

UFO

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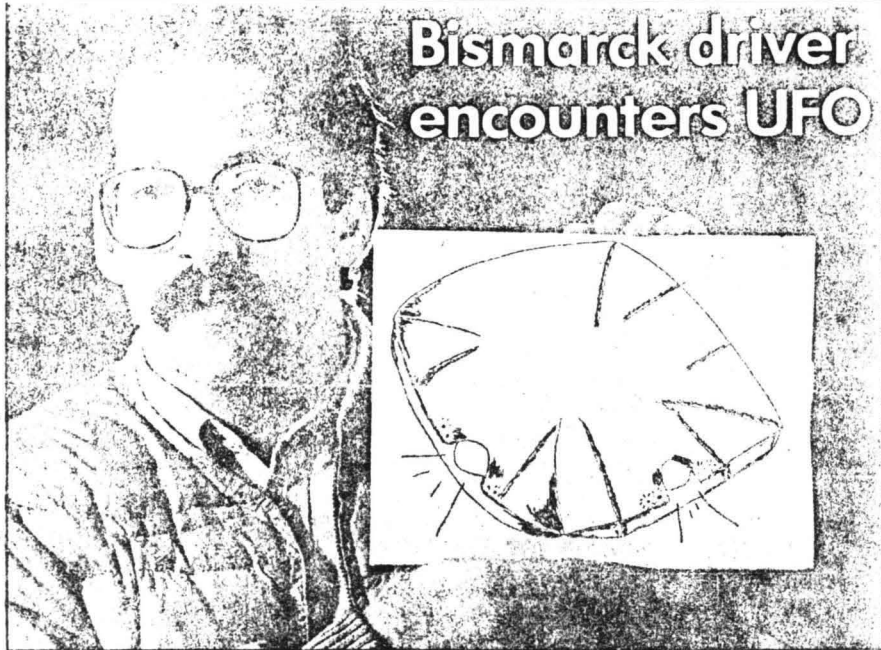
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CO-EDITORS: LUCIUS FARISH
ROD B. DYKE

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TRIBUNE, Bismarck, ND - Dec. 8, 1987 CR: D. Johnson



By DOUGLAS VAN TASSEL of the Tribune

Griffin has a drawing of the object described as "if two square plates were put together, roughly similar to a fast-food styrofoam burger box."

P By STACY HERRON, Tribune Staff Writer
People can make fun of him, Doug Griffin said, but he's sure of what he saw on his way to Fargo this weekend. It was a UFO — an unidentified flying object.

Griffin said he saw an off-white craft about the length of a truck five miles west of the Menoken Interstate exit No. 38 at about 6:40 p.m. Friday.

The 27-year-old Bismarck man described the object as "if two square plates were put together, roughly similar to a fast-food styrofoam burger box."

Griffin first saw the craft about 200 yards from the ground. It was a "crystal clear night with a full moon and stars were visible."

There were red, green and white lights on the craft, he said, that flashed rapidly in sequence from right to left.

"I saw this light and thought it was awfully low for a jet. I saw it move, then stop and thought 'son of a gun.' I checked my speed; I thought it was one of those bears in the skies. I pulled over to watch it. I thought maybe it was a helicopter, but there wasn't any noise and it was too low. I was with the National Guard and I know what helicopters sound like. I got out and took out my binoculars and watched it."

Then the UFO darted away and within a minute was hovering over the skies of Bismarck, Griffin said.

Griffin got back in his car and continued to Fargo, still wondering what he saw.

Griffin works for Missouri River Hazard Control, formerly called North Dakota Insurance Reserve Fund. He reported the incident to the North Dakota

Highway Patrol.

Although National Guard helicopters were out that night, Col. Ray Thompson of the Guard's aviation support facility said Monday it's unlikely Griffin saw one, because the UFO was flying too low to be a helicopter, and the guard copters were not near the Menoken exit.

Nobody else reported UFO sightings over the

"No, I wasn't afraid. I was very interested in it. I have a biology degree and I approach things from a scientific background." — Doug Griffin

weekend. Bismarck Airport tower personnel were unable Monday to verify whether Griffin could have seen a plane.

Griffin said his encounter made him late for a gathering he was attending in Fargo. When he got there everyone wanted to know why he was late. He told the group they "wouldn't believe him." But they insisted he tell his story and when he did, some kidded him about taking a "champagne flight to Fargo."

Griffin assured them he hadn't been drinking.

"They can kid me if they want," Griffin said. "But know what I saw. It was a UFO."

Don Johnson, an investigator for Mutual UFO Network, told The Tribune he believes the incident to be a legitimate UFO sighting.

DAILY PROGRESS, Charlottesville, VA
Oct. 18, 1987 CR: B. Pittman

Mysterious Lights Spur UFO Debate

RURAL RETREAT (AP) — The consensus in Wythe County is that something strange is floating through the heavens at night.

But descriptions of UFOs seen overhead in recent weeks vary, as do opinions about what the objects might be.

"We watched it go across the garden," Carolyn Ellison said after a night sighting of a pair of flying objects over her home in Rural Retreat.

"There was a little saucer in front of it," said her husband, Jack. "It looked like it was about 500 feet in front of the big one. We just stood there where that Oldsmobile is and it went right over that maple tree."

Wythe County sheriff's deputies have seen the mysterious lights, too. They say the UFOs are actually lights from military maneuvers.

But the Ellisons and other witnesses say the flying objects they have seen in recent weeks make no noise. Three military spokesmen from the Norfolk area said by telephone that the military is flying no silent machines over southwestern Virginia, although some flights by loud A-6 Intruder bombers are made in the area.

"If it wasn't making sound, I don't have any explanation for what they're talking about," said Ace Ewers, a spokesman for Naval Air Station Oceana. "If the government's working on something like that, I don't know about it."

Witnesses say they have seen the military flights, and the UFOs are something different.

"I was in a jet fighter squadron, so I know a jet when I see one," Ellison said.

But sheriff's deputies point out that the military does not tell the public about everything it does.

Sheriff's Sgt. Cihmer Collins, a 22-year veteran of the military, has seen the lights in the sky. He said they look like aircraft performing refueling operations, in which jets hover close together before splitting off quickly in opposite directions. That matches the descriptions reported by many UFO witnesses.

"There ain't no UFOs," Collins said. "I've seen a bunch of them and all I've seen is refueling. They did the same in Vietnam. They're about at a stop, then they'll bug off to the left or right."

That is roughly what has happened to the lights Janet Colley said she has seen from her Wythe County home. Her parents spotted the glimmering airborne objects several weeks ago, and she said she has seen them many times since.

"They're out just about every night," she said. "All you can see is lights. There's a great big light that's white, then little red, flashing lights. There's no sound. Sometimes, they disappear and go across the sky."

"They're out just about every night. All you can see is lights."

— Wythe County witness

When regular aircraft buzz overhead, Ms. Colley said, her dogs begin barking and running around, but they sit still as these mysterious lights streak by.

The red, white and sometimes green lights are said to have been spotted on flying objects that include a silvery cigar shape, a green camouflaged cigar shape, a floating triangle, a circle and an arrowhead.

There have been reports, although authorities contacted by The Associated Press could not confirm them, that flying objects have swooped down at cars and forced drivers off the road. People who saw the objects and discussed them with a reporter have not claimed to be nervous, although some are reluctant to talk about what they've seen, saying to do so might raise questions about their sanity.

At least one sighting has been reported to the northeast, in the New River Valley.

Terry Nixon said he saw four bright objects circling overhead, like silent birds of prey.

"All I could see was just the red and white lights," Nixon said. "It might have been buzzards contaminated with nuclear waste — it was something with lights on it circling around."

He tried to take pictures of the lights, but the film came back blank.

"I'm not saying it was a flying saucer — it may have been a hang-lider," he said. "As cold as it was, the chance is very slim."

Wythe County's chief sheriff's deputy said that unless the department learns otherwise, the sightings will be considered to be aircraft on military missions.

"Everything we've seen goes back to the same thing," Herb Cooley said. "It looks like a typical military refueling maneuver."

But the military spokesmen said they know of no such maneuvers in the area.

Cooley said he has probably had more calls from reporters than from UFO spotters, although he acknowledges many witnesses do not call authorities.

"I'd rather have something else put us on the map," Cooley said. "This brings all the weirdos out. Before this is over, somebody's going to have to see some little green men."

Real UFO's or just UFO Days fever?

Rumors of unidentified flying object touchdowns always seems to prompt folks to recall their own experiences with the unknown. When I returned from a visit to Doug Hines' hayfield Friday, the Herald girls were ripe with questions—and stories.

"What did it look like? Did it have flashing lights? Any footprints?" they asked excitedly.

While Hines admits he enjoys an occasional science fiction novel, he appeared willing to hang his hat on evidence that the powdery rings left in his alfalfa field were a form of mold, not star dust.

I was the first one to say shucks. As usual, the Dzubay family was enroute to church when I saw my first UFO. It was June, 1967 and we were traversing a Vance Creek town road when Pop pointed out what looked like an aircraft over Nick Peroff's hayfield.

He pulled over, killed the lights and we watched, spellbound as the object

The Column

By Steve Dzubay

darted back and forth over the 20-acre plot. It was too maneuverable for an airplane, too quiet for a helicopter and too remote for some secret Air Force project.

I was and still am convinced we witnessed something from the beyond that night.

Ad representative Vicky Howe bettered my story.

It was maybe 10 years ago that Vicky, her husband Chuck and Chuck's brother-in-law were heading to the latter's house following an evening at Joe's Valley. They were motoring down County Trunk O when simultaneously, the motor died, and the car was bathed in blinding light and a horrendous roaring sound.

"We figure one of those darn things must have been sitting down

there and when we came through, it took off and lit us up," Mrs. Howe recalled. When someone snickered, she added emphatically—"I wasn't drunk either!"

The Howes took a different route home.

Not to be bettered, Robin Kruse said she'd never seen a UFO per say but there was an evening a few years ago when she witnessed seven rings around the moon.

Hmmmm. Maybe.

It's easy to see how Elmwood has managed to build a whole festival around UFO's. I think it would be great if E.T. and his buddies would make their first public appearance there this weekend and put Pierce County on the world map.

PIERCE CO. HERALD, Ellsworth, WI - July 22, 1987
CR: R. Heiden

New Mexico's UFO mystery lingers

By Marilyn Haddrill
El Paso Times

Forty years ago this week, Army officials announced that a UFO had crashed 75 miles northwest of Roswell on a remote ranch.

Within hours, the Army said the announcement was a mistake and the object was just a wrecked weather balloon.

But those familiar with the incident say the weather balloon story was a coverup. The mystery and controversy of the "Roswell incident" remains, and flared again last weekend at a symposium on UFOs.

Walter Haut was a first lieutenant and public information officer at Roswell Army Air Field July 8, 1947, when the post commander, Col. William Blanchard, "called me and said, 'We've got this thing. Get a release out on it, get it into town to the news media so that we don't look like we're trying to hide anything.'"

"After I did that, all hell broke loose."

In a recent interview, Haut said the Army's subsequent story about the weather balloon made little sense in light of the extraordinary secrecy surrounding what the government claimed was an ordinary weather balloon.

Documents alleged to be proof of a government cover-up of the incident were a major topic in Washington at last weekend's International Symposium on Unidentified Aerial Phenomena.

"It's the most significant case of all (alleged UFO sightings) because it was the beginning of the cosmic Watergate," said Stanton Friedman, a UFO researcher and nuclear physicist.

Friedman was among about 400 people attending the symposium, which marked the 40th anniversary of the first reported UFO sighting June 24, 1947, in Washington state. Other reported sightings followed throughout the summer of 1947, including several in New Mexico.

Some UFO researchers believe alien bodies were found in the crash northwest of Roswell. But no mention of any bodies was made in reports at the time of the crash.

The wreckage reportedly was taken to Fort Worth Army Base, where, shortly after Haut's announcement, Brig. Gen. Roger Ramey called a news conference. Ramey and other officials displayed what they said was debris from the site, and explained it was just a weather balloon and its radar detection equipment.

But others have joined Haut in challenging that version.

• A former Army intelligence officer who had helped gather the debris said it wasn't a weather balloon.

• A television newsman, who then was working for a Roswell radio station, said he was visited often by government officials who warned him not to talk about a conversation he had with the rancher who found the wreckage.

• The rancher's son, who later found more pieces washed up by rainstorms, said that two years after the incident he bragged in a bar one night about his collection. He said he was visited the next day by military authorities who took the fragments away from him.

The story began a couple of weeks before the Army's announcement and the quick retraction, when Corona, N.M., area rancher Mac Brazel discovered the wreckage on his land.

Floyd Proctor, then 11 years old, lived on a nearby ranch. He said his father was approached



Marilyn Haddrill / El Paso Times

UFO Investigator Clifford Stone of Roswell visits the Corona, N.M., area where a UFO allegedly crashed in 1947.

by Brazel, who wanted his neighbor to have a look at the debris. Proctor said his father never got around to visiting the site, but that Brazel traveled to Roswell July 6 to report the find.

Before the military got involved, Brazel stopped to visit radio newsman Frank Joyce because the rancher had heard newscasts about flying discs.

Joyce, now an Albuquerque television newsman, said government officials found out about the conversation and demanded that he remain silent about it. Joyce said he kept quiet about the crash for about 25 years, after government agents repeatedly visited him into the early 1950s to ensure his silence. He still won't disclose details of his conversation with Brazel.

Joyce said he traveled to the Brazel ranch to report the crash, but never saw any of the material because authorities confined him to a closed room.

After the weather balloon story was issued, Brazel appeared with military personnel to answer questions from re-

porters. "If I find anything else short of a bomb, it's going to be hard to get me to talk," he said in one Associated Press account.

His son, Bill Brazel of Capitan, N.M., said his father later kept quiet about the event because of a pledge made to military authorities.

Bill Brazel said that during the next two years, he picked up a few pieces of the wreckage, bragged in a bar about his collection and lost it to the military who visited him the next day.

The Army intelligence officer in charge of recovering the wreckage at the site was Maj. Jesse Marcel of Roswell Army Air Field. Before he died last year he had discussed the incident in a documentary for a Home Box Office program.

"It was not a weather balloon, nor an aircraft, nor a missile. It was something else," he said.

Marcel, who later became a lieutenant colonel, described debris flung over an area about three-quarters of a mile long and several hundred feet wide.

He said the metallic substances were extremely thin and light, "like the tinfoil in a pack of cigarette paper." But the metal was durable and could not be creased, he said.

Some fragments were described as looking like tough parchment. Some I-shaped pieces displayed hieroglyphic-type writing, witnesses said.

Military personnel at the scene loaded several vehicles and transported material back to Roswell. Marcel toted some of the wreckage in the back seat and trunk of his car, and showed it later to his family.

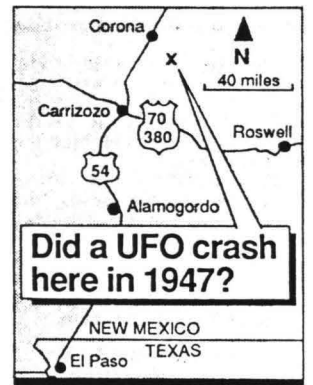
His son, J.A. Marcel, now a doctor in Helena, Mont., was 12 years old then.

"Almost to this day I can visualize it," the younger Marcel said. "It was an incredible thing."

He described patterns of lavender color imbedded in I-beam-like material.

The son also recalled that 40 years ago his father had said a weather balloon story was a deception to appease the public.

"Dad would have been famil-



El Paso Times

iar with radar detection equipment," J.A. Marcel said. "He was trained in radio and electronics. He would have known."

Haut, who still lives in Roswell, never saw any of the remains, but "very honestly, I think there was a big cover-up all the way through on this."

At Corona, Proctor said he doesn't believe "anybody ever bought the weather balloon story. A lot of people wondered whether it was something that was an Air Force experiment, or whether it could have been something from outer space."

The Roswell UFO story is challenged by a nationally known UFO skeptic, Philip Klass of Washington, who asked, "Do you want to believe in the tooth fairy?"

Klass, formerly a senior editor for Aviation Week and Space Technology magazine, said the descriptions of the remains are consistent with the weather balloon explanation. The original UFO announcement may have been due to flying disc hysteria at the time, he said.

Forty years later, the remote area where the wreckage fell yields no clues, unless the lush grass and vegetation perhaps hide an overlooked fragment washed up by spring rains.

"I would say that a saucer crash is probably a very, very, very rare incident," said Clifford Stone of Roswell, who has investigated the incident extensively. "And right here, history was made."

UFO experts: Letter proves U.S. studied '47 crash near Roswell

By Marilyn Haddrill
El Paso Times

A declassified letter discovered in the National Archives has given UFO researchers what they say is the first solid evidence that a secret committee investigated the alleged 1947 crash of an unidentified flying object northwest of Roswell.

Researchers also are trying to verify other documents, which are purported to be copies of the committee's briefing papers and which refer to bodies of alien beings recovered near the crash site.

The letter in the archives, dated July 14, 1954, was from Robert Cutler, special assistant to the president, to Gen. Nathan Twining, and referred to an "MJ-12" briefing. UFO researchers say MJ-12, or Majestic 12, was a committee of high-ranking defense officials and scientists appointed by President Truman to investigate the Roswell UFO incident.

That letter is viewed by some as giving credibility to UFO researchers in England and the United States who recently

reported they had acquired top-secret MJ-12 briefing papers. The purported briefing papers contain these passages:

"On July 7, 1947, a secret operation was begun to assure recovery of the wreckage of this object for scientific study. During the course of this operation, aerial reconnaissance discovered that four small human-like beings had apparently ejected from the craft at some point before it exploded. These had fallen to earth about two miles east of the wreckage site."

"All four were dead and badly decomposed due to action by predators and exposure to the elements during the approximately one week time which had elapsed before their discovery."

Timothy Good, a British UFO researcher, recently told the London Observer that he obtained his document from "a reliable American source who has close connections with the intelligence community."

The so-called briefing paper for President Eisenhower is dated Nov. 18, 1952, and mentions the formation of the MJ-12 Committee.

Those identified as committee members (now all dead) and their positions at the time included CIA Director Adm. Roscoe Hillenkoetter, Defense Secretary James Forrestal, Air Force Gen. Nathan Twining, atom bomb scientist Dr. Vannevar Bush, biophysicist Dr. Detlev Bronk and astronomer Dr. Donald Menzel.

Stanton Friedman, a UFO researcher and nuclear physicist, said someone had mailed the identical information anonymously to one of his associates, Jaimie Shandera. Friedman said the validity of the alleged briefing papers was debated at last weekend's international symposium on UFOs.

But there are doubts even among some veteran UFO researchers about the validity of those documents.

Larry Fawcett, a police officer in Coventry, Conn., and founder of Citizens Against UFO Secrecy, said he believes that a committee did investigate the Roswell UFO incident. But he said the alleged briefing papers have suspicious flaws such as improper markings on "Top Secret" designations.

Fawcett is even suspicious of

the Cutler letter found in the National Archives, which he said could have been planted.

But even nationally known UFO skeptic Philip Klass of Washington said he believes the letter is authentic. But he said using that document to try to validate the contents of the so-called Top Secret briefing papers on the MJ-12 Committee is like stacking a real dollar bill on top of counterfeit.

Friedman said he just had received significant information contained in a June 23 letter from Benedict Zobrist, director of the Harry S. Truman Library.

Zobrist, in the letter, declined any opinions about the validity of the briefing documents. But he did confirm a meeting Truman had with two of the officials alleged to be MJ-12 members — Bush, the atom bomb scientist, and Forrestal, the secretary of defense.

Zobrist said the topic of the meeting is unknown. But the date of the meeting, Sept. 24, 1947, is the same date listed on an attachment to the purported 1952 Eisenhower briefing papers.

UFO author says time running out

By STEVE STEIN
Record Staff Writer

William Moore, co-author of the "Roswell Incident," said time is working against him in his effort to find out the truth about the flying object that in 1947 crashed about 75 miles northwest of Roswell on an isolated section of ranchland.

Moore said Thursday from his California home, "If anyone who knew about the crash in 1947 was in their early 20s, they are in their 60s today, and how much more time will we have to fit the pieces of the puzzle together?"

A worldwide debate is raging over alleged U.S. documents relating to the Roswell incident and President Harry Truman's formation in the summer of 1947 of a high-level panel to study UFOs.

The panel, called Majestic 12 or MJ-12, allegedly was composed of top military analysts and scientists. Moore said he believes some form of the MJ-12 panel still exists, investigates UFOs and reports to President Reagan.

Moore said he is in the thick of the controversy over the authenticity of the documents which have recently been discussed in the New York Times, the Washington Post, the London Observer, ABC television's Night Line and Cable News Network.

Moore, who is planning another book on the crash of the strange object, said he would like

to find a piece of the wreckage or at least get direct statements from people who were in any way involved with the wreckage before they die.

A pivotal player in Moore's efforts to find the truth about the incident is Frank Joyce, the well-known KOB-Television personality from Albuquerque.

Joyce was working in Roswell as a stringer for the United Press when the incident occurred.

He worked out of the facilities of KGFL-Radio, which was then located on Richardson Avenue near the old library.

Joyce said in a telephone conversation Thursday with the Daily Record that one of Moore's researchers had talked to him twice this summer about the incident.

"You have to remember I am interviewed constantly (about the flying disc)," Joyce said. "No matter what I say, researchers and interviewers always write or say what they think I meant by some of my comments."

Joyce has been interviewed by CNN, CBS television, Home Box Office and many other members of the media concerning the incident.

He said he always avoids making statements that can be taken out of context and always tells interviewers he is speaking from hearsay.

He describes Moore as a good researcher, but said he did not

read Moore's book except for parts of it that were "put right in front of" him.

Joyce said of the crash and its aftermath, "It bothered me for 20 years."

He said he felt at one time that he might be in danger because of the material and the evidence he was aware of.

"I want the truth to come out, but in a meaningful way, in the right way," he said.

Joyce, who came to Roswell a couple of weeks ago to tend to his ailing mother, Ruth, said he doesn't think about the crash as much as he used to.

He said that except for one radio program, he has never been satisfied with any of the coverage he has received from the media or researchers.

Though Joyce does not readily answer specific questions, he said he will discuss the incident in general, but prefers to do it face-to-face.

As the story was recorded by the newspapers of the day, including the Daily Record, rancher W.W. "Mac" Brazel on July 3, 1947, discovered an object with strange lettering about 32 miles east of Corona.

Because he did not have a telephone, it was not until a week later that Brazel came into Roswell and told Chaves County Sheriff George Wilcox that he might have found one of the flying disks that was being mentioned so often by the media of the

day.

Though Joyce is not specific on the time frame in connection with his part in the incident, he said that while Wilcox got a hold of Maj. Jesse A. Marcel at the Roswell Army Air Field, Brazel came to see Joyce at KGFL.

"It may not be until judgment day when Mac and I find out how good of friends we were to each other," Joyce said when asked about his relationship with Brazel prior to the Roswell incident.

He said in one sense he ran interference with the press and the military for Brazel.

Joyce, who was 23 when the incident occurred, said, "You have to remember being a young reporter in 1947 is not the same as being a reporter in 1987. If it happened today, I probably would have got right in there and found out exactly what happened."

Sometime after Brazel came to Roswell, Joyce and W.E. Whitmore, the owner of KGFL, accompanied the rancher back to the crash site, which Joyce said is actually closer to the tiny town of Lon.

Joyce is vague about what happened near Lon, but apparently a small group of people he was with viewed the site.

A person Joyce would only describe as "someone who was in control of the situation" ordered Brazel and him to sit alone in a small saddle or tack room near Lon that Brazel owned.

Joyce said as sat alone with Brazel in the equipment room, a strange feeling came over him. "I felt like a zombie," Joyce said.

After a few moments of silence, Joyce said Brazel asked him something like, "You're not going to tell them what I told you, are you?"

Those were the last words ever exchanged between Joyce and Brazel, who was 48 at the time, Joyce said.

"Oh, I saw him a couple of times later, but I don't think we ever spoke," Joyce said.

Joyce said when he returned to Roswell sometime later he had a few beers with Walter Haut, who was then the public information officer at Walker Air Force Base.

He said he told Haut, who still lives in Roswell, not to release any statement about the incident to the press, even though Joyce was an eager newsmen himself at that time.

But Haut did not heed Joyce's advice and issued a statement that said the Army had recovered a flying disc north of Roswell.

"That's when the thing broke wide-open," Joyce said.

Joyce confirmed that representatives of the U.S. government stopped some of the later news releases about the flying disc from leaving the wire systems in New Mexico, but he said it would take too long to explain how they did it.

POST, Washington, DC - July 5, 1987 CR: B. Pittman

The Aliens Are Coming! The Aliens Are Coming!

INTRUDERS: The Incredible Visitation at Copley Woods

By Budd Hopkins
Random House. 223 pp. \$17.95

COMMUNION: A True Story

By Whitley Strieber
Morrow 299 pp. \$17.95

LIGHT YEARS: An Investigation Into the Extraterrestrial Experiences of Eduard Meier

By Gary Kinder
Atlantic Monthly Press/Morgan Entrekin
265 pp. \$18.95

By Wray Herbert

IN 1943, Judge Felix Frankfurter met with Jan Karski, a Pole who had been eyewitness to the systematic murder of Jews by the Nazis. After hearing Karski describe the holocaust, he told him that he didn't believe what he was saying. It was not that he thought Karski was lying, Frankfurter explained, simply that he found it impossible to believe the events Karski described had really taken place.

Budd Hopkins borrows this anecdote from Walter Laqueur's *The Terrible Secret* to use as an analogy in his introduction to *Intruders*, a report on his investigation of a woman's abduction by aliens. It's an apt analogy, not only for Hopkins' book but for two other recently published books as well, all of which describe some kind of encounter with some kind of alien and all of which seriously strain our credulity.

Hopkins, a well-known UFO researcher and author of a previous book on the subject, *Missing Time*, received a letter in 1983 from an Indiana woman he calls "Kathie Davis," who described a fragmented memory of having encountered strange, gray-faced creatures one summer night in her backyard. The letter led Hopkins into a 2½-year investigation—involving hypnosis, lie detection and soil analysis—and to a rather startling conclusion: "Kathie Davis" and others are subjects in an elaborate

breeding project, a genetic experiment being performed upon humans by a race of aliens.

Under hypnosis, according to Hopkins, "Kathie" recollected what the aliens had apparently made her forget—a lifelong series of encounters leading up to the summer evening in 1983 when she observed (and was poisoned by radiation from) an egg-shaped craft that landed behind her home (it ruined the lawn). Many of her encounters involved painful medical experiments, the most intrusive being artificial inseminations and the subsequent abductions of the fetuses. She also recalled that her mother, sister and two young sons had similarly been abducted and experimented upon, suggesting to Hopkins that the "Davises" are subjects in a multi-generational analysis.

The case of "Kathie Davis" forms the central chapters of *Intruders* and is, Hopkins believes, "the most complex UFO case" ever. But her case is far from unique. Hopkins briefly describes several other reproductive experiments, involving both men and women and including at least one case of rape. And hundreds of others, he maintains, have reported visitation and abduction experiences for other apparent purposes.

One of these is Whitley Strieber, a well known writer of horror fiction, who in *Communion* gives an account of his own rather horrifying experience with aliens. In 1985, Strieber, a self-proclaimed skeptic, went through a radical personality change, becoming profoundly depressed. He then spontaneously recalled an abduction that involved blood sampling, a rectal exam and a brain operation. Subsequently, under hypnosis, he like "Kathie Davis" began to recollect a lifetime of encounters, recognizable before only as periods of missing time. During his adult life, he had been constantly on the run, moving for no good reason—except a constant sense of dread—from place to place. And Strieber's family, too, appears to be involved in the visitations—certainly his son and perhaps his wife and father.

If these two cases show many similarities, the third—the case of Eduard "Billy" Meier, discussed by reporter Gary Kinder in *Light Years*—is strikingly different. Meier is an unemployed Swiss handyman with a sixth-



Drawing of a UFO occupant as seen by Kathie Davis

grade education who in the 1970s began reporting visits—not kidnappings—involving a female alien, Semjase, from a star system, Pleiades, 500 light years away. Meier claims to have had more than 100 contacts. He was taken riding in the Pleiadian spaceship, during which Semjase taught him many lessons about her spiritually advanced civilization. Meier documented his contacts with thousands of pages of notes (notes about scientifically advanced matters a man of his education shouldn't be familiar with) and—most convincingly to many—with the best quality photographs ever seen of alien spacecraft—crisp, colorful daylight shots that seem to many experts to be authentic.

KINDER USES the unbelievable Meier case to make a larger point: Not since the first UFO sightings following World War II has there been a rigorous, skeptical inquiry into the evidence for alien visitation, despite thousands of unexplained sightings and despite what all three authors see as a historical pattern of closer and closer encounters. The problem, according to Kinder, is twofold. First, there are the lunatics—those who claim to have harvested potatoes on Saturn, for example—who make it difficult for any serious-minded adult to confess any interest in the subject whatsoever. But second and more distressing, Kinder writes, is the U.S.

government's steadfast refusal to examine the evidence. If the evidence is all fraudulent, a really tough examination of it would have put the kibosh on UFOs and aliens long ago.

So what do we as readers make of what is presented here? As I see it, there are only three possible conclusions. First, these might simply be hoaxes—stories made up out of whole cloth. Strieber, a gifted writer, is certainly capable of crafting a convincing narrative, and I have to confess that *Communion* gave me the chills. But Strieber has involved his family in this case, as well as personal friends and reputable psychiatrists whom he identifies by name. If it is a hoax, a lot of real people are party to it; the same is the case with the other two accounts. In addition, Meier is simply too ingenious to deceive. Hopkins' would be the most difficult account to corroborate because no real names are used, but unless he is flat out lying all of the events seem to have witnesses.

Once one eliminates fraud as an explanation, the most palatable explanation for reports such as these is a mental aberration. Meier is strange; his rantings about spiritually advanced star systems have a schizoid quality to them. But Strieber and "Kathie Davis" don't seem crazy; in fact, mental illness was Strieber's preferred explanation, and he sought out a psychiatric diagnosis to no avail. The revelations under hypnosis are not particularly convincing (hypnosis is unreliable and does sometimes create memories), but if there is a hallucination occurring, the authors point out, it is a massive hallucination involving friends and family and hundreds of others only alluded to here.

The third possibility is, of course, unacceptable—that is, that these events actually took place. All three authors—especially Strieber—seem to know that they're trying something risky here. All seem almost reconciled to not being believed. But while Kinder is objective and seems to have no particular investment in convincing the reader, there is a sort of desperation to Hopkins' and Strieber's books that is hard to dismiss out of hand. Yet what they're saying is in the end incredible. I'm left, with Judge Frankfurter, not able to believe. ■

Wray Herbert is managing editor of *Psychology Today* magazine. He writes regularly for *Book World* about books on science and medicine.

'Alien abductions' no longer a joke

(First of two parts.)

Let's step away from politics and social issues for a change and talk about something a bit more unusual. Something like people being surreptitiously examined by aliens from another planet and then hypnotized to forget their experience.

Now before you snort "Hogwash!" and move on to the box score of the Tigers-Twins game, bear with me for a moment. I haven't gone off the deep end (yet); this column is more-or-less a review of the best-selling book "Communion" by Whitley Strieber.

First of all, what we are *not* talking about is the drivel perpetuated in the National Enquirer and other tabloids: "Aliens take my cow but leave recipe for banana pudding," or "UFO brings back Elvis for secret concert — and gets exclusive distribution rights for his new diet book." That malarkey is written by idiots for idiots.

The thrust of "Communion" is quite different. Although it's mind-boggling to accept Strieber's thesis, there appears to be a large body of evidence which suggests that dozens — perhaps hundreds — of "normal" people throughout the world have been temporarily kidnapped by alien beings, examined or interrogated and then released unharmed.

The "abductees," as they are called,



**THOMAS
TASCHINGER**
Opinion

are hypnotized to forget this terrifying experience, yet many have a subconscious awareness that something weird and unsettling has happened to them. In many cases, the same people (and their children) are abducted several times throughout their lives, as if the aliens are carrying out a long-term study on them.

Strieber's case seems typical, and because he is a successful writer (author of *The Wolfen*, *The Hunger* and an award-winning children's book), he is better-equipped than other victims to tell his tale.

Essentially, his story is that over the past few years, he became more and more upset by strange thoughts and half-buried memories that something unpleasant had happened to him. Like most abductees, he thought he was going crazy, so he had himself examined by doctors and psychiatrists.

That didn't solve his problems, and

he became more fidgety and more difficult for his wife to live with. In desperation, he tried hypnosis to see if his subconscious mind knew what his conscious mind didn't.

That is when he discovered, to his understandable surprise, that he had apparently been abducted not once but numerous times throughout his life. The hypnosis unlocked a flood of submerged memories, and each session seemed to set up the next one and lead to another incident.

Again, you don't have to tell me how astounding this story is. If it is true — and this is a colossal "if" — it would represent the most significant event in the history of the human race since we became sentient creatures.

It would prove that intelligent life exists elsewhere in the universe, it would shake age-old beliefs about the nature of humanity and our faith in God, and it would force scientists to rewrite the laws of physics to explain how these aliens got here.

And though it's easy to dismiss the idea as complete lunacy or point out that the alien/UFO genre is littered with proven hoaxes, it's getting increasingly difficult to scoff at *everything* connected with the idea.

Some of the cases of alien abduction — as corroborated through hypnosis or unassailable physical facts — seem to

have the ring of truth about them. Few of the abductees are loonies; the majority are rational, coherent adults with responsible jobs and a history of mental stability.

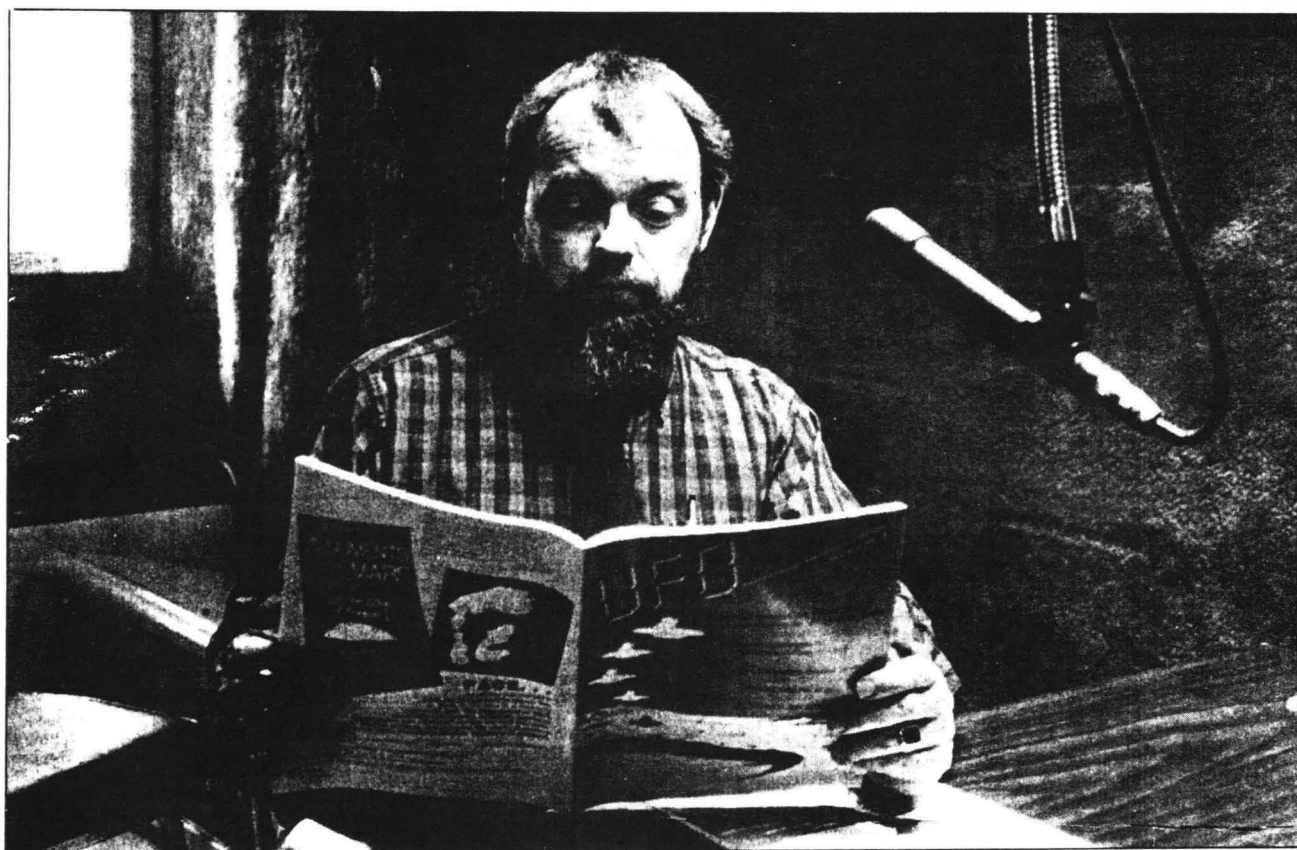
Most intriguing of all, many victims report common facets of their abduction: feeling "paralyzed" and unable to resist the aliens; being transported to the alien "spaceship" via a beam of light, being held in a circular room dominated by gray or brown colors and undergoing the same type of physical examination.

The aliens themselves are invariably described as 3½ to 4 feet tall, having the same physical configuration as us (a head and face, two arms, two legs) and large, elliptical eyes.

When different people from all over the country consistently repeat the same kinds of stories under hypnosis — from different hypnotists without prodding or suggestion — even skeptics have to wonder if something very unusual and slightly scary is going on.

Sunday: More on Strieber's abduction experience and speculation about who or what could be performing these bizarre experiments.

Columns by Editorial Page Editor Thomas Taschinger appear Thursday and Sunday in the Port Arthur News.



PAUL DELLINGER

Danny Gordon has been losing sleep and money over the UFOs case

By PAUL DELLINGER
Southwest bureau

WYTHEVILLE — Danny Gordon is finding that UFOs can be hazardous to your health.

Gordon has been putting in overtime on what has become almost an obsession with him — to solve the riddle of the unidentified flying objects that have been appearing over Wythe County for more than a month now.

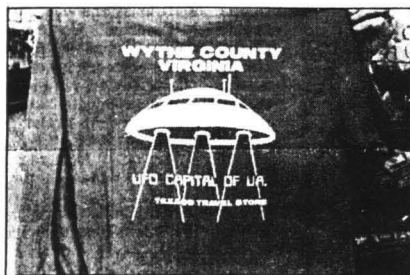
The radio broadcaster has found himself skipping lunches and eating dinner as late as midnight because of time spent with out-of-town reporters who pump him for information or want him to take them to spots where night sightings have been reported.

"I've got a story, I can't get to an end, and it's eating at me," said Gordon, news and sports director for WYVE radio. "I've lost weight, I'm not sleeping well. . . I seldom see my children anymore. I go to sleep at night and I dream about UFOs, and I wake up in the morning thinking about it."

Gordon's association with UFOs started in early October when he did a news story on WYVE, one of the county's two radio stations, about local law officers seeing strange aircraft they could not identify. The craft were characterized by bright lights, slow speeds and, recently, by buzzing sounds.

That little story became the equivalent of a Frankenstein monster for Gordon. It made him the

How UFOs changed his life



Wythe capitalists are capitalizing

focal point of the longest-running UFO craze since the late Kenneth Arnold described seeing "flying saucers" in the late 1940s.

Some of the professional UFO-chasers who have come to Wytheville say the more than 1,000 reports to date represent the longest sustained period of

sightings in one area since Arnold's.

The law-enforcement agencies did not give names of deputies or police officers who saw UFOs, so when other reporters picked up the story they fixed on Gordon, who had been rounding up the various sighting reports. By the time folks who had seen UFOs were giving their names willingly, Gordon was thoroughly identified with the topic.

Before he knew it, he was getting calls from almost everyone, from the Pentagon to the National Enquirer.

Suddenly, he was being quoted in newspapers and television stations from this part of the country and beyond. Radio stations from as far away as Canada and New York called him for comments. Wire services and networks began quoting him as Wytheville's UFO expert.

The calls came at work and home, at all hours, from people across the country who had picked up his name from news reports.

"It's totally just turned my life upside down," Gordon said. "There for a while, my phone never stopped ringing."

A California woman with a national UFO magazine told him to try to recall his UFO dreams, as they might be attempts by aliens to contact him. A Tennessee man wanted Gordon to look into the possibility that the space shuttle Challenger had been destroyed by a UFO. Several callers told him to be wary of military or security types who might harm

(continued on page 5)

him to stop his investigation.

He even began getting magazines from an organization that sees UFOs as a divine manifestation and has formed a religious cult around them.

It all has had a cumulative effect on Gordon.

"It's really hard to explain," he said. "It's kind of like the UFO experience has consumed me."

Local entrepreneurs soon got into the act. The Texaco Travel Store here imprinted hundreds of T-shirts with UFO illustrations and the caption "Wythe County... UFO Capital of Virginia." The Millwall Theatre booked the 1953 film "War of the Worlds" for Halloween weekend and built a reproduction of a UFO from the movie — complete with a flashing heat ray — atop its marquee.

Wytheville motels have benefited from the brigades of reporters who descended on the area. So has the store selling the UFO shirts, because every reporter seems to want to wear one — or at least be photographed with one.

The UFO magazine writers and other UFO specialists became visitors in Gordon's home in Rural Retreat, along with some of the reporters. One reporter told Gordon's son that he bet Gordon was making a killing off the furor.

"If anything, I've lost money," Gordon said, considering the telephone calls he had to return and gasoline burned on UFO hunts with the media. He did it, he said, because he figured it was good exposure for both the station and his native Wythe County.

Finally, Gordon decided to go out at night and look for UFOs himself.

And he saw one.

He saw it again on two other nights on U.S. 21 a few miles south of Wytheville. It was a slow-moving craft with what seemed like a strobe light in front and windows in the rear. That one was seen also by two of the UFO enthusiasts who had come to Wytheville to seek out Gordon — John Stember, a professional photographer from New York who has traveled all over the country trying to capture UFOs on film, and Andrew Convery, a Virginia Beach computer analyst who investigates UFOs as a hobby.

"I was a skeptic about unidentified flying objects until I saw one," Gordon said. "Until it happens to you, you don't know."

He had Stember, Convery and two county residents who had seen UFOs as guests on a live news conference broadcast over WYVE, cov-

ered by two wire services, three television stations and newspapers from throughout this part of Virginia. "And from there it was a media blitz," Gordon said.

The National Enquirer reporter told Gordon later he doubted that his publication would do an article on the Wytheville UFO experience after all, because it was not sensational enough. Although there were a few people who got upset when they thought aircraft were following their cars, most of those reporting sightings were calm, down-to-earth types who did not blow whatever they saw out of proportion.

There have been no abduction reports, no little green men and none of the far-out stuff that is the hallmark of UFO hysteria elsewhere, Gordon said — "much to the chagrin of the Enquirer."

Most local residents assumed that the craft were military. Gordon phoned the nearest bases of the various services, but was told they had nothing flying over Wythe County like what was described.

Gordon called the office of U.S. Sen. Paul Trible, which promised to make similar inquiries of the armed forces. An officer from the Pentagon called Gordon to see if he had learned anything new on the subject.

Recently, a Tennessee Air National Guard technical sergeant suggested that some of the reports — of lights in the sky that came together and then split up — might be in-flight refueling maneuvers that his unit started about the time the Wythe sightings began.

Gordon calls the idea ridiculous. "Refueling is not what I saw," he said. "If it was refueling, it was Luke Skywalker getting more fuel."

Gordon is trying not to become paranoid from all the warnings from UFO conspiracy buffs or the magazines highlighting UFO abduction stories. He is also frustrated — after nine years in the news business — at not being able to finish a story.

At first, he leaned toward the theory that the UFOs were military aircraft, but now he's not so sure.

"I'm trying not to let my imagination run away with me, but the more I study it the more it seems like something beyond our technology," he said.

But he wondered whether his shift in thought was due to the barrage from the UFO buffs.

"The people in Wythe County have seen something. It's not a conventional aircraft," Gordon insisted. "I will pursue it in my own way, on my own time, and hopefully one day will know what it is."

UFO sightings:

Press conference seeks answers

By MICHAEL HAWKS
Staff Writer

The latest chapter in the saga of the UFOs spotted around Wythe County over the past month unfolded in a news conference held at WYVE Friday afternoon.

WYVE News Director Danny Gordon called the news conference to try to solve the mystery surrounding the UFOs.

In addition to Gordon, the members of the panel included Andrew Convery, a computer analyst from Virginia Beach who studies UFO; John Stember, a photographer from New York who came down to take some pictures of the UFO; Roger Hall, a Wytheville businessman who witnessed the UFO while travelling with Gordon, and Emma Burchett, a housewife from Austinville who saw the UFO Thursday night while driving with her husband on state Route 619.

The group reached a consensus that the object was in the shape of a large dome that was led by a large red strobe light, and other lights flitted around the large object. The object had three U-shaped panels like picture windows from which a warm yellow light emanated. No wings were apparent anywhere on the craft, and the witnesses described the main object as larger than a commercial airliner. All witnesses said the object made no noise.

Gordon said they had also come to the conclusion that the object was somehow part of a military operation from the way it seems to follow the same flight paths as military jets and helicopters.

Sightings are usually preceded or closely followed by military aircraft.

Convery said he heard one man say the jets fly over in the daytime and the flying saucers take over at night.



Danny Gordon's drawing depicts what he believes he saw.

He said when he saw the object between 9 and 9:30 p.m. Thursday, he noticed how serenely the craft was riding, flying as it were without fear of interdiction.

He also said these sightings were unique in the history of UFO sightings for their universality. He said at any store in Wythe County, one can find people who have seen the UFO. He also said most UFO sightings last a couple of days; the ones in Wythe County have gone on for nearly a month. These facts also lead him to believe that this object is part of a military exercise that has no need to fear detection from military aircraft.

He also said he has reason to believe the military aircraft are searching for something, saying the helicopters had been equipped with search lights. He would elaborate no further on why he thought the aircraft was conducting a search or what he thought they were searching for.

He said the military likes to use this area to test its aircraft because the terrain is very similar to Korea's.

However, when asked after the news conference why, if this is a

military test of a new aircraft, the military does not discontinue this test in the light of all the national attention being focused on Wythe County because of the sightings, he said it may be an operation that the military cannot discontinue.

Stember said he had made a videotape of the object as well as taking 35 mm photographs of it. The quality of the videotape is too poor to distinguish anything other than a light. The photographs have not been developed yet.

Television stations WSLs, WDBJ and WVVA taped the press conference. Representatives from United Press International and The Associated Press were also present as well as reporters from the Roanoke Times & World News, the Bristol Herald Courier, the Southwest Times and the Southwest Virginia Enterprise.

Meanwhile, the story of the UFOs continues. Two people reported seeing the object Thursday night to the Enterprise, and K-92, a radio station from Roanoke, will do a live remote from Wythe County Sunday night trying to track down the UFO.

NEWS, Port Arthur, TX - Oct. 11, 1987 CR: L. Whitehurst

UFO kidnap tales raise curious questions

(Second of two parts.)

Thursday's column dealt with Whitley Strieber's best-selling book "Communion." It purports to tell how this successful author learned through hypnosis that he had been abducted several times throughout his life by extraterrestrial creatures.

After Strieber discovered what had happened to him, he researched the subject in great detail. His personal study dovetailed with a growing body of literature which suggests that numerous other people in the United States and other countries have undergone similar experiences.

The aliens usually began the encounter by displaying some type of long-distance "mind control" that made the subject unable to resist capture. Usually — but not always — the incident occurs in isolated areas where something like this could conceivably take place undetected.

The abductee generally feels "paralyzed" during the experience and thus can't flee or struggle — although his mind continues to function and he is understandably terrified.

The incident ends with the subject placed in some kind of hypnotic trance, and when he later comes back to normal, his conscious mind cannot recall what has happened. But because the experience was so disturbing, the abductee's subconscious mind does



THOMAS
TASCHINGER
Opinion

remember what occurred. Sometimes the abduction can be brought out through hypnosis.

OK, that's the premise we're dealing with. For the sake of argument, let's assume that it's valid. If so, it sets up an interesting series of questions:

• Where did these aliens come from and how did they get here?

An easy answer is that they came from another planet, a proposal that seems plausible enough. There are billions of other stars in the universe, and it's logical to conclude that at least some of them are orbited by planets supporting intelligent life.

As to how the aliens got from there to here, that's an entirely different kettle of fish. The closest stars are several light-years away, and most stars are several thousand or several million light-years from earth.

These distances are so incredibly vast that the human mind cannot conceive of ways to traverse them — unless one travels through time. That

is theoretically possible, but it's so far ahead of our present technology that any discussion of it quickly degenerates into mere speculation.

Others suggest that the aliens could come from the earth's past or future or be a non-physical manifestation of our own psyche. Again, those theories are intriguing, but they're so far out that reasoned debate is impossible.

• How long have these abductions been going on?

Most cultures have various tales or legends going back hundreds or thousands of years that could be interpreted as some kind of abduction experience. Those interpretations, however, are highly debatable.

In recent decades, reports of UFO sightings and alien abductions have increased dramatically, but one logical explanation of that is that modern advances (cameras, radar, etc.) have finally allowed us to record and understand what might have been going on for a long time.

• What do these creatures want to learn about us?

Who knows? The examinations reported by abductees are often similar to the standard physical exam given by M.D.s: obtaining samples of blood or semen and inserting probes into various bodily openings for a deeper look at what's inside. Some abductees believe that something has

been injected into their brains, either to affect their behavior or serve as a "marker" for the aliens to locate them again. Needle marks have been found on some abductees (including Strieber), but no real evidence of implants or injections has been recovered.

• How could all this be going on without the human race knowing?

Two good answers: 1) We might be learning about it right now. 2) If these creatures are smart enough to come here from who knows where, they're smart enough to escape widespread detection. And while there are no physical artifacts of UFOs, there are hundreds of sightings and photographs which are difficult to dismiss as weather balloons or swamp gas.

• Can any of this be proved?

That's the \$64,000 question. In one sense, the answer is no because there is no indisputable proof that these abductions have taken place. On the other hand, there's a great deal of circumstantial evidence which suggests these incidents are indeed real.

For now, I suspect there is no solid answer in the positive or negative. All we can do is keep studying the issue, keep looking for evidence and keep double-checking that evidence.

It might all be shown to be a gigantic hoax or common delusion, but then again, what if...?

Columns by Editorial Page Editor Thomas Taschinger appear Thursday and Sunday in the Port Arthur News.

UFO Sightings Set County Folk Abuzz With Speculation

Many Report Seeing 'Real Big Object'

By Clint Williams
Atlanta Bureau

SYLVANIA, Ga. — When the local Rotary Club met here Thursday it wasn't farming, or football, or even the heat, that folks were talking about. It was UFOs, unidentified flying objects, strange lights in the summer sky.

"It was THE topic of conversa-

tion," said Mark Hillis, general manager of "The Sylvania Telephone," "for over one hundred years the favorite newspaper of Screven Countians everywhere."

The Rotarians aren't a cynical bunch. "Nobody doubts they saw something," Hillis said. But the Rotarians aren't gullible, either.

"There is a lot of conjecture about what they saw, naturally," Hillis said. "One person even suggested they saw a ball of lightning bugs that were flying together."

But fireflies don't glow bright, fire-en-

gine red, cluster in groups the size of a railroad boxcar or accelerate to the speed of light in the blink of an eye. And that's how more than a dozen people in Screven County have described what they saw.

The Alcorn family was returning from a family cookout about 9:45 p.m. July 13. As they came to a stop in front of the two-story farmhouse they are renovating, they saw the lights.

"The lights hit out by the barn and there it was," recalled Wanda Alcorn.

At first, Mrs. Alcorn said, "it looked

like a boxcar." At each end, and on the top, was a red light. A cluster of white lights glowed steadily at the bottom of the craft, which appeared to be hovering behind a decaying barn less than 100 yards from the house.

The craft rose and moved slowly, noiselessly 10 feet above the overgrown soybean field for about 150 yards until it reached the county-maintained black-top. Then one end raised slightly and there was a brief, brilliant "flash-bulb-type light," Mrs. Alcorn said.

"It made a zzzzzzz sound and it was gone."

his wife, Julie, and their two children were returning from the same cookout when they saw the bright red and white lights dip behind the trees separating their country home from the Alcorns.

"We thought it was a jet about to crash," Mrs. Scott is reported as saying. "But then we realized that it made no sound."

The next morning the Alcorns found three impressions in the thigh-high grass of the field. Two were 9-by-9 feet, one was 9-by-12 feet. The indentations, still visible after nearly two weeks, are spaced along a line 69 feet long.

A report on local radio station WSYL "Country 149" Tuesday morning brought dozens of curious UFO seekers to the sparsely-populated part of the county about 10 miles east of town. Among those hoping for a close encounter were Shirley and Mac Mahaffey, owners of WSYL.

Frank Alcorn was sitting outside on the breezeway at the rear of the farmhouse when, again at about 9:45 p.m., lights silently cleared the treetops behind the house.

"I told Wanda, 'Here it comes again,'" Alcorn said. The craft flew low, perhaps as low as 10 feet, across the field, one time dipping down as low as 5 feet. And, like the night before, it moved soundlessly, effortlessly.

"I don't think a Cadillac could move that smooth," Alcorn said.

When it reached the end of the field, the craft tilted up and disappeared into the night with a sound Mrs. Alcorn likens to the sound of fishing line being stripped from a reel by a big fish.

The Mahaffeys were UFO-searching east of the Alcorn place, along a sandy road that parallels a large clear-cut area about half a mile from the Savannah River. About 9:45 p.m., apparently minutes after it flew by the Alcorns, the red lights of the craft appeared just above the treetops at the western edge of the clearing, Mrs. Mahaffey said. The craft, its lights "the reddest red you can imagine," flew "horizon to horizon in 30 seconds or less," she said.

The craft was also spotted by Margie Scott, Mrs. Alcorn's mother, as she drove home from church.

Other people, driving up and down the road in front of the Alcorn's house, also saw the UFO, Mrs. Alcorn said. "I don't know how many car loads, and I mean car LOADS, of people drove by hollering 'Did you see it? Did you see that?'"

The skeptic might dismiss the Tuesday night sightings as the excessive imagination of people who knew what to expect, but



By Clint Williams/Ledger-Enquirer

Shirley Mahaffey (left) and Wanda Alcorn recall seeing UFO recently in Screven County.

Sharon Sheppard was still unaware of the sightings when she saw what she saw.

The music class at Camp Jackson, a Baptist summer camp just a few miles from the Alcorn place, was to start at 11 a.m. Thursday, July 16. At 11 a.m. Mrs. Sheppard was pulling into the parking lot and she was a bit flustered. She was the music teacher.

As she crossed the parking lot with her son Richard in tow, the boy pointed skyward and said, "Mama, what's that?"

"If it hadn't been for him, I wouldn't have seen it," Mrs. Sheppard said Saturday.

"It was too low in the sky for a plane to fly," she said, estimating the craft was about 500 feet above the camp playground. "It was just sitting there in the sky. It was real bright and shiny. I saw a lot of lights on it."

The bright lights on a bright day struck her as odd, but, because she was late, she simply went on with her business.

"I'm sort of a one-track person," she said.

The magnitude of what she saw didn't strike her until Friday when she heard of the strange sightings earlier in the week.

"I'd like to see it again and this time I'd really study it," Mrs. Sheppard said.

One group is studying the sightings now.

Two investigators visited Sylvania last Tuesday, another made the trip Sunday. All three investigators are looking into the incident on the behalf of MUFON, the Mutual Unidentified Flying Object Network.

"Eighty to 90 percent of reports of this nature turn out to be something mundane," said Walt Andus, national director of MUFON.

"After the investigation, if it defies any earthly explanation it becomes part of that 20 percent," he said.

The MUFON team has already concluded the craft didn't land. "The marks left in the grass

were a nothing," Andus said. There was no damaged vegetation, no dehydrated soil.

"If it had been that close the grass would have dried up and wilted away," he said.

And Andus is skeptical about sightings reported after July 14.

"Shirley Mahaffey runs a radio station and she just loves the publicity," Andus said. "She has influenced a lot of people."

"Generally, these kind of things have a snowball effect," said Julius Benton, a Savannah astronomer investigating the sightings.

The interest in the sightings has snowballed as well. Mrs. Mahaffey and Mrs. Alcorn have spent the past two weeks talking with reporters from across the country.

"I got a call from World Weekly News in Palm Beach, Fla., to go out and take a picture of them," newspaper man Hillis said.

And there have been telephone calls from others who have seen UFOs. And the incessant telling and re-telling of the story to people in town.

"That's what has made us so hoarse," Mrs. Mahaffey said.

Those who have seen the craft have answered many, many questions. They'd like a few answers.

"If it is a government deal they go, 'I don't appreciate them testing it this close to my property,'" Mr. Alcorn said, adding "If it is a government thing, I'm sure glad it's in our hands and not somebody else's."

"If that thing can zip around anywhere, why Screven County?" asked Mrs. Sheppard.

The prospect that the craft comes from another planet, another galaxy doesn't frighten anyone.

"It was not a fearful event," Mrs. Alcorn said. "You get peaceful vibes from it."

"I don't care where it came from," Mr. Alcorn said. "It's exciting."

"Personally, it beats the hell out of television."

Residents spot UFO above Simi Valley

By Priscilla Lee
The Enterprise Staff

Have Martians landed in Simi Valley? Could be.

An unidentified flying object was spotted over the sleepy valley at about 9:45 p.m. Tuesday by a few residents in the Bridle Path homes.

Usually such sightings indicate that a launch of some sort was made at Vandenberg Air Force Base. A spokeswoman for the base, however, said there were none made at Vandenberg Tuesday night.

So what could it have been?

"I don't know, but it looked like the pictures you see of flying saucers," said Monica Sterling,

who lives in the 1200 block of Rambling Road. "I've been here 21 years, and I've never seen anything like that."

Sterling said she was home Tuesday night with her son and roommate Lucile Greco when she heard a loud buzzing sound overhead, which sent the trio running outside.

"I was talking to my sister from Idaho when I heard them (roommate and son) hollering. They saw it first. I told my sister I had to go because there was a UFO," she said. "I bet she's wondering what happened to me."

According to Sterling, the object was traveling very fast toward the hills just south of the Bridle Path homes.

"It looked like it was coming in for a quick landing. We sat up half the darn night with some binoculars and a camera waiting for it to come back. It never did," she said.

Sterling said she called the Simi Valley Police Department and talked to a woman dispatcher about the incident.

"I told her I was embarrassed about it and she said she had already received a few calls on the UFO," Sterling said.

Police today, however, said they have no records of any UFO sighting calls.

Lt. Dick Thomas said the station may have received some inquiries on the flying object, but that there were no entries on the subject

made in the log book.

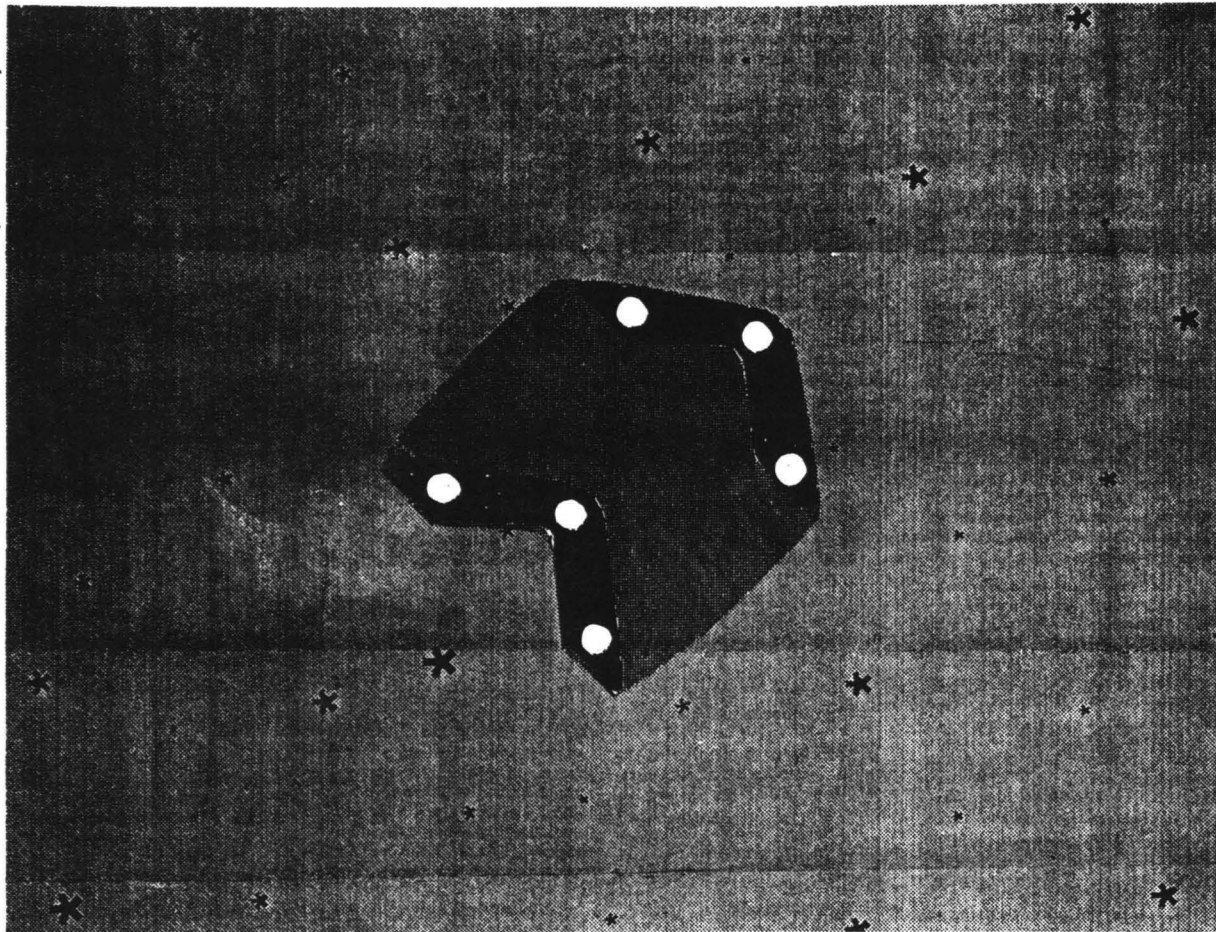
"If it was something we really believed in, we would have taken it down," he said. "Obviously, the person who took the calls didn't."

Meanwhile, Sterling and her roommate contend that they saw a flying saucer.

"It was shaped like a plate and it had a black dome on top of it," Greco said. "It had bright red lights on top and dimmer red lights on the bottom."

Greco said the saucer was about the size of two small airplanes.

"I just came back from a trip from the desert," Sterling said. "I thought, if I was going to see one, it would be out there, not here. I've never seen anything like this."



The above is based on a drawing by Laurie French of the object she saw flying over her house. The UFO, which has red lights in the front and rear, seemed at first to be two separate

aircraft. French said she realized it wasn't when she couldn't see the sky in the middle of the two ends.

UFO Spotted In Amelia

By RUTH McINTOSH

Wythe County isn't the only area in the state that's seeing UFOs.

"It went right over the top of us," said Laurie French. "It was about 500 to 1,000 feet off the ground and it was moving real slow. It wasn't making hardly any noise."

The "it" that French is referring to is an unidentified flying object —

a UFO. She and three other people with her saw the object from her Amelia County home on Saturday, October 24. Whatever it was, she said, it wasn't like anything that she had ever seen before.

"My fiancé was out in the yard talking to two friends who were up from Kentucky," explained French. "I was inside when Dennis (Dennis Mills, her fiancé) came inside yelling about something in the

sky."

French described what she saw when she went outside as "humongous." Her large, two-story house could have sat on top of it easily, she said.

The object had a boomerang-shaped front end and back end. At both the front and back, there were three red lights on its tips that didn't blink.

"At first we thought it was two separate things," she said, "because we could only see the boomerang-shaped parts. But then we saw that we couldn't see any sky in between the boomerangs. It was just dark; you couldn't see any stars there like you could around the outside of it. Then we could make out the outline of the middle."

The aircraft wasn't making hardly any noise, according to French.

"Our friends had their electric car running and we couldn't hear the noise of it over the car," she said. "When we told her to cut the car off, then we could hear a little humming."

The object came from the southwest, but not from over the

vicinity of Amelia Courthouse. It went over their yard where they were standing, crossed the Appomattox River, and went in the direction of Hanover County, said French. The four of them watched its path for about 15 or 20 minutes.

French said she called her brother in Powhatan to bring over his camera, but that by the time he got there, it was gone.

Other people saw the aircraft, said French.

"We live right on Route 360 on a little hill," she said, "and we looked down and saw people pulling off the road and watching."

According to a member of the Amelia County sheriff's department, some other people did see the object.

"We've had people tell other people (in the department) that they saw it," said a department spokeswoman. "But no one made an official report of sighting it."

Of those who said they saw something, she said, some had seen it around the same time as French. Two other people saw an object around 5 a.m. the following morning.

"People think you're loony if you report seeing something like this," said French. "But I know what I saw. It had the same effect as if you were watching something from 'Star Trek' fly over. We've seen other things sometimes that made us wonder whether it was an airplane. But there was no doubt about this. There's no mistake what this was."

According to Technical Sergeant Marty Everett of the Tennessee Air National Guard, the object may have been something human-made. The Tennessee base claimed responsibility for what many Wythe County residents thought were UFOs. They were actually their aircraft on a refueling mission.

"At times there was experimental aircraft like that," said Everett after the object French saw was described to him. "Of course, that was back in the '50s and '60s. But there's aircraft out there of all shapes and sizes. People will build anything. Even a brick will fly if it has a big enough engine. There's all sorts of things out there."

But Laurie French doesn't believe an explanation is possible.

"I really don't think we have anything like that," she said emphatically. "I mean, we don't have any airplanes that can fly without wings, do we? And it was so huge and so quiet. It moved real slow, and it was so close to the ground. How can we have something like that?"

Mary Johnson, the sheriff's dispatcher who took the call from French that night, believes that French definitely saw something.

"I know she saw something because she couldn't have been that excited if she didn't," said Johnson. "She was talking really fast, but she sounded straight and clear-headed. I don't think someone would call you and tell you something like that if it wasn't real. I'm sure she saw something."

According to the report that was filed on the incident, the sheriff's department called the Federal Aviation Administration to check out the object.

"They told him (the sheriff) that they didn't see anything in that area," said Johnson, "and that they don't put much stock into something like this. That was the end of it from here."

It isn't the end of it for French. She said she's been out in her yard frequently since that night, looking and watching for the aircraft to appear again. So far, she hasn't seen anything.

"But if it did come over again when I was inside," she said, "there's no way I would hear it. It's just too quiet."

French is convinced that what she saw was something from another world, despite what anyone might say.

"I believe that people can come from other planets, and now I don't have any doubt in my mind. You really have to see something like that to actually believe it. To even talk about it now makes the hair on the back of my head stand up. It gives me chills even thinking about it."

UFO Sightings Not Uncommon

Reports of UFO sightings in and around Farmville aren't as infrequent as one might think.

A look back through *The Herald's* files show at least six different objects being spotted in the skies in the past 30 years or so.

In 1952, a number of people from Pamplin to Farmville reported seeing a "ball of fire" pass through the sky. This ball was seen in areas stretching as far as Baltimore and Norfolk. It was described as "the size of a two gallon bucket, with a glowing tail."

Also in 1952, several people reported seeing a "thing" that floated across the sky for about two hours. The first explanation, that it was a meteorite, was discarded because meteorites travel at rates of hundreds of miles per hour. No other explanation was ever put forth for the object.

Mid 1966 and early 1967 were a big time for UFO spotting. A Prince Edward County deputy sheriff reported seeing a dome-shaped object floating in the sky near Darlington Heights. The object, which didn't make any noise, had white lights that blacked out when it moved, (according to the deputy). A team from Fort Pickett came up to investigate the incident. No explanation was given for the appearance of the object.

Sightings were also reported in Richmond, Goochland, and High Point, North Carolina around the same time.

A second sighting in Farmville was reported in 1966. It was described as having four red lights about the size of breakfast plates that blinked, and two smaller, white lights that didn't. The lights seemed to be a great distance apart, according to the eyewitness. It hovered over a barn before moving west at a tremendous rate of speed without any noticeable sound.

A UFO was sighted in Rice in 1967, and several residents, including town and county police, watched it for about an hour before it disappeared. It was described as being about the size of a building or an extra large aircraft. It was mostly white, with a bluish tint. Two days previous to this sighting, a UFO was sighted on the ground at South Hill.

A UFO was spotted by a number of people in 1979. The object was larger than a star or an airplane's lights. It looked like a parachute with a light on it according to those who saw it. Explanations that it was a weather balloon or a satellite proved untrue.

S.W. VA. ENTERPRISE, Wytheville, VA - Nov. 9, 1987

A Backward Glance

30 Years ago
this week

• A mysterious lighted object was seen four miles east of Rural Retreat by two Rural Retreat men on Nov. 7. This object had also been seen in several states throughout the United States. They described this object as having an egg shaped light in front and tapered in the

back. It was described as traveling as fast as a jet and came from the southeast, headed northwest. From a distance it was described as appearing several hundred feet long, but if seen close up it was estimated to be about 2000 feet long. The men watched it for about 15 to 20 minutes and both stated it was "hard to explain."

Center investigates sightings

By John B. Gibson

Valley News Dispatch

Reports of Unidentified Flying Objects sightings in Plum Borough and Delmont this month, are being investigated by the Pennsylvania Center for UFO Research.

Diane Enion, Oklahoma Borough, a researcher for the North Versailles Township-based center, said the center's volunteer personnel will investigate the reports and that of the sighting of a four-legged, black creature which ran across Route 56 in Kiski Township's Spring Church district Monday at about 7:45 p.m.

Origin of the report about the "creature" would remain confidential, she said. However, she noted, its description has a striking similarity to that given in reported sightings of other four-legged "creatures" in parts of Westmoreland County, including Bell Township, in the

Plum and Delmont residents report seeing UFOs in the sky

past few years.

Center director Paul G. Johnson said UFO sightings were reported in the Kiski Valley area as recently as last week.

He said witnesses told him that on Oct. 16 and 18, at about 8:30 p.m. each day, they saw a UFO hover over the Clover Leaf Golf Course near Delmont, Westmoreland County. He said they described the object as "hamburger-shaped with a band of lights in the middle, orangish and white lights." He said the witnesses told him they watched the object "for about two or three minutes" through binoculars "until it disappeared slowly to the east, making no noise in the clear sky."

Johnson said the center had received a

report of a UFO hovering over Route 380 in Plum Borough on Oct. 8. The object was described as being rectangular with six red lights on it, he said.

The "creature" sighting report isn't anything new to the center's personnel, who have probed accounts involving a variety of four-legged or two-legged unidentified "creatures."

Johnson, employed in the Department of Chemistry at Duquesne University, last year co-authored "The Pennsylvania Bigfoot," which details 160 minutely-documented incidents in which tall, ape-like bipeds generally falling within the "Bigfoot" category were seen. The chronological listing begins in 1946, in Dicksonburg,

Pa. where a child was playing in the woods and grabbed what she thought was a tree stump. "Instead, it arose and she observed a large, black hairy biped with dark eyes, wide mouth and large square teeth. The hair felt like pine needles," the child told a center investigator.

The listing includes several references to incidents in the A-K Valley, many of the incidents being attended by the reported sighting of a UFO at about the same time as "Bigfoot" was sighted.

A-K Valley reports include "Bigfoot"-like creature sightings or noises in Bell Township, Avonmore area, Lancer Park area of Washington Township, Gibsonia, North Hills, Cadogan and Curwensville.

Enion said the center is anxious to investigate unusual phenomena and asked anyone with information to phone 568-3808.

Wythe UFO's are not a new phenomenon

P.O. Box 648
Troutville, Va. 24175
Oct. 23, 1987

Over the weekend, I spent a few hours in Rural Retreat, in Wythe County. I have studied UFO's off and on since 1965, when thousands were being seen and reported nationwide. I was attracted to Wythe County by the recent spurt of UFO sightings in this area. While at Rural Retreat Lake the most unusual things I saw in the sky were some spectacular meteorites, and possibly one meteor, the difference being in size.

Most people, who have not studied the UFO problem in depth are not aware of the scope of this phenomena. For instance, many think that UFO's are a new thing, beginning with the modern UFO era that began with the Kenneth Arnold Sightings on June 24, 1947. However, what appear to be drawings of "flying saucers" have been found on prehistoric cave walls, and other references to strang flying contraptions can be found throughout the folklore of history. The UFO, whatever it represents, has been among man for a long time. For instance, in 1896 and 1897, farmers throughout the midwest reported encounters with huge airships on their farms.

The problem for the UFO researcher is what to make of all the data available. So far, all UFO related data available for study has been "soft" data, mostly historical accounts, and eyewitness reports. One must take several fields into account when studying UFO's: Psychology, Sociology, Anthropology, Archaeology, Astronomy, Physics, Mythology, Animal Behavior, and so on. Statistics have borne out that one in ten of all UFO reports are truly unidentifiable. The other nine all can be proven to be IFO's which are identifiable flying objects.

What sort of objects are most often mistaken to be a UFO? Well, the list is long and varied, but most commonly, on clear nights such as the East coast has had for the past several weeks, stars, particularly venus can be perceived as moving due to illusions created by atmospheric distortions, or involuntary micro-muscular eye movements. These factors when accompanied by lively imaginations, and wishful thinking can result in very high numbers of UFO sightings. Next are satellites, and high altitude

Film To Detail 'Nonhuman' Encounters

By LAWRENCE VAN GELDER
New York Times

NEW YORK — Believe in non-human beings?

Philippe Mora does — at least for cinematic purposes.

And that's why the director's next project will be the film version of the nonfiction best-seller "Communion."

"Communion," published this year by Morrow and scheduled for reincarnation as an Avon paperback in February, is an account by Whitley Strieber — author of the novels "Wolfen" and "The Hunger" — of his apparent encounters with nonhuman beings.

"The most provocative of

these," goes one passage, "was about 5 feet tall, very slender and delicate, with extremely prominent and mesmerizing black slanted eyes."

Mora, whose latest film, "Howling III," just opened, was raised in Australia and has been a U.S. resident for the past eight years. But in 1968, both he and Strieber were in London. Strieber, a native of San Antonio, was a student at the London Film School. Mora was a painter, specializing in pop art and doing illustrations for the Beatles, including "The Beatles Illustrated Lyrics."

In the years since they met in London, the two have kept in

touch, and last year they formed a production company. "Communion" is such a fascinating book because it's the first time someone as articulate as Whitley has had these experiences," Mora said. "You know, it's usually people who can't express themselves in the manner Whitley has. Whitley came to the conclusion the only explanation for the experience is that these beings were reality in some way."

"So there's a really interesting psychological aspect to this story. It's not an alien special-effects movie at all."

"And then, of course, the main thing is the amount of people —

literally thousands of people — who have this experience of having encounters with these beings. So whether it's real or just a psychological reality, it's just amazing that it happens on this scale. It's almost like a religious experience for atheists, because they have their miracles; they have their angels, which are the beings; and you have to have faith."

Strieber has written the screenplay. Preproduction is under way. Casting remains to be done. Shooting is to begin in Los Angeles in February. The film should be finished by August. Allied Entertainment, a London-based distributor, will handle the international distribution, Mora said, and negotiations are in progress for U.S. distribution.

Other than professionally, Mora has had no experience with nonhumans. "I've certainly had vivid dreams," he said. "But I'm confident at this point that they were dreams."

GAZETTE, Schenectady, NY - Dec. 4, 1987 CR: G. Earley

ABC-TV's Segment on UFOs Was Unfair

Editor, Gazette:

On Oct. 28, ABC's "Good Morning America" presented a segment that was a distortion of truth and involved subterfuge in the misleading "promos" to attract viewers.

The promos promised a segment about "UFOs," a term that most people automatically and tacitly interpret as a phenomenon here on earth. Instead, the segment was biased against the existence of UFOs and popularized the astronomer's program called Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence in Space, (SETI).

In conclusion, what are UFO's? No one can say. In the early days of the modern UFO era, nearly 100 percent of all UFO investigators felt they were of an extraterrestrial origin. However, as of the International UFO Conference held in 1977, it is found that nearly half of all professional investigators had dropped the ET hypothesis. Many are opting for what is called the inter-dimensional hypothesis, still others think it is a phenomena that man has created for himself out of the workings of the so-called collective unconscious.

Personally, I am still among those who favor the ET theory. I think the other theories violate what is known as Occam's Razor, the theory that the more complex an explanation, the less likely it is to have merit. It works with other branches of science. I hope that unlike the late J. Allen Hynek, I live to see the UFO enigma solved. Toward that end, I invite Wythe Countians to write to me in strict confidentiality.

BARBARA FINNEY

S.W. VA. ENTERPRISE, Wytheville, VA - Nov. 5, 1987

The segment began with old UFO photos followed typically by an average citizen discussing his UFO sighting, replete with drawing, and a scene showing a crowd staring at the night sky. Next, a professional UFO debunker proclaimed, without proof, that there was nothing to the UFO phenomenon, just mistakes by thousands of people during the 40-some years since World War II. He did admit that he never really leaves his home to check out sightings, or landing sites, because "there are so many!"

To "balance" the UFO portion of the segment, a Harvard astronomer, radio telescope in the background, discussed his dedication to SETI and the need for more funds. Also, we, the viewers, were told that NASA wants \$100 million to search for ET's signal from space. Already, a lot of money has been spent devising schemes and equipment in unsuccessful attempts to hear from ET. Don't forget that our nearest star system where ET might originate is about 4.2 light years from earth, and that our radio waves would take 4.2 years to get there with a message from us. Hence, it would be 8.4 years before we could receive a response from ET. Besides, would an ET civilization, even slightly more advanced than ours, still communicate by radio waves? If ET is already here on earth, wouldn't it be a waste of time and money to listen for messages that may never come?

Although a UFO debunker appeared in the first part of the segment, there was no skeptic present to question the efficacy of the SETI program. The segment showed further bias when persons with academic credentials presented the case for SETI while the case for the existence of UFOs rested on the disparaging "shopworn" image of John Q. Public breathlessly reporting a UFO sighting while pointing to the sky.

As a physics professor who has mounted a long scientific field study of UFOs and as an extremely experienced UFO observer (with plenty of witnesses), I believe that I could present a quite different case.

DR. HARLEY RUTLEDGE
Cape Girardeau, Mo.
(The writer is a professor at Missouri State University.)

J. ANTONIO HUNEUS

UFO Symposium In D.C. Calls For End to Coverup

Nearly 500 people gathered last weekend at the American University in Washington, D.C., to review the history of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) during the past 40 years. Reported alien abductions, purported "top secret" leaked documents showing the Truman administration initiating a special committee to investigate crashed saucers in 1947, and the history of the phenomenon in over a dozen countries were some of the subjects discussed at the 1987 International UFO Symposium sponsored by the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) and the Fund for UFO Research.

The conference marked the anniversary of the famous June 24, 1947 sighting by pilot and businessman Kenneth Arnold of nine silvery saucers near Mount Rainier in the Cascades, which marked the beginning of the modern era of flying saucers or UFOs.

Temple University historian Dr. David Jacobs analyzed the history of the phenomenon in the United States in a paper entitled, *From Arnold to Hynek: The End of an Era*. The late astronomer Dr. J. Allen Hynek was hired in the late 1940s by the Air Force's Air Technical Intelligence Center (ATIC) at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base to explain away UFO sightings. In the course of his involvement, however, Hynek became convinced that UFOs represented something of great importance to science.

"After 40 years of studying UFO patterns, debating about their origin, developing procedures for studying sightings and witnesses, speculating about the meaning of the reports, debating the intricacies of governmental involvement in UFOs, and even warring among ourselves," said Jacobs, "the abduction material has placed us in a different phase of intellectual discourse."

Furthermore, continued Jacobs, "we have at last advanced beyond the sighting report. The material developed from the abduction accounts has unequivocally placed us in the study of extraterrestrial life, motivations, intentions, and activities."

Jacobs participated as well in a panel of UFO abduction investigators which included New York City artist Budd Hopkins, author of two books on the subject, *Missing Time* and *Intruders*; and researcher Eddie Bullard, who has analyzed the content of hundreds of abduction accounts for the Fund for UFO Research. Afterwards, Jacobs moderated a second panel of so-called abductees, which included Whitley Strieber, author of the best-selling book *Communion*, and half a dozen other individuals whose cases Hopkins investigated, and Mississippi steelworker Charles Hickson, one of two abductees in the famous 1973 incident near the Pascagoula Navy Yard.

The auditorium at American U. was filled to capacity during the two panels. Present throughout the proceedings was ufology's most noted debunker, Phillip Klass, a former senior editor of *Aviation Week & Space Technology*, who exhibited a permanent grin. Klass admitted to *The Washington Post* that he was the "skunk at the garden party."

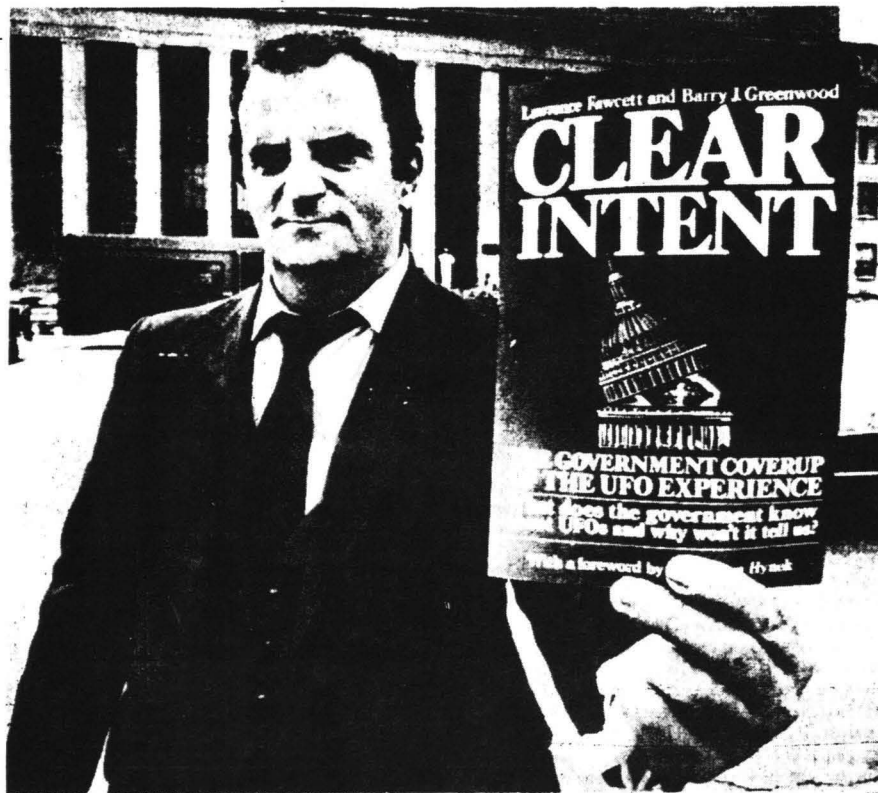
Although he has been called a scientific authority on the subject by *The New York Times*, ABC's *Nightline*, and others, one has to wonder about this qualification in view of Klass' behavior and performance. For instance, the veteran debunker was distributing business cards which read, "BEEN ABDUCTED BY A UFO LATELY? (If not, try a new deodorant!)" The audience, however, was not there to listen to Klass but to what Whitley Strieber and the other abductees had to say about their experiences.

Strieber began the session by handing Klass a copy of a polygraph test that, he said, was demanded by the BBC before he could appear on British TV; the polygraph indicated that Strieber had not lied with regards to his experiences with what he later called the "visitors," and that his aims had not been for monetary gain (although he certainly has done very well with *Communion*). "My first reaction was suicidal," he said, adding that "it was a bad moment in my life."

Next morning Strieber conducted a workshop on *Mankind and the Visitors: The Future of the Relationship*, where he stated that, "as an individual and a family we refuse to be afraid of this. I believe that is up to us to get past the fear if we can get the support of society. There is something at the other side of fear."

The other abductees recounted their experiences and the difficulties they've had in coping with them. Because of society's ridicule, one of them said "we are doubly damned," while a woman explained that it was impossible for her to reconcile the experience because, "you're not equal (in an abduction). They call the shots, you're subjected to experimentation." Moreover, she added that "to be here and speak in front of a group is very traumatizing because most of us had tried to keep it very private and very secret."

Kathie Davis, the protagonist of the incredible experiences of Copley Woods described in Hopkins' book *Intruders*, was also on the panel, although she had considerable difficulty expressing herself. According to Hop-



A "COSMIC WATERGATE" was a major topic at last weekend's symposium in Washington, D.C., sponsored by the Mutual UFO Network and the Fund for UFO Research. Lawrence Fawcett, at a 1984 press conference outside the Pentagon, holds a copy of 'Clear Intent' which he co-authored with Barry Greenwood that says the U.S. government engaged in a massive coverup of sightings over U.S. military installations.

kings' research, Davis had about 12 abductions in the course of her life, and these included the removal of ova samples, an apparent ET pregnancy, and the aliens' subsequent presentation to her of her "hybrid" babies. "It doesn't make sense," she said, "I am from the Midwest, it might be easier if I was from New York. I am scared for my kids . . ."

Most of the abductees expressed great fear that their children would undergo similar experiences. Charles Hickson said that he has five children and that "I've been fortunate, I've had to accept it. A man that couldn't accept it would destroy his life."

The international implications of the UFO phenomenon were also discussed at length in the MUFON Symposium with papers on the history of flying saucers in England, France, Italy, Spain, Sweden, Australia, Japan, India, Zimbabwe and South Africa, Canada, Argentina, Chile, Brazil and Uruguay.

In a press conference preceding the symposium, Dr. Bruce Maccabee, a Navy physicist who heads the Fund for UFO Research, indicated that invitations had been sent also to scientists in the Soviet Union, but no response was received. Yet the USSR Academy of Sciences does have an office to monitor what the Soviets call "anomalous atmospheric phenomena."

Finally, the matter of the so-called "Majestic 12" leaked documents was discussed in detail by Los Angeles writer and researcher William Moore, nuclear physicist Stanton Friedman, Maccabee, and others. We analyzed briefly the contents of these papers in our previous column.

At a keynote address during the symposium's banquet, William Moore recounted how his associate, independent TV producer Jaime Shandera, received in the mail a couple of years ago a mysterious package containing what seemed to be an "EYES ONLY" briefing document on "Operation Majestic 12" prepared for President-elect Eisenhower in November, 1952. The briefing officer was Admiral Roscoe Hillenkoetter, who was the first Director of the CIA. The paper confirmed that the government had possession of "a short range reconnaissance craft" that crashed near Roswell, New Mexico, and the decomposed bodies of four "Extraterrestrial Biological Entities."

One point that made Moore suspicious of the document, however, was the mention of Dr. Donald Menzel as part of the top secret MJ-12 committee. A respected Harvard astronomer, Menzel was also the founding father of UFO debunking. Yet the suspicions were dispelled after Friedman conducted extensive research on the late astronomer, discovering that he had possessed a "Top Secret-Ultra security clearance," that he worked on cryptography for the Navy during World War II and later for the National Security Agency; that he was closely associated with Dr. Vannevar Bush, who headed the scientific group to investigate the "modus operandi" of UFOs; that he made several trips to New Mexico and Washington D.C. in 1947, etc.

All these facts were not previously known by the UFO community, which always considered Menzel a close-minded skeptic. Friedman gave a lecture at the Symposium on "The Double Life of Donald H. Menzel." In the light of this new evidence, Menzel's skepticism seems more a matter of deception and disinformation than one of scientific conviction.

The Majestic 12 documents are causing a lot of debate within the UFO community, some of which was voiced in a Panel Discussion on "UFOs and Government Secrecy." While Moore, Friedman and Maccabee believe there is a good chance that the documents are authentic, others like attorney Peter Gersten and Barry Greenwood, co-author of the book *Clear Intent*, have voiced reservations. Moore and Friedman, however, indicated that their "Deep Throats" inside the government are continuing to supply additional information, which will be released at the appropriate time.

If this material turns out to be authentic, then Friedman's long-held contention of a "Cosmic Watergate" will make current and past Congressional hearings look like kindergarten. In fact, there were rumors circulating at the Symposium that congressional aides had already begun to look into crashed saucer allegations. And pin buttons distributed at the convention stated, "40 Years is Long Enough!"

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

UFO researcher examines photographs from newspaper

GULF BREEZE (UPI) — A director of a private group that investigates sightings of unidentified flying objects said Friday that he thinks UFO photographs allegedly taken last month in northwest Florida are among the best.

"I can't recall seeing a better set of photographs being available to the public in the past 10 years," said Donald M. Ware, a state director of the Texas-based Mutual UFO Network.

The pictures were published last month in the weekly *Sentinel* of

Gulf Breeze. They show a glowing object that appears to be above tree-top level. The anonymous photographer claimed he took them Nov. 11 with a Polaroid camera.

In subsequent issues the newspaper published accounts from other residents who claimed they saw the same object.

Ware, a former Air Force fighter pilot who lives in Fort Walton Beach, said photographs have been sent to an expert for an analysis that may, among other things, determine the size of the object.

UFO enthusiasts take new look at 1979 episode

By Bryn Boorse
Daily World city editor

Several witnesses watched a brightly-lighted, apparently burning object streak across the sky and plunge into the Elk River area near Westport, then explode the night of Nov. 25, 1979.

No wreckage was ever found and the mystery was never solved.

But Jim Clarkson of Aberdeen, who has been interested in UFOs since he was a child, started looking into the case this year. He's a member of the Texas-based Mutual UFO Network.

After interviews with several witnesses around the Harbor, he thinks he's on to something but needs more facts. He's called for help.

Don Johnson of Kirkland, the organization's state director, visited Aberdeen this week to study the findings. He has a doctorate in quantitative psychology and works with statistics.

Johnson said the organization is dedicated to the premise: "UFOs are a subject worthy of scientific investigation, and the public has a right to know."

He and Clarkson aren't claiming that an alien spacecraft crashed, but they speculate that some kind of military machine, such as a cruise missile, might have gone down.

If a missile crashed near Westport, it would be exceedingly embarrassing to the military, said Johnson. That would be a motive for secrecy, he said.

The two hope to gather enough information to buttress a Freedom of Information Act request.

While authorities at the time said the military was not in the area, Clarkson said there are persistent reports that military vehicles were seen near Grayland.

Clarkson and Johnson asked that any

Harborite who witnessed such activity that week send them a note at P.O. Box 5, Montesano, 98563.

"We need a couple more witnesses," said Johnson. "We're interested in documenting participation of the military in a retrieval."

The two plan to be on a KXRO talk show today.

In The Daily World files, there are several stories about the sightings from that week.

The first one, on Monday, said fog hampered the search for the object that seemed to crash. One witness saw the whole thing from the Elk River Bridge and called authorities. There were several other calls to the sheriff's office from witnesses. Some sightings were as far east as Central Park.

That Tuesday, Nov. 27, the U.S. Air Force requested a continuation of the search because of the large number of

witnesses to an apparent crash, according to Bill Langford, county emergency services coordinator.

Estella Krussel of Central Park was quoted in the story as saying it looked like an airplane crashing.

"It was bright like mercury lights, but it wasn't making a sound," she said.

Also, East Hoquiam Road resident Mrs. Ralph Case reported the sighting to Bowerman Field Flight Service Station personnel. She said it looked like a plane partly on fire. Ernest Hayes of Aberdeen was driving west on Highway 12 near Elma when he saw a "green and white flash" pass over.

However, the search was called off Wednesday the 28th when planes flying over the area found no sign of wreckage. Moreover, there were no reports of missing airplanes.

Some suggested the object might have been a well-lighted helicopter, but Johnson and Clarkson said an interview with a helicopter pilot convinced them that's unlikely.

Strangely, there were more UFO reports from Centralia that Wednesday.

Many witnesses called in on phone lines to radio station KITI.

Also, the Air Force denied it was investigating.

Later on, a final story said rumors were rampant, but Langford and Sheriff Dennis Morrisette said nothing was going on. An Army spokesman said the service wasn't guarding anything or doing anything about any UFO's at Elk River, while authorities said no one had reported first hand that he or she had seen the alleged object, or people guarding it.

It was all hearsay, they said.

JOURNAL, Rapid City, SD - July 29, 1987



Donald Curtis of Des Moines, Iowa, with his UFO van. Curtis directs his state chapter of the Mutual Unidentified Flying Objects Network (MUFON). (Staff photo by Bill Harlan)

Iowan wants to know: Is CIA hiding ALF corpse?

Bill Harlan
Staff Writer

If a corpse from another planet is being stored at CIA headquarters in Langley, Va., the American people ought to know about it, according to Donald Curtis.

Curtis, 37, is an electronics technician for the Des Moines, Iowa, police department. He and his family have been vacationing in the Black Hills the past week, traveling in a van with a message.

The van's specialized Iowa plates proclaim: "UFO S." On the side of the van, in neat letters, is the plea: "Support National UFO Information Week. Inform yourself. Inform others."

In that spirit, Curtis readily agreed to an interview about his interest in visitors from outer space.

It began in Vietnam, where he served with a military intelligence unit. In April 1969 a UFO was reported over a Marine compound near Da Nang, Curtis said.

"It was close," he said. "Less than 200 feet."

Curtis heard reports the craft had hovered for about a half hour one night, flashing multi-colored lights. He said there were 80 witnesses, still photographs and even motion pictures of a disc-shaped craft that was 100 to 130 feet in diameter.

According to Curtis, the incident was hushed up. Several years later, when he tried to obtain information about the sighting under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), the Army denied the incident ever occurred, Curtis said.

A rash of UFO sightings in 1973 in

the southeast and Midwest further piqued his curiosity. In 1977 he took a course on UFOs and extraterrestrial life through the adult education program of the Des Moines public schools. He was hooked.

Now Curtis is Iowa state director of the Mutual Unidentified Flying Object Network, or MUFON. The organization, which investigates reports of UFOs, has 2,400 members worldwide.

"We go out of our way to be skeptical," Curtis said. "And we stay away from the fringe elements."

Over the last 10 years he has investigated 50 to 60 reports of UFO sightings. He could explain away all but six cases, but those six cases were intriguing.

For example, Curtis told of an enforcement officer who spotted a UFO while on his way to Minnesota on a fishing trip. The officer spotted a craft which hovered 200 feet from his car and was clearly visible for two or three minutes.

Curtis called the officer a reliable witness and a previous UFO skeptic. There was no explanation for the sighting, Curtis said, and there were too many similar incidents to dismiss the idea of visits from space.

Curtis also is a member of Citizens Against UFO Secrecy, a group lobbying for more government openness about UFO reports.

The FOIA has made getting information easier. For example, Curtis said the act helped produce a copy of an "incident report" on an alleged UFO landing at Kirtland Air Force Base in 1981 outside Albuquerque.

"The government says UFOs do

not affect national security, but that was a weapons storage facility," Curtis said. "Nuclear weapons."

According to Curtis, the classic cover-up was the blanket of secrecy thrown over an alleged crash of a UFO near Roswell, N.M., in July 1947.

Curtis said private UFO researchers had interviewed a dozen people who said they saw debris from the craft, including four members of a military security unit that investigated the alleged crash.

He also has heard reports the body of an alien was recovered. The pieces of wreckage and possibly the body, according to some ufologists, were stored at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base for many years, then moved to CIA headquarters.

"The debunkers really ridicule this," Curtis said. But Curtis feels certain there is much evidence of UFOs, including film taken from gun cameras aboard Air Force jets, that has not been released to the public.

To the question of how a government which can't hide a Swiss bank account could hide UFO wreckage for 40 years, Curtis has two answers.

"The secret's been out for a long time," he said. But nobody with proof has been willing to come forward."

Curtis added, "There are things that are so secret, they don't even tell the president."

National UFO Information Week is Aug. 10-17, and Curtis hopes the publicity will generate more interest in the subject.

UFO skeptics should consider the story behind Curtis' license plate, "UFO S." Curtis originally wanted just plain "UFO."

It was already taken.

MYSTERY

Unidentified lights in night sky baffle Fountain viewers

By Glenn Urban/Gazette Telegraph

Carla Finley watched the strange lights in the sky near her Fountain Mesa home for more than three hours Wednesday night, but she still doesn't know what she saw.

Finley said she is accustomed to seeing airliners glide overhead as she lies in bed at night. So when the lights came into view in the eastern sky Wednesday night, "I thought I was seeing another airplane."

But instead of slowly moving out of view as the airliners always do, these lights stopped in the sky, then alternately moved up and down, forward and backward, she said.

The lights were red and blue or green, she said. They blinked. They grew brighter, then faded, then returned to brilliance.

"I about freaked out. I woke my husband to tell him about the lights," she said.

Finley's husband dismissed them as Fort Carson helicopters. But Spec. 4 Mattie Jones of the Fort Carson Public Information Office said the post had no helicopters operating east of Fountain at that time.

Finley first spotted the lights about 11:45 p.m. She said she stayed up until 3 a.m. watching them.

"I'm not crazy. I have been in the Army and I have been a police officer at Winston-Salem in North Carolina."

Her husband and neighbors also saw the lights, she said. Finley called the security police at Peterson Air Force Base, but they were unable to spot the lights, she said.

She also called Fountain police, and some officers could see the lights but had no explanation.

Fountain Officer David Aga, a patrol supervisor, took a keen interest in the mysterious lights. He went to his home in Pleasant Valley, east of Fountain, and studied the lights with binoculars.

Aga said he spotted six different sets of lights.

Del Kindschl, public affairs spokesman for the North American Aerospace Defense Command, said personnel on duty at the combat operations center Wednesday night had no reports of the lights.

Operators at the Federal Aviation Administration radar installations at Peterson AFB and Limon told Fountain police their instruments did not detect any unidentified objects in the sky.

Couple claim evidence of UFO cover-up

By John F. Kirch
Record-Journal staff

Bob and Betty Luca's lives changed drastically in 1980, when the Higganum couple went public with a fantastic story that involves men from space and cigar-shaped spacecraft.

Both claim to have been abducted by aliens — Bob's abduction allegedly occurred in a rural section of Wallingford — and are pushing for the United States to be more open about its UFO research.

The Lucases and other UFO investigators claim that the federal government has tons of documents that show extensive research and information on UFOs that would stretch beyond the imagination.

Bob Luca has been lecturing on the subject for several years and will be one of the speakers attending a two-day conference on UFOs next weekend. The conference, which will be held at North Haven's Ramada Inn, is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday and 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday. It is open to the public, though a fee will be charged.

For the Lucases, though, the lecture circuit is only one side of their post-UFO experience. The couple claim they have been harassed by the federal government since their abduction stories appeared in two books, "The Andreasson Affair I" and "The Andreasson Affair II," the first of which was released in 1980.

Although federal officials deny it, the Lucases said their phone has been bugged, their mail opened and their

car followed. The couple also said that "black, unmarked helicopters have hovered over their house periodically for years and on one occasion followed Bob Luca to the store."

According to Luca, who has photographs of what he says are the aircraft, they are the same unmarked helicopters that have appeared over sites where UFOs have been reported. The federal government denies they have such aircraft, he said.

The Lucases, who have also appeared on television shows to discuss UFOs, said they believe federal officials are covering up information on UFOs. Bob Luca has dozens of U.S. documents he acquired through the Freedom of Information Act concerning various federal UFO investigations. "What we're after ultimately is the truth," he said.

His experience began in Wallingford 20 years ago. He was driving his car east on Route 68 on his way to Hammonasset Beach State Park. He said that as he approached the Durham line in a rural section of Wallingford, he noticed five railroad workers pointing to something that hovered just above the hills. When he looked, Luca said he saw two cigar-shaped objects flying across the sky. He said he was unsure what they were and continued his trip.

Luca said that as he made his way along the road at 11 that morning, he noticed two smaller pods eject from the UFOs and float to the earth. His said his memory of the incident ends



Photo by George A. Olson
Bob Luca points in the general direction of where he says he saw two UFOs in 1967 over an isolated stretch of Route 68 near the Wallingford/Durham town line

there.

For 10 years, Luca said he wondered what happened that day. Finally in 1977, after contacting the Mutual UFO Network, a national organization that investigates UFO sightings, Luca underwent regressive hypnosis to recall

the experience.

The hypnosis revealed, Luca said, that he had been beamed up onto the spacecraft and examined by aliens.

His wife said she has had two similar experiences in Massachusetts.

She said she was abducted and examined first in 1950 and again in 1967.

According to Craig Howland, a UFO investigator from Meriden, Bob Luca's Wallingford experience is not unique. Since the 1950s, residents in that isolated section of town have seen strange discs over the tree-covered hills. In the New Haven and Meriden-Wallingford areas, there have been more than 5,000 UFO sightings during the past 30 years, Howland said.

UFO reports still surface in Wytheville

By KRISTEN HEBESTREET
Smyth County Bureau

WYTHEVILLE — UFOs are still allegedly frightening livestock, startling drivers, interfering with television reception and lighting up the woods around Wytheville, according to WYVE radio newsman Danny Gordon.

Gordon organized a well-attended UFO conference Wednesday night at Wytheville Community College. Self-described UFO experts from Virginia, West Virginia, Texas and, by telephone hook-up, Ohio, heard residents' stories of flashing lights, hovering saucers and even a horseshoe-shaped craft with feelers floating over Rural Retreat.

One Rural Retreat resident who preferred to remain anonymous said UFO sightings are so common, she used to rush outside to see one, but "It got to be old hat."

A Rural Retreat teenager mentioned she and her friends would go out "UFO hunting" sometimes. She said she saw a UFO above the local drive-in.

"They were heading out the door and they joked and said let's see if there's any UFOs, and they looked up and there was four," Wytheville resident Gary White told the audience about his friend's experience.

UFOs of varying shapes and sizes have been infesting Wytheville skies since Oct. 1, and reports are now spreading to surrounding areas. Gordon even spotted a UFO hovering over the local Holiday Inn.

Donna Nevers even dreaded seeing UFOs on her way to Smyth County, but one hovered over her car anyway.

"I said 'not me, not tonight; I don't have time,'" Nevers said about her sighting Nov. 12.

Gordon organized the conference so residents could collect and compare stories, often urging reluctant residents to the podium in between stories.

Gordon reports he has sighted UFOs eight times since Oct. 16 and objects to reports that they are low-flying or refueling aircraft.

Mutual UFO Network Director (MUFON) David Bodner offered forms so residents could submit their stories to MUFON's files.

"You will be ridiculed; I've been ridiculed," Bodner said. "Everyone coming through the door felt a little awkward; that's nothing unusual." He asked residents to start carrying cameras and to scan daytime skies as well as at night.

UFO hobbyist Barbara Finney warned residents they might discover years from now that they have been abducted and possibly even experimented on by extraterrestrials. Those at the meeting were advised to look for mysterious scars on the backs of their knees.

ENTERPRISE, Simi Valley, CA - Nov. 13, 1987 CR: J. Guma

UFO? Some believe it was only a plane

By Elizabeth Campos
The Enterprise Staff

Was it a plane, a bird or an unidentified flying object?

That seems to be the question facing many Simi Valley residents this week.

Several swear it was not a plane, that it had to be a UFO. While others are sure it was a plane of some sort.

The reported sightings in Simi Valley will be investigated by the Mutual UFO Network, the international director announced Thursday.

But one local man said this morning that will be a waste of time because the "UFO" was actually a large military plane.

Dale Gumbert, along with another local man, said the "sighting" Tuesday evening was actually an extraordinarily large military plane.

Checks with airports in Camarillo, Van Nuys, Oxnard and Burbank proved inconclusive.

An airline pilot with 25 years experience, who declined to give his name, said the "UFO" was a C-5 military plane.

"It was unusual for this air," he

said. "It wasn't as low as people thought, because it is larger than a 747. There are C-5 A's and C-5 B's."

"They do not require sound muffling like suppressors on the commercial. The red lights were dual anti-collision beacons, which are not unusual for planes running through high density traffic areas."

Gumbert, who has been an aerial photographer for 32 years, said he was standing in the parking lot of St. Francis Episcopal Church when the plane flew overhead.

"It sounded like it had a turbo fanned jet engine. I looked up and saw it fly overhead. I thought it was a C-5 or DC-10," Gumbert said. "It did not hover, it flew directly over. That altitude and being an airplane that size, would make it look like it was going slower. It definitely was an airplane."

Gumbert said it appeared to him that the plane was flying east towards Burbank Airport or Edwards Air Force Base.

"It looked to me like it could have been a C-5. It had the very same sound as a C-5 on approach."

UFOs buzzing Hudson Valley?

Sightings, new book fuel debate on skies

By Paul Grondahl

Staff writer

Doo-doo-doo-doo; doo-doo-doo-doo.

If there were a narrator for this story, it would have to be none other than the clipped, smoky, resonant voice of Rod Serling.

Scientifically speaking, we are dealing here with paranormal phenomena of the aerial variety — unidentified flying objects, better known by their acronym, UFOs.

Before you discount this as the sensational imagination of a *National Enquirer* headline writer ("Elvis Presley Fathers UFO Baby!"), read on.

During the past five years, there have been hundreds of reports of sightings of a formidable UFO in our own backyard, from people who wouldn't consider kooks: attorneys, pilots, engineers, physicists, even police officers.

Scores of witnesses from Albany to Ossining have reported seeing a V-shaped object in the sky larger than a football field that hovers noiselessly at low altitudes and shines brilliant, pulsating, multi-colored lights.

One of the witnesses was Danbury, Conn., Police Chief Nelson Macedo. Contacted by telephone at his office last week, Macedo said he saw the massive V-shaped object the night of July 14, 1984, while fishing with four buddies on Candlewood Lake.

"This huge, lighted object the size of a football field moved across the sky quite low and made no noise," Macedo recalls. "Some of my officers saw it that night, too. It was something none of us could explain."

This particular UFO, whatever it is, is staying in the Hudson Valley.

— Philip J. Imbrogno, author

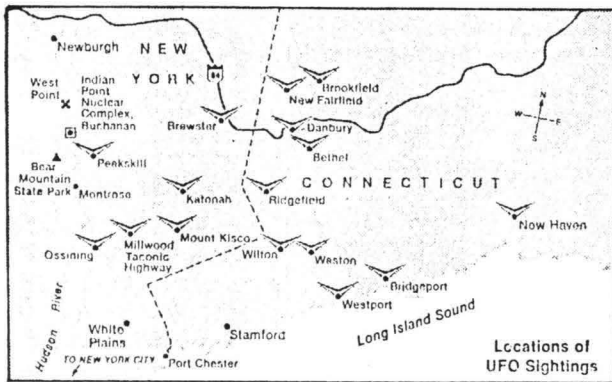
Three researchers have followed up with an investigation of this unusually prolonged and voluminous cluster of sightings of a particular UFO — which has been dubbed "the Westchester Boomerang" because many of the sightings came from that county and its vicinity.

The result of their research is the recently published book, "Night Siege: The Hudson Valley UFO Sightings" (Ballantine Books), authored by Dr. J. Allen Hynek, Philip J. Imbrogno and Bob Pratt.

Such is the public's fascination with the topic of UFOs that "Night Siege" — which is a rather dry and exhaustive series of interviews with eyewitnesses — has in two months sold out the 15,000 copies of its first printing and gone into a second.

"This particular UFO, whatever it is, is staying in the Hudson Valley," says author Imbrogno, a high school science teacher, by telephone from his home in White Plains.

"The bottom line is there's a mystery here. Whatever's behind it, whether it's a top-secret government experiment or a well-planned hoax or life from outer space, I don't know. But so many well-educated people, and even aviation engineers, have reported seeing it that they couldn't have been fooled with a blimp or airplanes. Something strange is definitely up there in the sky."



'WESTCHESTER BOOMERANG' — This map from the new book "Night Siege: The Hudson Valley UFO Sightings" shows where unidentified objects have been reported in recent years.

Hundreds of books, thousands of research dollars and numerous reports of close encounters later, that is about the only claim all the various scientists who come under the umbrella of UFOology can make: that there is something strange in the sky.

Even without any empirical evidence, by sheer volume, if nothing else, UFO study is catching on.

"More and more scientists are getting involved with the study of UFOs," says Mark Rodeghier, an astrophysicist and scientific director of the 1,000-member Center for UFO Studies in Glenview, Ill. "UFOology has gained semi-respectability."

This year, the same that gave us the summer's Harmonic Convergence observances, marks the 40th anniversary of the first sighting of a UFO.

On June 24, 1947, Kenneth Arnold, a businessman-pilot flying near Mount Rainier in Washington state's Cascade Mountain range, saw nine disk-shaped objects flying around the summit. Upon landing, Arnold told his story, the media ran with it and a newspaper headline the next day trumpeted the arrival of "flying saucers."



BRIGHT LIGHTS — This boomerang pattern of lights was seen over Brewster, Putnam County, on June 10, 1984. No aircraft were cleared for the area that evening.

Public interest in UFOs has not waned in the ensuing decades, despite any verifiable proof that these objects have anything other than a natural and logical genesis — stars, planets, unusual weather patterns, experimental government-operated aircraft.

Many scientists take a dim view of UFOs, close encounters and other extraterrestrial phenomena.

Says Harold Story, a State University at Albany physicist who teaches a course in astronomy, "Scientists are extremely frustrated with all this garbage that comes up over and over: astrology, UFOs, New Age crystals. It's all baloney, pure and simple."

Despite the outcries of debunkers like Story, the most ambitious reference book ever on the topic of UFOs was published this year.

George Eberhart's two-volume, 1,300-page tome, "UFOs and the Extraterrestrial Contact Movement: A Bibliography" (Scarecrow Press), includes listings of more than 5,500 books in English, 2,200 books in other languages and magazines such as *The Flying*

Saucer Review and the international *UFO Reporter*.

Much of the material seems reasoned and responsible. However, some of the listings are truly bizarre. Such as the book, "UFOs: Nazi Secret Weapon?" which says Adolf Hitler and other Nazis escaped from Germany in 1945 and have survived in a colony at the South Pole, their base for an air force of flying saucers.

Then there is the 1957 record album called "Music from Another Planet," on which Howard Menger played songs he said were taught to him by a man from Saturn.

Eberhart, an editor for an American Library Association magazine in Chicago and UFO buff, says people reported many sightings of UFOs in the 1960s and 1970s, but there was a decline from about 1981 until a year ago when things began picking up again.

According to the Center for UFO Studies, reported sightings reached a peak rate of about 2,000 a year in the 1970s, but that had fallen to about 200 in recent years.

That's what makes the sudden boom of sightings in the Hudson River Valley between 1983 and 1986 so noteworthy. The investigation for "Night Siege" was begun by Dr. J. Allen Hynek, professor emeritus and former chairman of the astronomy department at Northwestern University, founder of the Center for UFO Studies in 1973 and dean of UFOologists.

Hynek, author of such books as "The UFO Experience" and "The Hynek Report," was technical consultant to Steven Spielberg for the movie "Close Encounters of the Third Kind." For 20 years, Hynek also had been the scientific consultant to the U.S. Air Force's Project Blue Book, an investigation of the UFO phenomenon, before his death in April 1986 at the age of 75.

"I had no thoughts of doing this book," Imbrogno says of his work on "Night Siege." "I did it because of an obligation I made to the late Dr. J. Allen Hynek to finish it."

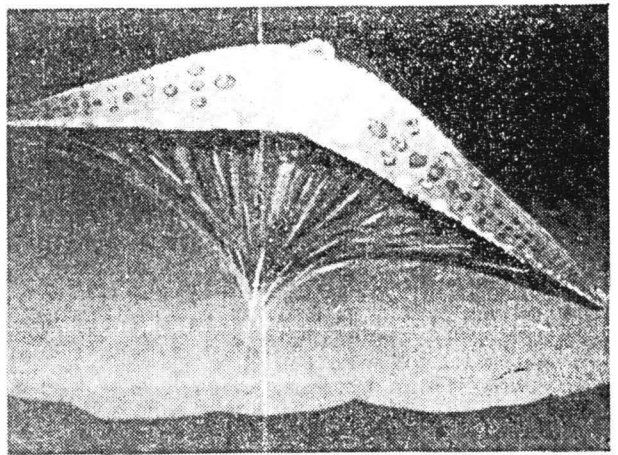
Yet when Imbrogno had finished — dozens of extensive interviews with witnesses and 210 pages of text later — he found himself with reams of accounts of the same "Westchester boomerang" and a list of questions he couldn't answer. "The bottom line is I still don't know what it was," Imbrogno says.

Harry Hamilton, an administrator and professor of atmospheric sciences at State University at Albany, might be able to shed some light on Imbrogno's quandary. "I think most of my colleagues believe, like I do, that these UFOs are explainable if we know all of the conditions," he says. "That would place them all as terrestrial in origin."

Back in April, 1966, Hamilton and many others living in the Ravena area reported seeing an aerial "Easter egg" — a glowing, reddish, oval object low in the sky. The story was carried in the *Times Union*.

Like the rest of the observers, Hamilton was startled by the strange sight and at first thought it might be a UFO from outer space. After following it and getting a better view, however, Hamilton determined this aerial "Easter egg" was nothing more than a portion of the moon shining through a small cloud cover. The motion of the cloud cover appeared to give motion to the object.

"The observer of a UFO is not hallucinating, but he is seeing an optical illusion of a sort," Hamilton adds. "For the most part, I feel these are natural phenomena that occur



Illustrations from "Night Siege: The Hudson Valley UFO Sightings" **THEY'RE HERE** — This drawing of a UFO reported on July 12 and 24 in the Hudson Valley was prepared from the description of 35 witnesses.

when the observer is not aware of the real environment."

Story, who teaches the courses "Contemporary Astronomy" and "Space Exploration" at SUNYA, concurs.

"Most scientists do not believe that UFOs come from alien worlds or anything like that," Story says. "Scientists would be wildly excited if we ever found a piece of an alien spacecraft. But there is nothing yet to study. The sky is monitored so thoroughly by the government, professional scientists and amateur observers that it would be very difficult for something to get by."

"I don't doubt that those people in the Hudson River Valley saw something," Story adds. "But untrained observers tend to make wild conclusions as a first guess. Scientists are always looking for the simplest, most reasonable way to explain things instead of the most bizarre and far-out explanation."

Tom Esposito, assistant air traffic manager for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in Albany, puts it this way: "People want to believe in extraterrestrials, but here we're too busy to worry about them. A lot of things that occur out in the atmosphere are hard to explain. But our business is a real one and we have to deal with what's real, not guess at what could be."

Esposito says he is not aware of any UFO sightings reported to the FAA in Albany in the past two years, although about a decade ago there were a spate of them centered around Saratoga Springs. It was then that the *National Enquirer* came calling on the FAA in Albany. "They tried to get a story out of us and twisted things around so it looked like something big was going on here," Esposito says.

Something strange is going on; 1987 was the year of a UFO renaissance. A new survey for the National Science Foundation found that 43 percent of Americans believe that it is likely that some of the unidentified flying objects that have been reported are really space vehicles from other civilizations. The same survey found 48 percent reject the theory of evolution and 40 percent give astrology some scientific credibility.

If you want to take the pulse of public interest, look at the *New York Times* best-seller book list. You'll find in the current No. 1 spot Stephen King's "The Tommyknockers" (Putnam's Sons), a UFO horror story.

Earlier 1987 best-sellers included "Communion" (Beech Tree Books/Morrow), by Whitley Strieber. Strieber tells in "Communion" of a Dec. 26, 1985 incident that occurred in his upstate New York cabin: he found himself in a

small, gray room full of humanoids and one of them inserted a hair-thin needle into his brain and probed his mind. Then there were the non-fiction books: "Intruders: The Incredible Visitation at Copley Woods" (Random House) by Budd Hopkins and Gary Kinder's "Light Years: An Investigation into the Extraterrestrial Experiences of Eduard Meier" (Atlantic Monthly Press).

There is a brave new world for UFOology — the cutting edge is research into an increasing number of reported UFO abduction cases. Peter Gersten, a Peekskill attorney and founder of Citizens Against UFO Secrecy (CUFOS), who began a UFO Hotline in Westchester County, is putting together an organization in his community called CONTACT for those who have been involved in UFO abduction experiences (contact between humans and non-humans).

"There are more and more psychologists and psychiatrists studying the UFO abduction phenomena through hypnosis of the people who have had the experience, which seems to be legitimate for them," Gersten says.

Although reports to the UFO Hotline have dropped off about 90 percent from the 300 phoned in weekly in 1984, Gersten says he still gets regular reports about the so-called "Thursday night sightings" that have been occurring regularly in Putnam County since 1984.

As for the "Westchester boomerang," both Gersten and author Imbrogno now believe it is some kind of top-secret experimental aircraft the government is testing — a contention the government, of course, denies and deems ridiculous.

Before he died, however, Hynek, the dean of UFOology, left Imbrogno a cryptic message *a la* CIA Director William Casey to reporter Bob Woodward in the best-selling book, "Veil."

Says Imbrogno, "Dr. Hynek knew more than he could tell us. The last thing he said to us was, 'You're on the right path. Keep on digging. The government is going to have to admit sooner or later these things are real.'"

NEWS-TIMES, Danbury, CT - Jan. 11, 1988

Unidentified object may have been meteor

A woman in Patterson said she spotted a cone-shaped UFO with flashing blue and white lights as she drove on Route 22 near Capriccio's restaurant and a woman driving on Interstate 84 in Danbury said she saw a meteor with a tail over Jordan Marsh near Exits 6 and 7.

The Putnam County Sheriff's Department suspected that what the Patterson woman saw was a meteor because it was also seen at the Westchester County Airport.



AUSTRALASIAN POST, Australia
July 30, 1987 CR: J. Melesciuc

A UFO crumbled her fillings

By PETER HOUGH
Picture: RICHARD CROFT

SHELLEY McLenaghan's teeth look OK today, but anyone studying her dental work — new top and bottom fillings — would think she must have been in a fight years back.

She wasn't, although something happened which not only made her fillings crumble, it gave her a new, more frightening, world-view.

This change came when Shelley encountered an Unidentified Flying Object near her home.

It was 5.15 pm on January 23, 1976, and Shelley had just got off the bus. She was 17.

"Before that, I would have thought anybody who said they'd seen a UFO was crazy."

Shelley was a typical teenager, clothes and boy-mad.

Now she is married to a parcels packager and is a pessimist. Although she wants children she feels it is unsafe to bring them into this world.

"I think the government know more than they let on."

What happened to Shelley?

"I saw a red and green light in the sky — it was a bit weird. The lights were about four or five times the size of a star. Then, the lights merged and the semblance of a real nuts-and-bolts craft zoomed in."

"It was the size of a small house, flat on top, with sloping sides, with a trap door and tripod legs."

"It was spinning on an axis, then righted itself. I could see portholes with light shining through."

"Suddenly, it tilted towards me, then there was a terrible pressure on my head and shoulders, an 'off' taste in my mouth. My teeth seemed to vibrate."

"When I tried to run it was like being in a nightmare. My arms and legs moved, but in slow motion."

"I tried to scream, nothing came out. Then everything went hazy until I remember bursting through the side door at home."

"Mother was cooking tea. She gave one look at me, then said: 'What on earth's happened?' She thought I'd been raped."

"I grabbed her outside and pointed at the sky, but whatever it was had gone. We went back into the kitchen and I noticed the time — ten minutes past six."

"A ten-minute walk had taken me 45 minutes."

This experience was followed by something even stranger. As soon as her father got home, he phoned the police.

The sceptical officers on duty at Bolton police station suggested Shelley had misidentified a low flying aircraft. They didn't believe her story.

That weekend, Shelley became ill. A purple rash covered her neck, chest, shoulders and upper back. Her eyes and joints ached, and Shelley had problems in her mouth.

Her local doctor said she was suffering from hysteria.

The dentist thought differently. Shelley's top fillings has come out, her bottom fillings had crumbled into powder.

The scale of the injury indicated a serious head accident, the sort of thing you find after car crashes.

But Shelley was otherwise quite healthy.

Then, 11 days later, two men knocked at the door. They were an odd couple. One claimed to be an RAF commander. He had only one arm, which he claimed to have lost in an air crash.

The other had dark skin and sat silently with a black box on his knee. He said it was a tape recorder but never changed the tape in four hours.



★ SHELLEY at the scene of her 1976 close encounter near her home in the north of England.

Shelley still remembers quite clearly just what happened. "The commander gave me a grilling. He told me I was a liar, that I was stupid enough to identify wrongly a weather balloon, and that I was out for publicity."

"He seemed quite placated when I told him that I had not co-operated with the press. He said that was good and insisted I should not mention it to anyone — to UFO organisations especially."

"I was almost reduced to tears. These two men had a strange effect on all of us. My father is normally protective, yet he sat by while this man was tearing me to pieces. He seemed to know about my rash too, even though we hadn't mentioned it."

Shelley's father asked the men for identification, but they remained evasive.

In 1984, while under hypnosis, Shelley described finding herself lying on a table in an unfamiliar room. A figure with long blond hair was examining

her feet. The next thing she could recall was that suddenly she was running home. When Shelley was regressed by psychiatrist Dr Keller, she said the "commander" talked to her twice.

Shelley has become a Catholic since marrying, but she hasn't mentioned her strange experience to her priest. Her husband Arthur was quite frightened by her story.

"Arthur must have thought the whole family was mad. The other night we went out to dinner and began discussing it. He believes that I believe it happened, and although initially reticent, wants me to pursue the matter."

Shelley works as a plastic surgery counsellor, doesn't dream about her UFO, and feels its main effect has been an added uncertainty in her life.

"If anyone has an experience they can't put in a box, file away and take out as a normal memory, they're bound to ask just what happened."

Puzzle of odd light in sky

A DURRINGTON insurance clerk spotted a strange yellow light over the Downs two days after a similar UFO sighting.

Mark Green, 18, of Torridge Close, told workmates at Excess Insurance he had seen something like a supernova as he put his bike away last Thursday night. Then he saw a report in the next day's Worthing Gazette and Herald, telling how two joggers were confronted by a glowing, shape-changing object over the Downs at Long Furlong that week.

Stretched

Mark had seen a swelling yellow light just after 11 p.m. over the Downs. It sort of stretched as if it was trying to break apart, he said.

"It was as though some invisible hand was playing with Plasticine," Mark added. "I assumed it was a supernova."

After a couple of minutes the strange light disappeared. "I'm a perfectly sane 18-year-old insurance clerk," assured Mark.

Several mysterious incidents have been reported in the Clapham and Downs area over the last 30 years. These include weird lights, 'flying saucers' and disappearing dogs in Clapham Woods.

WESTERN MORNING NEWS,
Plymouth, England
- Oct. 24, 1987
CR: T. Good

Catalogue of UFOs

PLYMOUTH UFO Research Group chairman Bob Boyd is sending a collection of recent Westcountry sightings in a report to political leaders, the RAF and the Ministry of Defence.

The sightings, some of which have been recorded in The Western Morning News, are being used by Mr. Boyd to highlight the growing interest in extra-terrestrial matters.

"I have sent copies to the Prime Minister, Neil Kinnock, David Steel, and David Owen because I feel the public should know more about what is going on," he said.

His report was completed after a large number of people witnessed strange lights in the sky in August over Exmouth, Plymouth and North Cornwall which could not be explained.

EVENING TELEGRAPH, Derby, England - Aug. 17, 1987

UFO hovered over house says mum

STARTLED neighbours watched in amazement last night when what they described as a UFO hovered only feet above their homes.

The round object, said to be about "as big as a car" and covered in bright lights, split apart before flying off, claims housewife Mrs Joyce Potter (24).

She claimed that her three-year-old son, Jason, a neighbour and three other women also witnessed the UFO hovering silently for about 20 minutes late last night.

Mrs Potter, of 6 Devon Close, Chaddesden, said: "We saw these big lights coming over. There were quite a few ladies on the front, they were screaming and shouting."

"I went to see what was happening. It was round with glass windows on it. There were nine or ten lights on it, they were green, red, orange and yellow. It was about as big as a car."

Next door neighbour Mrs Christina Carter (56) said she had heard a commotion and had got up to look out of her bedroom window. She had seen the women in the street and said they were excited about something, but she did not see the UFO.

A spokesman for East Midlands International Airport said air traffic controllers had spotted nothing unusual on radar screens last night.

A spokesman for Derby police said no reports of a UFO had been received.

BURTON MAIL, Staffordshire, England

Oct. 26, 1987 CR: T. Good

Anybody up there?

Following the Mail's focus on the mysterious world of UFOs, Derbyshire expert skywatcher, Mr Denis Harriman, received more than 20 reports of strange, flying objects.

Now 34-year-old Denis would like to hear from anyone who may have seen three, separate sightings of unexplained lights in the sky recently in the area.

The first was two fireballs, spotted going over Burton District Hospital and heading towards the A38. A married couple saw them between 9 pm and 10 pm on October 5.

On the same day a flying object, shaped like a tea cosy, was reported in the afternoon in the Horninglow area.

"As both objects were seen in the same square mile and on the same day, we are investigating whether the two

are linked. It is very unusual to get three sightings on the same day," said Denis, sightings co-ordinator of the National UFO Investigation Society.

Three witnesses also claim to have seen a couple of orange balls over Tutbury in the last three to four weeks, going in the direction of Ashbourne.

The third case, which was reported in the Mail, was the egg-shaped object, observed by workers at Derby's Rolls Royce factory.

Two people, returning from a trip to Elvaston Castle, late at night, saw a bright, white oblong shape in the sky with evenly spaced lights, which they claimed were windows. It was seen on the same day as the Rolls Royce sighting in the day.

HERALD EXPRESS,
Torquay, Devon,
England - Oct. 1,
1987 CR: T. Good

Odd spots

ALMOST a week after sightings of UFOs were reported in South Devon comes a tale of a cone-shaped oddity hovering over Paignton.

Mrs Millie Swann of Kinlacey Court in Museum Road, Torquay, said she and her husband, Jim, spotted the UFO from their window at about 8.25pm on Monday.

"It was red with a sort of glowing around it, the shape of a tilted cone. We watched it for about six minutes before it disappeared."

FAR-OUT SIGHTS

By IAN AUSTIN
Staff Reporter

There's a hot new Hatzic sport — UFO watching.
But one expert thinks the locals are just stargazing.

Awestruck locals in the riverside hamlet east of Mission are looking skyward toward pulsating, multi-colored lights.

Eric Dunn, of the MacMillan Planetarium, says it's probably only the star Capella, "one of our comfortable, domestic UFOs."

"We always get UFO reports on that late in the summer," he noted.

Dunn said it's an optical illusion due to thermal differences in the atmosphere.

Dewdney Peak is the site of the sightings.

"I first spotted them hovering over Dewdney Mountain on Aug. 16, the harmonic convergence," said Diane Easton, 35. "The lights are flashing red on the bottom, yellow in the middle and blue on the top."

When Easton spotted several more Aug. 19, she phoned Mission RCMP, "who told me it was out of their jurisdiction."

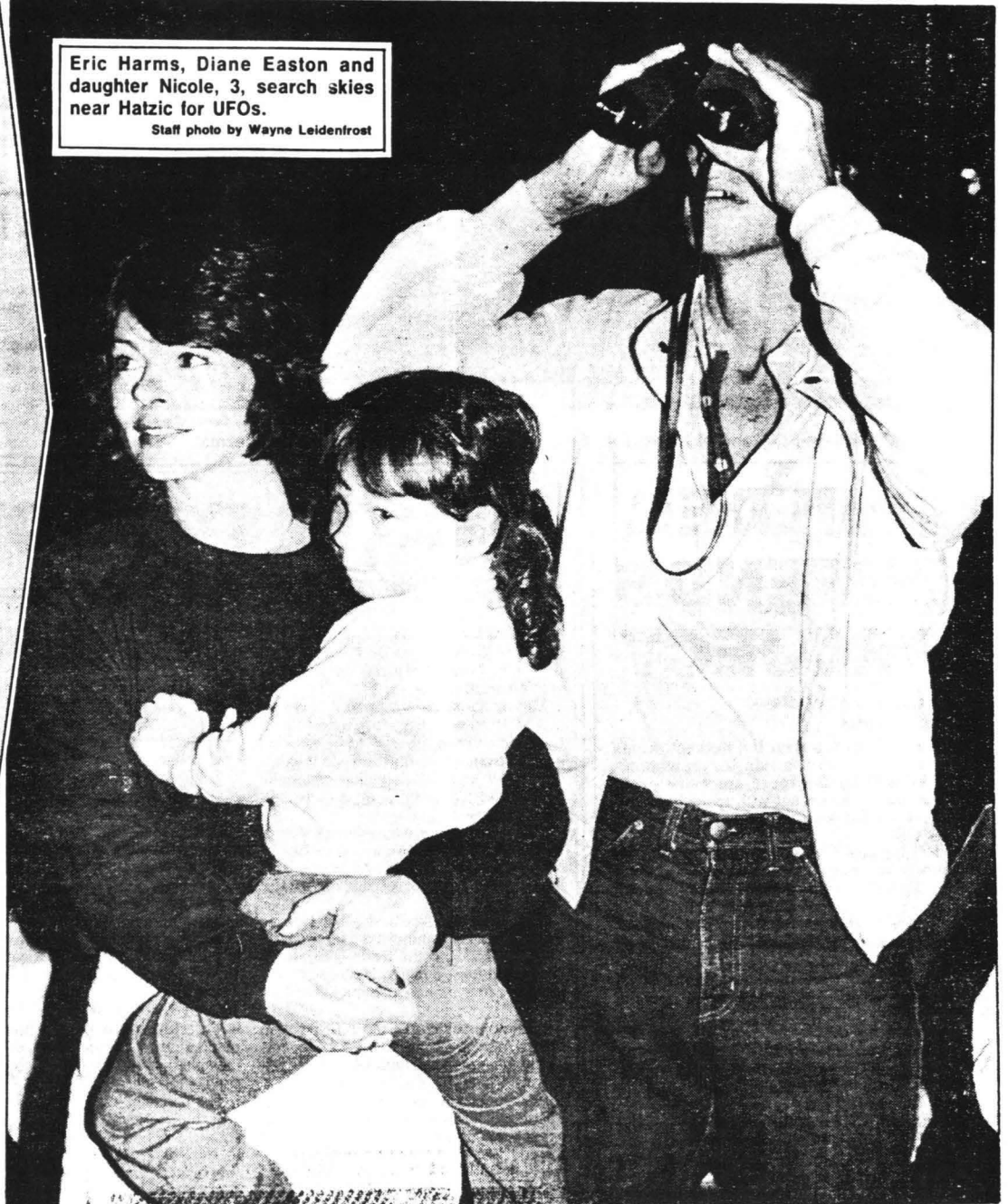
Canadian Forces told her their flying objects only have red and yellow lights. As her fear grew, so did the number of UFOs.

"They're increasing in numbers," said Easton. "Last Sunday, we drove up Suicide Creek on Dewdney Mountain and saw 12 of them. I don't think we have the proper air defence if we need it."

Easton remains convinced. "There are others that are moving across the sky."

Eric Harms, Diane Easton and daughter Nicole, 3, search skies near Hatzic for UFOs.

Staff photo by Wayne Leidenfrost



NEWS, Luton, England

Aug. 27, 1987 CR: T. Good

Lit-up close encounter of second kind!

THE mystery of a UFO spotted in the night sky over Luton has deepened.

This newspaper told last week how Mrs Win Crawley, 72, of Cowper Street, Luton, spent 20 minutes looking at the object through her binoculars.

She described it as being whitish silver, with a black hole in the middle and what looked like wires running through it.

After reading the front page story about the sighting, Mrs Mary Lovett, of Holgate Drive, contacted us and reported seeing a similar object the same night.

"The colouring of the thing I saw was very similar, but it also had orange lights," said Mrs Lovett.

Window

"I got out of bed and looked out of the window at three o'clock in the morning because I couldn't sleep."

"I stared at the object for some time and soon realised it wasn't a plane. The next day, I told my father I had seen a flying saucer and then I told my husband after I read the report in the paper."

"I'm not the type of person who believes in UFOs, but this has made me think again."

Although Luton police said they had received no reports of mysterious objects in the sky that night, there was a BBC-TV news report about sightings of UFOs over North London early last week.

JOURNAL, Salisbury, England

Oct. 15, 1987 CR: T. Good

UFO PUZZLE

TWO Salisbury people are anxious to know if anyone else saw what they believe was a UFO.

Mr William Osborne was returning to his home in Verona Road on October 4 at 3.45pm, when they saw something very strange in the sky.

"We both saw this very large, brilliant, strobe type band of light over the Devizes Road skyline," said Mr Osborne.

They judged the length to be about 200 or 300ft and it seemed to hover for about five seconds.

At that point Mr Osborne had to turn into Verona Road and park. Returning to the spot, the thing had gone.

"I must say at this point that the sun was covered by cloud and no cloud formations or shafts of light could account for the sighting," said Mr Osborne.

"One might say it was a vapour trail from a jet plane, but not at the altitude of the sighting which was about 500ft."

"My wife and I are not UFO freaks and can not put it down to the 'hard stuff' but we would like to think we were not the only ones to have seen this strange object."

SUN, Vancouver, B.C., Canada - Sept. 22, 1987 CR: G. Conway

Cop 'dazzled by UFO'

By IAN AUSTIN
Staff Reporter

The Hatzic UFO sightings now have police verification.

Const. John Skorupa of the Matsqui police department saw the "dazzling" lights in broad daylight on Sept. 6 while making his rounds.

"I saw a bright light hovering adjacent to a mountainside on the U.S. side of the border," said Skorupa, an 18-year veteran. "I pulled off the road. It lasted for two minutes, then faded away suddenly."

He noted the strange sighting in his notebook and continued on his way.

"I turned a corner and there was another one," said Skorupa, 46. "I had a feeling it was quite unusual, so I drew a diagram and took an exact bearing. I got this eerie feeling watching them sitting up on the side of the mountain on a nice sunny day."

He didn't mention the sightings until he read a story in Friday's Province.

"Obviously what I saw, they were seeing. There is something to it but what on earth it is I couldn't tell you."

Diane Easton, who last week told her of her sightings, is glad someone else has stepped forward.

"Many of my friends have seen them, but they didn't want to get involved."

KENTISH EXPRESS, Ashford, England - Aug. 27, 1987



Close encounters of the Cornish kind: The mystery photo

Sid snaps a mystery

SID BRITTEN'S summer holiday in Cornwall may have been interrupted by a UFO ... an unidentified photographic object.

Back home in Woodlands Road, Willesborough, carpenter Sid, 55, is still baffled by the strange intruder that crept into his holiday snaps.

"I was taking a picture of my wife Edith at Fowey. She was standing by a wall at the roadside

and the harbour was in the background," he recalls.

When he collected his photographs from the printers in Cornwall, a silver cigar-shaped object had appeared above a distant hilltop.

"I didn't notice it when I took the picture," confesses Sid. "In other pictures in the same place I took a picture of Edith and my mother-in-law Helen Robinson.

There is no UFO in that one."

Kentish Express chief photographer Dave Downey checked the negative and found no foreign body to explain the mystery.

Sid certainly captured something unexpected when he clicked the shutter.

Was it a visitor from space? Just a cloud? Or was it a cheeky seagull that flashed into Sid's camera shot as a memento of his Cornish rhapsody?



Sid Britten: Baffled

CR: T. Good

After 40 years, no easy answers to UFO enigma

FORTY years ago, businessman Kenneth Arnold set off in his private plane searching for the wreckage of a missing aircraft.

Over the Cascade Mountains, near Mt. Rainier, he spotted a string of bright metallic objects flying in single file.

There were nine of these; eight discs and one crescent. They dodged around the peaks with "flipping, erratic movements" and he estimated their speed at 1,700 m.p.h. (later reduced to 1,200).

Following his landing at one airfield, Arnold told a few friends his story. He then took off for a second aerodrome, where he was met by excited newsmen. He told the reporters the objects flew like "pie plates" or "saucers being skipped over water." Hence, via an anonymous journalist, the term "flying saucer" entered our language.

The more familiar term UFO (unidentified flying object) was coined by Captain Ed Ruppelt, the United States Air Force intelligence officer responsible for such matters.

Yet 40 years on, whatever "experts" say, we're no nearer the truth of what flying saucers or UFOs are. The anniversary of Arnold's sighting on June 24, 1947, looks like making 1987 a bumper year for marketing UFO books and heightening the profile of ufological research.

Just over a week later one of the newsworthy flying saucers may well have crashed in New Mexico. The authorities supposedly gathered up the wreckage at Roswell, and if the evidence is to be believed, scientists had the beginnings of an answer 40 years ago. If all was bogus, a lot of people - military officers, scientists, government officials and ordinary citizens - were unmitigated liars.

WITNESSES

Researchers of high calibre such as William Moore and Leonard Stringfield have interviewed witnesses and those concerned, collecting sworn affidavits. But right from the start the mill of misinformation was grinding merrily.

Then another crashed saucer was recovered in 1953 at Kingman, Arizona. Specialists were taken in blacked-out buses into the desert. There they saw the body of a dead three-foot alien. There are even medical men who claim to have studied bodies of extraterrestrial astronauts. Rumour or reality? Fabricated fairytale or the greatest untold secret of all time?

By Paul Screeton



● "UFOs 1947-1987 - THE 40-YEAR SEARCH FOR AN EXPLANATION" compiled by Hilary Evans and John Spencer (Forteau Tomes, £12.50).

Then came the contactee craze. George Adamski is still a household name; Cedric Allingham not (he was a hoax by Patrick Moore). Again, as with retrievals stories, serious ufology was faced with an uncomfortable aspect.

UFOs causing vehicle stoppages were the next feature to achieve some prominence and this was taken to the ultimate conclusion when, under hypnosis, Betty and Barney Hill were discovered to have been abducted by aliens. John Fuller's book on the subject - "The Interrupted Journey" - proved one of the biggest sellers in UFO history. Hundreds, if not thousands, of subsequent UFO abductions - close encounters of the fourth kind in ufology jargon - have taken place if we are to believe people's claims. Stranger still is how these vehicle interruptions and whisking away of driver and families never seems to cause a road accident. Could it all really be in the mind?

OFFICIALDOM

A book which not only tells the fascinating story of how ufology developed during the past 40 years, but puts it into the context of official study and debunking is Jenny Randles' "The UFO Conspiracy."

Her insights into cover-ups, particularly with reference to the United States, show a healthy interest in the disturbing secrecy of officialdom. She suspects that in America surveillance of civilian UFO groups is maintained - even that C.I.A. agents set up their own groups or infiltrate others. This suggests infringement of civil rights by spying.

A recent concept in U.S. law is the Freedom of Information Act, used to release formerly secret UFO files. Since 1977 thousands of documents have been released, but many others are withheld for security reasons.

The Official Secrets Act means that Britain "has the mirror opposite." Or as Randles says: "The conspiracy is so much



● "THE UFO CONSPIRACY - THE FIRST FORTY YEARS" by Jenny Randles (Blandford Press, £10.95).

easier to maintain, thanksto that."

The book also argues the possibility of an "education programme" whereby the truth about the alien nature of UFOs is being released slowly. The world is being prepared. The idea of friendly and cuddly aliens is fostered by Spielberg films so we will not panic. The same "myth" has entered the American UFO community from leaked sources.

"If you compare this possible move towards enlightenment with the manner in which the UFOs themselves seem to have been trying to educate us," writes Randles, "then it makes even more sense."

This could explain the clear phases of activity through which the UFO story has developed.

Of course, it could also be argued that what we have seen is "cultural tracking" with UFO developments keeping pace with our own scientific and social activities. In other words the phenomenon is psychosociological in nature. The aliens are not from outer space, but exist in our heads - in inner space. And even that sounds too easy an option to encompass all the known facts.

PROOFS

Randles also devotes sections to reports from around the world; "proofs" via types of encounter, physical effects and so on; and other nations' approaches to UFO confidentiality or otherwise. All in all, a well-argued case.

Another book which takes as its reference

point Arnold's sighting, but which has galaxies more space to investigate the UFO enigma is "UFOs 1947-1987."

An international spectrum of researchers has been assembled to show how immensely complex the field is. It is an exercise in showing how much we have learnt from the UFO phenomenon. It is about what the physical and life sciences should be responding to, and if serious inquiry is to be meaningful, to find explanations for thousands of people having experiences which are genuinely puzzling to them and scary.

If you have the slightest interest in the greatest mystery of modern times, then you would be doing yourself a disservice not to buy this book and give it serious attention.

There have been other remarkable works by individual authors on the subject, but here is a distillation of concepts about the subject. "The 40-year search for an explanation" is the subtitle, and the contributors do their best to cover the multifarious options towards explaining the enigma. As editor Hilary Evans puts it: "Though the answers still elude us, we have none the less learnt a great deal in the process. We have learnt, in particular, not to expect easy answers. The fact that our questions are still unanswered suggests that perhaps they are not the right questions."

SPECULATION

If we are not asking the right questions, the contributors to this survey certainly cover a broad spectrum of attitudes and speculation. The book begins with a look at the phenomena - UFOs before 1947, in 1947, worldwide nature, occupants, contactees, abductions and retrievals. The section on assessing the phenomena covers definition and investigation, physical traces and witnesses. As for explanations, sections cover such hypotheses as extraterrestrial origin, natural forms, psychological and parapsychological phenomena, and concepts of reality. The effect UFOs have had on society are examined through such aspects as cults, folklore, scientists and the public's view, the cinema and cover-ups. Cases both for and against scepticism are given. The appendices give current organizations and recommended reading list.

Chunky and well-illustrated, it is a book which can be read either from cover to cover or dipped into. It will certainly find a long life as a reference work for anyone with a keen interest in the subject.

The flying saucer story has been running for 40 years. The question we must now ask is when will it end? For all the speculation, sadly we seem no nearer to finding a solution.

TIMES, Derbyshire, England
Aug. 28, 1987 CR: T. Good

CLOSE ENCOUNTER FOR SKY-GAZERS

Heavens above... a 24-hour UFO hotline has been invaded by hundreds of callers claiming to have had a close encounter of the third kind.

And two of the calls made after the hotline was publicised in the local press last month were by Derbyshire folk.

A Chesterfield couple told the hotline how they saw a bright object at the rear of their house two years ago.

"The object was stationary at first before moving off and displaying eight very bright lights. Three photographs were taken which seem to verify the couple's statement," said UFO Hotline co-ordinator Philip Mantle.

Another sighting was from a Derbyshire couple who saw a large, triangular-shaped object covered in numerous small lights and moving slowly over fields at Matlock last year.

"These are still under investigation and no conclusions have been drawn yet but we appeal to the public to report anything they think is a UFO," added Mr Mantle.

So if you have had an encounter that came out of the blue, telephone the UFO Hotline on (0924) 444049.

GAZETTE, Gwent, England

Sept. 3, 1987 CR: T. Good

UFO sighting claim

The RAF are investigating a 'UFO sighting' by a Rassau resident Mr M Sullivan, of Craig Ebbw, who told police he spotted three 'revolving objects' in the sky through his binoculars at 9.30 pm last Thursday.

He said one of the lights zig-zagged around the others before they all disappeared.

A police spokesman said 110 sightings were reported to the RAF for aircraft flight path checks.

Mystery rings are 'a hoax'

By SARAH TREW

A FARMER has joined the controversy over the annual appearance of mystery rings in cornfields around Winchester.

John Bevan, of Manor Farm, Old Alresford, claims a ring similar to the circles at Cheesefoot Head has emerged in a wheat field on his 450-acre estate.

But this ring - about 18ft across - cannot be seen from the ground and was only spotted because a friend happened to be flying over in a light aircraft three weeks ago, he says.

Now Mr Bevan has been up in a plane and seen the ring for himself.

But he is a confirmed sceptic as to the cause of it, and believes all the 'mystery' rings in the area are the products of "foul play."

"It is about 40 yards into the field but you can walk right up to it along tram lines caused by the tractor."

"I think two people have walked out there with a piece of rope or a chain,

and one has stood in the middle holding it while the other walked round the outside flattening the wheat."

Other circles appeared on the farm from time-to-time in summer months, said Mr Bevan.

But archaeologists had explained these away as the sites of old burial mounds, he added.

"There is no question of any of the rings being caused by UFOs or anything else like that," said Mr Bevan.

Was this a UFO?

Sir, - I thought you might be interested to know about an experience of my girlfriend's and mine on September 27 at 9.50 pm. Before I relate the events I must preface my remarks by saying that I am not normally prone to hallucinations. I am not seeking any publicity with this letter but I would be most interested to hear if anyone else has reported a similar incident to that which I witnessed.

I was walking across a playing field in Framlingham and I looked up to the sky to identify the Plough (the only group of stars I can identify).

There were few clouds over Framlingham that night.

While I was watching, a bright light appeared, which was clearly visible. The light was a yellowy, green colour and had a blurred edge to it.

This light disappeared and reappeared three times moving in a zig zag direction away from me. There was no noise and the movement did not match that of an aeroplane.

After less than fifteen seconds the light disappeared for good.

It may well have been a UFO.

ANDREW CHOTHIA

Framlingham College, Framlingham.

CR: T. Good

NEWS, Luton, England - Aug. 20, 1987 CR: T. Good

OAP encounters a pulsating UFO

A LUTON pensioner is trying to solve the mystery of a UFO he spotted in the night sky at the weekend.

Mrs Win Crawley, 72, of Cowper Street, spent 20 minutes looking at the object through her binoculars in the early hours of Sunday morning. And she contacted the Luton News about the sighting after seeing a BBC TV news report on Monday even-

ing on a similar object spotted over North London.

"The report said there had been sightings from Highgate to Enfield and someone took a photograph of it," said Mrs Crawley.

"I had just dozed off after going to bed late on Saturday night, when I was woken by a noise in the street outside. I opened the curtains to see what was happening and noticed the sky was beautifully clear.

"The strange object I saw was absolutely fantastic. It resembled a sea anemone and it kept pulsating. It was whitish silver, had a black hole in the middle and what looked like wires running through it. I saw it turn at different angles and I was quite scared after a while."

Mrs Crawley said she became interested in astronomy through her son-in-law, who has a science degree.

She added: "I find it fascinating looking at the stars, but I have never seen anything like this before. There's no way it could have been a plane going in or out of Luton Airport. And I can assure you that although I may be getting on a bit, I've still got all my senses."

A Luton police spokesman said they had received no reports of UFO sightings over the weekend.

County UFO-mania hots up

AMAZED UFO investigators are reporting their busiest ever time for sightings in Derbyshire.

The rush was triggered by a sighting over Chaddesden, Derby, last weekend, when several startled neighbours saw a mystery object covered in bright lights hovering over the suburb.

Since then scores of reports have flooded in to UFO hotlines with accounts of strange sightings from various parts of the county.

And today Mr Dave Kelly, co-ordinator for the UFO Network on Chesterfield 70924, said: "I've never known anything like it —

we've been inundated."

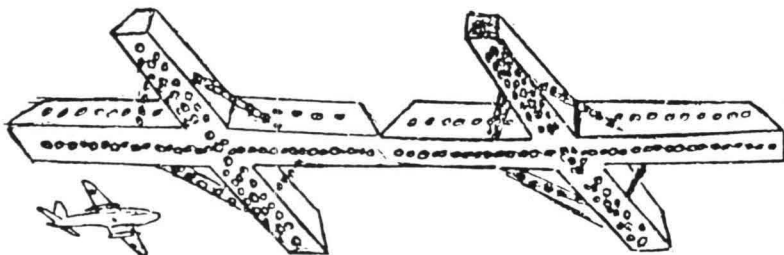
After last weekend's reports UFO investigators immediately launched a probe into the various claims of unaccountable objects.

The latest report comes from the White House pub at Kegworth where a total of 30 people saw what looked like a shooting star which then stopped dead, glowed yellow, and disappeared at top speed.

Mr Kelly said: "Derbyshire and the immediate area is very active for sightings but the last few days have been incredible. My phone is red hot."

HERALD, Exmouth, England - Aug. 7, 1987 CR: T. Good

'FLYING FAIRGROUND' IS SEEN OVER TOWN



A mystery object, described as "looking like a flying fairground," was spotted high in the night sky over Exmouth on Tuesday.

Mr. Gordon Baker spotted it travelling slowly in the sky.

He had gone out into his garden in Blackmore Court, off Dinan Way, armed with a telescope in the hope of catching a glimpse of the planet Jupiter, which should have been visible in the clear sky.

Instead, he said, he saw this object, which he sketched as it tracked over the town from the north-east to the south-west.

After training a pair of binoculars on the two cross-shaped objects travelling close together, Mr. Baker called his wife Gloria and asked a neighbour, Miss Heather Palmer, to look at the brightly-lit object.

While watching it, the three saw an aircraft pass underneath much faster than the mystery object was travelling.

Mr. Baker said: "I was out looking for Jupiter when I saw these two cross-shaped objects lit up like a fairground."

SILENT

"It was definitely not an aircraft. There was no sound whatsoever. I called my wife and my neighbour, Miss Palmer.

"I believe the object was travelling at about 35,000 feet. Then I heard the noise of a jet aircraft. I saw it pass under the lit objects and I even checked with Exeter Airport to see if the pilot had reported seeing it.

"They said they had not received any reports. However, a man in air traffic control said he had had a couple of objects on his radar, but did not know what they were.

"We watched it for about 15 minutes until it disappeared on the horizon."

CONSTANT

"I don't know what it was but it certainly had hundreds of lights on it.

Miss Palmer said: "Mr. Baker knocked on my door and said 'Have a look at this.' I went out on to the pavement and I could see these two lit-up crosses straight away with my naked eye.

"He gave me a pair of binoculars to look at it, but I could see better with my own eyes. As I went out of the house, I looked at my watch and the time was eight minutes past ten.

"There was no noise at all. It was just moving slowly across the sky. Living here, you often see aircraft at night and they have flashing lights. These lights were all constant and white. I just don't know what it was."

'I saw UFO land in a cornfield'

GAZETTE, Winchester, England - Aug. 20, 1987 CR: T. Good

A MAN walking his dog at a beauty spot outside Winchester claims he saw a spaceship land in a cornfield.

And he is convinced that UFOs are to blame for the mystery rings which appear each year in the Devil's Punchbowl at Cheesefoot Head.

Mr Frank Barnes (58), of Vale Road, Winchester, says he saw the space ship at Cheesefoot Head when he was out with his dog one evening, seven summers ago.

He heard what he thought was a combine harvester, looked round and saw a giant grey "spaceship-like" object floating across the top of the cornfield.

The ship, which had portholes, then landed in the field and stayed there for five or six minutes before rising up and shooting off at a "tremendous speed" in the direction of Alresford, said Mr Barnes. Nothing came out of the

spaceship but it left a ring of flattened corn in the field identical to the ones that have appeared each summer since, he added.

Mr Barnes said both he and his dog were frightened by the experience, which was also witnessed by a woman walker.

"There was this low humming noise and I felt terrified. My dog will never go up there again. When the object moved off it travelled far faster than an aircraft.

"I am convinced it was a UFO. There must be something up there trying to get in touch with us," he said.

Mr Barnes said he had kept quiet about the sighting until now because it frightened him so much and seemed so unbelievable.

Just two weeks ago a farmer in Alresford claimed that the mystery rings in his field were created by two hoaxers using a heavy chain to flatten the corn.

YORKSHIRE POST, Leeds, England
Aug. 18, 1987 CR: T. Good

Strange sightings on the UFO watch

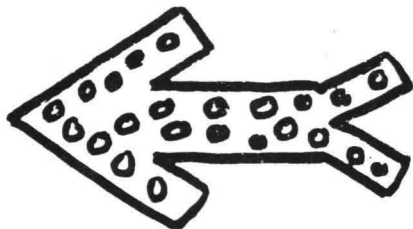
STRANGE objects have been spotted in the skies over North Derbyshire, say Unidentified Flying Object watchers who have set up a 24-hour telephone hotline to receive reports of sightings.

UFO Hotline was established earlier this summer in Batley, and the organisers have received reports of sightings from as far afield as Blackburn and Birmingham.

A couple holidaying near Matlock saw a large, triangular object, covered in small lights, moving slowly and silently above Bonsall Moor. And a couple from Hasland, Chesterfield, saw a bright object behind their house, displaying eight glittering lights. They took three photographs, which are now being analysed in America.

MORE WITNESSES REPORT UFO SIGHTING

Whitehall silent over flying fairground



How Mrs. Turner saw the U.F.O., covered with lights — some red, some white, some constant and some flashing.

Last week's U.F.O. sighting over Exmouth has been confirmed by three more people.

But the Ministry of Defence is not interested. A spokesman said this week: "If U.F.O.s were hovering over one of our R.A.F. bases, we would look into it. Otherwise the sightings are of no interest to us. In most of these reports, there is a logical explanation."

He did not offer one for the object — described as "looking like a flying fairground — seen over Exmouth on August 4th by at least six people, in-

cluding Mr. Tony Millington, a former R.A.F. technician.

Mr. Millington and his wife Claire, who run Shear's Place, a Lympstone restaurant, were leaving the Globe public house in the village when they saw brilliant lights towards Starcross.

Mr. Millington, who served in the R.A.F. for 15 years, said: "It certainly was not an aircraft. When we got to the Green, we looked over the water towards Starcross and we saw these two large lights which were a sort of orange colour."

Did you see it?

Sir, — I do not know whether anyone else in the district has reported the sighting of a U.F.O. in the early hours of Monday morning, November 2, but I would like to say that I did.

I went to the bathroom and looked out of the window and in the sky was a large shell-like object covered in about 50-70 red lights and surrounded by blue lights. It was stationary for about one minute and then there was a loud rumbling noise and it flew off.

It was a very beautiful sight and by the size and shape of it I knew it was not a plane. In fact, I had never seen anything like it before.

It would be very interesting to know if anyone else had seen this object.

S. M. Harvey (Mrs.)

Birchwood, Lye Lane,
East Ashling, Chichester.

CHICHESTER OBSERVER, Sussex,
England - Nov. 19, 1987
CR: T. Good

Challenge of the circles

Dear Sir: The mysterious flattened circles in local corn fields, annually, provoke interest and provide material for the press in "The Silly Season".

The Himalayas have Abominable Snowmen; Wiltshire its UFOs and mysterious circles.

Is it spoiling the fun to suggest that the appearance of the circles could be the subject of serious research for a thesis or a school project?

A recording system could be set up to include the following data:-

1. Date of appearance of the circles and their size.
2. Exact location in field in relation to previous circles.
3. General description of site of field.
4. Geological strata, soil type and any differences between the circle and its surrounding.
5. History of site, e.g. any "fairy rings", ancient dwelling sites, sheep or cattle pens.
6. Distances from public access.
7. Type of corn grown, date of sowing, general weather conditions.

Perhaps it is unnecessary to find a logical explanation but it will be interesting to see if anyone takes up the challenge.

Yours faithfully,

RICHARD SNEYD

Court Farm House,
Court Lane,
Bratton.

WILTSHIRE TIMES, Trowbridge, England - Aug. 28, 1987 CR: T. Good

HERALD, Exmouth, England - Aug. 14, 1987 CR: T. Good



Respected scientists to probe bizarre phenomena

By Keay Davidson
EXAMINER SCIENCE WRITER

UFOs, psychic phenomena, the Loch Ness monster and other weird topics are routine fare in the National Enquirer. But starting this summer, these topics will be featured in a scientific journal overseen by Stanford scientists.

The Journal of Scientific Exploration will provide a forum for scientists to publish articles on subjects too off-beat for orthodox scientific publications, said Peter A. Sturrock, an award-winning expert on solar physics and deputy director of Stanford's Center for Space Science and Astrophysics.

At first glance, the journal will resemble

any other staid scientific periodical with footnotes and technical jargon. And like submissions to any other scholarly journal, manuscripts must be "peer reviewed" — that is, approved by a scientific board of editors, Sturrock said.

The journal's editor is Professor Ronald A. Howard of Stanford's department of engineering economic systems. It will be published twice a year by Pergamon Press, an internationally known publishing house in New York.

"It took many years to find the right publisher, the right person with the right attitudes" about publishing such an unusual magazine, Sturrock said.

The journal will be the scientific organ of the Society for Scientific Exploration, a

Periodical will examine such topics as UFOs and the Loch Ness monster

200-member international group of scientists, of which Sturrock is president.

The society includes among its members a number of astronomers, astrophysicists and parapsychologists from Princeton, Cornell and Stanford universities and the University of Virginia.

"Over half the members are faculty members in North America. Almost all have Ph.Ds," Sturrock said.

"The goal of this (group) is to provide a forum in which professional scientists and other scholars can meet and discuss topics that cannot get discussed in normal professional meetings," he said.

The first issue, to be 70 to 100 pages long, is expected to include articles on the Loch Ness monster, unidentified flying objects and parapsychology. Other examples of way-out subjects include "ball-shaped" lightning and "mystery 'booms' over the East Coast that were recorded and studied and never explained," Sturrock said.

The premier issue's UFO article, written by Sturrock, reviews the so-called Condon Committee Report of 1968, a U.S. Air Force-funded study of sightings of UFOs.

The Condon team concluded there was no evidence UFOs are extraterrestrial spaceships. That conclusion spurred the Air Force to close its 20-year-old study, known as Project Blue Book.

Sturrock's article will compare the Condon report's skeptical summary — written by University of Colorado physicist Edward Condon, now dead — with data in the rest of the report.

In a phone interview, Sturrock criticized as "very flimsy" the Condon team's chemical analysis of metal fragments from South America. The fragments, which Sturrock keeps in his Stanford office, allegedly came from a crashed UFO. Sturrock said he doesn't have an opinion on their true nature.

COMPUTERS in the Classroom

Life on Earth and its extraterrestrial origin

SCIENTISTS prominent in the search for extraterrestrial intelligence (SETI) gathered in Hungary recently.

Under the auspices of the International Astronomical Union Colloquium on "bioastronomy" they discussed both the possibility of other life forms existing in the universe, and the best ways to find intelligence if it does exist.

Among the more familiar themes aired at the conference was the case that the emergence of life on Earth some four billion years ago, scarcely 500,000 years after the solar system formed, can best be explained "if the ancient Earth had been inoculated by extraterrestrial protobionts".

This does not require the guiding hand of intelligence, but suggests that prebiotic molecules arise naturally in space and infect all suitable planets with life.

Mr Robert Shapiro, of New York University, questioned the widely held assumption that space probes have established there is no life in the solar system except that on planet Earth.

He said we know very little about the origin of life, but it is becoming clear that life did not originate in the form of RNA and DNA, which are so important today.

Present knowledge, limited by our existence on one planet, cannot preclude life existing in very different forms, and a continuing search for life elsewhere in the solar system is not only worthwhile in itself but could, he said, "provide an inspirational and unifying goal for future planetary exploration".

Most of the searchers for ET at the meeting were concerned, however, with the broader picture — beyond the solar system.

Mr Roger Angel, of the University of Arizona, described how an infra-red telescope operating at a temperature of 100 degrees kelvin could detect spectral lines characteristic of oxygen in the radiation from planets orbiting nearby stars.

It would require no technological advance beyond the state of the art represented by the space telescope, but could not be put together overnight.

Radioastronomy still provides the best immediate means to carry out the search, and one of the highlights of the meeting was a report on the "piggyback" program Serendip, being carried out by researchers from the University of California and San



ET... we'd love to get in touch, so phone now while you can still get through

Francisco University.

Stuart Bowyer and his colleagues have been running Serendip (an acronym for search for extraterrestrial radio emission from nearby developed intelligent populations) on the 105m diameter radio dish at Greenbank, West Virginia.

The piggyback description of the operation means that the telescope is not dedicated to the task of listening for intelligent signals.

Instead, during routine astronomical observations of the heavens, the Serendip computer program automatically keeps a metaphorical ear cocked for anything that seems artificial.

It searches for narrow band signals, which are unlikely to arise naturally from astronomical objects.

Of course, the search is restricted to the wavelengths and the parts of the sky where astronomers are using the telescope.

As we do not know where to look for ET, this is no handicap and might even be an advantage, as nothing is omitted because of human prejudice.

So far, in 1000 hours of operation the Serendip program has picked out 22,000 "events". Only 17 of these differ sufficiently from expected random fluctuations to justify further investigation, and the team

now plans to request dedicated telescope time to go back to each of the 17 sources and obtain more data.

After all, even if they are not intelligent signals, they are certainly unusual sources worth another look.

What happens if the Serendip team strikes lucky? Mr Donald Goldsmith, of Interstellar Media, in Berkeley, California, tried to persuade his colleagues that the time is right for the scientific community to prepare an answer against the day when a signal from ET is identified.

Message

If we wait for the signal before deciding how to reply, he said, the result would be chaos.

But if the world scientific community, through a body such as the International Astronomical Union, has an agreed message ready, the politicians would probably seize on it with relief and give it their approval.

Suppose "they" do not want to talk to us. The most powerful argument against the existence of ET is that the galaxy is full of stars, and presumably, planets, but no one has got in touch with us yet.

Does that prove there is no one out there? Or are we being ostracised?

Mr Michael Papagiannis, of

Boston University, put forward an intriguing scenario. If a galactic civilisation exists, he argued, then probably the galaxy is divided up into regional jurisdictions.

It would make no sense for existing civilisations to try to broadcast news of their existence all over the galaxy, when a local "branch office" could keep tabs on an emerging civilisation such as our own.

What we should look for is a strong, highly directional signal from nearby (just the sort of thing Serendip might find).

If we do not find such a signal, the reason may simply be that we are not yet regarded as mature enough to be admitted to the galactic hub.

If so, ET had better not wait too long to send its message. Mr Michael Klein and colleagues at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California bemoaned the fact that the electromagnetic spectrum is becoming cluttered with human signals.

Microwaves for Earth-based and satellite communications, in particular, could blot out the weak signals from civilisations near other stars.

Phone soon, their message seemed to be, or ET, we may not hear you when you call.

First published in *New Scientist*, London, the weekly journal of science and technology

TIMES, Huntsville, AL
Sept. 9, 1987 CR: G. Earley

Mysterious 'face' of stone cries out for a Mars probe

By GEORGE W. EARLEY
For the Times

Mars has been much in the news lately. A NASA study group, headed by ex-astronaut Sally Ride, recently suggested several goals towards which our space program might be directed to regain the technical and political prestige lost since we abandoned the Moon and, more recently, suffered the Challenger disaster. One suggested goal is a manned expedition to Mars.

Mars as a possible abode of life has long fascinated the people of Earth.

About 200 years before Burroughs, Bradbury and scores of other science fiction writers populated the Red Planet with stalwart heroes, lovely princesses and myriads of fierce and unearthly beasts, mathematician Karl Friedrich Gauss proposed signalling the Martians by marking earth's surface with huge math symbols.

In 1869, French inventor Charles Gros suggested building a huge mirror to focus the sun's rays on the Martian desert, "writing" messages by fusing the sand. His government declined to fund the project.

Indeed, contact with Mars was deemed so easy that when, in December 1900, a wealthy French woman offered 50,000 gold francs for the first contact with another planet, she specifically excluded Mars for that very reason.

Then, just 11 years ago, a few days after the first Viking probe landed on Mars (July 20, 1976), those fabled Martian civilizations vanished; pictures sent back to earth showed only a lifeless wasteland, bleak and rock-strewn. Mars was dead.

(continued on page 18)

But was it always dead? Among the scores of pictures sent back by the Mars Orbiter before the Viking landers went down, was one (NASA photo No. 35A72) that shows a mile wide, human-like "face" seemingly carved from rock. NASA and most of the scientific establishment dismiss the "face" as an illusion of light and shadows on wind-eroded rock, but two computer imaging scientists, Vincent DiPietro and Gregory Molenaar, who have spent thousands of hours (and thousands of their own dollars) analyzing that photo, disagree.

Working with the original NASA data tapes — all pictures sent back from Mars came as computer signals, not as conventional film — they discovered a second picture of the "face." NASA photo No. 70A13 was taken 35 days later, from a different altitude and when the sun was at a different angle above the horizon. And, says DiPietro, their imaging studies show the features of the "face" in both photos are consistent from the sunlit portion on into the shaded areas. Whatever it is, the "face" is no illusion.

Although the results of their six-year study are available in an illustrated booklet obtainable from Mars Research, P.O. Box 284, Glenn Dale, MD 20769, the scientific establishment remains unmoved. Carl Sagan, TV's favorite scientist, once even went so far as to equate the Martian "face" with the man-in-the-moon illusion.

Interestingly enough, none of the scientists who have dismissed the DiPietro-Molenaar work have bothered to actually study it. Yet duplication of a scientist's work is the accepted means of validating, or disproving, his claims. The anti-"face" faction has carefully ignored this fundamental scientific principle. Given that attitude, it is not surprising that there was no discussion of the "face" at the Mars symposium in Boulder, Colorado, a few weeks ago. (What was discussed was a Soviet announcement that their forthcoming unmanned probes are specifically designed to look for signs of life on Mars!)

However, not all scientists have ignored the "face." In California, a small team assembled by science writer Richard Hoagland recently issued a preliminary report supporting the conclusions of DiPietro and Molenaar.

If the "face" was carved by intelligent

beings, when was it done? DiPietro estimates it was carved 500,000 years ago when the Red Planet is generally believed to have had abundant surface water and could have supported life.

DiPietro is urging an immediate American commitment to send a manned expedition to Mars, reasoning that if the "face" was carved by intelligent aliens, there could be other alien artifacts nearby which could be humanity's ticket to the stars.

And, he warns, if we don't go, the Russians will. He even picks 1992 as the year of a possible Russian landing on Mars.

Why 1992? That's the 500th anniversary of Columbus' discover of the New World. It's also the 75th anniversary of the Russian Revolution. What better way, says DiPietro, for the Russians to upstage the West than by completing a forward-looking space spectacular while we are celebrating an event a half millenia old!

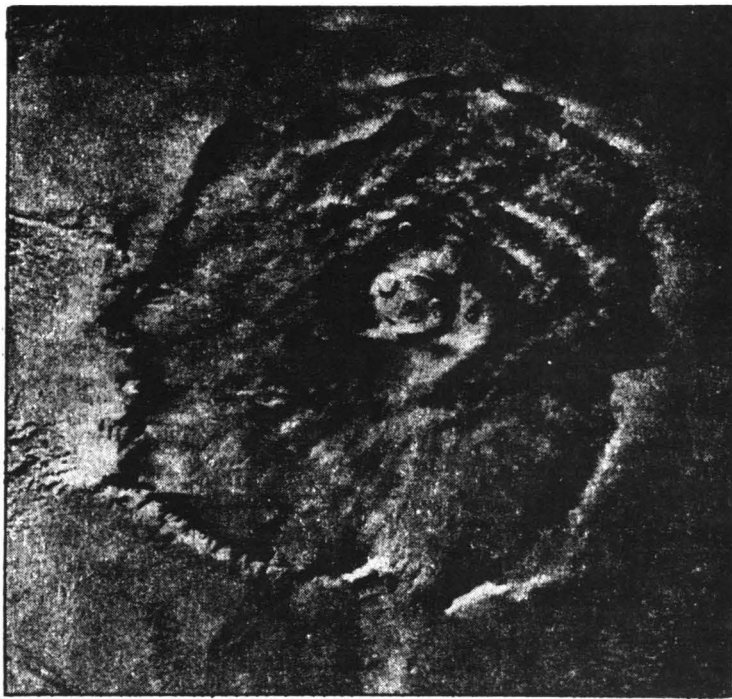
Even discounting the "face" and the hypothetical cache of alien artifacts, a successful Soviet Mars trip would dwarf every Western scientific achievement to date — including our planned space station — and give the Soviets scientific prestige they've not enjoyed since they, not us, orbited the first earth satellites.

The Soviets, of course, are not talking "on the record" about a manned Mars expedition this century. However, they are planning for unmanned missions to Mars beginning in 1988. These missions include placing a mobile robot vehicle on the Martian surface.

And a manned flight can't be ruled out. Soviet cosmonauts already have almost as much continuous time in orbit as is needed for a manned flight to Mars.

I don't know if DiPietro and Molenaar are right about the "face," but I do know the question can't be settled by armchair theorists making fun of it on TV talk shows. The only way to find out is to go and look. And, like DiPietro, I am convinced that if we don't, the Soviets will — thus making Mars, in fact as well as in name, the Red Planet.

George W. Earley, a former Project Apollo administrative engineer, is now a freelance writer living in Bloomfield, Conn..



Martian volcano Olympus Mons: do the red planet's barren features conceal evidence of ancient civilizations?

Once upon a time, Pat thought sasquatch was the thing to save

By ALICE BAKER
The Skagit River Post

Many a story has been passed around by Skagit Valley residents sitting over a cup of coffee or a mug of beer.

Some mention their adventures with that wily creature known as "steel-head." Others spin their favorite yarn about encounters with "bear" or "elk."

And still others prefer the more inaccessible critter. Something like "sasquatch."

State Rep. Pat McMullen (D-40th Dist.), a sometimes attorney in Sedro-Woolley who spends a lot of time in Olympia and is now likely on his way to the state senate, took a few minutes recently to recall the time he headed south with a "Save Our Sasquatches" hat on his head.

Back in the 1985 session, Pat was in his second term as state representative. He spearheaded the effort to pass legislation to make hunting the elusive creatures illegal. His proposal, however, failed.

"The main purpose was to scare off the guy who wanted to come here hunting them. . . . I didn't want some guy from another state to come tromping into our state, armed to the teeth, tromping around in the woods and shooting anything that moved. There are other things in the woods, besides sasquatch," said Pat.

It seems there were a bunch of "Rambo-types from California" who had announced their intention to find a sasquatch and kill it, or disprove its legend.

Other state representatives didn't quite know how to handle Pat's proposal.

"Well, they were perplexed with the same problem. Is it wildlife or human? And since we scared off the guys who were going to come hunting, we decided to let it be until we found sasquatch," he said.

Pat says he firmly believes in the existence of sasquatch.

"If the Game Department says it's not wildlife, well then, it's got to be human. When I meet him or her, I'll ask," he said.

Bob Everitt, regional biologist with the Department of Wildlife, says sasquatches are not considered wildlife in the state because their existence has never been proven. Consequently, the laws of the Revised Code of Washington do not make hunting the creatures a crime.

"If they did exist, they would be in

the code. . . . They would probably be an endangered or threatened species because not very many exist, obviously. There are none as far as I know.

"That bill didn't pass. The agency's position on it was that sasquatches are a mythical, nonrecognized species, undiscovered. It hasn't been recognized in scientific literature," said Everitt.

While he hasn't ever come face-to-face with the tall-tailed creatures, Everitt said he's willing to keep an open mind.

"People are discovering new wildlife regularly, particularly in the rain forests. (They're) classifying new species of plants and animals all the time. Personally, I find it hard to believe that in Washington, as densely populated and with so much recreational activity as there is, that someone hasn't found a dead one or a hunter shot one," he said.

One interesting note, the biologist said, is an ordinance in Skamania County that makes hunting sasquatch illegal.

Sedro-Woolley's resident sasquatch expert, Dennis Gates, said he spent about 30 years investigating reports of sasquatch sightings.

The last documented report of a sasquatch sighting in Skagit County, said Gates, was during construction of the North Cascades Highway in the early '70s.

Sasquatch is one of most widely distributed animals in the world, with sightings reported on every continent, he said.

"And yet the most unsuccessfully hunted in the world. Nobody's ever caught one and probably never will. I've always doubted, but there's just some things that deserve an explanation."

"People shouldn't get too negative about this until there's evidence. Keep an open mind. Stranger things have been found, that are not extinct. Think what the first European faced, coming home from Africa and trying to describe a giraffe," he said.

While Gates isn't 100 percent convinced that sasquatches are here, he has seen evidence that just can't be explained away, he said. Meanwhile, he's keeping a low profile and no longer actively investigates reports.

To report a sasquatch sighting, contact Professor Grover Krantz at the anthropology department of Washington State University. The number is (509) 335-3441.

SKAGIT RIVER POST, Sedro-Woolley, WA - Oct. 1, 1987

SUN, Toronto, Ontario, Canada - Dec. 26, 1987 CR: G. Duplantier

IS SOMETHING OUT THERE?

B.C.'s monster of the depths

By STUART MCCARTHY
Toronto Sun

What swims, has the head of a horse, the neck of a giraffe and a body the size of a Volkswagen Beetle?

Would you believe Canada's own version of the Loch Ness Monster?

Oceanographer Paul LeBlond isn't entirely convinced either, but he feels there is enough evidence, in B.C. sightings, that he has devoted 20 years to finding the elusive creature.

"It's become a chase," said LeBlond, head of the oceanography faculty at the University of British Columbia. "With age, the chase is becoming more important than the catch."

LeBlond said he first got interested in the creature, known as "Caddy," after reading a "soberly written" article on the beast transcribed at the time of a 1930s sighting in Cadboro Bay near Victoria.

"Since then I've unearthed another 25 articles based on sightings," he said. "Many of the observations seemed to come from the Strait of Georgia."

He said no photographs of Caddy have been taken since the first sighting in 1906, although he has had many of the 20-odd people who claim to have seen the beast draw sketches of what they've observed.

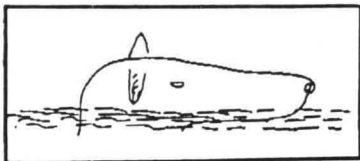
"It has a head like a horse, a long neck about five to six-feet long, a rounded back and a body about the size of a Volkswagen Beetle," LeBlond said. Old jokes about how well the VW Beetles float are not lost on him either.

"The big part of the mystery is if there's an animal out there, why isn't it seen more often?" he said. "That's why I'm not entirely convinced something is there."

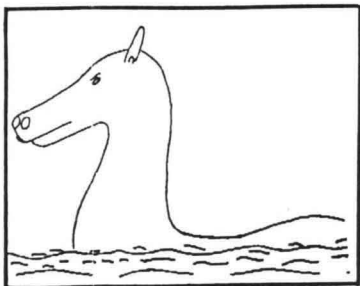
One of the people absolutely convinced is Colin Cole.

He was sitting on his waterfront verandah at Roberts Creek, B.C., when he spotted something strange about a half-mile from shore.

"I saw a six-foot neck. The thing's head looked something like a dinosaur and it had a 12- to 14-foot body," he said. "As far as I'm concerned, there's no doubt there's something out there — I still look for it."



CADDY'S horse-like head.



CADDY'S giraffe-like neck.

Bigfoot does exist, anthropologist says

By Matthew Schofield
staff writer

Bigfoot is as real as, well, the Loch Ness Monster, according to an American anthropologist who says he has evidence that sasquatch roams the Pacific Northwest.

Grover Krantz, professor of anthropology at Washington State University, said 2,000 sasquatch might live in the northwestern United States and southwestern Canada.

Krantz is joined in his opinion by about 12 percent of American anthropologists, according to a survey by the International Society of Cryptozoology, a Tucson, Ariz.-based organization that discusses research on Bigfoot as well as the Loch Ness Monster and Mokele Mbembe, a reputed dinosaur in an African swamp.

"What we have here is an 8-foot-tall, 800-pound, real being," Krantz said. "I don't believe in sasquatch. Belief implies an element of blind faith. I know it's true. I have proof."

In the last 17 years, Krantz said, he has collected more than 60 footprints and five handprints from Northwestern forests.

Krantz said he had heard of sightings of the creatures in Kansas and Missouri but would not comment because he had not done any research on the area.

Sasquatch, or Bigfoot, which Krantz labels a California white man's name, until recently has been little more than grocery store tabloid fodder. The large, hairy creature with broad shoulders, a flat, human-like face and loping gait, however, has attracted some scientific debate lately, mostly because of Krantz's claims that he has footprints proving sasquatch's existence.

Krantz said the creatures are merely modern versions of giantopithecus, a large primate group that separated from man shortly after primitive man's line separated from apes. If so, Sasquatch would be man's closest living relative, he said.

Those who doubt Krantz say that if the animals exist in a populated, civilized place such as the Northwest, one surely would have been killed or captured.

David Frayer, associate professor of anthropology at the University of Kansas, has lectured on Bigfoot. He said Krantz has taken a few facts and sprinkled them with legend in coming up with his "proof."

"It makes a great story, but it's a joke," he said. "With all the people standing out there in the woods with shotguns waiting to shoot one of these things, we'd have a body by now. I'm afraid the verdict is in on Bigfoot, and

"This isn't the Bermuda triangle and flying saucers."

—Grover Krantz,
professor of anthropology
at Washington State
University

he doesn't exist."

Frayer said Bigfoot photos are nothing but "men in ape suits," and that recently discovered footprints showing dermal ridges are "impressive, but you can do amazing things with latex."

But Krantz said the prints he has collected are authentic.

First, the footprints do contain dermal ridges, the foot's equivalent of fingerprints, along with patterns of wear and sweat pores, he said. Someone pulling a hoax would not take the time or pay attention to construct such details, even if they had the knowledge, Krantz said. In addition, the prints indicate the ankle would be farther forward in the foot than that of an ape or man. He said the position of the ankle would be perfect to support an 800-pound body.

"This isn't the Bermuda triangle and flying saucers," he said. "It's science. Twenty years ago I would have given odds that these things didn't exist. But I've taken a better look now, and I'm convinced."

Krantz said he plans soon to take an infrared detector over Northwestern forests in his homemade ultralight flyer, searching for a living or dead sasquatch.

Roy Mackal, former professor of bio-chemistry at the University of Chicago and now in administration there, said a body is all Krantz lacks.

Mackal said others may belittle efforts to find Bigfoot because it exists in American mythology, but having himself seen Nessie, the Loch Ness Monster, he said he is more inclined to trust Krantz.

"Just because there's mythology attached doesn't mean there's no underlying truth," he said. "These creatures, as Krantz describes them, would be highly intelligent, and I can imagine them being exceedingly effective at avoiding being trapped or detected. There's more than 1,000 square miles of undeveloped forestland up there. That's a lot of room to hide in. This idea is not as farfetched as it might sound. Improbable, maybe, but not impossible."

'Sasquatch' book good collection of regional writing

By PAUL PINTARICH
of The Oregonian staff

Anyone familiar with sasquatches and those who have seen the motion picture "Harry and the Hendersons," should know that they are elusive, to say the least.

Harry was an exception to the rule that sasquatches never come to town; that because of their size (and smell) they have restricted themselves to the Northwest boondocks where, for centuries, they have been keeping a general eye on things.

Yet, since the sasquatch require at least some communication with the outside world, they employ the allegorophians to make necessary runs for things like antiperspirant, nose hair scissors and information. The allegorophians, smaller and looking a lot like people, have shared a symbiotic relationship with the sasquatch for millennia, managing to survive in both worlds through intellect, speed and their ability not to be mistaken for Munchkins — which would cause quite a stir.

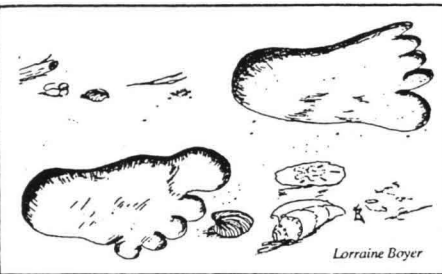
But what most people don't know is that the allegorophians are responsible for most of the sasquatch myths and legends. Only two real sasquatches have ever been seen by white settlers in the Northwest: The Hendersons' Harry, of course, and a crazy Finn named Karl, who was shipwrecked in the late last century and forced into the woods where he dressed in the skin of a bear.

Until now, many of these allegorophian stories have been lost or scattered like leaves in a fall wind. But not anymore, for "Sasquatch Sightings, Imagined and True," has been published by Edmonds Arts Commission Books, Edmonds, Wash., and is a collection of 140 illustrated short stories, poems and a few "true" accounts told to residents (7 to 86 years old) of Oregon, Washington and Idaho by a number of far-ranging allegorophians in the region.

Edited by Ann Saling, the compilation is the result of the commission's 1986 Sasquatch Sightings Contest. First-place winner, by the way, was Linda Caradine of Beaverton, while a Tualatin man, Robert Johnson, received honorable mention.

Also included is a story by former Portland reporter and public relations man Lamar Newkirk, who recounts a Paul Bunyanesque tale told to him by the late Stewart Holbrook.

All of the stories and poems address the question of whether the tall, stout, hairy and long-armed creatures exist. There is a variety of themes, and included are children's as well as adult stories, and one represents the efforts of the 32 members of Mrs. McDonald's fifth-grade class at St. Mary's School in Spokane.



This drawing by Seattle's Lorraine Boyer goes a long way toward explaining why the sasquatch is often referred to as "Bigfoot."

SASQUATCH SIGHTINGS Imagined & True



EDITOR: Ann Saling
EDMONDS ARTS COMMISSION BOOKS

"One dark, stormy day, as Mrs. McDonald and I were driving home from Wild Duck Lake where we had been visiting Grandma, we were stopped by a fallen tree in the road..." that sort of thing. And, of course, the usually benign beast appears to do something or other, usually quite harmless though the odd rock or stick may be thrown or tossed.

Or, occasionally the sasquatch is turned (reluctantly) to more prosaic tasks. Kenneth Munn of Seattle writes of a stump farmer's shrewish wife who, after giving sasquatch "one right alongside the head," hitches the hapless creature to a plow.

"Then ol' Ethyl, she points over toward the plow and the guy's shoulders sorta sag, 'n he takes hold of the tongue of the thing and drags it off. Plowed a pretty straight furrow, too." Since he is so big and his toenails tear the sheets, the domesticated sasquatch must sleep in the barn, though he is available for poker games.

"Too bad them boys can't talk, but they're hell at poker," the narrator concludes. "Hafta cheat all the time to beat 'em..."

Paul Weis, of Spokane, claims in his story that the sasquatch species is quite small; the males, or "bulls," rarely exceeding 5-feet-2, while the female "hens" are mostly less than 4-feet-9 — "It's their feet that are big," Weis informs, but erroneously, for these are false-footed allegorophians who make tracks with large plaster casts.

In this delightful little book, well worth its price of \$8.95, sasquatches are seen or depicted as being romantics, intellectual, good samaritans, creatures from outer space or basketball stars, even as bartenders and, inevitably, as an accomplice to another legendary figure, the skyjacker Dan Cooper. Good local stuff.

Hundreds of sightings make Nessie fan a believer

Nessie has a friend in Battle Creek.
Phyllis Syer has never seen the Loch



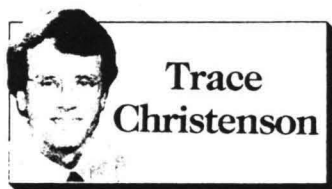
Phyllis Syer

Ness Monster, but she is convinced that several of the creatures live in the murky depths of the Scottish lake.

Syer, 69, of 2751 Gethings Road, has more than a passing interest in tales of the monster that have stirred imaginations for centuries.

She watched with interest the recent attempt by Adrian Shine, a regular Nessie hunter, to search for the creature using boats equipped with sonar to form an electronic net across the loch.

Syer knows first-hand about such expeditions because she volunteered for a Shine-



Trace
Christenson

led search in 1983. After reading about it, she wrote to Shine and was accepted as a member of the crew. She says she went as a believer.

"I have always been an adventurer, especially if it is exciting and unknown," said Syer. "I like something exciting and different."

The Loch Ness Monster remained hidden in 1983 and has remained hidden since, but Syer said she continues to be a believer that

the monster lives.

Her evidence is the hundreds of sightings of a creature in the loch. The first was in 565 A.D. when a missionary, St. Columba, described seeing a "certain water monster."

Sightings and reports continued through the centuries, despite a reluctance by many to discuss the monster. "If people see it, they don't say anything because people make fun of them," Syer said.

The loch, which is 23 miles long, up to 1½ miles wide and 975 feet deep, is in a remote portion of the country.

The record of sightings increased dramatically in 1933 when a road was opened along the northwest shore and tourists began to visit the area.

One sighting in 1934 described the creature as "a huge animal with a small tapering head and a six-foot-long, thin, tapering neck, behind which there was one hump."

Despite several hoaxes, other sightings have been consistent, Syer said, and several photographs, although disputed by some, suggest that there is something in the murky, cold water.

After spending time working on the 1983 search, Syer said she can understand why no physical evidence has been found. Water flowing into the loch carries peat, which makes it nearly impossible to see below the surface. Some divers say it often is impossible to tell up from down. The coldness of the water prevents remains of animals from floating to the surface.

For Syer, who has traveled to 50 countries since 1972, the search for Nessie is not over. She plans to return next summer to participate in another expedition.

"I was never disappointed, even though I didn't see it... I know it is there. There are too many people who have seen it."

The Man Who Spied Bigfoot Comes Forward

Go ahead and laugh. I believe him.

Walter Bowers Sr., a man of sound mind and sober spirit, swears he saw Bigfoot while hunting pheasant in Salisbury three weeks ago. He told the chief of police, who told the boys at the Crossroads Country Store, who laughed their fool heads off.

Now, ask yourself this. Why would Bowers, a retired caretaker at the New Hampshire Veterans Home, make up such a story? Why would he subject himself to such ridicule? "I don't like to be made a fool of," he said. "But I know what I see."

Bowers stepped forward after reading about the uproar his story had created in Salisbury. He agreed to take me out to the field where he saw whatever he saw. Maybe we could find some tracks in the snow.

"It don't bother me any to go out with you," he said, "but I'm not going to get unarmed. Not after I see what that thing is."

He greeted me at his trailer on Pleasant Street in Webster with a .357-Magnum strapped to his hip.

"I'm not gonna shoot it," he said, "but I'm not gonna let it get ahold of me either."

Snow squalls darkened the sky as we scrunched into my car and headed for Salisbury, talking all the way.

Bowers, 55, is a lifelong resident of Webster. He started hunting when he was old enough to carry a gun. Now retired, he likes to hunt pheasant in a field known as Bob's Big Interval, next to Mill Brook in Salisbury.

About three weeks ago, a hunter from Warner told Bowers he had seen two strange beasts walk across the field early one morning.

"I didn't pay much attention," Bowers said. "I just went out bird hunting, two days, three days afterward."

As he crossed the field with his .12-gauge shotgun shortly after daybreak, he had a strange feeling he was being watched. He passed between two stands of trees, turned to the right, "and there he was. Standing right out in the middle of the field."

Bigfoot. Sasquatch. Whatever you want to call it.

"This thing was BIG," he said. "I would say at least 9 feet. Maybe less, maybe more, because I didn't stick around too long to do any measuring."

The whole body was covered with hair. . . . I would say it was kind of a grayish color, from where I was standing. Of course the sun was coming up facing me, but it wasn't that bright. . . . The face, I couldn't make that out too good. . . . The hands were like yours or mine, only three times bigger, with pads on the front paws, like a dog. . . . Long legs, long arms. It was just like, I would say, like a gorilla, but this here wasn't a gorilla. . . . I'm tellin' ya, it would make your hair stand up."

After a few moments, the creature ran off toward the large swamp behind the field. Bowers hustled back to his car, glancing over his shoulder to make sure he was alone.

A few nights later, he told Salisbury Police Chief Jody Heath, a family friend, what he had seen and asked if he could shoot the beast if it attacked him. Heath, biting his lip, promised to find out.

"He sounded like everybody else," Bowers said. "I don't think he really believed me."

Bowers tried the game warden next.

"He just laughed at me. He said, 'There's no such thing.' I said, 'Nuts.' He said, 'It was probably a bear or a moose.' I said, 'Look, I can tell the difference between a bear, and I can tell the difference between a moose. This was neither.' He didn't believe me. He got mad and hung up."

Bowers has shot four bears in his lifetime, so he knows what they look like. As for moose, has anyone ever seen one stand on its hind legs and walk like a man?

"If a man can't tell the difference between a moose and a thing like that," Bowers said, "he hadn't ought to be hunting whatsoever, in my book. He hadn't ought to be in the woods hunting if he can't tell the difference."

Hundreds of people have reported seeing half-human creatures like Bigfoot, usually in the vast forests of the Pacific Northwest and Asia. But nobody has ever caught or photographed one clearly.

Bowers figures creatures like the one he saw live and die in swamps or caves, where no man can reach

Monitor Columnist

Scot French



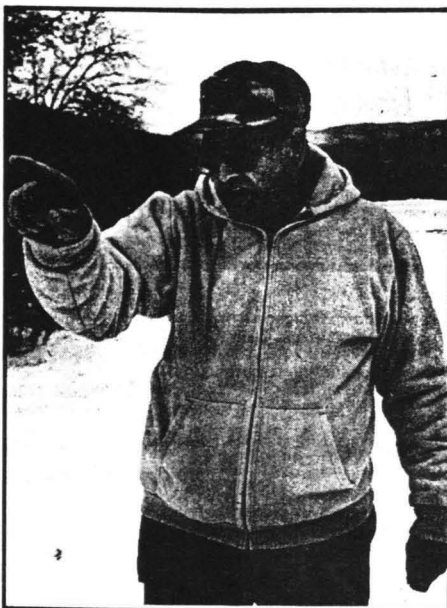
them. They probably come out early in the morning to look for apples or corn or whatever it is they eat.

"I think there's more people that see these that are not saying anything 'cause they don't want to get laughed at," he said.

One of these days, he may grab his camera and stake out the field, using apples for bait. A clear photo of the animal or its tracks might convince the skeptics.

Until then, he figures people will have a good laugh at his expense.

"Go ahead," he said, shaking his head, "but it's not gonna change a thing, 'cause I still see what I see."



GEOFF FORESTER/Monitor Staff

Walter Bowers Sr. is sure what he saw was no bear. It certainly was no moose, as some suggest.

USA TODAY, Arlington, VA - Oct. 30, 1987

Creatures that haunt the USA

Be it truth or fiction, stories on the Jersey Devil, Dover Demon and others thrive

By Dan Sperling
USA TODAY

Folks say it has the face of a horse, the body of a kangaroo, the wings of a bat, the hooves of a pig, the tail of a dragon — and a cry that can wither corn on the stalk.

It's said to haunt New Jersey's desolate Pine Barrens, where scores of people — including Stephen Decatur, Admiral Farragut and Napoleon's brother — swear they've had close encounters.

They call it the Jersey Devil, and blame it for misfortunes ranging from crop failure to the mysterious mutilation of pets and livestock, though skeptics blame these things — plus strange footprints and sightings — on wild animals, swamp gas and too much moonshine.

Whatever else it may be, the Jersey Devil is no lone wolf. Beyond the USA's aseptic pale of neon and concrete beats a heart of darkness, where folks claim to have seen all sorts of strange things that go bump in the night — and not just on Halloween.

Among the alleged beasties:

■ Giant penguin-like creatures, about 10 feet tall, near Clearwater, Fla.

■ A turtle the size of a Volkswagen Beetle, in a lake near Churubusco, Ind.

■ A black, 25-foot-long sea serpent in Flathead Lake, Mont.

■ The "Dover (Mass.) Demon," a 4-foot-tall, orange fellow with a head shaped like a figure 8.

■ A huge, bat-like beast flying over Texas and New Mexico, along the Rio Grande.

■ A scaly, gilled "Black Lagoon" type apparition in the Ohio River Valley.

Not all of these are dismissed lightly.

"I'm satisfied there's at least one undiscovered animal in the United States," says Grover Krantz, associate professor of anthropology at Washington State University in Pullman.

Krantz is referring to the USA's best-known monster, Bigfoot — the huge, ape-like creature reported mainly in the Pacific Northwest. Krantz has risked his academic reputation by maintaining that Bigfoot is for real, and speculates that it's an early ancestor of man.

"Technically, it would be our closest living relative."

While Krantz has never seen Bigfoot, he's interviewed 50 people who say they have, and has studied the reports of nearly a thousand others. His conclusion, "I'm inclined to believe about half of them."

Most of the witnesses are everyday people — not the kooks one might expect. And their stories can be compelling.

Joe Downham, 65, a tool and die maker from Bellevue, Wash., came home from the late shift one night in 1981 and saw what he thought was a man looking in his neighbor's window. He decided to investigate.

"When I got to the top of the garden, I could see it wasn't a man at all; it was some kind of animal," says Downham, now retired.

"It was a very bright moonlit night, and I could see it quite plainly. It was all covered with a light-brownish fur, and it was taller than the top of the window, which is 7½ feet from the ground. . . ."

"It had a very peculiar-looking face, with a flattish nose. The head sloped up to a peak, like a gorilla, and the jaw was kind of protruding, with a grimacing sort of expression. The skin on the face was dark gray and didn't have any fur on it."

After being joined by a second creature, it let out a strange wolf-like howl. When the lights in the house went on, the pair bounded away.

Nowadays, says Downham, "I never go out in my yard in the dark."

While Krantz admits such eyewitness reports aren't conclusive, he cites some anatomically perfect footprint casts — complete with skinridge patterns — as more compelling evidence of Bigfoot.

"If somebody faked them, he'd have to be smarter and more inventive than me, and know as much or more about anatomy," Krantz says.

Another monster some think may be flesh and blood is Champ, Lake Champlain's version of Scotland's Nessie.

"Definitely, there is something there," says Joseph Zarzynski, 37, of Wilton, N.Y., a junior high teacher who's headed the Lake Champlain Phenomena Investigation since 1979.

He wouldn't get an argument from Esther Waldron, 50, who works in the Town Clerk's office in Moriah, N.Y. Five years ago, while on Champlain's shore, Waldron saw, about 200 feet out in the lake, "this object come out of the water."

"It looked like the head of a huge snake, and the whole thing was black," she says. "I judged it to be at least a foot in diameter. It just came up out of the water and went back down, and then did it again. The whole thing took maybe 30 seconds."

From more than 200 such sightings, Zarzynski has pieced together the profile of a serpent-like creature 15-20 feet long that he thinks is a plesiosaur, a sea-going dinosaur thought to have died out 60 million years ago.

But there are other Champ candidates. "My guess is that they're primitive, snake-like whales called Zeuglodon," says Roy Mackal of the University of Chicago.

Abominable snowman reported

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Moscow

A Soviet team may have gotten a glimpse of the mysterious yeti, also known as the abominable snowman, the Soviet Communist Party youth organization newspaper Komsomolskaya Pravda reported Thursday.

Reporting on a new expedition to search for the creature, Komsomolskaya Pravda said the encounter occurred in the Altai region in Central Asia, in the Caucasus hills near the Ural mountain chain.

The expedition leader, a biologist, was quoted as saying: "(at a campfire) on the eighth day of our trip (we saw in the darkness) two eyes glowing — like those of animals — at a height of two meters (6 feet 7 inches)."

The eyes could not have been that of a bear or any other animal, he said, nor could it have been a human, since the expedition was in a remote region far from any human habitation.

The next day, the search team saw "many footprints" in the snow which were not those of bear claws.

"The toe-marks were clearly visible," the account said.

Mackal is vice president of the Tucson-based International Society of Cryptozoology, which is devoted to the study of animals unknown and unexpected and boasts a board of directors made up of respected scientists from all over the world.

"There are no monsters; there are just animals. We call them monsters," says Mackal, a biochemistry professor turned administrator.

But some explanations are less prosaic.

"There's a wide range of answers for what these creatures are," says Loren Coleman, author of *Mysterious America* (Faber & Faber, \$9.95) and *Curious Encounters* (Faber & Faber, \$11.95), and a longtime investigator of the unexplained.

"The continuum begins with actual flesh-and-blood creatures such as Bigfoot, all the way to the other end of the spectrum, where you have more of a paranormal answer," says Coleman, a social worker in Portland, Maine.

"I think that, in fact, there may be some kind of monsters or elementals that we don't quite understand. They may be more like energy forces, which are coming in and out of human perception."

"Some may be out of a human need to have monsters in everybody's back yard."

Of course, not everyone subscribes to such a need.

"There's no persuasive evidence that these creatures exist," says Douglas Gill, professor of zoology at the University of Maryland in College Park.

But don't try telling Waldron that what she saw in Lake Champlain was just a figment of her imagination.

"I have no idea what it was in the water that day, but one thing I'm sure of: There is something there."

ARKANSAS GAZETTE, Little Rock, AR - Jan. 10, 1988

Soviets hunt abominable snowman

MOSCOW — A society created within the Ministry of Culture has begun a search for the abominable snowman, a large manlike creature that has been sighted at least 100 times, the official Tass news agency said Saturday.

Tass said numerous reports collected by search enthusiast Zhanna Kofman of Moscow indicate the creature, known in Asia as the yeti, has a protruding forehead, eyebrows like cap peaks and a knot of hair at the back of the skull — features associated with prehistoric Neanderthal man. (AP)