places where Bigfoot has been reported on several occasions is the Roseau River reserve, where the creatures have allegedly been heard screaming in the night or splashing in the river, according

to Mason, who has not visited the area.

Mason plans to do his Sasquatch hunting in the Pine Falls-Grand Beach area, but just going around in the bush isn't very productive.

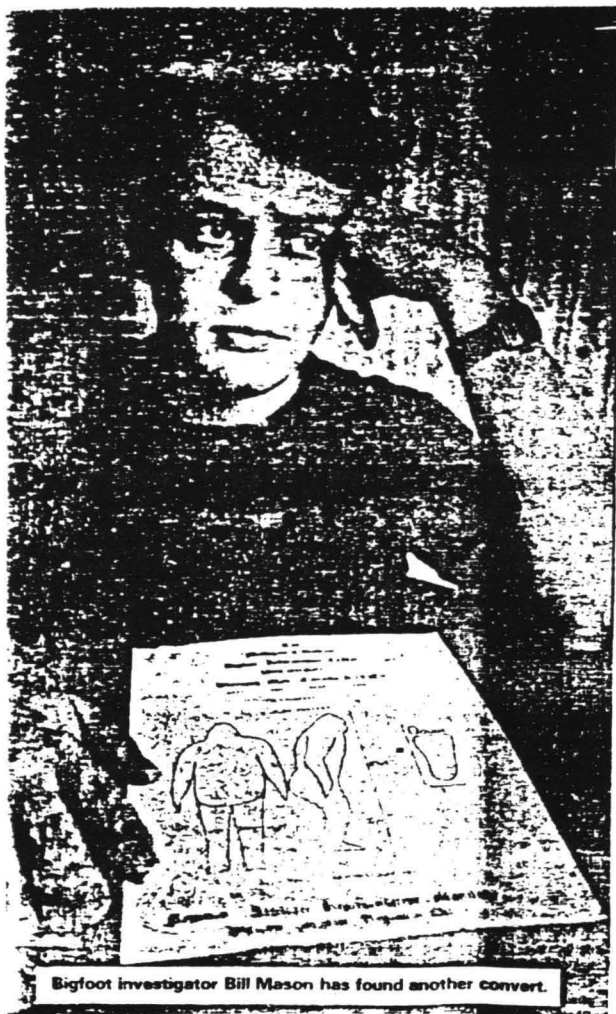
"If you could get to the spot within an hour or so of a sighting, you'd have a much better chance of finding it," he said.

Elsewhere in the category of strange beasts, it's been a year now since a goat-headed sea monster surfaced in the Winnipeg River near Pine Falls.

"The details are very sketchy," said Chris Rutkowski, a Winnipegger who is interested in UFOs and other phenomena.

"Some people were out in a boat when they ran over something. It surfaced and they saw a dark creature with a long neck and a head like a goat," he said.

The creature looked at them and then swam off. Rutkowski said his efforts to trace the people involved failed but they are residents of the Fort Alexander Reserve.



Bigfoot investigator Bill Mason has found another convert.