

UFO

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Belleville site of UFO investigation

By JANE WEIHMIR
TIMES News Team

BELLEVILLE — In the pursuit of answers or at least clues, a mini-caravan recently traversed the Belleville area to investigate multiple sightings of unidentified flying objects.

Because investigating UFOs is about as common as ghost busting, people often ask what the investigators do.

Judging from last Sunday's probe, it appears a UFO investigation is much more complex than mere questioning of witnesses.

A network of persons combines efforts to gather information beforehand, and an agenda is established so that the maximum possible number of interviews can be conducted in a single time period. Because investigators volunteer their time, meetings with witnesses

marine. Fred Gochenaur, who was with Funseth at the time, agreed.

Gochenaur explained earlier that he and Funseth first saw four objects, but three of them just sort of disappeared. It was the fourth one they watched for a good 10 minutes.

Funseth said it seemed to have a flat bottom, definitely had no wings, and had a light that flashed on top, he said.

What impressed him, he said, was that it seemed like a big ship going through water — it was so steady.

According to Funseth, no sound from the object was heard nor was any animal reaction heard. He said two things glowed on the back, reminding him of a rocket without



TIMES photo by Jane Wehmier

RECALLING THE UNEXPLAINED — Harvey Funseth raises his hand toward the sky where he and Fred Gochenaur (standing behind Funseth) watched a submarine-shaped object cross overhead and disappear. He described the March 6 sighting for camera crews and an investigative team that visited Belleville Sunday.

A network of persons combines efforts to gather information beforehand, and an agenda is established so that the maximum possible number of interviews can be conducted in a single time period. Because investigators volunteer their time, meetings with witnesses often are slated for weekends.



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Once in the area, investigators visit the observation sites. There they get a feel for the area and check for possible explanations.

Neighbors are questioned in an effort to uncover witnesses who can produce more evidence or at least corroborate information already reported.

Behind the scenes, checks are made on conventional air traffic at the time of the sighting.

And sometimes, such as in the probe of the Belleville flap, investigators go a step further.

Doctors and ministers have been called upon to find out whether any unreported witnesses might have sought treatment or counseling after a sighting.

According to Don Schmitt, one unnamed couple went to a minister regarding a close encounter experienced Jan. 13, two days before the first sighting by police officer Glen Kazmar.

Schmitt, who is affiliated with the Center for UFO Studies, said the couple went to the minister and asked him to go to police.

The couple's sighting was within 500 feet of an object, making it a close encounter of the first kind.

The object they witnessed was described differently than other objects involved in Belleville area sightings. In this case, the object was described as circular with a row of lights. It appeared to have ascended slightly while under observation.

In Kazmar's report, no shape was discerned, but colored lights were seen. The object seemed to have lingered in the area for more than eight hours. It was officially reported Jan. 16, and a radar tracking verified the sighting.

Other reports have involved cigar- or submarine-shaped objects.

Harvey Funseth said the object he saw March 6 reminded him of a sub-

marine. Fred Gochenaur, who was with Funseth at the time, agreed.

Gochenaur explained earlier that he and Funseth first saw four objects, but three of them just sort of disappeared. It was the fourth one they watched for a good 10 minutes.

Funseth said it seemed to have a flat bottom, definitely had no wings, and had a light that flashed on top, he said.

What impressed him, he said, was that it seemed like a big ship going through water — it was so steady.

According to Funseth, no sound from the object was heard nor was any animal reaction heard. He said two things glowed on the back, reminding him of a rocket without flames, and a short vapor trail followed it.

Funseth took 11 pictures of the object, but each negative turned up blank while unrelated photos at the beginning and end of the roll of film turned out fine.

Investigators checked the site to determine if it is in a microwave area because that can affect film. But Schmitt said no receivers, dishes or transmitters were found to indicate it was a microwave area.

He said the negatives are being analyzed in laboratories and he hopes to have the camera checked, too, but so far all the photographers consulted on the matter are just shaking their heads.

Officials previously reported that pictures of UFOs often turn out black. Sometimes that is attributed

to radiation.

"It is a common thing as far as taking photographs at the center of radiation," Schmitt said, "we do get a totally washed out negative. That's just always an aftereffect."

But, the investigator said, that generally happens in close encounters.

Village a flap area

BELLEVILLE — This place is tagged an official flap area.

Belleville, the southern Wisconsin home of about 1,300 people, has been noted for a high concentration of UFO sightings in a relatively short period of time.

Don Schmitt, a director and investigator with the Illinois-headquartered Center for UFO Studies, said Sunday there are in excess of 24 persons who have reported same or similar sightings since mid-January.

Normally CUFOS explains 90 percent of its reports as something conventional or natural, but nothing close to that figure has been explained in the Belleville flap.

And recently, Schmitt said, investigators are getting reports of types of shapes involved.

"It is almost smacking of something conventional," he said, but so far no explanations have been made.

"We're coming away more and more amazed," he said Thursday.

While there are still a few avenues to be pursued, such as checking on possible military traffic, investigators are finding the reports to be "more and more legitimate," Schmitt said.

He said there are still more witnesses to talk to — two new witnesses were named Sunday when an investigative team visited Belleville — but it strongly looks like the sightings will wind up classified as legitimate UFO reports.

UFO reports baffling, intriguing

Aftereffects puzzle UFO investigators

The UFO mystery doesn't end with failure to identify the objects — investigators are puzzled by the intent of the objects and some of their physical effects.

In close encounters, witnesses have suffered various physical ailments including radiation poison, temporary paralysis, nerve damage and burns to the eye.

The medical aftereffect of UFOs has even been the topic of doctoral reports and thesis papers.

Reports have indicated that during the presence of some UFOs, the witness experiences a temporary paralysis. The witness is able to think and stand, yet he is unable to move. Once the object leaves the area, the witness regains all faculties.

Neurologists are baffled that the people can remain standing during the paralysis episode — it takes several muscles to stand. They believe the objects are selective and able to control only the necessary nerve impulses.

In some cases hypnotic regression is used to retrieve information from witnesses. Investigators don't always expect to retrieve more information,

especially in cases of a simple sighting.

Through the state of extreme relaxation, the hypnotist can retrieve a person's thoughts from their subconscious.

It is true people can lie under hypnosis, but investigators say the things they are interested in generally cannot be faked. Among the things the hypnotist looks for are the person's emotions at the time of the UFO experience — an actual reliving of the experience.

Investigator Don Schmitt said that often a witness becomes totally disoriented after a close encounter.

After one Wisconsin abduction, investigators spoke with a mother and her sons and her neighbor's sons.

The woman kept saying, "I'm not supposed to remember. I'm not supposed to remember."

Schmitt said that the witnesses have had it "strongly suggested" that they shouldn't remember, but it is not a case in which they are scared into "not" remembering.

The Center for UFO Studies does not try to explain the sightings. The center merely collects data.

Schmitt said the objects have not shown any intent or hostility, but they are believed to be intelligently controlled.

Reports indicate increased UFO activity around nuclear tests and in military bases. The electromagnetic effect causes power drainages, so even military bases have been caught without energy.

The electromagnetic effect "could literally neutralize all missiles," Schmitt said.

Investigators do not say they suspect an invasion, but they note the appearance of UFO curiosity in regard to the military.

"If we can accept there is a motive and objective behind the sightings, there is something very secretive," he said. "It appears very strongly that it is something that is observing and even performing experiments."

Sightings of UFOs categorized

The sighting of unidentified colored lights above Belleville Jan. 16 and then again Feb. 6 brought the TIMES in contact with Don Schmitt, who volunteers his time studying unidentified flying objects for the Center for UFO Studies.

Schmitt, a director for CUFOS, usually assigns other volunteers to investigate reports, but he personally is working on the Belleville one because it is a "good" case.

The Belleville report, in addition to being observed by multiple eyewitnesses, was tracked on radar.

Schmitt explained sightings are categorized as nocturnal lights, daylight disk, radar trackings, and close encounters of the first, second and third kinds.

Nocturnal lights are simply lights in the night sky. Daylight disks are daytime sightings of objects. Radar trackings involve objects detected on radar.

Close encounters of the first kind are described as sightings made within 500 feet. Encounters of the second kind are incidents involving a physical trace. In some instances it may be exemplified by a car stalling or a power outage; or physical remains, such as radiation poisoning or burns. The third kind involves a description of occupants.

To date the number of reports of close encounters of the third kind exceeds 3,000 — and that number is suspected to be low because not all incidents are reported.

By Jane Weihmeir, TIMES News Team

Physical evidence of UFOs piling up

Many people say they don't believe in UFOs because they haven't see one themselves and there isn't any physical evidence to support a belief, but UFO investigators claim there is evidence and a lot of it — four decades worth, in fact.

Investigator Don Schmitt gave a brief history of UFO reports. According to him, physical evidence of UFOs dates back as far as July 2, 1947, when a lightning storm occurred in Roswell, N.M.

Several people noted UFO sightings over town and one witness noted an object appeared to have difficulty flying in the storm.

Shortly thereafter, a local rancher discovered a tremendous amount of metal debris scattered for over a mile.

"He was struck by the unusual quality of the metal, the fact that it was lighter than balsa wood, as thin as foil, but yet was so strong that any attempt he made at bending it or anything was unsuccessful," Schmitt said.

The man contacted Roswell Air Force Base and a major and an assistant were immediately sent to the

scene. They attempted to melt the metal and put a dent in it with a 16-pound sledge, but were unsuccessful.

"They were amazed that the markings on the metal, and this has all been verified as far as even documents, that there were hieroglyphic-type symbols on some of the portions of the metal," Schmitt said.

The area was cordoned off, and the metal was crated up. After the debris was confiscated, the rancher managed to retrieve a shoebox full of the material. Without a word to anybody, two people claiming to be with the Air Force stopped at his home in the middle of night and ordered him to hand over the box.

"The story that started to go across the wire at that time, and I can quote it, 'Flying saucer crashed in Roswell. Recovered by Army,'" Schmitt said. "At that point the FBI intercepted the transmission and broke in with their message, 'Do not continue this transmission.'"

But the story did get out and make headlines. There were too many witnesses and documents supporting it to let it die.

And it wasn't long before a general said the metal was from a weather satellite, but according to Schmitt, photographs of the metal do not jive with pictures of the satellite.

To date more than 20 such events have been described by first- or secondhand witnesses.

"Even skeptics will not deny the fact that something did come down in Roswell," Schmitt said.

Most of the events at that time occurred within the southwest part of the United States, but there were some reports out of the country.

"The case for the retrieval of a UFO is becoming stronger every year... more information has leaked out... people totally unaware of other parties involved tell essentially same story of same event," Schmitt said.

A man named Barney Barnett claimed he observed officials recovering bodies from an object. The suspicion to this date is that the object may have been the full ship, and the debris in Roswell were fragments from that ship before it landed.

Schmitt also said two doctors, who are sworn to secrecy, have admitted they were involved in autopsies. The doctors said the bodies are humanoid, about 4½-5 feet tall with

large heads, out of proportion with the rest of the body.

According to Schmitt, the doctors' descriptions are "very consistent" with occupant sightings in close encounters of the third kind.

Case after case produces the same information. It is "like looking through a family album," Schmitt said.

In numerous incidents, close encounters have involved medical harm to people, markings on the ground, damage to paint on cars and even power surges and the stalling of vehicles.

In a 1979 Minnesota incident, a law enforcement officer's eyes were harmed by the brightness of the UFO's light — that happened despite his wearing protective glasses and being seated behind a protective windshield.

In that episode, the windshield was ruined in the car, the antennae were bent, the colored light on top of the squad was broken, and a headlight was damaged, but no marks or scratches evidencing a collision could be found.

That same information could bring a guilty verdict from a jury in a criminal trial, but when it comes to a UFO incident many people refuse the validity of the evidence, Schmitt said.

(continued on page 3)

HERALD & NEWS, Klamath Falls, OR Jan. 26, 1987 CR: L. Whitehurst UFO questions

Regarding the article about the professor who is convinced that UFOs are real and that contact is going on now, let me ask a few speculative questions:

(1) If UFOs don't exist, why did and does the government go to so much trouble to disprove and dismiss these reports? I mean, it seems to me, you just don't go through that much trouble to disprove something that doesn't exist.

(2) If UFOs exist, what will this mean about our supposedly impenetrable defense systems? If they're real, they seem to have no trouble at all in penetrating our national security systems, and it seems, at times, catching the military blissfully unaware. Is this part of the reason the government denies their existence?

(3) If UFOs exist, what will this mean to the world's religions? Will they have to rethink the world's myriad of religious texts in the context of a primitive's misinterpretation of a superior technology, and hence races? Could this be another reason the government denies their existence, because man would have to give up this supremely egotistical idea of being the center of the universe?

(4) If UFOs don't exist, and they all are just hallucinations and misinterpretations, what does this say about the mental balance of this country and the world in general?

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USA TODAY, Arlington, VA - May 6, 1987 MINNESOTA

MINNEAPOLIS — Charles Silva, 42, who claims he'll guide actress Shirley MacLaine on trip to Peru, was charged with sexually assaulting 2 women. He was arrested Saturday before giving lecture on miracles, extraterrestrial phenomena. Women were seeking spiritual advice from him, police say.

Constraints limit access to information on incidents

UFO investigators can cite case after case of evidence, yet it seems the general public is not aware of the information.

One might wonder why it is kept so secret.

Civilian groups share a mutual exchange of information including photographs and drawings, but they report having a difficult time getting data from government employees.

Civilians say government employees have constraints on them.

At this time, laws prohibit military personnel from speaking about UFO incidents. Those who leak information are subject to a \$10,000 fine and 10 years imprisonment.

Other sources of information, such as doctors who have examined bodies from UFOs or humans with medical aftereffects from close encounters, are sworn to patient privacy so they can't speak freely on all cases.

Those limitations have not stopped the flow of data,

but they have prevented people from signing sworn affidavits.

"If we had any one individual, we could present this (data) and go forward," said investigator Don Schmitt, and that would someday call for a public statement.

In his estimation the world is closer now than ever to either some form of acknowledgement or to a major piece of information being released to set the stage for public involvement.

In addition to the constraints put on people, some people put constraints on themselves.

"Some people perceive it as a religious experience," Schmitt said, and won't accept any other explanation.

Other non-believers come up with all sorts of "explanations" to write sightings off.

A recent report of a Japanese airliner being chased by a UFO has been "explained" as the pilot seeing an image of Jupiter and possibly Mars.

"Most of the media will take this explanation and write it off," he said. What they may not realize is that the "image" was picked up by three radar systems.

Investigators and consultants are still pursuing that 1985 case, just as others who don't believe the explanations they hear continue to ask questions.

Air Force pilots who experience firsthand encounters which are like a sort of cat and mouse game in the sky often press for information.

But, Schmitt said, they often receive the suggestion "you don't want to know."

It is uncertain why they are discouraged to learn.

"If we can accept the possibility of a cover-up, it is worldwide," Schmitt said.

If there is a cover-up, it seems that it began in the interest of national security and has evolved to something much more than that.

In 1947, post war time, a sighting in the United

States described as a crescent shaped object which "skimmed" about like a rock thrown over water was reported. From there the military tagged such sightings as flying discs. The United States feared the devices were Russian.

Amazing maneuverability was noted. The objects could make right angle turns with no problems, and had "fantastic acceleration." Speeds have been reported in excess of 100,000 miles per hour.

The military's objective was to "bring one down at all costs," Schmitt said. Communication was to be attempted, and personnel were at liberty to fire upon the object or "ram" it.

After several sightings, the U.S. government began to realize similar sightings were reported in Japan, Russia and China.

"Everybody thought they were each other's, but they were nobody's," Schmitt said.

After that it was believed the phenomenon was real and there was a strong possibility it was interplanetary, Schmitt said.

The fear that the devices were Russian disappeared, but the fact they might take advantage of the objects remained.

When sightings occurred, communications were tied up and concern arose that a fake UFO invasion might be staged and communications would be tied up, making the government vulnerable to attack.

The Air Force was ordered to debunk the subject at all costs.

LEADER-TELEGRAM, Eau Claire, WI - March 15, 1987 CR: R. Heiden

Flying saucers in comeback

Flying saucers are back.

What a relief. For a while I thought they might have buzzed off with some inter-galactic convoy. The latest one showed up last week over Belleville. It was a somber reminder of unidentified flying objects people in Eau Claire, Durand and Elmwood are certain they saw at one time or another. How do I know? Because I talked to some of them. That's how.

The Belleville sighting in Dane County was of an object "shaped like an airplane fuselage with no wings." Lavonne Freidig told authorities. "It just hung there. I watched it and watched it." So did her son, Bill. Another onlooker tried to take a picture of it at dusk last Sunday. After several minutes, the hitherto motionless object took off without a sound, leaving a vapor trail and several smaller objects behind it.

It's easy to scoff at things like that when they take place as far away as Belleville to people we never heard of before. But it is less easy when you are a reporter talking to the people. In my experience two of the reports described saucers. One had been seen by a former Air Force navigator and a friend at the Eau Claire County Airport. The other touched down between apple trees in a farm orchard near Durand, leaving a saucer-shaped impression in the ground. That is what the witnesses told the sheriff at the time.

The third report described a cigar-shaped fuselage without wings that appeared to have lighted windows in the body. It hovered over Highway 128 between Spring Valley and Elmwood long enough one night for the witness to stop his car, climb out on the shoulder and



Fred Steffen

observe it for a while. The observer was so entranced by the pre-dawn display that he followed it when it ducked over a hill to the next valley. It hovered briefly there before speeding up and out of sight into the atmosphere shortly after his car lights broke over the top of the intervening hill.

He never talked about it much. He didn't want his friends and neighbors to think he'd fallen off the deep end. But his was not the only sighting of UFOs in the Elmwood area.

The late George Wheeler made a similar sighting one night while he was chief of police there. It drew statewide attention. Wheeler told a Leader reporter that the electrical wiring on his squad car short-circuited while he was observing a sky object from a hilltop south of town.

The Durand area sighting was interesting because it included sound and color plus an opportunity to estimate the size of the vehicle. Two boys and their mother told the Pepin sheriff they had seen a saucer-shaped object touch down briefly between two trees in an orchard behind their farm home.

It appeared to be rotating steadily, with blue lights on the outer

rim, and made a whining noise like an electrical motor while they watched it. Naturally, they kept their distance but reported the incident after the saucer zipped up, up and away.

Some sightings can be explained away as atmospheric phenomena, weather balloons or sky junk from satellites wandering out of control in distant sunlight. But others just will not be sloughed off so easily.

At an APME Convention in Orlando, Fla., an astronomer on site to explain Kohoutek's comet was pinned down by inquisitive editors on the subject of UFOs. There had just been an exotic sighting from nearby Pascagoula of a space ship that landed and was boarded by a pair of stunned shipyard workers. They claimed the other-than-human occupants had subjected them to some kind of testing or sensing devices. Weird.

The astronomer was highly skeptical. His scientific mind, using existing knowledge, rejected the more romantic suggestions that UFOs might be piloted by superior beings from another planet.

He told us he was convinced that if UFOs are ever identified, they will prove not to be extra-terrestrial. In other words, Earth-bound.

But then, science doesn't have all the answers or we would know more about electricity, dolphin intelligence, water-witching, bird and animal migrations, including the swallows at Capistrano, and the common cold.

What do I think? That the people who told me their stories had no axes to grind, were not seeking attention and were certain they saw something they couldn't explain.

Much like Lavonne Freidig in Belleville a week ago.

My View

VALLEY REPORTER, (City Unknown), VT - Feb. 5, 1987 CR: J. Melesciuc

UFO sighted

by Bill Heinzerling

At 4:25 on the morning of Saturday, December 13, 1986, a UFO was observed hovering above the home of a Waitsfield resident.

The object was described as a sphere with five small triangular protrusions equispaced around its circumference. It was estimated to be 30 to 40 feet in diameter and was of a reddish-orange color of extreme brightness (the witness said he had "never seen anything brighter").

The object was viewed from an east-facing second story window, on a clear night, at an angle of approximately 55 degrees from the horizontal, nearly due east from the observer's standpoint. It made no audible noise. It remained stationary for about ten minutes, after which it appeared to become smaller and smaller until it faded

from view as a tiny speck of light. (It's presumed that the decrease in size was caused by the object moving away from the viewer at a rapid speed).

PROFOUND EFFECT

I've known the witness — a 65 year old male — for about 20 years. He is a very sincere and stable person and is certainly not the type who would be predisposed to hallucinations or to making up stories about such matters. On the contrary, he's the sort of person who would be most reluctant to talk about such an incident unless it had a profound effect upon him (which it obviously did). Therefore, it can be reasonably assumed that: 1) the witness did not fabricate this account; 2) he really did see the lighted object, as described; 3) the object certainly was not a natural phenomenon, such as a meteor, a bolide, Venus, etc.

It is of parenthetical interest that there was a similar sighting, made about 20 years ago, by a female witness who lived in a house which is roughly 200 feet from the home of the person herein referred to. This may be a coincidence... or it may not.

It may also be of interest to know that there have been at least a dozen substantiated UFO sightings in the Mad River Valley during the course of the past 15 or so years, as per my research and records. And again, these reports have all come from reliable and intelligent individuals, none of whom would seem to have ulterior motives for fabricating such sightings.

CONTINUING BASIS

The UFO phenomenon, *per se*, is real. Reports come in on a worldwide and continuing basis. While perhaps 85% of these reports can ultimately be ascribed to

natural phenomena, man-made objects, hoaxes, etc., the remaining 15% or so — upon careful investigation — cannot.

What does it all portend? Is there extraterrestrial (ET) intelligence? Are we being visited (and perhaps manipulated) by aliens? Are we perhaps the progeny of ET's? Do time and space exist and interface in dimensions other than we, currently, can define or measure empirically — to the extent that interstellar space travel is not an impossibility?

The answers are presently unknown and shrouded in mystery — at least to the public-at-large. But there is mounting evidence that, indeed, we are not alone in the universe, and that, as the parameters of these enigmas become more defined, we may someday be able to unravel them. Whatever the case, the implications of the UFO phenomenon are so vast that they could — and un-

doubtedly would — change the ways by which mankind lives and thinks.

FREE TO CONTACT

If you are interested or curious about the subject of UFO's — "the ultimate mystery" — and would like to know more about it, please feel free to contact me.

Several UFO documentary videotapes (for VCR's), and a fairly extensive collection of books and literature are available for those interested.

Additionally, informal gatherings are being held at various sites in The Valley to talk about the UFO research which is currently in progress on a national level, to view the tapes, and for question-and-answer discussions.

Anyone is welcome to attend these meetings.

Bill Heinzerling is a long-time resident of The Valley. He lives on Bragg Hill in Fayston.

Reports spur UFO watchers to scan Hoosier skies

CORYDON, Ind. (AP) — Reports of strange lights over southern Indiana in recent weeks have stirred to action a national organization that investigates unidentified flying objects.

Described as glowing and blinking lights, the UFOs reportedly appeared almost nightly for more than two weeks near Mickey Shawler's house.

James Delehanty, a field operative for the Mutual UFO Network, spent two nights last week in the Harrison County community

investigating the reports. He and other observers saw several airplanes but nothing resembling the lights that had been reported.

Shawler said the lights appeared Thursday night but not until about midnight, after the observers left.

"It's so frustrating," she said. "It's almost like they didn't want to come with all the people around."

But the lights have been seen by enough credible witnesses to generate an investigation by Delehanty's network, a 4,000-member international organization based in Texas.

The group was asked by the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle to check the Corydon reports.

Robert Gribble, a spokesman for the center, said his agency is a clearinghouse for UFO information in North America and uses the Mutual UFO Network to investigate.

Shawler said she first saw the lights several months ago. The lights also have been reported by police officers and journalists.

Witnesses reported seeing as many as six lights or objects at a time. They are described as blinking lights in the sky or glowing orange balls. Shawler and at least one other witness said the phenomena have followed their cars.

"Everybody says, 'Mickey, you're crazy,'" Shawler said. "But once they see them, they don't say that anymore."

Jackie Carpenter of the Corydon Democrat was one of the skeptics until she saw the lights two weeks ago.

STAR-TRIBUNE, Minneapolis,
MN - April 8, 1987

Not everyone in Lake City accepting prankster's confession in UFO mystery

By Bill McAuliffe
Staff Writer

Nearly eight years after an official but inconclusive investigation into a possible UFO landing on his nephew's farm near Lake City, Minn., David Olson is offering to clear up the mystery.

"It was me," he says.

But the trouble now is that not everybody believes him.

"Baloney," said Matt Metz, the former Wabasha County extension agent who investigated the flattened and blackened corn in Curtis Olson's cornfield in September 1979 and determined it was caused by wind and decay. "I know the Olson family. They have a tendency to exaggerate."

Wabasha County Sheriff Bob Loechler said, "We more or less looked at it and more or less determined that it was a downdraft of wind."

Even Curtis Olson isn't willing to accept his uncle's confession.

"Listen, I know he is capable of pranks," said Curtis Olson, who sold the farm and went into the fur business in Montana several years ago. "But we had experts out there who said it couldn't have been a prank. They concluded that something came down with tremendous force. He could have been out there a week and not do what they found."

Whatever it was, the two circles of flattened corn in Curtis Olson's field created a stir at the time. Several newspapers followed the investigation closely, and Curtis Olson was interviewed on Twin Cities television stations. Within two weeks of his report came two more UFO sightings in the Rochester area, one in broad daylight. David Olson said that until last week he never told anyone other than his wife that the rumored UFO was his set-up.

"I was going to tell someone that it was a prank, but, my goodness, it just got out of hand," said Olson, 44, a chemist at Rosemount Engineering in Eagan and lifelong practical joker. "Everybody started thinking a UFO had landed on Curtis' farm. It got to the point where if I'd come forth, people would have felt I was trying to make a fool of somebody in the family." Olson said he got the idea for the prank at a family gathering, where relatives had discussed whether there was intelligent life other than on Earth.

Olson said he drove to his nephew's farm one night at about 11 o'clock, walked to the middle of his cornfield, covered his feet with burlap to obscure his footprints, and tramped down two large circles of weak corn. Using a posthole tamper he had dragged along, he pounded down areas to suggest the landing gear of an aircraft. Then he said he scorched part of the corn as he thought an aircraft might in landing or taking off.

David Olson began to claim responsibility for the incident publicly last week when he wrote to Robert McCoy, a public speaker and spokesman for Minnesota Skeptics, saying he had perpetrated a hoax. Minnesota Skeptics is a local chapter of the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal. Among other things, its members try to get newspapers to print disclaimers with their horoscopes. "This gives more credence to the fact that there is no evidence of UFOs, that it's easy to manufacture evidence," McCoy said.

Said Olson, "I got the feeling that a lot of people who should've known better really felt there was a UFO involved. But then I think with UFOs, it's a case where people believe what they want to."

Elsa Family Videotapes Sighting Strange Flying Object Sighted Over Northeastern Part Of County

kids, took off in their vehicle, traveling north on FM Road 88, where they spotted the aircraft flying east of the farm to market road.

Garza said the aircraft had three bright lights and was traveling between 25 and 30 miles per hour, approximately 200 yards above the ground. He said the lights on the aircraft were situated in one row, horizontally, and the space between the two extreme lights was about 25 feet. The aircraft made a minimal vibrating sound, he added.

The family followed the aircraft until they ran out of road in an area of brush. Garza said he stopped his car and he and his family had been traveling parallel to the road ahead of them, then turned around and flew over the Garza's, about 100 feet from the ground. Some of his four children began screaming in fear, he said.

"We felt its presence — like a higher body going over you," Garza said.

Garza, who is an instructor at an Edcouch-Elsa school, said many students from the Monte Alto area told him they spotted the aircraft, too.

Garza said his son's girlfriend, who lives in Monte Alto (located north of Elsa) called Saturday night and told them a strange object was flying near the small community. Soon after, Garza, his wife and

Monte Alto to Combes, where they lost track of it. Contacted by The Daily Review Wednesday, officials from the U.S. Border Patrol, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency, the Texas Department of Public Safety (narcotics division), and U.S. Customs — said it was very unlikely that they would have an aircraft flying in the area, or that it was definitely not one of

Salvador Garza does not believe it was a flying saucer he and his family followed for one hour Saturday night, but it was definitely a flying object. The aircraft, which was photographed with the Elsa family's video camera, has captured the interest of the U.S. Customs office in McAllen.

The family followed the aircraft in their car from

CLAY CO. PROGRESS, Hayesville, NC
March 19, 1987 CR: H. Hoag/R. Heiden

Space Ships Sighted In North Carolina

By Helen I. Hoag

January 10, 1987, at 10:15 a.m. there was an announcement over the air by George Fawcett, MUFON, in Charlotte, North Carolina, that his organization had positively identified eight bona fide UFO sightings which had been reported by persons not afraid to admit they had seen a UFO.

On August 2, 1986, Woodrow and Carolyn Maggard, former residents of Tanglewood in Murphy, were on their way to Ingles grocery store on the four-lane near Murphy. As they turned onto the four-lane, they saw a huge space ship above the area accompanied by a smaller scout ship above the market. It was about 2:00 p.m. In the spring of 1984, while parked in front of Super-D in Murphy, Woody Maggard saw a space ship over the Methodist Church on Valley River Avenue and took a snap shot of it. There was a cloudless sky except for the space ship above and slightly behind the church. The picture turned out clear and very convincing.

A couple of months ago, several listeners called in to Party Line at WKRR, on both the morning and afternoon programs, claiming to have seen red or blue light balls in the sky—all about the same time of day. One lady called her daughter in Tennessee and the daughter had also seen the lights in Tennessee. These, in my judgement, were not lightning balls, but space crafts. About two years ago, some residents of Murphy, driving west along U.S. 64, saw a very bright light in the sky which cast a beam and their car's engine stopped for about ten minutes. I was told by a reliable person who knew the people in the car.

Space ship sightings seem to be increasing in number, however, no one should be frightened for the space people seem to be friendly and helpful as far as we are able to ascertain.

Keep looking up, you may see one someday yourself. I have!!!

Seguin-based UFO network investigates close encounters of the interesting kind



WALT ANDRUS, international director of MUFON, headquartered in Seguin, directs almost 1000 field investigators in their documentation of UFO sightings. (Staff photo by Doreen Howard.)

By DOREEN HOWARD
Image Editor

At midnight an East Texas school teacher drove down a deserted rural road with her 18-month old daughter fast asleep in the seat next to her. Within seconds, the car radio crackled wildly, and her 1980 brown Honda left the road, hovering just feet above the asphalt. The car was then pulled upwards into what appeared to be a bomb bay of a large aircraft. Bits and pieces of four-foot high creatures and long, sharp instruments being inserted painfully into her nose was all the woman could remember without hypnosis.

Walt Andrus has in his files over 300 documented cases of these close encounters of the fourth kind. Andrus is the international director of the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), the largest UFO organization in the world with 1500 members. The Seguin-headquartered network took up the task of identifying and investigating UFO sightings all over the world when the Air Force shelved its "Project Bluebook" at the end of 1969.

After a 1969 study conducted by the University of Colorado in behalf of the Air Force concluded that "only kooks saw UFO's," to quote Andrus, and the Air Force should close their Blue Book project, Andrus and others saw a need to continue investigations. John F. Schuessler, an executive with McDonnell-Douglas Service Co. and who has been involved in most manned space flights except the last Challenger; Dr. Allen Utke, professor of chemistry at Wisconsin State University; Thomas H. Nicholl of Leewood, Kansas, owner of an electronics company that manufactures plated circuit boards; and Andrus, then the assistant plant manager of Motorola Inc.'s largest manufacturing plant in Quincy, Illinois; all sane, educated men, formed MUFON in Quincy. When Andrus was transferred to the Seguin Motorola plant, MUFON moved its headquarters south, too.

Currently, Sandra Pfullman of Seguin is the local chapter president. John Donegan, president of NBC Bank Seguin, is the treasurer. MUFON is open by invitation only to people who have expertise and desire to seriously pursue UFO investigations. The process of investigation is done in a methodical, scientific manner. The latest training manual, alone, has 160 pages of instructions on how to interview subjects, take measurements and generally document an event.

The 19th annual International Symposium of UFO's sponsored by MUFON June 26-28 at the American University in Washington D.C. will draw over 500 members from countries such as China, Australia, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Sweden, England, France and India.

The procedure for identifying a UFO sighting is as follows:

- A sighting is reported to the MUFON headquarters in Seguin through the UFO 24-hour hotline in Seattle (802-722-3000) or from other military or civilian sources.
- A MUFON field investigator is dispatched to interview the subject who sighted the UFO, photograph the area, make appropriate scientific measurements (radioactivity, etc.) and do peripheral interviews with corroborating subjects.
- In 80-90 percent of the cases, according to Andrus, a reasonable explanation can be found for the sighting. These cases are termed IFO's - identified flying objects. The remaining 10-20 percent - the unidentified flying objects - are written up in a series of exacting reports and sent to the state director of MUFON and to MUFON headquarters in Seguin for further investigation.
- The field investigator is then asked to write a narrative report of the event to be used in MUFON national publications and for media use.
- The network has access to 73 consultants, each of Ph.D level, each a proven expert in his field of scientific endeavor. They review the information for a possible explanation.

Sightings are further classified into close encounters:

- **Close Encounters of the First Kind** - The sighting of a daylight disc seen at a distance of no further than 1000 feet. MUFON has 60,000 verified cases in their files of this type.
- **Close Encounters of the Second Kind** - A UFO is observed within five to 1000 feet distance of the witness and causes physical damage to the terrain, people or machinery. Car engines can be killed, people can be burned, the pavement buckled, vegetation scorched, etc. There are 2,500 cases of this type in the MUFON files.
- **Close Encounters of the Third Kind** - An entity is observed in, on or near a UFO at a distance of less than

1000 feet from the witness. Entities are further classified as follows:

- **Humanoids** - they resemble man and are fragile, of childlike stature, about three and a half to four and a half feet in height. These are the majority of the sightings.
- **Robots** - creatures with arms, legs and heads, but perform mechanical functions controlled by something else.
- **Armored Suits** - a creature that is clad with a metallic shell.
- **Big Foot types** - a gorilla-appearing creature that is hairy and ugly. They have a strong, unpleasant odor about them.

There are 2,200 cases that have been identified in MUFON's files.

- **Close Encounters of the Fourth Kind** - A witness is abducted by a UFO and its crew. Usually a witness is abducted from a country road or from their home, where there are few people. Usually there is an element of missing time, that is, a person has a gap in his memory of several hours or days. Usually the witness must be hypnotized to remember details of the missing time. MUFON has about 300 of these cases in their files.

Andrus said that many of the cases involve medical experimentation on the witnesses. "Sometimes they implant a tiny honing device, the size of a BB, in the sinus cavity of a child. The entities track the child to adulthood, when they remove the device," Andrus related. MUFON routinely takes x-rays of witnesses that have been abducted to verify facts.

The latest encounter that MUFON is working with is the Alaskan sighting of three objects on Nov. 17, 1986 by a Japan Air Lines flight crew. The JAL Boeing 747 was traveling from Iceland to Alaska when the pilot, Captain Kenju Terauchi, reported that the plane was being shadowed by three unidentified flying objects, one several times larger than an aircraft carrier.

The radar screens of the FAA ground controllers and the Air Force at Elmendorf AFB in Anchorage seemed to confirm the sighting. When Jim Derry, FAA security manager, interviewed the three crew members immediately upon their landing, he declared that they were "professional and rational."

The Alaskan sighting raised quite a stir within the Seguin headquarters of MUFON. Andrus was not able to

dispatch a MUFON field investigator to Anchorage as the Alaskan members were out of the state at the time. So he contacted Paul Steucke of the FAA in Anchorage for information. In turn the FAA spokesman referred over 200 media calls to Andrus and MUFON for comment. Andrus believes that the Japanese crew saw the real thing; however another UFO investigator, Philip Klass, an editor for the magazine Aviation Week, concludes that the sighting was nothing more than an unusually bright image of Jupiter and Mars.

Andrus feels that the government systematically suppresses evidence about UFO's. Under the Freedom of Information Act, MUFON has verified that every military and intelligence-gathering body within the federal framework is still involved in collecting and investigating data on UFO's. Andrus claims that the National Security Agency has the most data of any of the bodies. "About 137 of their reports are so classified that they cannot be released under the Freedom of Information Act," Andrus said. MUFON has sued the NSA through the appellate process up to the Supreme Court. Andrus claims that the Supreme Court justices could not even see the reports, but ruled in favor of the NSA, because if the documents were released, it would be apparent how our government receives information from foreign sources.

Although the public may perceive MUFON as an organization recognized only in supermarket tabloids, Andrus and the UFO network feel they must continue to document and record as many encounters as they can until the government recognizes the existence of UFO's.

In Marblehead, mysterious lights were reported twice in two days. The first time they were seen in the harbor by a Salem Hospital security guard, but were gone by the

time police drove out for a look. That was around 4 a.m. Monday, and nobody seems to know what the lights may have been.

The second report, early Wednesday, was on Brown Street, also in the harbor area, and once again the lights were gone when police checked.

The latest incident was on land and thought to be a passing vehicle. Of course, anyone who saw "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" could be excused for suspecting a low-flying UFO.

Marblehead Lt. David Millett, who was in the harbor area Monday morning and went looking for the lights himself, might be inclined to agree with Capt. Kenju Terauchi, the veteran pilot who said he believed there may be a natural explanation for what he saw Sunday.

Terauchi said the lights Sunday were very different from ones he saw on Nov. 17, which he described as one huge object and two smaller ones that trailed his cargo jet through arctic skies.

Since the FAA has not been contacted in the Marblehead sightings as of yet, I would like to propose one possible explanation: UFO pilots get lost in Marblehead just like any other out-of-towner.

CR: L. Whitehurst

TIMES, Washington, DC - April 29, 1987 CR: L. Bryant

Judge rules UFO-search ads can run

By Jim Clardy
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

A federal judge in Alexandria has ruled that the U.S. Army must allow a civilian employee to place advertisements in defense newspapers asking potential whistleblowers to come forward with their knowledge of government information on UFOs.

U.S. District Court Judge Claude M. Hilton earlier this month ruled in favor of a lawsuit brought by Larry

Bryant, a civilian employee in the Pentagon, who claimed that his constitutional rights were violated after Army and Air Force newspapers rejected his advertisements.

Mr. Bryant, 48, is the founder and president of CAUS, or Citizens Against UFO Secrecy, which contends that the government is guilty of covering up what it knows about unidentified flying objects.

"You cannot escape the conclusion that the government over the last three decades has known more

about the UFO problem than they have let on," said Mr. Bryant, who has worked as a senior writer for AR-NEWS, the Army news service, since 1961.

Mr. Bryant contends the government's acknowledgment of UFOs would create a dilemma because of "the far-reaching impact on society, military preparedness, space technology, religion and culture."

Judge Hilton also ordered the lawsuit's defendants — Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, Secretary

of the Army John O. Marsh Jr. and Secretary of the Air Force Edward C. Aldridge Jr. — to reimburse Mr. Bryant \$2,000 for legal fees. But the judge dismissed Mr. Bryant's claim that he had been unfairly harassed at work because of his UFO-related activity.

Mr. Bryant contends that his job rating went from "Exceptional" to "Unsatisfactory" in 1985 after he began to place advertisements in various defense publications seeking the testimony of government employees who had knowledge of UFOs. Judge Bryant ruled that Mr. Bryant could appeal the job harassment charge.

What are those mystery lights over in Marblehead?

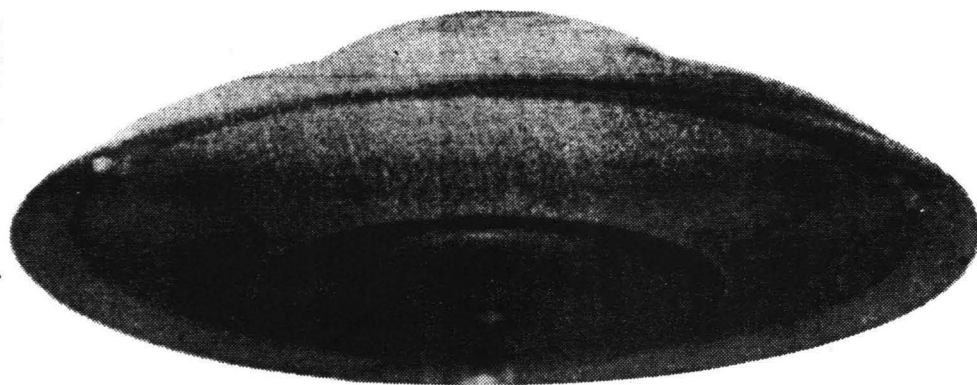


Jack Butterworth

Marblehead and the arctic are thousands of miles apart, but they have something in common this week: mysterious lights.

A Japan Airlines pilot reported mysterious lights in the sky over the Arctic Circle Sunday for the second time in two months. The government is investigating. The first time, in November, an object was seen on radar. The second time, no object was seen. Authorities suspect there is a natural explanation for the second sighting.

In Marblehead, mysterious lights were reported twice in two days. The first time they were seen in the harbor by a Salem Hospital security guard, but were gone by the



Take Me to Your Reader!

Accounts of UFOs Invade the Best-Seller Lists

By Curt Suplee
Washington Post Staff Writer

Heads up, America. They're here. Again.

After a 10-year lull in public interest about UFOs, 1987 looks to be the Year of the Saucer—if not a whole cabinetful of cosmological crockery. According to Leading Susceptibility Indicators, we're in for a deluge of UFOria that'll make the Galveston flood look like a bathtub ring:

- Three reputable publishers—Random House, Morrow and Atlantic Monthly Press—are releasing major nonfiction accounts of humans contacted, abducted or tortured by extraterrestrials.

- Popular infatuation with the UFO sighted by a Japan Air Lines pilot in November has grown sky-high—forcing the Federal Aviation Administration into the mail-order business. To meet the ravenous demand, the agency is now selling information packages at \$194.30 each containing tapes of the crew, statements by air controllers, the pilot's drawings and color photographs of radar images.

- "Our membership has gone up 10 percent in the past two months," says Walt Andrus, international director of the 1,500-member Mutual UFO Network, "and our mail has doubled. People are realizing that there is something to this after all."

"It's been building for quite a while," says Bruce Macabee, a Navy research physicist and chairman of the Washington-based Fund for UFO Research. And the new books, he believes, will provoke "an outcry for more information" from a galvanized public. "The negativists haven't realized what's going on yet." (They won't have to wait past June 26, when MUFON '87—the International Symposium of the Mutual UFO Network—convenes at American University here for three days.)

- Mass curiosity about paranormal freakery has hit its apogee. "Channelers"—a new species of medium purporting to lease their larynxes to astral spirits—are being taken seriously outside the tabloids. Citizens now know more about Shirley MacLaine's multiple past lives than Franklin Roosevelt's one. Oral Roberts reports horn-to-horn combat with

Satan himself. Bookstores and newsstands are doing a fierce business in supernatural subjects from auras to crystals.

- The sour malaise and doomsday anxiety seeping across the nation are the sort that, in the past, have proved propitious for cosmic omens in general and airborne dinnerware in particular. (Two weeks ago, a puny 20-second flare over New York and Connecticut resulted in hundreds of phone calls.) Add the darkling shambles of the Reagan regime (maybe they'll skip that "Take-Me-to-Your-Leader" stuff this time), and who knows what demons will rise from the baleful psychic murk?

One thing's for sure: They will be nothing like the winsome critters we claimed to see in the '50s, back when saucers had fins like Edsels and space folks acted like intergalactic Jaycees. In those days, an abductee named Buck Nelson sold little packets of fur at \$5 each, which he said came from a Venusian Saint Bernard weighing 385 pounds. Another *soi-disant* contactee, Howard Menger, explained on the "Tonight" show how easy it was to breathe on the moon and subsequently cut a record entitled "The Song From Saturn"—which ditty, he averred, was "actual music that came from another planet."

But that was 30 years ago. The new books provide a more lugubrious forecast.

Authors & Aliens

Whitley Strieber, best known as a novelist ("Warday," "The Hunger," "The Wolfen") was the first out of the UFOlogical gate last month with "Communion" (Morrow).

"E.T." it ain't. The gruesome "true story" of how Strieber and his family were repeatedly tormented by creatures he calls *The Visitors* includes such delectable interludes as needles

stuck into the brain ("What can we do," a female alien inquires, "to help you stop screaming?"), a sort of anal rape with a metering device, a thin probe shoved through the nostril to the temporal lobe and other manifestations of what Strieber assumes is a form of interspecies research. With his son haunted by night terrors and his marriage crumbling, Strieber—hoping for mere madness—turned to neurology, psychiatry and hypnosis. Still the horrors persisted, obliging him finally to regard *The Visitors* as somehow real, even to find a grudging empathy for their purposes.

He says he wasn't keen to write the book until he met several similarly afflicted persons through Budd Hopkins (a leading investigator of abduction claims and the author of another saucer-season volume, detailed below) and saw the "human suffering." Publishers were equally reluctant: Of the 13 houses to which he submitted the manuscript, five "turned it down with contempt and a number rejected it as a favor to me—with the recommendation that I never ever publish it" lest his reputation be ruined. But four houses felt otherwise, and the bidding finally reached \$1 million for hard-cover, soft-cover and other rights. It may have been a bargain: Yesterday "Communion" hit the No. 7 spot on *The New York Times* nonfiction best-seller list.

Strieber, who says he has continued to have visitations since writing the story, is not too surprised by the success, since "in December *The Visitors* told me they would help me with the book." He's even founded a company to make a movie version. But what if the creatures should be displeased? "Well," Strieber says, "if the visitors are real and completely separate [from our own minds], and I were to sell this to somebody they *didn't* like, I'd be in more trouble than I can imagine." After that: a book on how the experience affected his wife and 8-year-old son.

It would be easy to dismiss Strieber as a guilt-sodden wacko who concocted his nightmare avengers from obsessive apocalyptic fears ("Warday" and "Nature's End" concern nuclear holocaust and environmental devastation, respectively) combined with remorse at his father's death. And by his own account, he's a bit odd: "I remember being terrified as a little boy by an appearance of Mr. Peanut." But he preempts much criticism by his obstinate skepticism. Even after psychoanalysis, hypnotic therapy and a CAT scan found him sane and healthy, Strieber does not, finally, insist that *The Visitors* exist independently of his family's experience of them, and his book ends in a plea for further research.

It can't come too soon for the agonized subjects Budd Hopkins describes in "Intruders" (Random House, April). Hopkins, a successful New York artist with works in the Corcoran and Hirshhorn museums here, has spent the past 12 years studying 132 persons who claim to have been abducted by aliens, employing psychiatrists, psychologists and lie-detector experts to prescreen his subjects.

In "Intruders," he recounts the experiences—often revealed through hypnosis—of more than a dozen victims and their relatives. Despite wide divergence in region, age, sex and social class, the subjects share an alarming similarity: Members of the same family "seem to have been systematically abducted, at varying times and locations" for anatomical examination.

There are accounts of sperm and ova ripped from their donors, tubes inserted and withdrawn while victims lie there like laboratory meat, babies artificially birthed and stolen. The stories are so alike in pattern and detail, writes

Hopkins, 55, that they reveal "a central purpose behind" the abduction phenomenon—namely, "a genetically focused study of particular bloodlines." A hideous notion, "but I have the case material and I'm stuck with it."

The book's credibility chiefly depends on the assumption that so many people could not be lying in such eerily identical ways when they have nothing to gain except public humiliation. (And pain. Listening to his subjects, Hopkins says, "I'd match them tear for tear.") He purposely withheld from the book certain of the victims' key recollections (such as the alien writing they saw) as a benchmark for subsequent stories. Without physical evidence, he concedes, "There's no smoking gun. But we're gonna find it one of these days." And face a saucerload of angry aliens whose cover is blown? "The weird thing is," says Hopkins, "I don't even think they care. They work covertly according to their own pattern."

He first got interested in the subject in 1964. He thought he saw a UFO on Cape Cod, and when he mentioned it later at a party, people began regaling him with their own sightings. "I realized," Hopkins says, "that there was kind of an underground of people who had kept it to themselves."

In 1975 he wrote up an account of a mass sighting in New Jersey for *The Village Voice*. The piece was reprinted in *Cosmopolitan* ("right between 'How to Have an Orgasm' and 'What to Wear on Your First Date'") and suddenly Hopkins was a name to be reckoned with. He began collecting stories of people who had lost hours or days out of their lives to abductions. In 1981, it became his first book, "Missing Time." And there'll be another after "Intruders," though he concedes that "you have to ipso facto be crazy" to believe in his thesis. "But if this is true, then it's the biggest story there is."

Gary Kinder agrees. His book, "Light Years" (Atlantic Monthly Press, April), reexamines the notorious case of Eduard Meier, a Swiss laborer who in the late '70s convinced thousands that he was in constant contact with an amiable outfit from the Pleiades.

Meier amassed hundreds of photographs of the aliens' saucers, thousands of pages of notes on their science and moral lore (ostensibly conveyed to him by Semjase, a comely Pleiadean about 330 years old), and yards of film of UFO maneuvers. For months, fans, reporters and film crews flocked to hear the one-armed, self-educated Meier sermonize; no one, however, actually saw his mentors. Then, in 1980, it all came apart. Several UFOlogists, after more or less research, declared his photos bogus, his story a fraud.

The case is "unadulterated hogwash," says Walt Andrus from MUFON's Seguin, Tex., headquarters. "An absolute hoax," says Sherman J. Larsen, director of the Center for UFO Studies in Glenview, Ill. Andrus and several other UFOlogists were so worried that a resurrection of the case would open their pursuit to ridicule that—without reading the book—they implored the publisher to dump it.

"I'm catching so much hell," says Kinder, 40, an Idaho lawyer-turned-writer who came across the subject while on the promo trail for his last book, "Victim," the 1983 account of a Utah murder. The original investigators in the Meier case (who hold the copyright to much of the film, tape recordings and other primary materials) were looking for someone to write a book on the subject. After seeing the films and photos in the fall of 1983, Kinder was hooked.

Three years, a modest advance and \$30,000 in expenses later, he has turned up a number of name-brand scientists, technical experts and eyewitnesses who stipulate that Meier's films, metal samples and recorded saucer sounds—whatever they are—are no simple hoax. (Research chemist Marcel Vogel, a 27-year veteran of IBM and holder of numerous patents, examined a metal specimen Meier allegedly got from the aliens. Though he wouldn't say it was extraterrestrial, he confirmed that "with any technology that I know of, we could not achieve this on this planet.") By the end of the narrative, the colorful case becomes plausible, if not convincing. Though "the truth of the Meier contacts will never be known," Kinder says, "I thought the *field* fascinating. There really is something flying around out there. I'm convinced of that."

The Skeptics

It's still a minority opinion in the science establishment. Astronomer-exobiologist Carl Sagan, who regards the search for intelligent life in the universe as "exceedingly important," thinks the odds against its landing here are, well, astronomical: Even assuming that our galaxy contains 1 million advanced civilizations, *each one* would have to send 10,000 missions a year just to find us among the billions of possible venues. And to believe that earthlings deserve special notice invokes what might be

(continued on page 7)

called Sagan's Paradox: If there are enough advanced cultures out there to make finding Earth remotely probable, "then the development of our sort of civilization must be pretty common," he writes. "And if we're not pretty common then there aren't going to be many civilizations advanced enough to send visitors."

(Just in case, though, President Reagan reportedly told Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev that the United States would join forces with the Soviet Union in the event of an invasion from space.)

UFOlogist Maccabee is skeptical of "arguments based on presumed alien sociology," but concedes that even "the most credible reports in the open (i.e., unclassified) literature provide no clear evidence as to the origin" of UFOs. Doubters and UFO partisans alike agree that at least 9 of every 10 reported events are attributable to mundane causes such as planets, birds and aero-jetsam of postindustrial man, or outright fraud. Debate on the remainder traditionally entailed semigenial haggling over interpretations of witness reports. But the new interest in abduction phenomena has altered the nature of the argument.

Philip Klass of Washington, contributing avionics editor of *Aviation Week & Space Technology*, dean of UFO debunkers, says he was expecting the spate of new books: "Since the mid-'60s, the UFO movement has grown so desperate to sustain momentum that they have embraced such tales of abduction."

Desperate or not, there seem to be plenty to embrace. Strieber says he's already received more than 400 letters, most reporting experiences similar to his. "There's a vast thing going on underground," he says, "but it's been shunted aside" because the abductee experience has been confused with UFO issues. "So anybody who reports this is considered a flying-saucer kook."

Assuming that the stories are merely the products of disturbed minds, a pattern so consistent and so geographically widespread suggests a definable mental illness. Yet apparently there is no such syndrome in psychiatric literature. "Of course," says Dr. Harvey Ruben, public affairs chairman of the American Psychiatric Association, "there are all sorts of people with delusions who are suggestible"—that is, who tend to mimic symptoms they hear about. "We see that in mass hysteria, in psychological epidemics." A film such as "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" might provide that prototype, as could an episode receiving lavish press attention.

The first highly publicized abduction case in modern memory was the 1961 case of Betty and Barney Hill, a New Hampshire couple who were driving through a forlorn rural stretch when they saw a flashing object and subsequently "lost" several hours. Five months later, Betty's recurring nightmares became intolerable and she went to a Boston psychiatrist. Under hypnosis, the couple recalled that short, big-eyed humanoids took them aboard a spaceship. During a prolonged examination, a device was placed on Barney's groin; Betty endured a pregnancy test featuring a needle stuck into her navel. Numerous accounts of the incident appeared in the press, and a book and TV movie followed.

If such events actually happened, Klass wonders, "Why has not a single one of them ever reported the abduction to the FBI?" Moreover, "We Americans love to collect souvenirs. But not a single one of these 100 or 200 alleged abductees has brought back a physical souvenir" or even the explanation of a new scientific fact. "There's not a single piece of physical evidence." In addition, says Paul Kurtz, a philosophy professor at the State University of New York at Buffalo and spokesman for the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims

of the Paranormal (CISCOP), "of the so-called UFO sightings, none has been shown to be extraterrestrial in origin. Yet still the human imagination soars. It's a quasi-religious phenomenon, the transcendental temptation, looking skyward for semidivine intelligent beings."

Maccabee can understand that attitude, since "the consequences and implications of acceptance are so awesome." And as a scientist who coined the term *paralienoid* for those with irrational fears that E.T.s are after them, he's worried that the new books "will bring all sorts of nuts and kooks out of the woodwork"—thus distracting attention from the few intriguingly unexplained cases he calls "true UFOs" or "TRUFOS." The general public, he says, "isn't going to know what to make of it, since there are so many hoaxes."

The National Character

Americans like to think of themselves as a hard-headed, pragmatic people—heirs to the rugged yeoman pluck that subdued a hostile continent. In fact, we are a nation of astrology-ridden, palm-reading, evolution-baiting, Stephen King-reading, Bigfoot-sighting, born-again superstitionists who spend half our time at lotto and the other half at horror movies. ("These days," says Strieber, "I'm often the only skeptic in the room.")

The January-February issue of *American Health* cites surveys by Andrew Greeley and associates at the University of Chicago indicating that "more Americans report paranormal experiences now than in the '70s." To wit: 42 percent of adults say they have had contact with the dead (up from 27 percent in 1973); 67 percent have experienced ESP or *déjà vu* (58 percent in 1973); and 31 percent have experienced clairvoyance (versus only 24 percent in '73). Gallup polls show that, as of 1985, 43 percent of those surveyed said they had had an unusual spiritual experience. In 1981, 23 percent said they believed in reincarnation.

As for UFOs, the most recent Gallup Poll was taken in 1978. At that time, 57 percent said they believed UFOs were real and 9 percent said they had personally seen something they thought was a UFO. Last June, the National Science Foundation released the results of a nationwide survey that found that 43 percent of adults surveyed agreed that "It is likely that some of the unidentified flying objects that have been reported are really space vehicles from other civilizations." The NSF saw dismaying evidence of scientific illiteracy; book publishers may see a market.

Not just Bermuda Triangle and Erich Von Daniken adepts, but the apostle hordes created by Swami MacLaine's metaphysical puddings "Dancing in the Light" ('85) and "Out on a Limb" ('83). Bantam estimates their combined in-print figures at around 700,000 hard-covers and more than 4 million paperbacks, with a new volume due out in September. Though saucers aren't MacLaine's standard cup of tea, she believes that "they are here, whoever they are, to bring a kind of spiritual technology."

And a kind of profits: At the behemoth B. Dalton chain (with 812 stores), sales of books in the "Astrology/Occult" category have "been on a steady growth curve," increasing at about 6 percent over the past 12 months according to an in-house marketing bulletin. Until, that is, the week of Jan. 18, when the TV version of "Out on a Limb" hit the air. In that week alone, B. Dalton reports, astrology/occult sales jumped 95 percent. The chain is encouraging stores to stock up on Edgar Cayce, Ruth Montgomery and a whole spew of pop-mystical eyewash.

Which is why Carl Jung, writing on the UFO boomlet in the late '50s, sounds a mighty con-

temporary note: "The Middle Ages, antiquity and prehistory have not died out, as the 'enlightened' suppose, but live on merrily in large sections of the population. Mythology and magic flourish as ever in our midst"—especially during times of "emotional tension having its cause in a situation of collective distress or danger, or in a vital psychic need." Historically, such needs are exaggerated toward the ends of centuries when millenarian stirrings prompt apocalyptic thoughts ("We may be," Ronald Reagan said to a 1980 campaign audience, "the generation that sees Armageddon") and symbolic visions.

The disc shape, Jung explains, is "an archetype that has always expressed order, deliverance, salvation and wholeness." Qualities conspicuously lacking in the neo-Spenglerian gloom of an AIDS-fearing, nuke-nagged, economically enfeebled postimperial America.

Says Strieber: "What happened to me was spectacularly real, no simple hallucination. But I have an excellent imagination, and at some level I want this to be visitors." After pondering nuclear horrors and biospheric ruin in two novels, "maybe I'm looking for a savior."

He would not be the first. Enthusiasts have perceived saucer shapes in the Lascaux cave drawings, in biblical passages such as Ezekiel's account of flying "wheels," in Livy and Pliny and plenty more. "Golden globes" filled the air over 6th-century France; shields flew in 8th-century Italy; Nuremberg was visited by colored globes with portholes in 1561; five years later Basel got a skyful of black spheres.

Nothing in antiquity, however, can match the six-month spasm of UFO mania that swept the United States at the end of the last century. Starting in the fall of 1896, reports of mysterious "airships" began on the West Coast and moved eastward; sightings numbered in the thousands before the entities were last seen leaving Yonkers. Thereafter, reports subsided to a 50-year trickle until the last months of World War II, when numerous military pilots reported seeing balls of light as large as several feet in diameter. Known as "foo-fighters" (from the French for fire or light, *feu*), or "kraut-balls," these apparitions would fly alongside aircraft before peeling off at terrific speed. But most observers date the modern UFO era from June 24, 1947.

Modern Encounters

Boise businessman Kenneth Arnold, a deputy U.S. marshal and former congressional candidate, was flying his private plane near Mount Rainier when he saw nine peculiar aircraft—"a chain of saucer-like things . . . so shiny they reflected the light like a mirror." Reporters seized on the term and "flying saucers" entered the language. Arnold reckoned their speed at something over 1,300 mph. "I never saw anything so fast," he later told investigators.

The next major spasm of interest took place in 1952, a few months after the release of "The Day the Earth Stood Still," and abetted by the sighting here of eight UFOs above the White House and Capitol. For the next two decades—despite the growing professionalism of UFOlogists and a small but increasing number of unpleasant abduction claims—the general public regarded UFOs as a benign curiosity suitable for such quiescent journals as *Look*, which in 1967 produced a special-issue report on Flying Saucers. (Shortly thereafter, *Look* disappeared under mysterious circumstances.)

The mid-'70s witnessed another boom in sightings, coinciding with public awareness of space travel and then-Georgia governor Jimmy Carter's admission in 1973 that he had once seen a UFO. "That," says Andrus of MUFON, "was the biggest year for UFOs the U.S. has ever seen." From the Skylab launch in 1973 to

the Viking landing on Mars in 1976 to the release in 1977 of "Star Wars" and "Close Encounters," interest was high; and Ruth Norman, the California head of the Unarian sect—which believes that Earth is under surveillance by the Space Brothers of the Intergalactic Confederation—did a brisk business.

For the past few years, abduction cases have gradually captured more of the UFOlogical limelight. Still, business has been slow at the Center for UFO Studies, a national clearinghouse for reported sightings. "But now it's picking up again," says Sherman Larsen, who cofounded the organization in 1973 with the late astronomer and UFOlogy patriarch J. Allen Hynek.

"Usually we get between 800 and 1,200 cases a year," Larsen says. Most follow a long-familiar prototype: A disc-shaped, gravity-defying vehicle that hums, changes colors (orange and blue predominating), deranges electrical systems, halts machinery, disturbs animals and leaves distinctively consistent scorch-marks on the ground. Sightings occur at all hours, but peak at 10 p.m. and 3 a.m. Close encounters almost invariably take place in remote, isolated areas.

An Age of Suspicion

Every year 1,000 or more reports reach the appropriate organization. From 1947 to 1969, it was the Air Force, which in 1959 issued a directive to all commands stating that "investigations and analysis of UFOs are directly related to the Air Force's responsibility for the defense of the United States." But 10 years later, following a still-controversial study, the Air Force dumped the project completely, citing insufficient evidence.

Much of the Air Force material has been released to the public, but many UFOlogists believe that the government is still concealing information and/or physical evidence. Their doubts date from the same auspicious year as the Arnold sighting. In mid-'47, something crashed in the New Mexico desert and was obtained by the Air Force, which at first announced that it was "a flying disc," but subsequently put out word that the wreckage was merely a weather balloon and radar reflector. Many UFOlogists were dubious, and dark rumors circulated that the recovered material contained miraculous lightweight metals and the remains of insectlike pilots.

Intermittently thereafter, the matter of the piloted cadavers has risen anew, along with other complaints of suppressed evidence. (Former CIA director Adm. Roscoe Hillenkoetter charged in 1960 that the Air Force was attempting to "hide the facts" about UFOs and to "silence its personnel.") The fracas escalated in the early '80s as the Washington-based Citizens Against UFO Secrecy initiated numerous lawsuits and Freedom of Information Act demands. In 1983, CAUS head Larry Bryant filed suit in U.S. District Court here demanding that the Air Force release the New Mexico material. "This is a cosmic Watergate," Bryant declared. The suit was dismissed. The argument continues.

It will doubtless be rekindled this year, though it is ghastly to imagine how an already dispirited nation would take the revelation that some GAO warehouse was full of space-stiffs and saucer parts.

"I can understand the rationale of a government cover-up," says Budd Hopkins. "The whole economy—stocks, bonds, mortgages, capital investment—is based on the idea that 20 years from now, things are gonna be pretty much the same."

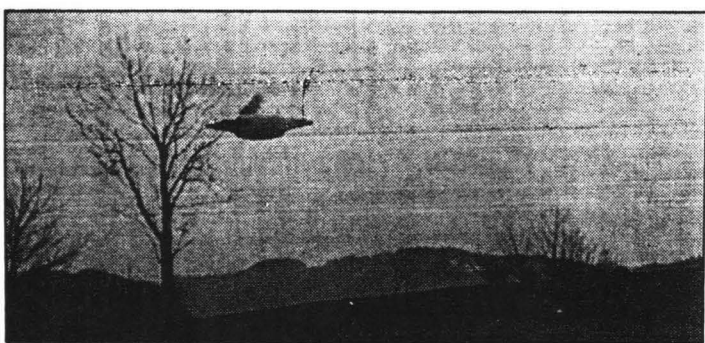
But if the feds announced tomorrow that aliens had arrived, "I'd rather be in the liquor business than the real-estate business."



FROM "INTRUDERS," RANDOM HOUSE



Photo taken of a reported UFO landing site.



This 1976 photo by Swiss laborer Eduard Meier is among many in Gary Kinder's book.

If you, uh, have ever seen a UFO, please tell this skeptic about it

A few weeks ago, two Washington men on a fishing trip to Alder Lake claimed they were chased down Highway 7, for a period of about three minutes, by an airborne object in the shape of a "manta ray," as one of them described it, or a "flounder fish," as the other described it.



Joe Mooney

It's understandable that people with fish already on their minds might characterize what they saw in terms of aquatic life. But who can say what was on the mind of the Japanese pilot who recently reported a UFO in the shape of a walnut?

While there seems to be no standard terminology in UFO sightings, there is a very definite standard procedure. It consists of sparing no effort to uncover congenital balminess in the family of the person making the report.

As a result, people who don't wish to confirm such a harsh judgment about themselves and their ancestors are reluctant to come forward with reports of strange apparitions.

The two fishermen above, for example, will not permit their names to be used, but they contacted the UFO Reporting Center, which maintains a 24-hour phone line in Seattle (722-3000). And they submitted to separate interrogations by a group called the Mutual UFO Network.

During their sighting, the men pulled off to the side of the road and left their truck for a better view. As they did so, a "few" other cars passed them.

"I saw that the cars were going slow," said the driver, "I don't know if it was because I pulled over or if they saw what we saw."

By reporting the incident, the men hoped to encourage drivers of these other cars to come forward. For the record, the sighting took

place on March 7, at approximately 7:30 p.m., about two miles west of the town of Elbe.

Perhaps I should point out here, in the spirit of full disclosure, that I am an absolute, unredeemed skeptic.

I refuse to believe in Santa Claus as long as I have to pay for Christmas. And I have roughly the same reservations about the Easter Bunny, Big Foot, Luke Skywalker and, in the suspicious absence of a phone bill, E.T.

Still, I felt obliged to call the man who sent in word of the Alder Lake sighting. His name is Donald A. Johnson, and he's the state director of the Mutual UFO Network.

I wanted to know what sort of man would serve as state director of such an organization.

And I wanted to ask him, among other things, why UFOs seemed curiously disposed to appear in rural areas, to people of little education. Why don't they ever land on the campus of Harvard, Yale or Oxford universities? And why this apparent aversion of extraterrestrials to people with advanced degrees?

Donald A. Johnson, as it develops, is a research psychologist, a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Washington, who plans to present his doctoral thesis later this spring.

A man in his field can ill afford to be considered screwy. Nor does he need me to explain the risk he runs in that regard. "It's not going to help my career, let's put it that way," he agrees.

So why do it? "I think it's

worthy of scientific study," Johnson says. "I think it's an issue upon which reasonable men can disagree."

He also thinks there has been a systematic disinformation program on the part of the government concerning UFOs — which is a fairly standard charge. Johnson makes it, however, without foaming at the mouth and with detail from an interesting number of instances.

As for the perception that UFOs appear only to rubes, Johnson says people with different levels of education employ differ-

ent modes of reporting. Though he has never personally encountered a UFO, people at his level of education very definitely have.

"What's happening," he says, "is that more educated people take more discreet routes of reporting. One discreet mode, for example, might be to say, 'Let me look in the scientific literature and see if any Ph.D.s have reported sightings.' And then to enter the dialogue."

Johnson refers interested parties to the writings, for example, of Peter Sturrock, a solar physicist at Stanford. So, no, stupidity is not a

prerequisite for a UFO sighting. Personally, I remain skeptical. But I would be interested in hearing from people who have had these experiences. I can't promise that I'll believe a word of it, but it might make interesting reading,

and it could save everyone else the cost of a tabloid at the checkout counter.

■ Joe Mooney is a staff columnist who writes three times a week in the P-I.

Flash seen in the sky was Soviet rocket fuel

By David Shoup Times Writer

A month ago, dozens of Northwest Alaska villagers reported seeing a bright flash in the sky. Some reported the flash as a UFO.

It wasn't. Instead, what the villagers saw was the dumping of fuel from the tanks of a new-generation Soviet rocket launched from Tyuratam, the Soviet central Asian space center, according to

a prominent scientist.

James Oberg, a flight controller for Rockwell Shuttle Operations, on contract to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Shuttle Program, said Saturday the flash seen from Elim, Gambell, Savoonga and several other places in Alaska was caused by the launch of Cosmos 1833. Oberg is a prominent author of several books on Soviet space technology.

"It (Cosmos 1833) was about 200 miles up when you (Alaskans) saw it," he said in a telephone interview from his home near Houston.

The villagers reported sighting some kind of space vehicle, described by many as a UFO within a glowing cloud.

"It was a fuel cloud," said Oberg. Such clouds are created when rocket fuel is purged from tanks in flight.

Oberg said Alaskans typically can't see traces of Soviet rocket launches because their trajectories take them too far in the Alaska coast and too low in the sky to be detected. But this launch was different.

For one thing, he said, the March 17 launch utilized the Soviet SL-16, a newly designed Russian booster rocket which is very large and has been used only a handful of times.

For another, Cosmos 1833 was pushing a Soviet spy satellite into a higher-than-normal orbit — about 600 miles up, he said. So when the fuel was jettisoned

from the rocket's tanks, a normal fire-prevention procedure, it was at an altitude of about 200 miles, high enough in the sky to be seen from Alaska.

"With this new kind of rocket and higher altitudes, you're likely to see quite a few of these in the future," he said.

Oberg first heard about the mysterious flash in the sky in a letter from Dave Cartier, a resident of Pilot Station, a Yukon River village near St. Marys.

Cartier, who saw the glowing cloud that night, had written to "Skeptical Inquirer," a Buffalo, N.Y., quarterly that carries articles on such things as UFO sightings, and the magazine editor forwarded the letter to Oberg.

On his own time, much of which is devoted to investigating Soviet space attempts, Oberg discovered Cosmos 1833 had been launched from Tyuratam at precisely the right time to create the brilliant flash.

"It's a pretty standard phenomenon," he said, noting that fuel clouds from Soviet rockets are spotted several times a year off South America. In fact, he said, Australians have grown accustomed to seeing fuel clouds from American rockets, which have been passing near Australia's coastline since the 1960s.

This isn't the first time a bright light in the northern sky has been attributed to Russian rocketry. In October 1985, a Soviet missile falling out of low orbit created a bright white light over Southcentral Alaska that was widely described as a UFO — until the U.S. Air Force identi-

WOLFE CO. NEWS, Campton, KY - April 3, 1987

UFO's (As It Was Told To Me)

"Some two weeks before the reported U.F.O. on Stillwater, my friend and I were on Route 746 in the Callaboose neighborhood, there was snow on the ground and it was one of those kind of warm nights like it might rain and there was low clouds and some fog in the hollows. (You might say, one of those were-wolf nights).

"We first noticed this light in the sky. I thought it was lightning at first but then it didn't go out like lightning would have. It was on up off, slow like, and was on in the clouds over the Stillwater country. It was kind of weird and there was no thunder.

"I wanted to know what sort of man would serve as state director of such an organization. And I wanted to ask him, among other things, why UFOs seemed curiously disposed to appear in rural areas, to people of little education. Why don't they ever land on the campus of Harvard, Yale or Oxford universities? And why this apparent aversion of extraterrestrials to people with advanced degrees?"

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A man in his field can ill afford to be considered screwy. Nor does he need me to explain the risk he runs in that regard. "It's not going to help my career, let's put it that way," he agrees.

So why do it? "I think it's worthy of scientific study," Johnson says. "I think it's an issue upon which reasonable men can disagree."

He also thinks there has been a systematic disinformation program on the part of the government concerning UFOs — which is a fairly standard charge. Johnson makes it, however, without foaming at the mouth and with detail from an interesting number of instances.

MESSINGER, Waco, TX - Feb. 6, 1987
CR: L. Whitehurst

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

According to the local police, the sighting reports had been in the hundreds, ranging from hazy, distant sightings to close-up, detailed descriptions. The objects were described as cylindrical, cigar-shaped, triangular and round like a saucer with a cabin on top.

On August 30, 1973, reports of U.F.O.'s broke out across Georgia from Valdosta to Macon and Waycross. A trooper said that "there were as many as four of the things in the sky at one time. They would hover over the city, then move back and forth." He described the U.F.O.'s as a "clear light" in the sky that changed colors from red, green and orange to yellow and flashed at irregular intervals.

While we are concerned with what is happening on earth at this moment, things may be happening on other planets of which we are not yet aware.

Meanwhile we continue to probe the outer limits for answers. The popular opinion is still that U.F.O.'s are aircraft masquerading by extraterrestrial (other planet) scientists on missions to "scout out" this planet.

(Preparation of this article was made possible by a grant from NSF. The views of this author do not necessarily represent those of NSF.)

POST, Washington, DC - March 28, 1987
UFO Evidence

Speaking of "cosmological crockery," Curt Suplee's silly season treatment of UFOs is a bit of a crock itself [Style, March 9]. Linking serious, scientifically oriented UFO researchers with "paranormal freckery" and every look idea under the sun is both unfair and a disservice to your readers. There is a serious side to the UFO question, but the average reader would not be able to discern that from the information presented.

Please spare us any more pop sociology interpretations of UFO phenomena by someone who obviously has no knowledge of what real social and behavioral scientists think about the problem. At the 1985 American Association for the Advancement of Science UFO symposium, for example, Dr. Robert L. Hall, a sociology professor at the University of Illinois, Chicago, said:

"I believe that most behavioral scientists who examine the evidence would agree that reports as persistent and patterned as hard-core UFO reports must be systematically motivated in some way, not simply random misperceptions. . . . I, speaking as a behavioral scientist, say that there must be a real physical phenomenon. So we [physical and behavioral scientists] pass the buck back and forth without forming any adequate explanation, either physical or behavioral."

The article betrays an inability to discriminate between important facts and sensible views, on the one hand, and wild-eyed cultists and crackpots, on the other hand. The accumulated evidence indicating that UFOs are something real and potentially of great significance is now quite overwhelming. One would hope that The Post would be in the forefront of examining that evidence rather than practicing guilt by association.

—Richard Hall

Baraboo sky watcher hopes for a visit

Some people believe in an all-knowing supreme being. Others believe in the Devil.

Baraboo's Dennis Braun believes intelligent life from other planets have been visiting us for thousands of years. He is convinced these aliens hold the key to earthly and intergalactic peace.

Posters depicting stellar images hang on the living room walls of Braun's Sixth Avenue home. Books on space and encyclopedias on unidentified flying objects (UFO) fill a bookshelf.

For the interview, Braun has dragged out mounds of newspaper clippings detailing UFO sightings from as far back as 1946. More newspaper accounts are neatly dated and pasted into scrap books. Reprints of photographs fill albums. A slide projector stands poised to document the story.

Life on other planets, flying saucers, and creatures from outerspace have long been the products of sci-fi movie producers. They are the pride of B-movie special effects men.

But for Braun and countless others, UFOs are real.

Plenty of skeptics are ready to discount every report of a close encounter. Many, like me, have never seen a UFO, nor do we expect to. The mere mention of UFOs conjures up visions of *National Enquirer* headlines:

"Woman Impregnated by Visiting Space Creature."

Sometimes officials are the ones reporting UFO sightings. On Jan. 15, a Belleville, Wis. patrol officer reported an unusual series of red, blue and white lights in the sky. The National Center for UFO Studies investigated, and so far, has concluded the object Officer Glen Kazmar and several other Dane and Green County sheriff's deputies spotted was not a conventional aircraft.

Braun's interest in UFOs began 30 years ago, at age 10.

"I had a telescope then and I was interested in space. But when I started studying space, I wondered if there was life up there and if our planet wasn't the only one inhabited," Braun explained.

A 1957 newspaper clip piqued his interest. A truck driver traveling through Texas saw strange lights, then his engine went dead. Getting out to investigate, a gigantic, brightly lit spaceship hovered before him. The trucker fainted.

"I figured if a truck driver is going to faint, this had to be something," he said. "I started asking around — talking to all sorts of people. And I began to collect information."

His volumes of information and lifelong study of space have made him a local expert of sorts. He has acquired UFO accounts from Europe, Denmark and Australia. People who have reported close encounters of the first and second kind have talked to him. In turn, he has talked to various civic and church groups as well as students in Baraboo and Sauk City. His dream is to start an UFO research center in Baraboo, where people with similar interests can get together and share information.

"A lot of churches are interested in UFOs. If someone comes out and says there is life on other worlds, the churches would want to know how to accept this, and how to fit it into their teachings," Braun explained. Turning to a newspaper clipping from the *Globe*, Braun points out a report from evangelist Billy Graham. "Billy Graham believes. He feels it would make God even greater... He believes they look like us." So does Braun.

Those who have seen UFOs have had what is coined a "close encounter." A close encounter of the first kind (CE-I) is where witnesses see inexplicable lights in the sky. According to Braun, in most of these cases the people call the police. Close encounters of

the second kind (CE-II), the objects appear much closer and are more discernible. Braun said in some of these cases the aliens leave behind signs of their visit, such as burnt grass or craters from where their spaceship landed. Close encounters of the third kind (CE-III) are rare. In these cases, people have actual contact with the aliens.

Braun, himself, has never had a close encounter of any kind, but he hopes he will. Why does he believe?

Names like George Adamski and Stephen Darbishire keep popping up in conversation. Adamski, an amateur California astronomer, reportedly is the first to ever photograph a UFO. Using his six-inch telescope on Dec. 13, 1952, Adamski was able to capture on film a flying bell-shaped object.

According to Braun, most people have reported objects remarkably similar to the one Adamski described — disk shaped with a larger upper dome, having vertical sides and round windows or ports evenly spaced in groups in the vertical sides. Underneath the object are three ball-shaped landing gear that glow either a brilliant orange or deep red.

Two years later in England, 13-year-old Stephen Darbishire snapped a quick photograph of an unidentified flying object.

What is amazing to Braun is that Adamski's and Darbishire's photographs reveal almost identical objects — matching in shape, size, proportion and description.

Other reports have come up with similar findings — although Braun is quick to point out that there are hoaxes. He believes he has sifted out all the phony stories.

"The majority of the UFOs are disc-shaped, bell-shaped or cigar shaped. The cigar-shaped ships are very large — like a mother ship, and carry the bell-shaped objects," Braun said. "They send out smaller objects who go down to earth and do whatever they have to do."

Adamski is also one of the first people to ever reportedly have a CE-III. While the human looking alien did not speak to Adamski, Braun reports the message was clear. Using what Braun believes to be a combination of sign language and stick drawings in the dirt, the space visitor warned Adamski and all earthlings to be careful of the atomic bomb. "Earth people have to watch out about how they use their atomic weapons," Braun said, adding



Erin Doege
Asst. Editor

that the destruction of earth could destroy the alien civilizations.

"The majority of the contact cases always show they (aliens) were peaceful and friendly. The only time people got hurt was when they panicked," Braun explained. "All these years they've been coming to earth, they've never shown any hostility to us. We've been hostile to them. The Air Force has been told to shoot at them."

Holding up a yellow document, Braun says the U.S. Air Force Academy has confirmed that UFOs are material objects, "either manned or remotely controlled."

And they may be closer than we realize. Braun claims scientists have confirmed that aliens have space stations on the moon. "I study the moon and occasionally see a space station," Braun added.

So why do these aliens visit us? "There's a number of reasons. One, the visits are friendly. Secondly, I think they're here to let the people of this world know we're not alone and they probably hope that some day we can join with them and visit space with them," Braun theorized. "They might be able to help us a lot with our problems here on earth."

"Why don't they land and let us know they are here? People are not ready for it. People panic. Most people are really scared and they can't accept this yet," he said.

"One of the reasons I'm going out and trying to contact people who are interested in UFOs is so we can be more informed and not so scared when we see them." Braun believes that through close encounters of the third kind we will be able to learn more about these beings, who in his eyes, appear to be far more technologically and spiritually advanced than the people on earth.

It's far easier to be skeptical, than it is to be a believer like Braun.

Yet, from time to time, I find myself glancing up into the sky — half hoping to catch a glimpse of some shimmering, inexplicable lights.

A few days after the excitement died down Wheeler said he felt like he had seen a ghost. What he had seen was extraordinarily large, extraordinarily maneuverable, extraordinarily fast and extraordinarily bright. He said he even hesitated calling the cops in Ellsworth, but when he did, they told him: "Don't worry, George, you're not crazy. We've been getting the same reports for about two hours."

It might be a mystery easily cleared up by checking on the location of David Olson on or about April 7, 1975, but we believers don't need any more disappointments. What was good enough for George Wheeler will remain good enough for me.

Alas, jokester is diminishing UFO mystery

It cannot even be gotten straight down in Lake City whether a UFO landed in a field there eight years ago, or if the crushed-corn evidence of the apparent landing was no more than a prank confined to a family of Olsons. Experts on the order of a land agent and a law enforcement official here and there still insist that something not commercially scheduled landed in a field on Curtis Olson's farm.

Olson's uncle, David Olson, said it was a joke, that it was him. David Olson is known to his family as quite a jokester. Olson said he made tracks in the corn and then duplicated the impression landing gear might



JOE SOUCHERAY

make by digging the tramped earth with a posthole digger. If David Olson's story is true, it is probably further proof — along with a book on the market — that Scandinavian humor is on the upswing. Still, he sounds like a troublesome relative to have around. Anyone who would spend virtually all night preparing an obscure piece of corn field to resemble the landing spot of a flying saucer is a fellow with time on his hands. I would watch him carefully around the punch bowl at family gatherings.

Beyond the family ramifications of Olson's prank is the sudden and frustrating notion that in fact was a prank. It diminishes the fragile science of unidentified flying object watching when someone comes along and says: "Remember that blinking blue and red light over the Comstock place the other night? Well, that was me and Earl. We sprayed our flashlight lenses with paint and off we went. Didn't mean to give the sheriff a heart attack."

Personally, I am disappointed in Olson's confession. I am among the legion of fans who choose to believe it whole cloth whenever UFOs are sighted. There is something curiously American about the ritual, probably because you hardly ever hear about UFOs in Spain or Ireland. In the second place, UFOs are never sighted in big cities. Never. When is the last time a UFO dropped down at Rosedale? It is your basic UFO rule of thumb that UFOs only visit extremely small rural American locations. This is true down through history. It was especially true in the famous Pierce County, Wis., sightings in 1975.

What a wild 24 hours that was — a rash of sightings that has never proved to be a hoax. I drove there again the other day, to Elmwood, population 885, a

classically rural bottom land village in Spring Valley, 16 miles out of Ellsworth and forming one of the points on the so-called Pierce County Triangle with Ellsworth and Plum City.

On April 7, 1975, dozens of people, including policemen in both Elmwood and Ellsworth, reported the sightings of UFOs. George Wheeler, the retired Elmwood police chief, had to dive into a ditch for cover up near Tuttle Hill. The lights of whatever he saw were so bright they blinded him.

"I thought a plane was crashing," Wheeler said at the time. "I thought it was going to wipe out the town. It was as big as a football field, with blue flames shooting out of it."

And Wheeler was a respected member of the community. They told me at the filling station on the edge of town the other day that Wheeler passed on a few years ago. His story was never challenged. Too many people saw the same thing. Without Wheeler's counsel, many of the Elmwoodians are reluctant to drag up the old memories these days, but the man at the filling station, who didn't want to be identified, was the man who fixed the starter on the chief's car. That starter went haywire on the night of the sightings.

"It was burnt out," the man said. "I mean, not just burnt out; it was melted together in a big lump. I wished I would have kept it."

Publicity not alien to UFO-hunting lawyer

By George Layne
Herald Reporter

Manchester attorney Robert H. Bletchman is perhaps best known for generating public interest in the Eighth Utilities District.

Last year, he and his group, STEAL or Stop Tampering with the Eighth's American Liberties, rallied against the town government's attempt to abolish the district's authority.

For Bletchman, though, a more compelling interest extends beyond Manchester, Connecticut, the United States and even the Earth. He is convinced that aliens from other worlds have visited the planet.

Just as he argued that there was a conspiracy between Manchester's Democratic leaders and town officials to do away with the Eighth District, he maintains that the U.S.

government is conspiring to cover up evidence of UFOs, including the recovered wreckage of an alien spacecraft.

Bletchman, though, hopes to change that latter situation. He and Charnas Associates, a Manchester advertising firm, have designed an ad campaign encouraging people throughout the country to demand that federal authorities disclose whatever information they have.

His cause received a boost this month with a full-page story in the March issue of *Omni*, a science magazine.

Despite the attention, Bletchman acknowledged in the article he has a long way to go. "UFOs are the Rodney Dangerfield of science," he says in the article.

"If we're being contacted by extraterrestrial intelligence, it should be a monumental historic

event. Instead, the subject matter is denigrated to the point of ridicule," he said.

The story was prompted by a paper he presented this summer at Michigan State University about UFOs for the Mutual UFO Network, or MUFON. An editor of the MUFON Journal approached *Omni* about doing a story, and the publication agreed.

Bletchman, a member of MUFON, hopes to raise money to place ads in national publications. The ads will "tease" readers with some factual information and ask them to send money to MUFON to learn more about UFOs and what he claims the government is doing to hush up the story.

A trust fund will be formed, and if enough people respond, commer-



ROBERT BLETCHMAN
... another cause

cialists may be aired on television. According to *Omni*, Hollywood stars who are interested in UFOs, such as Shirley MacLaine and Sammy Davis Jr., will be contacted about doing the commercials.

To get things going, he said he needs to raise about \$27,500. A Florida man who read about Bletchman's plans contacted him this week and said he could raise that money, Bletchman said.

Eventually, Bletchman said he hopes enough people will be interested in the subject that the federal government will change its secrecy policy. In particular, he said he would like authorities to admit that since 1947 they have been trying to rebuild a flying saucer that crashed.

He believes the government has been secret about this work so that the Soviet Union would not become concerned that the U.S. was trying to develop a new weapon using the space craft.

Bletchman first became interested in UFOs in 1950 when he was 18 and read a book about sightings of UFOs. When he got older he "put the subject behind him as an adult should do," but started to read some more about such incidents in the 1960s.

Since then, he has spoken with people who claim they have seen UFOs. He said a 1978 national poll found that 15 percent of adults said they have seen UFOs and 57 percent believe UFOs are real.

It is those kind of statistics Bletchman hopes will make his effort successful.

RECORDER, Belleville, WI - March 19, 1987 CR: R. Heiden

UFO Sightings Continue To Be Reported Here

by Michael Burke

The UFO phenomenon heated up several hundred degrees over the weekend of March 6, 7 and 8 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

TIMES ("Review of Books"), New York, NY - March 15, 1987 CR: B. Greenwood

They're Only Humanoids

COMMUNION

A True Story.

By Whitley Strieber.

299 pp. New York:

Beech Tree Books/

William Morrow & Company. \$17.95.

By Gregory Benford

THIS is an account of some harrowing experiences. The author recalls bizarre encounters with small, intelligent humanoids who invade his home in December 1985, kidnap him, perform strange, intrusive acts on him, and put him on an emotional roller coaster throughout much of 1986.

Whitley Strieber has recently written books on nuclear war and environmental collapse, and admits this may have biased his perceptions somewhat. Still, his detailed accounts of being carried off and subjected to weird, sometimes overtly symbolic acts are powerfully

Gregory Benford is a professor of physics at the University of California, Irvine, and the author of the novel, "Timescape."

written and involving. "I had been captured like a wild animal on December 26, rendered helpless and dragged out of my den into the night," he writes. He renders both his strong reactions and his skeptical inner objections. When he undergoes hypnosis to recall previous encounters, he admits that "we just don't know enough about hypnosis to call it a completely trustworthy scientific tool in a situation like this."

He tries to subject his own memories to rigorous checks, though getting a handle on such events is slippery work. Witnesses saw only odd lights, heard inexplicable sounds. "It would be easy to say that the material revealed here is the work of a mind making opportunistic use of some nocturnal disturbances to gain contact with fears that it needed to explore."

Unfortunately, for my taste, he then detours into "U.F.O.-logy." He delves into magnetic motors, a standard item in the list of crank obsessions. He recalls odd incidents throughout his life, apparently believing that everything is relevant. One evening in 1977, for example, "with both of us sitting together in our living room, somebody suddenly started speaking through the stereo, which had just finished playing a record. We

were astonished, naturally, when the voice held a brief conversation with us."

Mr. Strieber's central point is that a wide range of bizarre experiences strongly suggests a wildly different reality. This is hard to swallow, even for those directly involved. When he meets a loose support group for people with similar encounters with dwarfish visitors, he finds that "they clung firmly to the idea that they might have been dreaming," and notes that he has "never before encountered such a group of seemingly ordinary people under so much pressure."

A battery of psychological tests indicates his experiences are not caused by known psychological or physiological disorders. He asks, "What old beast is shuffling toward the surface of human experience?" and finally refuses to assign cause: "I cannot say, in all truth, that I am certain the visitors are present as entities entirely independent of their observers. Nor can I say that I do not think they are here at all."

For a scientist this is a difficult book. The U.F.O. digressions cloud the seemingly straightforward psychological aspects. That many people have similar recalled experiences may well be significant, though of what one cannot say. Perhaps this book will draw attention to a disquieting phenomenon.

Close encounters: UFO investigator says 'nocturnal lights' seen often in midwest

By JACKIE CARPENTER
Assistant Editor

A UFO investigator has classified recent sightings near New Middletown as "nocturnal lights," and said the phenomena, although unexplainable, are not uncommon.

"People have seen these things all over the world, but there have been almost continuous sightings in Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio and Illinois," said investigator James E. Delehanty of Jeffersonville. "UFOs are seen a lot in this part of the country" and on a continuous basis in the United States since 1947, he said.

The term nocturnal lights is used to describe any UFO sighting more than

300 yards away, Delehanty said.

The New Middletown case is particularly interesting because Mickey Shawler and others have seen the strange lights not just once but several times, and because the objects have reportedly followed or chased a moving vehicle, said Delehanty, 38.

Chasing cars is not unheard of either, Delehanty said during a visit with Shawler last Wednesday afternoon. He said there have been multiple reports of such incidents.

Delehanty, a nine-year investigator with MUFON (Mutual UFO Network) of Sequin, Texas, a national private agency served by volunteers, said

although there have been no other sightings in this area recently,

numerous incidences have been reported in Indiana during the past two or three years, especially near Vincennes, in Knox County. In that area, 10 sightings were reported during the last year, he said.

Delehanty said the U.S. Air Force stopped investigating UFOs in 1967.

Shawler, 28, said Monday night the lights continue to appear at various times nightly near her home off Corydon-New Middletown Road. "I'm so used to them being here, they don't even bother me anymore," she said. But an almost steady stream of sightseers and telephone callers has

At other times, several objects she

described as glowing orange lights hovered about 500 yards across the field and atop the tree line facing her home.

Officer Steve Hamm of the Harrison County Sheriff's Dept., along with jailer Randy Fessel, investigated Shawler's call and witnessed the phenomena. Although amazed, neither said he was frightened. Hamm and Fessel said the objects made no noise. But when they shined a spotlight on one craft about 200 or 300 yards away, Hamm said it made a "slight whining noise" as it flew away.

"That's the only noise I have ever

heard from any of them, and that's

because it was so close," Hamm told the investigator. "They have the ability to hover and they have the ability to move on," he added. "I've been on this department nine years and I've never seen anything like it. It is intriguing to me."

The last major sighting in this area occurred in October 1979 in New Albany, Delehanty said. At that time, a family of six people and several Louisville residents reported seeing an object over the Sherman Minton Bridge. It appeared to break apart over the bridge, Delehanty said.

Nothing was picked up by radar and

the object was classified as a nocturnal light. The case was dropped after a three-month investigation, Delehanty said. "We determined we weren't going to find anything out," he said.

The investigation into the New Middletown sightings is continuing. Delehanty said: "It is within the realm of possibility that it might land sometime." Should that happen, investigators would search the spot for physical evidence such as scorched fields or broken tree limbs.

But Delehanty warned Shawler not to approach the object or try to provoke action of any type. "You don't know what you are dealing with," he said.

And, he added, although abductions are rare, there have been several cases documented in films and books.

A reported abduction near Indianapolis is presently under investigation, Delehanty said. In abduction cases, victims usually can't remember anything and seem to be in a "time warp," he said. In those cases, details are remembered through regressive hypnosis, he said.

The most famous case, he said, was that of Travis Walton, an Arizona lumberjack who vanished after approaching a UFO on Nov. 5, 1975.

Several friends and other witnesses had seen the object and ran away, Delehanty said. Five days later, Walton was found in a dazed state alongside a road, sporting a five-day beard. He was disoriented and had lost 11 pounds, Delehanty said.

Nancy
Nail

TELLING
TALES



OK, what do you say to an alien?

As if "Hoosier Hysteria" weren't enough, as if having the eyes of the nation fastened on our team and coach (via network television) and cornfields (seen "Hoosiers" lately?), now come these reports of UFOs in Corydon.

Haven't heard yet? Apparently credible observers, not just the usual yokel in the cornfield or bored hysteric, have seen "strange lights" over the southern Indiana town.

Cue the "Twilight Zone" theme, please. A Harrison County resident, Mickey Shawler, noticed them about two weeks ago. These lights include as many as six at a time, and, according to the Associated Press report, may either blink or simply be "glowing orange balls."

They've been spotted by residents, cops, even journalists. Apparently, swamp gas has been ruled out. A national UFO-watcher network is investigating.

"Everybody says, 'Mickey, you're crazy,'" Shawler told reporters. "But once they see them, they don't say that anymore."

Of course they don't. This is hot stuff. Is this state on a roll over space-wise, or what? First we have close encounters in Muncie and now glowing basketballs over Corydon! Could a press agent have come up with a better extra-terrestrial tie-in for the NCAA tournament? Maybe they're pro scouts from Mars.

I love UFO stories. Always have, ever since someone told me, with an absolutely straight face, that my college town was a veritable hotbed of UFO activity. It had something to do with the configuration of the rolling southeastern Ohio countryside — the hills gave off some sort of magnetic force, he said, and that's what flying saucers run on. They come to refuel. Oh, OK.

(Personally, I always suspected the fact that the town had about a million bars packed into a three-block strip and some of the strongest home-grown marijuana in the Midwest had something to do with it. It was, after all, a great place to party, and no one would even notice your tentacles.)

But flying saucers right here in Indiana — now that is good news. Just that they would pick our little state to fly low over shows they have such fine taste. I mean, obviously they have nothing to say to Shirley MacLaine, despite what she might be hoping.

We must prepare ourselves, be on our best behavior. This chance may not come again. And just one rude reception, one "Jeez, is that an eye in the middle of your forehead, or just a horrible boil?" can ruin it for everybody, maybe send them over to Kentucky, or start a war of the worlds.

For instance, if such an extra-terrestrial approached one of us

CHRONICLE, San Francisco, CA
April 23, 1987 CR: W. Thompson

BOOKS

Aliens Conducting Genetic Tests on Humans, Artist Says

Intruders: The Incredible Visitations at Copley Woods

By Budd Hopkins
Random House; 223 pages; \$17.95

BY TOM CLARK

"Intruders: The Incredible Visitations at Copley Woods" is a sober, serious case study of human beings abducted by aliens.

But that ain't all, folks; the earthlings weren't just picked up and taken for a spin around the block. Budd Hopkins' subjects, all normal Americans, have been examined, implanted and generally used as guinea pigs in complicated genetic engineering experiments conducted for unknown purposes by alien beings.

So who's Hopkins, and how does he come to know space people are turning our planet into a baby farm for their weird hybrids?

Hopkins is the perfect antithesis to the stock image of the screw-loose UFO expert. He is a very good and very successful painter and sculptor (his works can be found in such big-time museums as the Guggenheim and the Whitney) and doesn't have to chase aliens to make a living. Like many investigators of things extraterrestrial, his interest in the subject began with a UFO sighting. In 1981 he wrote "Missing Time," an account of seven UFO abductions; afterward he was deluged with letters.

One of those letters came from an Indiana woman Hopkins calls "Kathie Davis"; it is on her testimony in subsequent letters, phone calls, interviews and hypnosis sessions that he bases "Intruders."

Kathie's evidence is convincingly supported by that of members of her family, her neighbors and hundreds of other "abduction victims" from around the country. In addition, Hopkins presents the testimony of psychologists who have examined these victims, and a certain amount of visual documentation.

Undoubtedly the most striking aspect of Hopkins' account is the interest shown by the abductors in the abductees' reproductive functions. (Come to think of it, this is probably the most "human" thing about Hopkins' aliens.) Related to that, and a close second to it in the importance it takes in his story, is the suggestion that the abduction victims' experiences are rarely isolated. Like any good medical technician, Hopkins' space doctors believe in follow-up care.

and asked to be taken to our leader, it could create real problems for a Hoosier.

For one thing, it might depend on which political party the earthling belonged to. Loyal Democrats might go straight to Evan Bayh's office, Republicans to the governor's office. Some, caught up in the excitement, might just settle for their county chairman. The rest would head for Bloomington and the pot-bellied guy in the red sweater.

So you see, this business of hosting the otherworldly isn't as easy as you might think.

What does one say in greeting? Which hand does one shake? Who gets the movie rights? What do we say when one asks why it's called the Hoosier state? And what about those glowing orange basketballs?



Budd Hopkins: Not another screw-loose UFO expert.

All that is best illustrated in Hopkins' study of Kathie Davis. Born in Indianapolis in 1959, Kathie was first "visited" at the age of 7 in Detroit. In 1975 she and a friend were "visited" again. Two years later, she was out driving with friends in the Indiana countryside when a UFO showed up. Kathie was abducted and subjected to a gynecological operation.

Four months after that, at her sister's house, she was again abducted and taken into a UFO for a second gynecological operation. The following year, while pregnant, she was abducted from her Indianapolis apartment and subjected to a nasal probe. Three years later, in summer 1983, Kathie was irradiated and subjected to an ear probe. In the fall of the same year she was again abducted and shown a half-human little girl she took to be "hers."

(And by the way, lest anyone get the impression that these aliens are sexual chauvinists, it should be added that human males are not exempt from their unearthly genetic experiments.)

As to the meaning of all that, Hopkins is careful not to venture too far out on the obvious speculative limbs. Any reader with an active imagination won't have much trouble supplying his or her own guesses. "Intruders" is pretty strange stuff; the kind of thing that, if you think about it for a while late at night, brings back those creepy-crawly feelings you got when you were a kid and watched your first horror movie. Except that maybe this time it's somebody else out there who's doing the watching...

Tom Clark's science-fiction novella "Incident at Basecamp" is included in his "The Last Gas Station and Other Stories."

Ms. Manners will try to answer your questions:

Why did they pick Corydon and not Fort Wayne?

They tried, but had a near miss with a Burlington jet at 4:30 a.m. They figured it would be quieter down there.

What is the proper etiquette for hosting an otherworldly guest?

About the same as any other. Make sure you have plenty of hand towels in the bathroom. Don't let the dog sniff them unduly. And offer refreshments that don't squirt or drip.

What do you say when they ask why you're not fleeing in panic?

"Frankly, buddy, after that game Monday night, I'm all tuckered out," will do just fine.

Telling Tales appears Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Eerie lights elude investigators, radar and rational explanation

By BILL WERONKA
Staff Writer

CORYDON, Ind. — Strange lights in the sky.

Such phenomena have been reported near Corydon by several eyewitnesses over the last few weeks.

The UFOs, described as glowing and blinking lights, reportedly appeared almost nightly for more than two weeks near Mickey Shawler's house just outside Corydon. They were seen by Shawler, journalists and police officers at varying times between 9 p.m. and 3 a.m.

No one has an explanation. Russell Hailey, a supervisor at the Standiford Field control tower in Louisville, said nothing has been seen on radar and there has been no night military activity at Fort Knox, Ky., that would cause such phenomena.

At the request of The Courier-Journal, Hailey kept a special watch on the radar Wednesday night but saw nothing unusual.

James Delehanty, a field operative for the Mutual UFO Network, visited Shawler last Tuesday during



James Delehanty
Investigated
UFO sightings
in Corydon

a thunderstorm. Nothing appeared. He returned Thursday night and stayed until 11:30 p.m., along with several observers. They saw several airplanes but nothing resembling the lights that had been reported.

Shawler said, however, that the lights reappeared around midnight, after the observers left.

"It's so frustrating," she said. "It's almost like they didn't want to come with all the people around."

But the lights have been seen by enough observers to generate an investigation by the Mutual UFO Network. The network, based in Seguin, Texas, near San Antonio, is an international organization with 4,000 members.

The UFO center, a clearinghouse for such information since 1974, covers North America and uses the Mutual UFO Network as its investigating arm, Gribble said.

Burt Monroe, a professor of biology at the University of Louisville and an expert in UFOs, said the network is "about the best there is" for documenting and debunking UFO sightings.

Shawler said she first saw the lights several months ago. Steve Hamm and Dale Pullen of the Harrison County Police; a Courier-Journal reporter; Jackie Carpenter of the Corydon Democrat; and other residents of Corydon and Louisville have seen the phenomena.

As many as six lights or objects have been seen at once. They are described as blinking lights in the sky or glowing orange balls.

Carpenter said that what she saw on March 16 "hovered, rose, lowered, went sideways, disappeared and came back."

Delehanty initially classified the sightings as "nocturnal lights" but said that classification could change to a "close encounter I."

There are several such classifica-

tions for sightings, Delehanty said:

■ **Nocturnal lights** — Unexplained lights in the sky at night that do not have a fixed movement and are more than 500 yards away.

■ **Daylight disks** — Unexplained objects more than 500 yards away seen during daylight.

■ **Radar visuals** — Any unexplained sighting on radar.

■ **Close encounter I** — Unexplained lights or objects within 300 yards.

■ **Close encounter II** — A sighting that leaves physical evidence such as broken tree limbs or scorched earth.

■ **Close encounter III** — Physical contact with aliens.

■ **Close encounter IV** — Abduction by aliens.

Delehanty, a traffic manager with the Kentucky Air National Guard, plans to continue his investigation. He said there also have been sightings in Indiana near Indianapolis and Spencer.

Monroe said there has not been any such activity in the Louisville area since 1977, when eight sightings were reported in one night.

UFO skeptic can't explain — or deny — dancing lights

By BILL WERONKA
Staff Writer

CORYDON, Ind. — The paperback caught my eye as I stood in the grocery checkout line: National Enquirer's UFO Reports.

I suppressed a scream, but some violent mumbling about being a serious journalist did shake up the cashier.

Although I've read my share of science fiction, I never envisioned myself standing in a field waiting for mysterious objects to appear in the night sky.

Nevertheless, that was my plan last Monday, right after I paid the cashier and left that book far behind.

Mickey Shawler had assured me the unidentified flying objects had appeared near her house, which is just outside Corydon, for 14 consecutive nights.

"No reason they shouldn't come tonight," she said.

"Right," I said, "no reason at all."

I decided that my wife, Carolynne, the most credible person I know, should come along as an extra observer. If something appeared, a friendly face nearby would be nice.

We arrived at Shawler's house about 9:15 p.m. Shawler, a waitress with two children, told us "they" had been there already.

"Right," I thought. "Just missed 'em."

"I'm sure they'll be back, though," she said.

We sat at Shawler's dining-room table and talked about her experiences with whatever it was that had been visiting her. She had first spotted them a couple of months ago, but they had been appearing regularly for the past two weeks.

There had been several types of objects, she said. One had been a glowing orange ball; others had been green, red and white blinking lights.

Shawler said she wasn't afraid of the objects anymore. But there had been the day she was carrying some wood into the house and spotted one of the huge glowing objects over the trees within 100 yards of her house.

"I screamed, dropped the wood and ran in the house," she said. "It scared me so bad I wet my pants."

But the objects, or whatever they are, had not come so close again, Shawler said. One has appeared over a tree about 200 yards away, and they have chased cars, including a police car, from 200 or 300 yards away, she said.

"If they were going to hurt someone, they have had plenty of opportunity," Shawler said.

"I tell you what, though; if it does land, then somebody around here

will do something stupid and somebody's going to get hurt. That's what I'm afraid of. If they land, I don't want anybody messing with them," she said.

After an hour of such talk, Steve Hamm and Dale Pullen of the Harrison County Police Department drove up to the house. Hamm's first words were, "It's out there."

We moved outside. It was a moonless night and thick clouds hid the stars.

"Right over there," Hamm said, pointing.

I strained and picked out a small blinking light moving just above the trees. It moved higher and crossed the night sky, blinking with a greenish glow and making occasional zig-zags.

"Is that it?" I asked, breaking the silence.

"That's one of them," Shawler replied. "And there's another."

She pointed to a stand of trees about 400 yards away, just to the right of where the blinking object had disappeared. A larger light, glowing bright orange, had appeared above the trees. It hovered momentarily, appearing to be the size of a helicopter. No shape or object was discernible.

I turned to my wife and calmly asked, "Do you see that?"

"If you're hallucinating, so am I," she replied.

In the distance a cow screamed for her calf and the hair on my neck attacked my collar. Only the wind rushing through the trees interrupted the silence.

The orange glow began moving slowly, first back and forth along a horizontal plane, then up and down. It began dimming as it moved south, and suddenly a companion orange glow appeared.

The companion would glow brighter for a moment and the original glow would dim. They alternated this pattern four times. The small blinking light joined the dance briefly and disappeared.

I searched for clues of a ruse but found none. No one could be shining a light because the beam would show, and it was not a reflective light. It was neither an airplane nor a helicopter. There were no signs of people or objects that might have caused it.

The Standiford Field control tower in Louisville reported nothing unusual on radar, and there had been no night activity at Fort Knox, Ky.

I returned the next night when James Delehanty, a field operative with the Mutual UFO Network, was there. We stood in the rain and hail and watched the lightning, but there were no strange lights.

Delehanty agreed to return another night to see what he has yet to see in nine years with the Mutual UFO Network.

As for me, I'm a skeptic. I have never seen anything that was not eventually explained.

But I may have to wait a while for this explanation.

WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL, Madison, WI - March 13, 1987

By Ron Seely
Regional reporter

Strange things cavort in Belleville skies

A little weird music, please. In Belleville these days, when the farmers gather at the local cafe for coffee or stop by Bill's Barber Shop for a trim, they're not talking about the weather or the price of pigs or even spring planting.

Instead, they're talking about much stranger stuff. Like what Harvey Funselt saw out on Frenchtown Road Friday night. Or what Lavonne Freidig saw at dusk on Sunday. Or what village policeman Glen Kazmar saw in the sky over Quarry Road in January.

Belleville is buzzing with talk about UFOs. Judging by recent news reports, the darn things are thick as gnats in the skies out there.

And if you think the people in Belleville are suffering a new and unusual form of March madness, think again. Don Schmitt, co-director for the Center for

UFO Studies in Glenview, Ill., said Thursday that Belleville is part of a "mini-flap" of UFO sightings in southern Wisconsin.

A "mini-flap" is UFO-researcher talk for a high concentration of UFO sightings in one area. Schmitt said that since Kazmar's sighting on Jan. 15, reports of UFOs have been coming in regularly from all over southern Wisconsin — New Glarus, Verona, Monroe and Monticello.

"There hasn't been a week gone by since that we haven't had additional sightings," said Schmitt.

All of the sightings — at least a dozen — are being investigated by the Center for UFO Studies. The center, a private research organization, was started several years ago by astronomer J. Alan Hynek, a former Northwestern University astronomer and department chairman.

Schmitt, 32, of Hubertus, describes the organization as a "reliable, scholarly source on legitimate UFO sightings."

So far, Schmitt said, the center has come up with no earthly explanation for

what Kazmar saw over Quarry Road on Jan. 15. Kazmar first saw the object at 9 p.m. on Jan. 15 and watched it with a friend until about 3 a.m. the following morning. He described what he saw as red, white and blue lights wavering close together and forming a straight line.

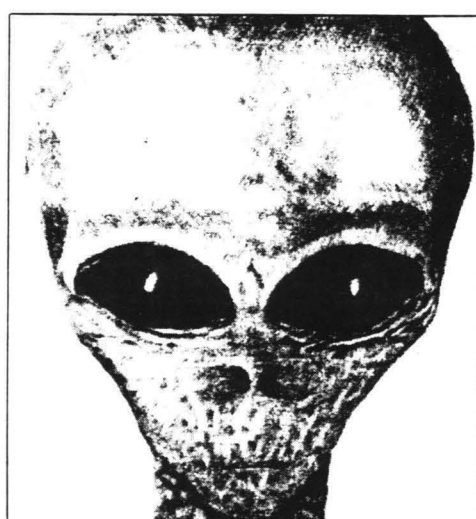
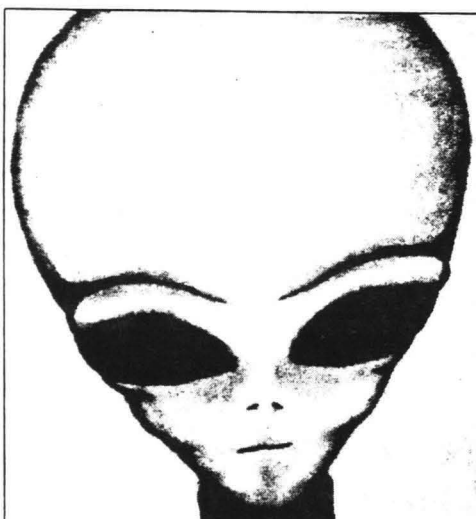
Schmitt said the most impressive thing about Kazmar's sighting was that the object was picked up by a radar tracking station operated by the Federal Aviation Administration in Aurora, Ill. So far in his investigation, Schmitt said, he has eliminated conventional air traffic, weather balloons, stars, planets and military aircraft as explanations for what Kazmar saw.

This is unusual, Schmitt says. In at least 90 percent of the cases he investigates, a reasonable explanation for the UFO is uncovered.

Several other residents in the area since have reported seeing what Schmitt described as a silver-gray object shaped like an airplane fuselage or a blimp with

no wings and with red, white and blue flashing lights on top. Belleville resident Lavonne Freidig reported such an object Sunday night.

CR: R. Heiden



UNDER HYPNOSIS, several people have described encounters with pale, lipless creatures with huge eyes, bearing an uncanny resemblance to E.T.

E.T. CHARGED IN KIDNAP

Roy Bonisteel still quips about extraterrestrials. But these days he does it with a nervous half-grin, the kind you might muster if you're trying to lighten the tension at a funeral.

"I keep having this disturbing feeling that all the articles in the *National Enquirer* are true," he says after we've watched footage of women under hypnosis reliving supposed experiences aboard flying saucers.

After 20 years hosting CBC's spiritually inquisitive *Man Alive*, the subjects he's earnestly covered have ranged from the merely thought-provoking (reincarnation, the afterlife, etc.) to the morally dispiriting (the holocaust.)

From time to time he's even dipped into the whimsical, such as an early show about supposed Soviet parapsychology experiments aimed at giving the U.S. president a bellyache. (Who do they think they are — Congress?)

But this segment called *The E.T. Hypothesis* — which airs on April 1, of all days — has made him worry. The amiable, open-minded but obviously-rational Bonisteel sheepishly admits some belief in the idea that aliens have been picking people up for genetic experiments for decades and "replanting" them minus any memory of what's taken place.

And, in believing, one not only sets himself up to ridicule. One is also forced to confront certain disturbing esoteric questions.

"What happens to our culture and religion (when contact comes), to our very sense of ourselves as a race?" Bonisteel says in the narration to *The E.T. Hypothesis*.

Bonisteel picked up the belief somewhat by osmosis from his enthusiastic producer David Cherniack, who is possibly the only CBC producer with a B.Sc. in physics. Cherniack, in turn, was swayed by the work of one Budd Hopkins, the author of two books — *Missing Time*, and the just-released *Intruders*, published by Random House.

Hopkins, a New York artist by profession, has interviewed more than 120 people who claim strange phantom memories of abductions, many of them claiming repeated abductions through their lives.

The real tough nut to crack in his work is the seeming substantiation most of the cases provide for each other when details are siphoned out through hypnosis. From across the continent, descriptions of the aliens, of their methods and even of their writing and technology, seem to be consistent. Many, but not all, of the cases coincide with UFO sightings made by others.

In *The E.T. Hypothesis* Hopkins brings some of his interviewees from the Toronto area to tea at Bonisteel's farm near Trenton. Under hypnosis, Dorothy tells of being spirited from her bedroom in a kind of trance by small, whitish creatures with large black eyes and a barely-discernible mouth. She is artificially inseminated, then in a later visitation, the fetus is removed. Still later the aliens show her a sickly half-human, half-alien specimen which she understands to be her off-spring.

Reports of aliens abducting people for repeated genetic experiments come not from the *National Enquirer* but from the rational Roy Bonisteel of CBC's *Man Alive*

Bonisteel, facetiously. Then he adds more seriously, "But I can honestly say I've never had a more interesting or diverse group of people there."

JIM SLOTEK



Physical evidence: a patch of "cooked" earth on her rural property where no grass grows again and an unusual gouged ring on her leg, similar to other cases shown to us in pictures.

This story, we're told, is common to Hopkins' subjects, none of whom have prior contact with each other.

Also in attendance chez Bonisteel are Cherniack, general practitioner Dr. Michael Kaufman, astronomer Terence Dickinson, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education futurist Allen Tough and educational consultant John Musgrave. Not all accept Hopkins' hypotheses, but all are puzzled and impressed.

Dorothy also tells of being whisked away to a barn at a strange farm where she and another woman are being worked on. The description of the building matches a real local barn owned by Betty, who claims a similar dream. At the Bonisteel farm, the two women are united for the first time.

"Some of my parties have been pretty weird," says

Adds Cherniack, "When I went into this, I was convinced it was some kind of psychological experience. Then I was scared because Dorothy was so convincing, I know she wasn't set up. She isn't that good an actress."

"Soon the stories from other abductees were affecting all of us, including the researchers. You were left wondering whether you'd go to bed, open your eyes and see a little grey guy in your room."

Easily the most celebrated case of 'UFO abduction' was that of Barney and Betty Hill, a New England couple who suffered a memory loss on a deserted stretch of highway in 1962. Later, suffering from stress and nightmares, they were treated with psychiatric hypnosis. Their subconscious told an incredible tale, similar to those produced by Hopkins' subjects — lipless aliens and all.

There was one bonus. Betty Hill sketched a star chart she "remembered" from the ship (she said the aliens had communicated, patronizingly pointing out their home star.) The chart turned out to be a reasonably accurate drawing of one segment of the sky. The 'home star' turned out to be Zeta Reticulum — ironically a 'twin star,' one which science tells us would be unlikely to support life.

The Hills' story has resisted debunking for 25 years and inspired a TV movie, yet there's obviously something about it and others like it that invites disbelief. It requires too much of a leap of faith — literally. People who find solace in religion, says Dickinson, would be forced to ask the Almighty, "Who were those little guys I saw in the parking lot, and are you their God or what?"

But it may gradually be taken more seriously by scientists. Cherniack refreshed his touch with physics and physicists during last season's *Man Alive* segment on Stephen Hawking, the superstar British mathematician who's on the verge of completing Einstein's 'universal theory' computations. Cherniack reports some mental barriers are falling.

Specifically, if they aren't all necessarily believers in UFOs, many scientists don't dismiss the possibility of hypothetical other civilizations having figured out how to transcend the speed of light, making star travel possible.

"Take 40 different physicists and talk to them about the speed of light as a speed limit and they'll look at you as if you're crazy," says Cherniack. "They haven't the math to back it up yet, but they're certain that relativity (as in Einstein's theory of, will be superseded."

"At the very least, you have to conclude that certain people ('abductees') seem to be suffering from a traumatic experience," he says. "It's time for scientists and doctors to examine the phenomenon closely and explain it."

"And if they can't, we'll have to face it from there."



ROY BONISTEEL (centre) consults John Musgrave and Budd Hopkins.

Keeping watch for an invasion

MARK BIRDSALL, a member of the Yorkshire UFO Society, hopes that local people will keep watching the skies over the next couple of months.

He believes that the Yorkshire area is undergoing something of a UFO "Invasion" at the moment.

During the last two months, strange objects

were sighted all over the county, said Mr Birdsall. Many of these reports were of triangular-shaped objects which travelled at great speed and made a strange hissing noise.

The last major UFO wave, called a "flap" by society members, over Scarborough was from late 1983 until February 1984. Several strange objects

were also seen over Filey.

Mr Birdsall, who lives in Leeds, said that if anyone from Scarborough spotted something they thought could be a UFO they should get as much information as they could.

"A sketch of the craft should be made as soon as possible after the sighting", he said. If there

is anyone around, have a word, ask them if they saw the craft, and take down names and addresses."

All reports the society receives are investigated by a research division.

Anyone who has a close encounter or would like more information can

contact Mr Birdsall at 67 Lovell Park Towers, Leeds 7, or ring 0532 537711.

SCARBOROUGH EVENING NEWS, Yorkshire, England

Jan. 8, 1987 CR: T. Good

Search widens for life on other planets

By CHRISTOPHER
HANSON

Reports of a huge flying saucer over Alaska not long ago underline a space-age paradox within the scientific community.

Many scientists are sceptical about supposed sightings of unidentified flying objects (UFOs), but many of these same scholars believe the galaxy is teeming with intelligent life, and support projects for the search for extra-terrestrial intelligence, dubbed SETI.

Scientists with the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) have embarked on an official mission to vastly expand the scope of the search.

The Alaska incident was reported last November by Japan Air Lines pilot Kenji Terauchi, who said his plane was trailed for an hour by a walnut-shaped craft twice as big as an aircraft carrier, with a broad brim at its centre and bright running lights.

He said the UFO stayed with him as he descended 4,000 feet and circled, and that his plane's weather radar picked it up. The Federal Aviation Administration initially reported that it, too, had detected a craft on radar, but later said a malfunction may have created a duplicate radar image of the cargo plane itself.

The Alaska incident was widely dismissed by space experts as just another inconclusive episode.

Thousands of people, including former President Jimmy Carter, have reported seeing UFOs.

Wisdom

That has not shaken the scepticism among scientists like University of Virginia physicist, James Trefil, who says "there has never been an unambiguous case" in all these sightings.

Even so, Mr Trefil told a recent conference at Washington's Smithsonian Institution, the conventional wisdom among scientists also holds that "we are not alone."

Given the millions of stars in the Milky Way, the probability that many of them have planets with environments suitable to life, and the billions of years in which civilisations could have evolved, these scientists say it is likely the galaxy has many advanced forms of life.

The theory behind SETI is that if advanced alien civilisations exist, they may be trying to communicate with other worlds by beaming radio signals into space — and radio telescopes on Earth could pick up such signals.

US scientists pioneered SETI, starting in 1960 with physicist Frank Drake's Ozma project, named for a Wizard of Oz character and using a radio telescope in West Virginia.

Now the Soviet Union, France, West Germany, the Netherlands, Japan, and Canada, are funding Seti radio telescope projects.

No alien signals have yet been detected, scientists say.

But NASA, with an annual SETI budget of some £1½ million, is developing the technology for a vast expansion in the number of frequencies that could be scanned for messages — a jump from thousands of frequencies to many millions.

CR: T. Good

Visitors from outer space in Old Arley

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

Sighting of a brilliant aerial body

ONE of the first recorded sightings of a UFO in this area was on December 14 1861 on the road between Gazeley and Higham near Newmarket.

Mr John Holland, a builder from Gazeley, was walking along the road on a Sunday evening when he saw "a brilliant aerial body." It came closer and closer and "glided through the air like a bird."

Eventually it reached the fence on the other side of the road where it remained for about one minute. Mr Holland recorded that it looked like "candlelight in a transparent cup". It then rose up into the sky only to return again and stop a few yards from him.

Darting about

It repeated this procedure about four times and eventually he met a Mr Lisle of Higham and drew his attention to it. He considered it to be a star until the object came and settled close to them again after darting about through some trees.

Other people were called to watch it before the object eventually went away.

This early sighting predated aircraft and satellites. The darting movement is a characteristic noted by modern observers of UFOs.

Residents in Old Arley thought they were about to be invaded by Martians when they looked into the sky and saw a mysterious bright orange glow.

No one seems to know just what it was they saw, but it appeared at about 7pm on Wednesday, and disappeared without trace half an hour later.

Mrs Maria Merrick, senior warden at Rowland Court Old People's Complex, was first to spot the UFO.

"It was like a large orange-red sphere and had flickering lights, but it was too big to be a star," she said.

Thinking she might be dreaming, Mrs Merrick

hastily called out her relief warden Mrs Whittaker who was amazed by what she saw. "With the lights flickering we thought it might be an aeroplane, but it never moved. It just hovered," said Mrs Merrick.

She is sure other villagers must have seen the curious site because it was so bright and just could not be missed.

At first they thought it might have been a weather balloon, but Coventry Air Traffic Control have since confirmed that no balloons have been sent up in the area recently.

Coventry UFO Society, who keep a check on sightings throughout the area, said they had not heard from anyone about the object, but admitted it sometimes takes a while for information to be collected.

So what exactly did Mrs Merrick and her friends see? And was it spotted by anyone else?

One thing is for certain, Mrs Merrick is now a believer in UFOs.

EVENING TRIBUNE, Nuneaton, England
March 20, 1987 CR: T. Good

UFO talk to boost funds

MYSTERIOUS flying objects will be descending on part of East Lancashire next week.

Park High School, Colne, has organised a lecture on the strange sights which have been dubbed UFO's to raise money for the Parent-Teacher Association.

Driving force behind the event is association member Mrs Wendy Ruddy. Nine years ago she spotted a strange cigar-shaped object in the sky above her home, and recalled the event when trying to think up money-raising ideas.

She has called on the help of the Yorkshire UFO Society who are to present the slide show at the school on Monday evening.

The lecture begins at 7.30pm at the school, in Venables Avenue, Colne.

LANCASHIRE EVENING TELEGRAPH,
Blackburn, England
Jan. 16, 1987 CR: T. Good

Aliens using hypnosis in rural Surrey

OUTER-SPACE aliens hypnotise their earthling witnesses, a UFO researcher has claimed.

Peter Wain, 72, made his extraordinary claim at a public meeting in Esher last week.

But before the meeting he gave an exclusive interview to the Guardian.

He told us he has seen UFOs and says people who have watched the extra-terrestrials don't get frightened or excited.

"Aliens place some sort of psychic effect on people to calm them down and prevent interrogation," he said.

Mr Wain was spell-bound 15 years ago by a night-time sighting of a great flaming mass in the sky above Watford.

Another time he saw a huge wing with bright lights hovering above the airfield at Biggin Hill.

But unfortunately, no one else saw the UFOs so his stories can't be backed up.

Still, he is convinced there was no simple explanation for what he saw. He says sightings have been reported by reliable witnesses not given to wild stories, like the police and airline pilots.

Two years ago four independent witnesses saw a bank of multi-coloured lights illuminate the sky

over Windsor which are still a mystery today.

Mr Wain says there is a logical explanation for 95 per cent of UFO sightings — but five per cent can't be

explained.

"They may well be extra-terrestrial visitations — maybe there is some other race in the galaxy that may be able to visit us."

SURREY & KINGSTON GUARDIAN, England

April 2, 1987 CR: T. Good



▲ VETERAN UFO spotter Peter Wain attending a public meeting on extra-terrestrials

GLOUCESTER ECHO, Cheltenham, England - April 22, 1987 CR: T. Good

Couple in UFO mystery

TWO unidentified flying objects hurtling through the skies above Cheltenham have left a shopkeeper and her husband "baffled and bewildered."

"I'm no crank," said Mrs. Maureen Vernon, of Lambert-gardens, Shurdington. "But I looked out of my kitchen window and I saw something in the sky. It was like a silver-grey rugby

ball turning over from top to bottom. It frightened me.

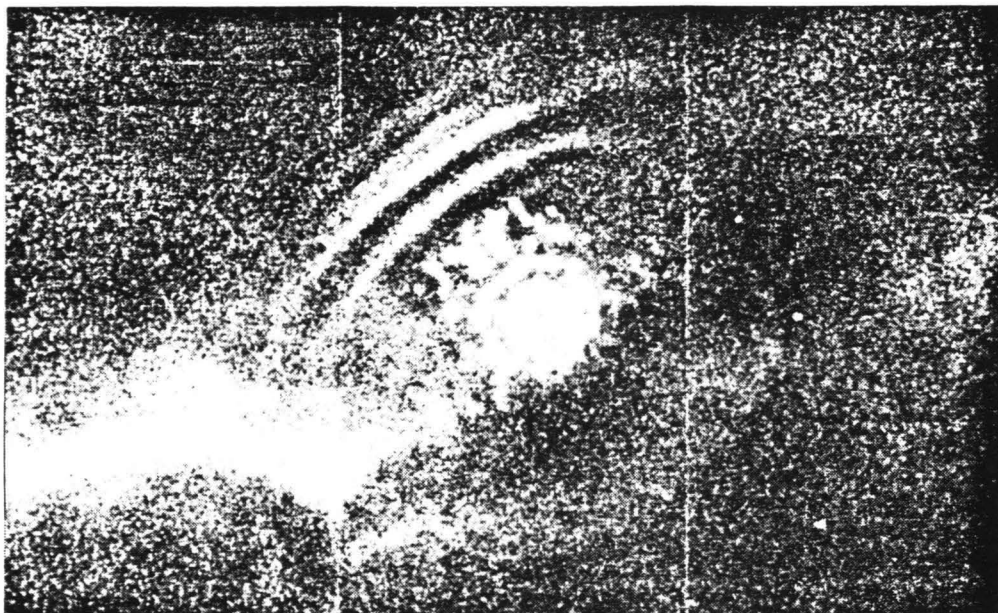
"It was frightening because it was travelling so fast and it didn't make a sound. My husband Robert saw it and then spotted a second one which was partly hidden in a cloud formation. The rest of the sky was clear.

"The one I was watching sud-

denly stopped, changed direction and hurtled off to the north, disappearing in seconds. I rang the control tower at Staverton Airport but they said they had seen nothing."

An airport spokesman said: "We had been on a radar watch all the time. There were no flights over the area when Mrs. Vernon rang."

Britons who believe we've got visitors



SCIENCE FACT: It's either a swirling star formation or an alien visitor to Rochdale, where this picture was taken in 1978

It came from outer space

by FLEUR BRENNAN

ONE hot July night last year, Neil Gardner saw something "out of this world" in the sky over Bisley rifle range, where he had spent a day's shooting.

Struck by the vivid colours streaking from the object, he looked through his marksman's telescope.

"I saw a craft about four times the size of a jumbo jet. It was changing shape as I watched, from bell-shaped to saucer-shaped and back again."

He stood spellbound for more than an hour while smaller saucer-shaped craft constantly left and returned to the "mother ship".

"It was like watching a kaleidoscope with brilliant laser lights of different colours," he said.

A former crew member with British Airways, Mr Gardner, 53, is convinced they were not aircraft.

Eventually the objects disappeared into the clouds and Mr Gardner and his companions, who also saw them, went home.

PUZZLE

Mr Gardner, of Iwer Heath, Bucks, is one of a growing number of people who are fascinated by Unidentified Flying Objects. They present a puzzle that seems to defy solution unless life from other planets really has, at last, decided to visit Earth.

A survey by the Aetherious Society—an international pressure group which promotes and researches the idea of intergalactic travel—has shown that 16 per cent of people in Britain (but only ten per cent in London) believe they have seen UFOs.

Are they cranks and hallucina-

(OR DID IT?)



SCIENCE FICTION: How they saw it in Close Encounters

tors, or do they know something that the rest of us don't?

A call to the press office revealed that the RAF does not keep check on sightings unless they appear over military installations. Most sightings are explained away as the red, green and white lights of aircraft or the searchlights of helicopters on practice landings, or by natural phenomena.

Surely that must mean the RAF is sceptical? "Oh no. I have seen one myself," said the duty officer.

Although he did not want to be identified, he described the mysterious, round metallic object he and fellow officers came across when flying in formation over Cyprus some years ago. "All 24 of us saw it and it had to be a UFO because it was moving at a speed no earthly craft could achieve."

This week the Aetherious Society opened a hot-line and the phone never stopped ringing with reports of lights in the sky.

David Succamore saw unidentified flying objects only this week over his home in Shrewsbury. "I went and got my next door neighbour and we looked at them together for nearly an hour between 9pm and 10pm," says David. "They were extremely high in the sky, moving very slowly with red, green and white lights."

Nick Mockler, of Chiswick, saw the lights last year when he was driving to Wales along the A40 at Shipton and stopped to take a rest. "I was just about to fall asleep, when I heard a noise like hundreds of jets and looked up to see a strange object with red lights and a yellow glowing base above my head. It was in the shape of a cross." Nick was not

frightened, but just wished he could go with them on a flight.

He is one of a growing number of people who believe in beings on other planets. Seventy two per cent of Britons think there is life elsewhere in the universe.

The survey also found that three quarters of the population would like more UFO information.

The authorities are noticeably coy about spilling the beans—in 1982 Lord Clancarty in the House of Lords asked the Ministry of Defence to give an explanation of 600 sightings. He is still waiting for an answer.

SIGHTING

The Aetherious Society in London this month obtained from America 200 documents which show an attempt by the Federal Aviation Administration to cover up a sighting of a UFO reported by Japanese Airline Pilot Kenju Terauchi when he was flying across Alaska last November.

At first, the FAA confirmed radar tracking of the UFO, but when they later claimed it was an error, a public outcry led to them releasing all their documents. Copies clearly show reports of UFO sightings on the radar screens of air traffic controllers in Alaska.

Captain Terauchi and his crew say they watched three UFOs flying with them for more than 400 miles above the Arctic, for 32 minutes. The captain tried to photograph them, but his camera would not work. He said the objects moved with amazing speed and abrupt stops. "We did not feel threatened by the space ships."

John Holder of the Aetherious Society says the documents vindicate their campaign for more information about UFOs.

If you have seen lights in the sky, call the Aetherious Society's hot-line (01 731 1094) between 10am and 10pm any day.

MAIL, Hartlepool, England
April 22, 1987 CR: T. Good

A strange encounter

SKYWATCHER Denis Proud is puzzled over speeding lights which he spotted late last night.

The Hartlepool man says the unidentified flying object came too late to be a plane bound for Teesside and was too far off to be an incoming holiday flight to Newcastle.

"I couldn't believe my eyes. I have never seen anything like it," said Mr Proud, of Teesbrooke Avenue.

"I saw this yellowish light at 11.45 as I was getting ready for bed. It moved west to east, pausing straight in front of the house, veered south and sped off at great speed.

"Three minutes later I was surprised to see it come across again towards the sea, and all of a sudden it split into two with the bottom half falling to the ground and the top going straight up at great speed.

"I was watching it for five minutes. At first I thought it was a large yellowish star. But then it moved. It was far too fast for a plane.

"I used to be sceptical about U.F.O.s, but now I am convinced. I just have no explanation for what we saw."

Self-employed tyre repairman Mr Proud said his son Michael (20), had watched the phenomenon with him.

Teesside Airport information centre supervisor Elizabeth Kershaw said the airport closed down at 9.30 last night.

A Newcastle Airport spokesman said they had a holiday flight arrival at 11.35, but he doubted this was what Mr Proud saw.

"It could have been a military aircraft, because night-time exercises are being carried out," he said.

Up the poll

Almost two thirds of Londoners believe that extraterrestrial spacecraft are visiting earth, writes *Steve Platt*. That, at least, is the claim of the Aetherious Society, which has been campaigning against "an official cover-up of UFO information" for 30 years and today (Friday) launches a new campaign "UFOs: the facts" with a series of public meetings around the country.

According to an opinion poll carried out by the Society, 79 per cent of Londoners believe in life on other planets, 30 per cent know someone who has had a sighting of UFOs, and one in ten claim to have seen a UFO themselves. Altogether, 63 per cent of those questioned believed that spacecraft from other planets were visiting earth.

Encouraged by these findings, the Aetherious Society has now set up a UFO Hotline, which received 50 reports of sightings in its first three days. The Market Research Society was unable to comment on the validity of the unidentified opinion poll findings.

NEW SOCIETY, London, England
April 24, 1987 CR: T. Good

MIRROR, London, England
April 28, 1987 CR: T. Good

Thrill of the night

★ PEOPLE from all over Britain have been calling in to report sightings of flying saucers on the country's first UFO hotline.

Among the many people who claim to have seen alien craft is eccentric Kinks star Dave Davies.

The hotline has been set up by the non-profit making, slightly loony Aetherious Society and you can call them on 01-731 1094.

NORTH WESTERN DAILY MAIL,
Barrow-in-Furness, England
March 25, 1987 CR: T. Good

'Look, Auntie — a UFO!'

I HAVE seen a UFO. You may not believe me, but I will tell you the story.

It happened on Monday night. We were passing Furness Abbey when my auntie cried out: "What are those lights?" There were two lights.

Then, from out of nowhere, came a black thing. It had no wings with lights around it. It followed us home. It lit the car up.

JOSEPH BUGLASS (aged 8), Grantley Road, Barrow.

WEEKEND, London, England - April 28, 1987 CR: T. Good

Past Times

Mysteries in the air

FLYING saucers and monsters from outer space began to excite the West during the 1940s—and, by the end of the decade, eager Americans were reporting more than 600 U.F.O. sightings a year.

The official sighting that started it all was made by American pilot Kenneth Arnold on June 24, 1947. Flying near Mount Rainier, Washington State, he was astonished to see

"nine peculiar-looking craft", moving at an estimated speed of 1200 mph.

"They looked," he said, "like a saucer would if you skipped it

across water." In 1977, 15 pupils at Broadhaven Junior School in Wales reported seeing a silvery-yellow, cigar-shaped form in the sky. When the headmas-

ter asked them to draw, independently, what they had seen, he had to admit that the pictures bore "a remarkable similarity to one another".

Three years later, a West Yorkshire policeman claimed to have been beamed aboard a flying saucer by a "tall humanoid", who was assisted by eight robots.

SARA DRIVER



AD LIB Peter Holt



Hot Line is out of this world

STAND by for Britain's first ever UFO hotline! The Aetherius Society, a gloriously eccentric organisation dedicated to extra-terrestrial matters, has launched a new campaign aimed at members of the public convinced they have seen things go whizz in the night.

Telephones at the society's Fulham HQ will be manned 12 hours a day for people to report their sightings—the number is 731 1094—and there'll be a special open UFO meeting at Kensington Central Library on April 24.

"A lot of people see UFOs, but don't know how to report them," says the Aetherius

spokeswoman Christine Aubry. "Cranks? I'm sure we'll get a few so we'll have to discriminate carefully."

You'd be forgiven for thinking that the Aetherius Society is pretty cranky itself.

They believe that Jesus Christ lives on Venus—or at least started life there. In the Bible Jesus says he comes from the bright and morning star in the House of David, which, working out the latitudes, is Venus.

Adds Ms Aubry, "Jesus certainly came from Venus, but I wouldn't like to say

whether he's there right now."

Fine. And what about the society's founder, former cab driver "Sir" George King, who has claimed that Martians have twice saved Earth from attacks by the Fish Men.

"He's in America in the middle of a UFO campaign," says Ms Aubry, who is not keen to discuss the Fish Men further. "That was a very specific happening. We believe there are beings, both outside and inside the solar system, from Mars, Jupiter and Venus, to name but three planets."

DAILY EXPRESS, London, England
April 20, 1987 CR: T. Good & N. Oliver

A Hotline is flooded by UFO spotters

By SUE JOHNSON
HUNDREDS of callers have been flooding the country's first UFO hotline to report sightings. Organiser Richard Lawrence of Fulham, West London, said: "Of course we get the odd crank who says 'Beam me up Scottie' and then puts the phone down."

Dismissed
"But generally they are serious professional people. Some have never even told their husbands or wives about what they have experienced for fear of being dismissed as mad." He says the callers range from policemen, firemen and housewives to radio operators and pilots.

There are two common

objects the callers say they have seen.

One is large and cigar-shaped and the second is a round, silver metallic object with port-holes.

Some callers give details of craft that sound strikingly similar to reports given for the same day in different parts of the country.

A pensioner in Ramsgate, Kent, has rung in to say she saw a strange craft last week hovering in the distance at seven a.m. Visibility was good and she described the object as bright orange on one side and yellow on the other.

It held its position for 10 minutes before disappearing. Later the same day, in Doncaster, three teenage boys reported seeing a fleet of around 20

objects moving rapidly across the sky.

Hovering

"They described them as changing colour from red to blue to green to white—so that would effectively rule out any meteors or satellites," said Mr Lawrence.

"They were absolutely convinced that the things they saw were UFO's."

People rarely report having seen people in the craft, or that they have landed. Mostly they just see the space-ship and its lights hovering in the sky.

● The hotline number is: 01-731 1094 and is open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. every day.

HERALD EXPRESS, Torquay, Devon, England
Feb. 27, 1987 CR: D. Rossiter/COUD-I

South Devon UFO pops up again

SPACESHIP suspense is hovering over South Devon after a second UFO sighting within a week.

On Tuesday the Herald Express reported that two Paignton men saw a mysterious object floating across the night sky of the resort.

The story prompted Joe Burrows, of Newton Abbot, to ring in about the strange craft he saw exactly 24 hours after the Paignton sighting.

Joe, secretary of Newton Abbot Athletic Club, says he's totally baffled by what he saw.

"It passed very slowly across the sky without making a sound. I thought it could be some sort of airship. There were two disc-

shaped objects with vaguely coloured lights. They were very bright. I've never seen anything like it before," said Joe, who lives at Mile End Road.

He first saw the object as he was driving in his car towards his home.

The phenomenon was also witnessed by his son and daughter before it disappeared in a northerly direction.

Hugh Merrick, one of the Paignton witnesses, said the object looked like a cruise liner illuminated at night.

"There were about ten rows of parallel lights with about 80 lights in each row. It was much bigger than any aircraft could possibly have been," said Hugh, of Penwill Way.

AGE, Melbourne, Victoria,
Australia - Jan. 22, 1987

On Radio

SIGHTINGS And Suspicions (3RRR-FM, Monday, 12.15pm) argues that either UFO sightings are very peculiar or the many varied people who report them are simply lying. Co-producers of the program, Glen Harper and Alan James, will talk to media personality Kevin Arnett, internationally known UFO investigator Paul Norman, Victorian UFO Research Society committee member John Auchatle and Air New Zealand pilot and controversial UFO author Bruce Cathie. Not neglecting opposition to the theory of UFO, they include on the program the Australian Sceptics.

CR: P. Norman

INDEPENDENT, London, England
April 11, 1987 CR: T. Good

THE AETHERIUS Society, whose members believe in flying saucers, has had 50 reports of sightings of Unidentified Flying Objects, only three days after installing a UFO hot line. The calls are being monitored at the society's European headquarters, a converted shop in the Fulham Road, west London. "Most people, when they have a sighting, get fobbed off," Dr John Holder, a committee member, said. "Some of our callers had their sightings 30 years ago and they've just wanted to get it off their chest. People have said they're fed up with the Royal Air Force calling them fools and idiots."

The hot line has been opened to celebrate what Aetherians believe to be the vindication of their efforts to persuade the world that UFOs mean business. The society has obtained a copy of a 200-page report from the Federal Aviation Authority describing in detail "the astounding UFO sightings" by a Japanese pilot over Alaska on 17 November last year. Dr Holder, 36, a biochemist turned unit trust adviser, says he has seen more than 100 UFOs. One of the best, when he was at Hull University, was "as big as the moon". "Another was at Putney about three years ago in the middle of a sunny day. Sir George King, founder-president of the society was with me. It flew from Putney High Street across the river towards Fulham football ground. Sir George looked at it and said 'Oh yes. That one's from outside the solar system.'"

By Peter Dunn

Dr Holder said that the Aetherians take their name from one of several extra-terrestrial voices which have been in touch with Sir George. "In 1954, after 10 years of practising yoga, he was contacted by a voice in his room in Maida Vale. 'Prepare yourself,' the voice said. 'You're becoming the voice of inter-planetary parliament.'"

The words turned his life upside down. Since 1955 there have been more than 600 communications through Sir George. The aim of the society is to propagate the contents of these messages. "The voices in the recordings are in English because Sir George is English. They come from Venus, Mars, the two main ones, and Jupiter and Saturn. "We believe the extra-terrestrial transmission in the 1950s inspired the Ban the Bomb movement. That message was passed on to all MPs at the time. Feedback was, as usual, zero," Dr Holder said. The society believes there is a government cover-up of UFOs. They discovered a department inside the Ministry of Defence, run by a Mrs Titchmarsh, to keep the wraps on sightings. Inquiries by The Independent show that Mrs Titchmarsh, a clerical officer dealing with members of the public ringing up to say they have seen a flying saucer, has been replaced by a Mr Ross. "In the old days," Dr Holder insists, "they actually put D-notices on sightings and photographs. A member who worked for The Sun had a picture of a sighting over the first Hyde Park pop festival. He rushed into his editor who was excited as well. Then they had a D-notice slapped on it."

Tales of the unexpected on UFO hotline=



Newman operates energy car

By JUNE HEYDT

Press Register Correspondent
LUCEDALE, Miss. — Many scientists, engineers and even the U.S. Patent Office said it couldn't be done. But on Wednesday afternoon in Lucedale, Miss., Joseph Newman ran his unique automobile.

The 1,800-pound car, which looks like a Corvette, was powered by a small, one and one-half volt transistor battery, according to Newman.

"Physics books of today say this cannot be done," Newman said about his energy machine. "However, I have taken numerous one and one-half volt transistor batteries connected in a series-manner to provide high voltage, producing a low speed, and moved an 1,800 pound automobile."

The bright red automobile was driven at approximately 10 mph over the Old Mobile Highway in the Rocky Creek community in Lucedale.

Newman said the current from the small transistor battery should not have moved his car, much less run it,



Joseph Newman of Lucedale, Miss., tests his energy machine-powered sports car on Old Mobile Highway in Lucedale while supporters watch.

if the laws of science now taught concerning electro-magnetism were true.

"For it having done so proves that the magnetic field must have come from the basic make-up of 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," said Newman, adding that he has been trying to explain his theory for a decade.

Newman said the energy released from his machine more thoroughly employs Einstein's equation of $E=mc^2$ equals MC^2 squared than other energy-producing machines in use today. He said his machine produced more energy than it receives, and it does so without polluting the environment.

Newman is still fighting an eight-year battle with the U.S. Patent Office to get a patent for his invention.

After losing so many battles with the patent office, Newman decided he would take his invention to the best source: the public.

"People are not stupid," he said. "They have common sense. They won't let something like this be kept down for long. This is an invention that will change the environment, the economy and the standard of living. It will do away with poverty and really make it a world of growth."

When Newman was asked why he thought the government was fighting him, he said, "This is just history repeating itself. Men in power have always resisted change. There are billions and billions of dollars invested in the oil companies. Of course, they are going to fight it. This new technology will change the whole economy of the country." He said men in power seem afraid this invention will put people out of jobs. "But, on the contrary," he said, "for every job that's lost, a thousand will be born."

Newman said that in 20 years his newly discovered technology will make space travel as common as taking an airplane trip. He said the entire universe is electro-magnetic and that this energy has always been here.

Hundreds of Lucedale residents have been supporting Newman during his attempt to patent the device.

Boy has fiery 'power,' many claim

MOSCOW (UPI) — Soviet scientists and doctors are examining a 13-year-old Ukrainian schoolboy who appears to cause clothes, furniture and other materials to spontaneously burst into flames just by his presence in the room, the Izvestia newspaper said Saturday.

The newspaper said doctors, scientists and police are taking seriously the case of the schoolboy from a town in the Donets Basin region of the Ukraine and identified only as Sascha K.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs has ordered an investigation into the strange phenomenon, the newspaper said.

Izvestia is one of the Soviet Union's largest newspapers.

"There has been much talk about this all across the Ukraine. That is why we decided to print the facts," Izvestia said.

According to his parents and other relatives, Sascha's uncontrolled starting of fires has ruined their lives and forced them to move from their home. They said his presence has caused more than 100 fires since last November.

"The fact is that, since November last year, things which were in the rooms where Sascha was just caught fire as if they were self-ignited," Izvestia said, and the paper admitted that the case seems "unbelievable."

The newspaper quoted the young fire starter's mother, Alla, as saying that the family lived in fear.

She said carpets, furniture, electrical appliances and clothing have burst into flames suddenly when Sascha entered the room.

"Sascha," I asked my son, 'tell me. Maybe it is you ... or (your) friends that brought some special chemical into the house. Maybe it is a joke.' But my son responds by just starting to cry," Alla K. said.

Sascha's father said the family is close to ruin.

The family moved in with Sascha's grandmother, Lyudmilla Mikhailanova, and fires continued to break out all over the house.

Vladimir Korchenko, the chief doctor of the hospital where young Sascha is now being kept said he is certain that the youngster has some special power.

"While he was in the hospital, the clothing of a boy who shares the room with Sascha suddenly caught fire," Korchenko said.

Anatoly Popov, the head of the chemistry institute of the Ukraine Academy of Sciences who is investigating the case, said he is still puzzled.

"We investigated the things which were burned, trying to find the reason for all this. We know there are chemicals that can produce self-ignition. In the remains of some of the things, we found traces of this type of chemical, but there were many cases when we did not find anything."

Popov said, "The ash was absolutely pure, so we cannot say anything definite."

However, police involved in the investigation are skeptical.

"We suspect that there is a person, who for some reason or other, arranged those fires. Our task now is to detect him, but today we only have suspicions," officer Vyacheslav Chernov said.

Not much about 'Bigfoot' to add in past year

The past year was "pretty slow" as far as adding much to the local lore of the phenomenon known as "Bigfoot."

Oh, there were some oversize foot prints found, but nothing to match the sighting in June of 1982 of the monstrous, manlike creature by former Mill Creek Watershed patrol rider, Paul Freeman.

The only tracks reported in 1986 were those found by a couple of bow-and-arrow hunters scouting out likely terrain in which to seek elk for the upcoming hunt.

These were found on a small stream bank in the heart of the Blue Mountains somewhere between Tollgate and Jubilee Lake. Photographic evidence of the site (including photos of the grassy, matted down area alongside the creek) was to be found in albums at the Tollgate Shopping Center Store last summer and fall. The sighting was during the Fourth of July weekend last summer.

That lone reported sighting of last year was recalled when I received my copy of the delayed autumn issue of the ISC Newsletter, publication of the International Society of Cryptozoology. This is a society of scientists banded together to pool and to share information about such things as Bigfoot (aka Sasquatch), Loch Ness and Lake Champlain monsters and the like.

The ISC Newsletter printed an excerpt from a Seattle newspaper which had run an interview with a man who probably should rate as the "forgotten man" of Bigfoot chronicles, Bob Gimlin of Yakima.

Bigfoot aficionados will recall the name Gimlin all right. He was the partner of the late Roger Patterson, a prime mover and shaker in the investigations about Bigfoot in the 50s and 60s and who gained a lasting footnote to fame with his photography of movies of a Bigfoot. Patterson died in 1972, just five years after that Bluff Creek, Calif., episode, shared with Gimlin.

While the Patterson film has been labeled "hoax" by debunkers, it is also called the best evidence on record by several, including some scientists.

What are Gimlin's feelings today, some 20 years after he and Patterson spotted the huge, hairy creature striding up the creek bed? Here is an excerpt from the Seattle P-I article as carried by the ISC Newsletter:

"I'd have been better off if I said a long time ago that I believe it was a man in a fur suit because I took so much ridicule about it," said Gimlin, who has never profited financially from the film.

"But, Roger's been dead a long time now, so I kind of feel I owe it to people to tell about what we saw."



Vance Orchard

Blue Mountain Ramblings

"We made the bend (in Bluff Creek, in northern California) ... here this thing stood by the creek, just stood. We were on one side of the creek, and the creature on the other, and our horses went crazy. Roger's little horse just went bananas."

Patterson then reportedly grabbed the movie camera from his saddle bags.

"As all this was going on," Gimlin continued, "this creature turned and started to walk away from us, just slow, like a man would if he were just walking down the street, but as it did this, Roger ran across the creek behind it, but then he stumbled on a sandbar. It was all happening, boom, boom, boom. He was shooting the camera while he was running. He hollered ... 'Cover me!' and, naturally, I knew what he meant. So I rode across the creek on my horse and

took my 30.06 rifle out of the saddle scabbard and just stood there but not aiming the rifle at the beast.

"When I did this," said Gimlin, "this creature was quite a little ways away from me ... about 90 feet ... and it turned as it was walking. It never stopped walking."

"And then, I heard Roger say, 'Oh, my God, I ran out of film.'"

"What he'd been doing was taking scenery-type pictures all the way up (to the creek site)..."

Does Gimlin believe in Sasquatch today? "There's no question in my mind, none whatever," he stated.

Creatures

Strange Stories & Elusive Tails

By David Streitfeld
Washington Post Staff Writer

And then there was the baffling case of the angry kangaroo.

"We found him hopping up the street," said Chicago patrolman Michael Byrne. "We chased him for two blocks, but he was always one hop ahead."

Byrne and his partner eventually cornered the growling animal. The 'roo wasn't very receptive to being handcuffed, and it put up a good fight—so good, in fact, that it escaped.

All during that fall of 1974 in Illinois there were other verified sightings of kangaroos, some close enough together in time that it seemed more than one beast was loose. None was ever captured, nor were their brief appearances explained. It was "Wild Kingdom" gone wild.

That's typical of the cases investigated by cryptozoologist Loren Coleman, who for 20 years has been investigating things that not only go bump in the night, but during the day as well.

This is the time of year when he finds his most receptive audience. "It's part of our culture that there's only one month when you can talk about strange and inexplicable things," Coleman says a bit grumpily. During the non-Halloween months, he adds, people can "laugh you out of the room."

The problem is that the rational western mind tends to think in black and white: There either are UFOs or there aren't, there is a Bigfoot or there isn't. But the 39-year-old researcher feels there's actually a continuum of possible explanations.

At the one extreme, he agrees that some reports of Bigfoot are hoaxes or misidentifications. At the other, however, he believes there may indeed be an unknown, ape-like animal wandering around in the Pacific Northwest. His desire is simply to accumulate evidence while refusing to rule out any of the possibilities.

Such an approach has its downside. "Some people label me with the lunatic fringe, one of those people who wear funny hats," Coleman acknowledges. "Actually I'm just a regular, down-to-earth midwestern guy."

He's also a research associate in child welfare at the University of Southern Maine, which not only helps pay the rent but has provided some psychology training to alert him when he's being hoaxed. Only about 20 percent of the thousands of cases he has checked out belong to the hard-core unexplainable, he feels.

"In southern Illinois I was told of a big black panther. It turned out to be a kitten. Lots of people come to me with UFO reports. Obviously it's Venus or another planet. Lake monster reports are often boats or large fish."

But then there are the ones he feels aren't so easily dismissed, and where the witnesses are both credible and have little to gain from their claims: the big birds in Lawndale, Ill., one of which reportedly carried a 10-year-old boy for several feet; giant out-of-place lizards in Florida; the Lake Champlain monster in Vermont; and the Dover (Mass.) Demon, which in a witness' drawing resembles an anorexic Pillsbury Doughboy.

"People say things like, 'How can you believe in ghosts, lake monsters or UFOs?' I say, it's not so much that



LOREN COLEMAN

I believe in these creatures, but that I find it interesting that hundreds of people have told me they've seen Bigfoot-type creatures or phantom panthers. Very real people are having very extraordinary experiences, in which they're interfacing with something quite unexplainable."

Martin Gardner, author of numerous books on science and mathematics, including the classic *Fads and Fallacies in the Name of Science*, thinks he can explain it. "You have to bring to bear everything that science knows about such topics, and make a reasonable probability estimate as to

whether these people are seeing anything genuine. When you do that, the probability that they are comes out extremely low."

Coleman is a prominent Fortean, a follower of obsessive researcher Charles Fort (1874-1932). A rather strange man who apparently had an unusual upbringing—his father insisted his children address him as "they"—Fort spent his lifetime in libraries, collecting examples of such unexplained phenomena as rains of frogs, "earthquake lights," lake monsters, UFOs and the like. These he assembled into four volumes: *The Book of the Damned*, *New Lands*, *Wild Talents* and, in what is surely one of the best book titles ever, *Lo!* Late in life, he refused to join a Fortean organization started by his disciples. Another mystery.

Fortean is "pursuers of the unknown, investigating the cutting edge of the unexplained," says Coleman, who's written several books on the subject himself. "We're a little outside what's currently accepted, so we can develop evidence that may work within conventional sciences of the future."

The problem with Forteanism, Gardner argues, is that "they spend a vast amount of time giving evidence for points of view that are far down on the continuum for being true. Of course, it's possible that there are sea serpents . . . but is it something that's probable, and worth making a big to-do over? That's the real question."

Furthermore, if Bigfoot is real, why hasn't a body ever been found?

"Generally, mysterious animals are reported from lakes, oceans or wilderness areas, like the Pacific Northwest—not in areas where you'd expect to find a carcass," says Coleman. "In Maine, for example, 90 percent of the land is covered by trees. Everyone thinks just because something's on the map it's been all explored, but I've found that's not the case."

Moreover, new mammals are still being identified, he says, giving examples ranging from the Tagua pig, discovered in Paraguay in 1975, to a new species of wild cat, the Prionailurus, found in the Ryukyu Islands in 1969. And he notes that sometimes a creature thought extinct is really not, such as the Tasmanian tiger. None of his examples, however, comes from the continental United States.

"Another reason we may not find bodies," he adds, "is because we're dealing with a whole other process. What if these creatures are thought forms or psychic projections—some form of time travel or space travel?"

Okay, these are way-out theories. Coleman's defense: "Everyone feels that there should be a body—without considering the process that leads them there. As a Fortean, I'm more interested in the evidence than the explanation."

SUN, Vancouver, B.C., Canada - April 29, 1987 CR: G. Conway

SASQUATCH WATCH Sighting claim sparks big deal over Bigfoot

By TERRY GILBERT
For Southam News

CALGARY — The claim of a recent sighting of a large, hairy, human-like creature near Tumbler Ridge has rekindled fascination with the Sasquatch.

Since four Alberta men working at an oil well said they spotted the creature last month, they've been deluged with phone calls from the curious and with requests for media interviews. Intrigued Sasquatch-followers have traced the men's steps to examine the evidence.

Myles Jack, 30, guessed the Sasquatch — if that's what it was — was drawn by the noise of the machinery.

"We were making so much noise out in the middle of nowhere," Jack said. "The thing was very curious to check us out."

It moved upright

He said he spotted the huge beast about 1 a.m. on March 14. It was watching the men from about 30 metres away. Jack estimated it stood about 2.5 metres (seven to eight feet) tall and weighed about 150 kilograms (about 350 pounds).

"It was so much larger than an ordinary man. It sort of spooked us a bit."

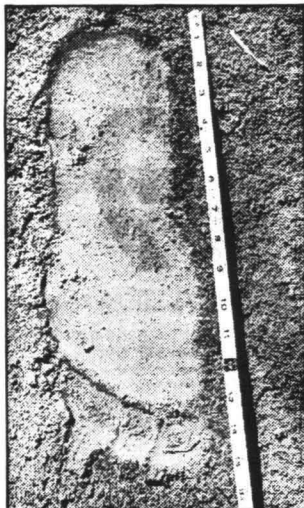
He said the creature then ran across the road and through the bush, moving upright like a human with an extremely long gait. Jack said he spotted the Sasquatch another four times during the next half hour.

"Every time this thing saw us looking at it, it ran off. This thing could motor real good. He could move as quick as a deer."

Jack said the experience was frightening. "We were hoping this thing wouldn't come out and try to attack us. It sent a chill up my spine."

Cochrane resident Danny Crowe, 27, said he first glimpsed the creature when his truck's headlights illuminated a stand of trees. "I just couldn't believe what I had seen. My first instinct was that it was a bear. Then again, I've never seen a Sasquatch."

When the men returned to the remote site the next day, oversized tracks in the snow lent credibility to their story.



ALLEGED Sasquatch footprint found in 1967 is one many pieces of evidence advanced as proof of creature's existence.

"It was an unusually good report in that there were four witnesses and all sorts of people examined the footprints," said Sasquatch-follower John Green, a newspaperman in Agassiz.

By the time Green examined the tracks, they had been marred by the weather and the curious who had trampled on them.

Photographs suggest the animal knelt in the snow, leaving a V-shaped impression where his feet were together and knees apart.

"From the description and the pictures, each leg was about a foot wide. The knees measured about three feet apart. A human can't get his knees three feet apart no matter how big (he is)," Green said.

"Combined with what they saw, it's very convincing."

He said the report would have been more valuable if the tracks had been followed further into the bush.

There have been about 3,000 reported sightings of the beast along the West Coast of Canada and the U.S. and most accounts are remarkably similar, said University of Calgary archeology professor Vladimir Markotic, who has been

gathering material on Sasquatches for years.

Evolved separately

Wild exaggerations aside, the creatures apparently stand more than 180 centimetres (six feet) tall, weigh about 160 kilograms (350 pounds) and walk on two feet. They have round eyes and hairless faces and hands. What separates the Sasquatch so markedly from the ape is that its arms do not hang below its knees and they have even teeth where apes have huge canines.

Markotic said the Sasquatch probably results from some division in the hominid (human-like) line that evolved separately to humans. He speculates Sasquatches are "more intelligent than apes . . . and apes can be very intelligent. It's not surprising they avoid humans."

"If it exists, then it is a very, very important biological and anthropological discovery," Markotic said. "If it does not exist, then it's a very important part of Canadian folklore."

Plenty of people have tried to manufacture evidence of the Sasquatch's existence and Markotic's files are crammed with photographs of men in ape-like suits posing as Sasquatches.

But some evidence is more trustworthy, in particular 22 seconds of film shot by American Roger Patterson in northern California in 1967.

"I knew Patterson, he was a highly intelligent man, and if he wanted to falsify it, he probably would have done better than 22 seconds," Markotic said.

In the film, the Sasquatch, which appears to be female, turns and looks briefly at the camera before walking calmly away. "If you want to falsify it, you could easily make a half-hour movie," Markotic said.

The biggest flaw in the Sasquatch theory is that there simply aren't enough of them to reproduce and carry on the line.

"Here is the biggest problem," Markotic said. "How many do you need to survive?" He noted that most sightings are of one Sasquatch, with sightings of two or three being very rare.

But "those who claim to have seen them . . . are not skeptical."

'I saw those tracks'

Markotic told of an anthropologist who while visiting California saw close to 1,000 unexplainable tracks.

"So I asked him, 'What do you say?' And he told me, 'As an anthropologist, I know such things do not exist and cannot exist. But I saw those tracks, and I don't want to hear anything more about the whole thing.'"

Meanwhile, Jack said he has met with a lot of skepticism in telling the story. "People agree, but don't quite believe you. But I know I saw something and so did three others."

Jack said prior to March 14, he would have told anyone who had suggested there was such a thing as a Sasquatch that they were crazy.

But now, he said, he is convinced the Sasquatch exists.

(Terry Gilbert is a reporter with the Calgary Herald.)

Bigfoot seen in area again!

By KIM OPATKA
Bulletin Staff Writer

Bigfoot is back!

Though there have been occasional sightings in the area, there haven't been nearly as many as were reported in the 1973 Bigfoot scare. But an area man has claimed to have seen a Bigfoot-type creature not once, but twice, near the Derry Township Village of Gray Station recently.

The first time he reportedly encountered the creature was Dec. 13 as he was walking along the railroad tracks toward his home. The man was walking along the trail when a heavy object was thrown at him, landing at his feet. The object was thought to be a railroad tie or a large piece of wood.

"It had wide shoulders and it was eight or nine feet tall and bigger than anything I've ever seen in my life," said the man, who did not want his identity revealed. "I've never seen anything like it."

The creature had a large head, wide shoulders, long arms hanging past its knees and long hair. Its eyes appeared to be far apart and it was standing upright. The man said he and the creature stared at each other in "a standoff" until it turned and ran into the woods.

"There are stories around that other people have seen it, but they're afraid to say something," he said. "It's been seen in Brenizer. People are hearing screaming and noises and the animals are not behaving normally. Others have seen something and won't tell until evidence is found."

The man lives in a mobile home court not far from the railroad tracks at the base of the Chestnut Ride in a somewhat remote area. The forested area of the ridge is not far from the mobile homes. The man has a number of fish and birds in his mobile home and reported that at times his birds act strangely at night.

Stan Gordon of the Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained, said the reaction of pets in the area may indicate that there was some type of creature in the area. He said pets act unusually and are sometimes frightened by it.

The man reported hearing strange noises outside his home at night, which other neighbors have heard as well.

"The neighbors have a coon hound and something was wrong with it, it was acting funny the other night," the man said. "Friends in Brenizer say they saw it and the other night I heard grunting outside the trailer."

A neighbor woman said she has had animals disappear one right after the other including dogs and cats.

Books on Bigfoot say the creature has a particular dislike for dogs, and often attacks or kills them.



SKETCH OF BIGFOOT — This sketch of Bigfoot, done by Chuck Hanna of the Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained, is similar to what a Derry Township man claims he saw not once, but twice along the railroad tracks near the Derry Township village of Gray Station. The man described the creature as standing eight to nine feet tall, with a large head, wide shoulders, long arms hanging past its knees and long hair.

"I'm still hearing reports of it," said the man, who carries a loaded .44 in a holster at his waist. He also keeps a loaded deer rifle and a loaded .22 in his home, but says he wouldn't want to shoot the creature unless he had to.

"When I saw it along the railroad it was blocking me from coming in to the trailer court. It scared me there for a while. It happened in deer season," he said. "There are places where something bigger than a bear walked through the woods, and I've seen bear before. My family doesn't believe it but the first time it would happen to one of them they wouldn't know what to do."

"I wouldn't want to tangle with something like that. I wouldn't want to shoot at it and get it mad. It could rip this trailer court apart."

"I feel he cannot be hallucinating," said Gordon, a noted expert on Bigfoot.

"There have been no further sightings, but there have been things reported that seem to tie in, that seem to indicate that there's something there. We do know it was not a bear."

"It seems extremely unlikely that such a creature exists in the 20th Century, especially in the continental United States because the area has been so thoroughly examined, so looked over," commented Dr. Cynthia Walter, professor of biology at St. Vincent College. "The signs an animal of this size would leave behind would be observed by hunters primarily and almost no land (in this area) is continually unavailable to private or regular licensed hunters."

"The whole state is heavily used by hunters and I can't imagine that they would miss all the signs. The amount of root, bark, seed and leaf material needed to keep it alive would be pretty substantial, and they would see places that were dug up, where the bark was stripped and fruit collected. Any large mammal consumes quite a bit of food. If it would be here we would have known it a lot earlier than now."

Jack Sickenberger, law enforcement supervisor for the Pennsylvania Game Commission in Ligonier, does not rule out the possibility that such a creature exists.

"Anything's possible, but my personal feelings are that until there is such a time when proof is presented, I'm skeptical," he said. He cited several instances in his experience in the field where persons have mistakenly identified animals.

He said the way the footprints are described would not be similar to those of a bear. As to the size of prints which have been reported in the past, he said some prints will spread out in the mud or snow, making them appear larger.

"But until it's proven, anything's possible."

"I think it's a lot of baloney," remarked Jim Boyer Sr., a Gray Station resident. "I've lived here 51 years and have been all over this ridge from Derry to Bolivar and I never saw footprints or any sign of it. I've seen a few bear, but that's it."

Another neighbor who was driving by said he believes it is a figment of someone's imagination.

Persons in the Brenizer area where the animal was reportedly sighted said they have heard no reports about sightings from anyone.

Gordon says he has had a number of calls from residents on the subject and encourages all who may have Bigfoot-related information to call him at 838-7768 or write to 6 Oakhill Ave., Greensburg. All records will remain confidential, he noted.

Gordon and several members of PASU will be in the Gray Station area in the near future to investigate further. He reports that Bigfoot-type creatures are very attracted to mobile homes, microwave towers, high-tension power lines and railroad tracks. A theory is that the items have some association with electro-magnetic energy, which attracts the creatures.

The man who saw Bigfoot said he realizes that others may not believe his story but still maintains that he has seen such an animal, though he admits he may not have believed it if he hadn't seen it.

"Let the others experience it and then let them be the judge," he concludes.

Scientist believes in 'Bigfoot'

SEATTLE (NEA) — The legend is supposed to have been started by the American aboriginals. The Indians of the Pacific Northwest are said to have told of the existence of a strange, hairy and monstrous creature who roamed the wilderness — on two legs — before the political creation of the republic.

The Indians said the creature was half man and half animal. It left great tracks in the snow, though it traveled with the speed and stealth of the wind. The Indians called the monster "Sasquatch," meaning a large person; they also referred to it more informally and more enduringly as "Bigfoot."

Naturally the legend has had its critics. Bigfoot is still being reported in this part of the country, but the scientific establishment says it's absurd. Scientists say the creature has always been a myth, and those who think otherwise are either misinformed or up to no good.

Yet there is one academic who has kept his own counsel in the regard. A scientist named Grover Krantz says Bigfoot really does live. Krantz is a physical anthropologist at Washington State University, and he has been conducting an active search for the Sasquatch for nearly 20 years.

Krantz says his colleagues think he's loony. And he occasionally wonders himself about the merits of the pursuit. But he notes that there have been reports of Bigfoot sightings for

at least 500 years, almost 2,000 have been recorded in this century alone, and it's difficult to ignore the numbers.

Krantz says he was initially impressed by the numbers in the late 1960s. He had been a casual observer of the Sasquatch debate until then, and he was drawn in further by the weight of eye-witness reports. Most of the reports were obviously fake, he remembers, but some of them had substance.

The ones with substance were accompanied by photographs. And that's when Krantz was swayed completely. He says he saw pictures of footprints that were taken by a respected Canadian researcher, and they showed conclusively that there was more than mere imagination to the legend of Bigfoot.

Now Krantz is one of 200 to 300 people who are actively searching for Sasquatch in North America. And there are others cooperating in Europe and Asia. Bigfoot has been reported in China and in the Soviet Union, and there have been repeated sightings in each of the United States.

The sightings have been remarkably similar. Krantz says the Bigfoot in Florida looks much the same as the one in British Columbia. He has concluded from the evidence that the creature can weigh as much as 800 pounds, twice the size of a large gorilla, and may have a shoe size of, gulp, 30 to 34.

Krantz says the evidence includes civilian accounts, some fuzzy photographs and a few motion-picture reels. He says thousands of footprints have been preserved on film and in plaster casts, and there are also col-

lections of books, white paper reports, droppings and alleged blood samples.

Alas, there are no physical parts. And here is where the skeptics roar. The critics say that if the creature were real, if it were living and dying over far-flung areas of the globe, it would leave remains of its being. There would be skeletons to find, or hides, or perhaps a shelter now and then.

Tom Tiede

Instead, there has been nothing. For 500 years, not a material trace. And skeptics say the facts speak for themselves. Scientists say Krantz and the other researchers may be well meaning, or some of them may simply be frauds; in any event they are merely perpetuating an impossible fantasy.

Yet the true believers are holding fast. And Krantz maintains that the critics are themselves deluded. He says the scientific establishment scoffed at the reports of the Giant Panda until one was captured, and the existence of the gorilla was dismissed as late as the 17th century.

As for the absolute lack of Sasquatch bones, Krantz thinks the creatures are as elusive in death as they are in life. He says they are probably like the great bears of this nation or the elephants of Africa, who steal off to die where they won't be found, disturbed or desecrated.

Well, that explanation is a bit light. But Krantz says it will have to

do. He says he doesn't know all of the answers, that's the reason he's engaged in the study. He says he works on Bigfoot on his own time, using his own money, and he feels he is making satisfactory progress.

He has recently come across some hair, for instance, that may be the first of the physical proof. He says the hair is not fully human, nor fully animal, and is therefore "intriguing." He won't say it's definitely from Bigfoot, but he won't say it's definitely not, and maybe he's not so loony after all.

Whatever the realities are concerning the Sasquatch monster, they parallel another legendary creature long reported in the Himalaya Mountains of Tibet. The monster there is also said to be part human and part ape, of substantial size, and it is variously known as the "yeti," or the abominable snowman.

The snowman has a more despicable reputation than Sasquatch. It is believed to kill and eat people. But its tracks do not lend credence to that vicious description; scientists believe the monster's footprints are merely those of ordinary animals, melted together into abominable shapes.

(Newspaper Enterprise Association)

Reports suggest that Bigfoot no stranger to area

We'll call them Tom and Charlie, a couple of area fellows who aren't too anxious to have their names linked to the story. They don't talk about it much.

Back around 1970, it seems, Tom, one autumn morning, slipped into the dark woods in the Duncan Bay area of the Land Between the Lakes. The veteran sportsman was bowhunting and wanted to be in a treestand far back in the timber when daylight came.

"I was walking along and heard this sound — high-pitched like a woman screaming, except on the end it broke down into a deep grunt," he recalls. "I've been in the woods all my life and I've heard lions, cats and owls and about everything else, and this couldn't have been one of those. As soon as I heard it, the hairs stood on end all over my body."

The wailing grew louder as the source of it moved closer.

"It moved until it was coming from the same ridge I was on," Tom said, "so I went up a post oak. I didn't know what it was, but I didn't want to be on the ground with it."

Momentarily the screaming began to subside and the source seemed to move off and away from the ridge. When the coast was clear, Tom descended the tree and left the woods.

A good while later Tom was comparing hunting notes with Charlie when he mentioned hearing something odd in the Duncan Bay area. Bingo. Charlie said he'd hunted the same area at approximately the same time — and he, too, had been spooked.

Going into the woods for an afternoon hunt, Charlie had heard "a high scream that wavered down on the end. Each scream lasted six or eight seconds. It wasn't a normal sound," he said. It was abnormal enough that when he heard it, he left.

A few years after the incidents, Tom was talking to Jimmy Vincent of Paris, Tenn., about strange things in the woods. Tom described what he'd heard that time on the LBL ridge.

The description rang a bell with Vincent. He responded by mimicking the wail — a high screaming trailing off into a low grunt. Bingo again. The familiar sound of it again made the hair stand on Tom's arms.

Vincent had heard the sound before



while doing field work on a consuming personal project — the quest to identify and document an animal often referred to as Bigfoot. He has been close to the beast on a few occasions and twice, he says, he has seen him with his own eyes.

Vincent, 52, now of Hendersonville, Tenn., is not even close to spoofing about the existence of the critter that also has been labeled Sasquatch, Yeti and the Abominable Snowman. He says it's neither figment of imagination nor monster. According to Vincent, it is just an animal, albeit a rare one.

His interest in the Bigfoot stems from some incidents in 1973 and 1974 in Henry County, Tenn.

"I was in a duck blind with my two sons when I heard a fierce growling up on the bank. Later, I talked to some other people who had heard the same thing. Then some commercial fishermen told me they had seen a bear," he said.

Vincent said the next week his brother glimpsed a large, hairy animal in a thicket. Vincent told him it was probably the bear the fishermen had reported seeing.

Not long after that, Vincent was going to his boat before dawn one morning to duck hunt when something "ran me off the bank and into my boat," he said. "It came screaming out of a thicket and down a hill at me. I didn't know what it was, but I got out of there."

In August of the next year, Vincent was in the same general area when he found an area of high grass "all mashed down with paths leading to it from the woods. There were huge humanlike footprints all around in the mud," he said. "That's the first time I figured we weren't dealing with a bear."

The more Vincent asked around, the more reports he heard from locals that something big, hairy and different was in the neighborhood. The more he heard, the more the bits and pieces of information

suggested that Bigfoot was real and nearby.

He began to conduct his own investigations of reports. Vincent ran into others with a similar curiosity, so they combined to form the Southeast Wildlife Research Association.

Since then, Vincent has spent countless hours interviewing and taping people who have reported encounters of the Bigfoot kind. He's traveled considerably, poking around hot-spots where multiple sightings were taking place.

On Oct. 15, 1977, Vincent was checking an area of Henry County when he experienced a sighting of his own.

"I saw one at 200 to 225 yards in an open field on a bright day. There was no question about it," he said. "It was a large critter, 7½ or 8 feet tall. It walked upright with at least a 20-degree angle in its back. It's had sort of a pointed head and appeared to have almost no neck."

Vincent said the animal he saw was covered in reddish hair. He said its arms were apelike, long in proportion to the rest of its body.

On another occasion — a stakeout of sorts — Vincent says he got a look at a Bigfoot at close quarters on a bright, moonlit night. At other times, both night and day, he said he's heard their cries and movements by waiting near food sources and other spots where people had been seeing them.

Vincent says Bigfoot sightings are relatively common in some areas, but aren't always reported because of the probability of ridicule from skeptics.

"But you get up in some of these areas and ask the local people if they've seen anything big and hairy, and they know what you're talking about right away," he said.

Vincent said one of the past hotbeds of Bigfoot activity that got unusually heavy media attention was near Flintville, Tenn. An April, 1976, encounter there drew major TV networks and reporters from a number of newspapers he said.

"This thing kept coming up to a house regardless of how many people were there," Vincent said. "There were six or eight people seeing it at one time. Altogether there must have been at least 75 eyewitnesses."

"It started when a little boy ran out the door of his house to go to the privy and

ran right into one of the animals. He screamed, and his mother ran out and grabbed the boy and threw him back in the house," Vincent said.

"The animal sort of took a swing at the woman, then ran off. The family reported it to the law, and after that the word got out and the reporters started showing up."

Vincent said investigation turned up the fact that an old woman living nearby had gotten used to the Bigfoot being around and taken to regularly putting out food for it. She called the animal Old Woolly, told investigators it was harmless and encouraged them to leave it be.

Study suggests to Vincent that Bigfoot generally is a placid critter, not prone to violence. However, he said reports indicate that crying or fussing of human children seem to upset the animal. He said he has used a tape recording of crying children made at a day care center to provoke the animals to sound off.

Vincent said Bigfoot sightings are much more abundant than many realize because of the reluctance of authorities to take them seriously. He said it will take a Bigfoot in the flesh — dead or alive — to convince many scientists and others of the existence of the animal. However, he said the existence of the animal, known by other names elsewhere, is taken for granted in many cultures.

Janet and Colin Bord in "The Bigfoot Casebook" list 1,000 reported sightings of the animals from 1818 to 1980. Many sightings were by law officers investigating reports. They involve every continental U.S. state except South Carolina. The heavy concentrations are the Pacific Northwest and, east of the Rockies, Michigan, Ohio and Pennsylvania.

The book lists numerous encounters in Kentucky including ones near Murray and Owensboro and, in 1979, several sightings along the Pennyrile Parkway in Christian County.

Southern Illinois has had its share of Bigfoot or "ape" reports. A rash of them near Murphysboro in 1973 was duly reported by the New York Times.

Vincent said species survival of the beast hinges on official recognition that it is. He said some states — perhaps to cover all bases — already have ruled Bigfoot an endangered species. Vincent said, while many expert biologists don't yet accept its existence, the federal government may not be far from an endangered species ruling for it.

He said the number of sightings in the U.S. has dropped significantly because of fewer in the Pacific Northwest in the wake of the 1980 eruption and destructive blast of Mount St. Helens.

"The Indians have always said that was 'headquarters' for the species," Vincent said. "They called it Ape Mountain. When it went, a lot of the animals did, too."

Myth? Runaway imagination? Pranks? It may be natural skepticism which steers one toward one or more of these explanations. But beneath the surface there are an amazing number of people — sober ones — who from close personal contacts saying that the Bigfoot is real and out there.

Explain that.

(If any readers have had encounters which legitimately are believed linked to Bigfoot, the writer welcomes comments — without laughing. Write Paducah Sun Outdoors, Box 2300, Paducah, KY 42001.)

NEWS TRIBUNE, Tacoma, WA - April 16, 1987

Big Foot hunter claims to have new tracks, hair

The Associated Press

WALLA WALLA — Bigfoot appears to be back in the Blue Mountains, and two men who track the mythical furry beast say they have footprints and hair samples to prove it.

"Those guys are really traveling around. They're sure tearing up the ground up there," said local Bigfoot hunter Paul Freeman, noting his most recent discovery came last Thursday when he found some tracks near Indian Ridge on Tiger Canyon Road in the Blue Mountains.

"The important thing is the hair samples," said Freeman, adding the footprints ran three-quarters of a mile, about 20 miles south-east of Walla Walla.

Freeman claims he finds Bigfoot tracks annually in the area.

Freeman, a 44-year-old former Mill Creek Watershed patrol rider with the U.S. Forest Service, reported spotting an 8-foot-tall animal covered with reddish-black hair in June 1982. Later that

month he quit his job, citing "a lot of hassle and pressure over the Bigfoot thing, both from the public and the Forest Service."

He claimed his discovery last week was near where he spotted the creature, also known as Sasquatch.

Freeman called Grover Krantz, a Washington State University associate professor of anthropology, who came to Walla Walla Saturday to make plaster casts of footprints and gather hair samples.

Krantz, an expert on the hunt for Bigfoot, said footprints show there have been as many as four of the beasts in the area.

"These are some of the better ones I've seen," Krantz said Wednesday.

Krantz said he is "reasonably sure" the hair samples — only the second time such samples have been found — are authentic.

"It is not strong enough to say I believe there is (a Bigfoot). I have seen evidence that cannot be explained any other way," Krantz said.



Associated Press

Paul Freeman claims to have evidence of Big Foot.

USA TODAY, Arlington, VA
March 16, 1987

FLORIDA

CASSELBERRY — Alfred Conway is continuing search for underwater pyramid. Though treasure hunter says he found 30-ft. stone structure during '85 flyover, sighted it again last summer, he hasn't been able to mark discovery.