

UFO

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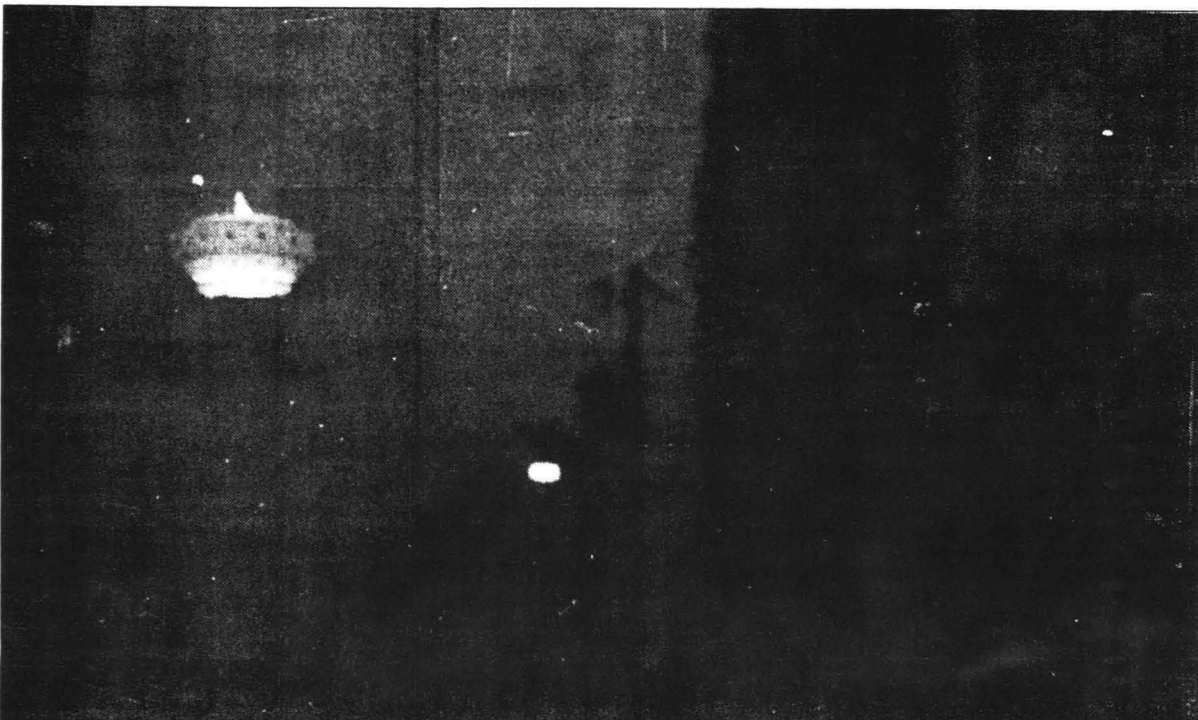
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ROD B. DYKE

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SENTINEL, Gulf Breeze, FL - Nov. 19, 1987 CR: L. Wilson

UFO Sighted Over Gulf Breeze



These polaroid photos were taken from the front yard of a Gulf Breeze residence Wednesday evening, November 11th. If anybody saw it or knows any information regarding this please contact the Sentinel.



To Whom it May Concern:

On the night of November 11th I took the pictures you now see before you. I was reluctant at first to show them to any one but my family but my wife convinced me to show them to Ed. Ed in turn said that the photos should be shown to the press. That is why he is presenting them to you.

I had just sat down to dinner when I saw the object from my window. I rushed to my bedroom to get my Polaroid. I rushed outside and started taking pictures. I got off four pictures (5,6,7,8) and then had to change film. I got one more good picture (1) before it shot straight up and disappeared.

There may be some reasonable explanation for what I saw but I don't think so. The "ship" looked about the size of a small house. It was, however, quite some distance away and hard to tell. It hovered in the sky for several minutes and then left. It did not spin or rotate but it did seem to bob up and down while weaving slightly. It glowed from the bottom as if that may be the power source. The markings (windows?) on the upper and lower section were aligned and spaced equally. On the top there appeared to be a dome or bump that was quite bright. There was nothing colorful about it — no flashing lights, no beams coming from it. None of that "Star Wars" stuff; it was just a dull gray-blue "thing".

I don't think that it was military but you may want to check. It was quite big and I don't think I was alone in seeing it. I wish to remain anonymous but if these photos and story spark any interest from your readership I may identify myself. I am a prominent citizen of the community however and need anonymity at this time. I know what I saw and would feel much better if I knew I was not alone.

Let me reassure you that this is not a hoax. I saw what I saw, took pictures of it, and have given these pictures to you. I wish I could come forward but can not; for while I have nothing to gain, I have everything to lose. Thank you for your time and understanding.

Number of people reporting UFOs in Little River County

By Michael Arbanas
GAZETTE HOT SPRINGS BUREAU

FOREMAN — Strange things have been happening in the skies over Little River County.

Residents have been watching this week, hoping to catch a glimpse of one or more unidentified flying objects that have been reported in the area.

Sheriff Dallas Keller said Friday that his department had received at least 60 reports Tuesday and Wednesday nights of circular craft with extremely bright lights appearing in the skies between Ashdown and Foreman, which is near the Oklahoma and Texas borders. He said some observers reported that they had seen two of the UFOs flying together and then going off in different directions at great speed.

Rose Jones of Foreman said she saw a ball of light that was as big as a hay wagon at first, but which got smaller when as many as 100 people gathered to look at it. She said the object changed color from red to green to blue, and that it flew high into the sky from where she first saw it near ground level.

"It got under the moon and it looked just like a star up there until everyone went away, then it came back," Jones said. "When it was up off the ground, lights were flashing, and, like I said, you had to see it to believe it."

Jones said she had not seen any UFOs before Thursday, although members of her family had. She said people in the Foreman area had been seeing the strange lights in the sky since Christmas, but that most people who saw the objects kept quiet because they did

not want their friends and neighbors to think they were crazy.

Don Turnbull, manager of the air traffic control tower at Texarkana Regional Airport, said air traffic controllers had logged no unusual activity in the last several days.

Keller said crowds gathered Thursday night hoping to see the UFOs again, but that they saw only two military planes in a refueling operation. He said his department was investigating the sightings because there had been so many reports and because the people who reported the UFOs were certain they had seen something other than airplanes.

"There were people that were very serious-minded about what they had seen," Keller said. "These weren't the type of people that would try to pull a hoax."

TRIBUNE, San Diego, CA

Jan. 7, 1988

Do aliens need human genes?

Chicago Tribune

The chromosomal closeness of apes and humans coupled with advances in test-tube fertilization, embryo transfer and recombinant DNA technology have caused some people to wonder if genes aren't secretly being spliced by scientists trying to create a race of ape-man slaves.

Most speculations are monkey business compared with the alarming premise of Budd Hopkins' book, "Intruders: The Incredible Visitations at Copley Woods," which is being marketed and receiving respectable reviews as a work of popular science, not fiction.

Hopkins presents the story of an Indiana woman he calls Kathie Davis, who says that since adolescence she has, periodically, been floated up to UFOs and forced to submit to a vast, ongoing genetic experiment.

Her testimony, revealed under hypnosis and supported by hundreds of (equally pseudonymous) others — all eerily similar in detail — may suggest a desperate attempt by outer-space aliens to perk up their fading gene pool with fresh human DNA, Hopkins speculates.

Judging by victims' drawings, it couldn't hurt. All the aliens have huge heads, big hypnotic eyes and fragile-looking bodies. Oddly, they're unaware of what a modern molecular lab virtuoso supposedly can cook up with a petri dish and an incubator. Men victims are forced to donate sperm or to mate with female aliens. Women undergo egg retrievals or are impregnated, their embryos removed in a few weeks.

CR: D. Clements

UFO 'flap' still unexplained

By Mark Holmberg
Times-Dispatch staff writer

"Go, UFOs!" hollered an excited young woman. The orange orb bounced up and down briskly before arcing high through the air and slicing through the net of the Wytheville Community Center basketball court.

Two points. It was too little too late for the Wytheville UFOs, who were trounced at the hands of the Community Hospital team during the senior's league game.

"We invaded earth a long time ago, but we still haven't learned the game of basketball yet," said R.C. Scott, sweating on the sidelines after the game. "Gravity's different down here."

Team members joked that the team name stands for "Unidentified Fat Objects," but they admitted that they, like the rest of the Wythe County community, were fascinated by the more than 2,000 UFOs that were spotted in the crisp skys back in the fall.

"We saw it back in September, two weeks before everybody else started seeing it," said team member Johnny Turner, nodding to his son Chris. "There was a row of red lights and a row of green lights, shaped kind of like the back of a car — it was flying as low as a tall tree. We just passed it off."

Chris, a National Junior Honor Society member, said they've been wondering what it was. "After seeing that, it's hard to keep from looking up now."

The sightings began in earnest in October. No one was immune: hunters, secretaries, housewives, even a police chief and a state police dispatcher admitted seeing objects that were described as "a flying school bus" (one of the more popular descriptions), "something bouncing on a string," "a large sphere with red spheres on each side," "an upside-down ice cream cone" and "a humongous mother ship."

The strange craft silently hovered or drifted just over the treetops of some of the most beautiful countryside anywhere: Piney, Speedwell, Cripple Creek, Big Walker Mountain, Elk Creek, Rural Retreat.

Were the vehicles secret military aircraft or aliens from outer space? That was the big question. Very few believed that so many of their solid, good-hearted neighbors could be going crazy.

"Our people are not daffy. They're seeing something," said Dr. Carl E. Stark, mayor of Wytheville, roughly the geographic center of most of the sightings. "I'm very proud of our community; they're approaching this thing very sensibly. But they're concerned. If there are secret things going on, they deserve to know about it."

Although he said his wife has seen the objects, he's not ready to push the panic button: "Nobody has been zapped, there's been no damage and nobody's gotten hysterical."

Besides, added Stark, town mayor for 26 years, "it helps the restaurant and hotel business. We're glad to welcome all those interested in UFOs."

The UFOs have been a boon for Dick Phillipi, co-owner of the Texaco Travel Store and the Comfort Inn on Interstate 81 in Wytheville.

"We put up a sign: 'UFOs, Come On Down!'" said Phillipi, laughing. But he's had no response to his advertised offer of "Free fill-ups for any UFO craft and free rooms at the motel for aliens."

In the local paper, one of his ads read: "One of the reasons you can't hear those UFOs is they're running on Texaco gas."

Phillipi also had T-shirts and caps made with a UFO emblazoned on them, along with the words: "Wythe County — The UFO Capital of Virginia." He's sold about 800 shirts.

Phillipi reported that some people driving vehicles bearing the NASA logo stayed at his hotel for "four or five days. They were also seen in town. Who knows what's going on out there?"

Anyone driving through the cozy town nestled in the early slopes of the Appalachian mountains would see at least one "unidentified flying object." That would be the large green one perched atop the marquee of the Millwald Theater in the heart of Wytheville, right down the hill from the giant pencil that leans out over the street in front of an office supply store.

George Jordan, who works for the theater, made the craft out of styrofoam for a special showing of "War of The Worlds," screened in honor of the sightings.

"Boy, we really had a big weekend with that — we're not going to take it down."

Jordan, like most of the people interviewed in Wythe County, proved to be warm and friendly, willing to spend a few moments visiting with a stranger. As soon as UFOs were mentioned, his face, like those of his neighbors, brightened with an indulgent smile.

But not James E. Moore's face. "All this UFO stuff is a buncha damn lollygag," growled the man known around Wytheville as Coal-dust. A well-known local character, he wanders around town searching for aluminum cans and wire.

"They been up to the moon — they claim. They'd a seen something. Ain't nothing out in space but rocks — something's a-wrong with their brain."

Famous locally for his songs about a Nashville bus and the local jail, Coal-dust said his greatest desire is to sing and play on "Hee-Haw." Currently, he's working on a song about UFOs.

"If you get something started in this town, it'll get spread all over, and they'll make a buncha damn gossip out of it," Coal-dust said, warming to the topic. "They're just trying to fool people. It's a buncha damn hootenanny."

Danny Gordon, news and sports director for WYVE-AM, thinks the UFO sightings are anything but "hootenanny."

Through hustle and determination, Gordon became the central figure in the Wythe "flap" (as a rash of UFO sightings is called), encouraging his listeners to come forward, taking calls, correlating information and re-playing what he felt were the most reliable sightings on the air.

"I refuse to stop until it [UFOs] stops or we find out what it is," Gordon said. As of last week, the calls — while down to a trickle — were still coming in.

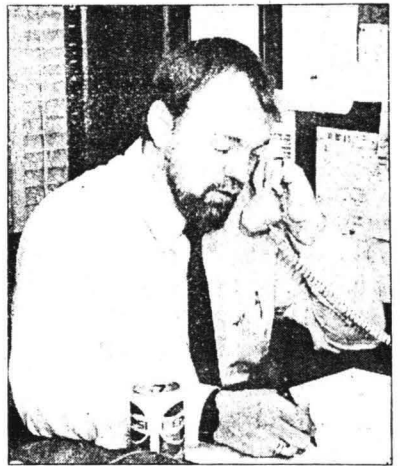
Gordon, like many in the community, wasn't relieved by the wire service story announcing that the alleged UFOs might actually be Tennessee Air National Guard refueling operations, which had been stepped up in the area during the sightings. The area is frequently used for such operations and other military maneuvers, said Gordon, and those living in the area are used to them.

"We don't have the technology to do what these craft have done," said Gordon. He said the craft have been seen hovering at altitudes of 300 feet; several times the skyline of the mountains was seen above the craft.

"That's much lower than the ceiling for the refueling operations," said Gordon, who has seen the UFOs on a number of occasions. He added, "I kind of scoffed at it until I saw it. Once you see it, it changes your perception. It blows your mind to watch it."



UNBELIEVER — "They been up to the moon they claim. They'd-a seen something. Ain't nothing out in space but rocks . . ." says James E. "Coal-dust" Moore.

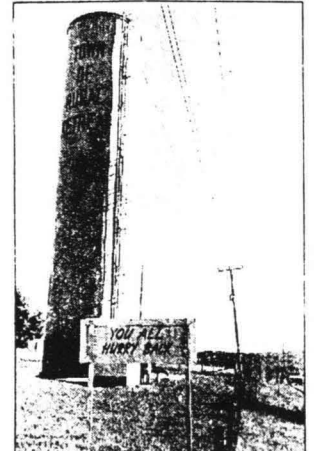


Photos by Randy Lilly

BELIEVER — Radio newsman Danny Gordon is convinced of UFO's validity. "Once you've seen it, it changes your perception."

He described the UFO as "a big craft with a lot of smaller craft attached to it. People are seeing it from different angles — that's why we're getting different descriptions."

He said he's called the Pentagon, NORAD, Langley Air Force Base, any place that could be sending aircraft over the area. "I want to be able to tell my listeners what it is."



UFOS, TOO — Visitors, extra-terrestrial and otherwise, receive a warm welcome when they visit rural Wythe County.

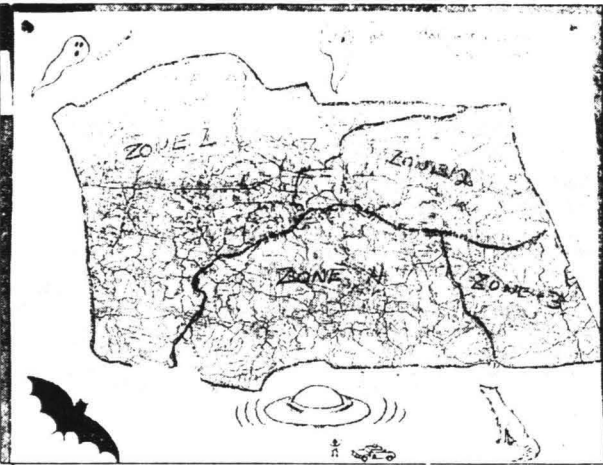
For Gordon, there has been no satisfactory answer.

In November he set up "the first and only UFO conference in Southwest Virginia" at the Wytheville Community College. Four UFO spe-

(continued on page 3)

WE SAW IT — When those at the Wytheville UFO conference were asked to raise their hands if they had seen UFOs, nearly everyone did.

(continued from page 2 - TIMES-DISPATCH,
Richmond, VA - Jan. 3, 1988)



T-D photos by Mark Holmberg

THEY HAVE LANDED — In the Wythe County Sheriff's office, the map of the county (population 25,000) shows that UFOs can be fun, even though more than 2,000 sightings were reported in Southwestern Virginia.

cialists were invited to address the community. One of them, Leonard Stringfield, was hooked up to the meeting via telephone.

About 150 people jammed into the small auditorium, straining to hear every word. Residents got up and described their sightings while a local television camera flooded the room with its stark lights.

After listening to several of the sighting reports, including one that described how a woman's dog was upset by the UFO, Stringfield (considered by many "ufologists" to be one of the top experts), informed those who could hear his barely amplified voice that the craft they have been seeing "are definitely extraterrestrial in nature."

This revelation might have caused a furor in other communities, but those present only looked on calmly. Some nodded their heads.

Ufologist Barbara Finney got no more of a rise when she discussed how one can find out if he's been abducted by an extraterrestrial. "Look for a surgical scar on the back of the calf or knee... missing time... sinus infections."

The cold atmosphere of alien spacecraft often causes sinus problems, she explained. The scar marks the spot where the abduction victim was medically monitored.

Some in the audience asked questions, but most looked as if they still weren't overly concerned about aliens from outer space.

Then ufologist Victor Jackson, who had traveled from San Antonio, Texas, for the meeting, addressed the crowd on the dangers of aliens, which he called "hostiles."

Some in the room whispered that Jackson, with his shaved head and melodic foreign accent, was himself an alien. The fact that he had been seen walking into town added fuel to the speculation.

Jackson warned those who see the UFOs "not to get too close. I'm not trying to scare you; I'm just trying to enlighten you."

Gordon closed the meeting by asking all those present who had seen a UFO to raise their hands. Nearly everyone did.

With the coming of winter, most of the calls reporting UFOs have, like the brilliant fall leaves, "dried up and blown away," said Capt. K.L. Osborne of the Wythe County Sheriff's Department.

But while they lasted, the calls brought the department plenty of excitement. Judging from the smiles they still bring on, they're not likely to be forgotten for some time.

"You wouldn't believe the calls," said Deputy Sheriff C.M. Collins, who

is convinced the UFOs are "Cobra choppers being refueled."

Other smiling deputies came over to listen to what must have been one of their favorite stories: "One lady called and said a UFO had landed nearby. She said she knew it was a UFO because... It's got it wrote on the side of it."

The investigating deputy "broke all speed records to get there," said Collins, a former Air Force paratrooper. "When he got there, she said it was just car lights."

On Wytheville's main drag sits the Red Barn, a large, old building where antiques and collectables are sold. Owners Ed and Bonnie Dillon like to sit on the crowded porch, rocking in the sun and watching cars go by.

What do they think about the Wythe UFOs?

"Well, now," said Dillon with a glance at his wife, "I don't think we've even discussed it, have we?"

His wife smiled and shook her head.

On the wall beside her chair, a sign reads: "Historical fact: On this spot, in 1891, as far as we know, nothing happened."

Perhaps one day Ed and Bonnie Dillon will have a hankering to change the date on that sign.

The 'Westchester Wing' UFO sighting

NIGHT SIEGE: THE HUDSON VALLEY UFO SIGHTING — By Dr. J. Allen Hynek and Philip Imbrogno, with Bob Pratt, Ballantine Books, \$6.96, 208 pp.

By GEORGE W. EARLEY

It's an hour until you leave for work so you step outside for a squint at the sky. It's a clear, crisp, starspangled March night. You suck in a breath of clean air... and then you see it! Drifting into view is a V-shaped string of lights. Nearly soundless — you can hear a low drone — it is clearly a solid object as it obscures stars while moving slowly over your neighborhood.

As a professional pilot, you know of nothing like it flying today, yet there it is.

Back inside, you call the FAA and get the brushoff. "It's those light plane pilots again, playing 'Martian.'"

The police are equally uninterested... and imply you've been drinking.

That scene, varied only as the sighters — who have ranged from housewives to scientists, engineers, and formerly skeptical police officers — has been repeated

scores of time in New York's Hudson River Valley and adjacent Connecticut towns since December 1982. And the sightings are still going on.

In this year of best-selling UFO books ("Communion," "Light Years" and "Intruders"), "Night Siege" is a UFO book with a local angle. It is the account of the Hudson River sightings and the people who have seen the "Westchester Wing," as this UFO has been nicknamed. Over 1,500 people, many of them eyewitnesses to the numerous flights of the "Wing," crowded into a Brewster, N.Y., high school two years ago to exchange sighting reports and ask UFO investigators about their investigations.

They also had hoped to query representatives of the officially uninterested Federal Aviation Agency but the FAA declined to send anyone. Also present, though claiming they were there because of personal interest and not in any official capacity, were several U.S. Air Force officers and a member of the hush-hush National Security Agency.

Videotapes of the mystery object were shown during the conference. The accompanying audio

track clearly demonstrated the virtually noiseless flight of the "Wing." Witnesses were emphatic in their ability to distinguish between the UFO and a noisy group of night-flying light planes which, they said, tried to imitate the "Wing."

Throughout the book, the authors pinpoint instance after instance when federal representatives stonewalled queries about the "Wing," or supplied false and misleading information.

But for reasons not made clear in the book, Imbrogno and his team of investigators failed to enlist the aid of state and federal politicians in the request for answers.

The news media also failed to investigate the sighting reports adequately.

Winter, the time when the "Wing" usually flies, is almost with us. No one knows if the "Wing" will reappear but until (or if) it does, reading "Night Siege" is a fascinating way to prepare yourself for a chance encounter with this strange denizen of the night sky.

George W. Earley is a free-lance writer who lives in Bloomfield.

AMERICAN, Waterbury, CT - Nov. 13, 1987

Visitors From Space May Be Watching

By DANIEL PETERSEN

The UFOs are at it again.

They're the same hovering, silent shapes that lighted the night on June 11 and sparked numerous calls to police in Waterbury, Middlebury and Southbury.

They're the same things the authorities dismissed as a formation of small, low-flying airplanes with their navigation lights turned on.

The nocturnal visitors have returned. This time, however, they have not left their mark in police logs but in a paperback book, "Night Siege: The Hudson Valley UFO Sightings," published in October by Ballantine Books.

And Philip J. Imbrogno of Bethel, one of the authors, isn't writing them off as airplanes. He wrote the 200-page book with the late Dr. J. Allen Hynek, revered as the dean of UFO investigators, and Bob Pratt, a professional writer and UFO investigator who lives in Florida.

"The common explanation that they're aircraft in formation just doesn't hold water," Imbrogno, 37, said this week.

That remark must ring true to the area residents who, not satisfied with the official explanation that was reported in The Republican on the morning after the June sightings, lost no time in calling The American to express their opinions to the state news editor.

The editor said he received complaints from "several vociferous callers" who thought the airplane story was absurd and insulted their intelligence.

While "Night Siege" focuses on reported sightings in 1983 and 1984 in the Hudson Valley area of southeastern New York State, more recent sightings in Waterbury and area towns fit the pattern and reinforce the argument that there's something more than airplanes in the air, Imbrogno said.

The book details sightings in a 1,400-square-mile area covering Westchester, Putnam and Dutchess counties in New York State and Fairfield, Litchfield and New Haven counties in Connecticut.

"At a conservative estimate," according to the first chapter, "more than 5,000 people have seen a triangular or boomerang-shaped object as big or bigger than a football field, usually moving very slowly or hovering just above the earth, sometimes sending down beams of light. Sometimes the object shot straight up in the sky until it disappeared from sight. At times it was so close that witnesses could make out structural details."

After minutely detailing dozens of reported sightings, the authors list 12 reasons why the objects are not what the authorities say they are. They can hover, for one thing. Airplanes cannot. Unlike blimps, they are not affected by wind. Other observers said the object made no noise while airplanes flying in the distance could be heard.

It's the witnesses that make the story, Imbrogno said. There were just too many to ignore.

For example, hundreds of people claimed to have seen a huge, triangular object in the sky over Yorktown, N.Y., in March 1983. The witnesses included several police officers.

In Danbury, at least 12 police officers laid their reputations on the line by going on record with reports of an inexplicable airborne object one night in July 1984.

Many of the witnesses who came forward to help Imbrogno and Hynek in their investigation "were professionals who had nothing to gain and much to lose by reporting they had seen a UFO — scientists, engineers, doctors, lawyers, pilots, police officers, and many other people who are stable, respected residents of the area," according to the book.

In another sighting in June 1984, 12 New York State Power Authority police officers on duty at the Indian Point nuclear reactor complex in Buchanan, N.Y., reported that they watched as a silent craft measuring more than 5,000 feet high hovered over a reactor for more than 10 minutes.

Investigators Imbrogno and Hynek, both former UFO skeptics, also got to see the UFO on a different occasion.

As for their own credentials, they do not appear until the end of "Night Siege."

Imbrogno is chairman of the science department at the Windward School in White Plains, N.Y., and serves on the board of directors for Bowman Observatory in Greenwich. He also wrote "Crosswalks Across the Universe," an astronomy textbook.

A respected scholar, Hynek was chairman of the astronomy department at Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill., and had been a director in charge of satellite tracking for the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory.

Woman reports seeing UFO

By LAMARRIOL SMITH
Tribune-Herald staff writer

CORSICANA — A Corsicana woman reported she saw an unidentified flying object or "something" early Friday while looking out of her den window.

Sue Milligan told KAND-FM Radio disc jockey Alan Barnes and a Tribune-Herald reporter that she saw what she thought to be a UFO around 4 a.m. Friday.

"I saw something. I assume it was a UFO because it wasn't an airplane. It didn't move or anything. It stayed in one place, and I don't think an airplane can do that," Milligan said.

She said the object, which she described as "not exactly flashing," hovered about 30 minutes without moving.

"It just seemed to appear that it was closing almost together and then opening back up — back and forth," Milligan said. "It didn't appear to be shaped like an airplane, it was a rounded thing."

Milligan said she went over to her table to get a sip of coffee and the object was gone by the time she returned to the window.

The object appeared to be at the "east edge of town," Milligan said, adding that she lives on the south side of Corsicana.

"It wasn't real far off. It was close enough that I could tell it was not an airplane," Milligan said.

A spokeswoman for Texas Power & Light in Corsicana said no power malfunctions were reported during the early hours of the reported UFO sighting.

Another spokesman for KAND-FM Radio said another apparent "serious caller" said he too saw the bright object in the sky early Friday.

Walter Andrus, international director of Mutual UFO Network, based in Seguin, said the Corsicana woman possibly could have seen the planet Mars.

Mars would be the only planet in that part of the sky at that particular time. During January, Mars would be a bright spot in the southeast part of the sky, Andrus said, adding that looking out of a window, one's visual range might include the east, northeast and southeast.

The organization, which has

no representatives in Navarro County, received reports of UFO sightings in December and earlier in November, Andrus said. Both sightings turned out to be Russian satellites, he added.

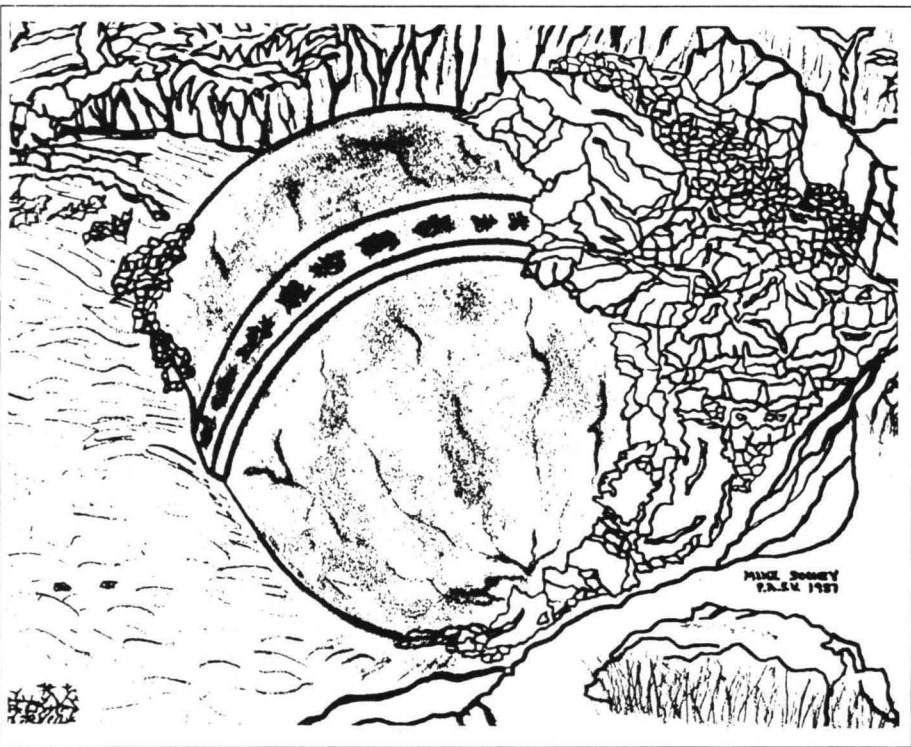
"Several days ago, our representatives went to Australia to investigate a report out of Adelaide, Australia," Andrus said.

An orange egg-shaped object allegedly chased a car on a highway near the coast.

The car was occupied by a 48-year-old woman and her three grown sons. They heard a "swooshing" sound and the car supposedly was sucked off the highway then set down again, blowing out the right front tire.

The woman and her sons reported the incident to the police in the next town "of significant size." Apparently, whatever it was, left some sort of black ash on the car and forensic authorities are trying to analyze the substance, Andrus said.

The incident occurred on Jan. 18 around 7:30 a.m. in Australia, or Jan. 17, U.S. time.



Not everyone agrees meteor fell near Kecksburg in 1965

By Dave Lester
TRIBUNE-REVIEW

Shortly before sundown Dec. 9, 1965, a fiery bright-orange object was seen hurtling across the western Pennsylvania sky.

One volunteer fireman, who was then a teen-ager, recalls the trail the unidentified flying object created, describing it as a "round ball of fire" that came out of the north with a tail of flame traveling in the direction of Kecksburg. The object, he says, appeared to be making a gliding, controlled descent and moved at about the speed of a fast plane.

Minutes later he was summoned by the fire whistle. The word was that a plane had crashed in the Kecksburg area and searchers were needed to locate the wreckage and rescue any survivors.

But no plane was ever found and military officials were quick to dismiss the occurrence as a meteor.

Not everyone agrees with their conclusion and the interest the military demonstrated in attempting to recover a meteorite has left amateur investigators doubtful that the whole story has ever been told.

Amateur UFO investigators have doggedly pursued a paper trail they contend shows the military was keenly interested in recovering an object from a wooded area and then just as determined to cloak the whole incident in official secrecy.

More than 20 years later these sleuths are still searching for residents able to shed some light on the strange happening. Until recently members of the Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained, a statewide clearinghouse for the UFO reports, has never been able to locate anyone who claims actually to have seen an object. Some of the people investigators have contacted demonstrate a reluctance to comment, perhaps out of fear of being ridiculed or that they would offend a security-conscious military.

Even the fireman who came forward with an eyewitness account 22 years later agreed to speak only on condition that he not be identified.

He says he's convinced an acorn-shaped metallic object he and a handful of others came across was not man-made. PASU investigators won't go that far, declining to draw conclusions about what object if any was recovered. While they say they have no reason to discount his statement, they hope other witnesses

PASU checks sightings

By The Tribune-Review

The Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained is an all-volunteer, non-profit research group which investigates strange and unusual occurrences. It is seeking information concerning the incident at Kecksburg and other UFO sightings.

The organization, headed by Stan Gordon of Greensburg, serves as a statewide clearinghouse for reports of UFOs and other strange occurrences and works closely with the Mutual UFO Network, the largest international UFO research organization.

For more information, contact PASU at 6 Oak Hill Ave., Greensburg, Pa. 15601.

will be encouraged to come forward.

Three-member search parties were organized along the lines of a grid and the searchers were issued flashlights and portable radios before being dropped off at different points along a road.

They had combed about a quarter of a mile of the woods when one of the parties began shouting that they found something. Being close by, the fireman's own search party was the second to arrive at the scene. Whatever came through the trees, he says, sheared off branches at a 20 to 30 degree angle. "It was just like they were taken off with a meat cleaver," he says.

The searchers anticipated seeing the wreckage of a plane. What they found instead was a large acorn-shaped metallic object which appeared to be embedded in a 25- to 30-foot long ditch apparently created by the impact. The ditch was several feet wide and 7 to 8 feet deep at one end.

The team that discovered the object called the command center to report their find. None of the searchers ventured into the ditch to examine the object close up but from their vantage point they could tell it was no conventional aircraft. They could not recognize any part of it. There were no windows, props or wings and no evidence that the craft had been occupied.

Although the fireman says there was no concern voiced about radiation, "none of us," he says, "had the guts to go down into that hole."

They were puzzled, he says, that the object had remained intact after crashing to earth.

"We all assumed it was a plane but when a plane crashes there are pieces all over," he described it as circular in shape with a bumper around the radius that bore raised markings that reminded him of ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics. The metal, which he described as grayish pale gold

in color was crumpled much like a deflated beachball. "It was a color you just don't normally see," he says.

No evidence remained of the fireball that had been observed only hours before. The metal did not even appear to be scorched and the observers could detect no heat or see any glow from the metal.

"We just didn't know what to make of it," he says.

The fireman could not recall who it was that relieved the search teams, but he did remember that a state trooper and another man who appeared to be in authority were there. Shortly after the searchers were able to return to the fire hall, Air Force and Army personnel took control of the station. A command post was set up in a nearby house. The searchers were not permitted to enter the fire hall once the military arrived.

The fireman recalled one non-uniformed man who appeared to be in charge. "He just reeked of authority," says the fireman. "There was military everywhere."

By the time the searchers were dismissed, military guards with sidearms had taken positions outside the fire hall.

It must have been approaching midnight, the fireman says, when a flatbed truck came down the road under heavy military escort. A tarpaulin concealed what appeared to be a large cargo.

"They didn't waste any time getting it out of there," he says.

Even though it was clear to members of the search team that the object they found in the woods was manufactured, they were told by the military it was a meteorite.

"Things weren't jibing," the fireman recalled. "I've seen meteorites and seen pictures of satellites."

The fireman says he is convinced the military offered the ruse of a meteorite so as not to alarm the public. "If it was a

PRESS & SUN-BULLETIN, Binghamton, NY
Jan. 13, 1988 CR: P. Santangelo

Tier is in the dark about flying object

By ROQUA MONTEZ IV
Staff Writer

The object that's been brightening Broome County skies continues to keep residents and sky-watchers in the dark.

Theories abound about the object that was reported overhead since Thursday. Meteors, the planet Venus, and a military helicopter that landed at Edwin A. Link Field Monday night have all been linked to the sightings.

"You have to take all observations with a grain of salt," said E. Jay Sarton Jr., Kopernik Observatory director. "Most people are inexperienced observers and they may draw conclusions based on what they see."

Sarton believes Sunday's sighting was a meteor. The Quadrantid meteor shower, which peaked in the east at the beginning of the month, could still be shooting stray space rocks into Earth's atmosphere, local authorities said.

However, observers claim the object changed direction, hovered and presented a ball of light rather than a meteor's characteristic streak.

A Windsor woman yesterday reported a blinding ball of light 3 feet in diameter Monday evening. Two other observers made their sightings Thursday.

Victoria VanOstrand of Blatchley Road, Windsor, said she saw the object while driving 1½ miles from home. It was 20 feet above the treetops silently traveling north to south across Trim Street about 7 p.m. when it suddenly veered west, she said.

"I was nearly underneath it. The light was so blinding, I had to jam on the brakes," VanOstrand said.

VanOstrand watched the object hover over the trees in her back yard before she went inside. It was gone yesterday morning.

Edwin A. Link Field officials yesterday confirmed a military helicopter landed briefly Monday before lifting off that night. Witnesses say the copter was traveling unusually low.

"There were two bright white

lights, and they were too high to be street lights," said Celeste Pazzaglini-Mack of Binghamton. "It wasn't moving at all; it was just sort of hovering."

Pazzaglini-Mack said she saw the bright object about 6:15 p.m. Thursday as she was driving on Hooper Road in Endwell.

Peter Santangelo, a field investigator for the Texas-based Mutual UFO (unidentified flying object) Network and a member of the board of the Roberson-Kopernik Observatory in Vestal, said he's going to take a closer look at the latest sightings.

As far as Santangelo can determine, the object seen Sunday was probably nothing more than a fireball — a large, brilliant meteor that may trail light sparks, he said.

Once the object exploded, possibly leaving fragments somewhere in Pennsylvania, a burst of red, green, blue and other colors resulted, Santangelo said.

"I was at the observatory at the same time (of the Sunday sighting)," he said. "It was one hell of a fireball. There's no doubt in my mind that's what it was."

A Chenango County sheriff's deputy and the Village of Sherburne police chief, William Excell, reported seeing "bright" "white light" shortly after 7 p.m.

A sighting by two Conklin women between 6:30 and 7 p.m. Monday in the west was probably the planet Venus, Santangelo said. The blinking reported by the women was apparently caused by clouds hiding and revealing the bright planet.

One of the women took three pictures of the object before it disappeared, Santangelo said. The pictures will probably show the planet, he said.

Binghamton resident Claudia Wilkins and her children are sure they saw flashing red and white lights on what looked like a blimp. She saw the "huge" object just before 6 p.m. Thursday.

"We watched it for 10 or 15 seconds," she said yesterday. "We're not nuts."

Seven See UFO Over Bennington

BENNINGTON—Flying saucers in Bennington last week? Several residents who saw a very bright fast-moving light are wondering.

Elaine Barrett glimpsed it for only a few seconds about 10:40 p.m. last Thursday as she was on her way home from a meeting at the Harris Center. "My first reaction was, it must have been a flying saucer," she said, and admitted she would not have mentioned it to anyone if her neighbor, Frank H. Cordelle, had not called and asked if she had seen it.

Mr. Cordelle said he stopped his car in downtown Bennington to watch and turned the car off to listen. He called it "a very bright light trailing a tail."

Both agreed there was no sound and the object was quite low. "It astounded me," Mrs. Barrett said, "no sound whatsoever."

Mrs. Barrett said she knew of at least seven people who had seen the object, including Police Officer David Skerry.

meteorite, why the big secret? Knowing what I know now, I would say it was definitely alien," he says. "They knew it and wanted to keep it away from the public to avoid panic."

Although no one ever told him not to discuss what he saw, the fireman says he never considered telling his story until he overheard people discussing the Kecksburg incident at a UFO exhibit at a shopping mall.

The experience, he says, of seeing something close up that he believes is not from this world, changed his whole life in very subtle ways.

The memory of that mysterious object found in the woods, he says, is "something I'll carry to my grave. I saw something that probably changed a lot of the way I think, the way I look at things."

MONADNOCK LEDGER, Peterborough, NH - Oct. 29, 1987

CR: L. Whitehurst



HUGH GRANNUM/Detroit Free Press

Author Budd Hopkins says many people he has worked with in his UFO research "were first abducted as kids and tested by aliens."

His book is out of this world

By BOB MCKELVEY
Free Press Book Editor

UFOlogist Budd Hopkins doesn't look like a wild-eyed freak — no pointy ears, no third eye in the middle of his forehead, no speaking in tongues.

Quite the opposite: Hopkins looks and acts like a sober family man, a prize-winning artist and sculptor, a hard-working researcher.

That's not surprising, since Hopkins is all of those, as well as being a best-selling author.

His book about alien invaders, "Intruders: The Incredible Visitations at Copley Woods," sold 60,000 hardcover copies last year and probably will sell half a million more in its current paperback edition (Ballantine, \$4.50).

"Intruders" involves what Hopkins calls "the most complex — and inconceivable — UFO case history to date." It focuses on Kathie Davis, one of scores of subjects Hopkins has studied in his UFO research. The mother of two young children, Kathie seems like a typical Indiana suburbanite with the usual friends, neighbors, parents. What makes her different from most people is that she can describe in detail a series of abductions by aliens who performed genetic experiments on her, a process Hopkins calls extraterrestrial rape.

What makes Hopkins' case so plausible is similar testimony from other reliable witnesses, whose cases are similar to Kathie's.

"I've worked with 170 people, who supply similar details," Hopkins said during a recent tour for his book. "Many of these people were first abducted as kids and tested by aliens."

HOPKINS HASN'T ALWAYS been a UFO believer. He was just another skeptic until one afternoon in 1964 when he and a carload of friends paused on their way to a

party to observe a metallic-looking object hovering in the sky. "I wasn't even remotely interested in UFOs up to that time," he said.

What Hopkins and his friends saw that afternoon "was lens-shaped, somewhat larger than a car and didn't seem to be moving. Then — whoosh — it zoomed into a cloud and disappeared."

Hopkins went on to the party, described his experience and discovered that others had had similar sightings. "I started investigating and found what I called an 'underground of experiences' not made public," Hopkins said.

As Hopkins' interest grew, so did his research. In 1975 he investigated a friend's report that he had sighted a UFO landing in a New Jersey park. After finding confirming witnesses, Hopkins decided to write an article about it, which first appeared in the Village Voice, then in Cosmopolitan. "It ran," an amused Hopkins recalled, "between articles on 'How to Have an Orgasm' and 'What to Wear on Your First Date.'"

After that came a book, "Missing Time," which described how abductees suffer amnesia, then "Intruders." Hopkins is working on a follow-up, "Aftermath," that tells how abductees cope with their experiences.

ALTHOUGH MOST of Hopkins' subjects prefer anonymity, there's nothing half-baked about them. They include police officers, lawyers, a psychiatrist, psychologists, a microbiologist. A government lawyer named Michael Shea told about his UFO experience in the Jan. 3 magazine of the Washington Post. Words like eerie and bizarre fail to describe Shea's experience:

"I see faces peering at me . . . It's those black faces . . . He has the most interesting helmet. It's . . . no . . . He looks like a damn grasshopper . . . Three of them are bigger, they're dumber, I mean, they're workhorses . . . long arms, bowed legs . . . simian-like . . . The fourth one, the one I'm fond of, is really in charge; he's older, he's smaller, he's ancient . . . I'm not afraid."

While many scientists remain unconvinced that aliens are invading our planet, public acceptance of UFO visitations appears to be growing. "A recent Gallup Poll shows that most people think that UFOs are physically real," said Hopkins.

UFOs still evident in Carroll County skies

UFOs still are evident in Carroll County skies and, by some accounts, are getting more plentiful.

Last Wednesday after dark, Pat Martin of Landfill Road, Hillsville, was checking the sky near Fancy Gap Mountain when she observed "more of them than usual." She called two friends to watch with her, and they spent the better part of three hours looking at flashing lights in the sky.

Martin said the lights were not the type identifiable with "jets." They apparently were pretty high up, she allowed, because even with one of the friend's binoculars no details could be seen.

"It makes you feel eerie when you see them," she said.

What she saw was a large yellowish light "like a full moon." There were other objects with flashing red, green and white lights that appeared to float around, away from and back to the larger light.

The lights didn't flash like lights on a police car, Martin said, but "just rotated like regular rotations."

She explained, "I live 13 miles from where we were looking. We can see the range of Fancy Gap Mountain real good." She's been looking in the skies for a while, observing this one large yellowish light that she calls "a satellite." It appears regularly and always is in the same spot. She's been watching it for about a month in both cloudy and clear night skies.

Martin has watched the skies before and is familiar with what's up there. She remembers Sputnik and US rockets that have gone up, and the lights she's seeing now "don't appear to be anything like that." She'd be glad to hear a plausible explanation, however.

She did call the Sheriff's Department last Wednesday night and Investigator Rick Clark and a deputy went out for a looksee. Clark noted his observations on a report saying the lights appeared to be those of aircraft involved in refueling operations.

The Tennessee Air National Guard, which at one time claimed the strange activity in the area skies involved their helicopters and planes on maneuvers, could not be contacted for a comment. A spokesman for the Air National Guard later disputed the first comment saying the refueling operations take place at an altitude too high for observation by the naked eye.

Martin watched the lights last week until about 10 p.m. She wore out before they did, she said, because she has a back ailment and needed to go inside.

The lights she observed seemed to come and go. At one point, she and her friends decided the UFOs were cutting their lights off. The red lights appeared to be on both the top and end of the objects.

Martin said it is no trouble to spot the UFOs. They usually begin appearing around 7:30 or 8 p.m. "I'd really like to know what they are," she said last week. "They don't seem to move at any great speed."

She said one of those watching with her had seen things in the sky before. The other one was a "non-believer" when she came but she left convinced there was something unidentified in the skies last Wednesday night.

"We were just beside ourselves," Martin said. "It would look like a flashbulb. Bright, a flash. You knew it wasn't an airplane. (Each object) just glided along and stopped. There was no sound."

Was the UFO he spotted a small private airplane?

It's up in the air whether the UFO spotted Friday by Doug Griffin of Bismarck was a plane or an alien spacecraft.

Charles Cole, manager of the airport traffic control tower at the Bismarck Municipal Airport, said it's doubtful the UFO Griffin saw was a jet because a large plane would not have flown that low.

But it might have been a private plane, Cole said. "We have no way of knowing because if it were that low it would not have been under our radio control."

Griffin saw the UFO at about 6:30 p.m. Friday about five miles west of the Menoken Interstate exit No. 38. It was about 200 yards off the ground when Griffin viewed it with binoculars.

Laurel residents watching the skies for more UFO's

LONDON—At least three sightings of unidentified flying objects (UFO's) in the area have been reported since the weekend.

Two such sightings were reported Tuesday night at two separate locations in Laurel County and the Kentucky State Police report the report of a sighting on Saturday night.

A caller reportedly told State Police at about 9:00 p.m. Saturday that an object with multi-colored lights was seen in the sky west of London.

A 14-year-old baby sitter in the Campground Apartments in South Laurel County, near the Knox County border, said at about 7:30 p.m. Tuesday she heard the infant

Region

she was watching begin to cry.

She said she went to the room where the child lay and saw the baby looking out the window beside the crib.

The sitter said she looked out the window and saw an object high in the sky about the size of a quarter coin.

It was flashing red and blue and spinning, she said.

She said she watched it a moment when it rose in altitude and disappeared.

She said she picked the baby up and left the house in fear.

"I was stunned and scared. I couldn't take my eyes off it," she said.

She said the object was in the sky to the northeast.

A 30-year-old professional man said Wednesday morning he was on South Dixie Street when he saw a red object high in the northwest sky above London at about 10:00 p.m. Tuesday.

He said the object did not appear

to move and did not flash but gave a constant light.

He said it was about the size of a match head and was much too high in the sky to have been a warning beacon on the radio tower.

The South Laurel woman said the incident was reported to the Civil Air Patrol in London and the Federal Aviation Administration in Lexington.

She said the FAA gave her a Washington state phone number to call to report the incident. That number is (206) 722-3000.

She planned to report the sighting later, she said.
Sentinel-Echo

Was UFO a cargo plane?

By Melinda Ryan

The Enterprise Staff

The mystery is solved. Or is it?

The unidentified flying object spotted gliding over the west end of Simi Valley at 9:45 p.m. Tuesday was apparently a C-5 military cargo plane en route to the Burbank Airport, an airport spokesman confirmed Saturday.

The man, who asked not to be identified, said a Lockheed C-5 Galaxy — the world's largest plane second only to Howard Hughes' grounded Spruce Goose — flew over Simi Valley last week, but he would not confirm the day or time it banked this direction.

A spokesman at Lockheed in Burbank said reporting the comings and goings of the military cargo plane is prohibited as classified information. But he too confirmed a C-5 flew over the area last week.

The Enterprise received dozens of telephone calls following Tuesday's sighting of the huge aircraft described as shaped like a plate with a dome on top and bright red lights on the top and bottom.

One caller, identifying themselves as IX-7, said the craft was an interplanetary shuttle.

"I know. I was on it," she said.

Several local residents notified the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle, Wash., after being referred to the center by the local police department. The reports piqued the interest of the Mutual UFO Network, an international organization based in Texas that investigates UFO reports. MUFON then dispatched its Los Angeles County representative to check out the local sighting.

News accounts of the suspect aircraft, however, also prompted several local airplane buffs to report the aircraft was indeed identifiable.

Personnel at local military air bases refused to comment whether a military plane flew over Simi Valley and reported they had no record of such an aircraft in the vicinity recently.

Representatives of the UFO organizations, however, said they are not yet prepared to entirely rule out the possibility extraterrestrials cruised through Simi Valley's skies last week.

Hotlines ready for UFO reports

In response to public demands, here is a list of UFO people telephone numbers to give out to people who think they know what flew over Simi Valley Tuesday night:

National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle, Wash.: 206-722-3000.

Mutual UFO Network: 512-379-9216.

William Hassal Jr., state direc-

tor for Southern California: 213-455-3803.

John Holland, Canoga Park, state section director for Los Angeles County: 818-346-3286.

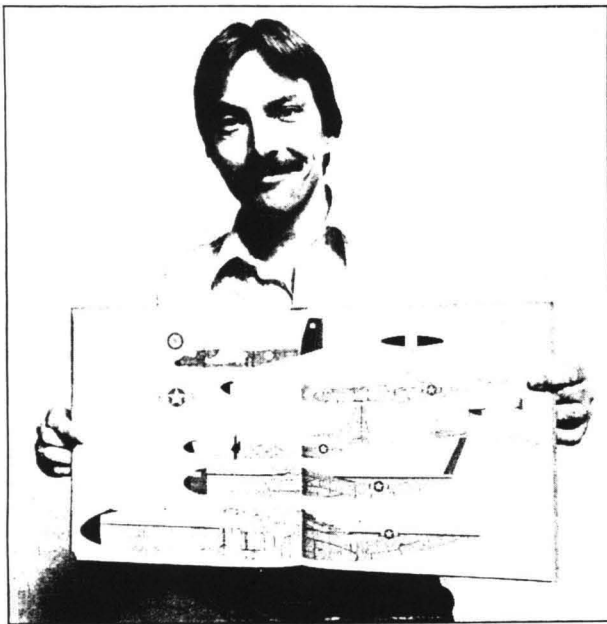
John S. Weigle, Ventura, state section director for Ventura County: 805-642-9643.

Maria Angela Guma Thomas, Simi Valley, translator/investigator for Mutual UFO Network: 527-3983.

"We have lots of them in this area too, so I'm familiar with them," MUFON international director Walt Andrus said of the C-5 reports. "But we had one case in San Antonio that

was supposedly a C-5, but we could never really pin it down.

"Eighty to 90 percent do have a mundane explanation. It's the 10



Doug Sheridan/The Enterprise staff

ON THE UFO WATCH: Brian Smith, 33, of Simi Valley holds up a book with an illustration of a C-5 military cargo plane similar to the one that reportedly was flying over the local area last week around the time residents reported spotting a possible a UFO.

percent that defy explanation that we're interested in, but we have to sort through a lot of others before we get to the real McCoy."

MUFON state section director for Los Angeles County John Holland, assigned by Andrus to investigate the local sighting, said he has serious doubts Tuesday's case will be worth his while.

"Unless we can find that there were absolutely no C-5s going through here at that time, there's not too much for us to go on," he said.

Capt. Tom Dolney at Travis Air Force Base in Fairfield, the main source of C-5s on the west coast, said the plane is so huge that it creates the illusion it is flying much lower and slower than it truly is.

Simi Valley resident Brian Smith lived near the airport for 20 years and looked forward to watching the arrival of the humongous airplane.

"They use it for transporting classified stuff," said Smith, 33.

A private pilot for seven years, Smith said he was in his backyard near the Simi Valley Drive-in feeding his dog Tuesday when he too witnessed the aircraft cruise over the west end of the city.

"Being so big, it looks like they're just hanging in the air," he said. "I would say it was flying at maybe 4,000 feet, but it's so big it looked like it was barely even moving — hovering, basically. When you see it from an angle as it's flying away, it takes on kind of a triangular shape."

STAR, Muncie, IN - Oct. 8, 1987

Seen and Heard in Our Neighborhood

REGARDLESS OF how one feels about UFOs, two recent reports from areas southeast of Muncie are enough to make us wonder.

In each of the reports, there were several similarities — objects with bright white lights and occasional red, green and amber lights moving slowly, sometimes stationary, then moving at incredible speeds across the sky, and never any sounds.

The first report was from a woman living in Modoc. She said her aunt, who lives south of Modoc, has been seeing UFOs almost every night for some time and is frightened by them.

At one time, the aunt reported her sightings to a Winchester newspaper, and a reporter went out one night but saw nothing. She said he believes "they" — those operating the UFOs — knew the reporter was coming and stayed away that night.

The Modoc woman said she spent 4 hours at her aunt's house one night recently and "I saw a dozen things I can't explain."

In the latest report, a young housewife and mother of two young boys who lives south of Parker City said she first saw a UFO on Aug. 9, 1983. "My husband was gone on a business trip, and I was driving home about 11 p.m. with my infant son when I saw this object as I came up over a hill.

"It was in front of me to the right and followed my car. I watched it for about 10 minutes; it frightened me. It was different from the others — round with three red and three green lights in spirals like confetti hanging out of the bottom. It would stop and hover, then it zipped away."

She said she next sighted a UFO in April of this year, again while driving home on Ind. 32 east of Muncie. Her husband recalls that she ran into the house very excited, calling for him to come outside to see the object. "It was across the road about a quarter mile away — a bright white light down low over some trees.

"It was a quiet night, but there was no noise — it was really eerie. I got in the back seat of the car, and my wife drove slowly down the road from our house while I watched it. It stayed parallel with the car, and I felt like my hair was standing straight up. I got out of the car to watch it, and it passed over our car with the lights off, but I could make out a faint shape.

"We saw it off and on later that night; it seemed to be cigar-shaped with a white light in the center. It moved around, changing directions, and made jerky, erratic movements. Then it took off toward Muncie at an incredible speed and disappeared in about two seconds."

Another time, his wife said, an object followed her car on the way home. As she turned a corner, it came down near the road in front of her about 60 feet away and appeared to be about three stories



Floyd Creech

high. "I reacted by blowing my horn and accelerating, and it veered up and away," she said.

On Aug. 23 of this year, an object appeared to be following her car. On arriving home, she and her husband called the sheriff's department and a deputy came to their home. After observing the object for a time, he called in with a report that "there's something out here." She said he turned off his headlights and turned on his red, flashing light, at which time the object reacted violently.

She called an Indiana National Guard office, which reported having no aircraft in the area, then called an Indianapolis radar control office, which reported nothing on scopes in the area. The radar office gave her the telephone number of a UFO Reporting Line in Seattle, Wash., which expressed interest in her report and sent her a questionnaire to fill out and return. She was also contacted by a representative of the UFO center who lives in North Vernon, Ind.

Last week, a friend and I spent 3 hours one clear evening at the couple's home in hopes of witnessing whatever it is that is disturbing them, but we saw nothing unusual. They agreed to call me, regardless of the hour, if they see more of the objects.

Pure logic makes it difficult for me to believe that our planet is being observed by extraterrestrial beings, but it is also difficult to discount reports by seemingly intelligent people of occurrences for which there is no logical explanation.

Floyd Creech is a contributing writer to Our Neighborhood.

TIMES & WORLD-NEWS, Roanoke, VA - Nov. 19, 1987 CR: M. Blankenship

Crowd drawn to Wytheville to describe close encounters

By PAUL DELLINGER

Southwest bureau

WYTHEVILLE — More than 100 people came to a community college auditorium here Wednesday night to hear accounts of unidentified flying objects seen over Wythe County in recent months.

It turned out Wythe is not the only area where they've been seen.

A woman who lives in a wooded area of Patrick County said she and her husband watched objects with green and red flashing lights illuminating their area for two nights "like we were in the city, almost."

Another woman had her encounter driving from Wythe to Smyth County on Interstate 81 as part of her job.

"I am not searching for UFOs. In fact I'm driving down the road saying, 'Not me, not tonight, I don't have time,'" she said.

But she still saw a large light that seemed to be moving just a little faster than her own 65 mph, she said. And, on the way back, there was another, even closer one that almost seemed to be hanging over the right side of the road.

At first she had a feeling of disbelief, she said, "but then I immediately think 'UFO' and put my foot to the gas pedal as fast as I can."

A Covington woman who thought she heard her baby crying about 4:30 a.m. Wednesday spotted what seemed at first to be a very bright star, twinkling red and green. Then, she said, she saw another one to its left.

She tried to focus her telescope on the object and found it was moving very slowly across the sky. Then she saw a third object. All three continued moving about the sky for more than an hour, she said.

"I'm still pretty nervous about this. You guys have had more time to get used to it," she said.

The conference at Wytheville Community College was arranged by Danny Gordon, news and sports director

for a Wytheville radio station that has been deluged with calls about UFO sightings in recent weeks.

Gordon described his own UFO sightings and encouraged others to do the same, to see if patterns could be detected. He said the speakers need not give their names, just describe what they saw and when they saw it.

Also attending were David Bodner, a West Virginia director of Mutual UFO Network, which tries to document sightings; Barbara Finney of Troutville, who has studied and written on the subject; and Victor Jackson, a UFO researcher from San Antonio, Texas.

Participating by telephone from Ohio was Leonard Stringfield, author of "Condition Red" and other books on UFOs. "I think what you're all seeing down there is of extraterrestrial origin, and they're not conventional aircraft," he said.

He referred to the descriptions of angular flight movements, rapid turns and lack of sound in most sightings. "Putting them together, there's no question that there's something very serious going on," he said.

Bodner said the varieties of UFOs described were interesting. He said he had talked to a family of six in Rural Retreat whose members saw the same thing at the same time in the same place, but all described it differently.

"They even saw different-colored lights on it," he said.

He encouraged those who have sighted UFOs to fill out two-page forms that his organization uses to document sightings.

"It might be an optical illusion, it might be atmospheric conditions, anything," he said. "I'm not here to promote this, I'm here to investigate this."

Finney said the UFO phenomena she has studied in the past 20 years have included accounts of abductions, something that has not been reported in Wythe.

She said people will sometimes realize they cannot account for several hours of time from a week earlier, or find a strange scar on their body they have no memory of getting.

Reports of UFOs mounting

BECKY PURSER
Staff Writer

The supervisor for the waste water treatment plant in Abingdon doesn't know exactly what he saw in the sky Wednesday night, but he's beginning to wonder if it was UFOs.

"I'm not one to believe in flying saucers, but when the military doesn't claim it, you can't help but wonder," said Mike Maiden of Saltville.

Maiden was emerging from his car to greet his 8-year-old son, Adam, after an out-of-town trip when two objects "lit up like a Christmas tree" loomed overhead.

"My kid started hollering and I couldn't figure out what was wrong," Maiden said.

When he looked up, Maiden said he saw two objects resembling aircraft. He then looked at his watch. It was 9:27 p.m.

"It was incredible," Maiden said. "They were traveling east to west in sporadic but simultaneous maneuvers, which isn't something most planes do."

Maiden, who has a brother in the Air Force and who has learned a great deal about aircraft as a result, said he'd never seen anything like it before.

What Maiden did see was one large object in the shape of an arrow he said was larger than a U.S. Air Force B-52 bomber. A smaller craft flew about 1/4-mile ahead.

The larger UFO had a wide rear complete with one flashing red light, one steady red light and two green lights. Four large red lights were strung across the mid-section while the front displayed four bright lights in a row.

The UFOs flew about two miles from Maiden's home, which is about 30 miles northeast of Abingdon. The aerial display lasted about five minutes.

Another Saltville resident, James "Jim" Bordwine, also saw something fitting Maiden's description Wednesday night.

Maiden said perhaps the UFOs might be sophisticated American or Russian military aircraft, but calls to Seymour-Johnson Air Force Base in Goldsboro, N.C., and to the Tri-City Regional Airport didn't confirm this.

Maiden said no aircraft were recorded in the area at 9:27 p.m. Wednesday by either airfield.

Milton Cole, air supervisor at the airport, said air traffic controllers did not read anything on radar over Saltville. Officials from the Air Force and the Saltville police department could not be reached immediately for comment.

While Maiden is at loss to explain what he saw, residents in nearby Wythe County are convinced they've been seeing UFOs for the past few weeks.

Danny Gordon, news director for radio station WYVE in Rural Retreat, said Friday his station has been flooded with calls since Oct. 2.

"We've been overwhelmed with calls from all sorts of people from law enforcement authorities to homemakers to city officials to fishermen," Gordon said. "We're not sure what's going on, but the people seem to think they're definitely UFOs."

At least 50 sightings of silent UFOs have been reported to authorities or called in to the radio station.

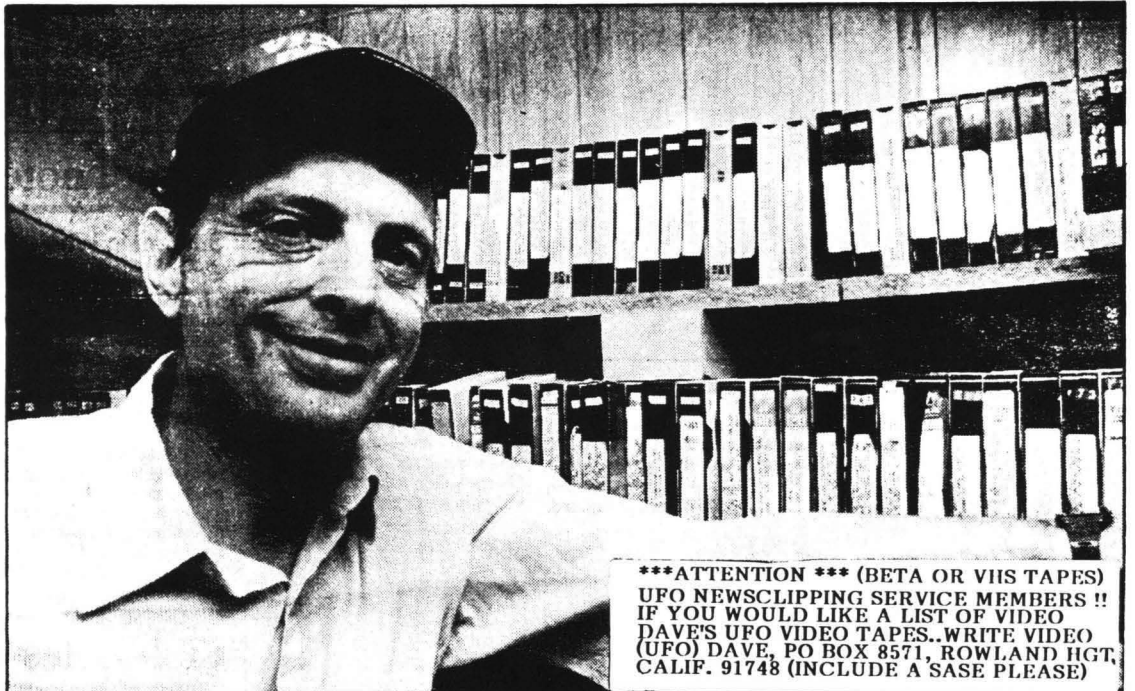
Brooks Coleman, a communications operator for the state police, told the radio station he'd seen a UFO, while a family from out-of-town reported a strange-shaped object flew a few feet over their car before zooming off.

Gordon said he has contacted public relations officers for the Navy at Oceana, the Marine Corps at Cherry Point, N.C. and Langley Air Force Base, all of whom said no military craft like those described in the sightings have flown over Wythe County.

The descriptions have included sightings of one to three UFOs. Some sightings have been similar to the one described by Maiden, while others have seen saucers with blinking lights.

"I'm almost afraid to look up at the sky because I want to cover what's going on," Gordon said. "I might look up there and see something and become a true believer."

But Gordon said in light of all of the calls he's gotten, he and some television crews are planning to stake out the skies in hopes they'll catch something on film.



UFO authority Dave Aaron Kaback sells a home video magazine on video tape from his Yucaipa mobile home.

Yucaipa man keeps eye out for UFOs

Story and photo
by ERNEST E. PUND
The Press-Enterprise

YUCAIPA — For two weeks on and off, David Aaron Kaback watched the night skies above Yucaipa. At 3 a.m. on Nov. 11, he spotted a UFO — unidentified flying object.

"I really can't say this was a flying saucer, but it was a strange nocturnal light," said Kaback, who prefers going by his pen name, Dave Aaron or Video Dave.

A self-taught authority on video techniques and equipment, Kaback has written columns for numerous video magazines and equipment shoppers almost since the video industry caught on with the general public in the late 1970s.

Last year, he started Video Dave's Video Tape World, a home video magazine recorded on video tape that touts a section of clippings contributed by subscribers of their own antics or spot news reports.

"I'm known as the man who puts everybody on television," said Kaback.

The video magazine also offers tips on filming and video repair techniques, contests and letters to the editor. A subscription for six monthly issues runs \$49.95.

Kaback moved to Yucaipa several

months ago from Diamond Bar and now produces much of Video Dave's Tape World from his mobile home.

While Kaback may be famous for breaking ground in the video medium, it was in defense of his belief in visitors from outer space that he appeared on the boisterous "Hot Seat" television program hosted by the comically abusive right-wing skeptic Wally George.

Kaback, who will present a general profile of UFOs at 2 p.m. Jan. 30 at the Yucaipa Branch Library, has three basic theories on where UFOs come from: they are visitors from outer space, they are future members of the human race returning in time, or they are from another dimension entirely.

Kaback's Yucaipa sighting is not his first, nor his most dramatic.

In February 1964, Kaback's father called him outside their Hacienda Heights home to witness an object that at first appeared to be a parachutist descending from the night sky in a zigzag motion with flares attached to his body.

As the object neared the ground, said Kaback, it became apparent this was not a parachutist. His father went inside to call the police. When Kaback turned to get a camera to document the event, he was frozen. The UFO hovered briefly and then

shot off toward Whittier, he said.

Kaback described the object as being the size of three buses and pulsating red, blue, white, green and purple light.

The police later wrote off the sighting as a helicopter, said Kaback. "Like most people who have seen a flying saucer or had a close encounter, I was scoffed at."

That was the beginning of Kaback's trek for UFOs. Since becoming involved with video, he claims to have collected the largest private video library of television news reports, interviews and taped accounts of UFO sightings in the world — about 367 hours of tape in all.

Wally George, who accused Kaback of sending him a film of a pie tin spinning across the screen, is not the only skeptic.

Al Seckel, executive director of the Southern California Skeptics, said, "I think there are unidentified flying objects up there . . . but it's a big leap of faith to think they are guided by extra-terrestrials."

What is one person's UFO may be another's gag. Seckel said he is aware of at least one occasional prank where enterprising students from the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena hover a simulated saucer in the area of Mt. Wilson, which is frequented by UFO enthusiasts.

Have UFOs visited Tier?

By ROQUA MONTEZ IV
Staff Writer

The possibilities are infinite, but the probabilities are limited.

Sky-riding bright, blinking lights reported in Southern Tier skies this week kept official star-gazers and sky-watching residents guessing at the source of the glow.

Exactly what caught the attention of several residents and law enforcement officials this week hasn't been determined. But there are a few theories.

E. Jay Sarton Jr., Kopernik Observatory director, says the sightings — reported as early as Jan. 7 — were of a meteor. Others, such as Peter Santangelo, a field investigator for the Texas-based Mutual UFO Network, says the object was a fireball — a large, brilliant meteor that may trail light sparks. Still others have their own theories. Residents' claims range from a brightly lighted, hovering object to a blinding ball of light.

All of the telephone calls to the Press & Sun-Bulletin reporting the incident stopped short of any outlandish tales recounting little green men with laser guns or big-headed, sloe-eyed creatures mum-

SPEAK OUT!**798-1173**

TODAY'S QUESTION: Recent sightings of bright, blinking lights in the Southern Tier sky have prompted discussions of UFOs. Do you think the Earth has been visited by extraterrestrials?

"Speak Out!" is your opportunity to comment on issues of the day. Dial 798-1173 to respond to today's question. Please speak slowly and clearly, and limit your comments to 30 seconds. To encourage a free, full exchange of views, names and addresses won't be published without the caller's permission. We do ask that you leave your name and telephone number for our records.

We'll publish a story next Saturday with responses to the question.

CR: P. Santangelo

bling "phone home."

And as of yesterday, no additional sightings and no tall tales had been reported around the area. But does anyone really know what's out there?

UFO

FOLLOW-UP

New Sightings....

BY JOE TURNER AND ALLISON BROWN

Last week *The Sentinel* published three pictures of an apparent UFO sighting. Since publication the office has received numerous telephone calls, with one question always surfacing. Is the object in the photographs a real UFO?

With the help of local concerned citizens, *The Sentinel* has been working to help answer this and other questions.

In addition to last week's photographs and letter, several other sightings of a similar object have been reported.

On the morning of November 11 about 8:15 a.m., Jeff Thompson of Gulf Breeze spotted a flying object from the Tiger Point Bay area over the Oriole Beach school area. Thompson, who was taking his son to school, saw the object shoot up from the right at an angle and suddenly stop, remaining idle in the sky for about 30 to 45 seconds. The object had the same window-type formations as the photo in *The Sentinel*, but without the brightly lit bottom (remember this sighting took place in broad daylight). After hovering in the sky, the craft sped away at a high rate of speed.

Thompson also said that he then saw two jets that appeared to be chasing the object.

An unofficial Air Force spokesman said that the Air Force doesn't have any crafts that look like "flying saucers" and if fighter jets were scrambled to give chase or intercept a U.F.O., it would be classified secret or even top secret and that no information would be given to the media.

Another such observance was made by **Charles Somerby** and his wife, **Dori**, in a letter accompanying this article.

Also, at approximately the same time, between 5:30 and 6:30 p.m., **Linda Lube** of Gulf Breeze said she witnessed a type of light moving very slowly across the sky southeast toward Gulf Breeze. She watched the object for about 15 minutes while outside cooking.

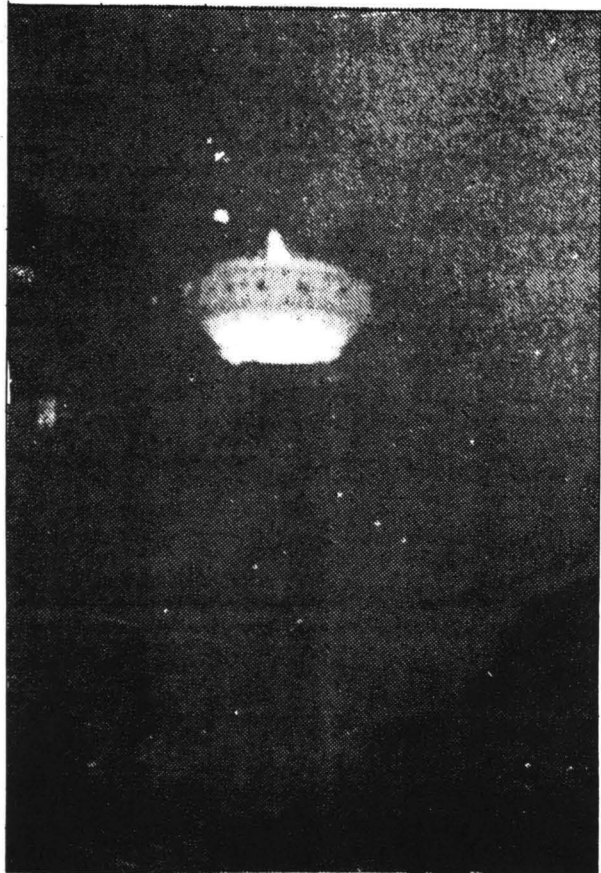
"I had a feeling it was from another place," said Lube. "I didn't have my glasses on so I couldn't see the form, but I could tell I've never seen anything like it."

Lube expressed her feelings as almost a premonition, and when she saw *The Sentinel* less than a week later, she felt that same unexplainable inner feeling.

At approximately 7:30 that night, near Whisper Bay, **Diane Hanson's** seven year old daughter also observed a strange phenomena. The young girl became very excited over seeing an object in the sky, with "different colored lights falling down from it." Hanson thought it was probably a plane with engine problems because of her proximity to an airbase. The next day she checked the news and newspapers to find so such accident around her home.

On the same night, approximately 9:30 p.m., a highly visible Pensacola executive who wishes to remain anonymous, viewed an object heading in a northwesterly direction, arching downward in an apparent landing mode. Its bright-white light lit the entire wooded area around his home.

Later that night, between 2 and 2:30 a.m., **Mrs. Joseph Zamitt** was awakened by the growling and scruffling of her normally docile Labrador retriever. She thought the



Picture taken by local resident that wishes to remain anonymous Nov. 11th and ran in the Sentinel

dog had to go outside to the bathroom but when she opened the door, the dog stepped outside and stood growling, looking up into the sky.

"I looked up and this same object (referring to the newspaper photo) was in the sky, about one mile high, 15 degrees to the northwest," said Zamitt. "And there was a stream of light which came down into our canal."

Zamitt said she was so scared, she grabbed the dog and ran into her house. The next morning she wanted to call the Air Force but chose not to.

Four days later, heading north on the Three-Mile Bridge, about dusk, 'Cathy' and three friends spotted a "hanging object with four bright lights on it" over the Bayou Texar area, close to the water.

"It was really weird," said 'Cathy'; at first we thought it was a plane, but it was just hanging there, and it was too high to be a helicopter."

After a few minutes the object dipped towards the right and disappeared.

These and other reports are currently being investigated by *Sentinel* reporters, who have contacted and are working in conjunction with the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON). Representatives of this International scientific non-profit organization, active since 1960, are interested in studying and researching UFO's, utilizing their individual talents and areas of expertise in their investigative efforts.

After a UFO sighting in Florida is reported to MUFON, State Representative **Donald M. Ware** of Fort Walton Beach initiates an investigation. In these sightings local investigator **Charles D. Flannigan** and **Gary Watson**, both of Pensacola, interviewed witnesses. These interviews took place at the location of the sighting whenever possible. Witnesses' testimony are taped and in the witnesses' own words written in longhand. Witnesses are also given the opportunity to draw the object seen. Questionnaires are also used in animal sightings and photographed incidents. The results are then compared to other sightings of similar types and merged with worldwide reports.

George Hobgood, FAA Air Traffic representative at Eglin was asked if Eglin was testing experimental aircraft which could appear as UFO to citizens?



Picture drawn by Cathy in her sighting Nov. 13 for MUFON representatives

"Eglin designs and tests weapons," said Hobgood, who could not respond to the question whether or not any top secret aircraft was flying that evening.

Hobgood did suggest contacting the Public Affairs Office, but added that upon his inquiry, no reports of anything unusual had been given to the Public Affairs Office, and nothing was spotted on radar at that time.

The Media Relations Section of Public Affairs, **Captain Engelhardt**, also said the base did not contain any secret aircraft, and the mission at Eglin is research, development, and testing of non-nuclear munitions and training.

Naval Air Station's **Art Giberson** of The Gosport reported no memoranda about any sighting crossing his desk.

"But that does not imply that what was photographed and observed by local residents was not there," said **Earl Pitts** of the Pensacola Air Traffic tower station.

According to Pitts, any craft not being serviced by or in communication with the tower is considered a UFO. They are simply not identified.

"It's well within reason," said Pitts, to have stealth capability which would make a craft invisible on radar. There are so many targets that are unidentified, said Pitts, that one more would not raise any questions," unless it did something extremely unusual.

This year alone Florida has reported numerous UFO sightings. For example one on-going investigation is a sighting in Pensacola on August 6th. Other verifiable sightings have occurred on January 1st and 8th in Lakeland, Florida, January 15th, 16th and 17th near Ocala, Florida, and the 5th of August, south of Gainesville.

Another local sighting was recorded on Feb. 5, 1976. Deputy Sheriff "**Sonny**" Privette discovered a number of motorists pulled over on the shoulder of Hwy 98 in

Navarre sometime around 2 a.m. They were watching a strangely lit object "bobbing" in the sky. That wasn't the first time Officer Privette had been confronted by motorists claiming to observe UFO's and the topic had become somewhat of a joke among fellow law enforcement officers. Privette contacted Florida Highway Patrol Officer **Bevis** by radio and was joined by him a short time later. This time Privette had another witness. The object was still there, out over the gulf, directly out from the radar installation just east of Goodies on Navarre Beach.

Officer **Bevis** radioed his dispatcher to check with Hurlburt and Eglin. The report came back negative. **Bevis**, using a 200mm lens and a tripod took a time exposure of the 'light' which formed a toppled "V" in the pre-dawn sky. His photograph and story appeared in a local Ft. Walton Beach periodical.

Several UFO cases have been documented on the national level also, according to MUFON representatives. One case was the government cover-up on July 7, 1947-Operation Majestic-12. In this sighting a secret U.S. operation began to recover the wreckage of a believed aerial reconnaissance flight which fell to Earth in a remote region of New Mexico.

Four small **human-like beings** apparently ejected from the craft before the crash, were found badly decomposed two miles east of the wreckage. Scientists believe these "Extra-terrestrial Biological Entities" or EBE's as they were called, were human-like in appearance but possessed a different biological and evolutionary development pattern from that of humans.

The government initially reported the crash was a misguided weather research balloon. This and other top secret information was not publicized until the early 70's.

If you have any information on these or any UFO sightings in the Pensacola/Gulf Breeze area, or other areas in the United States, contact the National UFO reporting line 206-722-300 or MUFON at 512-379-9216, or *The Sentinel* office.

The Sentinel would also like to thank all of the people who called in regards to the sighting on November 11. We regret, due to space we could not publish them all, but we do encourage our reading audience to continue their support. If any new information evolves from further investigation, future reports will be published.



Picture drawn by the young Hanson girl of her sighting

EDITOR'S NOTE: Last week's *Sentinel* carried a story and pictures concerning an unidentified flying object which flashed across the evening sky on Veteran's Day. The viewer and photographer wished to remain anonymous unless someone else was able to substantiate the eerie experience. That "someone else" is none other than the retired editor of *The Sentinel* and his wife, who viewed the object.

BY CHARLIE SOMERBY

It was a few minutes after sunset on Veterans Day, and wife **Dori** and I were just finishing up our evening walk along Hickory Shores Boulevard in the Midway area.

We looked out over East Bay to admire cloud formations when our attention was drawn to a round

object in the sky moving in a southwest direction toward downtown Gulf Breeze.

There were bright lights around the bottom, another at the top. None of the lights were colored or flashing.

Our thought -- it's not an airplane, not a helicopter, not a bird. What is it!

Movement of the unidentified flying object was steady. No hesitation and no apparent change of course.

Watched local news on television that evening and looked through the morning paper to see if anyone had reported the apparition.

When it appeared that no one else had been looking up at the sky at the moment, we forgot about the incident until the pictures and story appeared in last week's *Sentinel*.

Unfortunately didn't have a loaded camera nor binoculars with us at the time of sighting.

Kingston woman retells tale of UFO kidnapping

By NEAL E. BOUDETTE
Gazette Staff Writer

KINGSTON, N.H. — Unidentified flying objects. Extra-terrestrial beings. Men from space. Flying saucers.

To many people, they are fiction or fantasy, the products of overactive imaginations and possibly stiffly poured libations. But not to Betty Hill, a former Kingston resident now living in Portsmouth.

"UFOs are here, and they are here in large numbers. They are here every night," Hill told the Kingston Lioness Club Tuesday night.

HILL MAKES her claim without smirk or smile. She is dead serious. And in her presentation before 40 Lioness Club members, one she has done for groups and microphones and television cameras around the world, Hill offered proof — pictures showing strange lights, beams and dots across a New Hampshire sky.

If photos of eerily glowing lights in the sky are not enough to convince listeners, Betty Hill offers the night of Sept. 19, 1961, the night, she says, she and her late husband, Barney, were captured by men from space and taken aboard a flying spaceship.

Hill's story is a tough one to refute, difficult to attribute to imagination or some other "logical" explanation, because two people describe the same experience. And, apparently, the concurring recollections surfaced separately. Betty and Barney, Hill says, pieced together the incident only after a psychiatrist hypnotized them and recorded their recollections.

The story, as Hill told it Tuesday, begins as she and Barney were driving home from Montreal one night and noticed lights moving on the horizon. Their first thought was they were satellites, but through binoculars Barney saw them closer.

"Whatever it is, they've seen us and they are coming this way," Betty recalled Barney saying.

THE COUPLE continued driving and watched the lights moving along the mountains until they finally stopped above the road. There in mid-air, Hill said, she and her husband both saw a craft with a large picture window flanked by red lights. Inside, Barney saw human-like figures.

(continued on page 9)

(continued from page 8 - GAZETTE,
Haverhill, MA - Nov. 11, 1987)

The Hills took off when the craft began to descend, Betty said, but the ship followed them, staying over the roof of the car.

In Ashland, Barney turned off Route 3 to a side road, then off that road to a dirt lane, Betty recalled. Her next memory is of driving out the dirt road and asking Barney, "Do you believe in flying saucers?"

To that he replied, she said, "That's ridiculous."

As soon as they got home, Betty and Barney began noticing some strange things, Hill said. First, both of them felt contaminated. So they took showers. Then they noticed that the trip from Montreal had taken them two hours longer than usual, that Barney's shoes had been scuffed and that Betty's new dress was ripped.

AT THE TIME neither of them remembered how that happened, Hill said. Some days later they went back to Ashland, near where they saw the craft, and asked around, and people told them of many sightings of strange lights moving in the sky. Then when they arrived home, Betty and Barney found a pair of earrings under a pile of dried leaves in the kitchen, Hill said.

Those earrings, she explained, were the ones she had on the night they drove home from Montreal.

Eventually, Betty and Barney visited a Boston psychiatrist, who hypnotized them and taped their descriptions of what happened on the dirt road, she said. The tapes revealed that 11 human-like beings blocked the dirt road and took the Hills onto the ship.

She said the leader spoke English and told them they were doing tests to see how earthlings are different from them. "They were interested in our eyes, ears, nose, and throat," Hill said. "They took samples of hair and scrapings of our skin."

Despite their interstellar technology, Hill said, these beings had never before seen a zipper. "The leader was fascinated by the zip-

per on my dress," she said. "He'd pull it up and pull it down, up and down."

Under hypnosis, both Hills also produced similar descriptions of the creatures, Hill said. An artist's rendering showed beings standing five feet tall, with round heads, narrow eyes set far apart and up-turned noses.

While the humans were on the ship, Hill said, the beings drew a map for her showing that our sun is on one of their trade routes. Their home is a star called Zeta-1, some 37 light years (or 222 trillion miles) away.

Since then, Hill has kept records of UFO sightings and now totes a camera with her to film any she runs across. These films were reproduced for her slide presentation, which showed lights in the shape of saucers, mushrooms and boomerangs. Boomerang-shaped ships, Hill said, have been appearing frequently in the Hudson River Valley.

Other slides showed dots of light in V-shaped formations, some in clusters and others accompanied by blue beams of light. Hill said she believes the ships are somehow "beamed" down to our planet.

In one slide, the lights formed the shapes of three letters: I, U, and C. "I yelled at them," Hill said. "No, no. It's not I-U-C. It's I-C-U. They don't know English very well."

Hill said most of her sightings have been right in Kingston and East Kingston. She showed one slide of lights on railroad tracks at dusk. People in this area have seen these lights regularly for 25 years, she said.

Unfortunately, Hill said she cannot give out the location of the tracks because the police receive too many calls to investigate from hysterical people.

Hill advised people to stay away from spaceships, if they spot one. "If one comes close to me, I get out of there," she said. "I wouldn't go on one again. I like this planet."

ISTHMUS, (City Unknown), WI - June 19, 1987

SCENES/David Tenenbaum

Flying Cigars

It was a clear June evening in 1987. Too nice, really, to sit in a stuffy gym learning about objects hovering over Belleville, a city on the Green-Dane County line. I must confess that UFO reports whiz past me as noiselessly as "flying cigars" through the night sky, but I was on assignment, so I masked my disbelief and joined a group of skeptical reporters and uncertain citizens waiting for the press conference-cum-revival meeting to commence.

Up front, a thin man with the intense eyes of a hypnotist began to minister to the flock. Like Sister Pat, haranguer of infidels on the State Street Mall, Donald Schmitt, co-director of the Center for UFO Studies in Glenview, Ill., seemed to delight in confronting skeptics.

Schmitt had a distinctive preaching style. He would utter a phrase, pause a little too long for emphasis, then unload another bombshell on the crowd. As he ruled out familiar explanations for the Belleville sightings, he masterfully built tension among the congregation. Mixing the jargon of a government agent with the fire of a bible-thumper, he concluded gravely that "Belleville remains an active file."

If Schmitt was the charismatic minister, his partner on stage could have earned an Oscar for best supporting actor. In a faltering

voice this man spoke darkly of "hostile intent" among the visitors from outer space.

These experts were in Belleville because a variety of mysterious objects have made Belleville the flying saucer capital of the world. In the first Belleville sighting on Jan. 15, 1987, policeman Glen Kazmar watched a triangular pattern of red, white and blue lights from 8:30 p.m. to about 4 a.m. The object, Schmitt said, showed up on radar in Aurora, Ill. But two of the four cops who watched that night have not confessed to the sighting, so the score was 2-2.

Since then, about 20 other residents have seen flying and floating objects. One stood up at the meeting. "I saw them March 6," surveyor Harvey Funseth of Belleville testified, to the enthusiastic applause of his neighbors.

Later, Funseth told me he wondered, "My God, what is that?" as he observed four objects hovering on the horizon. After eight to 10 minutes, they flew silently over his head at "two or three hundred miles an hour" and disappeared—his first and only experience with mysterious airborne objects.

"It doesn't keep me up at night," Funseth told me, admitting that neighbors do tease him. I looked him over pretty carefully; he had neither the wide-set eyes nor intent gaze of the believers.

On stage, the Belleville sightings paled in comparison to a document Schmitt brought to the meeting. He claimed that this report, which was mailed anonymously to a colleague,

'UFO' has residents of Ashdown perplexed

ASHDOWN - Reports of a blinking light, described by some local residents as an unidentified flying object, kept area law enforcement officials busy Thursday night.

A sheriff's office spokesman confirmed the unidentified light had prompted numerous telephone calls to the office. A crowd estimated at about 50 reportedly gathered at one point Thursday night waiting to see the light reappear, one local resident said.

From inside the Ashdown city limits, witnesses described the light as appearing in the skies toward Foreman (Little River County) and then reappearing later over the Nekoosa Paper mill in Ashdown.

"It rises up a little, then sits there," said a woman, who asked not to be identified. The woman asked for anonymity because she said her husband would think she was crazy.

The woman said some local residents have reported seeing the light on several occasions since Christmas. (Texarkana Gazette)

confirmed a rumored UFO crash near Roswell, N.M., in 1947.

After referring to his "official report" several times, Schmitt admitted that he was "not in the position to endorse the authenticity of these documents."

The document, purportedly a 1952 report to incoming President Dwight Eisenhower, described a secret investigation into a long-rumored UFO crash in New Mexico. It referred to an autopsy of four "humanoids" found nearby.

The report concluded, "It is virtually certain that these craft do not originate in any country on earth. Mars was and remains a possibility."

"I am willing to accept that these are from out of the earth, but I don't believe that," Schmitt said. The fine distinction eluded some of his audience.

After I finished talking with Harvey Funseth, I scanned the twilight sky for UFOs, half expecting that a couple would show up. It was the least they could do.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SENIOR LIFE, Los Angeles, CA - Jan. 1988

UFOs: Are They Really Up There...Or Down Here?

By Wendell C. Stevens Lt. Col. USAF (Ret.)

Unidentified Flying Objects have been around for a very long time, perhaps hundreds or even thousands of years. And they have been popularly reported in every country in the world since 1947 when the term "flying saucers" was coined from Kenneth Arnold's description of the way the nine craft in the formation he sighted over Mount Rainier were flying. He said they flew like a saucer skipped on water. They have even gone out of control and crashed on Earth, killing their occupants. The occupants in several of the known UFO crashes were small human-like beings about the size of a 12 year old boy, had unusually large heads for their size, very large black eyes for the size of

the head, small nub of a nose, slit mouth, practically no ears, no hair anyplace on the body, pasty white skin, long arms for their body and long slender fingers for the size of the arm, slender torso and small feet.

One of these crashed UFOs was discovered about 75 miles north of Roswell on 3 July 1947 by a local rancher. Before he was able to get to town to report that one, another was discovered a few miles west of Magdalena, New Mexico, on the San Augustine Flats.

Officials at Kirtland AFB, Albuquerque, New Mexico, sent out a spotter plane to check out the report. Finding an aircraft of a very unusual kind on the ground, they called back to base and a ground party was sent out to recover the craft. It turned out to be a small disc-shaped ship with six of the small human-like bodies aboard, all dead. That recovery alerted authorities to the potential for more such events, and they cast a tight security blanket over the entire story. They soon decided not to tell the American public about this matter and then put out a false cover story that the crash residue was actually the wreckage of a weather balloon.

Less than one year later another circular disc-shaped flying object crashed 12 miles northeast of Aztec, New Mexico. By now the authorities had developed a special crash recovery team for these special operations, and they were on the crash scene within only a few hours of the ship's arrival on Earth. The special team, according to plan, set up road blocks at all access points, took immediate neighbors into custody in their homes, and circulated a story of secret military maneuvers in the area. Then they brought in huge low-boy transporter trucks disguised as oil drilling equipment with lifting cranes and a portable machine shop.

While this was going on, a select hand-picked team of senior military officers and the nations highest scientists were assembled at Durango airport and then taken to the scene of the crash landing on an isolated plateau in Hart Canyon. They began an on-site investigation of the situation there.

What they found was a 100-foot-diameter circular metallic craft with a domed central cabin 6 feet high and 18 feet across. The craft was resting on its under surface with no landing gear extended. It had a small hold in one window of the upper cabin part.

They succeeded in poking a pole through the hole after enlarging it some, and they tripped a door mechanism and a stair-door dropped down. Inside the ship they found 16 small bodies of the same gen-

eral description as those found near Magdalena the previous year. The control cabin was full of control buttons, levers, switches, knobs, tell-tale indicator lights, and visual indicators of all kinds. There were extensive banks of instrumentation consoles, and data and image converter viewing screens. There was also some charts and a book inscribed with many pages of rows of hieroglyphic symbols.

The little bodies were removed and laid out under the rim of the craft. Ice and dry ice was brought in and more permanent preservation cases were ordered. The scientists accidentally discovered that the ship came apart in nine pie-shaped sections around the central cabin, and they carefully disassembled it and loaded it on the low-boy trucks and transported it out of that vicinity cross-country, overland, and in the dark of night to avoid detection. They took it to a super-secret atomic energy research reservation near by, and returned the convoy equipment to Camp Hale in Colorado. While this was going on, another ground team carefully restored the crash site to look as much as possible like nothing had happened. The crash site was condemned by the U.S. Government and transferred to the Department of Interior. They installed a barbed wire fence completely around the property and posted warning signs to keep intruders out. The operation was essentially successful, and the secret was kept for nearly 40 years.

In the early 1980s leaks began to come out concerning this operation, mysteriously called MJ-12, of which no record existed at unclassified levels. A new investigation was begun to try to tie down some of the rumors that had been floating around for years, and more leaks and leakers were discovered. The true facts in this bizarre story have finally emerged and documents confirming both the crashed saucers and the existence of MJ-12 have been brought to light.

Yes, my friends. We have been deliberately lied to and carefully deceived by our own United States Government, which has had the whole story, the crashed extraterrestrial spacecraft residue, and the little alien bodies in custody all this time. That ship came down on 25 March 1948.

A comprehensive 625-page heavily documented hard cover book on this crash and recovery was published last summer under the title *UFO Crash at Aztec*. This book may be ordered from Christine Cox, P.O. Box 1053, Florence, Arizona 85232. Send \$20 prepaid shipment.

CR: W. Stevens

CR: L. Whitehurst

Astronomer observes objects

Attention focuses on sky & unknown objects

Editor's Note: The following article was written by Steve Mitchell, general manager of KTXK, Texarkana Public Radio Station of Texarkana College. The interview concerns Ken White, who has a daily radio show, Sky Log, which is a syndicated program about astronomy. White observed the similar sight-

seasoned amateur astronomer, and Little River News Co-publisher Jim Williamson photographed and watched the object in the sky that no one has been able to explain. The pictures are the first known to exist of the object and were taken with high speed film on time exposures of 30 seconds each. White has reviewed

waited to see it.

White said that before he began watching the sky, he quizzed the on-lookers to see how much they knew about the sky. "The knowledge of the people of what was up there was generally amazing to me. They knew where Venus was, and they knew they weren't looking at Venus. When I pointed out Mercury, they had seen it but that was not what they were referring to. They had seen that the other night and thought it was a star. I was very impressed with their knowledge of the sky," he said.

White saw the object after 6:30 p.m. in the western sky between Foreman and Ashdown just as had been previously sighted. White said in one photograph the streak of the moving object is like a star, the only problem is, there is no object in that sky which is that bright.

Another picture, White says, shows something radically different from star movement which coincides with what he saw. The picture clearly shows that the object has traveled radically further in the 30-second time exposure than any of the other stars in the camera field of view.

Looking through binoculars, White first saw the object left of Mercury. White said, "Over the

space of a minute or minute and a half it had risen five degrees... it's totally uncharacteristic of a star movement."

Once it had risen to that point, White said, "It just vanished. The lights went out. It's like somebody reached over and flipped off the switch." White said that over the course of the evening he saw a couple of other things but "nothing quite as mystifying and unexplainable to me as that is."

White said that what he saw was consistent with what others at the site had seen. He said that the fact that it appeared in the same position, same area of sky, same characteristics would seem to indicate some sort of atmospheric condition, but he said that the conditions were not the same every night and which would tend to dispel that.

White said, "This is not stars, planet movement, or constellation movement. I can say with 100 percent certainty you can rule out the moon, Venus and Mercury." White said people are seeing something, the question is—what is it? He said that we didn't hear anything, but you cannot rule out anything either. It is not star movement because the eye cannot detect it.

When asked about the possibility of a hoax, White said he didn't rule it out at all, saying "what I looked at last night, and I've studied books and looked at the sky since I was a kid, there's nothing that I've ever seen that would explain movement, appearance and things like that."

White said that it was just bright but did not see any colored lights but he cautioned that, if you get 10 people to witness an accident you will get 10 different stories of what happened.

He said that the object has been seen by a number of people, while some of the descriptions "don't all quite jive" with one another basically they follow the same line, and same area of the sky.

White said, "The one thing that strikes me as unusual about it is the repetition of it and the fact that it is coming up in the same general region of the sky. I just don't know."

He said stars usually move downwards and not upwards. "These rose upwards first and then downwards. I've seen bright objects before in the sky, but I've never seen them behave in this manner," White said.

He indicated he has read the news accounts broadcast over local radio, television stations along with the Associated Press and the Arkansas Gazette containing the quotes of an astronomer in Little Rock saying the sightings in Little River County were reflections from Venus. "It's hard to have evidence 150 to 300 miles away and draw conclusions," he said.

"I've seen the objects, I've seen the photos and negatives and it remains a mystery. I'm not ruling the idea of hoax. But if someone is collectively pulling our legs, they're doing a good job," he said.

"It's unidentified and it's an object in the sky," he said.

through the camera to still have the four lights flashing in sequence with the white light above them.

At no time in my observation did I discern a shape to the object.

I contacted Barksale Air Force Base Monday, Jan. 25, to find out if they were doing any sort of maneuvers in the area Thursday night.

Major Phillip Richards, in flight control, said the air space over the Foreman area is an F.A.A.-approved refueling pattern. He said refueling operations were being conducted Thursday night around 6 p.m. and again between 7—7:20 p.m.

(continued on page 11)

10

It just vanished. The lights went out. It's like somebody reached over and flipped off the switch—Ken White, producer of the astronomy radio program Sky Log, who observed the sightings Jan. 25 between 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.

ings Jan. 25 along with a photographer and two other reporters from the Little River News. The Sky Log program can be heard on KTXK each day at 8:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., and 8 p.m. on 91.5 FM radio.

By Steve Mitchell

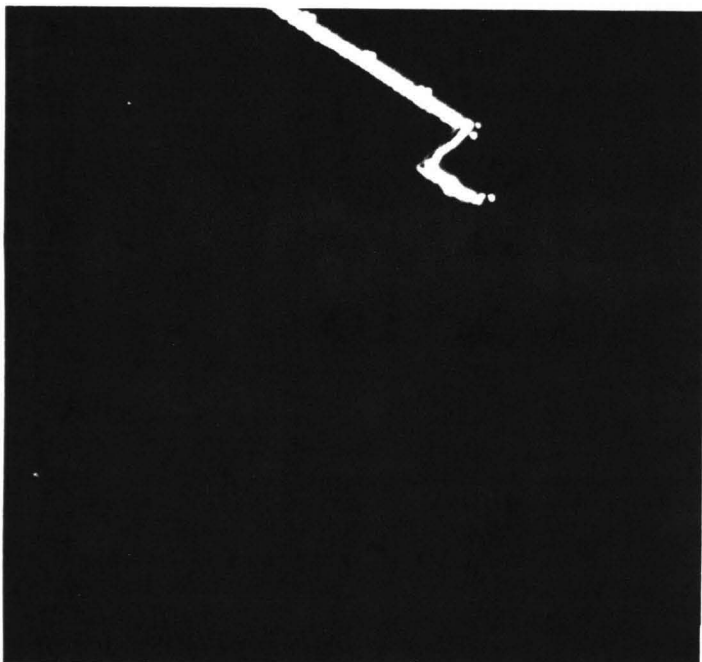
This past week Little River County has been amazed, become sleepless, scared, abused and curious.

All of this focus of attention concerns a series of sightings in the sky which no one from an amateur or seasoned professional astronomer can deny is unidentified and is an object.

On Monday (Jan. 25) between 6:30 p.m. and 8:38 p.m., Ken White, a

a copy of the photos and the negatives. In addition to the two individuals, Bob Taaffe, a former navigator with 1,800 hours of flying experience on B-52s, assisted in spotting and recording the general directions of the objects. Reporters Jeanne Jackson and Juanita Strippling also observed the objects in the western section of the skies from the REA substation located near the center of the county and south of Highway 32.

White is an accomplished astronomer and is the writer and producer of his own daily radio show, Sky Log concerning astronomy. White, along with the group of people who had seen the object, went to the area and



AN UNKNOWN — The light movement in the upper section of the photograph was a 30-second time exposure with an F-stop of 4 looking through a 300 mm lens about 8:30 p.m. Jan. 25. The object was noticed at about 290 degrees or west-north-west of the REA substation and about 20 degrees above the horizon. An astronomer with a radio astronomy program reviewed the film and negatives saying the path does not follow the path of stars or planets. The object appears to have made two 90-degree turns and fly a straight path within the 30-second time exposure using 1,000 ASA speed color film. On the color film, red streaks are visible which the astronomer said is the path of stars, but when converting to a black and white halftone for newspaper reproduction the star paths cannot be seen. See related story on the astronomer.



BRIGHT LIGHTS AND NO CITY — The bright object in the photo is part of the sightings in Little River County and was recorded on 1,000 ASA speed film about 8:30 p.m. Jan. 25. The object was noticed about 290 degrees or west-north-west of the REA substation and about 20 degrees above the horizon. The photo was a 30-second time exposure using a 300 mm lens mounted on a tri-pod. An astronomer from Texarkana reviewed the film and negatives and said no star or planets would be that bright with little movement. In the original color photos, small red streaks can be seen which the astronomer indicated is star movement while the brighter object had little movement.

We estimated the object to be approximately 2,000 to 5,000 feet altitude and around a quarter to one-half mile east of us.

The object was moving south and I lost sight of it as it passed behind the substation. It apparently made a banking turn toward the east and proceeded northwesterly, disappearing from view near the Ash Grove Cement plant direction.

There was no change in air speed, altitude or vertical movement during the time I observed the object.

I first spotted the object at 7:20 p.m. and watched it for approximately 10-12 minutes, looking through a 300 mm telescopic lens on a 35 mm camera. At a long distance directly north of me, it appeared

Personal observations

Thursday, Jan. 21

By Jeanne Jackson
Thursday night, Jan. 21

An object appeared directly east of our position at the power substation on the Anderson lateral. We were facing north, sitting in a vehicle when the object was spotted.

Prior to seeing the object, I had been following the southerly path of a small aircraft with a white strobe light which had come from the north and was proceeding directly south to the east of my position.

The plane had just gone south of

our vehicle when suddenly lights flashed on, flashed off, and back on. The object had four colored lights closely together which flashed in sequence. They did not appear to be regular beacon or strobe lights as are used in the anti-collision systems for civilian aircraft according to Federal Aviation Administration regulations.

Above and slightly to the right of the colored lights was a bright white light which burned steadily. The four lights flashing in sequence were red, green, a bluish-green, and a reddish-amber hue. There was no aircraft noise at any time from the object.

However, he said the refueling operation takes place at 21,000 feet. Monday night, Jan. 25, we returned to the substation and using a private airplane with radio contact with us on the ground, we positioned this aircraft by commands into the same position where we observed the object the previous Thursday night.

We were able to narrow down the altitude of the object to between 2,000 to 3,500 feet and estimated the distance at less than one-quarter mile from our vantage point.

The Barksdale refueling operation Thursday night was done between a KC-10 refueling a KC-135. The KC-10 used by the base is either white with blue stripes or camouflage. A KC-135 is silver in color. The KC-10 uses a big white light while refueling and is marked by red and green lights.

Other air bases also use the Foreman refueling path but Barksdale said Thursday night was the only time they had performed refueling from Tuesday, Jan. 19—Sunday, Jan. 24.

Several news sources said Barksdale had agreed to check the light phenomena by flying over, but Major Richards said the base quit checking this sort of thing 20 years ago and had not had traffic in the area from Thursday through Sunday.

F.A.A. regulations stated in part 9133-C the specifications for visual flight rules at night with the following instruments and equipment are required:

9133-C-2—Position lights which may or may not blink. Position lights must be a green light on the right wing and a red light on the left wing. A white light must be placed on the tail of the plane.

9133-C-3—Anti-collision system. An approved aviation red or white light must be placed on all U.S. registered civil aircraft.

The red or white light must be blinking such as a beacon or strobe light. An experienced pilot says most smaller aircraft use the white strobe lights on each wing tip and top of the tail. As many as the aircraft wants can be placed on the plane.

The Fort Worth Center Radar facility said they would have no way of knowing what an aircraft is which appears in the area on their radar screen. Foreman's flight path is considered to be 15 miles northwest of the Texarkana V.O.R. (visual omnirange radar).

Texarkana's radar screen was not manned at the time of the sightings when contacted Monday. The Fort Worth Center said airplanes have the capability to turn their navigation lights on and off, but aren't supposed to do this.

Air Life said Friday, Jan. 22, they did not fly near the Foreman area and the only time they had been up in the sky in several nights prior to Thursday was Thursday night when they made a trip toward the Camden-Magnolia area. Also, Air Life has a definite helicopter noise as it flies, usually heard before the aircraft is seen.



WEST OF HIGHWAY 41 — The light object above the horizon to the right was one of two unknown objects observed in the sky at an estimated reading of 270 degrees and about five degrees above the horizon. The lighted area near the center of the photo are two street lights and the lights at a house near Highway 41. The photos were taken from the REA substation 5.4 miles south of Highway 32 using a time exposure of 30 seconds with an F-stop of 4 looking through a 300 mm lens mounted on a tri-pod with 1,000 ASA speed film. In the original color photo, red streaks are visible which an astronomer reviewed saying was the path of stars, but nothing in the star system would account for the brighter light. The Little River News makes no claim to identify the objects. The photos are used only for documentation.

We know what we saw, we just don't know what...

Editor's Note: In addition to the published reports concerning the sky sightings over Little River County and the named individuals, several people have confirmed and witnessed the sightings, but declined to be named because of the potential harassment and ridicule. These range from law enforcement personnel to former military personnel to pilots.

By Jim Williamson

Whatever has appeared in the skies over Little River County is a mystery and is mentally wearing the individuals out with the questions, observations and ridicule ranging from a Bud Light brewing from the Oklahoma bars to military operations.

Despite published reports from an astronomer in Little Rock saying the sightings were Venus, a consensus of individuals in the south central section of Little River County contend — "We know what we saw, we just don't know what it is."

The location of the sightings south of the Wallace community have been noticed starting Jan. 19 and have continued periodically through Jan. 25. After individuals have started admitting to each other about the activities in the sky, three other incidences occurred since Christmas.

Former Little River County deputy and currently an EMT, Rusty Book observed unusual lights at a low altitude which appeared to hover. Another law enforcement officer with a different agency was with Book when the lights were observed. The Little River News has been unable to contact the officer to determine if he would go on the record concerning the sighting.

Reports of the sightings have been received from family members of the Taaffes, LaVoices, Hawkins, French and three women who were riding in a vehicle when the object was observed at close range, Margaret Taaffe Sharp, Deanna Irvan, and Terri Jeanes. The sightings have similar characteristics.

The lights change color once the object rises from below the horizon level. When it appears to rise from the ground the lights, at times change from blue to white. The ob-

ject makes no noise and usually never exceeds an estimated two miles in distance.

When the object appears to be hovering, it stays at an estimated height of "twice the height" of a full-grown pine tree (75 feet). After about five to 10 minutes, the lights start flashing or blinking and usually move to the south.

On Jan. 19 and Jan. 20, the object appeared to rise from the ground in the east near a pecan orchard.

However, on Jan. 25, the objects were observed appearing in the west. The objects were observed rising in the west.

On Monday (Jan. 25) the objects were observed by Ken White, a member of the Arkla-Tex Skywatchers of Texarkana, who was recommended by the University of Arkansas at Little Rock planetarium, along with three reporters from the Little River News, Bob Taaffe, Sheldon Alquist, a biology teacher at Ashdown High School, John Alquist, the teacher's son and employee of radio station Y-102 in Texarkana, and George Pert. The reporters were Jeanne Jackson, Juanita Stripling and Jim Williamson.

In nearly all reported incidences as far back as Jan. 19 and less noted incidences in November, the lights will "totally go out," said Taaffe. The action is similar to turning off a light.

In all incidences no sound occurs. A check with the Air Life emergency helicopter staff at St. Michael's Hospital in Texarkana indicated no flight in the area where the sightings have been occurring.

Jackson contacted an official with Barksdale Air Force Base in Shreveport, La., and the only flights recorded were aircraft at 22,000 feet which were re-fueling. Floodlights are used in the refueling, but the aircraft flying in a line and not sharp turns such as "90 degree turns" reported by the individuals and also not in a hovering motion, indicated the Air Force official.

Taaffe reported one incident of watching the lights in the east and then the light went out. Another man was watching along with Taaffe

turned around to the other side of the gravel road and said, "Look up there. The object was then on the west side of the sky."

"It jumped in less than three seconds. It appears to have tremendous speed capabilities," he said.

"It must have alarming capabilities to accelerate and decelerate but it's all conjecture on my part and I'm not going to talk about it," said Taaffe. Taaffe had 1,800 hours as a navigator on B-52 aircraft.

Margaret Taaffe Sharp related an incident which occurred about 10:15 p.m. Jan. 19 on Highway 41 after she and two other women, Terri Jeanes and Deanna Irvan were returning from a Foreman High School basketball game.

They noticed a large spotlight-type object in the sky. She asked Jeanes, who was driving the car, to stop. She laughed saying, "We might see a UFO."

Jeanes asked what was the light and about that time the light appeared to make three quick lunging motions toward the vehicle. The size of the light was estimated to be similar to a helicopter spotlight. As the light lunged toward the vehicle, Sharp indicated the light was pulsating from red to blue to green.

"I was afraid it might be the Air Life helicopter and thought an accident might have occurred nearby. She said Jeanes drove the car into a driveway and stayed about three minutes. They noticed a "big light" seemed to overpower the other light and it lowered to tree top level and was approaching the vehicle.

Sharp indicated the movement scared her and the two other women and Jeanes attempted to drive away from the light on Highway 41. As their fear increased, Jeanes "floorboarded" the car. The car had been checked previously with the capability of traveling in an excess of 115 mph.

Jeanes said, "It was first behind us, then it moved to the driver's side."

The women drove to Sharp's uncle's house near Foreman and the lights were still visible changing from red to blue to green. It even-

tually moved to a field in the west and disappeared.

Irvan indicated the time element involved was about 30 minutes.

Jeanes said, "We were all scared and I was in tears."

Irvan also indicated on Nov. 1, 1987, she was walking with her mother at the Foreman Memorial Stadium around the track about 10 p.m. and saw similar lights to the incident of Jan. 19. Then on Nov. 2 about the same time the object followed a similar path.

She said no markings were visible and it appeared to have a "dull matted surface on the bottom."

All three women indicated they have since felt nervous and unable to sleep for an extended period.

Jeanes said during the chase her body was numb and tingling. She assumed the shock of the incident caused the feelings.

After reporting the incident and the television reports and the Texarkana Gazette report, all the women and Taaffe have received ridicule and disruptions of their every-day activity. One of the women indicated she had received telephone calls from identified callers threatening her if she continued to talk about the sightings.

Taaffe said, "Never again will I report another incident. After all of the reaction, if something would happen, I would never talk about."

The report by the Little Rock astronomer saying the sightings were reflections from Venus disturbed Taaffe. He feels people in the region will think "we're all a bunch of fools."

"We all know what we saw. We just don't know what it is. And, it's certainly not Venus," he said.

Irvan said after discussion on the incident if the military is testing aircraft in the region, she wishes they would at least notify the people in the area and "simply say" tests are being conducted. "We shouldn't have to go through this," Irvan said.

(continued on page 12)



Donnie La Voice answers a question about the unusual sightings in the sky last week which has attracted people from the four-states area.



A television reporter from KTAL questions Margaret Taaffe Sharp, left, and Deanna Irvan, about the sightings in the sky in the western section of Little River County last week.

Aliens?
To the editor,
We keep reading and hearing about aliens and spacecraft of many shapes and forms. Now I'm led to wonder about the young school child from Harrah who let his mother sleep while he fixed his own breakfast and went off to school to tell his teacher about the landing near his home of a space craft and the aliens who he sketched from memory for your paper.

This was probably 15 or 20 years ago.
As I remember the story, the teacher returned after school with the boy and observed oil marks or burns at the spot where the craft supposedly landed.

Weird to say the least. And the story only more believable because it was told by a youngster instead of a grownup.

This many years later can you shed any light on this happening?

I wonder what his recollections would be now that he himself is an adult.

Please get one of your fine reporters on this story right away for me, will you? I would appreciate that very much.

Sincerely,
Leroy Yearout (Class of '39)

Editor's note: Leroy, as it happens I wrote the story to which you refer and it wasn't quite that long ago. Sometime around '76 or '77, maybe.

After questioning

Little Rock astronomer alters statements concerning sky sightings in county

Clay Sherrod, director of the Arkansas Sky Observatory, which is located in Little Rock, and has no telephone, was quoted in the Arkansas Gazette and Associated Press as having explained the mysterious lights seen in the Foreman area.

Sherrod attributed his con-

clusions to being the result of light changing as it passes through the air in association with the planet Venus which currently appears brightly just below the moon. Thursday, Jan. 21, Sherrod said is the closest Venus was to the moon.

When asked if this phenomena could be observed

if facing directly east with the moon and Venus at your back, Sherrod replied no.

He explained convection currents originate over soil,

through the clouds and appearing to be moving objects with sometimes rapid motion.

When questioned again on how the Venus-effect would be

Sherrod said he felt the most common phenomena seen to explain the sighting Thursday night would be the moonlight reflecting off the feathers on the bellies of white snow geese flying overhead. Asked if white snow geese reflections could be colored, Sherrod answered no.

woods, pavement, etc. on earth and as night comes, they lose heat differentially, with cooler air currents losing their heat more rapidly, causing objects to enlarge or appear to shift left and right.

Sherrod explained, "There are a lot of things seen in the sky and not explained. I always respect reports of UFOs. I believe people are really seeing something. I'm not trying to discount what people are saying. I feel like the first 10 people who view a sight independently of one another are the most reliable. After that, people will go out and view and perceive movement, something you wouldn't notice otherwise."

His belief of the Venus-effect was based on clear skies. When asked whether this same effect would be seen on a partly cloudy to cloudy night, Sherrod said no. Tuesday and Wednesday, Jan. 19 and 20, skies in the area were partly cloudy.

The explanation for the lights seen these two nights by Sherrod was the crescent moon and Venus shining

seen facing east with the moon and Venus at your back, Sherrod said he felt the most common phenomena seen and explanation for the sighting Thursday night would be the moonlight reflecting off the feathers on the bellies of white snow geese flying overhead. Asked if white snow geese reflections could be colored, Sherrod answered no.

Another explanation he gave was the noctilucent cloud effect. Noctilucent clouds are clouds which are extremely high in the atmosphere which don't move and appear to be objects hanging in the sky which reflect sunlight even when the sun has set.

His other explanation for the south to northwest movement in the eastern sky was the common satellite orbit before midnight from south to north. He said at this time the earth is casting an irregular shadow into space and the satellites move through it. When asked if this could change colors, he said no, adding Venus cannot change colors either.

—Jeanne Jackson

UFO researcher observes object Jan. 22

Paul Rutherford, Bowie County director of the Mutual UFO Network (a nationwide group of UFO researchers) said he saw what was "definitely not a conventional aircraft" flying over the Red River bottom area at Wallace Friday night, Jan. 22.

In a conference with other area residents who have been making sightings in the same area since Tuesday, Jan. 19, Rutherford said, "I saw one last night at about 7:20 p.m. I would estimate the speed was approximately 200 miles per hour at about 5,000 feet."

He said looking through binoculars it was a solid object that looked like a parallelogram (a four-sided plane figure with opposite sides parallel) with pulsing lights. He also emphasized there was absolutely no sound during the sighting.

Rutherford described his sighting as "amazing," but said he has "no idea what residents have been actually seeing."

Three Dallas-based members of the Mutual UFO Network and Little River News reporters Jim Williamson and Juanita Stripling also attended the conference Saturday to hear sighting descriptions of Bob Taaffe, Margaret Sharp, Terry Jeans, and Deanna Irvan.

NEWS-ARGUS, Lewistown, MT - Nov. 15, 1987

Stahl didn't believe before . . .

UFO races car east of Denton

"It was round and about 12 feet in diameter.... When I began to drive faster, so did the UFO."

Sept. 15 appeared to be an ordinary Tuesday for Deerfield Colony resident John Stahl.

However, it turned out to be anything but ordinary as he said he saw something he will likely never see again.

Stahl, 42, was driving his vehicle from Lewistown to the Colony east of Denton when he said he became involved in a road rally with a flying saucer.

"It was about 6:30 in the evening and I was alone coming from Lewistown on the Denton highway," he said. "I was about four miles from

the colony when this bright object four feet off the ground was moving slowly above the road.

"It was round and about 12 feet in diameter. I never believed in UFOs (unidentified flying objects). It had a red light on the right side and blue light on the left."

The object was flying at about 40 mph ahead of him, going in the same direction down the highway, Stahl said, adding: "When I began to drive faster, so did the UFO," he said.

Stahl said he followed the object a ways down the road and it headed south near a missile site close to the

CR: L. Whitehurst

colony. It then went over a hill toward the Judith River out of sight, he said, adding that he never saw it again.

When he got home, he said he told his wife and family of the incident. "They didn't believe it when I told them I saw it," he said.

Stahl said he did not report the incident to officials, but has paid close attention to the area in case it reappears. "If I see it again, I will report it," he said. "I just wish I would have had a camera with me. I saw it, and I don't believe it could be anything experimental by the Air Force," he said.

REPORTER, Edgerton, WI - Nov. 18, 1987 Possible UFO Sighted

A reputable Edgerton resident who has requested anonymity has reported a possible UFO sighting. The resident observed a "bright, white light" just north of Janesville. The light lasted from between 30 seconds to a minute and then suddenly went out "as though a switch had been flipped."

The light was observed from

the vicinity of the junction of County M and Highway 51, toward the southeast on Monday, November 9, at about 7:45 p.m.

The Edgerton resident mentioned the sighting to the Rock County Sheriff's deputy who indicated that other local residents had mentioned the strange light. However, no one officially reported the matter to the sheriff's department.

CR: R. Helden



DESERT UFO PUZZLE

SUN, Melbourne, Australia - Jan. 21, 1988 CR: P. Norman

Police check attack claim

By NEIL McMAHON

A FAMILY's claim that they encountered a UFO as they crossed the Nullarbor Plain early yesterday is being taken seriously by authorities.

A woman in her 40s and her three adult sons claim an oval-shaped object landed on top of their car, picked it up, shook it, threw it to the ground and showered it with ash before flying away.

Police said there was physical evidence of the UFO attack and at least one independent witness. A truck driver has also claimed to have been followed by the object.

The family involved are considered by police to be reliable witnesses.

"It looks authentic — Christ knows what's happened," one detective said last night.

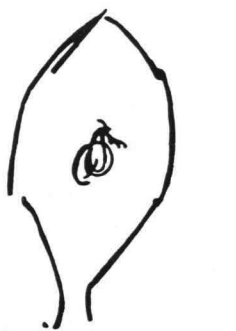
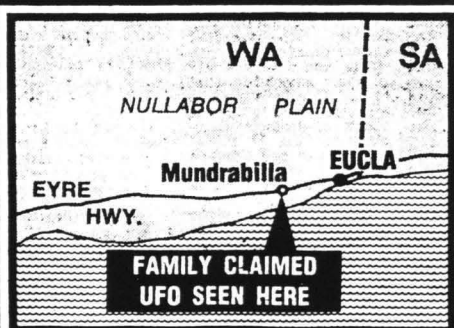
The family involved in the incident are expected to travel to Adelaide to be interviewed by scientists at a UFO research centre. Their car will also be examined.

They have drawn a diagram of the UFO, which they say was an orange colored egg-shaped object.

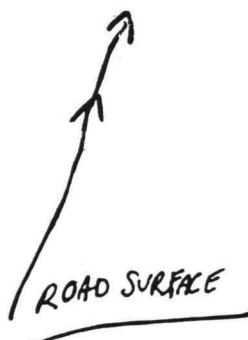
Police Sgt Jim Furnell, of Ceduna, 500 km east of the SA-WA border, told The Sun last night the incident happened about 5.30 am yesterday (8.30 am Melbourne time).

The family was driving from Perth to Melbourne along the Eyre Highway in its Ford Telstar.

Sgt Furnell said they were near Mundrabilla, in



OBJECT
WHITE LIGHT
with shape
in centre
a yellow
light.
About 3 feet
wide. No
estimation
of length



DRAWING BY
KNOWLES
FAMILY
GIVEN TO
POLICE

● A sketch of the UFO drawn by the Knowles family soon after the incident in which they claim they saw an egg-shaped object on the Nullarbor Plain.

south-east WA, when the drama started.

"They saw a light object following a truck going west along the highway, then it turned around and caught up with the Telstar," he said.

"It landed on the roof, picked the car up, shook it violently, pressed it

back on to the road and blew a tyre.

"It showered it with ash on the roof and the interior through the open windows. The occupants escaped to hide in the scrub. They watched the object hover around in mid-air for some time then fly off."

Sgt Furnell said the car radio was cut out while the object was hovering.

"It was just remaining as a buzzing sound while the object was in the vicinity," he said.

Sgt Fred Longley, also of Ceduna, last night was pondering how to title his official report. He thought

he might just have to settle for "incident on the Nullarbor Highway".

Sgt Longley said he had taken other UFO reports but none like the one given to him yesterday by the Knowles family.

He said he was normally sceptical, but was keeping an open mind.

Sgt Longley said Mrs Knowles and her sons were obviously distressed when they walked into his police station at lunchtime yesterday.

"These people have definitely seen something," he said.

"Just what — well I don't know.

"They were in a terrible state, even though it was five hours after the incident ... very upset.

"You could say white-faced, shaking, obviously distressed.

"The woman was just thankful to be alive.

"These people were in a 1000 per cent worse state than other people who've made UFO reports to me.

"When they came in I asked them what I could do for them and they sort of said you're not going to believe this but we've seen something out on the highway.

"Something happened out there. Their car, even after being driven all that way still had black ash, or dust, over it. Even on the inside.

"Where did that come from?

"There's no soil like that out there, only sand.

"Everyone else here in the station is pretty sceptical, but I'm keeping an open mind."

The Ceduna policemen said the truck driver who was originally followed by the object had driven on to Perth and reported the incident to the media, who alerted police.

The family repaired the blown tyre and fled terrified to the nearest town, leaving the flat tyre and jack on the roadside.

There they met a truck driver who told police the family were genuinely horrified by the attack.

The truck driver went to the scene and found evidence supporting their claims.

Police confirmed the car had damage consistent with the alleged incident — there were marks on the road and ash was found scattered around the area.

The car will be examined by forensic scientists in Adelaide along with samples of the ash.

Sgt Furnell said the evidence suggested the family was being truthful.

The owner of the Mundrabilla Motor Hotel, Mrs Shirley London, said last night she had spoken to two truck drivers who were the first people to see the Knowles family after the incident.

She said they drivers were outside her hotel when she opened at 5 am.

"I know them only as Porky and Graham," she said.

"They said that this family had just driven off a few minutes earlier after they had failed to convince the woman driver to stop with them and have coffee.

"Porky told me that when the car drew in, the woman, aged in her late 40s or early 50s, was crying almost uncontrollably and the three teenagers all seemed in a state of shock. He said one boy could hardly speak."

Mr Ray Brook of the UFO research centre in Adelaide is planning to interview the family when they arrive in Adelaide today.

Mr Brook said last night he had heard an interview with one family member and believed they had had an authentic experience.

EXPRESS & STAR, Wolverhampton, England
Nov. 23, 1987 CR: T. Good

UFO sightings dismissed as reports flood in

Reports of sightings of alleged UFOs in the countryside near Wolverhampton have been flooding in.

But today an airport manager claimed that a training exercise was responsible for the sightings last week.

Mr Danny Wardrobe, manager of Halfpenny Green airport, Bobbington, described claims that the strange aircraft were UFOs as "rubbish".

"We do our night training on Thursdays. It must have been our planes. There were certainly no other aircraft in the area," he said.

Witnesses said that they

saw two or three V-shaped craft flying totally silently in tight formation near Wombourne.

Mrs Pat Cropper, of Finchfield, said she saw the craft at Warstones Road, Penn. They looked like two boomerangs hovering behind each other.

"It could not have been aircraft," she said.

Mrs Marian Watson, aged 32, of Enville Road, Kinver, said: "We thought it must be a secret Ministry of Defence plane.

"One flew really low, but there was no noise at all. They were triangular shaped. One was shining a bright light or to the earth.

"We thought that something really weird was happening."

BURTON MAIL, Staffordshire, England
Nov. 9, 1987 CR: T. Good

Was it a UFO?

Regarding recent reports of UFO's in the Mail. I mentioned my sighting to various friends, they convinced me it was a balloon as it was Statutes Fair (October 5).

I am convinced now it was a UFO. After reading

"It's got us completely baffled. All they saw was an object about three foot square which came down on top of their car.

"We've examined the vehicle and there are definitely dent marks in the roof. The wheels have been damaged too."

The story has been backed up by a truck driver who was driving in front of the Knowles' car.

He did not see the incident, but he did see The Thing.

At first he thought it was the headlights of an oncoming vehicle. But then the lights moved upwards and swooped over his cabin.

In fact weird lights have been reported from all over this section of the Nullarbor.

At Eucla, at Christmas, the local roadhouse is said to have been buzzed by the strange Thing.

It was night time and the staff thought it might have been a lost aircraft.

In fact, they went so far as to switch on the landing lights at the nearby airstrip just in case the pilot wanted to come down.

Apparently something did. It swooped low over the airfield, and then banked sharply and sped off to the west.

Perhaps it was men from Mars.

Or perhaps it was someone who just wanted to attract the tourists.

The First Fleet lands from Mars

By PETER TERRY

AUSTRALIA was first settled by little black men; then the little white men came along; and now it looks like the little green men are here.

If what is happening in the centre of the Nullarbor Plain is not just another crazy UFO story, 1988 is about to go down as the year the First Fleet arrived from Mars.

It all began yesterday morning at 5.30, when the Knowles family were driving eastward along the Eyre Highway for a holiday in Victoria.

Suddenly out of the pre-dawn darkness roared a strange unearthly noise that shattered their serenity.

A large square object descended from the sky, clamped itself on to the roof of their car, and hoisted them all into the air.

As Mrs Kay Knowles told police later, she and her three teenage sons were terrified. The roof was squeezed. The noise got louder and all four began to think their time was up.

Suddenly, The Thing let go. The car crashed to the ground, bursting a tyre as it hit.

All four jumped out and scrambled into the roadside bushes to hide until The Thing had left.

"They certainly had an encounter with something," said Sergeant Fred Longley, who interviewed the family at Ceduna Police Station.

DAILY MIRROR,
London, England

Jan. 18, 1988

CR: T. Good

HOW strange to read in the Mirror about the Space experiences of others only a few days after my own. Unable to sleep, I peered from my window and saw a sphere of green light zoom over at roof-top height. It was the size of a football, and heading South-West. — Doris White, Milton Keynes.

Hanging over a country lane, suspicious object that baffled a policeman

■ Unidentified flying objects—U.F.O.s—have fascinated and baffled for hundreds of years, with reported sightings all over the world. But are they really fact or fantasy? The Sunday Express has been talking to eyewitnesses whose experiences are thrilling, compelling, disturbing—and hard to refute...



by RALPH BARKER

THE first emergency call reached Todmorden police station at one o'clock on a Friday morning.

Nothing too alarming. One of the folk from the council estate that clung to the lower slopes of the Pennines which encircle this Calder Valley mill town. The caller said that a herd of cows was wandering down the hillside in a very distressed state.

More calls. All similar. A farm gate left open? Worrying by dogs? A spot of rustling? Police Constable Alan Godfrey and a colleague were detailed to take a Panda car and find out.

Maybe the duty sergeant thought Godfrey's Zapata moustache made him specially suitable for cowboy duty. The sergeant was wrong. Though Godfrey and his colleague cruised their white Escort along the Burnley Road and turned up the steep Ferney Lee Road into the estate, they could find no runaway herd to round up.

PATROL

Eventually, tired of squinting through the freezing rain—it was November 28, 1980—they returned to the station. Nothing more was heard of the cows.

Soon after five Godfrey headed out on Panda duty again. It was the night's last, routine patrol of the town, and he was alone.

Outside the Town Hall he spotted Constable John Allen. "I've already done the town patrol on foot," Allen told him. "Everything's okay."

"In that case," said Godfrey, "I'll see if there's any sign of those cows." "Not long to go to the end of the night," he thought, heading back down the Burnley Road. Exactly how long he wasn't sure, for he hadn't worn a watch since it—and he—were badly damaged in a violent arrest three years before.

Slowing down to turn into Ferney Lee Road, something further along the Burnley Road caught his eye. The rain had stopped by now, and the air was clear.

SHREWD

What puzzled him was that the vehicle in the distance, whatever it was, appeared to be lying broadside on to the road. It looked like a bus, but there was something odd about it. He decided to investigate. The cows could wait.

He was driving along a trunk road, less than a mile from the town. There was still a row of terrace houses petering out on his right. Why then did he suddenly have this feeling of isolation?

At 33, married with two children, Godfrey was no

"Your whole outlook on life changes—the whole structure is undermined because of one incident"

rookie cop but a balanced, genial yet shrewd professional, highly respected in the force. But now even the street light, reflecting off the rain-washed road, struck him as eerie.

Maybe that was why he stopped a good 30 yards short of the object he'd come to investigate.

Hovering in his headlights was a metallic, diamond-shaped thing that certainly wasn't a bus. Suspended as it was in mid-air he could almost have driven underneath it.

GLOW

The lower tier was rotating slowly. And from the upper tier a bank of panels or windows stared back at him opaquely. At the apex was a spherical crest. And there was no sound at all.

He switched on his Panda's blue flashing beacon. The object reflected the pulsating light. It also emitted a silvery, fluorescent glow.

He pressed the button on his personal radio. "Sowerby Bridge Control from 3961." Three times he called, but the receiver seemed dead.

These valleys were notorious for their radio black spots. But he would surely be able to make contact on his car VHF. For that he would have to go through Bradford Main.

"Alpha Bravo Three to XB Control. I have a message for Sowerby Bridge. Over." Again nothing. He reached for his clipboard and began sketching the object. He reckoned it was about 20 feet wide and 14 feet high. It had chosen a spot where a drive-in to the car park of the old Mons Mill—a massive seven-storey structure standing back from the road—provided an extended hardstanding.

If what he was looking at was some kind of hovercraft, it must have been manoeuvred over the mill and the engine room chimney that towered above it, avoiding the hills and the trees, with extraordinary skill. All this in darkness apart from the street lights, on a night when it had been raining. The more he thought about it, the more mind-boggling it became.

MISSING

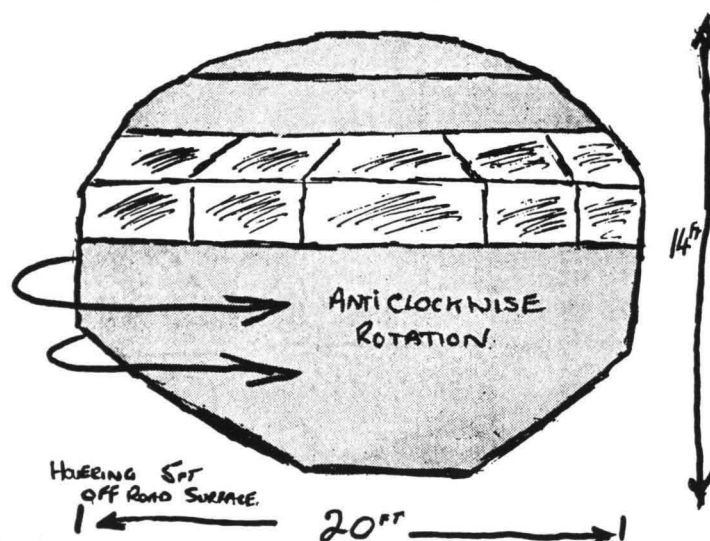
His incredulity turned to alarm when he suddenly realised that somehow, his car was now a hundred yards further down the road, way past where the object had hovered. And when he got out and looked back... it was gone.

How had he got where he was? Had he been dreaming? He did not believe it. And there was his sketchbook to prove it. He drove back to the station, impatient to report what he'd seen.

He was surprised when he got there to find that the time was 05.30. He didn't realise he had been away so long. He began to wonder what had happened to the missing minutes. Had he suffered some sort of time-lapse, for which his memory was blank?

He expected his colleagues to be sceptical, but he was unprepared for their scoffing. Even when he took two of them back to the spot, and showed them how leaves and twigs under the object had swirled into a circle, they regarded him quizzically.

They were no more impressed when he pointed out that whereas the road either side was still glistening wet, the site itself was



A policeman's amazing evidence (left)... the sketch Alan Godfrey made in 1980 after observing a metallic, diamond-shaped U.F.O.

This was the routine with U.F.O. sightings.

Godfrey went back to the outer office and rang Bradford. "I want to report an unidentified flying object I encountered in Todmorden last night."

"This isn't the one at Halifax then?"

"Halifax? Was there one at Halifax?"

"We sent a telex last night from three police officers based at Halifax who'd had an encounter. Is this something different?"

"This was at Todmorden." He was beginning to see why the inspector hadn't laughed.

Three Halifax officers, scouring the moors north-east of Todmorden looking for stolen goods after a tip-off, had seen a steel-blue ball of light to the north. The time was 04.49. Pulsing in a slow rhythmic throb, it had grown in size and moved in arcs and zig-zags across the sky. It had eventually disappeared in the direction of... Todmorden.

Alan Godfrey reckoned he had first sighted it hovering over the Burnley Road, soon after 05.10.

The cows—they were bullocks—were found next morning across the road in Centre Vale Park. Animal distress, Godfrey was to discover, was typical of the U.F.O. phenomenon.

"Amazing encounter in Calder Valley," was the headline in the local paper a week after the sighting. Godfrey had been encouraged by his superiors to tell his story to the Press. If the intention was to end speculation, it only achieved the opposite.

His brief period of fame was succeeded by years of notoriety. The kindest thing the West Yorkshire force did for him was to grant him an invalid's pension in 1984, for his injuries in that assault seven years before.

"When you've had an encounter such as I had," says Godfrey, "it changes your whole outlook on life. Not in a religious sense, but you're completely and utterly changed."

"Things happen to you that you wouldn't believe could happen beforehand. The whole structure of your life is undermined. All because of an incident, faithfully reported, which lasted in my case no more than two or three minutes, so far as my conscious memory recalls."

VIVID

What of his subconscious? Efforts to regress under hypnosis have aggravated rather than eliminated his confusion. His conscious memory, however, the moment when he changed his mind about turning right into Ferney Lee Road and drove on to investigate, stopping short of the object and sketching it, remains as vivid as ever.

"All I can say," he says today, happily installed in a congenial job in Todmorden, "is that I know what I saw."

Picture by STUART MASON



Back at the scene... Alan Godfrey on the road where he saw the U.F.O.

patchily dry. They looked up at the trees and attributed dry patches to them.

He did not resent their ribbing—he knew he would have reacted the same, and he laughed. But rather than attract further ridicule, he went off duty without making a report.

When he took off his nearly-new boots he noticed that the left one was split open across the

ball of the foot. On his left instep was a small burn, which the doctor later diagnosed as a skin infection, possibly brought on by shock. He had never had such an infection before. He was to learn that such marks were characteristic of U.F.O. encounters.

Back on duty that night, he was chaffed by the off-going shift. He was not sorry when he was called

in to see the inspector.

"Tell me what you saw," said the man.

Godfrey told him, and the Inspector's reaction surprised him. He didn't laugh.

STOLEN

"I want you to get on to Bradford," he said, "and make an abbreviated report. They'll telex it to the Ministry of Defence."

UFO 'dust' mystery

By GRAEME WALKER
THE dust covering the car involved in the Nullarbor UFO "encounter" was an unknown substance, police said yesterday.

And as the puzzle deepened, more people claimed yesterday to have seen the object a Perth family say attacked them near the SA-WA border on Wednesday.

Forensic police were quoted in Adelaide as saying the substance allegedly deposited on and inside the car was not ash. And the crew of a tuna boat fishing about 300 km off the SA coast were among a number of people credited with independent sightings of a UFO matching the description of the Nullarbor nasty.

The tuna boat Empress Lady, from the Australian Southern Bluefin fleet, reported a bright light hovering overhead around the same time the Knowles family claim they were attacked.

And Sgt Jim Furnell, of Ceduna, in the far west of South Australia, said police had had calls from two other people claiming to have seen a light in the past week, but had been reluctant to report it for fear of ridicule.

Police had also had another report from a motorist in WA, he said.

But other police believe the UFO sighting, by Perth woman Mrs Faye Knowles and her sons Patrick, 24, Sean, 21, and Wayne, 18, may yet turn out to be a gigantic hoax.

And an Australian Southern Bluefin fleet spokesman said details of the tuna boat sighting had been exaggerated.

Chief Insp Barry Willoughby, of Port Lincoln, said the desert sighting was in the same area of WA where the "Nullarbor Nymph" created a worldwide sensation about 30 years ago.

Police at Eucla said they had been out on the highway but were unable to find the spot where the encounter allegedly happened.

But Mrs Faye Knowles and her three sons were still insisting last night that their experience was real. They told last night how they endured nearly two hours of terror in a desperate bid to flee what they are convinced was a UFO.

Still recovering from what they claim was a horrifying encounter, the family appeared distressed and shaken in an exclusive interview on Hinch at Seven.

Mrs Knowles and her sons Patrick, 24, Sean, 21, and Wayne, 18, said their car was engulfed by a glowing ball and lifted into



● Mrs Knowles ... visibly shaken by yesterday's alleged UFO sighting. Picture: CHANNEL SEVEN

the air. "We were in a state of shock," said Mrs Knowles. "All of a sudden this thing was on our roof and lifted the car up."

"I said I didn't know what to do and as soon as I said that this smoke stuff started coming into the car."

"It was like a soot ... coming in on top of us," she said.

"We thought we were dying so we got out of the car and stood behind a little tree in the bushes."

"It couldn't find us but it was still there waiting for us and looking for us."

Mrs Knowles said she and her sons stayed in the bushes for about 15 minutes.

"Then all of a sudden it

took off again and when we hopped in the car to take off it came after us again.

"It wouldn't leave us alone."

The Knowles said they were all awake when they noticed the UFO in the middle of the road, in front of their car, at about 5am.

"It looked like truck lights so we didn't take much notice at first," Patrick said.

"It was terrible," Mrs Knowles said.

The Knowles were adamant that what they saw was real and not a ball of lightning as has been claimed.

"No that's not true," said Sean.



● The Knowles family ... Patrick (left), 24, Faye, Sean, 21, and Wayne, 18.



Tasmanian 'had similar incident'

UFO researchers believe the Knowles family's sighting is somehow linked to a similar incident a Tasmanian man experienced last month.

Details of the December 14 sighting by a prominent Launceston businessman only came to light yesterday when the Victorian UFO Research Society confirmed the two cases could be connected.

"In both cases, the object described is exactly

By CAROLYN JONES

the same," society field officer Mr Pat Glidea said.

The man — who said he did not want to be identified for professional reasons — claimed he saw a colored egg shaped object while driving along a deserted country road in his white Mercedes about 10.30 pm.

Thinking the "bright white light" hovering above him was a helicopter, he drove on but then noticed the light following him.

After a few kilometres, the light landed on the road in front of him.

The man stopped the car and put the handbrake on but the engine stopped and the lights went out.

"He panicked and ran back down the road but then stopped to look back," Mr Glidea said.

"He noticed the car was being dragged towards the light. All he could make out of it was an oval shaped object."

Another driver came up soon after — in time to see the object take off on an angle and "disappear into the night sky".

NEWS, Kenosha, WI - Jan. 7, 1988 CR: R. Heiden

UFO sighting uninvestigated

LONDON (UPI) — Scotland Yard is too busy with down-to-earth crime to investigate the mysterious case of a UFO reported hovering over London, a spokesman said Tuesday.

Three policemen, summoned by a teenage girl who spotted a bizarre object in the sky, reported back to their stationhouse that they too had seen it, a police spokesman said.

"What I saw was a flat, gray-green saucer and as it turned I saw lights," Zena Sfei, 16, an astronomy buff, told the British Broadcasting Corp. "That's when I realized it couldn't have been a star."

Sfei said she saw the saucer-shaped, brightly colored object early Sunday and viewed it through a telescope mounted on the doorstep to her family home. She then called police to verify the sighting.

Sfei said the UFO hovered high over the west London neighborhood of Kensington before disappearing two hours later.

She said the officers at first did not believe her but "they soon changed."

"Police officers saw an unidentified object after a call from a member of the public," the spokesman confirmed. "We are unable to say what it was."

He said the officers entered it into their stationhouse logbook but there would be no further investigation.

"It's a minor matter although it's something unusual," he said. "We have enough trouble dealing with murders let alone investigating lights in the sky."

He also said the object was routinely reported to the Ministry of Defense but a ministry spokesman, echoing the police decision not to investigate, said it was not a defense matter.

Light in sky was UFO — drivers

TWO Aldridge ambulance drivers say they had an encounter with a shimmering UFO.

Clive Pearson and Brenda Coyne, of Aldridge Ambulance station, were on duty at about 10.30pm last Wednesday night — October 28 — when they saw a large bright light in the sky.

"We watched it for about five minutes. It wasn't very high — it was hovering low over the trees out the back, then it shot off to the right."

"It was a brilliant light, but it couldn't have been a bright star, it was much too big," said ambulance driver Brenda Coyne.

"We're used to seeing aeroplanes — this wasn't a plane. It didn't move for about five minutes," said leading ambulance man Clive Pearson, who has been in the service for 25 years.

The startled drivers telephoned Birmingham Airport to ask flight controllers to check their radar.

They reported seeing just two planes which the ambulance crew could see, said Clive, who ruled out it being a helicopter, as it was silent.

"I've never seen anything like it," Aldridge Police said they had no reports of sightings.

WATTSALL OBSERVER, Staffordshire, England - Nov. 6, 1987 CR: T. Good

UFO spotted at Seaford Head

Report: SUE BAIRD

In the past two or three months, there had been similar sightings to the one seen in Seaford last week.

Bizarre

In fact, they turned out to be military exercises. A lot of NATO exercises including aircraft refuelling have been taking place at night, she explained.

But often sightings turn out to be slightly more amusing or bizarre in reality.

Said Jenny, "At this time

of year, we sometimes get sightings which are geese flying south for winter. The lights from street lamps reflect on their underbellies and make them look mysterious. One sighting turned out to be an owl that had eaten diseased fungi which was giving it a strange colour."

When the association receives news of a UFO, it usually reconstructs the sighting, which is then run through a computer programme.

Regional investigator coordinator for the association, Mr Philip Taylor, said in the past few years there had been very few cases in the South-east area which could not be identified.

YORKSHIRE POST, Leeds, England
Jan. 7, 1988 CR: T. Good

'Speak up' call by UFO men

SPOTTERS of unidentified flying objects in Yorkshire are calling for an official statement on sightings, just days after a reported incident was confirmed by eight policemen.

During 1987 the number of sightings of UFOs continued to increase, according to the 300-member Yorkshire UFO Society.

And earlier this week — on the same day a London schoolgirl and eight policemen tracked a "shimmering jellyfish" through the sky — six people reported sightings in the region.

The Yorkshire society contacted Leeds-Bradford Airport, Jodrell Bank, Cheshire, and RAF Finningley, but none could confirm the sighting.

Society president Graham Birdsall said: "Surely some minister should make a statement saying witnesses were mistaken or give a basic admission that they don't know what it is at this time."

Anyone who made sightings on Monday night or at other times are asked to contact the society on Leeds 622221.

DID Seaford have a visitor from outer space on Friday night?

A mysterious unidentified flying object was spotted silently hovering above Seaford Head just before 11pm and reported to Seaford police.

A display of red, blue, green and white lights apparently gave way to five red lights the size of footballs travelling just above house height.

Despite the huge number of UFOs reported each year to the British UFO Research Association, around 95 per cent of them can be identified.

Jenny Randles, director of investigations for the association, explained that

UFO SIGHTINGS AS MYSTERY BLAST SHAKES A HOUSE

Flying saucer in explosion riddle

A MYSTERY explosion rocked a South East Essex home as an unidentified flying object was sighted nearby.

The blast shook the windows of headteacher Mrs Jane Colby's Bellhill Close, Billericay home. Her shocked mother and son, who had been outside the house, also heard it. Then they noticed an eerie white glow on the skyline hovering above Basildon.

Meanwhile in Canvey Mrs Jean Wil-

liams and her son Shaun were watching a shimmering jellyfish-shaped UFO hovering over the Thames Estuary. They kept the mystery object in their sights for more than an hour.

The bizarre incidents happened the same night a London amateur astronomer sighted a jellyfish-shaped UFO. Her sighting was confirmed by several policemen.

Mrs Colby, head of Noak Bridge Primary School, Basildon, said: "As my son drove up to the house there was a sound like an explosion and the windows rattled."

"He said he saw what seemed to be a flash of lightning. We thought it might be something from Basildon as we saw a glow coming from part of the A127. It lasted about an hour."



PUZZLED: Mrs Jean Williams and son Shaun with a drawing of the object they saw
Picture and drawing by RON CASE

WEST LANCASHIRE EVENING GAZETTE,
Blackpool, England - Dec. 10, 1987

UFO struck him dumb

HAVE the Martians visited Mereside?

Members of the Blackpool UFO society admit to being baffled by a close encounter on Langdale Road.

They received a report from a musician who claimed to have seen an unidentified flying object outside his home when he was returning from work shortly after 3am on November 16.

The man, who does not want to be named, says he saw a pulsating yellow light coming towards him from the north. As it came closer the silent UFO started to descend in stages, stopping and starting like a lift.

It then became clear that the amber light was surrounded by an outer shell. The spherical object began spinning at high speed and emitting blue, red, green and white light before suddenly stopping.

After a short pause the object headed south and out of sight.

The musician said he had never been as frightened in his life and remembered feeling so weak that it was as if all the energy had been drained out of him.

President of the Blackpool UFO society Mrs Hazel Shanley urged anyone with a similar experience or an explanation to ring the UFO hotline on 56821.

CR: T. Good

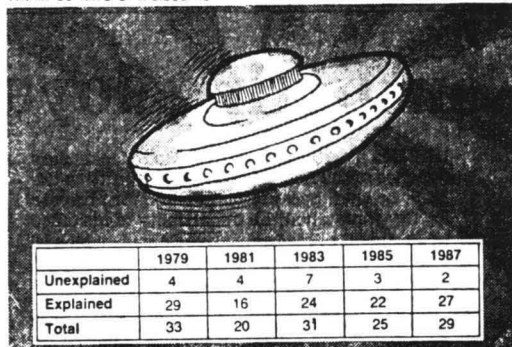
HERALD, Melbourne, Australia
Dec. 16, 1987 CR: P. Norman

S N A P S H O T

A STATISTICAL LOOK AT LIFE IN MELBOURNE

UFO sightings

Within 50 km's of Melbourne



NB: Approximately 60% of UFO sightings are immediately explained and unrecorded

Source: Victorian UFO Research Society

UFO MYSTERY OF STRANGE LIGHTS IN SKY

Was it a close encounter for family?

ROGER Ford, a part-time fireman, did not know what to think when he saw weird lights in the sky, moving rapidly and sending out laser beams.

But after reading in a national paper that a class of youngsters in Lancashire saw identical lights, he wonders if his family had a close encounter with aliens from outer space.

Roger, 36, of Rosemary Road, East Malling, said: "I got a phone call from my father at about 8pm on Monday. He had seen the lights and wanted me to check he was not seeing things."

NOT MOVING

"There were two lights, one high in the sky and one lower. It appeared as though they were shooting white laser beams at each other." The lights were red, white and green like plane lights, he added.

Roger, who works at Reed International, said his wife Rosemary also saw the lights. His father, Gordon, 64, of New Hythe Lane, Larkfield, reported that the lights shot across the sky, zigzagging, getting lower, disappearing and then reappearing high up again.

"I have a son in the RAF and I am interested in aircraft. But I am sure it was not a plane. It was not moving in the same way," he insisted.



Roger Ford... a close encounter?

Roger forgot about his sighting until he read that a class of schoolchildren at Leigh had seen something almost identical lights sending out laser beams.

It was then he plucked up the courage to report his sighting to the post's sister paper, the Kent Messenger.

A spokesman for the defence ministry was sceptical about the report. He said helicopters with their lights could well fit the description of what the people saw.



JOURNAL, Milwaukee, WI - Oct. 11, 1987

Will the next real monster kindly slime itself forth?

By TIM NORRIS
of The Journal staff

CHICAGO, Ill. — Even from the window of his office, in the ivy-covered Young Building overlooking tennis courts on the University of Chicago campus, Roy Paul Mackal can picture the Likouala aux Herbes River, mostly unexplored, pushing steamy and copper-colored through the shadow-filled, insect-ridden Likouala Swamps of equatorial Africa. And he can describe, lurching from its banks in alarm, something large and dark and vaguely leathery.

It could, he says in words designed to attract the best and worst kinds of attention, be a living sauropod — a plant-eating dinosaur.

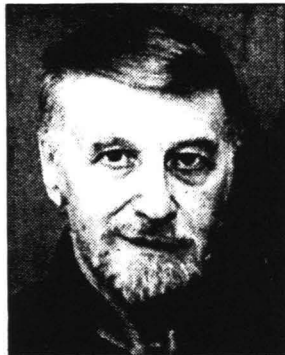
The statement is not surprising, because the fantasy is familiar and Mackal is an imaginative man. Since his childhood on the family farm in Mequon, when he would hurry through chores and march off overland with his net and insect jars in search of new species, Roy Mackal has been fired with a childlike fascination with the unknown. With his knowledge of science, he is better equipped than most to devise entertaining fictions, the kind H. G. Wells and Jules Verne and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle turned out in the Victorian age.

The end to this tale about the riverbank, though, is Mackal's expressed hope that this time, *this time*, when he returns to the Likouala Swamps in February, the creature will hold its pose just long enough for a tranquilizing gun — or at least a movie camera — to do its work.

The story, in other words, is true, he says. A shorthand, sensational label for Mackal might be "monster-hunter." But Mackal is a scientist, a professor for 20 years in the Department of Biochemistry (and, now, holder of the twin posts of university energy coordinator and university safety coordinator) at the University of Chicago. He is also vice president and co-founder of the International Society of Cryptozoology. The society's expressed goal is Mackal's own: "To investigate... animals of unexpected form or size, or unexpected occurrence in time or space," and, naturally, to find and identify these previously unknown creatures.

Mackal has pursued the Loch Ness monster, lake serpents of Canada and the northern US, and people-eating plants of Madagascar. Twice, in 1980 and 1981, he traveled to the Congo in search of the dinosaurlike creature natives call Mokele-Mbembe, and he is organizing his third trip for February. Every expedition has taken months of painstaking planning, arduous physical labor, sieges of nasty weather and disease.

He talks of walking through



Photos courtesy of Roy Paul Mackal

Roy Paul Mackal: scientist, professor, monster hunter

stinking ooze, dodging poisonous snakes, being bitten 50 times or more a day by insects, day after day, always to emerge with tantalizing clues — indistinct footprints, loud splashes — but no hard evidence. This time, Mackal says, they will take a closer look at all species, so that the uncharted area will yield at least some secrets useful to science.

Despite his obvious dedication, some colleagues, even on his own campus, call him a deluded zealot, a sensationalist, everything but a nin-

compoop. David M. Raup, a University of Chicago paleontologist who explored dinosaur extinction in his book "The Nemesis Affair," includes a paragraph on Mackal in a section titled "The Lunatic Fringe." After mentioning Erich Von Daniken, whose books on UFOs are derided by serious scientists, he says:

"Even more rarely, a person of this genre turns up in a conventional scholarly setting, causing all sorts of problems for mainline science. An example is Dr. Roy P. Mackal." Ignoring Mackal's 29 years as a research associate in biochemistry and then in biology and his landmark work with transfer of genetic information in human cells, Raup cites him only as a "biologist... employed at Chicago as Safety and Energy Coordinator," and says, "Mackal's views on the possibility of living dinosaurs are seen as totally incredible by all biologists I know.... I am comfortable with the notion that Mackal is wrong, but I cannot prove it."

Mackal appears stung by the implication that he is not a full-fledged scientist. He holds a B.S. and a Ph.D. in biochemistry from the University of Chicago, and his safety and energy posts came with his assignment to the president's office, granted so he could spend more time tracking unknown creatures through distant locales.

The International Society of Cryptozoology might sound like one of those outfits where kids send in three box tops and get back a magic code ring. In fact, the society consists of reputable scientists from around the world and publishes its own scientific journal and newsletter. Mackal says that everything published there — as well as in his own books, "Searching for Hidden Animals" and "The Monsters of Loch Ness" — is open to the most exacting criticism and response.

In dealing with unknown creatures, though, the public tends not to be exacting. Mackal himself warns about the "goblin-world mentality," the tendency for tall tales to "generate monsters." The public tends also to mock scientists. Story after popular story shows the monster giving the scientist — and cold logic — a fatal comeuppance. In "Baby," a film about people finding living dinosaurs in Africa on which Mackal served as adviser, the character based on him is a villain.

Regardless, Mackal's critics charge that he exploits public fantasies by basing so many of his theories on hearsay, on legends repeated by natives, on anecdotes from archives.

He may start with those, Mackal says, but he never finishes with them. In his work he has debunked supposed monsters in the White River of Arkansas, in the Araguaia River of Brazil and in Wisconsin's Lake Koshkonong. In filtering evidence of the Loch Ness monster, which he investigated off and on for 10 years, he threw out nearly all of the popular photographs and alleged sightings. "What was left over, though," he says, "told me that something unusual lives in that lake."

He has also concluded that the serpentlike Canadian lake monster called Ogopogo is "a real animal." What kind of animal, though, remains mysterious. Among Mackal's theories are a freshwater form of *Basilosaurus*, a sinuous whale some 40 or 50 feet long, thought extinct for 25 million years.

Mackal is not sure that the beast he glimpsed on the African riverbank is a dinosaur that has somehow survived the millions of years since other dinosaurs pranced and stomped into extinction. It could be a large lizard, he says, or even a mammal.

For those who laugh off his efforts as quackery, he has several living, breathing answers. The best-known can be found in nearly any zoo.

Even into the 19th century, people considered stories of man-sized apes walking on their hind legs nothing but tall tales. Then, in 1847, explorers discovered the gorilla.



Photo courtesy of Roy Paul Mackal

Roy Mackal's expedition heads up the Likouala aux Herbes River

Other, more mythical-seeming creatures have also surfaced through the years. The Coelacanth, a "lobe-finned" fish thought extinct for 70 million years, was brought up alive in 1938 off the coast of Africa. The monitor lizard, up to 13 feet long and cited in legends as the Komodo Dragon, was found in 1926. Mackal now hears similar tales from Pygmies in the Congo about Mokele-Mbembe. In the Pygmy language, that name means "the one who eats the tops of the palm trees."

One great fear involving Mokele-Mbembe and the Loch Ness monster is that they will be captured and dissected and lose all of their mystery and magic. Says Mackal, "It's a concern. But there is always another mystery. The ultimate mystery is existence itself."

A discussion with Mackal, who is steeped not just in biology but in chemistry, physics and mathematics, can range from a detailed analysis of how the AIDS virus might or might

not be transmitted by insects to wondrous theories about how human beings might bridge time and space.

Earthly life, like the search for unknown beings, he says, has not always conformed to plan. Last year, Mackal married for the fourth time, which suggests — among other things — that he is less the patient scientist than the restless adventurer. But he was still following a kind of scientific method. "You try things until you get them right," he says. Or, maybe, you keep looking for something until you find it.

He spends weeks and sometimes months away from his office. He is going away again in February, shortly after his book on previous dinosaur hunts is published.

This time, he may come back with something that will shake up science... or, at least, he says, give it a welcome thrill. If the result vindicates him and rewards his sponsors, well, he won't gloat. But the smile he'd be wearing would be a monster.



Prof. Roy Mackal (center, tallest figure) works from a mix of hearsay, native legends and science in his pursuit of strange creatures all around the globe

Sakharov spent exile theorizing 'shadow world'

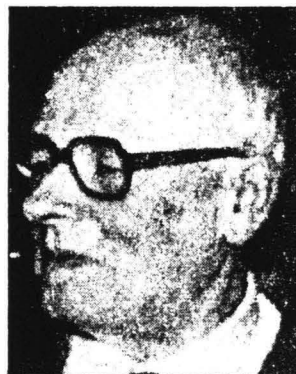
By The Associated Press

MOSCOW — Dissident Andrei Sakharov spent his years in exile working on how to prove the theory that a "shadow world" exists symmetrically with the known world, according to the Tass news agency.

The physicist had suggested that the theory could be verified by monitoring "black holes," stars that are highly compressed, Tass reported Wednesday.

The news agency said an article Sakharov published in 1984 was the first to suggest the possibility of several dimensions.

Two years later, Sakharov turned his attention to a theory that black holes gradually "evaporate," emitting particles. It said Sakharov theorized that the idea of a



Sakharov a Nobel laureate.

shadow world could be checked by monitoring the particles emitted by black holes.

Sakharov helped develop the Soviet hydrogen bomb in the 1950s, but in the 1960s and 1970s spoke out for human rights in the Soviet Union. He was awarded the 1975 Nobel Peace Prize.

POST, Denver, CO - Jan. 21, 1988 CR: R. Sherman

Tracker hot on the trail of Bigfoot

By TERRY McCONN
Of the Union-Bulletin

After 30 years of scouring mountains and valleys looking for Bigfoot, tracker Rene Dahinden still isn't totally convinced the legendary creature exists.

But since he's devoting most of his life to the search, he quipped, "I hope I'm not wasting my time."

The 57-year-old Richmond, British Columbia, author and researcher believes he's hot on the trail of Bigfoot in the Walla Walla area. He's come here for at least a month to search in the foothills and rugged terrain of the Blue Mountains because "people report lots of tracks here and they're not anywhere else at the present time."

Bigfoot, or Sasquatch, sightings have been reported for years. The creature is described as six to 10 feet tall, manlike in shape, walking upright but stooped over. Witnesses claim the beast is covered with hair, has tremendous bulk and weight and moves quickly, with large steps. Most say it's very shy and not aggressive or violent.

Even though he first heard of Bigfoot in the early 1950s and started searching for it in 1956, Dahinden has traveled extensively for about six months every year since 1967. He travels to California, Oregon, Washington, Montana, Alberta, British Columbia — anywhere he's likely to reach his goal. He wants to prove that Bigfoot really exists.

"My life is organized around the Sasquatch. This thing is not a hobby with me. Working (as a lead pellet miner six months out of the year) is a hobby. I do it to finance my trips."

Speaking with an accent from his native Switzerland — in language peppered with four-letter words — Dahinden can talk for hours about his preoccupation with Bigfoot.

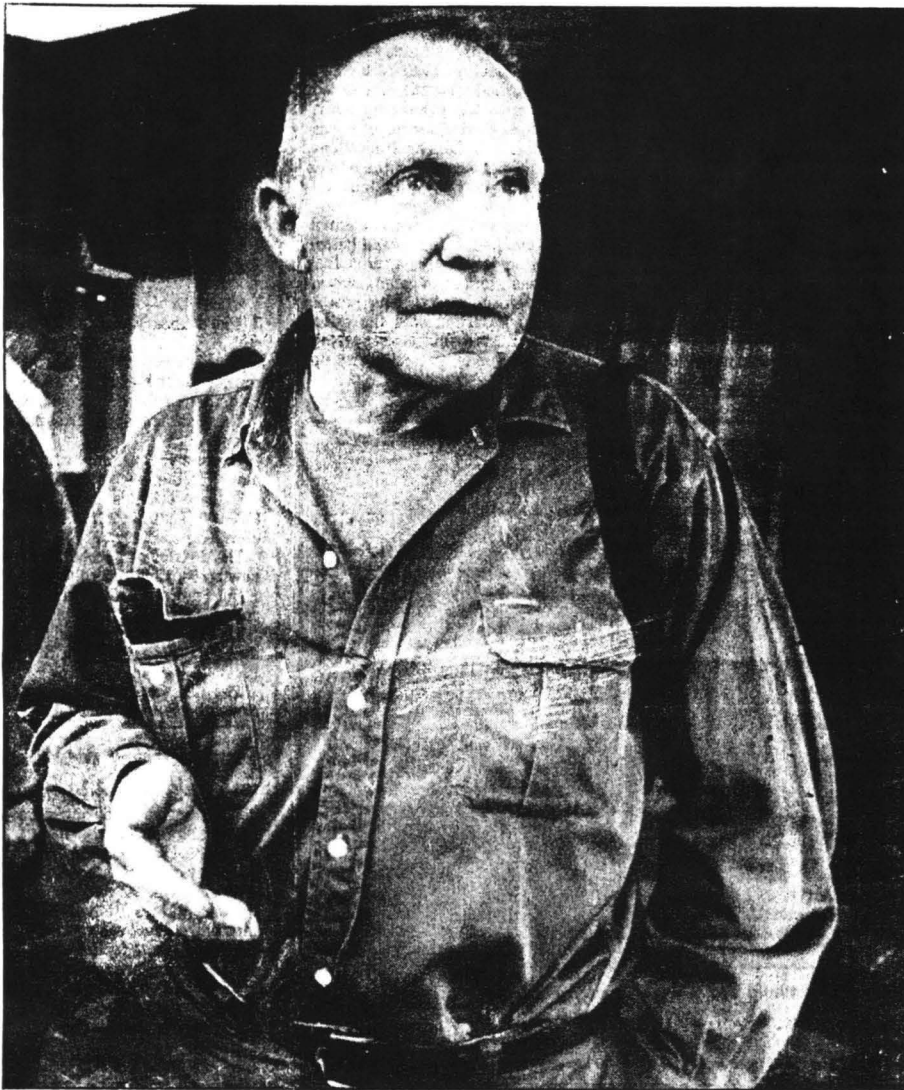
"It's a big story, this search," he said with pride. "The implications are so far-reaching — it's mind-boggling."

Even though Dahinden has contagious energy and enthusiasm, he isn't a wild-eyed fanatic who believes everything that moves in the forest is a Bigfoot. Far from it. He fiercely protects his credibility and reputation. And he's spent most of the past 20 years trying to prove that the only film of a Sasquatch ever taken is a fake.

On Oct. 20, 1967 in the Bluff Creek area of Northern California, the late Roger Patterson of Yakima captured a one-minute encounter with a hairy beast on 24 feet of 16-millimeter film.

"This is the key core of the whole Bigfoot thing," Dahinden said. "I thought to myself — I'll take this film, the people who made it and the footprints as my investigation and I set out to prove it's a fake."

After 20 years, he's still trying. Dahinden said he used techniques of investigative reporters and put the film and its photographer through intense scrutiny.



U-B photo by Jeff Horner

Tracker Rene Dahinden is in the area for at least a month in the hopes of finding Bigfoot.

"I talked to Patterson, to people who knew him, who know about film, movement, fur suits. I went to the site 7 times and made a thorough analysis of every frame of the movie. I studied the heights and dimensions of the creature."

Even after having acquired the rights to the film, he's still talking to anyone who could disprove its authenticity.

"I've slowly come to the conclusion probably the film is real — the smoothness, animal grace and tremendous muscles of the creature... But I'm still not one hundred percent sure Sasquatch exists," he said. "I've never seen one and never found tracks on my own."

But he continues the search because the mystery pervades his life and "I want proof for myself."

If Bigfoot doesn't exist, modern-day reports of the creature proba-

bly stem from mythology, Dahinden said.

"Indians must have brought the myths with them when they came from Siberia. Then colonists brought their own wild-man tradition, the two intermingled and what you have today is Sasquatch."

But, on the other hand, Dahinden said the myths could actually be historical evidence. That, he said, added to the thousands of tracks found over much of North America, eyewitness accounts of the legendary beast, and the Patterson film "clearly point in all probability there are Sasquatches. I say that very reluctantly. It's hard to say 'Yes, they're there,' unless you see them."

He's not disappointed his quest has been unsuccessful so far. But even though he loves what he's do-

ing, he said, "Sometimes I've almost thrown in the towel. You meet liars, con men and some rather odd people doing this."

And he speaks strongly against those for whom he has no respect. Scientists, just to name one group.

"Our dear-beloved Ph.D.s in universities don't know a thing about Bigfoot but they give opinions," Dahinden said. "Here we have the Patterson movie which could possibly be a Sasquatch and 20 years later it's still ignored."

"If you're a scientist you should say let's investigate it — but they don't. It's taboo. It's not acceptable. But yet they continue themselves to teach theory and speculation every day. I'd never read another book by an anthropologist. They're like trained seals."

Dahinden said there have been fewer Bigfoot sightings in the past

DAILY EXPRESS, London,
England - Jan. 11,
1988 CR: N. Oliver

I saw the Yeti, says Blashers

By SUE JOHNSON

VETERAN explorer Colonel John Blashford-Snell, newly returned from the Himalayas, claimed yesterday that he saw the fabled Abominable Snowman.

As proof of the story, which even "Blashers" may have difficulty substantiating, he says he has photographs of strange footprints left by the Yeti.

He explained: "We spotted a man-like figure on a snow slope about a thousand yards away. It did not move for four hours."

Footprints

"But when we took a picture everything else came out in perfect focus but there was a blank space where the animal should have been standing."

The sighting was an added bonus for the 51-year-old bulldog breed adventurer who was in China to carry out a scientific study on Mount Xiaabangma.

His colleague Dr Henry Ozmaston spotted the footprints—equivalent to a human size 12—at about 20,000 feet.

five to seven years than there previously were. But people report lots of tracks here, like recent finds in the Black Mountain area south of Tollgate. So he gathered his van, trail bike and cameras and headed south.

In 1982, U.S. Forest Service patrol rider Paul Freeman came face to face with what he says was a Bigfoot about 25 miles southeast of Walla Walla near the top of Tiger Canyon. Dahinden said he's studied that report and any skepticism he had about it is "melting away" because of the numerous independent discoveries of tracks in the area.

His visit here will gain national attention on ABC-TV later this month. A crew from "Good Morning America" was in town this week to interview Dahinden and film the local area. The broadcast is tentatively scheduled for Oct. 27.

Dahinden hunts for Bigfoot with two cameras — not a gun.

"For years I thought if I saw a Sasquatch I'd shoot it but I've changed my mind. In the U.S. there'd be an uproar so bad from conservationists and the public. Right now I'm interested in taking photographs of it and reinforcing my views there probably are such creatures."

Dahinden loves his life.

"I have everything I want. I have an interest in something fascinating, freedom, all the material things I want..."

"What else is there of such fascination? The biggest mystery there is in North America, maybe the world, and I'm in the midst of it."



U-B photo by Jeff Horner

A crew from ABC's "Good Morning America" tapes a segment on Bigfoot in Walla Walla Wednesday. Here they interview Michael R. Dennett, who is skeptical that Bigfoot exists.

BIGFOOT

CARO, Mich. — The hunter lives alone in a doll's house, a white clapboard relic of 1890 Michigan. Inside, there's a closed-off parlor, tea cup and china dainties on Duncan Phyfe tables and open hutchs crammed with pretty things. Calico everywhere.

Downstairs, in the fieldstone bowels of the doll's house, is the hunter's lair, a nether world of office equipment and files crammed with "eyewitness accounts" of the prey. As befits a command post, paneled walls hung with newsprint reports cover the original rock hewn by some pioneer to cool root vegetables. The hunter, very much in charge, sits in a swivel chair — slung with a holster and ammo belt for a .357-caliber Magnum. On his desk, a sign reads: "Wayne L. King, director."

King heads the Michigan/Canadian Bigfoot Information Center, a repository and clearing house for sightings of the legendary ape-like creature better known in the Pacific Northwest. But to King, Michigan Bigfoot is a very real presence. And although he can run his hands over plaster castings of giant footprints, feel the life they represent, then look into a sealed glass reliquary at a football-sized mound of droppings, it's the *corpus* he's after.

King said he means to track Bigfoot. To find him. And kill him.

Caro, Mich., is a storybook town up M-24 from Oxford, Lapeer and Mayville in the Michigan Thumb. In another century the land was forest primeval, a lumber center with white pine so tall that forests were stripped for sailing masts. But the Great Fire of 1881 ended all that and farming took over. Still, King said, there is a five-county swath of dense woods over Huron, Sanilac, Genesee, Lapeer and Tuscola counties. Bigfoot, he said, is there.

In Tuscola County alone — Caro is the county seat — King has compiled information on 37 sightings by credible witnesses from 1977 until three years ago. Then he said, "valid" sightings abruptly stopped not only in Michigan but throughout the world. King said he is "somewhat disturbed" by Bigfoot's silence and wonders if he has gone the mysterious way of the dinosaurs.

So these days there are no night vigils in the forests, no ears tuned to unearthly howls. King bides his time in his cellar bunker going over old tape-recorded testimony of witnesses for some clue to the hunt.

Bigfoot is nomadic, he said, not migratory, so the creature likely is still in the region. And if he is still out there, King is ready.

In addition to the Magnum, there is a high-powered rifle, a "big ear" auditory sensor, 250,000-candlepower Blue Max nightlights, high-tech recording systems and movie and photographic equipment. There are four trained "field investigators" ready to join in the hunt — and the kill.

King said contingency plans are in place, even for moving a Bigfoot carcass over the Canadian border if that's where they get him. A long freezer has been reserved from a rental company and King and his band of merry men "have been told" how to section up the creature for minimal damage, wrap him in Visquine and pack him in the freezer.

There is "a Dallas group" waiting to pay six figures for an iced Bigfoot, King said. In addition, King said he has been contacted by an emissary from a foreign government which is also after the carcass.

"Think about it," King said. "It would be as if somebody came across a disabled flying saucer and brought it in. It would be the find of the century." Money. Fame. Scientific acclaim. A place in history. But for King, intense and driven, there's more.

The hunt for Bigfoot "is a personal thing," he said.

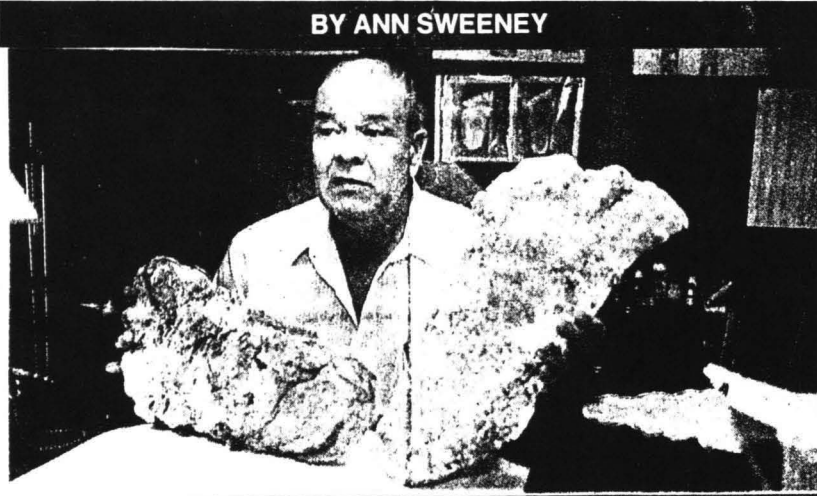
Bigfoot seems to inhabit the world of UFOs and aliens from outer space, black holes and the Loch Ness Monster. His deeds are chronicled in ghost stories told around campfires. If not universal, the legend of a mysterious hairy giant who inhabits remote areas is well-traveled. In Nepal, he is known as the Yeti or Abominable Snowman. In Russia, he's the Alma. In Canada and the Pacific Northwest, the Sasquatch. Although Bigfoot has been the subject of transparent pranks and hoaxes, he also has been seen, heard, written about and even filmed by credible observers. But for skeptics it's a writ of *habeas corpus*. Bigfoot has never been captured.

The creature is portrayed by pop science as a huge hairy ape that came over the polar cap from Asia and down into North America across a long-ago land bridge, the same route Indians are believed to have traveled. Canadian Indian lore is rife with legends of Sasquatch, and there are early Canadian newspaper accounts of sightings, even kidnappings by the monster, in the 1800s. One source said that since 1818 there have been more than 1,000 reports of Bigfoot sightings in North America.

Purported eyewitness accounts are peppered with

One hunter keeps a vigil for a very elusive prey

BY ANN SWEENEY



Harold Robinson/The Detroit News

For doubting Thomases, Wayne King (pictured above) enjoys pulling out his plaster footprints of Bigfoot, one set made at Barryton by Gene Little, another from the Zane Gray family site.

fear. There are tales of menacing growls, howls in the night and a smell "between possum urine and dead meat." There seems to be a diabolic link to Bigfoot's presence. Indians believed that madness befell anyone who looked into the eyes of a Sasquatch.

King said the modern-day rash of sightings — and the name "Bigfoot" — began in 1965 at a remote construction site in California when crews arrived one morning to find 250-gallon oil drums hurled over a cliff and a flatbed trailer overturned. No one saw the creatures that wreaked the havoc, but they left huge tracks in the sand. In 1967 Roger Patterson and Bob Gimlin filmed an ape-like creature striding across a field near Del Norte, Calif. Their experience was the subject of a *True* magazine article — and an ongoing debate since about the film's authenticity.

King, who said a former state Department of Natural Resources director once "threatened" him with manslaughter charges if he shot a creature that proved to be "half-human," said he has no doubt that Bigfoot is beast. Reports that call Bigfoot an evolutionary missing link or some type of primitive man are nonsense, he said.

"This is a very powerful, very cunning animal," King said. "Even with firearms, man is at a disadvantage. We have considered using tranquilizer guns to bring him down, but decided they wouldn't work. You have to be close, and know the animal's weight to determine the dosage."

King believes there is a "Michigan species" of Bigfoot creatures and that there are more than 100 of them. He described the species as larger than the Yeti, smaller than the Sasquatch, weighing 500 to 700 pounds, 7 or 8 feet tall with long gray or black hair.

"It has the upright walk of a gorilla and the lifestyle of a bear," he added.

King said he has had three encounters with Michigan Bigfoot. In 1978, he was called to Kingston, north-

west of Marlette, and saw two animals on the forest's edge at dusk, one — possibly an offspring — much smaller than the other.

"I saw their eyes," he recalled with a shudder. "They were china white." Since he was unarmed, King said he called the state police, but the creatures had gone back into the woods when the car arrived. King said he and a trooper went into woods and were close to a creature but the darkness prevented them from seeing it.

"It was the only time I have known fear. We could hear it breathing. I knew we were gonna be hit. I could feel it coming," he said. "I heard the trooper take the safety off his gun. ... And then there was silence."

In 1979, King said he received a call from Art Kapa of Mayville, a field investigator at that time, whose daughter was playing in the yard near the forest and "saw a Bigfoot unfold from behind a pine tree."

"We kept an all-night vigil that night," King said. "We heard snorts and growls but never saw it."

In 1984, while driving along M-46 at 4:30 a.m. near Enos Park outside of Caro, King said a Bigfoot crossed the highway.

King described other sightings:

■ **1977, Benzie County** — Zane Gray, now sheriff of Benzie County, reported finding 27 tracks at a gorge site near Lake Ann where some construction on family property was proceeding. Less than a week later, more tracks were found on a road close-by.

"There had been sightings in the

this time has elapsed without finding one, I believe somebody made the tracks.

"But I have no idea how."

■ **1978, Barryton, Mich.** — Wildlife photographer and film producer Gene Little called King to the Hughs swamp. Little was shooting footage of track sightings for a Grand Rapids television station. Local residents had seen the animal and didn't know what it was. Dogs were reportedly terrified. Little, who often shot film for the *Michigan Outdoors* TV program died within the year, but King has a taped account.

Little spoke of tracks that "seemed to mold over rocks and sink 2½ to 3 inches in moderately hard dirt." He and a big-game hunter with him "didn't have any answer," Little said. But, he added: "I don't see how it can be a hoax."

■ **1979, Clare County** — Nicholas Zurawic and his fiancée Abby Matthews, both senior law students at the University of Michigan, reported seeing three huge hairy creatures race across the road ahead of them on U.S. 27, 50 miles north of Midland. The couple now married and living in Oklahoma left a tape recording with King:

"At first I thought they were people, but they were moving so fast I was sure they had to be deer," Zurawic said. "I just couldn't believe what I was seeing. They weren't human."

King said he later checked the fenced median on the highway at the spot and found that it had been broken through.

■ **1981, Fort Custer State Recreation Area** — Several sightings of a "9-foot hairy creature" near the Kalamazoo River, according to the Battle Creek Enquirer. Making the rounds of adjacent military land in a park truck one evening, Bill Kosmider, then a recreation supervisor, and state trooper Paul Uerling from the Hastings Post "saw a huge creature on the frozen surface of a beaver pond" but were unable to get in for a closer look, according to the newspaper report.

Kosmider, now the deputy park director, refused further comment when contacted recently.

For doubting Thomases, King enjoys pulling out his plaster footprints, one set made at Barryton by Gene Little, another from the Zane Gray family site. They measure 17½ to 19½-inches long and show an ape-like toed foot with a ball imprint, not the type of forgery made by someone wearing "feet" imprints.

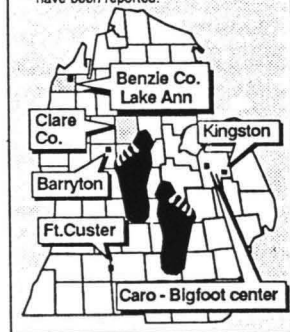
Droppings taken from the Benzie County site now encased in glass were analyzed by a DNR wildlife biologist and were said to be "from no known Michigan animal," King said.

"This is a very powerful, very cunning animal (Bigfoot). Even with firearms, man is at a disadvantage."

Wayne L. King

Tracking Bigfoot in Michigan

These are some locations where sightings of Bigfoot or Bigfoot tracks have been reported.



The Detroit News

area and mysterious noises," Gray recalled recently from his Traverse City office. "The tracks were from a flexible foot and they were sunk in the dirt showing considerable weight. At the time, I was open to the possibility of a Bigfoot, but now that all

"Do I look like a rational man to you?" Kings asked. It is the question of a man who acts as his own sounding board. His wife died in 1970 in a tragic auto accident, along with her mother and three sisters. King's

(continued on page 20)

three daughters are grown, and he works as a press operator at a General Motors plant in Flint. He, too, was once a disbeliever and investigated sightings for three years before opening the center in 1977, he said.

"I manufacture nothing. I sell nothing," King said. "The center is strictly for research."

Yet since his venture into Bigfoot territory, Wayne King's world has changed — inhabited by pranksters (he has debunked five Bigfoot hoaxes), crazies ("I won't investigate in Ohio; they see flying saucers there"), and mugwump authorities ("The state knows Bigfoot is out there, but the public policy is non-commitment.")

Then there are the detractors who put Bigfoot down as a fable and label King a publicity seeker.

When asked about King and his exploits, Tuscola County Undersheriff Paul Megge said: "I refuse to talk to him: I think Bigfoot is a bunch of hogwash. I think it's a big publicity stunt and you people perpetuate it every time you write about it."

New Rooms in Old Pyramid

NZPA Giza, Egypt
Japanese experts have found new cavities inside the 5000-year-old Pyramid of Cheops and believe they could change the conventional theory that it is mostly solid.

"We believe the pyramid has more space than people think," said the team leader, Sakuji Yoshimura.

"If we can prove it, that means the pyramid is not made up of millions of stones but only around 200,000 blocks."

The Pyramid of Cheops, known as the Great Pyramid, is one of three big pyramids at Giza near Cairo, believed to be tombs of three Pharaohs of ancient Egypt.

If London's Houses of Parliament and St Paul's Cathedral were placed inside the area of its base, there would still be space unoccupied.

Mr Yoshimura said he was puzzled that the rooms in the Cheops Pyramid — called the King's Chamber, the Queen's Chamber, the Grand Gallery — and connecting passages lay to the east of its centre, with no cavities evident to the west.

If he can prove his theory that the Pyramid contains more space than stone, the pyramid would become a "soft structure" in architectural terms.

It would also date this method of pyramid-building to the Old Kingdom of Egyptian archaeology.

By Sara El Gammal of Reuter

earlier than previously thought, he said.

"We have made a new find which is very important, very mysterious," Mr Yoshimura told Reuters. Using electromagnetic scanners to probe sound-waves behind interior surfaces, his team found a 30-metre passage parallel to the so-called Queen's Chamber, apparently veering off to the west side of the pyramid, previously thought to contain only stones.

"This is a key to a possible connection between the east and west sides of the pyramid," he said.

He said two other spaces were found in the King's Chamber, one under the pharaoh's sarcophagus, the other between the chamber and the Grand Gallery, a steep limestone passage 45 metres long and nine metres high.

After research in February on Cheops Pyramid and the nearby Sphinx, a monument with a human face and a lion's body, Mr Yoshimura's team from Tokyo's Waseda University returned on a nine-day expedition this month to confirm previous findings.

Mr Yoshimura, sweat pouring down his face in the musty, humid interior, said he did not believe the pyramid was built by

Cheops as his tomb despite the discovery of new cavities. "We should find passages, corridors, but not Cheops' tomb," he said. "Possibly a burial chamber [containing funerary objects] but not a tomb."

His theory is that the pyramid was built as a symbolic festival hall for souls on their return from the afterworld.

Mr Yoshimura stressed his theories could take a long time to prove and would require more studies.

"But we will not hurry with our investigations because 5000 years have passed since the pyramid was built. We have waited that long, we have much time."

Few scientists willing to follow footprints of Bigfoot

The world of science fiction is filled with near-human creatures who have either arrived from outer space or survived (preferably in caves) from earlier times on Earth. In the real world, there have been consistent (but unverified) sighting reports of two similar species: Yeti, the Abominable Snowman of the Himalayas, and Sasquatch, or Bigfoot, of the Blue Mountains of the American Northwest.

Only about one in 10 professional anthropologists is willing even to entertain the suspicion that such a hominid species exists — and those who do so aloud, or engage in academic research on the topic, are likely to suffer serious career damage. While reputable scientists can investigate such pseudo-sciences as ESP and telepathy with relative impunity, the search for Yeti and Sasquatch (and the Loch Ness monster) is uncomfortably close to the script of a bad movie and scares most reputable professionals off.

Species "unknown to science" are best left to Grade-B scripts, but at least twice in modern times large, bizarre-looking spe-

cies popped up which startled the hell out of scientists. (New species of bacteria, insects, birds, reptiles, fish and plants are being identified all the time.) The okapi was found deep in the Ituri forest in Zaire in the 1930s, and in the 1940s not one but two species of coelacanths, thought to be extinct since Triassic times, were found off the African coast.

There is, moreover, a scientific rationale for Yeti and Sasquatch. Virtually all paleoanthropologists are agreed the human line runs back in a direct line from current *Homo sapiens sapiens* through *Homo sapiens neanderthalensis* and *Homo habilis* to *Homo erectus*. The arguments start in coming the other way. *Australopithecus afarensis*, about 3.75 million years old (the famous Lucy), probably led to *Australopithecus africanus*, and to *Australopithecus robustus* and *bosei*, which are both extinct.

The bone of contention is the link between *A. africanus* and *Homo erectus*; most professionals feel one somehow led to the other. But some feel they were distinct lines; that *A. africanus* became extinct



Donald Morris

or was followed by now-extinct successors, while the *Homo* line goes back beyond *erectus* to still other (as-yet-undiscovered) species.

If they are correct, Yeti and Sasquatch might well be an *Australopithecus* strain, like *robustus* and *bosei*. While the notion is bizarre, it is much less bizarre than the survival of the coelacanths (which predated *Australopithecus* by 60 million years). Yeti/Sasquatch could also be *Gigantopithecus*, a huge ape going back 8 million years and existing in northern China as recently as 500,000 years ago — concurrently with archaic *H. sapiens*, handy to the Himalayas

Bigfoot

and the sometime Bering land-bridge, and only yesterday, historically speaking. Hardest to accept, perhaps, is not the existence of a species "unknown to science" but the undetected survival of individuals of such a species in the United States or even in the more remote Himalayas.

There are, again, precedents. In 1911, the last survivor of an Indian tribe suddenly appeared in California; he had lived undetected in a well-populated agricultural region for 30 years. And previously unknown neolithic cultures were encountered in recent decades in both the Amazon basin and in the Philippines.

It might, moreover, be incorrect to label Sasquatch or Yeti "unknown." Some sightings and photographs were obvious hoaxes, but reports go back a long way and are remarkably consistent — claiming a creature about 8 feet tall, weighing on the order of 800 pounds, and hairless only on its palms, soles and rather flat face. The reported diet is roots, berries and small rodents. And both Yeti and Sasquatch "existed" in local folklore before the arrival of "scientific" European observers in their respective areas — less than 200 years ago.

About a dozen casts of footprints are in hand, including some collected by U.S. Forest Service rangers in 1982. The detail in several of these has been unsettling to the skeptics: If the footprints are simply fresh hoaxes, they were perpetrated by extraordinarily skillful people. The latest footprints clearly show dermal ridges (the "fingerprints" of the foot), sweat pores (almost impossible to fake), and patterns of wear and even bone structure (including ankle location) which correspond precisely to what an 800-pound, bipedal creature with a 17-inch foot would need. Some fingerprint experts now accept the casts as genuine, leaving anthropologists and paleoanthropologists with the notion of a surviving *Australopithecus* — or *Gigantopithecus* — stuck in their academic craws.

The sightings will continue, although only an actual specimen, dead or alive, will still the skeptics. The verdict is open — neither "certain" nor "probable," but distinctly in the realm of the "possible."

Gift from heavens no blessing

Green ice from airplane leaves homeowner with hole in roof

By John Yearwood
Mid-Cities Bureau

FORT WORTH — Gene Gordon was in his back yard tending to flowers when he heard the crash.

A startled Gordon then walked around the side of his house to his front driveway.

"As I did, a chunk of green ice fell off the roof. That's when I saw the hole in the roof," said Gordon, a photographer for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

Gordon, who lives about 35 miles from Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport, said he believes the ice fell from an aircraft approaching the airport from the West Coast. Airport and federal aviation officials said the ice may have formed from a leaky toilet in an aircraft flying over the Gordon's home Sunday.

"I knew instantly where it came from," Gordon said Monday. "I have an RV and am familiar with chemical toilets."

The ice is made green by the chemicals used to sanitize the toilets, officials said.

Gordon's wife, Sybil, was in the living room with their 3-week-old grandson when the ice fell, Gordon

said. The ice damaged the Sheetrock ceiling, cracked a light fixture and broke a bulb. Gordon estimated the damage at \$500.

It was unclear Monday who will end up footing the bill for the damage.

Gordon was told by Federal Aviation Administration officials that an investigation will be conducted to determine what aircraft was flying over the area, located southwest of the airport, when the incident occurred about 3:45 p.m.

The airline would then be responsible for paying Gordon for the damage, said Mitch Barker, an FAA spokesman.

"I talked with my insurance company," Gordon said. "They said that they'll go ahead and process the claim (but) I would prefer to get it fixed by the airline."

Meanwhile, Gordon said he's holding on to the green ice, which he wrapped in a plastic bag and put in his freezer.

Gordon collected the ice from insulation in which it had become embedded after falling through the attic. The 8-by-16-inch hole in the roof was covered with plastic for protection from rain, Gordon said.

The search for the aircraft from which the ice fell will not be easy, said Norm Scroggins, manager for the DFW Radar Approach Control/Tower.

"It will be a futile effort, akin to looking for a needle in a haystack," Scroggins said. "It will be extremely, extremely difficult to identify the aircraft."

Barker said the FAA will review tapes to help identify the aircraft. But Scroggins said the tapes would not be totally accurate because there could have been other aircraft in the area that were not in contact with the airport control tower.

"The ice could have come from an aircraft that was flying over the area at a much higher altitude," Scroggins said.

Incidents where dripping water from bathrooms form ice and cause problems for aircraft or homeowners are very rare, officials said.

The last incident occurred Sept. 23 when a Braniff Airways flight was forced to land in Amarillo after ice was blown from a leaking toilet onto an engine, said Charles Woods, director of Braniff's operations/control center.

ROBERT PHILLIPS (October 9) concerning the Bible, mentions research beyond material generated within the Churches.

Having studied this great history book numerous times, I must identify with Erich von Daniken's 20th century investigation combined with archaeology, putting forward plausible evidence that the gods were astronauts, many technical implications are to be found in the Old Testament and have been pointed out with explicit care.

The epilogue Revelation to John appears to me as space technology, with many conspicuous pieces of text,

here are three. The New Heaven strongly suggests an artificial structure.

The Tree of Life can be interpreted as the construction of an atom or DNA. The Water of Life seems to imply connection with hydrogen converted into power and other functions, and would also account for a city-spacecraft, that has no need of sun or moon to shine upon it for eternal light.

Events and descriptions appear to be eyewitness accounts, rather than a prophecy.

I accept, part of mankind now involved with the conquest of space, has already been past history.

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