

UFO

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EVENING TIMES, Monroe, WI — Feb. 12, 1987 CR: R. Heiden

Midwest hot spot for UFOs

The Midwest seems to be the current hot spot for unidentified flying object sightings, according to Don Schmitt, who is investigating the report of mysterious sky lights near Belleville.

Schmitt said Wisconsin, Ohio, Michigan and Iowa have had similar reports within the past year of triangular- to diamond-shaped objects with red and white lights. Other states are not having much UFO activity, he said.

In Waukesha a sighting was reported of an object hovering above an intersection of roads. The object was wider than the distance between road shoulders, and people claim it was so close they could have stood

on the roof of the car and touched it.

Another motorist said from a distance he thought it was an accident because of the red and white flashing lights. Upon closer examination it was "like seeing a car accident in the sky" Schmitt recalled the witness as saying.

Near Mukwonago a UFO is believed to have landed. No UFO observation was reported, but the nature of the physical trace lends itself to a possible landing.

An ultralight pilot noted a "perfect circle" impression on a swamp. He thought the area seemed to be a natural landing approach through the trees.

The barren 60 foot-circle has tripod depressions in the center and rests at the base of a swamp which covers 25 square miles.

Schmitt noted the depression is in a direct line to a microwave tower about one mile away. He said that may be significant because two other cases have involved towers.

Some have suggested towers serve as beacon lights or possibly a power source — several sightings have involved power surges in buildings and stalled vehicles.

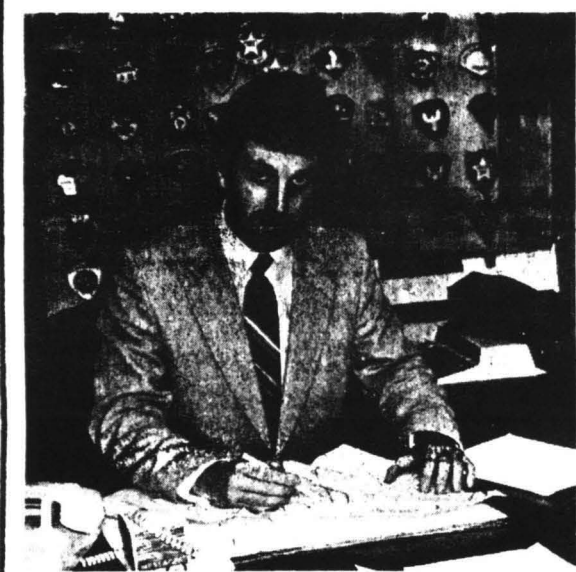
In Ohio, an object was seen hovering over a neighbor's garage and was

described as tremendous in size.

Several Dane County sightings have also been reported. In one instance a woman reported seeing the silhouette of a figure inside a porch-thole or window of the object.

Schmitt has come to realize Wisconsin is novel in that peak UFO activity in recent years has occurred in winter months. This is the third year in a row when January has been the busiest month, he said.

He noted the oddity of winter reports because that is a time when people are less apt to be outside watching the skies.



"When I get involved, it's because it's a good case."

Don Schmitt

Text and photos
by Jane Weihmeir

Lights in Belleville a mystery

BELLEVILLE — The sighting of colored lights in the night sky Jan. 16 near Belleville remains a mystery, but the Center for UFO Studies has some of its best help continuing to study the case and other possibly-related reports.

"When I get involved, it's because it's a good case," said Don Schmitt, the main investigator.

A freelance technical illustrator, Schmitt is a director of CUFOS, an organization with highly-rated volunteers.

Schmitt explained that people don't apply to work at the center — the center seeks people to join, recruiting volunteers from those believed to be the best in UFO studies. Usually Schmitt assigns other volunteers to investigate reports, but he is personally working on the Belleville case.

He was in the small community last Sunday to touch base with approximately 12 witnesses.

The initial report, which came from a Belleville police officer and was confirmed by others in places including Albany and Monroe, has CUFOS' interest partially because the observation was tracked on radar.

"We have already eliminated the possibility of any conventional air traffic at that time," he said.

Because the lights were observed from different angles defining an outer perimeter, the investigator may be able to come within a few miles of determining the actual location. He will also employ radar tapes once available.

Schmitt said reports from the other witnesses may or may not be related.

Feb. 6, exactly three weeks after the initial report, the same lights were observed from Belleville — the lights were in the same area as before.

Some observers reported that from a distance estimated as one football field away, they saw red and blue rotating lights on top and a white, constant light, on bottom. The witnesses were not able to discern the shape of the object.

One woman reported seeing three sets of lights. All seemed identical.

Schmitt said it is unusual to see more than one series of lights, but it occasionally happens. There have been reports in which the objects seem to merge and become one before leaving the area, he said. In some instances, radar has tracked the lights as a single object once they've merged.

Other reports indicate an object was observed Jan. 17 above Elmwood. Two reports were made of sightings Jan. 18 in Dane County. Feb. 5, the day before the second Belleville sighting, there was a sighting in Washington County.

Although the initial report may be related to the other sightings, each report is handled as a unique case because that eliminates leading questions, the investigator said.

UFO over Gleason, youngsters report

When two youngsters came to their Gleason area home northwest of Antigo Wednesday night with tales of an unidentified flying object their parents chuckled.

But that situation changed today when their mother ran across a Tuesday edition of the Antigo Daily Journal with article on an UFO sighting near Belleville, a small community southwest of Madison.

"I really freaked out," the woman said after reading the article. She explained that her family does not subscribe to the newspaper but when she went to the home where she babysits, the paper was there and she started reading.

The article on UFO sightings in southern Wisconsin and northern Illinois detailed a vehicle very similar to the one reported in the Gleason area Wednesday evening.

In Belleville, a policeman saw colored lights in the sky on Jan. 15, and reported them to local authorities. The information was turned over to the Federal Aviation Administration in Chicago, which said it had tracked a slow-moving object in the area but was unable to make radio contact.

The youngsters in the Gleason area were putting their horses away after an evening of riding when the vehicle was spotted in the air.

Their mother said they reported the circular object emitted red, green and blue lights and a shower of sparks.

The youngsters told their mother they were able to see some sort of window in the saucer before it disappeared.

Local law enforcement agencies have no reports of unidentified flying objects in this area Wednesday evening.

OBSERVER, Charlotte, NC — Feb. 15, 1987 CR: G. Fawcett

Don't Rule Out UFOs

The writer is assistant state director of Mutual UFO Network Inc.

I have a few comments concerning the interesting recent UFO sightings over Alaska and a follow-up article in Feb. 1 Observer, in which Philip Klass, a UFO spokesman for a group of skeptics, voiced his opinion that the UFO seen by Japanese pilots was the planet Jupiter.

Over a period of weeks various authorities tried to discount pilot reports of "walnut-shaped UFOs" (seen from the air and tracked on both ground and plane radar screens) as nothing more than ground clutter, double images of the jet, ice crystals and now wandering planets.

Any qualified pilot with years of

experience would examine the various possible explanations before reporting it in the first place.

For ice crystals to follow a Japanese Air Lines 747 cargo jet for 500 miles (for a total of 55 minutes) and for a trained FAA radar operator to warn the pilots to take "evasive actions" to avoid collisions with the planet Jupiter stretches ones credibility to the breaking point.

Richard Haines, a NASA scientist who has studied more than 3,000 sightings of UFOs by pilots over the years, is currently investigating the Alaskan encounter, so I believe I will await his final evaluation of this interesting data by experienced pilots. We would all be wise to do so!

GEORGE D. FAWCETT
Lincolnton

"We go in assuming it can be explained," Schmitt said. Investigators use the process of elimination to determine the sighting was not a plane, star or other common object.

He noted that it is not unusual for more reports to come out after a publicized sighting. People get bit by "UFO fever" and want to see something so much that they study

the sky until they find lights, he said, explaining that often the lights exist but the observer is not trained and misinterprets a common object for a UFO.

It is up to the competency of the investigator to weed out bogus reports and misinterpreted sightings from valid ones.

Cable Ready

Local residents go beyond the bounds of prime-time TV

By MARY E. FORGIONE
Staff Writer

While major networks are frantically trying to decide what shows to highlight for the upcoming season, there are many producers who are totally unphased by Nielsen ratings and filming schedules.

These producers rarely work with any script, never edit their final shows and wouldn't know a special effect from an ordinary one. Welcome to the wonderful world of public access programming — an experimental and sometimes excruciating by-product of cable television.

Public access channels were formed when cable franchises were set up. The agreements dictated that one channel be reserved exclusively for community and public programs, but exactly what type of program was never spelled out — hence the steady stream of shows that range from boring to bizarre.

"I plan on continuing my show until I become famous," said Dr. Franklin Ruehl, producer and star of "Mysteries From Beyond the Other Dominion." After being turned down by network television, the Glendale resident sought out public access to broadcast a scientific version of the National Enquirer.

Ruehl spends a half-hour every week explaining phenomenon like "UFOs in the Roman Empire," "Are Werewolves for Real?" "Louisiana's Extraterrestrial Life," "Five-foot-long Red-headed Worms," "Is Venus Hell," "Reviving the Frozen Dead" and "Indonesian Leprecauns."

He also secures special guests like director Roger Corman or sci-fi buff Neil Norman to talk about their experiences in the realm of the unknown. "I've been doing this for two-and-a-half years — I wouldn't do it if I didn't like it," said Ruehl who holds a doctorate in theoretical nuclear physics from UCLA.

Despite the offbeat nature of the show, "Mysteries" is actually a refreshing break from the sometimes endless broadcasts about how to cut hair, give a massage, or learn tap dancing in the privacy of your own home.

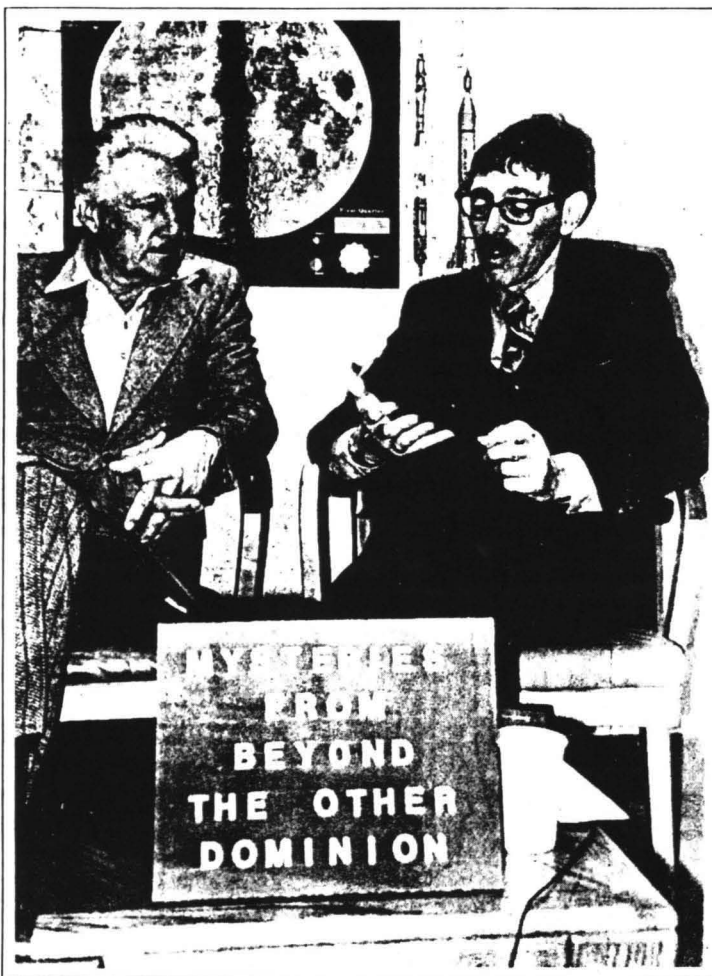


Photo by MARY FORGIONE

Dr. Franklin Ruehl (right) on his public access show talks with veteran actor Warren Stevens (left) about his roles in sci-fi TV and film classics.

LINCOLN TIMES-NEWS, Lincoln, NC - March 4, 1987 CR: G. Fawcett

Letters

To-The-Editor:

The recent worldwide publicity given to UFO sightings by Japanese pilots off the coast of Alaska is an intriguing one, with many questions yet remaining to be answered.

I now have a series of sketches from the pilots, who spotted the UFOs at high altitude during his Boeing 747 cargo jet flight last Nov. 17.

What is striking is that the drawings by the pilots are almost identical to drawings rendered by eyewitnesses (three) who saw a UFO at ground level for 30 minutes near the Hidden Valley Horse Arena, off Highway 182 West, four miles from downtown Lincoln on May 1, 1985.

This local report involved "loud sounds," low altitude maneuvers, physiological effects, animal reactions, power failures, heat waves, E-M effects on house lights, telephones, communication devices, etc.

Both encounters involved "huge objects." And both reports remain unexplained.

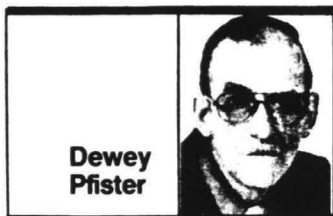
Sincerely,
George D. Fawcett
Asst. Director
N.C.-MUFON Unit
602 Battleground Rd.
Lincolnton, N.C.

Sightings: UFOs spotted near Little Chicago, Gleason

A town of Hamburg woman who identified herself only as a farm wife living near Little Chicago, called last week, too embarrassed to give her name because she and her husband watched an unidentified flying object for about 10 minutes shortly before 2 a.m. last Monday.

The couple watched the object south of their home as it moved from east to west, sometimes hovering before it disappeared. The farm wife said the object had two bright white lights and red flashing lights. She called the Federal Aviation Administration flight service station at Wausau. It had no reports of aircraft in the area or other sightings of the mysterious object.

The Little Chicago woman, who was up because "the dog had to go out," may get some satisfaction from knowing she wasn't alone in seeing something mysterious. The children of a Gleason family saw a UFO Wednesday night, and there have been numerous sightings recently in southern Wisconsin and northern Illinois. A Jan. 15 sighting by a policeman at Belleville was immediately referred to the FAA at Chicago which tracked a slow moving



Dewey Pfister

object on radar but was unable to make radio contact.

FORUM, Fargo, ND - March 11, 1987 CR: MUFON

Residents spot UFO in Devils Lake area

Devils Lake, N.D. (AP)

A number of residents, including two off-duty police officers, witnessed a diamond-shaped, multi-colored object that hovered and moved quickly over the area Monday night, Police Chief Chris Mathieson said.

The object first appeared between 8:30 and 8:45 p.m. over the Fort Totten Indian Reservation near St. Michael and Tokio, about 10 miles south of Devils Lake, Mathieson said Tuesday.

The two off-duty officers watched the object for about 15 or 20 minutes, he said.

It had red, yellow and green lights that appeared to blink or go around it.

It hovered about 500 feet above ground but left in a "quick manner" that was "considerably faster" than any commercial aircraft, Mathieson said.

Capt. Darrell Laducer of the Fort Totten Police Department said an officer found nothing when he arrived in the area after 9 p.m., but two citizens who said they saw it drew similar pictures of a star-shaped object.

Mathieson said another object was reported by residents shortly after 11 p.m. west of Devils Lake, but the off-duty officers who investigated that area did not see anything unusual.

The police department reported it to the Grand Forks Air Force Base, which is about 90 miles east of where the object was sighted, but the air base denied any knowledge of it, Mathieson said.

However, he said the Federal Aviation Administration in Colorado said it showed something on its radar screen in that area of North Dakota but could not identify it.

"I'm sure if it was a secret military aircraft, the military would deny any knowledge of it," he said. "I think it's some Air Force project."

Tom Donahoe, area manager of the FAA's Air Route Traffic Control Center in Minneapolis, which monitors North Dakota by radar, said nothing unusual was sighted by or reported to his office Monday night.

Mathieson said he had been chief of police in Devils Lake for the last seven years and never had such an incident before.

UFOs seen over Sewickley Feb. 13

It was Friday the 13th and a full moon to boot, but no one at the Herald office was expecting UFOs.

At approximately 6:10 p.m., news editor Mike May happened to look out the upstairs window, which has a southern view, and saw two dark objects in the evening sky to the left of the Methodist Church steeple. He called the rest of the staff — B.G. Shields, Marjie Halsey and Keith Vollberg — to the window, and they also witnessed the

mysterious objects, which seemed to be motionless but maintaining the same altitude and distance from each other. Slowly the objects made their way in a southeasterly direction, disappearing approximately 15 minutes after first sighting.

Calls were made to the Pittsburgh airport and Allegheny Observatory, neither of which had seen the objects nor had any explanation.

Anyone else who witnessed the event is asked to call the Herald at 741-8200.

J. ANTONIO HUNEUS

Strange Sighting Over Alaska Revives UFO Debate

The media's recent interest in a UFO incident in Alaska has shown that "flying saucers" are still alive and kicking. Despite four decades of official ridicule and academic indifference, it takes just one new good case to bring back again for public appraisal the old UFO question. Captain Kenju Terauchi's Japan Air Lines (JAL) Boeing 747 cargo jet, flying across the Arctic Circle between Reykjavik, Iceland, and Tokyo, provided just that case.

The incident occurred on the evening of November 17, 1986, yet it wasn't until New Year's that the story was leaked to the press. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the U.S. Air Force acknowledged initially that the UFO had been detected by ground radar in Fairbanks, Alaska. On January 4, FAA spokesman Paul Steucke admitted the agency was conducting a formal inquiry of the event and had interviewed the JAL crew for a second time.

The "official investigation" of the radar tapes later labeled it an "artifact," which in radar jargon means a "ghost," in this case the 747's "double image." Nonetheless, it was — in the late Dr. J. Allen Hynek's classification — a "radar/visual" case. Captain Terauchi insisted he saw "a very big" object, approximately "two times bigger than an aircraft carrier," as well as two smaller objects which paced his plane for 400 miles during at least half an hour. The copilot and flight engineer also saw the UFO lights.

Evasive Action

JAL Flight 1628 was flying enroute to Japan on a routine cargo haul between Iceland and Anchorage. The 747 was cruising normally at 525 knots at 35,000 feet when around 6 p.m., Terauchi sighted "two columns of light" about a mile ahead and some 30 degrees to his left. The pilot radioed the control tower at Anchorage to check if there was any other air traffic. Anchorage responded in the negative. "Suddenly the lights came to within 500 to 1,000 feet of the plane," said Terauchi. He described the lights as "two dark cylinders with row after row of spinning amber lights" which cast no shadows.

"I was sure it wasn't another plane," he said later in an interview. "It moved so quickly that I realized it was not something human but had to do with very high technology, very high intelligence." Stranger things continued to happen. A blip was detected on the 747's weather radar, and the cylinders "flew in formation" with the jet. At this point, FAA spokesman Steucke explained later, "his (Terauchi) main concern was trying to determine whether he was overtaking another aircraft."

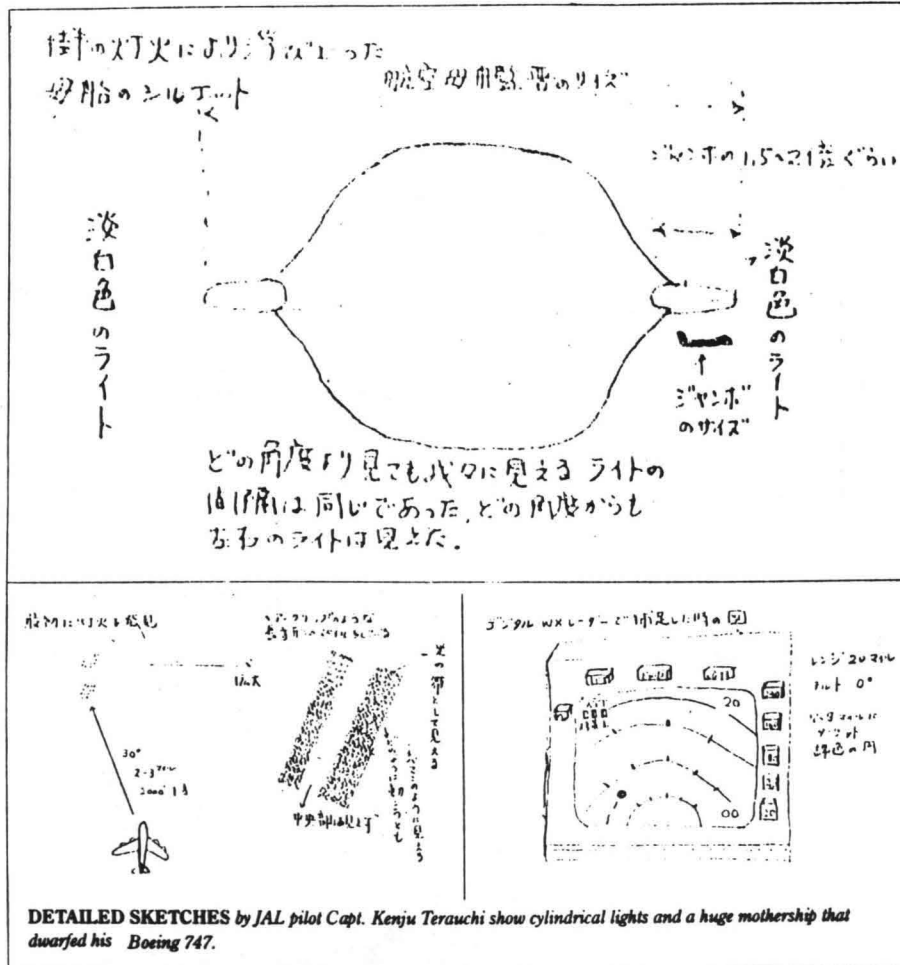
The captain then requested from ground authorities permission to take evasive action, which granted it and proceeded to give him instructions. The Boeing dropped 4,000 feet and made several turns, but the lights "were still following us," said Terauchi.

Near Fairbanks, Terauchi glimpsed a huge round object, about "the size of two aircraft carriers." He later speculated it was a "mothership" of possible extraterrestrial origin. Copilot Tamefuji and flight engineer Tsukuda, however, did not see the large UFO, although they did see unusual lights pacing the plane. The lights finally vanished at 6:53 p.m., and flight 1628 landed in Anchorage without further incident.

FAA officials interviewed the crew, releasing a statement to the effect that they were "normal, professional, rational, (and had) no drugs or alcohol involvement." When the story was finally leaked, both the Air Force and the FAA admitted that ground radar blips had been detected around the time of the JAL sighting. The Air Force soon dismissed them as "electronic clutter." The FAA and the military use the same long-range radar in Fairbanks, but the FAA also uses a sophisticated computer system to remove clutter from radar images. FAA ground records indicated that something stayed close to the JAL 747 for 32 minutes. This radar evidence was also dismissed by the FAA as the plane's "double image."

This writer decided to go behind the headlines and seek the opinion of one of the top scientific experts in the UFO field. Dr. Richard Haines, employed by NASA since 1967 as a research specialist in human perception with regards to avionics, works currently at the Ames Research Center in Mountainview, California. Dr. Haines is also an accident investigator for the FAA and the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB). In addition, he is a leading scientific ufologist, having published a textbook on human perception vis-a-vis the phenomenon, *Observing UFOs*. He has also collected probably the world's largest catalogue of UFO/aircraft incidents, which presently contains over 3,400 bona fide cases.

Reached by phone at his residence in northern California, Haines indicated he was investigating the Alaska case, having "tape recorded almost three hours of interview with him (Capt. Terauchi)," as well as with personnel from another airline, the FAA, the Air Force, the UPI correspondent in Alaska, and a number of other people.



What Pilot Saw was Really Jupiter, Says Prober

A Japan Air Lines pilot who claimed to have seen an unidentified flying object alongside his airplane last November was actually seeing an unusually bright image of the planet Jupiter and possibly Mars, an investigator said Tuesday in a dispatch by the Associated Press.

Philip J. Klass told AP that astronomical calculations show that on Nov. 17, when the pilot claimed to have seen the UFO, Jupiter was extremely bright and was visible precisely where the pilot reported that he saw the UFO. Mars was just below and to the right of Jupiter, and may explain the pilot's initial report that he saw two lights, Klass said.

Klass, an editor with the magazine *Aviation Week and Space Technology* and a longtime investigator of claimed UFO sightings, was quoted as saying the pilot's claims that the object followed him as he made a 360-degree turn are contradicted by what he told flight controllers at the time.

John Leyden, a spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration in Washington, quoted from a summary of conversations between the pilot and ground controllers in which the pilot reported losing sight of the object after completing his turn.

The object reappeared a few moments later, according to the FAA summary quoted by Leyden.

The pilot, Capt. Kenju Terauchi, was over Alaska enroute from Europe, via Iceland, to Tokyo when he claims to have sighted the object.

Paul Steucke, a spokesman for the FAA in Anchorage, said that Terauchi told FAA officials in an interview that the object stayed with him as he turned.

Steucke said the FAA would be releasing the results of its own investigation in mid-February.

According to Klass, who reviewed a complete copy

of the transcript, the pilot never reported seeing Jupiter or Mars, even though they were clearly visible.

Klass' report was issued by the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal in Buffalo, N.Y., an organization of scientists who investigate claims of UFO sightings, ESP occurrences and other so-called paranormal phenomena.

Klass, who heads the organization's UFO subcommittee, is the author of *UFOs: The Public Deceived*. He has been investigating UFO sightings for more than 20 years.

"Jupiter was only 10 degrees above the horizon, making it appear to the pilot to be roughly at his own 35,000-foot altitude," said Klass in his report. Mars was visible closer to the horizon and to the right of Jupiter, but was not as bright, the report said.

"This is not the first time that an experienced pilot has mistaken a bright celestial body for a UFO, nor will it be the last," Klass said.

A United Airlines flight and an Air Force C-130 cargo plane that were in Terauchi's vicinity at the time of the claimed sighting were asked to look for the object, and neither reported seeing it. "I think that the Japanese pilot should have been a little more skeptical when the United airliner and the Air Force plane reported seeing nothing," Klass said Tuesday.

A reported radar "blip" near the Japan Air Lines plane was a spurious echo from the mountainous terrain underneath the aircraft, Klass said.

Terauchi reported a second UFO sighting in approximately the same area on Jan. 11. That sighting was explained by FDA officials as village lights bouncing off ice crystals in the atmosphere. Terauchi later conceded that that was a reasonable explanation.

"The case is still open as far as I am concerned," said Haines, adding that he couldn't give a final verdict until completing the investigation. Nevertheless, Haines summarized his assessment of the case: "Based upon all the information (collected), I think it's a very solid case; it does not contain any electromagnetic effect onboard the airplane other than radar contacts, but nonetheless it is indicative of a very typical kind of encounter at high altitude."

Dr. Haines also explained some of the more arcane aspects of radar and aircraft technology. "The Boeing 747 cargo model," he said, "has an expand radar, which

is primarily a weather avoidance system tuned or optimized to the weather molecules." In other words, it can pick up thunder clouds and so on. Dr. Haines added, "data I was given by the FAA indicated that there were some ground radar contacts of the object as well." However, continued the space expert, "later the FAA also changed their story and referred to it (ground radar contacts) as an artifact." Dr. Haines explained that "an artifact in science or engineering refers to some sort of misidentified endresult." The investigator put it in plain

(continued on page 4)

English: "They (the FAA) are trying to say that it was a malfunction or a very unusual occurrence."

Haines also referred to the maneuvers executed by both the JAL jet and its apparent pursuer. "The object followed the 747 around almost a 360 degree circle," he said, "and maintained the same position relative to the airplane all the way around, which I find is very interesting." Since the airplane was in about a 30 degree bank at 500 knots roughly, continued Dr. Haines, "it (the UFO) would have to be traveling a good deal faster than that" if it was a mile away and kept the same position from the 747. Finally, Haines remarked that, "the Alaska case, I think, is going to turn out to be a very interesting one from the standpoint of a new pattern of lights that I have never heard of before," referring to the so-called "cylindrical" lights described by Terauchi as yellow, amber and green but not red, which is the international color for aircraft beacons.

This writer also inquired of James Oberg, a Houston-based leading space writer and ground-systems specialist, a well known expert on the Soviet space program and a skeptical UFO investigator. Oberg has openly criticized the record of UFOs reported by pilots, characterizing them as poor eyewitnesses because of their concern for the safety of the plane and passengers. In various articles and lectures, Oberg has stated that pilots "are trained to interpret visual stimuli in the most dangerous immediate terms." This has led, for instance, to cases where fireball meteorites hundreds of miles away were reported by pilots as near collisions.

Oberg, however, conceded the Alaska case was a

good one, even calling it "extraordinary." Yet he pointed out that Terauchi's own statements to the press seemed to indicate that he was "a UFO enthusiast. It's my conclusion from that," said Oberg, "that he went into this experience with a substantial UFO lore background." Terauchi reported a second UFO during a JAL cargo flight over Alaska on the night of January 11. He later admitted, however, that what he saw could have been "the light of a town" reflected off ice crystals. This is "not good for his credibility," remarked Oberg.

On the other hand, there is nothing wrong with Capt. Terauchi's professional record. He was a Japan Air Self Defense fighter pilot and has 19 years of good flight experience. Haines remarked that "he (Terauchi) did a good job with the drawings and verbal descriptions of what he saw."

Oberg also confirmed that the Alaska case doesn't have "the characteristics of a space launch"; he has gained quite a reputation identifying UFO sightings in South America, the USSR, the US, and elsewhere with specific space launches. "I suppose we are looking at some kind of atmospheric apparition," said Oberg.

This writer and Argentinian journalist Alejandro Agostinelli interviewed Haines at length during a symposium of the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) a few months ago. The scientist outlined various reasons why aircraft/UFO encounters are of particular interest. "Pilots are good observers and they are in control of an airplane that can maneuver," said Dr. Haines. This meant the pilot can do a number of maneuvers and observe the UFO, for example, from an earth background. Another

reason, continued Dr. Haines, is that "airplanes have many instruments on them, compass, radio, direction finder, inertial systems, so that the UFO effects might interfere or change the behavior of the airplane's systems."

Haines denied Oberg's criticism of pilots as UFO witnesses. Oberg criticizes "cases by pilots on an engineering background in a very general way," while "I do investigations one by one with one pilot at a time, to understand everything I can about him as a person, vision, physiology, health, mental health, motivation, training, family relations, etc.," Haines said. All these factors are taken into account before closing a case. Haines's experience as an FAA and NTSB accident investigator comes handy here.

Haines has collected over the years a data base of "about 3,400 cases from commercial, military, private and test pilots, from most of the countries of the world, and which goes back to 1923." Approximately 70 percent are in his opinion bona fide UFO reports, and some 20 percent include radar contacts. The remaining 30 percent are old cases from the Air Force's Project Bluebook where, he said, "the research was poor." The obvious IFO (Identified Flying Object) cases have been deleted from the index. Dr. Haines is currently working on a book that will summarize his research in this field.

J. Antonio Huneus is a freelance science writer who has frequently written for publications in North and South America.

UFO group awaits visit from aliens

By Thomas Davis

Staff writer

SWOOOOOOOOSH! There goes another one!

Contact!

Contact or communication with an alien life-form.

That is the goal of a group of true-believing stargazers that have formed a UFO-interest club on Jacksonville's Westside.

Should E.T. or any other alien visit Jacksonville, these eager earthlings will be waiting to greet them with open arms. Their motto: "Ready For Contact."

The Jacksonville UFO Club, formed by professed psychic faith healer Lydia Stalnaker and Jean Branson, may become the group in the North Florida area to talk to about UFOs or other strange phenomena.

Most of the members already are convinced UFOs exist, even if they have not seen one. Among the enthusiasts are homemakers, retirees, a former Jacksonville policeman, a few neighborhood store managers and a "developing psychic."

About 20 people attended the group's first meeting in December. They heard Miss Stalnaker describe her 1974 close encounter with aliens near Callahan. According to her account, she and a friend were abducted by gray-skinned extraterrestrials in brown jumpsuits and taken aboard an alien craft. They were examined and later released. That meeting, she reported, changed her life forever.

Miss Stalnaker said the new club will serve a twofold purpose. Members will investigate UFO sightings and will lend moral support and counseling to individuals who have experienced UFO encounters.

Her contact with aliens, she said, gave her the power to heal with a touch and the ability to foretell the future. But, she added, it also took her a long time to come to grips with what happened.

"After UFO experiences, people may act odd or crazy. I started surrounding myself with magnets, and small appliances would act funny around me. ... It took me two years to come to terms with it," she said.

"Some of you may have had experiences but did not know or remember them," she told the group. "After contact you will have abilities you didn't have before. Psychic ability."

Miss Stalnaker said that in many cases, people need to be hypnotized before they can remember seeing or meeting aliens. Subjects may have nightmares or dreams, which she said were the way aliens block information. Under hypnosis this information can be brought out, she said.



— Bob Self/staff

Lydia Stalnaker (left) and Jean Branson founded the Jacksonville UFO Club. The club's motto is "Ready For Contact." The image on the screen is from a video about UFOs that they say shows the likeness of a typical alien.

The club may have the most unusual membership questionnaire around.

Titled "Star Children," it asks: Do you have an extra bone in your body? Do certain names hold special meaning for you? Or have you ever felt that something would happen to the Earth and you are to help?

Miss Stalnaker explained that even though the questions may sound odd, they are invaluable in determining what kind of personalities have UFO experiences.

Ordinary people, she said, are not necessarily the ones who have sightings. And Jacksonville, according to Miss Stalnaker, could be in for a lot of UFO activity in the near future.

"There have been a number of sightings of UFOs going in and out of the ocean, heading toward Fernandina. Reports are coming in that Brazil now has 10 a day and usually after Brazil, Florida is next."

One new member suggested a night beach-barbecue so that all the members could learn what to look for.

New members also listed needed supplies in their "UFO Notebooks." Suggested items included cameras, tape recorders, plaster, a metal detector and a Geiger counter if one could be found.

The UFO club meets at 7:30 p.m. on the second Thursday every month at The Centre, 4564 Shirley Ave. Membership is \$20 a year.

Sightings reported in area

Staff Reports

FORT TOTTEN, N.D. — Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) were sighted by at least three persons in two different locations Monday, law enforcement authorities said today.

Ramsey County Sheriff Perry Horner said a dispatcher at the Lake Region Law Enforcement Center took two calls Monday concerning sightings of "red and green lights and other things."

The calls came from the St. Michael and Tokio areas, Horner said, and were referred to authorities on the Fort Totten Indian Reservation because the incidents happened in that jurisdiction. Horner said he is unsure of the time of the sightings because the call sheet reports were sketchy.

Lieutenant Richard Wilkie of the Fort Totten Police Department answered all three of the Monday night calls. Two were received from the St. Michael housing district and the third from west of the Tokio area, he said.

Wilkie said the callers reported "diamond-shaped objects with lights" hovering over the St. Michael housing district.

By the time he arrived on the scene, Wilkie said the objects had disappeared. "I didn't see a thing at either place," the lieutenant said.

A dispatcher at the Grand Forks Air Force Base said the base received a similar report last week. She would not comment further except to say that base officials refer all such calls to the Center for Aerospace Studies at the University of North Dakota at Grand Forks.

The Journal was unable to contact anyone for comment at UND before presstime today.

Some UFO reports notable

A UFO field investigator tells of the unexplainable

By JANE WEIHMEIR
TIMES News Team

UFO nonbelievers might think twice if they knew what Don Schmitt knows.

"It's such a strong curiosity and such a conviction of having dealt with so many people and especially dealing with the military people involved...that there is a UFO phenomenon, that it is being observed in almost every country in the world," said Schmitt, a field investigator for the Center of UFO Studies and a director of the Mutual UFO Network.

"The reports are coming from very competent, very reliable sources," he said. "The Russian accounts that we receive, the Chinese, Japanese, Australian, French match ours almost identically. (In) the photographs that we receive from overseas the same device is involved."

The Milwaukee man, who is studying the recent sighting near Belleville, admits he is concerned advanced technology will add to the confusion of UFOs.

"It's going to be up to the competency of the investigator to sift out the military devices," he said. "We explain 90 percent of the cases we do get as conventional aircraft and natural phenomena."

But that other 10 percent involves some very weird happenings.

Among the more notable cases Schmitt spoke of was the 1975 Mellen case in which an entire northern Wisconsin family observed what they termed a "turtle-shaped" object hovering nearby. Several others, including police, also observed the object, which was picked up by radar. The object appeared to leave, but the next morning a girl

One Dane County woman, who reportedly saw a silhouette of a figure through a porthole or window of the object, might prove particularly helpful to the center. According to Schmitt, the woman's sister is concerned something more may have happened.

in the family saw it again above the road. Inspection of the location revealed snow blown off the roadway where the object was observed.

The center did not identify that object as an alien spaceship or anything, but rather left it classified as an unidentified flying object.

"The policy of the center is that we have yet to really

make a straightforward statement in regards to the origin, the whos, the whys and the whats," Schmitt explained. "We are just evaluating the information and data as it comes in, and we are strictly working with the reports and the observers as they come forward."

"Unfortunately only one of 10 sightings is even reported so we feel there is a tremendous...wealth of material that is still out there."

Based on that statistic, Wisconsin has had a good share of sightings. Schmitt, 32, currently is investigating roughly 11 state reports.

"Happenings in Dane County very closely correspond to a number of sightings in the Waukesha area and Kenosha County. One matches identically to one in northern Dane County," he reported.

Those reports involved a triangular- to rectangular-shaped object with flashes of red and blue, he said, and evidence from separate witnesses places the happenings in the same areas.

One Dane County woman, who reportedly saw a silhouette of a figure through a porthole or window of the object, might prove particularly helpful to the center. According to Schmitt, the woman's sister is concerned something more may have happened.

"She's afraid something else may have happened beyond the close observation of the object...something may have happened beyond her control that she had no memory of...not necessarily suspect an abduction, but I think it's enough that she's rather unnerved by the whole thing."

The woman, who is in her 20s, is very reluctant to come forward, Schmitt said. "That's why we have consultants." In that particular case, a medical doctor from the Madison area will try to talk to the woman.

The object reportedly was hovering over a farm area, Schmitt said. "All of the sightings, especially the one, was observed in very close proximity."

Most of Schmitt's current investigations began with reports made in the last month, but the objects actually were observed several months back in time.

"Very often that is the case. Very often it is even years after the fact," he said.

A 1965 sighting of a humming, saucer-shaped object north the Dells was not reported until decades after the event. Schmitt said that by that point investigators usually can't do anything with the report, but in this case there were at least eight other separate witnesses who observed the object very closely.

Some investigations turn up answers right away. "Once in a while it can be as quick as a phone call," he said.

The Belleville case is not that simple. "This was something out of the ordinary. Once again we will eliminate all the normal possibilities."

The incident was picked up on radar, and the movement was unusual, he said. Schmitt explained most sightings are not tracked on radar because ordinarily a person won't request a radar check. He also said many persons are reluctant to report an incident immediately.

BOOKS

Strieber's 'Communion': Gall and a Lot of Blather

Communion
By Whitley Strieber
William Morrow; \$17.95; 299 pages

REVIEWED BY KAREN LIBERATORE

Just when we thought it was safe to begin living again, for no other reason, perhaps, than to pay the rent, Whitley Strieber comes out with his latest messianic writ, "Communion."

Strieber is the author of "Wolfen" and "The Hunger," OK books of the horror-fiction genre. Both were made into intriguing movies, although Strieber doesn't think so. He says that the "Wolfen" of the screen was too political and that "The Hunger" was too artsy. Strieber also says in interviews that he writes his books with movies in mind, so what the hell does he want, art and politics? But never mind what Strieber says. Just remember that he said it during an interview.

Strieber is best known among the general (as opposed to cult) reading public as the co-author of the best-selling "Warday" and of "Nature's End," a real grabber that concluded that there isn't much we can do anyway to save the world, except to totally restructure civilization. "Nature's End" was an anarchist's delight, as inspiring Gilda Radner whining, "Never mind."

"Communion," however, sets things straight.

The book is Strieber's personal account of being one of the "chosen" among us to be contacted, probed, punched, tormented, tattooed, in a way "raped" and, finally, intellectually won over by alien beings. "Communion" is subtitled "A True Story." Keep that in mind, too.

Strieber's "Communion" begins on Dec. 26, 1985, in the family cabin in upstate New York. After a pleasant, reheated Christmas dinner, Whitley is whisked away in his sleep by grayish-colored, 3½-foot-tall creatures in armor — like suits and hats with wind brims — smelling faintly of "smoking cardboard" spiced with cinnamon and cheese, who communicate with him tele-

pathically.

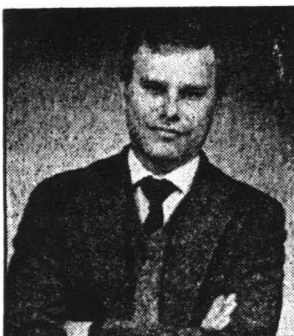
After he is returned, Strieber doesn't really remember the visitation at first, but odd things begin to happen to him in the next few months: He gets an earache; he's fatigued; his body aches; he smells cardboard; he experiences mind-body dislocation and, finally, his wife reminds him of the book his brother sent for Christmas, "Science and the UFOs."

It is this book that results in "Communion," because Strieber begins to remember, as he reads about "abduction scenarios," the whole shocking story of his own "visitor experience." This he relates in detail, from his moral and intellectual quandaries to the transcripts of his hypnosis sessions. Strieber believes he was contacted because of his knowledge of Earth's end — he gives the Earth until 1993 before chaos erupts.

What Strieber remembers, too, is that all his life he has been one of the "chosen." He knows this because of the "lapses" in his memory, which he says were "screens" planted by aliens to make him forget previous contact with them.

Strieber also remembers that his visitors fed him a bladder, which he says was their way of helping him "digest whatever it is they are trying to feed me." A bladder? A gall bladder, perhaps, because gall is what Strieber has plenty of, in the end.

Consider this: Last summer, in an interview in *Twilight Zone* magazine, Strieber repeated a story



Whitley Strieber: Close encounters with 'screen memories'

about his terrifying experience of hiding behind a wall as sniper Charles Whitman massacred students on the University of Texas campus. "He (Whitman) had shot two women not far from where I was hiding," Strieber related. "He had shot them in the stomach, and they were in agony. Screaming." It's a great story, particularly for someone who writes horror fiction.

In "Communion," Strieber admits that the experience was a "screen memory," his euphemism, apparently, for a big white lie: Strieber wasn't anywhere near the tower. And he admits in "Communion" that he has told other such fantasies, which brings us to his subtitle: "A True Story." Swallow "Communion" whole and it could be your last sane supper.

□ □ □

Pennsylvania Residents Report Numerous UFO Sightings in 1986

Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained (PASU), a statewide clearinghouse for reports of unidentified flying objects (UFO) that is based in Greensburg, has released its annual report of UFO sightings reported in 1986.

On the night of Aug. 31, 1986, numerous travelers on new Route 119 near New Stanton, Westmoreland County, observed in the sky a large object with multiple yellow-green lights. The object was at first thought to be an aircraft in trouble, and about to crash, as it came closer to the ground. As motorists approached the area where it was last seen, they noticed the hillside on fire. Several people stopped their cars and climbed the steep embankment to assist at the crash site. But only two small circular areas of fire were found, and they were quickly extinguished. There was no downed aircraft. It was later determined that the strange aerial object in-

volved in this incident had actually been seen in about a 10-mile area. The object was first seen near Connelville, moving at a low altitude from the direction of Uniontown. The object continued to move toward New Stanton, where it made a circular path around Old Route 119, then back toward Connelville. Many people saw the object, some at very close range when the object was moving close to the ground. It was described as elongated and about 50 feet in length. It had a metallic surface. A distinct dome-shaped structure was at the top. Numerous bright lights covered the object, which remained silent during the entire time it was seen.

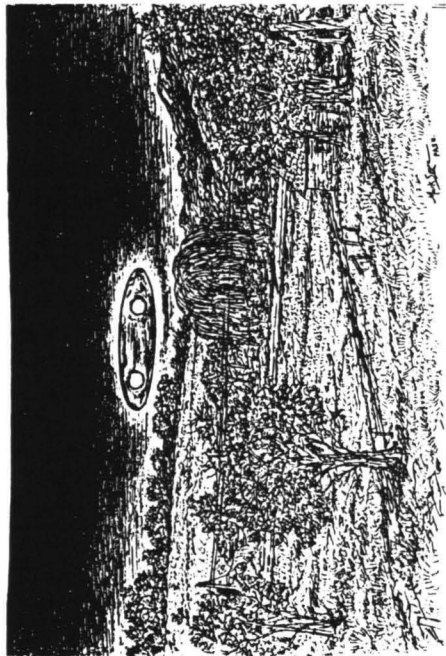
This incident is one of hundreds of cases reported by residents of Pennsylvania during 1986 to PASU. The all volunteer, non-profit scientific research group conducts firsthand studies of alleged UFO sightings and other strange occurrences

across the state. PASU is staffed by many research specialists including scientists, medical doctors, technicians and engineers, donate their own time and equipment to evaluate these cases. PASU received over 300 reports, on various phenomena, from 28 counties of the commonwealth. The majority of cases reported concerned sightings of UFOs. But many other strange encounters were reported as well. These included such things as sightings of the cougar (mountain lion), an animal declared extinct in the east since the late 1800s, but sightings have been reported each year. There have been reported sightings of Bigfoot, the tall hairy apelike creature, that has not been scientifically verified, but sightings are reported annually as well. Strange glowing ground sites, unusual photographs and animal mutilations all came to the attention of PASU. After the group investigated these

reports, it was found that a high percentage of such cases are indeed logically explained.

UFO sightings were reported by people from all walks of life including police officers and air traffic controllers. Many of the UFO cases were explained as bright meteors, lights on high altitude aircraft, bright planets and stars, and tests related to rocket launches. The widespread UFO sightings on the night of Aug. 12, when thousands of observers along the east coast, including Pennsylvania, observed a bright spiraling object moving slowly across the sky, was identified as a fuel release from a rocket booster, associated with the launch of two satellites by the Japanese. During 1986, PASU conducted numerous on-scene investigations at the site where something strange was reported to have occurred. In some cases, physical evidence was found that corroborated the reports. Several pictures of UFOs were taken by residents in different sections of the state.

PASU exchanges information on a worldwide basis with reputable researchers and organizations. PASU works closely with the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) of Seattle, Wash., which is the largest international organization conducting serious UFO research. The research group also passes data on to Computer UFO Network (CUFON) which is located near Seattle, Wash. This network provides serious UFO researchers with quick access to updated UFO sighting information on an international scale. In 1986 many strange cases were reported in the commonwealth of which no scientific explanation has yet been determined. PASU Director Stan Gordon says, "It is PASU's purpose to try to find explanations for the cases reported, and most of the time this has been found to be the case. There are, however, reports of strange phenomena being reported by credible people, that remain indeed baffling. We feel that these unusual events should not be swept under the carpet, but that a serious study of these events should be made to determine what these cases represent. We urge the public to contact us about strange encounters they have experienced. Our policy is not to release names of the observers to protect them from ridicule."



Witnesses Describe Cigar-Shaped UFO — On June 21, along Forbes Road in Westmoreland County, two witnesses observed a metallic cigar-shaped object moving at tree-top level a short distance away. The object had two large brilliant lights, one at each end. One witness described the object as looking like a "metallic hot dog." This sketch by PASU staff artist Mark Spore was based on testimony of the eyewitnesses.

The research group may be contacted 24 hours a day at 412-838-7768, which is the Pennsylvania UFO Hotline, or write to Stan Gordon, PASU director, 6 Oakhill Ave., Greensburg, Pa. 15601. Free information on UFO research is available by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope.

This is a summary of some selected 1986 cases reported to PASU: Jan. 7, Pittsburgh, Allegheny County — At 11:20 p.m. a metallic-appearing disc-shaped object was seen hovering over the Birmingham Bridge in downtown Pittsburgh.

Jan. 23, Slickville, Westmoreland County — There were several cases in early 1986 that indicated a military interest in some UFO cases in western Pennsylvania. On this night, residents in this rural community saw a large triangular object with numerous lights maneuvering over the area. A short time later, the silence was broken by three military jets that proceeded to chase the object in the direction of Pittsburgh.

Feb. 28, New Castle, Lawrence County — A solid-appearing elliptical object, with four long probes, and described as being the size of a house, hovered low over this rural area.

March 25, Downingtown — A large triangular object approached a car head-on in the early morning hours. The object hovers in front of the car, then moves around the side and hovers. It later followed the car down the road for a distance.

May (late in the month), Harrisburg, Dauphin County — Numerous observers reported a huge triangular-shaped object with many lights that was larger than a C-5A transport aircraft. The object made no sound as it passed low over the area at a low altitude.

June 21, Forbes Road — See illustration.

Aug. 12 — Two daylight UFO sightings of a similar object were reported. The first sighting was reported about 8:30 a.m. near Monroeville. A very large bright silver elongated object was seen at close range for several minutes. A similar object was reported in the afternoon near Mt. Pleasant.

Oct. 30, Latrobe, Westmoreland County — Residents in a rural area near this community reported that since the summer "something" was breaking down new electric fence that held horses. On this date, three large footprints were found nearby. A PASU investigator made a cast of the best track. It was 13 inches long and 8 inches wide. Of great interest is the fact that the general size and configuration is the same as the cast made of a Bigfoot track in 1973 near Greensburg. People in the area report recently finding rabbits and cats with their necks broken, and hearing strange sounds.

Several cougar sightings have been reported from throughout the state. Some sightings have involved cubs along with adult animals. This animal, even though declared extinct in the east, is protected under the Federal Endangered Species Act.

Guardsmen report UFO sightings

By John Quinley
Times Writer

They're here. Again.
Or maybe not.

Alaska National Guard officials in Anchorage Thursday reported that guardsmen living in Western Alaska made reports of a half-dozen sightings of unidentified flying objects complete with colored lights and spewing smoke.

Most of the sightings were made a few minutes before midnight on Tuesday. Of the six sightings, one was dismissed as a Soviet helicopter operating off Big Diomed Island in the Bering Strait, according to Lt. Mike Haller, information officer for the Guard.

One of the other sightings — from Gambell on St. Lawrence Island in the Bering Sea — could describe an Air Force AWACS radar surveillance aircraft, Haller said.

A Guard member, relaying a report from another villager, said an aircraft appeared west of Gambell at about 11:55 p.m. The object had a black, round nose, he said, with an object on top of the fuselage.

An AWACS aircraft carries a disk-shaped radar dome atop the fuselage.

But the Air Force, which operates two AWACS in Alaska, said neither plane was in the air that night. Staff Sgt. Frank Singleton said the planes were flying only day missions.

Other descriptions relayed to Guard officials consistently described bright lights and clouds around the object, Haller said.

From Elim, on Norton Sound, a villager described an object with "very bright aqua and blue-green lights" about the size of two football fields with egg-shaped clouds around it. The night sky was clear throughout the region. The sighting took place at 11:56 p.m., with the object spotted about 5 miles north of Elim. Three separate groups of villagers saw it traveling to the southwest, Haller said.

In Savoonga, a Guard member received a call from a neighbor at 11:50 p.m. He estimated an object larger than a jet was flying at 30,000 feet, with two bright lights and smoke moving from front to rear.

In Tununak, about 125 miles west of Bethel on Nelson Island, a Guard member described the object as a bright white light, such as an aircraft landing light as seen through fog. The sky was clear, however. The object was traveling from west to east over the island and was estimated to be flying at 30,000 to 40,000 feet.

The reports follow two visual sightings of unidentified flying objects by the captain of a Japan Air Lines aircraft flying over Interior Alaska.

FREEMAN, Waukesha, WI - March 12, 1987 CR: R. Heiden

Second UFO reported in city area

WAUKESHA — An unidentified flying object was spotted late Tuesday night by a woman on the city's east side in the same area a similar sighting was reported in November.

The woman's husband called the *Freeman* to report the UFO because he said his wife was slightly embarrassed to talk about what she saw. The husband said, as the woman pulled into her driveway near the corner of Arcadian and Oakland avenues at about 10:45 p.m., she spotted a triangular object with red and white lights hovering in the air less than a mile to the northeast.

The woman beeped the horn of her car to alert her husband, but by the time he got outside, the object was out of sight.

A UFO matching the same general description, was sighted by a motorist in the area Nov. 24. "She's convinced it wasn't a plane or a helicopter," said the husband, who did not want to be identified.

Area law officers and airports reported nothing unusual Tuesday night, and the Wisconsin National Guard and Army Reserve said they had no helicopters in flight in the Waukesha area at the time.



John Lombardo investigates UFO reports.

RON MOSCATI/Bufallo News

UFO Hunter Aiming to Keep Network Posted on Reports of Sightings Here

By MIKE VOGEL

Nearly 10 years ago, a mysterious triangular object floated over a roadway near Clinton Street and Harlem Road, hovered a few seconds, then took off at high speed.

At least that's the report UFO investigator John A. Lombardo of Cheektowaga got from a very excited couple who said they had watched the flying object. A decade later, he still wonders about it.

Lombardo combed the neighborhood but failed to find anyone else who saw the object that had startled the couple as they sat in their back yard. That was enough for him, and he closed the case — but he still wonders, because the couple really believed, and "their details were very specific."

"They were nearly hysterical," he said. "They were either Hollywood actors or very sincere."

The unexplainable is a stock-in-trade for the investigator, who spends more financially productive hours charting the heavens as an air-freight salesman. Recently, Lombardo was named New York sectional director for the Mutual UFO Network, an international organization created in 1969 to research sightings of unidentified flying objects.

In his new role, he will continue an old avocation. News of his appointment, he said, already has brought a few mailed reports to his home and office at 57 Chapel Ave., Cheektowaga.

The job, he added, is to "sift, sort and analyze" UFO sightings.

The job is likely to be lonely.

A big UFO flap erupted hereabouts in the late 1960s, followed by a minor one in 1972, Lombardo said. "Since that time," he added, "there's been a very dramatic lack of anything."

That would come as no surprise to some area residents. Buffalo is national headquarters for the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal, and Amherst is the publishing base for the magazine "Skeptical Inquirer," so Lombardo might be considered as pitching his tent in the camp of the enemy.

It doesn't bother him. He thinks he can hold his

own ground in debates with UFO skeptics because his organization also wants research and investigation.

"I'm not saying we're being visited by extraterrestrials, I'm saying there is a UFO phenomenon," he explained.

"The phenomenon is real, and we're just trying to sort it out. What it is, I don't know, but even if 1 percent of those sightings are valid, there's something unusual going on."

Lombardo, who also has worked as an investigator for the International UFO Registry, based in Indiana, said his job as section director involves preliminary investigations of local sightings. "Wild stories" are weeded out and reports on significant cases are forwarded to the organization's national headquarters in Texas and analyzed by the Center for UFO Studies, a facility founded by a now-deceased scientist who once helped run the Air Force's UFO-oriented Project Blue Book.

The sightings are compared with astronomical data for possible explanations and matched with other concurrent sightings if possible. "We try to do this in a professional manner," Lombardo said.

He first got interested in UFOs as a teen-ager during the rash of local sightings in the late 1960s. "None of it, to me, made any sense at the time," he said.

The organization, he added, is "basically a reactive organization" that is developing its network of investigators, sectional and state directors to be ready when a UFO does wander by.

"The organization is looking to have good people in place, if anything does happen," he said.

He expects some reports, now that a UFO sighting by a Japanese airliner crew over Alaska has made national headlines. He also is eager to check out some past sightings in Niagara County.

"It's an interesting sideline for me," Lombardo said.

And if UFOs ever do make contact, he figures he's on the inside track.

THE GALLUP POLL

Only a third deny existence of UFOs, extraterrestrial life

By GEORGE GALLUP

PRINCETON, N.J. — For millions of American adults a "Close Encounter of the Third Kind" is a distinct possibility, with only about one in three flatly denying the existence of either unidentified flying objects or extraterrestrial life.

In a new Gallup survey, 50 percent express the belief that there are "people somewhat like ourselves living on other planets in the universe," while 34 percent are skeptical and 16 percent unsure. The current figures are virtually unchanged from those recorded in a 1978 survey, but considerably more now than in either 1973 or 1966 believe in extraterrestrial life.

Similarly, 49 percent of those who have heard or read about UFOs think they are real, while 30 percent are doubtful and 21 percent uncertain. Belief in UFOs is down slightly from its peak in 1978, when 57 percent thought they were real.

In the new survey, one person in 11 (9 percent) reports actually having seen something he or she thought was a UFO, statistically similar to the findings of earlier polls.

Belief in the existence of life on

other planets and in UFO's is substantially higher among persons who attended college than among those whose formal education ended at or before graduation from high school.

Men are more likely than women to believe in extraterrestrial life, 62 percent and 40 percent, respectively, but men and women share the same opinions about UFOs.

As a rule, people 50 and older are less convinced than their juniors that either phenomenon has a basis in fact, but more older than younger adults are undecided. Westerners are most apt to be believers; Southerners, least so.

Following are the questions, the trends and the latest findings among key demographic groups:

Respondents were first asked: "Have you heard or read about UFOs (unidentified flying objects)?"

The latest findings are based on telephone interviews with 527 adults, 18 and older, conducted in scientifically selected localities across the nation during the period Feb. 2-18. For results based on samples of this size, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling and other random effects could be 6 percent.

"Have you ever seen anything you thought was a UFO?"

SIGHTING OF UFO

1987	9%
1978	9%
1973	11%
1966	5%

"In your opinion, are UFOs something real or just people's imagination?"

EXISTENCE OF UFOs

	Real	Imaginary	Not sure
1987	49%	30%	21%
1978	57%	27%	16%
1973	54%	30%	16%
1966	46%	29%	25%

EXISTENCE OF UFOs

	Real	Imaginary	Not sure
NATIONAL	49%	30%	21%
Men	50%	31%	19%
Women	49%	28%	23%
Attended college	56%	26%	18%
No college	44%	33%	23%
18-29 years	53%	32%	15%
30-49 years	57%	21%	22%
50 & older	36%	39%	25%
East	52%	30%	18%
Midwest	48%	27%	25%
South	39%	39%	22%
West	62%	19%	19%

"Do you think there are people somewhat like ourselves living on other planets in the universe, or not?"

EXTRATERRESTRIAL LIFE

	Yes	No	Not sure
1987	50%	34%	16%
1978	51%	33%	16%
1973	46%	38%	16%
1966	34%	46%	20%

EXTRATERRESTRIAL LIFE

	Yes	No	Not sure
NATIONAL	50%	34%	16%
Men	62%	30%	8%
Women	40%	38%	22%
Attended college	57%	33%	10%
No college	46%	35%	19%
18-29 years	52%	36%	12%
30-49 years	56%	35%	9%
50 & older	42%	33%	25%
East	55%	29%	16%
Midwest	49%	34%	17%
South	38%	48%	14%
West	63%	21%	16%



JAMES LEMING, of Lynnwood, (shown here with a picture he took of a UFO, believes in extraterrestrial life. He has hundreds of government documents to back his claim, and

says a cover-up is keeping the news from the public. (Photo by Michael Homans)

For Lynnwood man, UFOs are no fad

By **MICHAEL HOMANS**

LYNNWOOD—The media and the general public seemed to have lost interest in UFOs just a few weeks after the Japan Airlines encounter over Alaska, one local man keeps a year-round vigil in search of visitors from the skies.

James R. Leming of Lynnwood has been seeking out information to prove the existence of extraterrestrial visitors since he was a young man, interested in science fiction.

Twenty years later, he's still scanning the horizon — and declassified Air Force documents — for clues. He believes firmly that alien life exists.

Leming has notebooks and files jam-packed with government documents, private correspondence and other UFO-related items. He even runs his own UFO agency called Independent Aerial Phenomenon Research and Investigation.

"I've always been fascinated with life outside this planet," Leming said in a recent interview. The stout man, with his prematurely gray hair and mustache, seems both authoritative and childlike in his enthusiasm for the worlds of outer space.

"Without a doubt alien life exists," he said. "There almost has to be life forms from other planets."

Besides his own personal in-

terests and beliefs, Leming has a wealth of newspaper articles, government papers and personal contacts to back up his views.

FOR INSTANCE, Leming told of a close encounter in 1981 in Texas when dozens of people saw a UFO. The light from the ship, or whatever it was, caused radiation burns on several viewers. The Air Force sent 23 helicopters out to escort the object before it flew away, but it was never identified. The Air Force would not claim responsibility for the ship or explain the burns.

"It wasn't us," an Air Force spokesman said after the incident, which was well-covered in the local papers.

The encounter proves something very powerful is out there, and the Air Force can't control it, Leming said.

Another big case cited by Leming was the 1947 crash of an object in Roswell, N.M. The landing of a UFO was seen by many in the area. When Army personnel inspected the site they originally described their findings as including a "brass disk." The description was later changed to say "a weather balloon."

"Are you telling me someone in the Army couldn't tell the difference between a space disk and a weather balloon? I'm not buying it," Leming said.

He claims government agencies

are trying to cover up UFO findings and reports of encounters with aliens. Leming went so far as to say he believes several presidents — including Richard M. Nixon — have probably viewed the remains of dead aliens.

The reason for the alleged cover-up is not certain, Leming said, but it could be because the Air Force feels threatened.

"It's something the Air Force can't control. They can't feel superiority over it, and they don't want people to know that," Leming said. "Otherwise, if there's no threat to national security, then why don't they tell us about it?"

LEMING HAS TRIED to contact several Air Force officials with his inquiries but has received little assistance. Most of his information has come from declassified files released through the Freedom of Information Act.

Leming has requested more information than has been available, though. He requested a copy of the Air Force's "Blue Paper" on UFOs and was told it

would cost \$1,064 to search and find the records.

Leming said he believes such charges are absurd, and are part of the snow job he's received from the federal government.

He's found inconsistencies in the records that have been released, and in the testimony from Air Force officers. Such contradictions lead him to the conclusion that someone, or some group of people, is trying to hide information.

"There's too much in their own handwriting to say (UFOs) don't exist," Leming said.

OF THE THOUSANDS of UFO sightings reported to the Air Force, more than 700 have never been explained.

"I want to inform people, and put some fire under the powers that be," Leming said. If the public puts pressure on federal officials, and begins to search out evidence, Leming said he believes more of the full story on UFOs may come out.

"I doubt there'll ever be a day when there'll be satisfaction given," Leming said. His ultimate goal is to have a confirmation from an Air Force official that alien life exists.

Those wishing to contact Leming may call 775-7070, or write 20904 44th Avenue W., Lynnwood, Wash. 98036.

WOLFE CO. NEWS, Campton, KY - Feb. 27, 1987

UFO?

Did you see the strange unidentified object in the skies over Stillwater last Tuesday night, Feb. 17?

Some reports of a UFO have been reported as a light in the sky, one that lit up the countryside as bright as day and seemed to travel toward the earth, then over some

automobiles, the passengers of which said they could see each other as if in daylight.

Some people reported seeing just an orange glow on the snow that covered the ground.

Did you see this UFO?

Write to The Wolfe County News, P.O. Box 126, Campton, Ky. 41301.

DAILY NEWS, Beloit, WI - March 20, 1987

Milton man says UFO report wrong

MILTON — A report by the Rock County Sheriff's Department that a red, green and yellow, egg-shaped UFO hovered northwest of Janesville late Thursday night is all wrong, according to the Milton man who reported the sighting.

"They're making a big deal out of nothing," said David Selgrin, of Milton. "It was not egg-shaped, it could have been a helicopter hovering off in the distance. It looked like a star down low near the horizon, but it didn't have the velocity of a star."

A dispatcher's card at the Sheriff's Department reads that the object reported by Selgrin at 11:50 p.m. Thursday was egg-shaped, hovering and turning colors.

"I don't know where they got that from," Selgrin said. "I never told them that. I told them it was like a star, but more brilliant."

Selgrin said he first spotted the object when he stepped outside to lock the doors on his car. He watched it for about 45 minutes until it faded from view.

CR: R. Heiden

UFO battleground

Bill Clendenon is still fighting government for the truth

By **MARIANNE DAY DUBOSE**
STAFF WRITER

■ He is a short man with a steely look and he carries a thick black suitcase. Inside are fragments of the past 35 years of his life, most incredible by ordinary standards.

Bill Clendenon has a mission. He warns that it is not to be ridiculed or taken lightly. He's fed up with little green men stories and if that's the approach, he would just as soon leave. He has walked away from interviews before.

"I saw a UFO from 150 feet," Clendenon says. "I was close enough to know it was a real aircraft. I talked to the government about it."

This is a former Naval aircraft identification instructor who is speaking. Because of his zealous attempts to find out the truth about "foo-fighters," "ghost rockets," — more familiarly UFO's — he says he has been given the runaround by the Air Force, its consultants, NASA officials, and various government agencies. Now, he is waiting to hear from Trent Lott and NASA — again. A copy of Lott's most recent letter is with him.

"If I would have listened to all the negative remarks," Clendenon says, "I would have been slaughtered. Some of it is bitter . . . The only thing that has kept me going is anger."

Clendenon says his ultimate goal is the truth — for himself and for the American public. He is pushing for Congressional hearings on UFO's.

Therefore, he diligently pursues his belief and he does so alone. Although the Biloxi resident has two sons in the Air Force, they are unsupportive. This is not a subject to tread upon, either.

"I don't want to bring them up," Clendenon says in a low, gravelly voice. "They don't exactly like what I am doing."

Clendenon has done enough research on UFO's to fill up a small, but well-stocked library. He has talked to scientists, pilots, UFO experts and engineers. He has visited museums and analyzed their contents. For more than three decades, this has consumed his life.

"I was skeptical like a lot of people . . .," he says about unidentified flying objects. "Now I know it is real."

It started with his first UFO sighting in Ohio. He and several co-workers were standing on top of a bubble tower. What they saw was a bright, disc-shaped object floating about 3 miles away. It was daytime.

"It was hovering like a helicopter," Clendenon says. "Standing still . . . We noticed there was a steam-like vapor of white coming from it . . . The vapor blossomed out to a big long cloud."

Then, it accelerated and sped away.

"I just logged it in my memory," Clendenon says. "I knew something was up there. The whole thing caught us by surprise. We weren't prepared for the magnitude of it."

This experience left him with a sense of void, though, that compelled him to find out more. He read a newspaper story about an amateur astronomer in California named George Adamski.

Maybe that name is familiar. Maybe not. To people who believe in UFO's, Adamski is like a guru. His word is gospel.

To government officials, though, Adamski seems to mean controversy. Unwanted notoriety.



This is a copy of a photograph by George Adamski in 1956 of a UFO similar to the two Bill Clendenon observed.

Photographs of a UFO that Adamski said he took through his telescope became world famous back in the '50s. The man spent his life traveling around the globe, telling his amazing story about meeting — and flying — with the people who were on the UFO.

He wrote three books. Clendenon read them all. He even had Adamski's photographs blown up so he could analyze them and break them down into parts.

"I talked to Adamski on the phone," Clendenon says. "I wrote him letters. I have been to his home."

The two men became kindred spirits, both searching for answers that the government was unable to give them.

"I wish you all the luck in the world for the hard work you have done," Adamski wrote Clendenon in a letter dated in the '60s.

Adamski is dead, now. Before his death, though, Clendenon saw a UFO at close range.

He was living in his native state, Washington. It was twilight and, when he walked outside, he saw a saucer-shaped craft. This is how he describes it:

"I saw turbines, wheels and globes revolving," Clendenon says. "The cabin was not revolving. There was no noise. There were lights. Plenty of lights. It came almost to a perfect stop. It just slowed down. Then, it picked up speed and took off. I was very excited. There was nothing to be frightened of. It was just a terrific feeling."

This time, he wanted answers. "Where did it come from?" Clendenon says. "Who is inside?"

Now, he snaps open his suitcase. He is excited and his voice rises with high-charged emotion.

Clendenon doesn't smile much. Instead, he furrows his brows a lot in frustration. The past 35 years have not been easy, he says.

On the table, Clendenon spreads out

letters from government officials he has corresponded with since the '50s. There are also photographs, books, drawings and newspaper clippings that help piece together all of his UFO research.

"Read this," Clendenon says repeatedly. Then, he waits patiently until you finish reading all the underlined sentences.

Through his personal UFO sightings — and with the help of Adamski's photographs and insight — Clendenon re-created a possible multi-fuel aero-space plane. The liquid metal mercury, he says, is the very key. He is convinced that it is a workable spacecraft and he has repeatedly submitted his drawings to NASA.

"NASA scientists have examined in detail Mr. Clendenon's concept and have concluded that all the technology necessary to its implementation is not now in existence. Although it is possible that his ideas may receive application in the future, we are not in a position to predict this with any degree of certainty." This was a letter written in 1967 to state senator Warren Magnuson from Richard L. Callaghan, assistant administrator at NASA, Washington, D.C.

Other letters in his suitcase are easier to understand. This one is from a close friend.

"I hate to alarm you . . ." the letter begins. "Right after you hung up on me, the phone did not go dead and I could hear a man's voice say 'Ward, did you . . . ' and then the line went blank."

Clendenon says he suspected that his phone was tapped. It was a direct call, though, that took him by surprise.

He had been asked to appear in a UFO documentary on the ABC network with Dr. Dennis Hauck, a mathematician and expert on UFO's. It was all set.

Then came the phone call. The caller knew all about Clendenon, but would not identify himself.

"The man wouldn't tell me who he was," Clendenon says. "He said he believed Adamski and he believed me, but it would be better to wait a few years . . . He told me to stop what I was doing . . . He told me I did a good job . . . He said, 'We will tell them the facts.'"

It is ironic, he says, that the government keeps stalling and putting him off, yet they go to such trouble to keep him quiet.

"Do I think the government has an eye on me?" Clendenon says and pauses. "Yes, I do."

He is not afraid, though. His aero-space drawing and his UFO sightings are only meant to help. He does not want to be a



Bill Clendenon

trouble-maker.

"I wrote to Trent Lott a number of times," Clendenon says. "He knows how I feel. The government isn't telling the truth. What irks me is when someone tries to tell them the truth . . . and tries to express in an honest way what they have seen, their reaction is they talk down to them. Tongue-in-cheek. The government knows a lot more than they are telling the public."

He is ready when they want to talk to him. He is willing to let NASA engineers and scientists pick apart his aero-space design. More importantly, he wants answers.

"It's long past time to get Congressional hearings," Clendenon says. He believes that many people would come forward and talk about UFO sightings if the government decided to confront the subject.

He also believes the reason NASA is not considering his aero-space drawing is because he told them the concept came from his own personal UFO sightings and the Adamski photograph. He could never have come up with such a re-creation, he says, without having seen a UFO.

"We are not going to find out who these [UFO] people are or what they want until we get the facts out in the open," Clendenon says. "The more we find out, I think the true history of mankind will be told . . . I didn't see one thing that caused me fear for my life. It spurred me on."

Sky "Object" Disrupts TV, Area Woman Reports UFO

An unidentified flying object (UFO) may have disrupted television reception in the Lake Placid area this week. But, a lawman couldn't catch the culprit.

A rural resident reported to Highlands County sheriff's deputies that "a bright light illuminated the area around her residence" and she "could see a bright glow which appeared to be hovering in the sky . . ."

The report was made to deputies in the early morning hours last Sunday by a resident at the Bar D Ranch, on State Road 90. She said the "video difficulty" began about 2 a.m., deputies said.

The glow was in the sky southwest of her home, and "it stayed there about 20 minutes and then disappeared," according to the deputies' report. "This officer checked the area, but was unable to locate anything," a deputy reported.

COMMUNION

Whitley Strieber's encounter with another dimension

By Michael Heaton
OF THE EXAMINER STAFF

IT'S OLD NEWS, the sighting of little green men from outer space. It's also a classic sign of someone ready for the Hoo Ha Hotel. Author Whitley Strieber has written "Communion: A True Story," his account of being visited and abducted by beings from another planet or dimension. He's not quite sure which.

"Communion" isn't to be confused with books like "Space Aliens Took Me To Their Planet" by Claude Vorilhon, an otherwise obscure Frenchman who some years back toured the United States asking for money because aliens told him to build a mansion on a hill with two swimming pools. Claude was a little short on francs at the time.

Strieber, on the other hand, is the respected author of several popular books, "Wolfen" and "The Hunger," two horror novels that were later made into movies, and the non-fiction "Warday," a scientifically based best seller about nuclear holocaust.

Though he has no proof, no artifacts from the experience, he writes about elaborate personal encounters with "intelligent non-human beings" who disturbed him enough so that he underwent a battery of physical and psychological tests.

He was examined by a neurologist and a psychiatrist and had a CAT-scan and a temporal lobe EEG. All of the test results indicated that his experiences were not caused by a known psychological or physical disorder. He also took a lie detector test, which indicated he was telling the truth about his experiences.

Whatever else you want to make of the book, it's a compelling read. One writer's mostly skeptical review did concede that the book is "a masterpiece of suspense."

After what he describes as an abduction by 3-foot-tall creatures with rubbery skin and huge eyes, Strieber underwent hypnosis. In the book he says that many strange, unexplainable experiences dating back to his childhood were revealed in the sessions. Strieber says his wife and son have had similar encounters: The transcripts of Anne Strieber's hypnosis corroborate much of her husband's experience.

Strieber offers a variety of possible explanations. He says the visitors might be:

- ☐ From another planet;
- ☐ From Earth, but so different we haven't been able to recognize that they are real;
- ☐ From this dimension in space but not in time;
- ☐ From within us, somehow beings of our own creation;
- ☐ A side effect of a natural phenomenon, perhaps "natural electromagnetic anomalies that trip certain hallucinatory wires in the mind";
- ☐ An unknown aspect of the human species. "Maybe you and I are larvae and the visitors are human beings in mature form."

Is he for real? Apparently.

In person Whitley Strieber (pronounced Streeber), is pretty unremarkable aside from his ethereally blue eyes. Standing in the lobby of the Stanford Court Hotel, he looks as if he might be a young college science professor. He stands at roughly 6 feet, has prematurely gray, conservatively cut hair and wire-rim glasses.

He wears a tweedy sports jacket, sweater and tie, has no weird glow about him and doesn't shout "Booga Booga!" when he shakes your hand.

When asked how the press was treating him on his publicity tour and if he had any concerns about being treated like a freak or being made fun of, he answers quickly.

"No one has done that. I'm not a freak. Part of what I'm trying to say is that whatever the extraordinary experience is, it's happening to a lot of people and they deserve to be treated with dignity. This isn't the 18th century where we laugh at people who have something strange happen to them or who have strange perceptions," he said.

During the course of the book Strieber seems to take different views on the incidents. When directly describing them they sound quite vivid. Later, when attempting to analyze what's happened, he writes with less assurance. He talked about that.



"It happened. I do believe it happened to me. There are times in my book when I waffle because there are times in my life when I waffle. Some people who thought, for whatever reasons, that they were abducted went through hypnosis and then revealed the event. I remembered it first — and then underwent hypnosis to remember more. What I got was just a fuller account of what I initially remembered."

Since the book has been published, Strieber says he has had five of what he calls Level One experiences with the visitors. The rating system is one of Strieber's own making: Level Three is seeming telepathic communication. Level Two is a physical experience that starts in a dream and has no witness. And Level One is an experience that begins when he is fully awake, or which has a witness or some remaining physical mark on his body consistent with the experience.

On Dec. 23 of '86 he had his last Level One experience and he described it:

"The night of the 23rd they awakened me by a method that has become standard. They punched me on the shoulder. It's like they're not too good at touching. Instead of shaking me it's like bang! I awoke and saw one of these beings standing by the side of the bed.

In my mind I was aware that it was time to go, and went right out of the room being pushed on the buttocks by one of these beings. There was an automatic camera and a tape recorder at my bedside. I had rehearsed picking them up but didn't touch them. I think it was that they didn't want me to touch them, and that's why I didn't. I put them there because as this author tour came closer and closer, I became more eager to have something. I mean my God, I'm sticking my neck out.

"As we went along I saw one of my cats staring very intensely at me. I picked her up knowing that if I could touch her I would know this was not a dream. That's what made it a Level One experience. The cat

was entirely real and very startled by it all."

According to Strieber, the difference between this visit and his first on Dec. 26 of '85 was great. During his initial visit he was pinched, poked and probed by the beings and has a recollection of a kind of brain surgery being performed on him.

"The whole thrust of what I've done with them has been decreasing the fear. My fear has gone from extreme to almost zero. I have accepted their strangeness, their power, their absolutely controlling qualities. Also I can see there has been a tremendous amount given to me by them in return, in terms of increase of consciousness, opening my mind, my spirituality. I feel an increase in my own humanity. I now look at mankind in a very different way than I did before. I look at man as a band of companions rather than a species with different races and languages. Everybody seems extremely familiar and a friend because I've been with strangers. If that's the only thing I've been given, it's a great thing. The awareness of what a stranger really is."

He continued his account of the last visit.

"Besides the one on the cover of the book, there were three others there that night. One was very tall and big. Six or 7 feet tall, very Nordic looking and almost human-like but with a much broader face, a very flat face that looked like Max Von Sydow with a bigger head. There was a desk, and the one sit-

ting behind it had a long sallow face with a long straight nose, two round eyes and a shock of black hair on top of its head, wearing a brown plaid flannel shirt. Standing right beside me was a human woman of 20 or 30 that I could recognize on the street. She looked down at me with a look of concern and almost motherliness and weariness and questioning that I would do what I was supposed to do.

"They asked 'What do you need from us?' I could have said an artifact, thinking about the author tour, but what popped out of my unconscious mind, which is what they seemed to be appealing to, was 'I need to fear you less.' They said they would help me, but that it would be very hard. We then had an argument about the cat. They said, 'We will put the cat to sleep.' I said, 'We can't, how will I explain this to myself?' They objected to the cat and used a very large hypodermic needle on her. The next morning I went looking for the cat and found her asleep downstairs. At first I was worried she might be dead but she was just sleeping very heavily. She slept almost the whole day, woke up, drank an enormous amount of water and went back to sleep. She was fine after that. She was also sore where the needle had gone in."

Strieber hasn't made things easy on himself in terms of credibility. His hypnosis session revealed periods of what he calls "missing time" in his life. A phenomenon experi-

(continued on page 11) 10

enced by many people who claim to have had encounters with UFOs, missing time means blacked-out periods in people's lives covering the minutes, hours and, in some cases,



Whitley Strieber
'I have accepted their strangeness, their power, their absolutely controlling qualities'

the days they spent "away."

Through Strieber's hypnosis, a number of these periods were revealed. In one instance, six weeks are "missing" from a trip he took in Europe. Many people who have the experience invent "cover memories" to explain to themselves or to others their whereabouts. Most "cover memories" are vague, sketchy remembrances that are almost impossible to confirm.

In a book called "Faces of Fear, Encounters with the Creators of Modern Horror" (1985, Berkley Books), Douglas E. Winter talked

with Strieber and opened the interview with Strieber's graphic account of being pinned by sniper Charles Whitman during the Texas Tower Massacre.

Strieber writes in "Communion" that, according to friends, he was with them far away from the University of Texas where the shootings took place. Strieber credits the discrepancy to a "cover memory" and frankly admits he can't explain a lot of what has happened to him in his life.

"I'm very very confused by that Charles Whitman memory," he said when asked about the interview. "On the one hand I have very vivid, graphic and specific memories of the incident, and on the other a good friend of mine tells me I wasn't there. What's important to note, though, is that I brought it up in my book. The revelation is an attempt to honestly explain what's been happening to me. If I was trying to cover something up, would I bring up an inconsistency like that? I honestly don't know why my memory and my friend's memory of that day aren't the same."

Not unaware of the kind of skepticism that would be aroused by a horror writer writing a "true story" about being visited by aliens, Strie-

ber asks only for open minds and hearts when reading the book.

"I know that one reviewer, a writer whose only distinction is that of being fired from Twilight Zone Magazine for being too harsh, is preparing a review in The Nation in which he implies that the whole story is a hoax and that I did it for the money. (Strieber reportedly got six figures from William Morrow for "Communion.") In fact, the manuscript was rejected by 13 publishers before my agent found any interest in "Communion." I didn't need to write it. I could have written another novel. I'm an established writer with a good reputation. Why would I hold myself up to the ridicule that a book like "Communion" brings? I felt that I had to write this book."

Three-quarters of the way into the book, by the time you're entertaining the thought of accepting at least the fact that Strieber believes in the experiences, there's a transcript of a discussion with other people who have had similar encounters. What's most disturbing is one woman's concern about the amount of control the visitors exert over those they choose, and what she felt was a lack of respect for their subjects. Strieber contends

that the control is somewhat justified.

"When we're with them they don't allow us control over ourselves. If you were a scientist taking animals out of the wild and bringing them into a lab with very delicate instruments, you would have some sort of restraints, too. Physically, they do not look very strong. I also feel that our minds work faster. Maybe the condition we end up in is the best possible considering the high level of fear on both sides, our lack of understanding and the danger to us and them. It may be that they are doing their best to minimize the control or maybe they're real conservative and nervous."

Despite their strangeness, their control, and the involvement of his family, Strieber seems to feel that the beings are largely benevolent. He doesn't see them as evil.

"I don't think they are (evil). I'm sure they're not. I think they've been around for a long time, maybe forever. They've left me feeling that there is something very true about human religions. I feel an enrichment of my spiritual life. God now seems intensely personal. It seems that God is literally right there in my life. And in a totally

familiar presence that I hadn't noticed before. They said to me, 'You do not know the extensions of love.' I took that to mean that I am not as spiritually awake as I could be. Sometimes they seem childlike and sometimes they seem to have the wisdom of the ages. Like children with the minds of 20,000 men. We could panic and make this a very frightening thing, a terrible experience, which I did for a while. Then I found I could make it into something useful that was worthwhile. It became very enriching."

Still, Strieber has reservations about his own perceptions and about what he feels might be those of his visitors.

"This won't be easy to figure out. I think we should be very wary of this experience. If something happens to me, you all will be fairly warned."

In the words of Donald F. Klein, director of research at the New York State Psychiatric Institute, Whitley Strieber "appears ... to have adapted very well to life at a high level of uncertainty."

They're still around! UFO sightings continue in area

by Michael Burke

Unlike vampires, they no longer only come out at night.

The UFO phenomenon heated up several hundred degrees over the weekend with Friday's daylight sightings by several people of four cigar-shaped objects slightly northwest of Belleville. At least four and perhaps up to a dozen people reported having seen the unusual sight late Friday afternoon, and the reports are remarkably similar.

The reports marked the first public reports of daylight sightings of UFOs in this area. In addition, with any luck, the sight may have been captured on film by one of the observers.

Harvey Funseth, Belleville, said he and a friend, Fred Gochenaur, were a couple of miles north of Belleville on Hwy. 69 late Friday afternoon when they spotted something unusual in the western sky. Funseth described the sight as "four objects, one above the other. It looked like a long (Chinese) kite."

The two men then took a road to the west to get closer and made their way to an open field where they stopped to watch. "I tried to take pictures, but the sun was in the way," Funseth said.

The four objects were cigar-shaped, in a vertical position, and unmoving, Funseth reported. "They looked grey at first, but as (one) came closer, it looked like a light blue color."

The four objects were about 1/8 mile away from them at this point, Funseth said, and no more than "a couple thousand feet in the air."

As Funseth and Gochenaur watched, the uppermost craft changed position in the sky. "The top one started drifting

away from the rest," he related. That gave him another chance to take photographs, away from the sun.

"When it flattened out, it look like the fuselage of a plane."

As the highest of the four moved away to their right, it emitted flames from its end, Funseth continued. "A vapor trail started coming out of the back of it."

At first, it moved slowly but "after it went by, it picked up speed; in a minute it went out of sight," Funseth said.

"When I looked back, the other ones were still in about the same position, but there was some mist or steam in front of them, and they were starting to get blurry like clouds."

The entire episode, which began between 5 and 5:30 p.m., took about 15 to 20 minutes, Funseth estimated.

The moving craft had flashing lights on its front end, but none of the others displayed lights, he added.

When Funseth and Gochenaur called the Dane County Airport at Truax Field, "they wouldn't confirm that they saw anything on radar," Funseth said.

The sighting corresponds closely with that of Lavonne Freidig, a resident of Belleville's northern subdivision. She said at about dusk on Friday, she was looking out her patio door to the west when she saw what she also at first thought was a kite, hanging in the air above a nearby grove of trees.

She called her son to look, but he attributed the sight to geese and left again. Lavonne stayed to watch and then saw the top "part" (they seemed to be connected, she said) move off to her

right, toward the north or northeast.

"Then these other things under it... after (the top one) went, there were just puffs of smoke left." The entire sighting only lasted about two or three minutes, she said.

"I thought it was so strange," she recalls, but then forgot about it until she heard that others had seen the same thing.

Throughout the sighting, there was no sound she could detect although it was a very quiet time.

In addition, Jim Venden, Mount Horeb, said his wife observed something similar as they were driving to Belleville for supper last Friday. From Hwy. 92, off to the west she saw something which looked like a Chinese kite hanging vertically in the sky.

Because his wife, Shirley, did not watch it continuously, she did not see how it happened, but later the column had separated into four segments in the sky, Venden added.

The UFO sightings described above happened not far from those of a New Glarus woman and her three children, who told this newspaper they saw UFOs after dark on Friday, Feb. 6.

The family was on its way home from Madison on county highway PB about 7:15 when one of her sons told her he saw something odd in the starry night sky, said the woman, who does not wish her name used here. They pulled to the roadside to have a look. Off to their right was a red light in the sky with lights moving around it, she said.

"I remember clearly, there was a red one with vehicles darting around it in

the sky," she said.

Another one looked like it had white lights in the center and red ones around it. "They weren't stars, and they weren't planes," she said with conviction.

One of the objects, she continued, streaked through the sky unlike any aircraft she had ever seen. "Straight ahead, one moved real fast across the sky. I said, 'Look how fast that one is moving! There's no way that can be a jet.' It moved three times faster than any jet."

One son went immediately to the roof of their house upon arriving home and saw an object that looked like the red one with white lights around it, she added. The boy, who was present during the interview, confirmed her description of what he saw.

MESSANGER, Monticello, WI

March 11, 1987

CR: R. Heiden

Alaska Airlines crew spots UFO on radar

By Catherine Stadem
Times Writer

An Alaska Airlines flight crew reported seeing a fast-moving unidentified object on their radar screen while enroute from Nome to Anchorage, according to government documents released Thursday.

Bruce Maccabee, an optical physicist with the U.S. Navy in Maryland, said although there was no visual sighting, he would still take the case seriously.

"I don't know what I'd do with (the information), but I'd take it seriously," Maccabee said. "It's one more interesting item in 40 years' worth of interesting items."

Maccabee is Chairman of the Fund for UFO Research, Inc., a Maryland organization that studies sightings.

The two crew members of Flight 53, a Boeing 737 passenger flight, told Federal Aviation Administration controllers Jan.

29 that the object showed up on their cockpit radar when they were about 260 miles northwest of Anchorage.

A National Aeronautics and Space Administration employee who studies unidentified flying object sightings by pilots said a report of this kind is not uncommon.

"I would call this an 'electromagnetic' case because it was seen only on radar and not visually," said Richard Haines, who works for Ames Research Center in California.

Haines — who has studied thousands of pilot reports relating to UFOs — said such a radar signal could have many explanations, including false returns caused by weather conditions.

An Alaska Airlines spokesman confirmed that the flight crew reported the incident. "These things are investigated and reported," said Lou Cancelmi, assistant vice president of corporate communi-

cations in Seattle. The pilots were not available for comment.

According to the FAA, the radar sighting occurred at 6:39 p.m., 60 miles west of McGrath, which is about 200 miles northwest of Anchorage. The jet was cruising at 35,000 feet in clear weather at the time of the sighting.

Both crew members noticed the target on their weather radar scope and looked out the window to see if there was any "traffic" in front of them, documents show. At no time did either crew member see anything outside the aircraft, according to reports. The flight area is not within radar coverage of the FAA. The military said they did not have any aircraft operating in the area at the time.

The crew estimated the object was moving about 300 miles a minute — calculated by determining that the object moved about 5 miles on each radar sweep

which occurs once a second.

As the target moved off the radar in front of them, they changed their radar range from 50 miles to 100 miles and saw the target briefly before it was lost in ground clutter on the screen created by the Alaska Range.

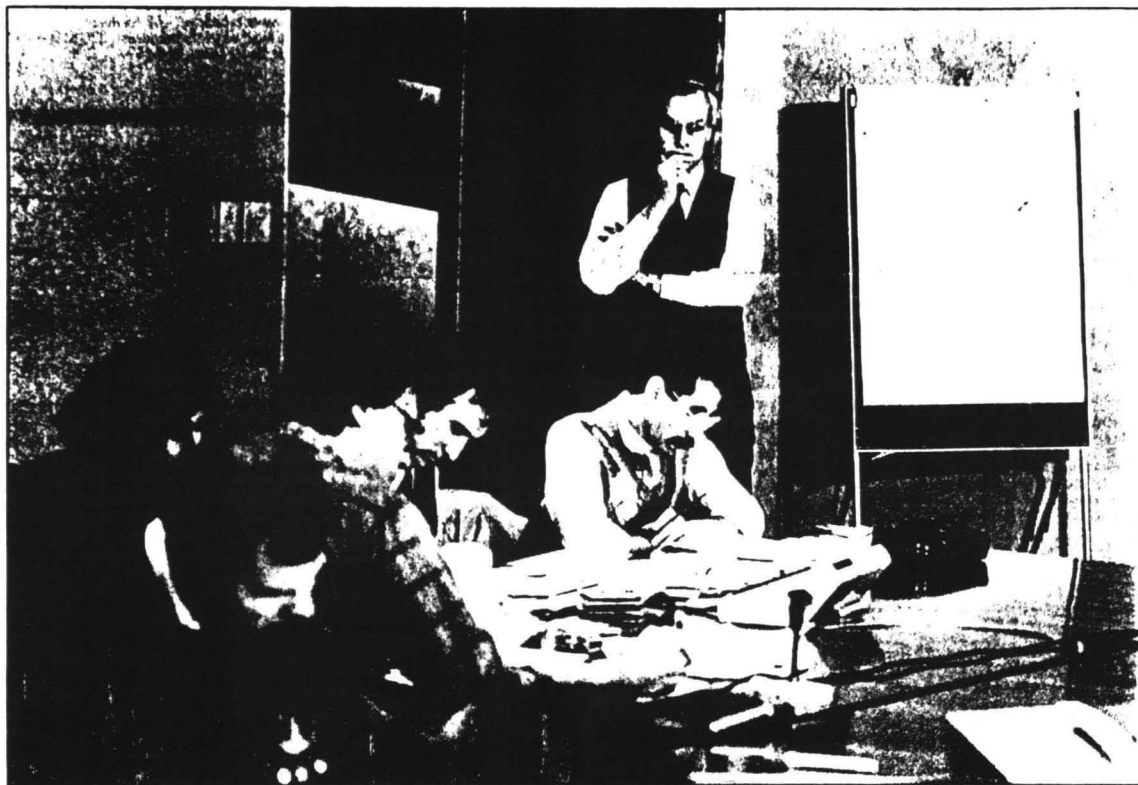
Because there was no visual sighting by the pilots, Haines said the case would have "low credibility with low scientific value."

Maccabee said he's a skeptic on the subject of UFOs — in both on the subject of UFOs — in both directions. "I'm skeptical of UFO reports and I'm skeptical of explanations."

Maccabee said he's not convinced that such things may be extra-terrestrial in origin. "But I am convinced there's something out there we should be paying attention to. It may be something so bizarre we haven't thought of it yet."

TIMES, Anchorage, AK - March 6, 1987

THE OFFICIAL WORD ON MYSTERY IN THE SKY



Anchorage Daily News, Michael Penn

FAA spokesman Paul Steucke waits as reporters read his agency's findings about the JAL pilot's sighting of a UFO.

FAA has no conclusion about UFO

By HAL BERNTON
Daily News reporter

The Federal Aviation Administration Thursday released the results of its investigation of the celebrated Nov. 17 sighting of UFOs by a Japanese Air Lines crew. There was first-person testimony from the JAL crew members, statements from controllers and reams of radar data. Everything but a conclusion.

"The FAA does not have enough material to say that something was there," said Paul Steucke, an agency spokesman. "We are accepting the descriptions of the crew but are unable to support what they saw."

The FAA originally said radar data confirmed a UFO sighting in the area. But after a lengthy review of tapes, the agency determined that three controllers on duty that day were mistaken — the radar did not pick up an object.

However, reporters who flocked to the press conference from as far away as Japan and Philadelphia did not go away empty-handed. Each received a free copy of the FAA's anthology of the event, a thick packet of documents, tapes and radar photographs. And also news of a new mystery to puzzle.

The FAA disclosed another UFO sighting on the evening of Jan. 29 by the crew of an Alaska Airlines plane

flying over McGrath. As two pilots examined a weather radar, they noticed a "target" out in front of them.

"Up at our altitude, (35,000 feet) ... you haven't had any UFO reports lately?" one of the pilots radioed the FAA controller.

The crew reported the target quickly moved off their radar screen at an estimated speed of 300 miles a minute. They reset their screen from a 50-mile to a 100-mile radius. They briefly spied the target again. Then it became lost in the radar clutter created by the Alaska Range. The crew never saw the UFO except on radar.

The FAA did not have ground radar coverage in the McGrath area, so there was no way to confirm the plane's sighting. Agency officials interviewed crew members after they landed, but formed no opinion about the Alaska Airlines sighting.

FAA officials Thursday had more to say about the Nov. 17 reported sighting of two small UFOs and an enormous "mothership." The JAL pilot's initial report appeared to be partially confirmed by three ground controllers, who said in statements released at the press conference they thought they picked up one of the UFOs on FAA radar.

Friday's sighting was just one of a string of several UFO reports near the southern Wisconsin community. Since a Jan. 16 sighting reported by a Belleville police officer and confirmed on radar, more than 12 independent sightings in the area have been reported and placed under investigation by CUFOS.

Don Schmitt, a director and investigator with CUFOS, previously said the center is beginning to look around for reasons why Belleville seems to be such a hot spot for UFO activity.

According to Fred Gochenaur, who was with Funseth Friday while the pictures were taken, the western sky had what appeared to be four narrow clouds of dark gray smoke at about 6 p.m. The pair watched the sky for about 20 minutes while three of the clouds gradually disappeared and the fourth one took off like a jet, only slower.

According to the Associated Press, at dusk last Sunday Lavonne Freidig and a few others in Belleville saw an object which was shaped like an airplane fuselage with no wings. It reportedly hung motionless in the sky, before taking off soundlessly and leaving a vapor trail and several smaller objects behind it.

But also on Thursday, the FAA released a formal review of the controller radar tapes by New Jersey-based agency technicians that concluded the controllers mistakenly interpreted a split-image of the JAL plane as a second object.

"It is unfortunate," Steucke said, that the split image appeared "just when a pilot was reporting seeing something outside his aircraft."

Steucke said the FAA launched its three-month examination of the November sighting to make sure some strange aircraft wasn't menacing the safety of the air traffic control system. Since the radar didn't pick up a second aircraft, the FAA now considers the air traffic system safe and the case closed.

"We are not in the UFO business and don't intend to be," Steucke said.

Does that mean the FAA doesn't believe the reports of the sightings from the JAL crew? Not at all. "As far as we know, the whole crew are people of integrity and did report what they saw accurately," Steucke said.

Kenju Terauchi, the pilot of the JAL plane, describes the sightings in almost mystical terms in a December report titled "Meeting the Future" to JAL management.

"Once upon a time if a hunter saw a TV, how did he describe it to other people? My experience was similar to this," he began his tale. "... There was no danger, but it created many questions that a human being cannot answer."

Terauchi said he first saw two spaceships that hovered almost stationary, then rapidly pulsed across the sky. "Most unexpectedly, two spaceships stopped in front of our face, shooting off lights. The inside cockpit shined brightly and I felt warm in the face," Terauchi wrote in his report to JAL officials.

Later, as the JAL plane flew over Fairbanks, Terauchi reported a third UFO, a huge spaceship the size of two battleships. He said the spaceship followed the JAL plane south of Fairbanks, then abruptly disappeared as controllers directed a United Airlines plane to check out the sighting.

In an interview with FAA officials, Terauchi said the Nov. 17 incident was the third UFO sighting of his 29-year career as a pilot. A fourth sighting Terauchi reported in January he later dismissed as the lights of a town reflected in the clouds by an air inversion.

Co-pilot Takanori Tamefuji and engineer Yoshio Tsukuba said the November sighting was their first. Both, in interviews with FAA officials, confirmed parts of Terauchi's account.

Tsukuba, the flight engineer, said he saw strange white and amber-colored lights that glowed with a strange intensity that "I cannot describe ... not even in Japanese."

But in two interviews with FAA officials, he said he didn't know whether the objects were UFOs. "When I was interviewed here the first time by FAA personnel," Tsukuba said in his second interview, "I was not sure whether the object was a UFO or not. My mind has not changed since then."

Tamefuji said he spotted the first series of lights about the same time as the captain, and that they followed the plane. But he said he could not make out the large object spotted over Fairbanks because it followed on Terauchi's side of the plane.

TIMES, Monroe, WI - March 12, 1987 CR: R. Heiden

UFO film comes up with zero

By JANE WEIHMEIR
TIMES News Team

BELLEVILLE — They turned out blank.

The 11 pictures Harvey Funseth took last Friday evening of what may have been an unidentified flying object above Belleville turned out blank.

Funseth's wife Barb said today that the couple of frames shot prior to the UFO sighting and the six or seven frames shot afterward on the same roll of film were all good.

She said the UFO negatives had absolutely nothing on them — it wasn't a matter of having a sky picture minus a trace of the object observed.

"It was just kind of strange that just those few didn't turn out," she said.

While many may find that to be very eerie, turning up blank film is apparently not that uncommon.

According to a spokesperson with the Center for UFO Studies, which is headquartered in Illinois, many pictures taken of reported UFOs turn out blank. "We have come across it before," she said.

The TIMES is attempting to contact a scientific director of CUFOS for a possible explanation of blank film or photographs.



Mildred Bieseles, state director of the international Mutual UFO Network, stands beside her extensive library. She is also a UFO researcher and field investigator.

Salt Laker Tracks UFO Sightings

By Scott Rivers
Tribune Staff Writer

Since 1967, Salt Lake resident Mildred Bieseles, 70, has been keeping up on the latest in UFO sightings and information. Her credentials will explain why.

Not only has she been a UFO researcher and field investigator, but Ms. Bieseles also is state director of the Mutual UFO Network — an international organization interested in resolving the mysteries of UFO phenomenon.

"What interested me in UFOs was a camping trip in Utah 20 years ago. A local radio station broadcasted a UFO report — in which many sightings occurred in the 1960s. I was intrigued and later subscribed to the MUFON Journal — in which I later became a contributing editor," Ms. Bieseles explained.

"UFOs are more fascinating than most people realize. It isn't [what you read in] the *National Enquirer*," she added. "A majority of people don't take UFOs seriously, but there are many individuals who are quite fascinated by the subject. However, 90 percent of the objects that are allegedly UFOs can be readily explained. The remaining 10 percent are unknown phenomena."

Ms. Bieseles' office includes a massive UFO library — containing hundreds of worldwide newspaper clippings, books, authentic analyzed photographs of UFO sightings in Europe and South America, audio and video cassettes, and government files (including reports from the National Security Agency and the CIA).

Among the UFO books Ms. Bieseles recommends are "Clear Intent" (focusing on government cover-ups of UFOs) and "The UFO Experience" — a 1972 publication that was the primary inspiration for the 1977 Steven Spielberg film "Close Encounters of the Third Kind." She also mentioned an out-of-print 1970s book titled

"The Utah UFO Display: A Biologist's Report," written by Utah State University biologist Frank Salisbury.

In 1977, Ms. Bieseles became director of the Utah MUFON chapter, which presently consists of a half-dozen members. MUFON was founded in 1969 and its main functions include: receiving and investigating UFO reports, plus informing and educating the public about UFOs. Its advisory board of consultants include astronomers, doctors and Ph.D.s who are well-trained and qualified in UFO research.

"MUFON has a more scientific viewpoint than other UFO organizations. Nearly every state has a chapter. The Massachusetts and California chapters are the largest and most active," she said.

As in the past 10 years, Ms. Bieseles plans to attend the annual MUFON International Symposium scheduled this summer in Washington D.C. The three-day event will feature MUFON speakers from Europe, Africa, India, Japan, plus workshops and slide presentations.

Though she has yet to see a UFO, Ms. Bieseles has investigated several encounter cases — including an individual's recollection of a UFO near the University of Utah Medical Center.

"The most interesting encounter case I investigated was a woman in Ogden who said she was taken on board a UFO," she recalled. "Though the woman actually believed it happened, there was no other evidence as

to whether it was a true incident."

Ms. Bieseles also explained the difference between UFO investigators and frauds.

"The difference is mostly in the investigator's background, experience and knowledge. There are several hucksters who want to dupe the public by selling audio and videotape recordings of UFO incidents and sightings. A dedicated researcher or scientist, however, would make that information available to the public," she said.

There also is a major difference in terms of accurate UFO news articles — and where to find them.

"I know a reporter who wrote UFO stories for the *National Enquirer*, but the editors would rewrite the stories and sensationalize them," Ms. Bieseles mentioned. "The most recommended publications to read are non-tabloids such as the MUFON Journal, International UFO Reporter, INFO Journal, and the UFO Newscipping Service. In this instance, the information is more credibly and scientifically written."

Ms. Bieseles would like to write a book on UFOs, but not until there is new insight on the subject. Until then, she plans to remain MUFON's Utah connection . . . and is still hoping for an increase in local MUFON members.

For those interested in obtaining more information concerning the Mutual UFO Network, the organization is listed in the white-pages telephone book.

TRIBUNE, Salt Lake City, UT

March 11, 1987 CR: M. Bieseles

STAR, Anniston, AL - March 29, 1987 CR: L. Phillips

Mississippian is unwavering in UFO story

JOHN MAINES

For The Associated Press

PASCAGOULA, Miss. — When Charles Hickson hears of UFOs, he has more reason to listen than the average terrestrial.

"I probably get thousands of letters over the years. People sit down and write me a long letter about something they've seen. They're afraid to tell people they know, but (they're) willing to write a stranger," Hickson said.

On Oct. 11, 1973, Hickson and fishing buddy Calvin Parker walked into the Jackson County Sheriff's office and told the kind of story nobody wants to believe.

It made news around the world: two Mississippi men claim to have been briefly abducted by floating creatures from a strange spaceship.

More than 13 years later, Hickson, now 55 and living in Gautier, remains unwavering in his story about what happened that night. Parker, 33, of Gulfport, has only recently begun to retell the story.

The two men were "pioneers" in what is becoming an increasing phenomenon: claims of human abductions by strange space creatures, who, the victims often claim, seem only interested in taking them into a spaceship for the purpose of conducting some sort of physical examination.

ONLY 10 YEARS AGO, there were perhaps a dozen reported cases of UFO abductions, including the Hickson and Parker incident. Now there are about 300, according to Walter H. Andrus Jr., director of the Texas-based Mutual UFO Network, a group of volunteers that records UFO reports.

Mississippi's most notorious abduction case began early in the evening on Oct. 11, 1973, a year when numerous UFO sightings were reported across the nation and in other countries — an event observers call a UFO "flap."

Hickson and Parker worked together at Wagner Shipyard in Pascagoula. On Oct. 11, the two decided to go fishing on the East Pascagoula River near U.S. 90. Shortly after dusk, Hickson had gotten a nibble and was reeling in his line when he heard a strange noise behind him.

"It was like a hissing sound," he said. "I turned around and there was some sort of craft hovering about a foot above the ground."

"It had flashing blue lights, like a police car," he said. "A door opened, and there was a bright light coming from inside."

Three creatures floated down from inside. Hickson says they were some sort of robots, making no noise or effort to communicate and going about their task as if routine.

"I couldn't move. I don't know if

it's because I was so frightened, or what," Hickson said. He said the creatures had no neck and had skin that was very coarse and wrinkled, like an elephant's.

"I couldn't see if they had eyes, their skin was so wrinkled," he said. They had pointed projections where a person's ears would be, and hands shaped like mittens with no fingers, Hickson said.

HICKSON SAID the creatures floated him into the spaceship, where he was examined by a foot-ball-shaped probe that emerged from the wall and moved around him. "I don't know how long it was, a half hour or an hour and a half. I didn't have a watch," he said. "There was light everywhere, from the ceiling, the walls, the floor."

When he was finally released, he found Parker standing in what seemed like a trance at the river's edge, his arms stretched out in front of him. "He was in shock," Hickson said.

"We got out of there and decided we had to report it to someone," he said. "We called Keesler Air Force Base, but they said they didn't handle that sort of thing, to call the sheriff."

They did, and a squad car came out to get them.

Hickson said he told Sheriff Fred Diamond not to publicize the incident. But word leaked out anyway, and the next day Wagner Shipyard was flooded with telephone calls from the media.

Today, Hickson continues to tell his story to anyone who will listen. He visits local schools and talks about the abduction. Children are fascinated.

"I don't tell 'em in a way to scare 'em," Hickson said. "You can't scare these kids now, with what they watch on TV."

He is expecting to receive from the publishers the second printing of "UFO Contact at Pascagoula," a book he wrote a few years ago about the incident. In the meantime, he has appeared on public access television in Pascagoula.

Hickson is not worried about the visits. He believes the aliens are superior beings who are waiting for the right time to make contact — and possibly keeping a caring eye on the human race.

"There's always the threat that we are going to blow the world all to pieces," he said. "I'd like to think they are watching out for us, to see that we don't."

The author is a staff writer for the Jackson (Miss.) Clarion-Ledger.

INDEX JOURNAL, Greenwood, SC - March 16, 1987

Rock quarry may be 'landing strip' for extraterrestrials

Anyone who says nothing exciting goes on around a rock quarry just hasn't checked on one around 1 a.m. on a Sunday.

A report at the Greenwood County Sheriff's office this morning states that a man was checking things at the quarry on Quarry Road at 1:15 Sunday morning when a UFO with four green lights on the front and two white ones on the rear happened to be checking on something, too.

The man reportedly shined a

spotlight on the mysterious object which was silently hovering at the quarry and got someone or something's attention.

The UFO reportedly followed the man back to the main road before it went its way.

Deputies summoned to the scene were unable to find anything.

The report gave no specific description or shape for the UFO.



FOREIGN NEWS

JOURNAL, Edmonton, Alberta,
Canada - Dec. 26, 1986
CR: R. Heiden

UFO tales are seen as dreams

By GORDON KENT
Journal Staff Writer

In 1969, a Calgary teenager reported he was levitated into a spacecraft on a light beam, examined on a table by alligator-skinned creatures, then returned to earth.

A man in Wetaskiwin claimed he awoke one night to find two space-suited figures beside his bed. He was paralysed until they left.

His wife saw the same thing, and a neighbor said a bright blue saucer-shaped object hovered outside their window at the time.

Madness? Lies? Or did the encounters with aliens really happen?

None of these, says the president of the Edmonton UFO Society — he thinks the reports are dreams.

John Musgrave points out that most of these incidents happen to tired people who are under stress, and want to "get away from it all."

"Many of us have had those kinds of dreams at some time in our lives. For some reason these people find these dreams so vivid, so real . . . they will often say they're more real than real."

The person who goes through the experience may not remember it until details are brought out under hypnosis.

"What you have is not an objective recording of facts . . . the investigator, who is a hypnotist, is in most cases trying to prove the reality of these abductions."

Musgrave believes some unidentified flying objects exist. But he's equally certain that any contact with aliens will involve all humanity, not isolated people plucked off the street.

This belief is strengthened by the fact that modern abduction tales closely resemble stories of abductions by witches that were popular 500 years ago. In fact, he's studying this piece of folklore as a graduate student in comparative literature at the University of Alberta.

During the Renaissance, he found, men regularly told of watching their wives put on ointment and fly from the bedroom in the middle of the night. When the husband applied the same ointment, he was transported to the middle of a forest where satanic rituals were carried out. When the ordeal was over, the man found himself abandoned far from home.

Change witches to aliens, and make the victim part of a scientific experiment, and these incidents have many of the elements of UFO abductions. Musgrave argued that this was because they are both myths.

Of course, Musgrave must still explain how other people can see these fairy tales. He theorizes that some unknown earthly force could cause lights to appear, such as the ones seen by the Wetaskiwin dentist. This could lead people to have illusions of other-worldly creatures.

"It's hard to sort out what is cultural . . . and how much of it is the need that seems to be inherent in man to get above everyday life."

SOUTH BUCKS STAR, High Wycombe,
England - Jan. 16, 1987 CR: T. Good

Hunt is on

UFO experts are investigating a strange light seen over Beaconsfield. Ken Phillips, investigations co-ordinator of the Association for the Scientific Study of Anomalous Phenomena is leading the probe into the light watched for over an hour by a man walking his dog. It was seen in the early hours one morning before Christmas. Ken is searching for other witnesses to the light.

JOURNAL, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada - Jan. 12, 1987 CR: R. Heiden

UFOs real, not merely fantasy trip

An item in *The Journal*, Dec. 26, entitled UFO tales are seen as dreams, definitely needs a rebuttal.

I must say that John Musgrave's thoughts on this subject are really misleading when he states they are just dreams.

Yes, some do have bad dreams, but a definite distinction must be made between the UFO phenomena and other diversified trails Musgrave's personal search has taken him.

There is absolutely no doubt of the reality of the malevolence of the character and manifestation of the UFO phenomena.

Having known of this fact some years ago, and also having gathered a lot of information on the subject, analysed by investigation, people, books and articles, it was not difficult to see in the final analysis what it all was.

The UFOs are able to materialize and dematerialize at will, to suit their purpose.

The mischievous and sinister nature of events committed by these entities is well catalogued by all those who, over the years, investigated objectively. The facts speak for themselves.

Where then does the difficulty arise? It arises in the fact that people are very afraid of something that could come out of the sky, that they could not or felt were not able to combat and win.

G. Funk
Edmonton

MALDON & BURNHAM
STANDARD, England
Feb. 19, 1987
CR: T. Good

Silent as a cottage- loaf

THE letter with regard to a recent UFO should not be lightly disregarded. I, too, have experienced similar.

Some 11 years ago in a mid-Exeter lane but with a clear vista to the SE over common land, an object — a vehicle — went overhead from SE to NW skirting Chelmsford town on the south.

It was of an olive green colour, and was shaped as a cottage-loaf. It made no noise.

The front of the "loaf" of the cottage-loaf was obviously glazed as a person from waist high, looking out to the front could be plainly seen.

Maybe for fear of the proverbial "two men in white coats" I kept my own counsel, excepting to a man of account in the village. He too had seen UFOs but said nothing for fear of ridicule. Which is a great pity.

I would be prepared to swear on oath on what I either saw, or assumed so.

Rather differently, but a sighting of which I sought a vicar's opinion which I accept as logic, and for which I am eternally grateful, involved a deceased son who I now accept lies at rest in the heart of Africa among a people whom he had got to love and respect.

Entering my then home from the garden door, I had a clear view of my living room. Seated on the sofa was my son in an immaculate suit which radiated light. His features were angelic, he arose from the sofa with outstretched hand, coming to me. I shouted his name and approached to greet him, then he was gone. Rather than upset my kin, I kept my peace. — William Kirk, Farnbridge Road, Maldon.

NEWS, Cambridge, England - Jan. 12, 1987 CR: T. Good

'Polo mint' amaze onlookers

IT WAS 3am and pitch dark one Saturday morning as Newmarket lorry driver Ian Webster was making his way north of Littleport towards Welney.

He was talking to his wife Gail, who was at their home in Norfolk Avenue, on his CB radio when suddenly a bright green light appeared in the sky to his left.

"It was heading down to earth at a tremendous speed," he told me, "and frankly I

thought there was going to be a tremendous crash. Then very abruptly and at high speed it changed direction and zipped across the road.

"I must have been about a mile or more ahead of me and it disappeared to the night, still dropping.

Disappeared

"I am not a glib sort of person but I know what I saw. It was flying very fast, it was not a plane and it was not a rocket in the slightest. It could not have been an aircraft, not travelling at that sort of speed and that low."

Mr Webster's experience followed that of Karen Suttle, of Silver Street, Burwell, and Violet Hills, of the Causeway, Burwell, who saw a huge orange light just above the fields between Swaffham Prior and Swaffham Bulbeck before Christmas.

The two sightings combined represented the first time unidentified flying objects have been reported in the Cambridgeshire skies for six years.

Huge semi-circle

The last major sighting was on January 24, 1980 when a gigantic UFO shaped like a semi-circle and glowing bright orange was seen over Cambridge airport for a considerable length of time by a bus driver and his conductor.

Prior to that the entire village of

Horton was entertained for nearly three hours by a display of celestial pyrotechnics as UFOs came and went. The significant thing about the sighting by the two women is that their UFO was bright orange as well.

It was shortly before Christmas when they were driving home from work in Cambridge. The time was about 6.30pm and the sky was pitch dark. As they approached Swaffham Prior they could see a bright orange glow in the sky.

Karen Suttle, who was the passenger, thought a hayrick was on fire. "We were between the two villages, just at the point where the new section of road starts, when we fully expected to see a fire in the field to our right."

"Instead a big bright orange dome came into view. It looked as though it was on the ground and was just like a sunset that was totally in the wrong place."

"If you have ever seen one of those table lamps which have bright blobs floating around in a liquid, it was as bright and as well defined as that."

Glow in the cloud

"We could see the cloud around it and then it finally disappeared as a sort of glow in the cloud."

The object had been in view for many minutes while they drove the few miles between Swaffham Prior and Swaffham Bulbeck.

"There were other cars on the road. They must have seen it," says Karen, who is no doubt about it herself.

"We saw it. That is all there is to it," she says.

A third sighting was made by a motorist coming out of Linton at 11pm on New Year's Day. He reported a bright orange glow high in the sky moving along at what he termed "satellite speed."

"It was definitely not an aircraft, nothing like that," he told me. "There were no flashing lights or navigation

lights or anything like that. It was just bright orange, high up and very strange."

Is there a scientific explanation? Maybe, says Dr David Dewhurst, senior observer at the Cambridge Institute of Astronomy.

"We are passing through a meteor shower at the moment called the Quadrantids and these are always at their peak around January 1-6 each year. There is always an increase of UFO sightings around about then."

A second possibility is the appearance of Venus low in the morning sky at the moment. At least one member of the public called the Institute to ask about a bright light in the morning sky and was told that most likely he had seen this particularly bright planet.

Scientific explanations apart, little green men have decided to visit the Brits again, the name Quadrantids should suit them pretty well. We would like to hear about your experiences. Write to: UFO, Newmarket, Cambridgeshire, CB8 8EL.

Demons in devilish UFOs

A WELSH-BORN Baptist minister has uncovered a new theory linking UFOs with demonic activity in the "last days." All is revealed in Dr I.D.E. Thomas's latest book *The Omega Conspiracy*. Apparently 8,000 copies have been spoken for even before publication — by Americans, ever receptive to such weird and wonderful things.

Dr Thomas, a native of Rhan-

dymwyn in Dyfed, has lived in the US for some years and is senior minister of the First Baptist Church of Maywood, California. Until 1968 he travelled throughout the United States and Canada as a mission preacher and went on to become a part-time minister at Los Angeles Welsh Presbyterian Church.

He has been interested in demonology and UFOlogy for years and says, "The impetus for writing *The Omega Conspiracy* was the result of my finding a key verse in the book of Genesis."

WESTERN MAIL, Cardiff,
Wales
Feb. 25, 1987
CR: T. Good

UFO'S IN GIPPSLAND...BELIEVE IT OR NOT!

HISTORY need not always be about famous people, or railways, or old buildings...

Have you got an outside toilet? Is your shanty in the backyard?

Do you go down the path, around the tankstand and under the quince tree, an epic trek by day and a daring adventure by night? (We did, when I was growing up at Longwarry.)

If you do, don't! They are watching you... whoever they are.

Now, this may come as a surprise to

By John Wells

most of you but, believe it or not, Gippsland has been the source of a great many UFO sightings in the past, and these sightings continue.

Let me list a few of Gippsland's not-so-ancient reports of Unidentified Flying Objects. You may scoff (and probably will) and you might even be right, but there just might be a part of our ancient past that has echoes in our skies today.

In 1976 there was a spate of UFO reports in the Dandenongs. These were partly explained as being due to furnace blow-off, but no-one who believes in ghosties and bunyips and long leggy beasts and things that go wump in the night is going to believe that!

In alphabetical order, here are just a few of Gippsland's better documented reports:

Bairnsdale, April 13, 1964. At 9.30pm H. Ryan sees a vivid blue flash

two or three miles away to the northwest. A blue and orange light seems to spiral down to the earth, soar into the sky and then spiral down again. He calls his wife and two visitors. They watch the light for half-an-hour. When it leaves it trails four streams of orange-red vapor. There is no official explanation.

Dalyston November 8, 1963. Mr T. Cobert is driving along the South Dudley Road with his fiancée, Miss J. Hughes. At 7.50pm they see an orange

glow. It appears that the No 5 Brace at the State Coal Mine is on fire. They realise that this is not so when the light begins to move, and they give chase. They follow it into Dalyston and on to Kilcunda, then back to the South Dudley Road. The light appears smaller, farther away. They lose it, but the sighting is confirmed by a motor mechanic from Kilcunda.

Drouin South, September 1968. At 6.15am farmer George Willis is

beginning his day's work. He sees a strange object and estimates it to be about 30 miles distant. It has no lights but is surrounded by a blue and yellow vapor. There is no explanation.

Ferntree Gully, January 1968. At about 4.30am the Wilson family is travelling between Yarra Glen and Yea. They spot three, or perhaps four, stationary lights 'just below the moon'. They watch for ten minutes, as dawn lightens the sky and the lights slowly fade. There is no sound, no movement, just the stationary and inexplicable lights.

Hallam, June 12, 1964. Two carloads of people driving east from Dandenong see a large red light in the sky at 5.55pm. It is a dull winter evening and the light is clearly visible. They turn into Hallam Road, still watching the light. At first they think it is on some sort of tower but then it accelerates eastward. One witness says the light is on a craft 'shaped like a coin' and another says the 'coin' has a dome on the top. The red light is at the front of the UFO and there is a weaker yellow light at the rear. There is no official explanation.

Hallam, again, March 5, 1967. It is 5.30pm and John Coyle and his sister Miriam are walking through a paddock near their home. A 'silver disk about the size of a five cent coin held at arm's length' appears and describes a slow circle around their location. It circles for 2 1/2 minutes and John takes six photographs. The report is officially investigated and the Coyle's story cannot be shaken. There is no official explanation.

Heyfield, May 2, 1968. In the small hours of the morning a sanitary truck, a nightcart, breaks down by the roadside. The two men aboard are debating going for help when one sees a string of red lights. At first the lights seem to be approaching them, and then they stop. The two men stand on the bonnet of the truck for a better view, and they see an object with a dome and a row of red lights. In the morning the grass in that spot is found to be dying. During the small hours of the following morning the object is seen again and is reported to the RAAF. The Air Force investigates but can offer no explanation.

Korumburra, November 1968. Five revellers coming home from a barbecue at about 11.45pm see a bright orange light over the Korumburra Golf Club. It disappears somewhere over the reservoir and, again, there is no official explanation.

Korumburra, a few days later. Don Earl and his family see a flashing light in the south. It is sometimes orange, sometimes green. At times it divides into three lights. It is not an aeroplane.

Leongatha, November 1968. Derek Barber, a cropduster-manager based at Leongatha sees what is apparently the lights seen by the Earls. He is an expert on planes and says that there is no way the lights could have been those of any known aircraft.

Moe, February 15, 1963. Charles Brew and his son, Trevor, see a UFO and are able to get a good look at it. They give a precise description. The object is about eight metres in diameter and about three metres high. It is the traditional 'flying saucer' shape and is battleship-grey. It has a clear glasslike dome with a two-metre mast. It hovers silently about 20 to 25 metres above the ground and the only sound is an audible humming or 'swishing' when the craft disappears westward.

Narre Warren. Date and time unknown. Mr L. Velde is watching a bushfire with some friends. A pale orange craft with fins appears from the east, travelling west just below the clouds, at about 150 metres altitude. It disappears over Melbourne. Newspapers report the sighting but there is no explanation.

Sale, Date and time unknown. Mrs G. Butcher reports that her mother saw a shiny object which darted about the sky and terrified her cows. Mrs Butcher kept the matter secret but a few days later the newspapers reported a similar sighting near Korumburra.

Wonthaggi, August 27, 1954. At 8.30pm a strange object appears in the sky. In the 25 minutes it is visible it changes color frequently. It disappears to the north and is definitely not an aeroplane.

Wonthaggi, September 9, 1954. A similar object is sighted again and two carloads of people follow it. It may have been the object seen a fortnight earlier. It disappears toward Melbourne.

Wonthaggi, (Dudley South), September 21, 1963. A huge spherical object, larger than an aeroplane, is observed for about 25 minutes by 60 people. It gives off an orange, flashing light. Television reception fails while the object is in the area. It disappears in the southwest.

Wonthaggi, September 23, 1963. At about 7pm five people see the mysterious sphere again. These five are all in separate locations. There is still no explanation but the sightings might have been of two separate objects in the area at the same time.

There have been more recent sightings, too, including an inexplicable red light I saw cross the sky very rapidly from west to east south of Upper Beaconsfield. It was very definitely not a strobe light on an aeroplane.

There was the Valentich mystery. There are reports from people I promised not to quote, people who were anxious to avoid publicity.

So there it is. There have been countless sightings in Gippsland but people will usually not report them for fear of being called ratabags.

I'm not saying that our past, or our future, includes aliens. I'm not saying that I believe in flying saucers. On the other hand...



UFO sighters Irene James, Andrew James, Cora du Plessis and Dawie du Plessis.

Four UFOs startle Ballito residents

Mercury Reporter

FOUR Ballito residents say they saw four unidentified flying objects moving in close formation at enormous speed late on Sunday night.

'We were sitting outside my house about 11.30 p.m. We were stone cold sober and not falling asleep. In fact, we were having a cup of tea,' Mr Andrew James said yesterday.

'I saw them first. They came from the south-west, flying in a diamond formation, and disappeared over the sea in the north-east in less than five seconds.'

With Mr James were his wife, Irene, his sister, Mrs Cora du Plessis and her husband, Dawie.

All of them confirmed they had seen the UFOs after Mr James had shouted: 'Look.'

Mr James said he had seen what he believed to be a UFO about 10 years ago in Vereeniging.

'This first one was more

like a light but the ones we saw last night were so absolutely clearly like discs it was unbelievable. They were faintly lit underneath.'

He said they were silent and estimated that if they had been 'the size of a car or small aircraft' they would have been flying at 2 000 m.

'We were surprised. We were very quiet afterwards, almost in awe.'

He added: 'We've got no explanation. But we're not entirely unbelievers in UFOs.'

The Weather Office at Louis Botha Airport said no meteorological phenomenon could have accounted for the sighting.

Did you see a UFO on Tuesday?

MYSTERY surrounds reports of a UFO sighting over Dunham Massey this week.

A 37-year-old Altrincham resident telephoned the Guardian to say he had seen a large pulsating light hovering in the sky for about 20 minutes at around 1.00am on Tuesday.

The man - who asked not to be named - said it changed colour from red to green to silver before shooting off at right angles and disappearing.

But Manchester Airport and local police say they have heard nothing of the unidentified flying object.

A spokesman for the Civil Aviation Authority said: 'We've had no reports of any unidentified sightings. I've no idea what this may have been.'

'We usually get these reports just after 11.00 at night - this is unusually late.'

A police spokesman said: 'We've had no reports - I've been waiting for 35 years to see one of these things.'

EVENING MAIL, Birmingham, England

March 11, 1987 CR: T. Good

Woman is 'terrified by UFO'

Experts are investigating the reported sighting of a UFO in a field in the Birmingham area.

A large dome-shaped object was reported at Barr Beacon early on Sunday morning and a woman

civilian working for the police got within 100 yards of it.

UFO-Studies Investigations, the Midlands-based group which is backed by British Aerospace, is investigating the incident - and taking it seriously.

Mr John Hurley, chairman of the organisation, said he had received a number of reports via Birmingham Airport from people who saw the object.

'One woman who works for the police in a civilian capacity was on her way home when she saw a bright light in the field,' he said.

She started to pull a hedge back to get a better look but it took off, terrifying her.

UFO book sequel

BURNLEY'S own self-styled UFO expert, Stephen Brown, has printed a sequel to his book, 'UFOs over Lancashire.'

Called 'UFOs Hit

the Press,' this second offering sheds on more light on alleged visitors from outer space but, to anyone with even the slightest interest in things that go streaking across the sky, it makes fascinating

reading.

Stephen, of Queen Victoria Road, has had a lifelong interest in the subject and he has compiled the book from Press cuttings from all over the world, including several from this area.

The book also contains reports of sightings not included in his first book, and sections of a manual for air traffic services on how UFO sightings should be reported and handled by aircraft personnel.

The book is published on behalf of the Lancashire Centre for UFO Spotters, where Stephen is a leading figure. Copies are available from him at 23 Queen Victoria Road, Burnley, price 99p and 20p postage.

SOUTH BUCKS STAR, High Wycombe, England

Jan. 23, 1987

CR: T. Good

UFO spotted

A WOMAN claims she saw a UFO flying low over High Wycombe on New Year's Day. Ann Culley, 58, stepped outside her home in Underwood Road, High Wycombe, just after midnight and saw an oval-shaped object in the sky. It lit up the street and roof tops.

Aliens' envoy recalls a far-out adventure

BY ROBERT MACLEOD
The Globe and Mail

A funny thing happened to Claude Vorilhon as he was driving to work several years ago.

He met E. T. Not the E. T., but an extraterrestrial just the same.

Since then he says he has travelled to another planet, where he met such people as Moses and Jesus, has continued to communicate with beings he came to know as the Elohim and has founded the Raelian movement, a worldwide association that is said to have 20,000 members.

"Jesus is a very beautiful man," Mr. Vorilhon said at a Toronto news conference yesterday. "Very feminine, very small. He's amused by the image we (earthlings) have of him."

His story began in December, 1973, when he says he had a sudden, inexplicable urge to stop his car and take a stroll in a volcanic crater near Clermont-Ferrand, a city in France about 150 kilometres west of Lyon.

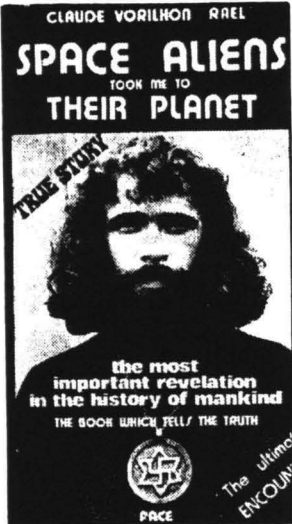
During his walk, the former journalist said, he noticed a flashing light in the sky and what he thought was an airplane, only there was no noise. The silver, cone-shaped craft moved slowly toward him, then hovered about 20 metres above the ground as a trap door opened and a small human-like alien, whose skin had a greenish hue, emerged. A conversation ensued and the Raelian movement was born.

Mr. Vorilhon, who says he was renamed Rael by the Elohim, is now 41 and the self-proclaimed ambassador of extraterrestrials to Earth. It is his job to transmit the messages of the Elohim — a public relations job like no other.

The Hebrew word Elohim — the biblical word for God in the first books of the Old Testament — means "those who come from the sky" in English, he said.

Mr. Vorilhon, who has documented his adventure in a book, entitled *Space Aliens Took Me To Their Planet*, was in Toronto giving down-to-earth interviews to kick off a North American speaking tour celebrating the tenth anniversary of the Canadian Raelian Movement, which he said has a membership of 5,000.

During his discussions with the Elohim, he said, they proved to him that there is no God. Thanks to their perfect mastery of genetic engineering, they can scientifically recreate human beings, just as they created human life on Earth in a laboratory 25,000 years ago.



The French writer discovered just how advanced the Elohim society is in 1975, when he was given a trip to their planet — "It looked like a tropical paradise, only not as hot" — in one of their spaceships.

He said his mission is to prepare humans for the imminent return to Earth of the Elohim by setting up an embassy in Jerusalem, where they can meet the leaders of major nations. The Elohim will then share their tremendous scientific, philosophical and technological advances, thus helping to restore peace on Earth.

He said the Raelian movement has already raised \$1-million toward construction of the \$20-million embassy.

Mr. Vorilhon does not worry about the cynics who criticize his beliefs.

"My mission is to speak, speak, speak," he said. "If only 4 per cent of the world will listen to me, then the embassy will be built."

BRIGHTON EVENING ARGUS, E. Sussex, England - Feb. 17, 1987 CR: T. Good



● Picture of a thing from outer space or just an elaborate hoax?

Mystery of the Sussex UFOs

SUSSEX has long been a favourite spot for close encounters with "flying saucers."

It reached a peak in the mid and late 1970s when hardly a week went by without someone reporting seeing something strange in the sky.

Many, of course, turned out to be legitimate aircraft. Others were the result of elaborate hoaxes. However, a lot defied intensive investigation by experts and still remain a puzzling mystery.

In March, 1976, thousands of residents spotted flashing balls of light in the sky over Horsham. A few months later a Crawley mother reported seeing a star-shaped object flying over her roof.

At about the same time a "white light" was seen floating over Peacehaven Golf Course. In March 1977, low-flying stars surrounded by red and silver flames were spotted hovering low over Withdean, Brighton. The same month, a UFO like a "big white football" was sighted near Hastings.

In April 1978 "objects in the sky" were reported shortly before a number of undergrowth blazes in Ashdown Forest. In November, 1980 a "red and orange glow" was seen hovering over Bognor Regis.

Since then Sussex sightings seem to have fizzled out.

Objects

Subjectivity

MORE THAN 20 people in central China, reports the China Daily newspaper, claim to have seen an unidentified flying object shaped like a straw hat and of a reddish orange colour.

This is exactly what you would expect Chinese peasants to see, if they thought they saw "UFOs" at all. It is a further proof, if proof were needed, of the subjective nature of these phenomena.

They always appear in the shape of familiar objects. If Chinese peasants wore top hats or trilbies "UFOs" would appear to them in those forms.

In the West, where people are used to complicated electrical gadgets, they appear in the



form of "flying saucers" with bright lights streaming from their portholes.

Why are they always round? Because that is the shape which objects skimming through the air are most likely to be.

Typical housewives in the Stretchford Conurbation claim to have seen "UFOs" in the shape of enormous handbags. But when questioned, they invariably describe them as "sort of circular, with green rays coming from holes in the sides and with kind of huge sawn-off umbrellas poking out of the top grasped by what look like housewives from planes in some distant galaxy".

Peter Simple

UFOs flew over mountain, says man

Staff Reporter

A CLAREMONT man claims he spotted "20 to 50" unidentified flying objects (UFOs) over Table Mountain early today.

And the stunned spotter, Mr Charles Gaven, of Paton Road, will go on his knees to swear he was not hallucinating.

He said he took his dog for a walk just after midnight and looked up at the partly cloudy night sky.

"To my amazement, I saw 20 to 50 small, bright objects moving very fast over the mountain in a flat formation, heading north."

"They were only visible for

about four seconds and moved without any sound whatsoever."

Mr Gaven said each object had an "orange-yellow" colour.

"ILLUSION"

"I don't really believe in the theory of other human beings in the universe, but what I saw was not an optical illusion."

The public relations officer for Southern Air Command, Lieutenant Heinrich Nagel, said there was no Air Force activity in the vicinity at the time and a spokesman for air traffic control at D F Malan Airport said the chances of light aircraft being over Table Mountain were "very remote."

An aviation expert, who declined to be named, said he believed Mr Gaven might have seen light reflected off water onto clouds. "This is certainly not unheard of at night."

Astronomical Observatory spokesman Mr Joe Churms said: "My only theory is that the sighting could have been the disintegration of an artificial satellite."

"Space is loaded with satellites and bits of 'junk' but it seems strange that the observer saw several objects the same size and colour."

MALDON & BURNHAM
STANDARD, England
Feb. 12, 1987
CR: T. Good

Diamonds in the sky

I WONDER if any readers of the Maldon and Burnham Standard saw the following. Last Saturday night around about 12 to 12.30am I heard a plane which kept going in circles, as if it was in some kind of trouble.

I got out of bed and had a look out of the window and was amazed at what I saw. I could see the flashing of the plane's ta-

dar, but could not see the plane, instead I saw a most wonderful object.

It's hard to relate exactly what it was like but it was very brilliant to look at, and made me think of hundreds of diamonds, it was so bright.

I had not had one over the night as I do not drink, and I was not suffering from hallucinations. The rainbow from the object lit up my bedroom as it passed by my window. Eventually I saw the plane minus its object. R. F. Franklin (Mrs), King Street, Maldon.

UPI Newswire - March 19, 1987 - CREDIT: Mark Hall

UFO Sighting in China

BEIJING (UPI) - More than 20 people in China's central Sichuan Province have reported seeing a noisy unidentified flying object resembling a large straw hat, the official China Daily newspaper said today.

The UFO was sighted hovering at about 3,300 feet above Sichuan's Meishan Province, some 850 miles southwest of Beijing, at midnight March 7, China Daily quoted the local Sichuan Daily newspaper as saying.

More than 20 people claimed they saw the UFO, which they said looked like a large straw hat and was reddish-orange in color, the paper said. It disappeared after 30 minutes, the witnesses said.

Luo Jincheng, a 17-year-old student, said the object made a noise, but did not sound like an aircraft. He complained of feeling "dizzy and upset" until the following day, Sichuan Daily said.

TRANSLATIONS

City and country of incident: Between Porto Santa Margherita and Duna Verde (province of Venice), Italy

Date of incident: September 1, 1986

Name of paper and date of clip: IL GIORNALE DE BRESCIA, September 3, 1986

City and country of newspaper: Brescia, Italy

[CREDIT: Edoardo Russo]

UFO FOLLOWS A CAR NEAR VENICE

A parallelepiped-shaped UFO has followed a car for a few kilometers on the national road between Porto Santa Margherita and Duna Verde, province of Venice. After buzzing it by its side for some hundreds of meters, keeping at a distance of 4 meters, the object left at supersonic speed. Witnesses were Mr. Marco Bortolus and Mr. Pier Giorgio Pietrobon, who were driving a Renault 5. It was just after 1 a.m. when they saw the object coming out from a group of trees. It was not bright and was rotating along its longer dimension.

City and country of incident: San Gemini (province of Perugia), Italy

Date of incident: October 27, 1986

Name of paper and date of clip: CORRIERE DELL'UMBRIA, October 28, 1986

City and country of newspaper: Perugia, Italy

[CREDIT: Edoardo Russo]

FOUR UFOs IN THE SKY AT SAN GEMINI?

Yesterday in the evening, between 9:30 and 10:00 p.m., four young people watched three bright objects emitting an intermittent white light, and passing in the sky above San Gemini.

The unknown objects were travelling towards Perugia, were noiseless, and disappeared after a few seconds.

A short time after, a girl in the group of four could again see the phenomenon, but this time there were four bright objects crossing their opposite trajectories.

It is not the first time that unidentified objects have been reported in this area. A few years ago, similar phenomena were reported in the Cesi area. At that time, several people witnessed a similar appearance.

The testimony was released to the Italian Center for UFO Studies, which is inviting anyone else who may have noticed the event to report it to the regional address of CISU, P.O. Box 204, Terni. Personal data will be kept confidential.



The Associated Press

This shadowy figure is said to be a picture of the infamous Loch Ness monster in Scotland. Some people around the Scottish lake believe in the monster, while others scoff at it.

Snakes alive, folks! Beware of serpents in the lakes

By JAY RATH
Capital Times Correspondent

If you are near a Madison lake this Halloween and see someone dressed as a serpent, be careful. Dozens of residents have reported seeing the real thing in every Madison lake except Wingra.

Charles E. Brown, former director of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, collected stories about the critters.

He wrote that strange creatures in Lake Mendota were reported as early as the 1860s, though older Indian legends make reference to "wak tcexi," long-tailed beasts that supposedly lived off the eastern shore of the lake, near what is today the Mendota Mental Health Institution.

The first real monster flap occurred in 1892, when creatures were reported in Lakes Mendota and Monona. W.J. Park, however, came forward at that time and said that he and his wife had seen the creature on Lake Mendota in the 1860s.

On Oct. 17, 1892, a 35-foot serpent-like creature was reportedly sighted by 12 men sailing on Lake Mendota. A similar sighting was reported on Aug. 22, 1899.

In early autumn of 1917, a man fishing for perch off Picnic Point saw "a large snake-like head, with large jaws and blazing eyes, emerge from the deep water not more than 100 feet away."

The alleged sighting was followed by reports that the creature overturned canoes,

chased sailboats, uprooted piers and frightened swimmers. Then the sightings quickly subsided. Brown theorized that the creature had made its way to Lake Waubesa.

The first sightings in Lake Waubesa were made "several summers" after the 1917 Mendota reports. The first to spot the alleged creature was an Illinois tourist, who described it as dark green and measuring between 60 and 70 feet long.

At the same time, Lake Kegonsa residents were reporting sightings of a similar creature.

"Existing accounts of him are rather confused," wrote Brown. "He seems to have been of a more vengeful and destructive nature than those of the other lakes."

Residents near Lake Monona first reported

seeing a monster on July 21, 1892, near the south shore. Darwin Boehmer said the 35-foot long creature did not wriggle from side-to-side as a snake would, but that it undulated with an up-and-down motion. The head, he said, resembled that of a dogfish. Madisonian John Schott said that it was shaped like the bottom of a boat, except twice as long. It was reported again on Sept. 26 and Oct. 7, 1892, and on June 11, 1897, when Eugene Heath fired two shots at it.

Was it all a hoax? Or could the creatures have been fresh-water eels, killed off as Madison polluted the lakes? Brown wasn't entirely sure, since there was some physical evidence to back up the sightings.

In 1917, Brown wrote, a University of Wisconsin student walking on the north shore of Picnic Point found a large, thick object that resembled a fish scale. He could not identify it, nor could a UW professor who examined it.

Later, some even more substantial evidence came to light.

"Some huge vertebrae, which years later clogged the pipes of the sandpump then dredging the lake off Olbrich Park shore, were supposed to be from the skeleton of (a) sea serpent," Brown wrote.

Not that he took the stories entirely seriously.

"A resort lake without a sea serpent was behind the times," he wrote.

OBSERVER, Charlotte, NC - Jan. 26, 1987 CR: G. Fawcett

Booms Keep Coastal Area Guessing

Associated Press

RALEIGH — Residents of North Carolina's southeastern coast call it the "Seneca Guns" and say it's caused by chunks of the continental shelf dropping off a cliff under the Atlantic Ocean.

"You will feel the house kind of shake and windows rattle," said Walt Workman, assistant chief of police in Long Beach. "It sounds a lot like a sonic boom type of thing."

The rumbling boom with a sound like artillery fire is heard along North Carolina's southernmost beaches, sometimes as often as once or twice a week, and scientists can't explain the phenomenon. The sounds have been heard as far north as Fort Fisher, located just north of Cape Fear.

Whatever it is, it's not the continental shelf breaking off, says Jim Lanier of the Marine Resources Center near Fort Fisher.

"We have heard it here several times," Lanier said. "The times we heard it, it was pretty dramatic. It sounds exactly like artillery fire . . ."

Susan McClain, dispatcher at the Southport Police Department, says the offshore booming has been going on since she was a youngster.

"I hear it all the time. There's no pattern. It's something between a sonic boom and an earthquake," McClain said. "We've had people call and say it shook windows and knocked things off the shelf. Some days it's heavier than others."

Roby Osborne, police chief in Long Beach, believes the same thing that causes the rumbling is also eroding the beach.

"Ever since that started, this beach has been going," Osborne said.

But Workman, who has been in Long Beach since 1984, can't decide if he thinks the rumblings are the work of nature.

"You never hear it after 6 p.m. and I don't recall that I've ever heard it on a Sunday, but the good Lord may not want to disturb things on Sunday," Workman said. "Fishermen — when they're out on the

ocean and the thing goes off — say it sounds more like bombs being dropped to them.

"It seems more prevalent in the summertime. Maybe it has something to do with the tides," Workman says.

The theory about the continental shelf breaking off is "a total misconception of the shelf or the slope," Lanier said.

"It's very gradual in this area. The continental shelf and the slope are quite gradual and there's nothing there that could break off and make this kind of rumbling noise," Lanier said.

But Lanier admits the noises are a mystery.

"We had a funny instance where they had been going off a few times, and it sounded like one morning that someone had been rolling heavy equipment over the exhibit room floor," Lanier said. "There was a rumbling and you could feel the building shake, just slightly, not alarming, but the way it would shake when a jet broke the sound barrier."

"Of course people go and check it out and no jet broke the sound barrier in the area and the military disclaims any knowledge of any explosions going on and then people start speculating about what it is," he said.

Lanier says geologist Victor Zullo at UNC-Wilmington has told him he believes the noise is caused by naval gunfire, and he's convinced the military, for whatever reason, was disowning knowledge of it.

"It sounds exactly like that (artillery fire), but that doesn't mean that's what it is," Lanier said. "I know of no reason why the Navy would disavow firing offshore if they were."

"It's a little frustrating for all of us in that we don't have an explanation for it," Lanier said. "Under those circumstances, it's understandable that there's a lot of misinformation around."

"But it's not the continental shelf breaking off," he said.

DAILY MIRROR, London, England
Feb. 25, 1987 CR: D. Speed

HUNT IS ON FOR A YETI

BRITISH mountaineer Chris Bonington sets off this week in search of the mythical Yeti on an expedition to mysterious Mount Menlungtse in the Himalayas.

It will be the first time anyone has tried to climb the Tibetan mountain — reported to be one of the most dangerous in the world.

Vampires to Big Foot seen

Besides Madison's alleged lake monsters, Wisconsin residents have reported many, many other strange creatures.

- The Vampire of Mineral Point — Sighted in early April of 1981 by police officer Jon Pepper. Pepper saw the 6-foot 5 Dracula-like figure lurking in a cemetery. He gave chase but gave up when the stranger jumped over a four-foot barbed wire fence. Police searched for the man, fearing he was mentally ill, but not a real vampire.

- Bigfoot — One night in July, 1964, Delavan resident Dennis Fewless allegedly saw a hairy seven or eight-foot tall creature run across Wisconsin 89 and leap a five-foot barbed-wire fence.

Similar sightings were reported near Freemont, Wis., in 1968.

- Mystery Kangaroos — Kangaroos are not monsters, but they

are certainly out of place when bounding through fields near Waukesha. Sightings of a kangaroo were made there in 1978 on April 5, 12, 13, 16, 23 and 24 by 12 various witnesses, including William J. Busch, a social worker at a Waukesha County school. A sighting was also made in Eau Claire County on May 21 of the same year.

Busch described the alleged kangaroo as three-feet tall with a "slightly odd-shaped" head, small front legs and long black feet.

A blurry Polaroid photo was taken of the creature on the 24th by two anonymous Menominee Falls men.

- Crocodiles — As if kangaroos weren't enough, enigma researcher Loren Coleman has found newspaper stories reporting Wisconsin sightings of alligators or crocodiles. In February 1892, one was reportedly seen on the bank of the Rock River, near Janesville. The Milwaukee Journal reported a similar sighting on July 9, 1971, in Pewaukee Lake.

Legend of the Menehunes no small part of Hawaii

By Arthur Ribbel

The colorful myths, legends and folklore of Hawaii are part of the rich charm and fascination of the beautiful islands.

In song, stories and traditions, the ancient Hawaiians unfolded their be-

Yesterday In the West

liefs in the supernatural and in gods invested with magical powers.

No complete story of ancient Hawaii and the superstitions and legends of the people can be told without the Brownie-like Menehunes. The Hawaiian Visitor's Bureau describes them as "A race of pixie-like people, two to three feet tall, with supernatural powers, who worked only at night." They built some of Kauai's early massive stone walls, bridges and dams in a single night.

Near the airport is Nawiliwili Harbor, Kauai's principal port. The Menehune Fishpond, near the Harbor, and the Menehune Ditch at Waimea, are ancient stoneworks credited to the legendary Menehunes.

There are many legends associated with the Menehunes, or Little People.

One says that they were no taller than a man's knee.

But another version believes they were normal-sized people who seemed dwarfed alongside the giant Polynesian warriors who came later to the island. These tall Polynesians traveled the sea in large outrigger canoes, carrying their women, children and their goods over many miles of water to conquer new lands.

The Menehunes are said to have retreated to Maui to make their last stand against the formidable invaders from Tahiti, the Pacific homeland of the Polynesians. Kauai people have been able to trace their ancestry directly to the nobility of Tahiti. Kauai women were said to



Sketch by Virginia Ribbel

have been sought as wives for the rulers of other island kingdoms. The ancient Kauai nobility were able to maintain their pure bloodlines.

Lihue, the county seat of Kauai Island, has been described as "The center of Menehune Land" by chroniclers of Hawaii. The little men built the ancient fish pond in the Huleia stream at Niumulu, which is about a mile from Lihue. It is an argument against those doubters who scoff at the Menehune legend.

Waimea, where the Menehune Ditch is located, is the historic Kauai town lying at the mouth of the Waimea Canyon on the Waimea River. This was one of the ancient homes of the Menehunes. It was be-

lieved the ditch, or watercourse, was built by the Menehunes with carefully cut and fitted lava to irrigate King Ola's taro patches.

The Menehunes had no rock or earth movers except themselves. It is believed they mined hard rock in the mountains and then passed the rocks one to another in a human chain to the site of the fish pond where other Menehunes put them in place.

It must be remembered that, according to legends, the Menehunes felt they had to complete a project in one night. They had to disappear before the first rays of the sun came to Earth lest they be turned into stone themselves.

The story of the pond had a tragic turn. As the queen and her brother tarried on the mountainside to look back at the pond, they were overtaken by the sun and turned to stone at Alakoki.

Present Hawaiians are well aware of the Menehune legend. One visitor browsing a pottery shop on Kauai some years ago heard a rustling at the bottom of a huge gourd.

"I wonder what that noise is?" he asked the shopkeeper, a large Hawaiian woman in a voluminous muumuu.

"It may be a Menehune," she replied, smiling.

The Menehune story continues after the invasion by the giant Po-

lynesians in their great outrigger canoes. One belief is that the little people were led from Kauai in a great migration beyond the sea to seek a new home on other Pacific islands.

Some of the Menehunes, so the story went, declined to leave, having their roots set deep in Kauai. So they hid from their king and their descendants lived in hollow logs and caves on the beautiful island with its many secret places.

To some visitors, Hawaiians seem to take their myths and legends with impressive seriousness. It is known that some developers and other businessmen on the islands will not erect a building without first having the site blessed by a Hawaiian *kahuna*, a priest and teacher.

J. Halley Cox of the University of Hawaii art department has written about the little people. One of his articles on carved images was headed: "Are These the Menehunes?"

Many of the objects of the ancient Hawaiians, such as food bowls, gameboards, drums, spear racks and poles, were decorated with carvings depicting little people.

As analyzed by the author, the little figures "seem eternally committed to labor; they carry their burdens lightly, with a spirit of cooperation and play." Just like the Menehunes?

The carvings were of beings with low foreheads, receding strongly from the brow, and small noses. They seem never at rest, but are forever tumbling, doing handstands, juggling and forming themselves in circles and pyramids.

"They are dumpy little showoffs with little regard for dignity," Cox wrote.

Could they have been replicas of the hard-working, hard-playing, night-working little Menehunes of Hawaiian folklore?

At one Hawaiian souvenir shop, featuring figures in lava rock, there was a small replica of what was supposed to be a Menehune. It showed a dwarf reclining and smiling, with his hands behind his head. No doubt a

renegade misrepresentation of the Menehunes, who enjoyed little rest.

A card attached to the tiny bit of lava sculpture, contained this note:

"The Menehunes were Hawaii's mythical Little People.

"Legends of their exploits help fill our islands with beauty and romance with that whimsical atmosphere that makes a true Paradise.

"Each task undertaken by the industrious folk, whether fish pond, road or temple, had to be completed between sundown and sunup. They never returned a second time, lest they be discovered.

"No evil can be associated with these fun-loving rascals whose origin is purported to be the misty floating island called Kuaihelani."

"Hawaii Profile," an official publication of the Hawaii Visitors Bureau, says this of Kauai, the homeland of the Menehunes:

"Kauai: The Garden Isle, a land of legend and incredible beauty.

"Geographically and historically, Kauai is the oldest of the Hawaiian chain.

It is a gem of an island, with brilliant highlights of scenic splendor ... and uniquely its own. Its canyons and valleys are dramatically serrated, its foliage lush and its beaches jewel-like. Many claim it is Hawaii's most beautiful island.

"Kauai was the first of the Hawaiian Islands visited by Capt. James Cook, the discoverer of the islands, and it was here that the legendary race of little people ... the Menehunes ... flourished.

"There is no island richer in folklore, no islanders prouder of their heritage and history."

One cannot travel Kauai, or read about Kauai, or talk to Kauai people without sensing the unseen presence or hearing the laughter in fancy of the hard-working, fun-loving little Menehunes.

Why, they have even named a helicopter firm after them.

A longtime San Diego newspaperman, Ribbel is retired in Carlsbad.

Bigfoot no monster, says social scientist

DAILY COURIER, Grants Pass, OR - Jan. 3, 1987

By Paul Fattig
of the Daily Courier

Jack Laperitis scoffs at the stories of the Bigfoot monster.

Indeed, the social scientist from Roseburg rejects as so many old wives' tales those spine-tingling stories whispered around late night campfires of a hairy Sasquatch marauding through the Pacific Northwest woods.

"Pure balderdash," he says.

"The Bigfoot 'monster' does not exist," he stresses. "But people want to believe there are monsters out there."

Yet, Laperitis firmly believes that the creature itself is as real as Oregon rain.

"We've mislabeled them monsters when they are really very evolved beings," he explains. "They are very intelligent. They speak

Researcher seeks people who've 'talked' to creature telepathically."

And Laperitis, 43, is seeking local residents who may have observed the creatures — either physically or telepathically. He is conducting research for a book to be entitled: "The Psychic Sasquatch: A UFO Connection."

"There is one, possibly two families living in the Kaimiopsis (Wilderness) area now," he believes. "They migrate as far as Myrtle Point, sometimes into the Roseburg area."

Laperitis would be the first to admit his views may seem to some as farfetched as those campfire tales.

"I realize the subject seems unbelievable."

he notes. "When you bring up the psychic phenomenon and Bigfoot and UFOs, it seems real bizarre."

But he firmly believes they are somehow intertwined. In fact, he says he has had nearly 200 experiences with Sasquatch creatures and UFOs.

"If you told me this 10 years ago, I would have laughed at you and walked away," he adds. "But I have since had telepathic experiences with 'star people' and the Sasquatch. It is very real."

A little more than seven years ago, Laperitis, who has worked with Indian medicine men, says he began developing his psychic powers and contacting the Sasquatch.

Since then he has searched out others who

(continued on page 19)

Update on the Pacific Ocean mystery cloud

Late at night on April 9, 1984, crews of three separate commercial airliners flying the Anchorage-Tokyo route saw a giant mushroom cloud rise from the ocean.

It soared aloft with velocities far above those of the most violent thunderheads and reached great height. The event was so huge and alarming that one pilot, the American captain of a Japan Airlines 747 jumbo freighter, declared a "Mayday" alert to the U.S. Federal Aviation Authority and ordered his crew to put on their oxygen masks, fearing they had encountered a nuclear explosion.

Shortly afterward, a Japanese military plane, alerted by the alarm, monitored the region where the cloud was believed to have been, and found no radioactivity.

The JAL crew saw the moon and stars partially haze-obscured by the cloud as it expanded, and believed that the plane had entered the cloud itself. However, the air filters of the plane revealed no radioactivity or other anomaly after landing without incident at Anchorage. Moreover, sensitive underwater sound sensors at Wake Island, located there to detect large explosions, revealed none in the area.

I wrote two columns about the event when the information was first reported. I also talked at length with the captain of the Japan Air Lines plane when he was visiting here in Boulder and had learned of my speculations about the cause.

As I wrote in those articles, the cloud's origin remained a deep mystery. The Soviets had notified Japan of a pending missile test in the Northern Pacific, east of Kamchatka peninsula, but it was not scheduled for that

THOUGHTS ON SCIENCE



WALTER ORR ROBERTS

day, nor in the area where the planes were operating.

I speculated in the second article, after it was suggested to me by another scientist, that the event might have been caused by the gigantic fire that could result from burning one of the many enormous liquid natural gas tankers that ply this part of the Pacific Ocean, each carrying gas with the energy equivalent of a small H-bomb. But I ruled this out, because it seemed totally implausible that a publicly known vessel on a well-reported itinerary could have disappeared with all hands, without any news reports.

Recently, the authors of the original report in Science — the highly responsible professional magazine — have gained access to some additional data and re-analyzed the mysterious event. Their earlier study was the source of my first article. The additional information is in the "letters to the editor" section of the Oct. 2 issue of Science. The mystery may be solved, or least partly solved.

The authors, Drs. McKenna and Walker of the University of Hawaii, have gained additional testimony from two other pilots, one from Flying Tiger Airlines

Flight 022 and the other from KLM Royal Dutch Airlines flight 868. Both saw the mushroom cloud.

In addition, the authors have studied drawings of the mystery cloud made by Capt. van den Berg of the KLM plane as he saw it from his cockpit window. They also had an additional written exchange with the captain. Coupling this with the earlier observations, the authors have been able to pinpoint the location of the event — much farther from the air routes than earlier believed.

The drawings and statements by Capt. van den Berg describe that there were four stages to the event:

- (1) A towering cumulus-like mushroom cloud appeared to rise from the cloud layer over the ocean.
- (2) The cloud tower faded and was replaced by a small semi-circular halo.
- (3) The halo expanded and became a full circle.
- (4) It continued to expand and then dissipated. The whole thing took about 20 minutes, with the first three stages occupying only the first five minutes.

The new observations make

geometrical triangulations possible. And it appears that the earlier position estimates were wrong. The blast apparently did not occur near the commercial flight routes in the Pacific northeast of Japan, but instead was somewhere between the Kuril Islands and Sakhalin — a highly sensitive military area not far from where the ill-fated Korean passenger airliner went astray and was bombed from the sky by a Soviet defense pilot. The location is also not far from the announced Soviet missile test position, but it was still not on the announced date. It was, however, probably over Soviet missile airspace, where various experiments are sometimes performed.

The halo was apparently more than 380 miles in diameter, and centered at an altitude of over 200 miles above sea level. Thus, it seems impossible that it was an ocean surface explosion. I presume that it appeared to the pilots of the commercial planes to rise directly from the sea because it was seen from such a great distance that the curvature of the earth gave it the illusion of coming from the ocean surface.

Most likely, it was some kind of very large, high-altitude military explosion or test. It vastly exceeded the dimensions of even an explosion like the Challenger shuttle disaster. If it had been a nuclear atmospheric bomb test, however, it would not only have

violated the atmospheric test ban, but also its radiation would have been detected worldwide. It is still strange to me that neither our country nor the Soviet Union have said a thing about what happened, in light of the widespread visibility of the event to commercial air pilots and their public descriptions of the unprecedented and alarming sight.

Walter Orr Roberts, president emeritus of the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research and professor at the University of Colorado, writes occasional columns for the Daily Camera. Questions can be sent to him care of Discovery, Daily Camera, Box 591, Boulder 80306.

Headless ghost walks the track

TIMES-DISPATCH, Richmond, VA - Oct. 31, 1986 CR: B. Pittman

"I treat this whole matter very seriously," he says. "No one wants to be ridiculed — I don't want to be labeled a kook. There are lots of cynics and skeptics out there. Their scope is very narrow."

He will tell you there is more to the world than that which is seen or heard.

"In Selma, they were talking with a woman and said they wouldn't come around anymore because they were spraying herbicides in the area," he relates. "They often speak in terms of the environment. The reason they stay away from us is because of our hostility."

He laments that several Bigfoot hunters have searched in hopes of bagging the beast.

"I'm totally opposed to killing them," he says. "They've told me they consider us primitive."

Laperthus says he has physically observed a

(continued from page 18 - DAILY COURIER, Grants Pass, OR - Jan. 3, 1987)

Sasquatch.

"I've found tracks and had them walk up to my tent many times in the forest in the Chiloquin area," he says. "I could hear thumping of large man in the forest. And I've seen his silhouette."

"I met dozens of others which have had 'normal' experiences, including deputy sheriffs," he adds. "I don't take this very lightly."

He screens his sources, checking out their reputations and backgrounds, he says, adding that the information is kept confidential.

He asks others who have had similar experiences to call him at 672-8318 or write him at: P.O. Box 1661, Roseburg 97470.

"I have people who call in after talk shows who tell me bizarre stories which matched up with things which have happened to me," he says. "All these people can't be crazy."

In still another, the brakeman was a member of the crew when the train derailed. He lost his head when the cars began to pile on top of one another.

Regardless of the way the story begins, the ending is always the same, said Brad Rock, a Suffolk native and member of the Tidewater Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society.

"The brakeman was doomed to wander the track forever, looking for his head," Rock said.

Nowhere in the files of the NHRHS or of Norfolk Southern Corp. is there mention of a wreck corresponding to those tales, according to spokesmen for both.

However, that is not proof it never happened, since the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad, which operated over that route, merged with another railroad years ago and many of the records no longer exist.

The light is most often sighted in late summer or early fall. Watching for it has become such a popular activity among young couples that Jackson Road has acquired a reputation as a lovers' lane.

"It's like going to the waterfront to watch the submarine races," said Larry Parker, an insurance agent who grew up in Suffolk. "It's a good excuse to take a young lady somewhere dark and lonely. If you get the right break and the light shows up, you might wind up with her in your lap."

Parker said he first saw the apparition while on a double date 25 years ago.

"It was a foggy night, great conditions for a ghost," he recalled. "The light sort of danced down the track straight at us. From a distance it did look like an old-fashioned kerosene lantern."

The two couples parked in the car on the abandoned crossing were too frightened to move as the light bore down on them.

"It only lasted a few seconds, but it felt like days. It was right on top of us. It lit up the front of the car and then just disappeared," Parker said. "On the way home we talked about whether or not the ha nt was still hiding under the car."

No one saw a headless ghost holding a lamp, Parker said, but the experience was so vivid that he returned on numerous occasions with friends, seeking a rational explanation for the bizarre occurrence.

"We never believed it was supernatural," he said. "I guess we were playing ghostbusters."

Teams of youths walked the tracks while their friends drove up and down the road and over the many crossings to test the theory that their headlights were reflecting off fog rising from the swamp. Sometimes the headlights stayed visible for a second after the car passed, but no matter how hard they tried, they could not create the bouncing ball of light associated with the ghostly lantern.

Parker now believes the light may be a "will-o-the-wisp" — a cloud of swamp gas that becomes fluorescent under certain atmospheric conditions.

"All I know for sure is that there is something out there. I have seen it a half-dozen times," Parker said. "If you go there often enough after dark, you will see it, too."

GEORGE CO. TIMES EDITORIAL OPINION

It Does, Does Run, Run, Run—

Yes, it does run. Joe Newman's invention of a battery powered automobile, does defy the laws of physics. This invention is not developed to the extent of being able to drive like a conventional gas operated automobile of today. But, neither was the very first automobile. Neither was the Wright Brothers' first airplane ready for mass production in its early days.

Somehow, somehow, Newman is proving something new has gigantic possibilities of developing into a new source of energy. For over seven years the U.S. Patent Office people have offered virtually no encouragement; they say it is impossible. The United States government has turned a deaf ear.

Our own U.S. Congressional delegation has shied away from this issue. Of course, several of our U.S. Congressmen have put potential bills for

a pioneer patent in motion. But, these potential bills are dying for lack of action. A bill for a pioneer patent can become stagnant if the legislation is never acted on. A bill is a potential bill if it is never aired out in Congress!

Just think how much farther along this invention could be today if our government, our own Mississippi Congressional delegation, and our U.S. President had been forceful and actively pushing for a pioneer patent for this inventor.

Look how quick our U.S. Congress is getting their own congressional pay raise. It is a shame our U.S. Congress is not as interested in obtaining a patent for Newman as they are in getting their own pay raise.

Last Wednesday, Feb. 4, Newman drove his energy powered automobile on the 'Old Mobile Highway' between

Rocky Creek Road and Brushy Creek Road. His historic ride ranged from east of Rocky Creek Road to the intersection of Old Mobile Highway and Brushy Creek Road. He turned around at the intersection of Old Mobile Highway and Brushy Creek Road and returned to his start of beginning. His travel was at approximately five miles per hour and lasted about one hour, including his explaining of his invention. Three television stations, newspaper reporter-photographers and several supporters were on hand to witness history being made.

What he (Newman) has done is prove the experts wrong. The laws of physics says this cannot be done. Newman is improving the efficiency of the use of energy. Newman has taken approximately 200 pounds of cooper coil and a 200 pound magnet to efficiently use the power built up from these materials. He also uses a series of (numerous) one and one-half volt transistor batteries to aid in powering the vehicle.

Remember how you can hold a nail up to a magnet and make some kind of a force field. Apparently Newman is harnessing this force field.

As evidenced by the facts concerning electromagnetism, the current from this small one and one-half volt transistor battery should not have moved the car, much less run it. Newman explains "for

it having done so proves that the magnetic field must have come from the more than 200 pounds of atoms in the copper coil of the motor and the 200 pounds of atoms in the permanent magnet of the motor."

We accept this theory. We don't understand it, but, we do know that there is an untapped force field within a magnet. We also know Newman's invention is harnessing this force field. We agree it must be the atoms of this force field propelling the 1800 pound automobile.

We are sure there was a time when the theory of hydroelectric energy was not understood. But, just because it wasn't understood at that time was no reason it was never to be developed. We all know it was developed. The power source was always there. First it had to be experimented with, then it had to be developed, then it was there.

Every member of the Mississippi Congressional delegation should take the Newman pioneer patent bill off the back burner. It is time for the U.S. Congress to stop stalling and work to provide the people of the United States with the possibilities of developing a new source of energy power.

At this stage of the game we don't know if this invention will prove feasible in the (world) marketplace. But, we also don't know that it will fail, either. We do know this invention is proving the U.S. Patent Office wrong. They still say it is impossible.

Newman says it will prove to be our new source of energy. No one has proved him wrong, either. All they have done is deny him a patent. In America every man should have the opportunity to prove himself right or wrong.

It will be a crime if it takes twenty years to develop this invention (without a patent). While it may have taken less than five years (with a patent).

Without a patent it will take twenty years! With a patent it will take much, much less time. You, the consumer, will be the ones to pay the price if this invention development is delayed years and years. All at a time when America desperately needs a new energy source.

Since the OPEC Oil embargo of the early 1970's the U.S. economy has been sick. The entire free world, especially the developed countries have been staggering. A new energy source is our only answer.

Why is the Newman pioneer patent bill on a back burner?

CR: M. Truzzi/COUD-I

PRINCE GEORGE'S JOURNAL, Lanham, MD - Jan. 27, 1987 CR: M. Opsasnik

Following the elusive Bigfoot

Riverdale man's pursuit full-time

By JOHN SHERWOOD
Journal staff writer

Some of the mail that arrives at the Opsasnik household in Riverdale is probably not like the mail that arrives at your house.

Mark Opsasnik, 25, the unemployed son of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Opsasnik of 114 Rosewood Drive is on the newsletter list for what might be called "creature" mail. He gets Bigfoot Co-Op, Bigfoot Times and literature from other off-beat societies interested in the investigation of the paranormal and the unexplained.

Opsasnik's specific interests are not in aliens and UFOs, however, but in Bigfoot, which is also known as Sasquatch, Snallygaster, Dwayo, Monkey Man, Yeti, and the Abominable Snowman, Phantom and Marauder. Bigfoot Central in Prince George's County is at a desk in a ground floor study behind a row of books: "Sasquatch: The Apes Among Us," "The Bigfoot Casebook," "Sasquatch Apparitions," "Creatures of the Outer Edge," "Monster Among Us, Alien Animals."

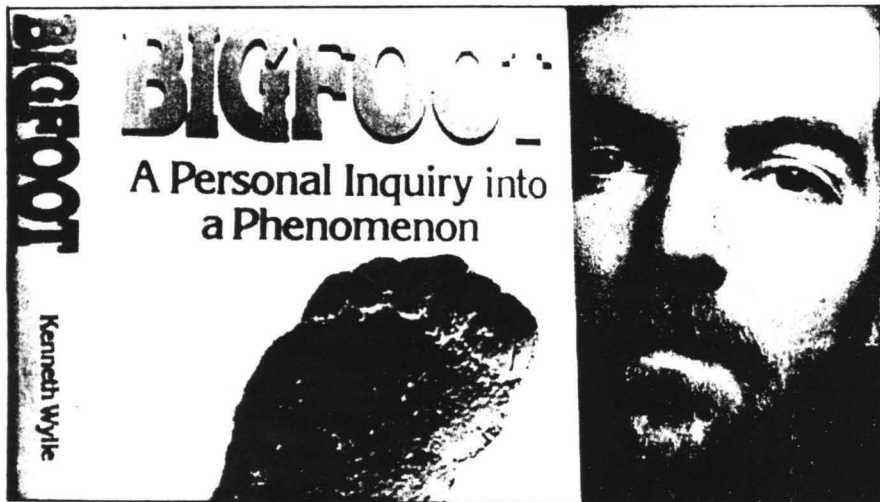
Bigfoot is generally described by those who have claimed to have seen it as a hairy, very large (8 feet tall), revolting, ape-like creature that walks upright and smells awful. Shy, passive and reclusive, it runs away when spotted.

Compiling a "serious" list of Bigfoot sightings in Maryland, Opsasnik, a 1984 University of Maryland graduate (urban studies), has been deeply involved in his Bigfoot investigations for two years, ever since he was laid off from his clerical job.

His somewhat puzzled parents would prefer, however, that he look upon his fascination with Bigfoot as a hobby and get on with the business of life.

"That's what I'm doing this week," he says. "I have just turned 25 and I am looking for a clerical job. Down the road I hope to be going to graduate school at night to study computer science. That's where the jobs are. But I'll still spend my spare time working on the mystery of Bigfoot."

He is not exactly in a Bigfoot hot spot. "There have been no eyewitness sightings in Prince George's



Mark Opsasnik is fascinated by sightings of Bigfoot and similar phenomena — both around the world and in Prince George's.

County since the late 1970s," he says.

Referring to his computer list of 100 sightings, he turns to item No. 13, his first recorded Prince George's sighting. During the week of Aug. 1, 1957, the Washington Daily News reported a flurry of weeklong sightings in the Forestville/Ritchie area of the county.

Item No. 20: "Summer, 1967, Bowie. Residents on Fletcherstown Road reported seeing a large, hairy creature walking on two legs behind their house at 12500 Fletcherstown Road. The sighting took place at dusk. Personal interview with resident. Two-legged monster ran in front of his car as he approached his home."

Item No. 26 notes that in late 1971 another daily newspaper reported that "Kathy Edwards and a group of teens believe they saw the Goatman sitting near their pick-up truck one evening. The creature ran for the woods."

Now-retired police Capt. Lawrence Wheeler, former district commander for the Prince George's County Police Force in Bowie, told the paper that calls regarding Goatman, a hairy and aggressive wildman, are received "every once in a while."

Wheeler could not be reached for comment, but Capt. William Sahaydak, Bowie's current commander, says he knows nothing about any Goatman and has received no reports. Capt. William Johnson, Prince George's County Police director of communications, also has nothing to report on any

Goatman.

Another "official" Bigfoot sighting in Prince George's came in March 1977, in Calverton when "a NASA engineer reported seeing a huge brown or black hairy creature during the early morning hours at the intersection of Powder Mill Road and I-95."

The last county eyewitness stepped forward in November, 1978. "Landfill workers reported seeing the creature on the banks of the Patuxent River at Route 198. The sighting took place at 6:30 a.m. and the creature was said to be female," Opsasnik reports in his list.

A tall, thin, balding and intense young man with a beard, the Prince George's Bigfoot is quick to point out that "there is a possibility that Bigfoot doesn't exist, or that it is extinct. Since 1980 there has been a sudden decline in sightings."

Dr. Richard W. Thorington Jr., a Smithsonian primatologist who gets all the Bigfoot questions, also says that Bigfoot stories have faded. "They run in cycles, and if one story is printed it may be picked up. The more the stories spread, the more sightings we have. The photos of Bigfoot that I have studied appear to be fabrications."

But Opsasnik wants to believe. He was first captivated by the Bigfoot legend at the age of 12 after seeing the movie, "The Legend of Boggy Creek." A few years ago his interest was revived when he struck up a chance friendship with Bob Chance, an environmental sci-

ence teacher in the Harford County school system whose hobby is Bigfoot research.

Opsasnik says that Chance, director of the Susquehanna Environmental Center, has files that include over 100 cases involving Bigfoot-type tracks and mysteriously slaughtered livestock from Harford County alone.

Barry Lee Pearson, a University of Maryland folklorist, is aware of the research of the Riverdale investigator of the Bigfoot legend. He is even more aware of the legendary Goatman, through contact with his students.

"The Bigfoot-type legend has deep roots in western civilization that go back to the epic of Gilgamesh, a 5,000-year-old fable featuring a hairy wildman character called Enkidu," he says. "Goatman is a more human-like creature, aggressive and potentially dangerous, as opposed to Bigfoot, who is shy and passive. Scary stories about Goatman are lurking around lovers' lanes are often told to scare at slumber parties."

Pearson does not think a character like Goatman is actually out there. "Sometimes Goatman legends are attached to reclusive, eccentric characters who live in the woods," he says, "but mostly they are part of our mental landscapes. The Goatman legends belong to teenagers, while Bigfoot sightings have mostly been by adults."

Goatman, Bigfoot. Whatever. "Look at it as a hobby, is what we tell our son," says Mrs. Opsasnik. "You can't earn a living with it, but at least it's not boring."

PRESS HERALD, Portland, ME
March 10, 1987

Photographer seeks jungle dinosaur

MELBOURNE, Fla. (AP) — What has a body like an elephant's, three toes on each foot, a neck like a giraffe's and a tiny head?

The "Mokele-Mbembe," what some say is a 40-foot dinosaur that stalks the jungle in the Peoples Republic of Congo. The scientific community says tales of its existence are baloney.

But Jim Culberson, 36, a photographer who has battled poisonous snakes, government bureaucracy and skeptics in his unsuccessful hunt, says he's planning a return trip.

Last month, Culberson spent three weeks on a \$20,000 expedition to the 60,000-square-mile Likouala Swamp.

The legend of a dinosaur deep in the African jungles has inspired books and movies, including the recent film "Baby." "The scientific community thinks we're nuts," said Culberson, who has planned a return trip for 1988.

Culberson, a 1975 graduate in marine biology from Florida Institute of Technology, said "Sooner or later they will be found, and someone — maybe not myself — is going to eventually get pictures of this thing."

CR: W. Thompson 20